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The National Survey of Religious Identification, 1989-90

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THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY CENTER
OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Research Report
The National Survey of Religious Identification

1989-90

(Selected Tabulations)

Study Director
Professor Barry A. Kosmin
CUNY Graduate Center

In Co-operation with
Professor Seymour P. Lachman
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The City University of New York

March 1991

RESEARCH REPORT

The National Survey of Religious Identification 1989-1990

Study Director
Professor Barry A. Kosmin

CUNY Graduate School and University Center

This survey relates to a random digit-dialled telephone survey of 113,000 American households in the continental U.S.-& (48 states).

The data was collected over a 13-month period, April 1989-April 1990 at the rate of 2,000 interviews a week by ICR Survey Research Group of Media, PA as part of their omnibus market research (EXCEL) survey. The prime question on the file is: What is your religion? If the initial answer was Protestant there was a further question as to which denomination. The respondent is a randomly chosen (last birthday) adult over 18 years. Nineteen other socio-demographic questions are attached to this. They are:

For Respondent

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Age | 5. Race |
| 2. Marital status | 6. Political party affiliation |
| 3. Employment status | 7. Sex |
| 4. Level of education | 8. Head of household or not |

For Household

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 9. Own or rent | 14. Number of children (0-6) |
| 10. Total number living in household | 15. Total household income |
| 11. Number of adults 18+ | 16. Number of telephones |
| 12. Number of children 12-17 | 17. Metro/rural status |
| 13. Number of children 6-11 | 18. State |
| | 19. U.S. region |

The data which are weighted by ICR using the latest Census Bureau statistics, reflect the known composition of U.S. households and the total population. The weighting which is incorporated into each record takes into account the disproportionate probabilities of household projection due

to the number of separate telephone lines and the probability associated with the random selection of an individual household member. Following application of the above weights, the sample is post-stratified and balanced by key demographics such as age, sex, region and education. However, weighting cannot compensate for characteristics that are neither geographic nor demographic in nature. The most obvious is an inability to communicate in English or Spanish, the interview languages. This means there may be a tendency to underestimate some of the smaller religious groups that contain a high proportion of recent immigrants. Nevertheless, the

range of error will not be enormous even in these cases. The overall sampling error for the survey is 0.4% at the 95% confidence level.

The overall refusal rate for the question on religion is very low, only 2.2 per cent. The response categories to this question include a "None/No religion" option (7.7%) as well as generic *Christian* (4.7%) and a residual Protestant" (10.3%) category.

The remaining 76.1 per cent of respondents distribute themselves among the following denominations and religions on which we can report:

Catholic, Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Latter Day Saints/Mormon, Pentecostal, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, Evangelical/Born Again Christian, Seventh Day Adventist, Assembly of God, Unitarian, Quaker/Mennonite, Congregational, Nazarene, Holiness/Holy, Greek Orthodox, Church of God, Worldwide Church of God, Christian Science, Disciples of Christ, Russian Orthodox, New Apostolic, Charismatic, Wesleyan, Fundamentalist, Independent Church, Eastern Orthodox, Dutch Reformed, Christian Reform, Four Square, Covenant/Covenant Mission, Church of God in Christ, Church of America, Open Bible.

Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Bahai, Taoist, Shintoist, Rastafarian.

Deity, Humanist, Eckankar, Wicca, New Age, Scientologist, Ecumenical, Agnostic, Other.

Standard Error for National Screening

Phase Population Data

(95% Confidence Level)

Sample Estimate	Sample Size							
	5000	10,000	20,000	40,000	W1000	80,000	100,000	125,000
2 or 98	0.45	0.32	0.23	0.16	0.18	0.11	0.10	0.09
5 or 95	0.70	0.50	0.35	0.25	0.20	0.18	0.16	0.14
10 or 90	0.97	0.68	0.48	0.34	0.28	0.24	0M	0.19
20 or W	im	0.91	0.64	0.46	0.37	0.32	0.29	0.26
25 or 75	1.39	0.99	0.70	0.49	0.40	0.35	0.31	0.28
30 or 70	L47	L04	0.74	0.52	0.43	0.37	0.33	0.29
40 or W	1.88	L11	0.79	0.56	0.46	0.39	0.35	0.32
50 or 50	1.61	L14	0.80	0.57	0.46	0.40	0.36	0.S2

The above standard error* were computed with an estimated Design Effect computed using a within simple replication procedure. This replication proc incorporates the effects of the sample selection procedure and final weighting procedure on the actual estimates derived from the survey.

