

# Overview of Religious Giving

Based on data collected in 2007 about  
giving in 2006



# Center on Philanthropy Panel Study

## A part of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics

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This analysis is offered to friends of the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

The Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) is a module of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), which reaches more than 8,000 households every two years. The PSID is fielded by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Questions were asked in 2007 about giving in 2006. The next data available will be released in early 2012.

The Center on Philanthropy thanks Atlantic Philanthropies for the initial funding to launch COPPS in 2001 and the donors whose recent contributions make continued waves of COPPS possible.

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The analyses presented here are made possible by the work of many people, including:

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Thanks also to the team of alumni reviewers who helped structure the way data are presented: Ed Clay, Tonya Eagan, Heather Perdue, Rachel Hughes, Josh Sprunger, and Morgan Studer.

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# Overview of Religious Giving

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A number of demographic factors play a role in how much households and individuals give to charity in a year. The graphs in this overview provide comparisons of giving to religious organizations by:

- Age (< 40, 40-64, and 65+)
- Income (<\$50,000, \$50,000 - \$100,000, and \$100,000+)
- Wealth, excluding the equity in a home (<\$50,000, \$50,000-\$200,000 and \$200,000+)
- Education level (High school or less, some college, bachelor's degree, graduate degree)
- Geographical location, using regions of the United States defined by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Marital status (married, never married, widowed, separated, divorced)

This overview uses the 2007 wave of the Center on Philanthropy Panel Study (COPPS) data, a module of the Panel Study on Income Dynamics (PSID), the nation's first and only ongoing study about charitable giving over time. This overview uses the nationally representative sample from the PSID to present some key facts about charitable giving based on results for 2006, drawing on demographic characteristics of donors who give to this type of charity. For each demographic group, this document presents the giving rate (percentage who give) and average and median giving amounts.

The figures are shown with the note "n=" which indicates the number of respondents in the group. Typically, at least 30 respondents are required for a meaningful average or median; the higher the number of respondents, the more reliable the result (the more likely the same result would be found if we had an opportunity to conduct the same study repeatedly at the same time).

Households that answered the philanthropy questions were asked first if they made charitable donations totaling \$25 or more in 2006. Households responding "yes" were asked further questions about how much they gave to each of 11 different types of charities and about their volunteering for six purposes. More than 8,280 households participated in the 2007 wave of the PSID. This analysis of COPPS included 8,110 households that answered the first philanthropy question. Analysis also used the weights provided by the PSID research team at the University of Michigan to yield nationally representative results. Weighting for total giving is based on 112 million households, from the U.S. Census Bureau estimates for 2006.

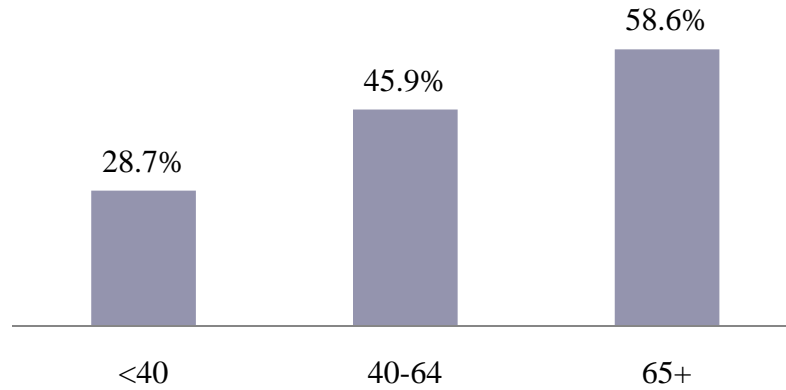
The data and analysis here are the most recent available as of December 2009. The question was: "Did you (or anyone in your household) make any donations specifically for **religious purposes or spiritual development**, for example to a church, synagogue, mosque, TV or radio ministry? Please do not include donations to schools, hospitals, and other charities run by religious organizations."

