

Overview

Religious Giving

Based on data collected in 2009
about giving in 2008



LILLY FAMILY
SCHOOL OF PHILANTHROPY
INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Indianapolis

Philanthropy Panel Study – A part of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics

This analysis is available to Premium Service Subscribers of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University. To subscribe, go to www.philanthropy.iupui.edu.

The Philanthropy Panel Study (PPS) 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 2009 about giving in 2008.

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

Recent donors include:

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
John Templeton Foundation
United Nations Foundation

To contribute, please contact Lisa Viaches (lviaches@iupui.edu) or give online at www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/give-now and select “School of Philanthropy Research Funding.”

Acknowledgments

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

Founding Director of the Philanthropy Panel Study, Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm

At the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University:

Gene R. Tempel, Founding Dean

Patrick M. Rooney, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research

Una O. Osili, Director of Research

Amy N. Thayer, Associate Director of Research

Amir D. Hayat, Applied Statistician

Grace Baranowski, Research Associate

Yuan Cheng, Graduate Student Intern

Traci Wilmoth, Research Assistant

Thomas Pearson, Research Assistant

Jon Bergdoll, Research Assistant

Denay Patterson, Research Assistant

Melissa Wall, Research Assistant

Riley Mineart, Research Assistant

Permission is granted to use, circulate, and cite figures in this pamphlet with attribution to the Philanthropy Panel Study.

For more information about the Philanthropy Panel Study, please see the School's website at www.philanthropy.iupui.edu.

Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy
550 West North Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Overview of Religious Giving

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

- Age (<=40, 41-64, and 65+)
- Income (<=\$50,000, \$50,001 - \$99,999, and \$100,000+)
- Wealth, excluding the equity in a home (<=\$50,000, \$50,001-\$199,999, and \$200,000+)
- Education level of the head of household (high school or less, some college, bachelor's degree, and graduate school)
- Geographical location, using regions of the United States defined by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Marital status of the head of household (married, never married, widowed, separated, and divorced)

This overview uses the 2009 wave of the Panel Philanthropy Study (PPS) data, a module of the Panel Study on Income Dynamics (PSID), to make inferences about household charitable giving in the United States. The PPS is the nation's first and largest ongoing study examining the charitable giving of American households over time. This overview uses the nationally representative data from PPS to present some key facts about charitable giving based on responses provided by households in 2008, drawing on demographic characteristics of U.S. donor households. This report presents the giving rate (the percentage of U.S. households that gave) and the average and median gift amounts among U.S. donor households to religious organizations.

In general, the higher the number of respondents in a group, 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 with multiple representative samples at the same time). Statistics calculated for a group with fewer than 100 observations are starred in this report in order to indicate that the result should be interpreted with caution. Moreover, the analysis presented in this report does not control for any other variable.

Households that answered the philanthropy questions were asked first if they made charitable donations totaling \$25 or more in 2008. Households responding "yes" were asked further questions about how much they gave to each of 11 different types of charities. Nearly 8,700 households participated in the 2009 wave of the PSID. The analysis for this report is based on the 8,475 households that responded to the philanthropy questions. In our analysis, we used the sampling weights provided by the PSID research team at the University of Michigan to yield nationally representative results.

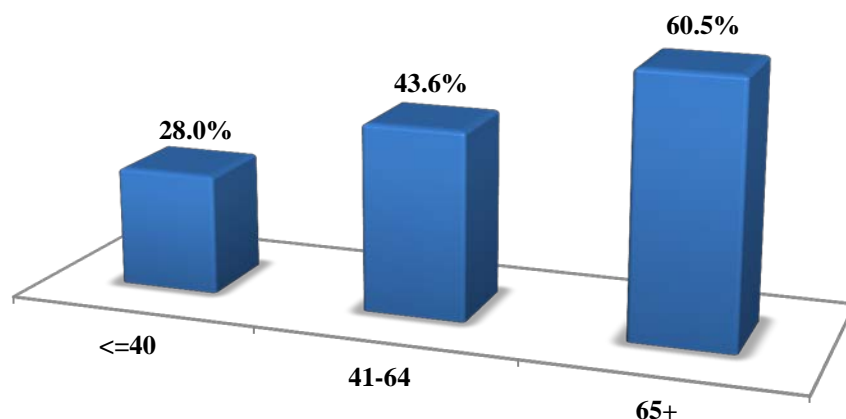
For the analysis of religious giving, the question was: "Did you make any donations specifically for **religious purposes or spiritual development**, for example to a church, synagogue, mosque, TV or radio ministry? Please do not include donations to schools, hospitals, and other charities run by religious organizations."

