

The Decline of Institutional Religion

Faith Angle Forum
South Beach, Florida
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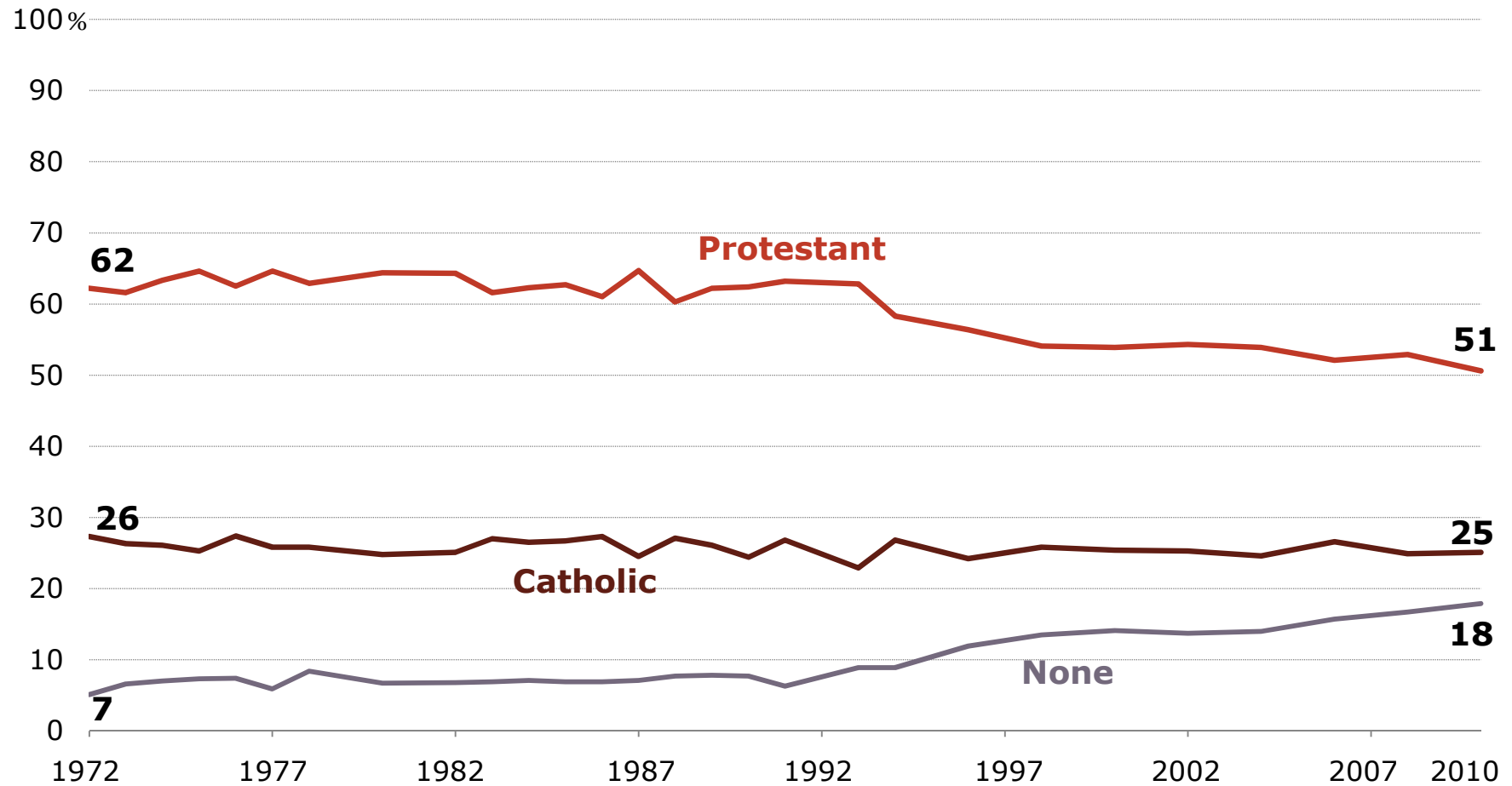
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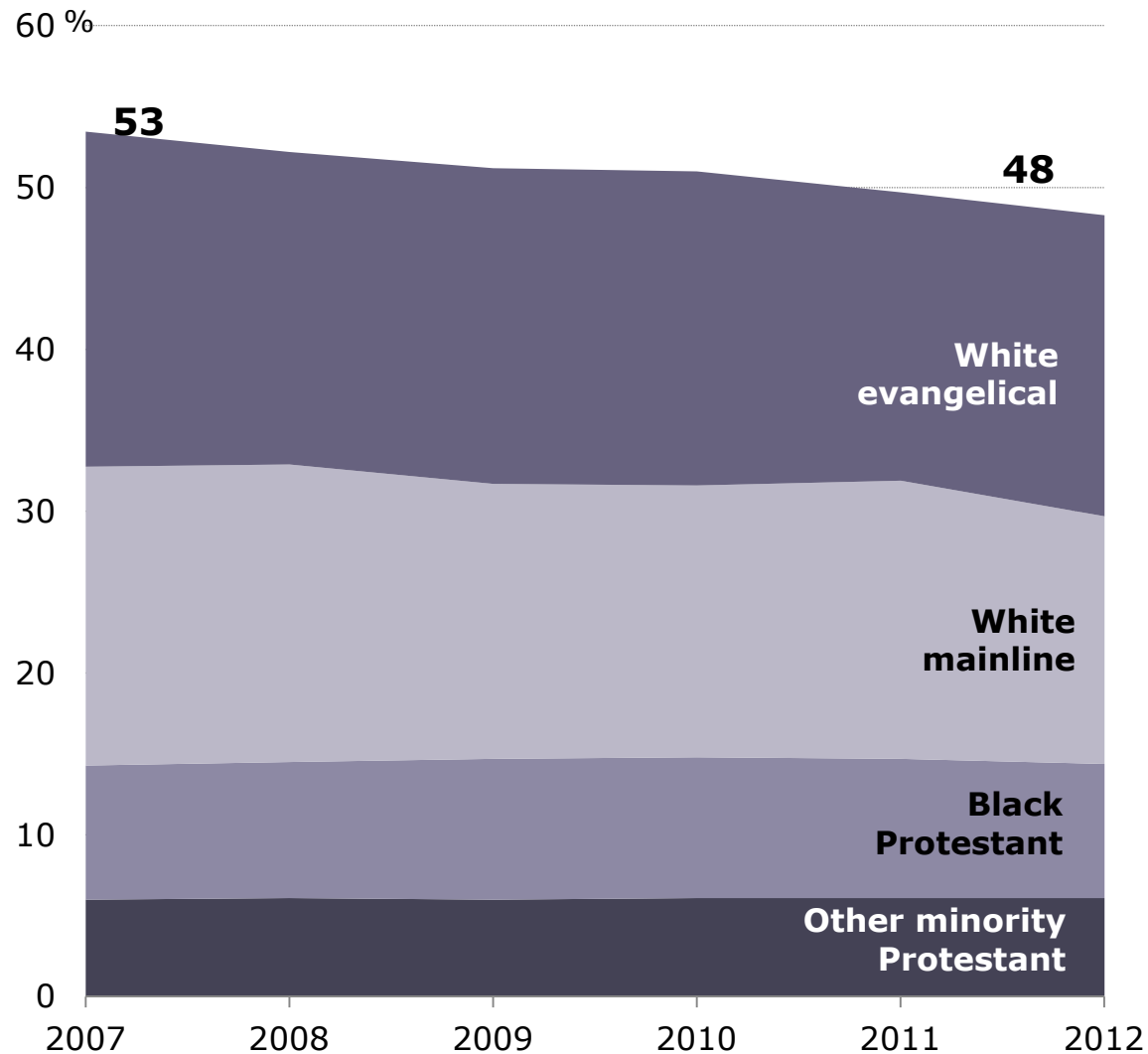
I

