

Christian Identity:¹

1. **White Christians account for 43% of Americans, and 30% as white and Protestant.** In 1976, roughly eight in ten (81%) Americans identified as white Christian.
2. **White evangelical Protestants are in decline—along with white mainline Protestants and white Catholics.** White evangelical Protestants were once thought to be bucking a longer trend, but over the past decade their numbers have dropped substantially. Fewer than one in five (17%) Americans are white evangelical Protestant, but they accounted for nearly one-quarter (23%) in 2006. Over the same period, white Catholics dropped five percentage points from 16% to 11%, as have white mainline Protestants, from 18% to 13%.
3. **Non-Christian religious groups are growing, but they still represent less than one in ten Americans combined.** Jewish Americans constitute 2% of the public while Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus each constitute only 1% of the public. All other non-Christian religions constitute an additional 1%.
4. **America’s youngest religious groups are all non-Christian.** Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists are all far younger than white Christian groups. At least one-third of Muslims (42%), Hindus (36%), and Buddhists (35%) are under the age of 30. Roughly one-third (34%) of religiously unaffiliated Americans are also under 30. In contrast, white Christian groups are aging. Slightly more than one in ten white Catholics (11%), white evangelical Protestants (11%), and white mainline Protestants (14%) are under 30. Approximately six in ten white evangelical Protestants (62%), white Catholics (62%), and white mainline Protestants (59%) are at least 50 years old.
5. **The Catholic Church is experiencing an ethnic transformation.** Twenty-five years ago, nearly nine in ten (87%) Catholics were white, non-Hispanic, compared to 55% today. Fewer than four in ten (36%) Catholics under the age of 30 are white, non-Hispanic; 52% are Hispanic.
6. **Atheists and agnostics account for a minority of all religiously unaffiliated. Most are secular.** Atheists and agnostics account for only about one-quarter (27%) of all religiously unaffiliated Americans. Nearly six in ten (58%) religiously unaffiliated Americans identify as secular, someone who is not religious; 16% of religiously unaffiliated Americans nonetheless report that they identify as a “religious person.”
7. **There are 20 states in which no religious group comprises a greater share of residents than the religiously unaffiliated.** These states tend to be more concentrated in the Western U.S., although they include a couple of New England states, as well. More than four in ten (41%) residents of Vermont and approximately one-third of Americans in Oregon (36%), Washington (35%), Hawaii (34%), Colorado (33%), and New Hampshire (33%) are religiously unaffiliated.

¹ “*America’s Changing Religious Identity*”, Retrieved from: <https://www.prii.org/research/american-religious-landscape-christian-religiously-unaffiliated/>

8. **No state is less religiously diverse than Mississippi.** The state is heavily Protestant and dominated by a single denomination: Baptist. Six in ten (60%) Protestants in Mississippi are Baptist. No state has a greater degree of religious diversity than New York.
9. **The cultural center of the Catholic Church is shifting south.** The Northeast is no longer the epicenter of American Catholicism—although at 41% Catholic, Rhode Island remains the most Catholic state in the country. Immigration from predominantly Catholic countries in Latin America means new Catholic populations are settling in the Southwest. In 1972, roughly seven in ten Catholics lived in either the Northeast (41%) or the Midwest (28%). Only about one-third of Catholics lived in the South (13%) or West (18%). Today, a majority of Catholics now reside in the South (29%) or West (25%). Currently, only about one-quarter (26%) of the U.S. Catholic population lives in the Northeast, and 20% live in the Midwest.
10. **Jews, Hindus, and Unitarian-Universalists stand out as the most educated groups in the American religious landscape.** More than one-third of Jews (34%), Hindus (38%), and Unitarian-Universalists (43%) hold post-graduate degrees. Notably, Muslims are significantly more likely than white evangelical Protestants to have at least a four-year college degree (33% vs. 25%, respectively).
11. **Asian or Pacific-Islander Americans have a significantly different religious profile than other racial or ethnic groups.** There are as many Asian or Pacific-Islander Americans affiliated with non-Christian religions as with Christian religious groups. And one-third (34%) are religiously unaffiliated.
12. **Nearly half of LGBT Americans are religiously unaffiliated.** Nearly half (46%) of Americans who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) are religiously unaffiliated. This is roughly twice the number of Americans overall (24%) who are religiously unaffiliated.
13. **White Christians have become a minority in the Democratic Party.** Fewer than one in three (29%) Democrats today are white Christian, compared to half (50%) one decade earlier. Only 14% of young Democrats (age 18 to 29) identify as white Christian. Forty percent identify as religiously unaffiliated.
14. **White evangelical Protestants remain the dominant religious force in the GOP.** More than one-third (35%) of all Republicans identify as white evangelical Protestant, a proportion that has remained roughly stable over the past decade. Roughly three-quarters (73%) of Republicans belong to a white Christian religious group.

Source:

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/sep/20/end-of-white-christian-america>
“We're at the end of white Christian America. What will that mean?”

Source:

<https://www.prii.org/research/american-religious-landscape-christian-religiously-unaffiliated/>
“America’s Changing Religious Identity”

Christian Migration:

- Large numbers of Christians are moving to the far Northwest
- Many believe that the Northwestern states are the new mission frontier: with a population inundated with atheistic or agnostic persons (especially when compared to other states)
- Pastors from all over the states are now calling the Northwestern states of the US, “the new Christian mission field”² and encouraging other pastors to join them in moving their home churches to the “new mission field”
- Colorado, North Dakota, Vermont, Maine, and Nebraska are among the least churched states in the country³
- “More than 1 out of every 3 adults (33%) in America is unchurched. This means they haven’t attended a religious service of any type during the past year. This represents some 125 million Americans. That number alone would be the 10th largest country in the world!”⁴

Source:

<https://cnnw.com/a-vision-shared-might-a-great-spiritual-awakening-begin-soon-here/>
“A vision shared: Might a great spiritual awakening begin soon here?”

Source:

<https://cnnw.com/network-of-influential-christian-leaders-seeks-to-expand-to-the-northwest/>
“Network of influential Christian leaders seeks to expand to the Northwest”

Source:

<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/rogereolson/2017/12/america-become-mission-field/>
“America Has Become the New Mission Field”

² “America Has Become the New Mission Field”, Retrieved from:
<https://www.patheos.com/blogs/rogereolson/2017/12/america-become-mission-field/>

³ “America’s Hidden Mission Field”, Retrieved from:
<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2018/october/americas-hidden-mission-field-why-we-need-rural-churches.html>

⁴ “America, the Mission Field: The Nones Are All Around Us”, Retrieved from: <https://pastors.com/america-the-mission-field-the-nones-are-all-around-us/>

Source:

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2018/october/americas-hidden-mission-field-why-we-need-rural-churches.html>

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