Overview of Religious Giving in 2008

	Giving Rate	Average amount per donor household	Median amount per donor household
Religious Giving	41.9%	\$2,086	\$800

- 41.9 percent of all U.S. households gave to religious organizations in 2008
- \$2,086 was the average giving amount to religious organizations per U.S. donor household in 2008
- \$800 was the median giving amount to religious organizations per U.S. donor household in 2008

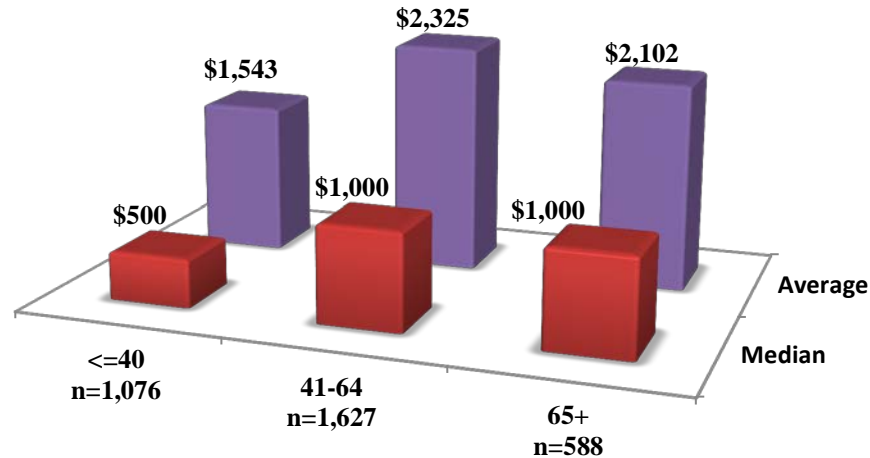
Religious Giving Rate by Head of Household's Age Group



This graph shows the giving rate to religious organizations in 2008 by the age group of the head of household.

- Households headed by older individuals gave at higher rates to religious organizations.
- The giving rate to religious organizations of households headed by an individual 65 or older was more than twice that of households headed by an individual 40 or younger.
- The giving rate to religious organizations of households headed by an individual 41 to 64 years old was 16.9 percentage points less than that of households headed by an individual 65 or older.
- Overall, 41.9 percent of responding households gave to religious organizations in 2008.

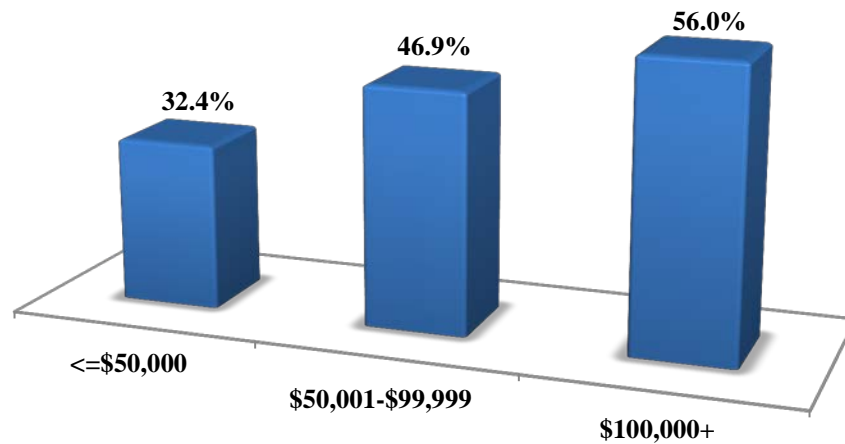
Giving to Religious Organizations by Head of Household's Age Group



This graph shows the average and median amounts given to religious organizations in 2008 by the age group of the head of household, among U.S. donor households.