Long-Term Trends in Religious Affiliation



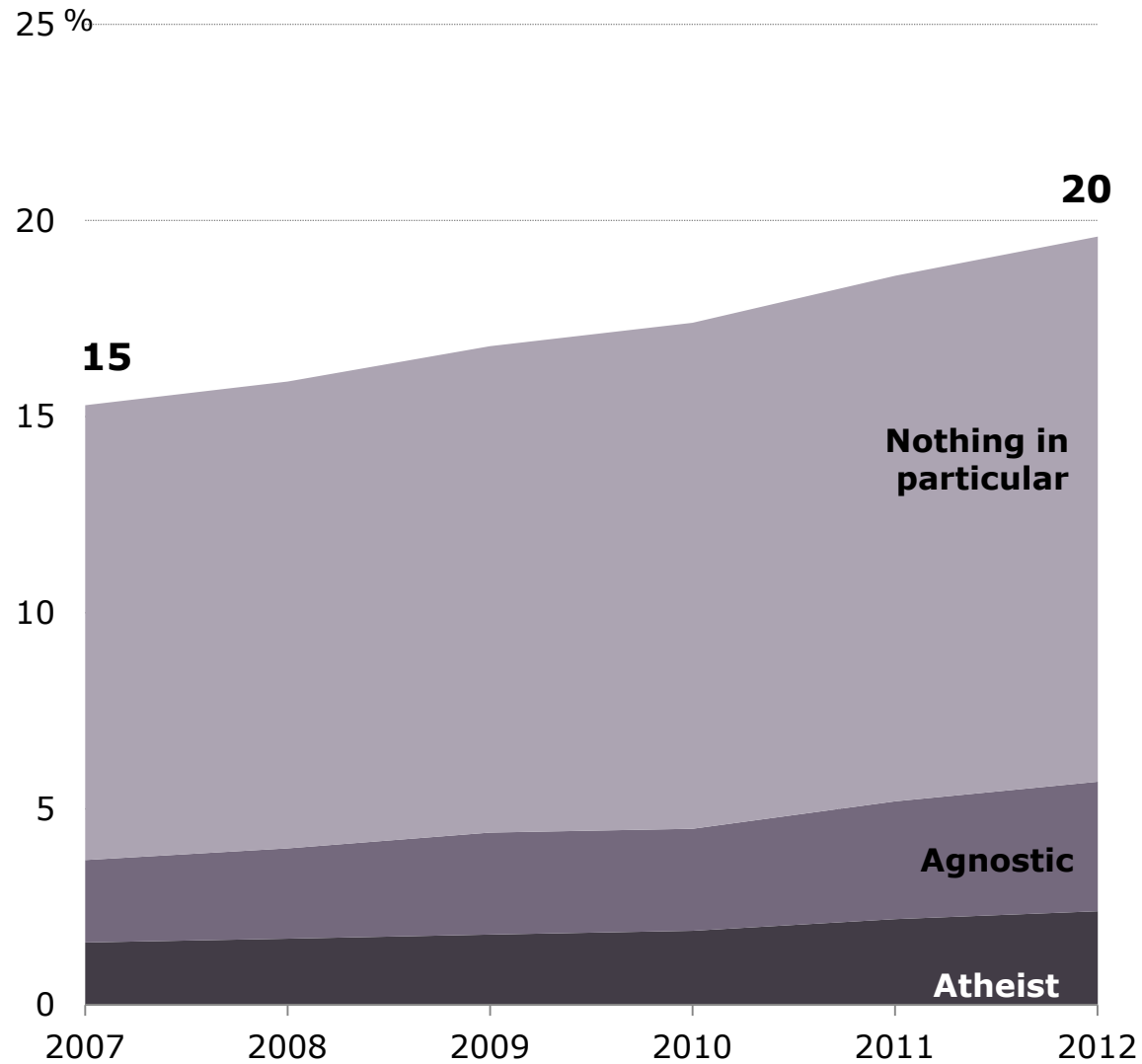
Source: General Social Surveys, 1972-2010. Other religious affiliations and those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Declining Share Are Protestant



Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007-2012.

Growth of the Religiously Unaffiliated



Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007-July 2012.

Trends in Religious Affiliation, 2007-2012

| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 07-12 Change |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | % | % | % | % | % | % | |
| Christian | 78 | 77 | 77 | 76 | 75 | 73 | -5 |
| Protestant | 53 | 52 | 51 | 51 | 50 | 48 | -5 |
| <i>White evang.</i> | <i>21</i> | <i>19</i> | <i>20</i> | <i>19</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>19</i> | -2 |
| <i>White mainline</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>18</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>15</i> | -3 |
| <i>Black Protestant</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>8</i> | -- |
| <i>Other minority Prot.</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>6</i> | <i>6</i> | -- |
| Catholic | 23 | 22 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 22 | -1 |
| Mormon | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | -- |
| Orthodox | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Other faith | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 6 | +2 |
| Unaffiliated | 15.3 | 16.0 | 16.8 | 17.4 | 18.6 | 19.6 | +4.3 |
| Atheist | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.2 | 2.4 | +0.8 |
| Agnostic | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 3.0 | 3.3 | +1.2 |
| Nothing in particular | 11.6 | 11.9 | 12.4 | 12.9 | 13.4 | 13.9 | +2.3 |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | -- |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007- July 2012. In the change column, figures that are statistically significant are shown in bold. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Growth in Religious Disaffiliation, by Demographic Groups