## Overview of Religious Giving in 2006

	Giving Rate	Average amount per donor household	Median amount per donor household
Religious Giving	43.0%	\$2,050	\$800

- 65.5% of all U.S. households gave at least \$25 to charity in 2006.
- 43.0% of all U.S. households gave to religious organizations in 2006
- \$2,050 was average religious giving amount per donor household
- \$800 was median religious giving amount per donor household

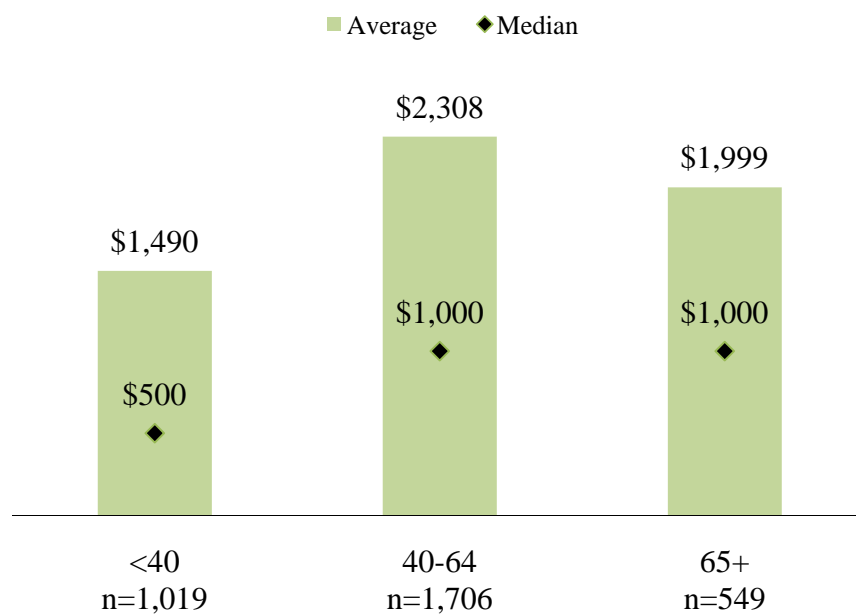
## Religious Giving Rate by Donor's Age Group



This graph shows the giving rate to religious organizations in 2006, by age group.

- Households headed by someone less than 40 years old had the lowest rate of participation (28.7%) in 2006, which was the lowest giving rate to religion.
- In 2006, 45.9% of households where the head was between 40 and 64 years old made a contribution to religious organizations.
- Households where the head was 65 and older had the highest giving rate (58.6%) to religious organizations in 2006, which was the highest giving rate.
- Overall, 43.0% of survey respondents contributed to religious organizations in 2006.

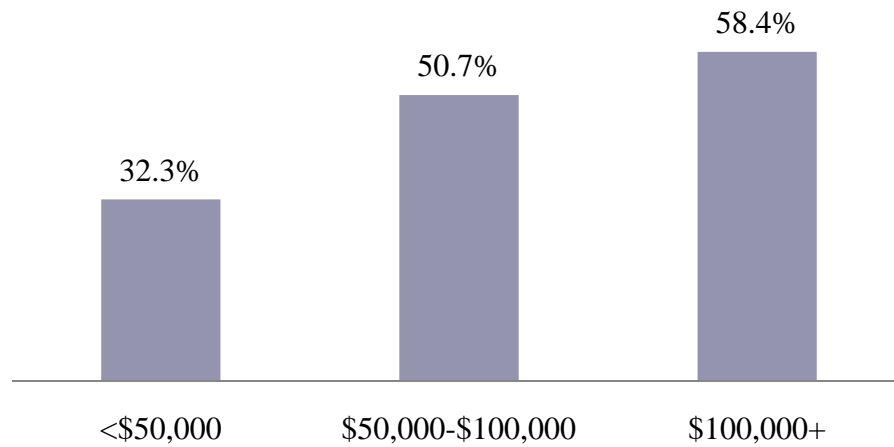
## Giving to Religious Organizations by Donor's Age Group



This graph shows the average and median giving amounts to religious organizations in 2006, by age group.