- Though households headed by older individuals gave at higher rates to religious organizations, those that did give did not necessarily donate more on average to these organizations.
- On average, donor households headed by an individual 41 to 64 years old gave \$223 more to religious organizations than did donor households headed by an individual 65 or older.
- Among households that gave, the median amounts given to religious organizations from both those headed by an individual 41 to 64 years old and those headed by an individual 65 or older were twice that of those headed by an individual 40 or younger.
- On average, donor households headed by an individual 40 or younger gave \$782 less to religious organizations than did households headed by an individual 41 to 64 years old.
- Among all U.S. donor households, the average gift to religious organizations was \$2,086 (median=\$800).

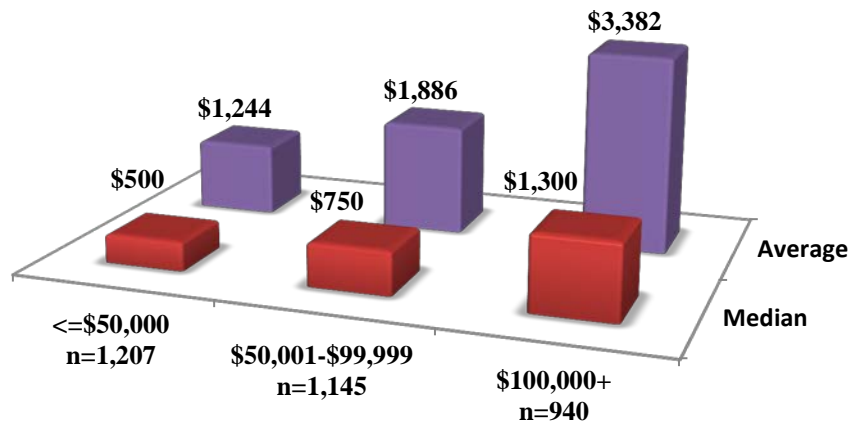
Religious Giving Rate by Household Income Level



This graph shows the giving rate of U.S. households to religious organizations in 2008 by household income level.

- Households with higher income levels gave at higher rates to religious organizations.
- Households with income levels between \$50,001 and \$99,999 gave at a lower rate to religious organizations (by 9.1 percentage points) than did those with income levels of \$100,000 or more.
- Households with income levels of \$50,000 or less gave at a lower rate (by 14.5 percentage points) than did households with income levels between \$50,001 and \$99,999.
- Overall, 41.9 percent of responding households reported giving to religious organizations in 2008.

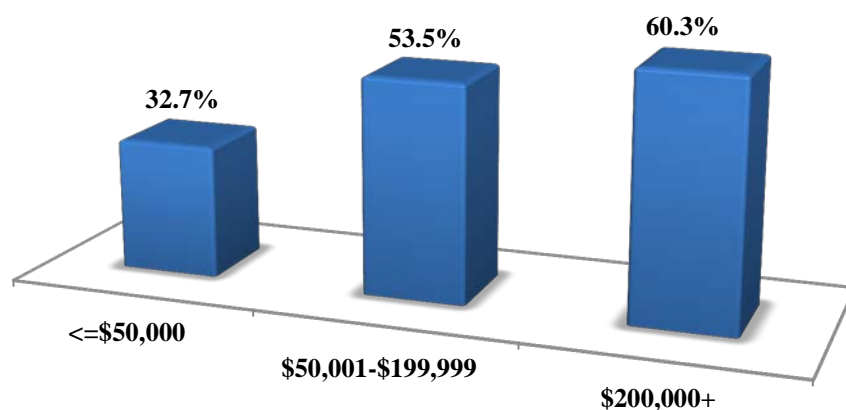
Giving to Religious Organizations by Household Income Level



This graph shows the average and median amounts given to religious organizations in 2008 by household income level, among U.S. donor households.

- Among those that gave, households with higher income levels gave higher average and median gift amounts to religious organizations.
- On average, donor households with income levels of \$100,000 or more gave \$1,496 more to religious organizations than those with income levels between \$50,001 and \$99,999 and \$2,138 more than those with income levels of \$50,000 or less.
- Among all U.S. donor households, the average gift to religious organizations was \$2,086 (median=\$800).

