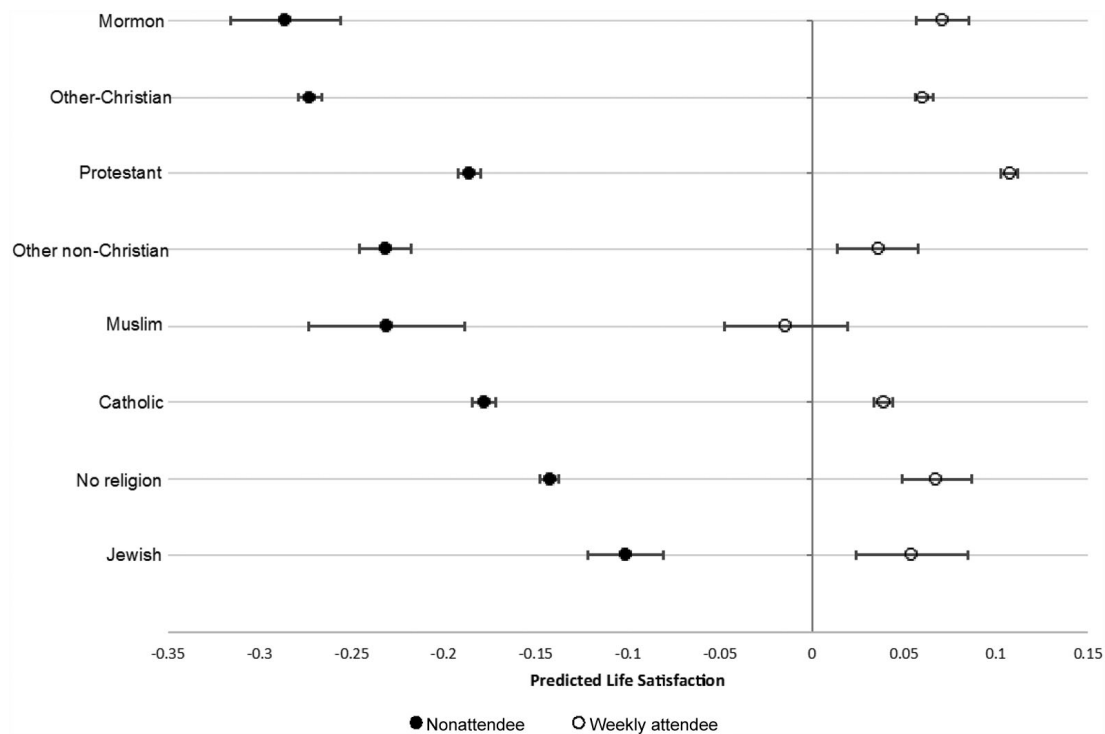


Figure 1
 Predicted life satisfaction scores for “never” and “weekly” religious service attendees in eight religious groups



Note: Predicted values are computed from Model 3a in Table 2. All other covariates are fixed at their means. Each predicted value is presented with its 95 percent confidence intervals. The religious groups are sorted so that the group with the largest difference between “never” and “weekly” attendees (Mormon) appears at the top.

“at least once a week” (2.3 percent or 3,707 respondents in the analytic sample). And the people who attend religious services report a significantly higher level of life satisfaction than those who do not. In fact, life satisfaction among weekly attending “religious nones” is as high as, if not higher than, that of weekly attendees in other religious groups.

Although attendance is positively associated with life satisfaction in all eight religious groups, the association is significantly stronger in some religious groups than in others. The relationship between attendance and life satisfaction is strongest among Mormons and “other Christians” and weakest among Jews and people with no religious preference. The difference in life satisfaction between weekly attendees and nonattendees among Mormons (.36) more than doubles that among Jews (.15). Overall, it appears that the relationship between attendance and life satisfaction tends to be stronger in religious groups that, on average, are more religiously observant, such as Mormons and “other Christians,” than among those that are less observant (e.g., “no religion” and Jews). In the Daily Poll, for example, 65 percent of Mormons and 40 percent of “other Christians” report that they attend religious services at least weekly, compared to 14 percent of Jews. Similarly, 86.3 percent of Mormons and 80.3 percent of “other Christians” say that religion is an important part of life, whereas only 40.4 percent of Jews do.

The larger gap in life satisfaction among more observant religious groups, however, does not necessarily mean that the regular attendees in those groups report an unusually high level of satisfaction compared to the regular attendees in less observant traditions. To the contrary, the larger gap has more to do with an unusually low level of satisfaction among nonattendees in those observant traditions. Compared to nonattendees who have no religious preference or are Jewish, nonattendees in other traditions—especially in Mormon and “other Christians”—report