- The average religious gift from households headed by someone less than 40 years old was \$1,490 (median=\$500), which was the lowest average giving amount.
- The highest average gift amount to religious organizations in 2006 was \$2,308 (median=\$1,000) and came from the households between 40 and 64 years old.
- The average religious giving from households 65 and older was \$1,999 (median=\$1,000).
- Overall, all donors to religious organization gave religious organizations an average of \$1,858 (median=\$700).

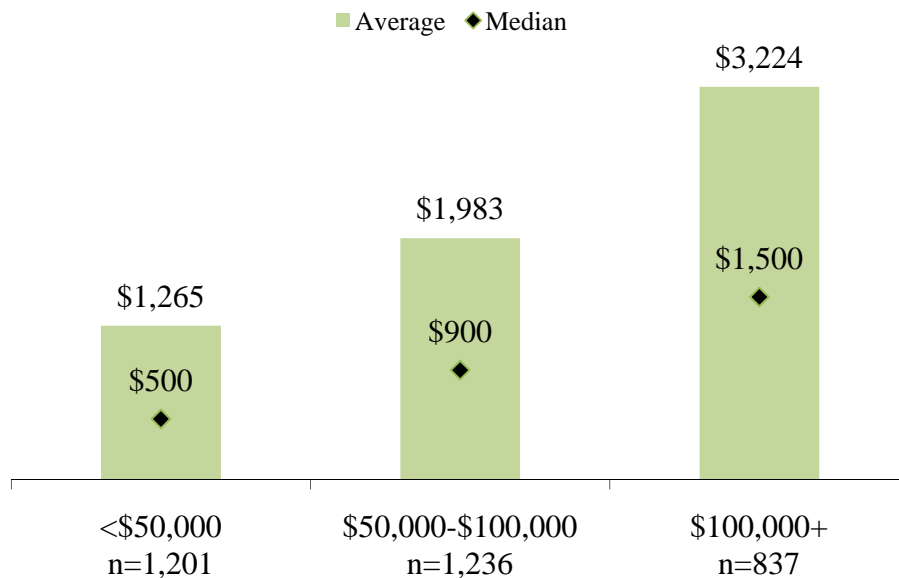
## Religious Giving Rate by Donor's Income Level



This graph shows the giving rate of all U.S. households to religious organizations in 2006, by donor's income level. Households with higher income level had a higher giving rate to religious organizations in 2006.

- In 2006, 32.3% of households with incomes less than \$50,000 made a contribution to religious organizations.
- The giving rate for households with incomes between \$50,000 and \$100,000 was 50.7%, which was the second highest religious giving rate in 2006.
- In 2006, 58.4% of households with incomes more than \$100,000 gave to religious organizations, which was the highest religious giving rate.
- Overall, 43.0% of survey respondents contributed to religious organizations in 2006.