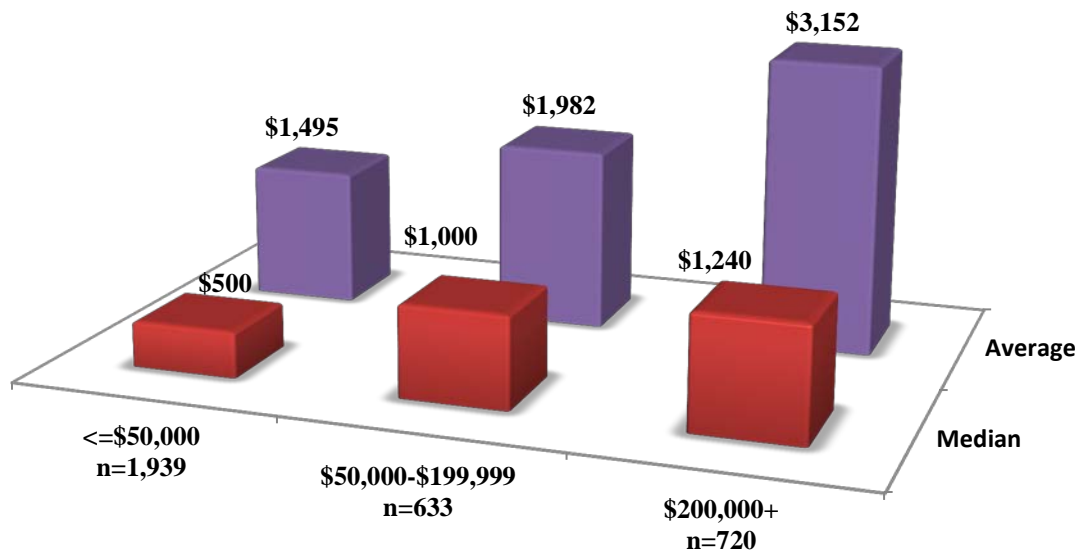
Religious Giving Rate by Household Wealth Level



This graph shows the giving rate of U.S. households to religious organizations in 2008 by household wealth level. For this analysis, wealth did not include the value of the equity in the household home.

- Households with higher wealth levels gave at higher rates to religious organizations.
- The giving rate to religious organizations of households with wealth levels of \$50,000 or less was 20.8 percentage points less than that of those with wealth levels between \$50,001 and \$199,999 and 27.6 percentage points less than that of those with wealth levels of \$200,000 or more.
- Overall, 41.9 percent of responding households reported giving to religious organizations in 2008.

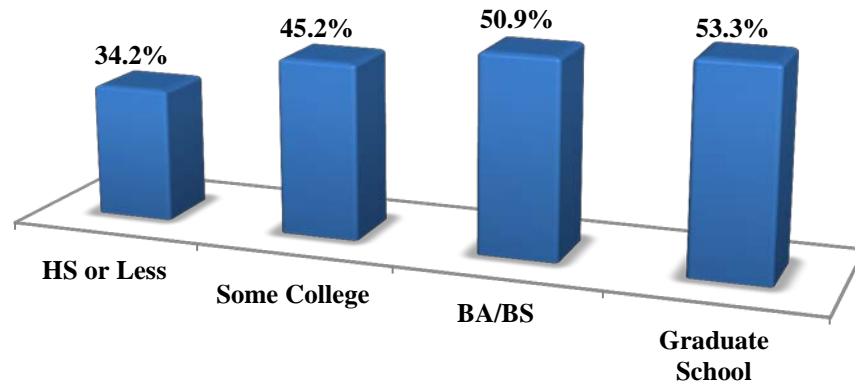
Giving to Religious Organizations by Household Wealth Level



This graph shows the average and median amounts given to religious organizations in 2008 by household wealth level, among U.S. donor households. For this analysis, wealth did not include the value of the equity in the household home.

- Among those that gave, households with higher wealth levels gave higher average and median gift amounts to religious organizations.
- On average, donor households with wealth levels of \$200,000 or more gave more than twice the amount that donor households with wealth levels \$50,000 or less gave to religious organizations.
- On average, among those that gave, households with wealth levels between \$50,001 and \$199,999 gave \$1,170 less to religious organizations than those with wealth levels of \$200,000 or more.
- Among all U.S. donor households, the average gift to religious organizations was \$2,086 (median=\$800).

