

Table 75. Self-Described Religious Identification of Adult Population: 1990 to 2008

[In thousands (175,440 represents 175,440,000). The methodology of the American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) 2008 replicated that used in previous surveys. The three surveys are based on random-digit-dialing telephone surveys of residential households in the continental U.S.A (48 states): 54,461 interviews in 2008, 50,281 in 2001, and 113,723 in 1990. Respondents were asked to describe themselves in terms of religion with an open-ended question. Interviewers did not prompt or offer a suggested list of potential answers. Moreover, the self-description of respondents was not based on whether established religious bodies, institutions, churches, mosques or synagogues considered them to be members. Quite the contrary, the surveys sought to determine whether the respondents themselves regarded themselves as adherents of a religious community. Subjective rather than objective standards of religious identification were tapped by the surveys]

Religious group	1990	2001	2008	Religious group	1990	2001	2008
Adult population, total ¹	175,440	207,983	228,182	Church of the Brethren	206	358	231
Total Christian ²	151,225	159,514	173,402	Non denominational ³	194	2,489	8,032
Catholic	46,004	50,873	57,199	Disciples of Christ	144	492	263
Baptist	33,964	33,820	36,148	Reformed/Dutch Reform	161	289	206
Protestant-no denomination supplied	17,214	4,647	5,187	Apostolic/New Apostolic	117	254	970
Methodist/Wesleyan	14,174	14,039	11,366	Quaker	67	217	130
Lutheran	9,110	9,580	8,674	Christian Reform	40	79	381
Christian-no denomination supplied	8,073	14,190	16,834	Foursquare Gospel	28	70	116
Presbyterian	4,985	5,596	4,723	Total other religions ²	5,853	7,740	8,796
Pentecostal/Charismatic	3,116	4,407	5,416	Jewish	3,137	2,837	2,680
Episcopal/Anglican	3,043	3,451	2,405	Muslim	527	1,104	1,349
Mormon/Latter-Day Saints	2,487	2,697	3,158	Buddhist	404	1,082	1,189
Churches of Christ	1,769	2,593	1,921	Unitarian/Universalist	502	629	586
Jehovah's Witness	1,381	1,331	1,914	Hindu	227	766	582
Seventh-Day Adventist	668	724	938	Native American	47	103	186
Assemblies of God	617	1,105	810	Wiccan	8	134	342
Holiness/Holy	610	569	352	Pagan	(NA)	140	340
Congregational/United Church of Christ	438	1,378	736	Spiritualist	(NA)	116	426
Church of the Nazarene	549	544	358	Other unclassified	837	386	735
Church of God	590	943	663	No religion specified, total ²	14,331	29,481	34,169
Orthodox (Eastern)	502	645	824	Atheist	(⁴)	902	1,621
Evangelical/Born Again	546	1,088	2,154	Agnostic	41,186	991	1,985
Mennonite	235	346	438	No religion	13,116	27,486	30,427
Christian Science	214	194	339	Refused to reply to question.	4,031	11,246	11,815

NA Not available. ¹ Refers to the total number of adults in all fifty states. All other figures are based on projections from surveys conducted in the continental United States (48 states). ² Includes other groups not shown separately. ³ Because of the subjective nature of replies to open-ended questions, these categories are the most unstable as they do not refer to clearly identifiable denominations as much as underlying feelings about religion. Thus they may be the most subject to fluctuation over time. ⁴ Atheist included in Agnostic.

Source: 1990 data, Barry A. Kosmin and Seymour P. Lachman, "One Nation Under God: Religion in Contemporary American Society," 1993; 2001 data, Barry A. Kosmin and Ariela Keysar, *Religion in A Free Market: Religious and Non-Religious Americans, Who, What, Why, Where*; Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture, Trinity College, Hartford, CT. See also <<http://www.trincoll.edu/Academics/AcademicResources/values/ISSC/archive.htm>> and <www.AmericanReligionSurvey-ARIS.org> (copyright).