| | <u>2007</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>% who describe themselves as religiously unaffiliated among...</i> | % | % | |
| U.S. general public | 15.3 | 19.6 | +4.3 |
| Men | 18 | 23 | +5 |
| Women | 13 | 17 | +4 |
| College grad+ | 17 | 21 | +4 |
| Some college or less | 15 | 19 | +4 |
| \$75,000+ | 16 | 21 | +5 |
| \$30,000-\$74,999 | 15 | 20 | +5 |
| <\$30,000 | 17 | 20 | +3 |
| Northeast | 15 | 21 | +6 |
| Midwest | 15 | 19 | +4 |
| South | 12 | 15 | +3 |
| West | 21 | 26 | +5 |

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007 and 2012. Changes that are statistically significant are shown in bold.

Growth in Religious Disaffiliation, by Race

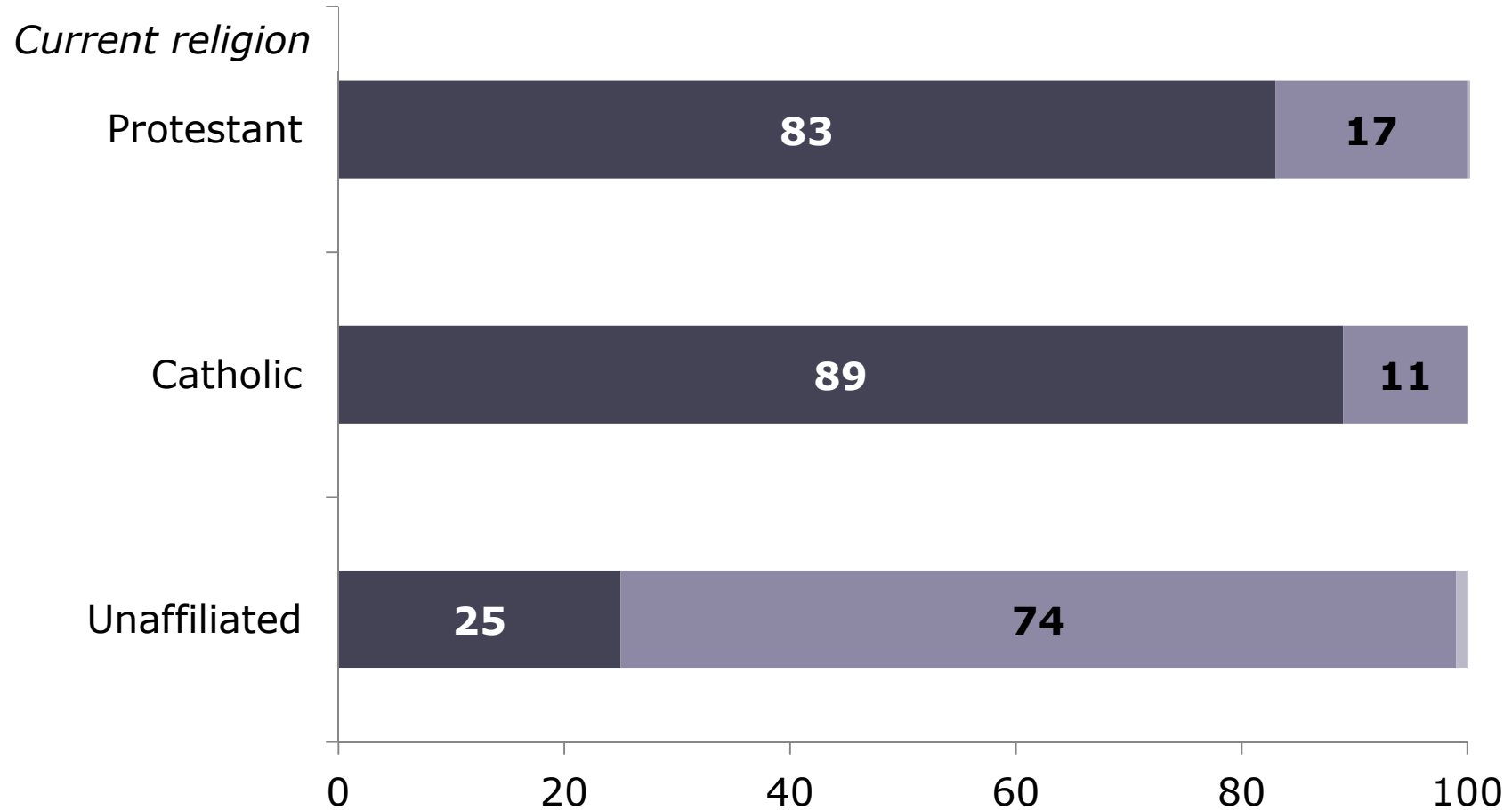
| | <u>2007</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| <i>% who describe themselves as religiously unaffiliated among...</i> | % | % | |
| U.S. general public | 15.3 | 19.6 | +4.3 |
| White | 15 | 20 | +5 |
| Black | 13 | 15 | +2 |
| Hispanic | 16 | 16 | -- |