Religious Giving Rate by Head of Household's Education Level

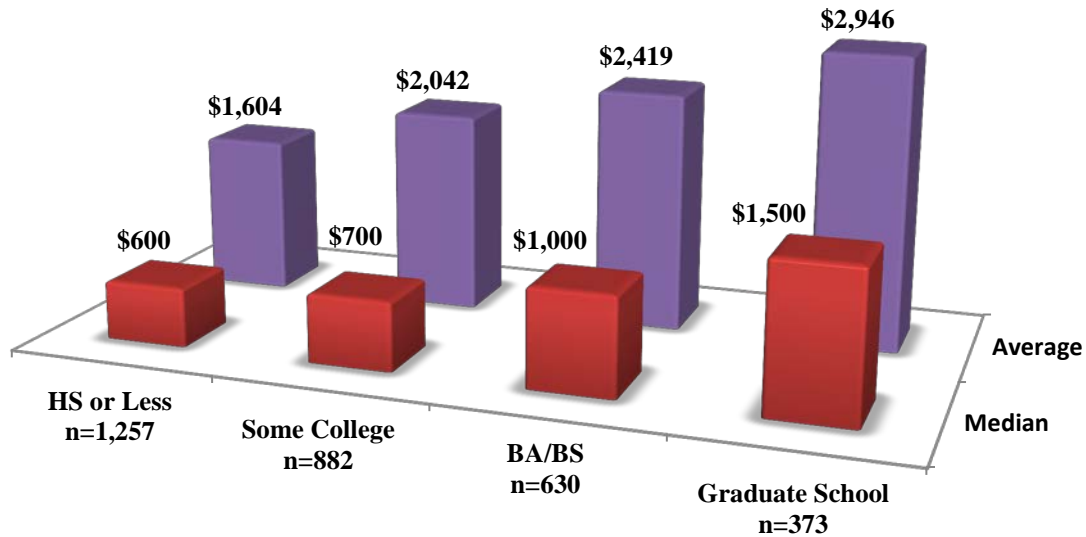


HS or Less – high school education or less
BA/BS – bachelor's degree

This graph shows the giving rate of U.S. households to religious organizations in 2008 by education level of the head of household.

- Households headed by an individual with a higher level of education gave at higher rates to religious organizations.
- Households headed by an individual with at least some graduate coursework gave at a slightly higher rate to religious organizations (by 2.4 percentage points) than those with a bachelor's degree.
- The giving rate to religious organizations of households headed by an individual with a high school education or less was 11.0 percentage points less than that of households headed by an individual with some college education.
- Overall, 41.9 percent of responding households reported giving to religious organizations in 2008.