## Giving to Religious Organizations by Donor's Income Level

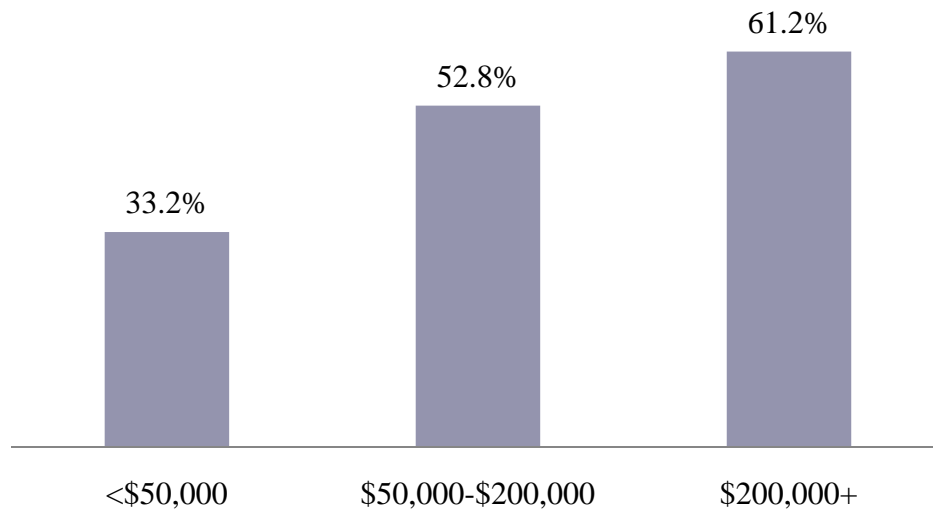


This graph shows the average and median giving amounts to religious organizations in 2006, by income level of the household. Households with higher income level had a higher average religious giving amount.

- The average religious giving from the households with income less than \$50,000 was \$1,265 (median=\$500), which was the lowest average religious giving.
- Households with annual income between \$50,000 and \$100,000 gave an average of \$1,983 (median=\$900) to religious organizations in 2006.
- Households with annual income higher than \$100,000 gave an average of \$3,224 (median=\$1,500) to religious organizations in 2006.
- Among all donors, the average gift amount to religious organizations was \$1,858 (median=\$700). This average is based only on households that gave to religious organizations.



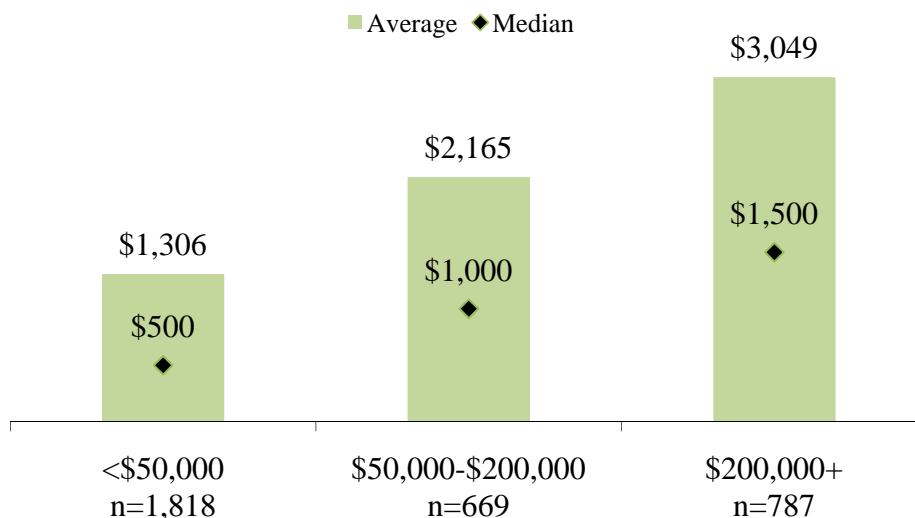
## Religious Giving Rate by Donor's Wealth Level



This graph shows the giving rate of all U.S. households to religious organizations in 2006, by wealth level. For this analysis, wealth did not include the value of their home. Households with higher wealth levels had a higher giving rate to religious organizations.

- The religious giving rate for households with less than \$50,000 in wealth was 33.2%.
- The religious giving rate for households between \$50,000 and \$200,000 in household wealth was 52.8%.
- In 2006, 61.2% of household with wealth of more than \$200,000 made a contribution to religious organizations.
- Overall, 43.0% of survey respondents contributed to religious organizations in 2006.