If one were measuring a sample characteristic of 5% on a sample of 125,000 respondents, the estimated standard error (95%) would be +/- 0.14%. Or, expressed as a range 4.86% to 5.14%. 2

Self-Described Religious Adherence
of U.S. Adult Population 1990
(Weighted Estimates)

Total U.S. Population 18+ - 175,440,000

Religious Denomination - Christians	%	Number
Christian		
(no denomination supplied)	8,073,000	4.6
Roman Catholic	46,004,000	26.2
Protestant		
(no denomination supplied)	17,214,000	9.8
Baptist	33,964,000	19.4
Methodist	14,116,000	8.0
Lutheran	9,110,000	5.2
Presbyterian	4,985,000	2.8
Pentecostal	3,116,000	1.8
Episcopalian/Anglican	3,042,000	1.7
Mormon/LDS	2,487,000	1.4
Church of Christ	1,769,000	1.0
Jehovah Witness	1,381,000	0.8
Seventh Day Adventist	668,000	
Assembly of God	660,000	
Holiness/Holy	610,000	
Nazarene	549,000	
Unitarian	463,000	
Evangelical/Born Again	446,000	
Church of God	442,000	
Congregational	438,000	
Greek Orthodox	384,000	
Quaker/Mennonite	302,000	
Christian Science	214,000	
Brethren	206,000	
Disciples of Christ	144,000	
New Apostolic	117,000	
Worldwide Church of God	116,000	

Religious Denomination - Christians	Number	%
R~si~ Orthodox	85,000	
Charismatic	75,000	
Wesleyan	58,000	
Christian Reform	40,000	
Eastern Orthodox	33,000	
Church of God in Christ	\$2,000	
Fundamentalist	27,000	
Independent Church	25,000	
Four Square Gospel	24,000	
Dutch Reform	19,000	
Covenant	16,000	
Church of America	11,000	
Four Square	4,000	
Open Bible	4,000	
Non-Denominational	195,000	
Total Christian	151,668,000	86.5
Religious Denomination Non-Christians	Number	%
Jewish	3,137,000	1.8
Muslim/Islamic	527,000	(0.5)
Buddhist	401,000*	(0.4)*
Hindu	227,000-	(0.2)*
Bahai	28,000	
Taoist	23,000	
Rastafarian	14,000	
Wiccan	8,000	
Deity	6,000	
Agnostic	1,186,000	0.7
Scientology	45,000	
Humanist	29,000	
New Age	20,000	
Eckankar	18,000	
Other unclassified	889,000	
No religion	13,116,000	7.5
Refused	4,031,000	2.3
U.S. Total	175,440,000	100.0

Adjustments for undercounts due to language problems (see page 2)

