

# Pew Research Study 2014 Catholic Results

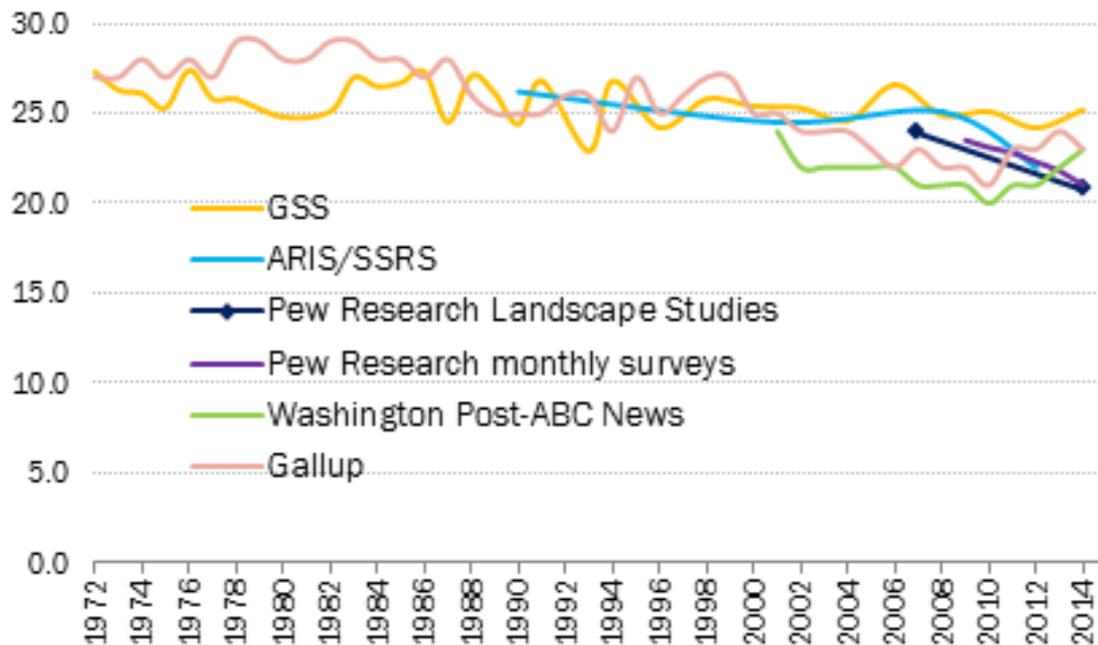
## CATHOLICS

Like mainline Protestants, Catholics appear to be declining both as a percentage of the population and in absolute numbers. The new survey indicates there are about 51 million Catholic adults in the U.S. today, roughly 3 million fewer than in 2007. But taking margins of error into account, the decline in the number of Catholic adults could be as modest as 1 million.<sup>11</sup> And, unlike Protestants, who have been decreasing as a share of the U.S. public for several decades, the Catholic share of the population has been relatively stable over the long term, according to a variety of other surveys.

The ARIS studies found that the Catholic share of the population held fairly steady between 1990 (26.2%) and 2008 (25.1%). By 2012, however, surveys conducted by SSRS using the same question and same basic methodology employed in the ARIS studies found 22.0% of adults identifying as Catholic, a decline of 3.1 percentage points since the 2008 ARIS.<sup>29</sup> This closely mirrors the trajectory for Catholics observed between the 2007 and 2014 Religious Landscape Studies. The findings of the 2014 Landscape Study also track closely with results from aggregated monthly polls conducted by the Pew Research Center that show a recent decline in the Catholic share of the population.

## Size of the Catholic Population: Long-Term Trends

*% of U.S. adults identifying as Catholic*



For details on the data sources cited here, see the discussion at the end of this appendix.

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## Generational Replacement Helping Drive Growth of Unaffiliated, Decline of Mainline Protestantism and Catholicism

	Silent generation (born 1928-1945)	Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964)	Generation X (born 1965-1980)	Older Millennials (born 1981- 1989)	Younger Millennials (born 1990- 1996)
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Christian</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>56</b>
Protestant	57	52	45	38	36
<i>Evangelical</i>	30	28	25	22	19
<i>Mainline</i>	22	17	13	10	11
<i>Historically black</i>	5	7	7	6	6
Catholic	24	23	21	16	16
Other Christian groups	3	3	4	3	3
<b>Other faiths</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Don't know/refused</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014. Figures may not add to 100%, and nested figures may not add to subtotals indicated, due to rounding.

The "other Christian groups" category includes Mormons, Orthodox Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses and a number of smaller Christian groups.

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## Religious Composition by Gender

As in 2007, women continue to make up more than half of nearly every Christian group. Roughly two-thirds of Jehovah's Witnesses are women, as are 59% of those who identify with the historically black Protestant tradition, 55% of those in both the evangelical and mainline Protestant traditions and 54% of Catholics and Mormons.

Most Christians Are Women, Most "Nones" Are Men.

Women are far more likely than men to identify with Christian groups (75% vs. 66%). Men, by contrast, are more likely than women to describe themselves as religious "nones" (27% vs. 19%). But both men and women have become less Christian and more unaffiliated since 2007, by roughly equal amounts. The share of men who identify with Christianity has shrunk by eight percentage points since 2007, and the share of self-identified Christians among women has declined by seven points. Meanwhile, the share of "nones" is up seven points among men and six points among women.

**New Mexico** – Sample Size - 312

Margin of error +/- 7.2 percentage points