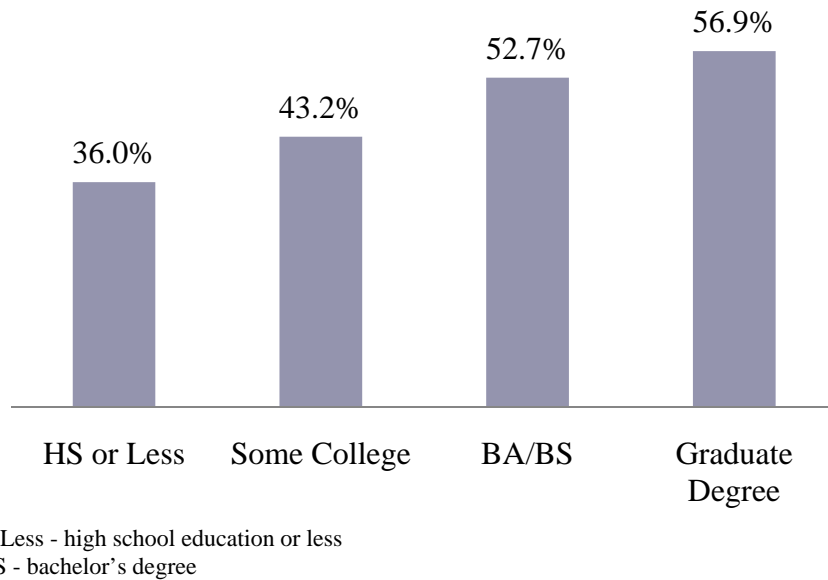
## Giving to Religious Organizations by Donor's Wealth Level



This graph shows the average and median giving amounts to religious organizations in 2006, by wealth level of the household. For this analysis, wealth did not include the value of their home.

- Households with wealth of less than \$50,000 gave an average of \$1,306 (median=\$500) to religious organizations in 2006.
- Households with wealth between \$50,000 and \$200,000 gave an average of \$2,165 (median=\$1,000) to religious organizations in 2006.
- The highest average giving amount to religious organizations in 2006 was \$3,049 (median=\$1,500) and came from households with wealth greater than \$200,000.
- Among all donors, the average gift amount to religious organizations was \$1,858 (median=\$700).

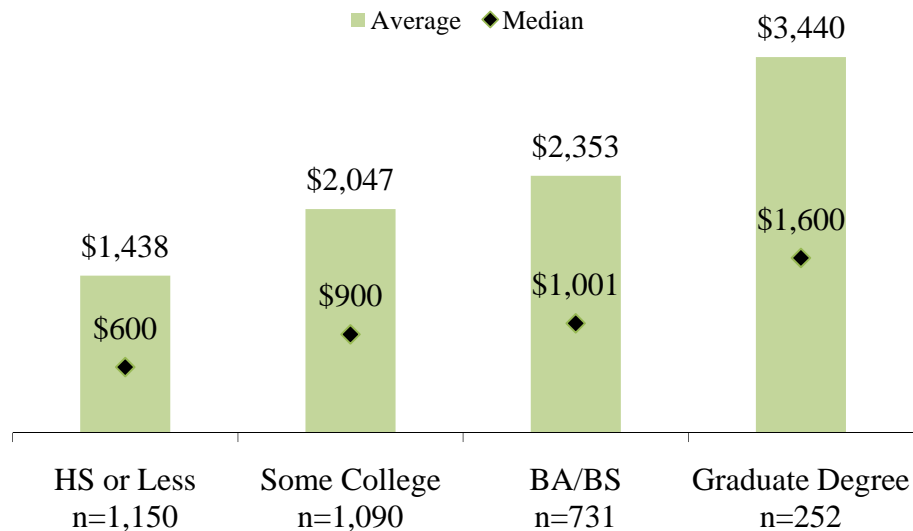
### Religious Giving Rate by Education Level



This graph shows the giving rate to religious organizations in 2006, by education level of the head of household.