Giving to Religious Organizations by Head of Household's Education Level

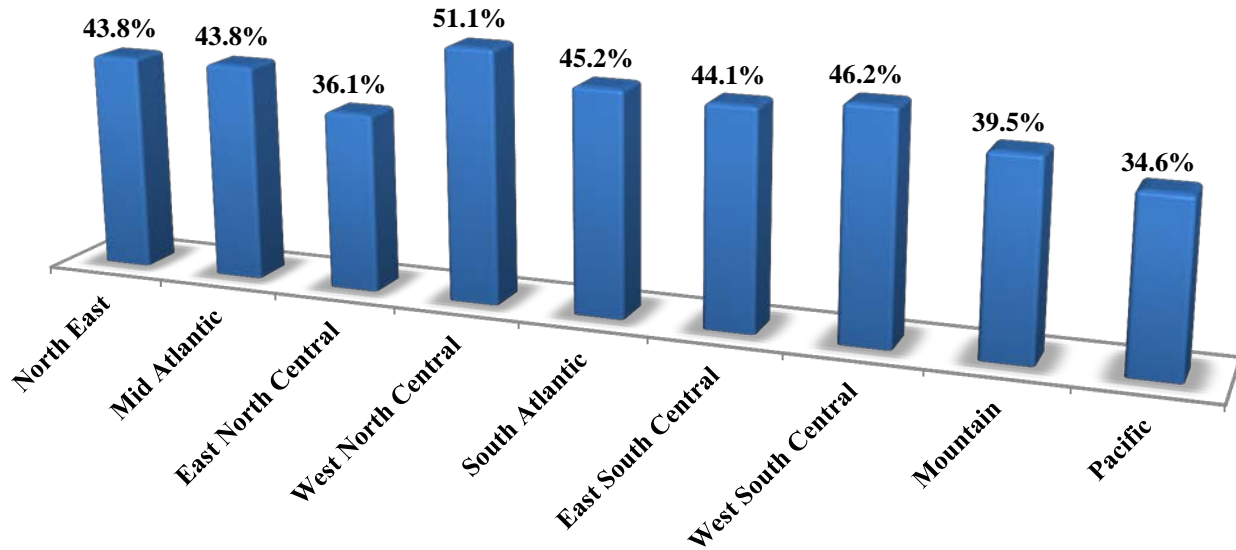


HS or Less – high school education or less
BA/BS – bachelor's degree

This graph shows the average and median amounts given to religious organizations in 2008 by education level of the head of household, among U.S. donor households.

- Among those that gave, households headed by an individual with a higher level of education gave larger average and median gift amounts to religious organizations.
- On average, among those that gave, households headed by an individual with a bachelor's degree gave \$527 less to religious organizations than did households headed by an individual with at least some graduate coursework.
- Among all donating households, the average total gift to religious organizations was \$2,086 (median=\$800).

Religious Giving Rate by Household Geographic Location

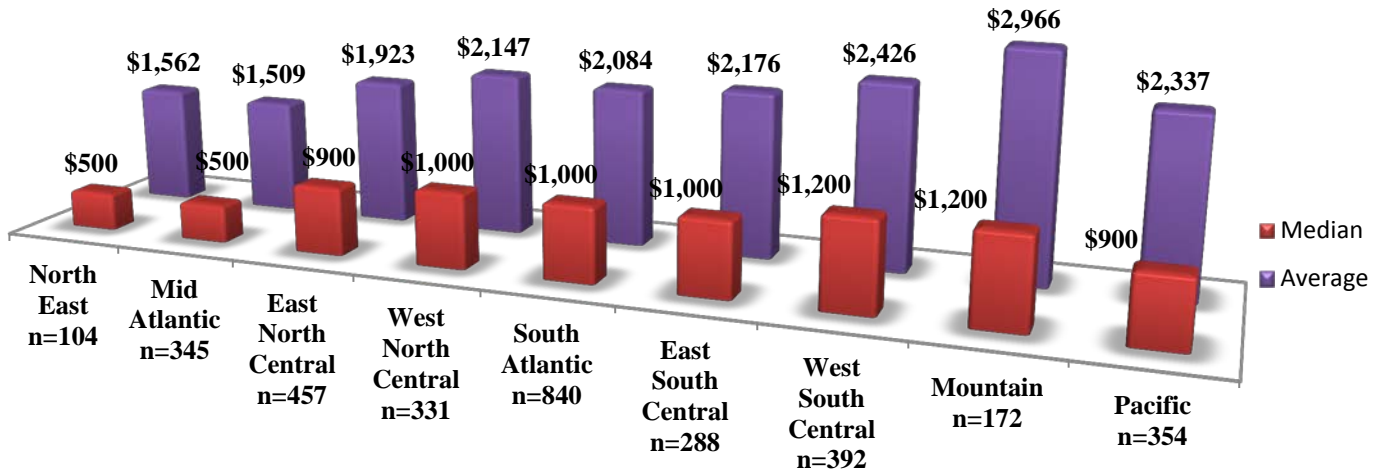


This graph shows the giving rate of U.S. households to religious organizations in 2008 by U.S. geographic region.

- West North Central was the only region with a giving rate to religious organizations above 50 percent.
- A difference of 16.5 percentage points separated the region with the highest giving rate to religious organizations (West North Central) and the lowest (Pacific).
- Overall, 41.9 percent of responding households reported giving to religious organizations in 2008.
- The regions as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, are described below.