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007 and 2012. Hispanic figures based only on surveys that included Spanish interviewing. Changes that are statistically significant are shown in bold.

Religious Switching: Recruitment

% who were raised in...

■ Same religion ■ Different religion



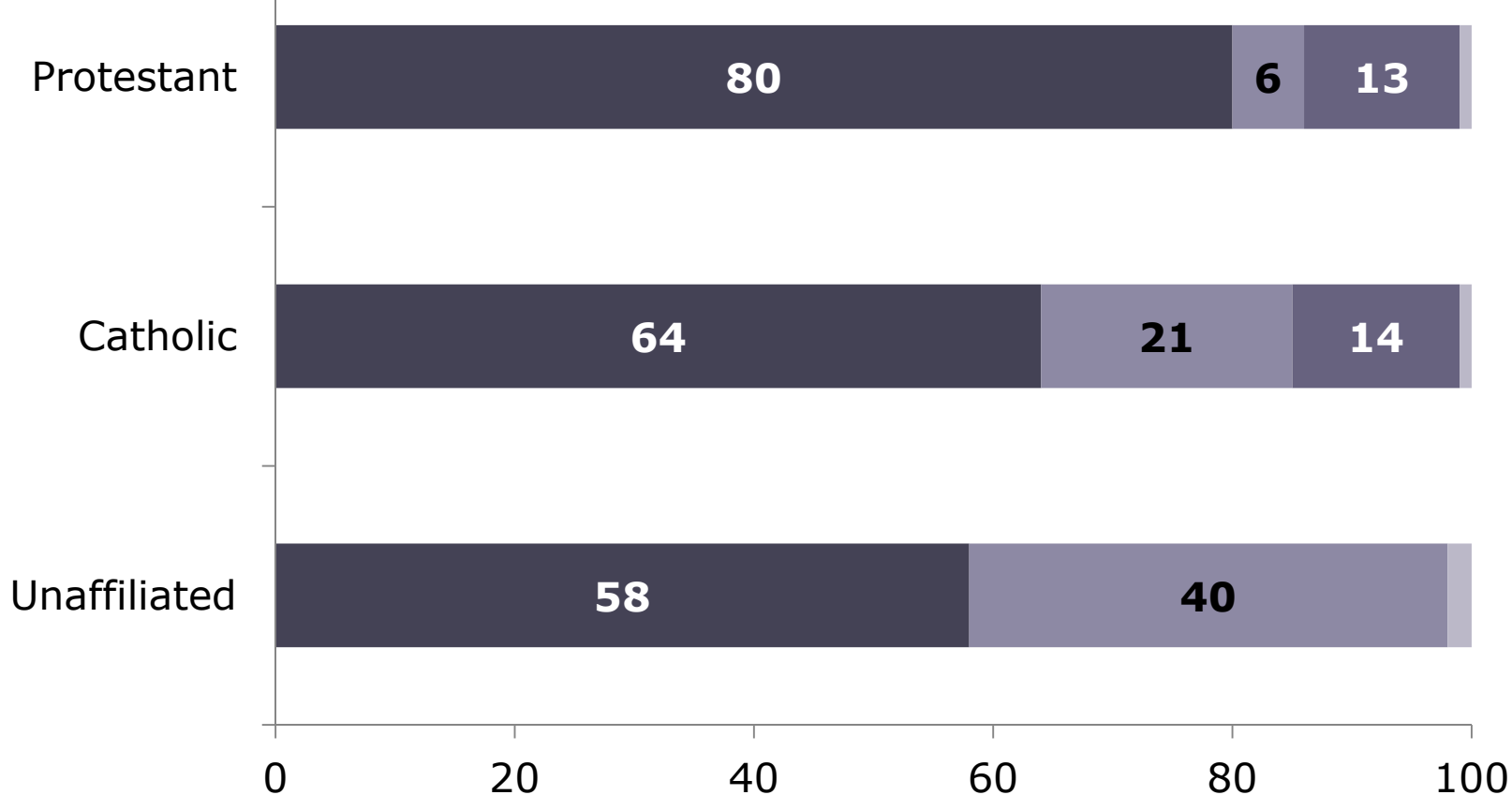
Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012.