- In 2006, 36.0% of households headed by someone whose education was high school or less donated to religious organizations, which was the lowest giving rate to religion.
- Nearly 43% of households headed by someone with some college experience donated to religious organizations in 2006.
- The giving rate to religious organizations for households headed by someone with a bachelor's degree was 52.7%.
- In 2006, 56.9% of households headed by someone with a graduate degree made a contribution to religious organizations, which was the highest giving rate.
- Overall, 43.0% of survey respondents contributed to religious organizations in 2006.

## Giving to Religious Organizations by Education Level

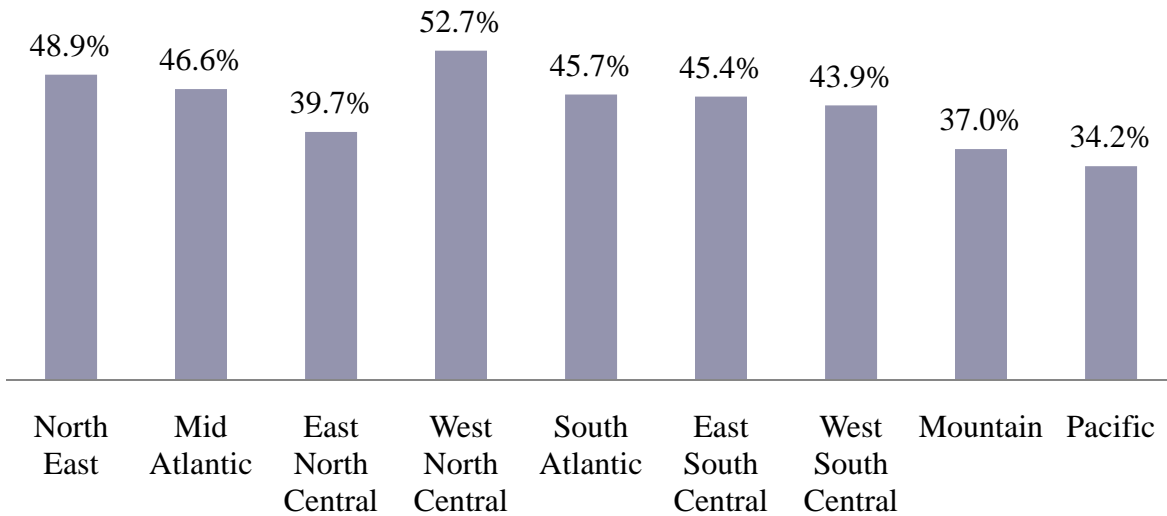


HS or Less - high school education or less  
BA/BS - bachelor's degree

This graph shows the average and median giving amounts to religious organizations in 2006, by education level of the head of household. The higher the level of education, the higher the average gift to religious organizations.

- Households headed by someone with a high school education or less donated on average \$1,438 (median=\$600) to religious organizations in 2006, which was the lowest average total giving to religious organizations.
- Households headed by someone with some college education gave on average \$2,047 (median=\$900) to religious organizations in 2006.
- The average religious giving amount from households headed by someone with a bachelor's degree was \$2,353 (median=\$1,001)
- The highest average gift to religious organizations was \$3,440 (median=\$1,600) and came from the households headed by someone with a graduate degree.
- Among all donors, the average total gift to religious organizations was \$1,858 (median=\$700).