**ADULT POPULATION
MARITAL STATUS BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION**

Denomination	Divorced	Separated	Single	Widowed	Married	Total
Unitarian	18.0	3.1	15.5	7.1	55.9	100.0
No Religion	11.3	2.7	30.8	3.3	51.5	100.0
Christian Science	11.2	3.0	21.6	9.7	53.7	100.0
Pentecostal	10.9	3.4	15.6	7.1	62.7	100.0
Assembly of God	10.2	3.0	8.6	7.8	70.4	100.0
Episcopalian	9.9	2.0	17.3	10.7	59.7	100.0
Seventh Day Adventist	9.6	2.8	19.1	9.3	58.6	100.0
Baptist	9.5	3.1	18.9	8.5	59.9	100.0
Methodist	9.1	1.8	15.0	11.4	62.5	100.0
Nazarene	9.0	0.9	15.6	7.1	62.7	100.0
Brethren	9.0	4.2	9.0	6.9	70.8	100.0
Congregational	8.8	1.6	13.2	14.8	61.2	100.0
Jewish	8.7	1.4	25.9	8.2	55.6	100.0
Jehovah Witness	8.7	4.5	16.0	6.1	64.4	100.0
Presbyterian	8.5	1.4	15.6	11.0	63.4	100.0
Buddhist	8.4	3.4	37.8	2.9	47.1	100.0
Evangelical/Born Again	8.2	3.4	15.5	8.5	64.5	100.0
Holiness	8.2	9.8	18.8	5.5	57.3	100.0
Church of God	8.2	1.2	9.5	13.2	67.9	100.0
Lutheran	8.0	1.4	16.2	8.8	65.4	100.0
Quaker/Mennonite	7.7	-	20.4	5.6	66.3	100.0
Catholic	7.5	2.0	24.9	6.6	58.8	100.0
Mormon/LDS	7.5	1.7	12.1	5.6	73.1	100.0
Church of Christ	6.2	1.5	11.7	10.5	70.0	100.0
Muslim	5.9	3.5	39.0	1.2	49.6	100.0
Hindu	4.6	1.5	30.8	-	63.1	100.0
Greek Orthodox	4.4	2.2	31.4	4.8	57.2	100.0

LEVEL OF EDUCATION BY RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION

Denomination	Less Than <i>High School</i>	<i>High School</i> Graduates and Some College	College Graduate	Total
None	18.5	57.9	23.6	100.0
Christian	21.0	63.0	16.0	100.0
Roman Catholic	17.4	62.6	20.0	100.0
Protestant	19.4	58.5	22.1	100.0
Baptist	32.6	57.0	10.4	100.0
Methodist	20.0	58.9	21.1	100.0
Lutheran	18.9	63.1	18.0	100.0
Presbyterian	13.1	53.1	33.8	100.0
Episcopalian	7.8	52.4	39.8	100.0
Pentecostal	35.6	57.5	6.9	100.0
Jehovah Witness	27.1	68.2	4.7	100.0
7th Day Adventist	27.2	54.9	17.9	100.0
Mormon	16.7	64.1	19.2	100.0
Jew	8.1	45.2	46.7	100.0
Moslem	18.5	51.3	30.2	100.0
Buddhist	11.3	55.3	33.4	100.0
Hindu	17.8	35.2	47.0	100.0

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF MAIN RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS

Religious Denomination	Median Age of Adults	Proportion of Adherents who are White	Proportion of Adhere Residing in Metropolitan Areas
Catholic	40.1	79.9	84.5
Baptist	44.1	68.8	66.1
Methodist	48.0	86.0	66.3
Lutheran	45.4	97.0	71.2
Episcopalian	45.7	90.0	83.3
Presbyterian	48.2	92.9	77.8
Pentecostal	39.8	67.8	69.0
Mormon	41.6	93.6	72.9
Jews	44.4	93.4	96.0

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION BY RACE
Percent Distribution

Denomination	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	HISPANIC
None	7.7	5.6	14.2	5.9
Christian	4.6	4.0	6.4	5.2
Roman Catholic	26.5	9.2	27.1	65.8
Protestant	11.4	4.7	6.3	2.5
Baptist	15.3	50.0	10.8	7.4
Methodist	8.5	9.1	3.0	1.7
Lutheran	6.5	0.7	1.5	0.8
Presbyterian	3.4	0.8	2.1	0.7
Episcopalian	1.9	1.0	1.8	0.4
Pentecostal	1.4	4.0	1.5	2.0
Jehovah Witness	0.5	2.1	1.1	1.7
7th Day Adventist	0.3	1.0	0.5	0.3
Mormon	1.7	0.2	1.8	0.8
Jew	2.2	0.3	1.0	0.6
Moslem	0.1	0.9	3.0	0.3
Buddhist	0.1	0.1	4.1	0.3
Hindu	-	0.1	3.7	0.1
Others	7.9	6.2	10.1	3.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0