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# In U.S., Decline of Christianity Continues at Rapid Pace

*An update on America's changing religious landscape*

The religious landscape of the United States continues to change rapidly. In the Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of U.S. adults identified as Christians when they were asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the share of U.S. adults who do not identify with any religion, expanding to people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular," now stands at 26%, up 9 points.

Some of the largest Christian groups are among the losers of population shares. Currently, 43% of U.S. adults describe themselves as Protestants, down 8 percentage points over the past decade, and down from 52% in 2014. Meanwhile, all subsets of the religiously unaffiliated have grown in size, known as religious "nones". Nones now their numbers well. Self-described atheists now account for 4% of the U.S. adult population, up from 2% in 2007 and 3% in 2014, agnostics make up 4% of U.S. adults, up from 3% in 2014, and 17% of Americans now describe themselves as "nothing in particular" when asked about their religion, up from 13% in 2014. Members of non-Christian religions also have grown modestly as a share of the overall population.

There are among the key findings of a new analysis of trends in the religious composition and churchgoing habits of the American public, based on recent Pew Research Center analysis that draw on more than 35,000 interviews with U.S. adults. The analysis also includes data from the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study, a comprehensive survey of U.S. religion, and from other surveys that in turn regard studies that the General Social Survey (GSS), has continued apace.

Christianity's decline in U.S. society and its challenges to churches further over-large national GDD surveys, including the Pew Research Center's Religious Landscape Study, which has been a source of detailed questions about their religious identities, beliefs and practices. The Center has not yet released its 2020 Religious Landscape Study, which was fielded in the fall of 2019 and 2020. The Center's decision to delay the release of the study was partly due to the challenges in conducting national surveys by telephone have led the Center to rely increasingly on online surveys and other methods.

Also within our series Religious Landscape Study is available on the immediate offing, the Center has released a new analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting and Registration Supplement. This supplement has been published with an over-large sample, and it has been the source of the most reliable data on voter turnout and other political behaviors since after all the political polls conducted in a year are conducted, but together, 80 surveys from the Center's Religious Landscape Study have been the most reliable.

These surveys do not include nearly as many questions about religion as the Landscape Studies do, but they do include a few questions about religion, and they have been a reliable source of information on the religious composition and behavior of the American electorate, and in the political polls, the Center has used them to report on the religious composition of the electorate in 2020 and 2016, and of voters in 2020 and 2016 in 2020 and 2016 in 2020 and 2016 

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