## Religious Giving Rate by Donor's Geographic Region



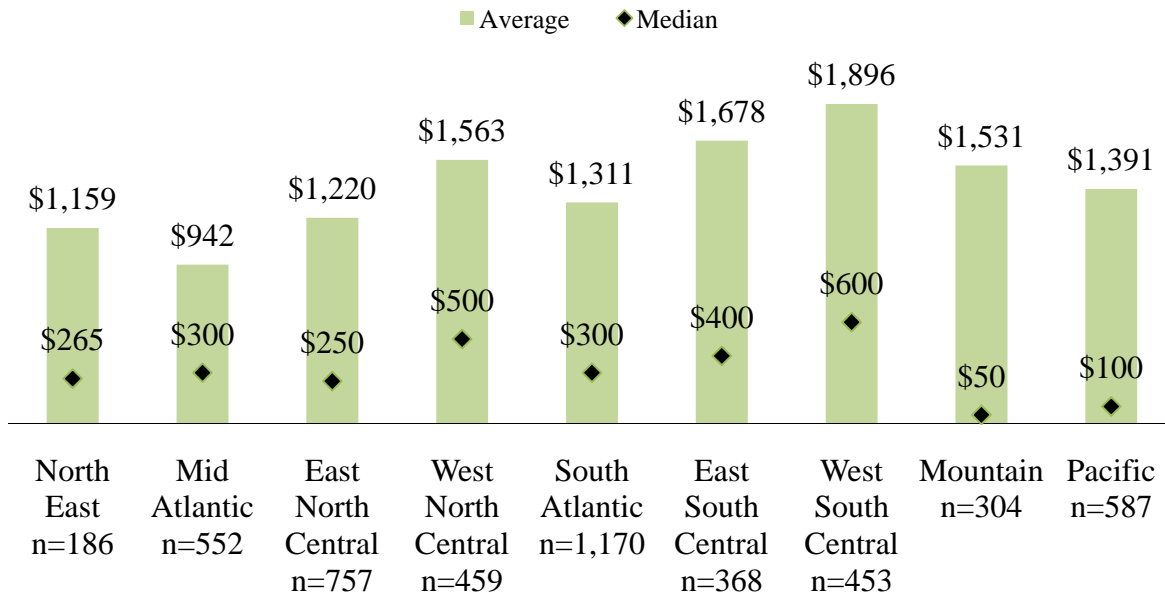
This graph shows the giving rate of all U.S. households to religious organizations in 2006, by geographic region.

- In 2006, 52.7% of households in the West North Central region made a contribution to religious organizations, which was the highest religious giving rate (fourth bar from left).
- Just over 34% of households in the Pacific region donated to religious organizations in 2006, which was the lowest religious giving rate (bar at the far right).
- There is only one region, West North Central, in which more than 50% of households made a contribution to religious organizations in 2006.

The regions are defined by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Census Bureau Name	States or district included in the region
New England	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont
Mid-Atlantic	New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania
East North Central	Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin
West North Central	Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
South Atlantic	Delaware, Florida, Maryland, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington D.C., West Virginia
East South Central	Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
West South Central	Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas
Mountain	Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming
Pacific	Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington

## Giving to Religious Organizations by Donor's Geographic Region

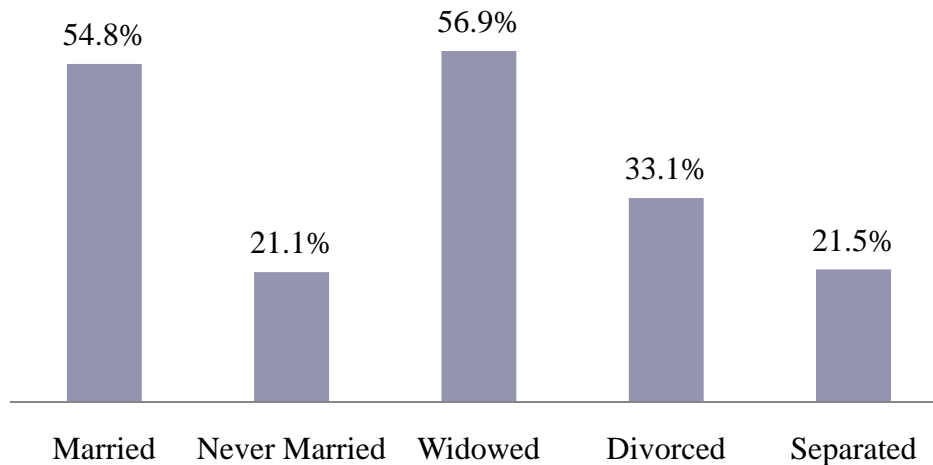


This graph shows the average and median giving amounts to religious organizations in 2006, by geographic location of the household in the U.S. As with other graphs in this report, the average amount is based on households that give to religion. It does not include households that do not give to religion.