North East	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, DC, 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

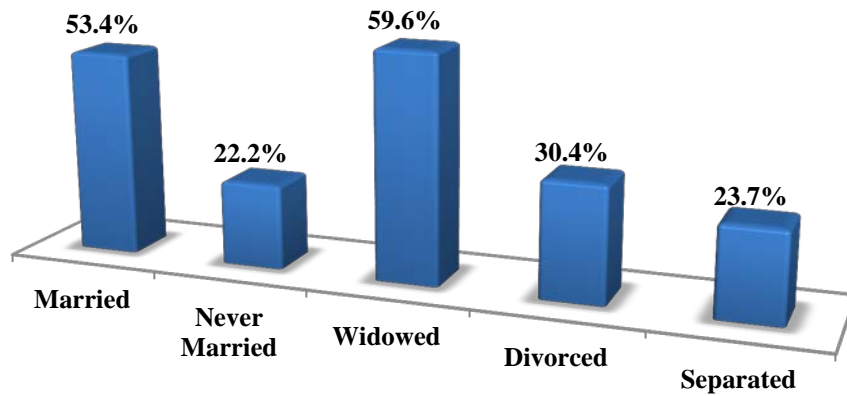
Giving to Religious Organizations by Household Geographic Location



This graph shows the average and median amounts given to religious organizations in 2008 by U.S. geographic location, among U.S. donor households.

- Though households in the Pacific region gave at the lowest rate to religious organizations, those that did give donated the third most on average to these organizations.
- Three geographic regions gave the same median amount of \$1,000 to religious organizations (West North Central, South Atlantic, and East South Central).
- The average gift to religious organizations from donor households in the Mountain region was nearly twice that of donor households from the Mid Atlantic region.
- Among all U.S. donor households, the average gift to religious organizations was \$2,086 (median=\$800).
- Region definitions can be found on the previous page.

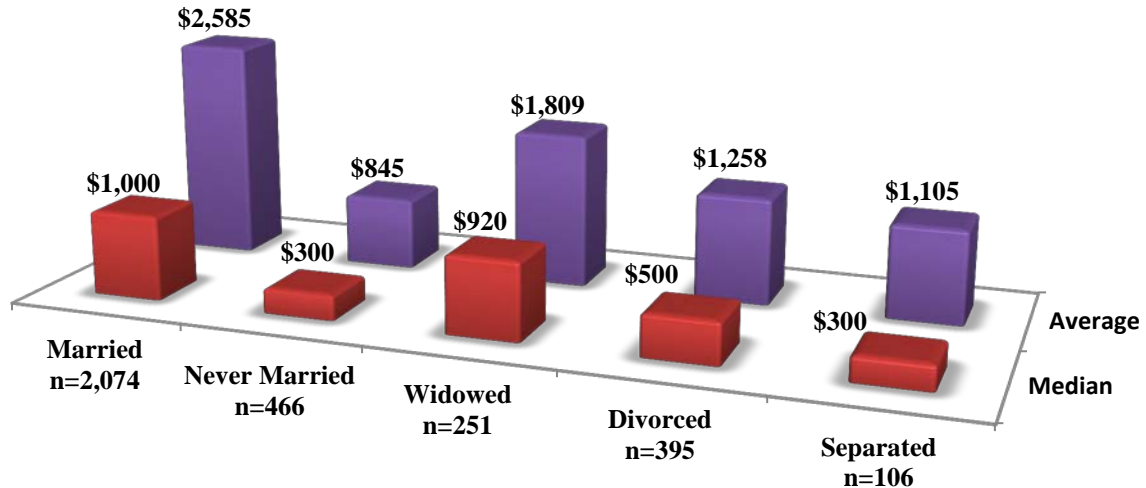
Religious Giving Rate by Head of Household's Marital Status



This graph shows giving rates of U.S. households to religious organizations in 2008 by marital status of the head of household.

- Households headed by a married individual gave at a much higher rate to religious organizations (by 29.7 percentage points) than did households headed by a separated individual.
- The giving rate to religious organizations of households headed by a widowed individual was 6.2 percentage points higher than that of households headed by a married individual.
- Overall, 41.9 percent of responding households reported giving to religious organizations in 2008.

Giving to Religious Organizations by Head of Household's Marital Status



This graph shows the average and median amounts given to religious organizations in 2008 by the marital status of the head of household, among U.S. donor households.

- On average, among those that gave, households headed by a married individual gave more than three times as much as households headed by a never married individual and more than two times as much as households headed by a divorced individual to religious organizations.
- On average, donor households headed by a separated individual gave \$260 more to religious organizations than did donor households headed by a never married individual.
- On average, donor households headed by a widowed individual gave \$776 less to religious organizations than did donor households headed by a married individual.
- Among all U.S. donor households, the average gift to religious organizations was \$2,086 (median=\$800).