Religious Switching: Retention

% who are currently...

■ Same religion ■ Different religion ■ Unaffiliated

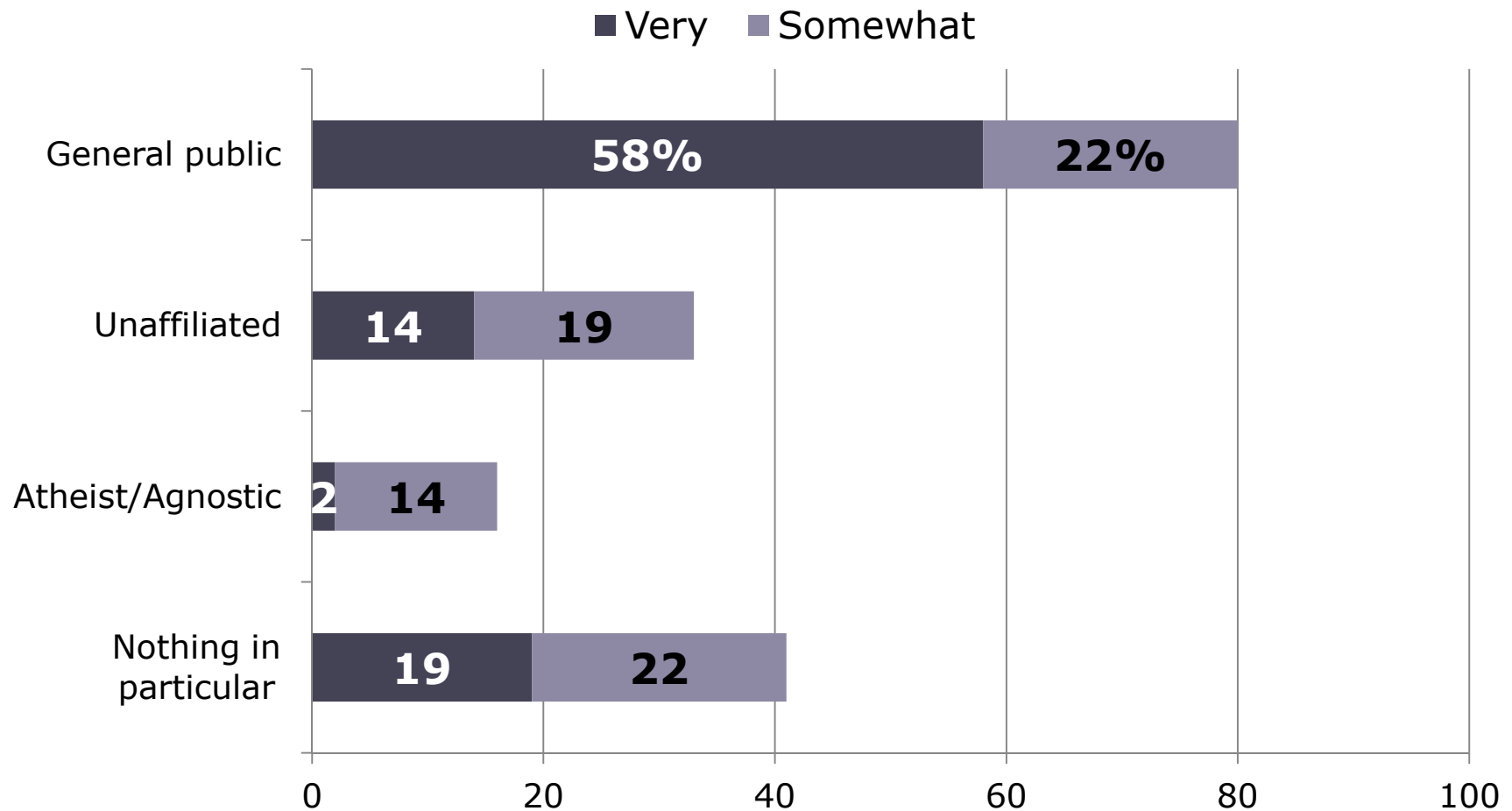
Childhood religion



Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012.