- There are no regions in which the average donation to religious organizations exceeded \$2,000 in 2006.
- The average religious gift for households in the West South Central region was \$1,896 (median=\$600), which was the highest average amount in 2006.
- Households in the East South Central region gave an average of \$1,678 (median=\$400), which was the second highest average religious giving amount.
- The lowest average religious giving amount was among households in the Middle Atlantic region, which donated on average \$942 (median=\$300).
- Among all donors, the average total gift to religious organizations was \$1,858 (median=\$700).

The regions are defined on page 13.

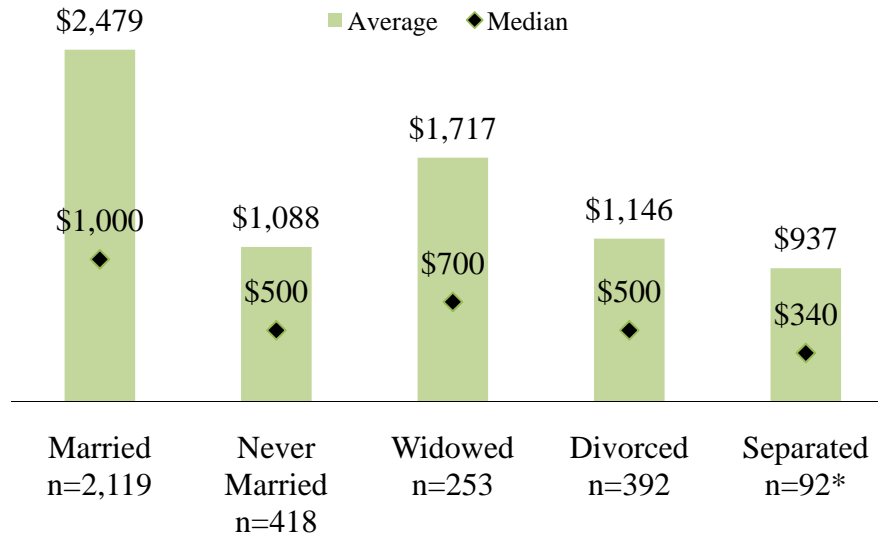
### Religious Giving Rate by Marital Status



This graph shows giving rate to religious organizations in 2006, by marital status of the head of household.

- Widowed households had the highest giving rate (56.9%) to religious organizations in 2006.
- Married households had the second highest giving rate (54.8%) to religious organizations in 2006.
- In 2006, 33.1% of those who were divorced made a contribution to religious organizations.
- Approximately 21.5% of heads of household who were separated donated to religious organizations in 2006.
- In 2006, just over 21% of heads of households who have never been married donated to religious organizations, which was the lowest religious giving rate.
- Overall, 43.0% of survey respondents contributed to religious organizations in 2006.

## Giving to Religious Organizations by Marital Status



\* Interpret average and median amounts with caution, given small sample

This graph shows the average and median giving amounts to religious organizations in 2006, by the marital status of the head of households.

- Married households gave an average of \$2,479 (median=\$1,000) to religious organizations in 2006, which was the highest average religious giving amount.
- Widowed households gave an average of \$1,717 (median=\$700), which was the second highest average giving to religious organizations in 2006.
- Divorced households gave an average of \$1,146 (median=\$500) to religious organizations in 2006.
- Heads of household who have never been married donated an average of \$1,088 (median=\$500) to religious organizations in 2006.
- Heads of households who were separated donated an average of \$937 (median= \$340) to religious organizations, which was the smallest average amount. However, the results should be interpreted with caution, given the lower number of responses.
- Among all donors, the average total gift to religious organizations was \$1,858 (median=\$700).