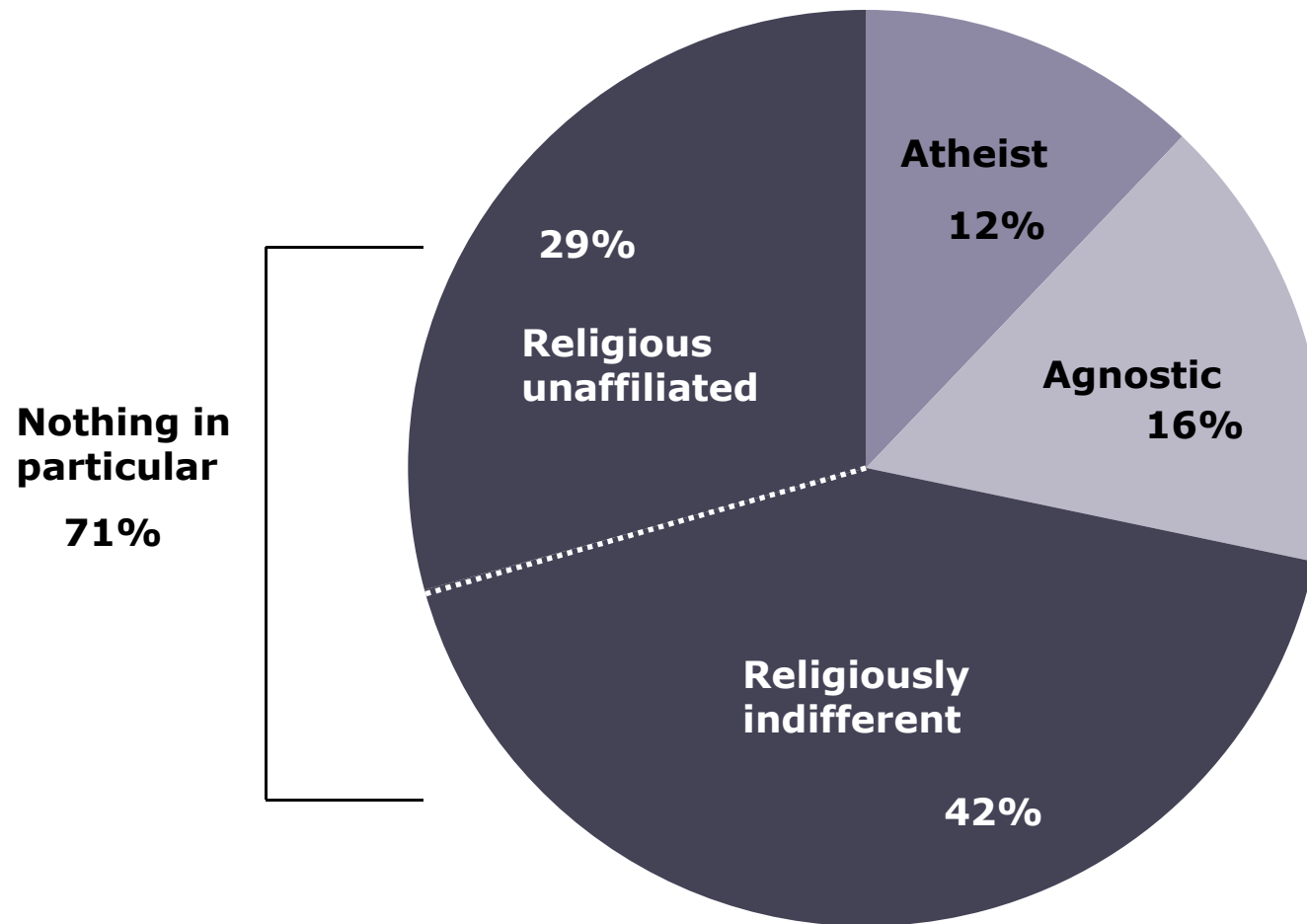
II

Importance of Religion



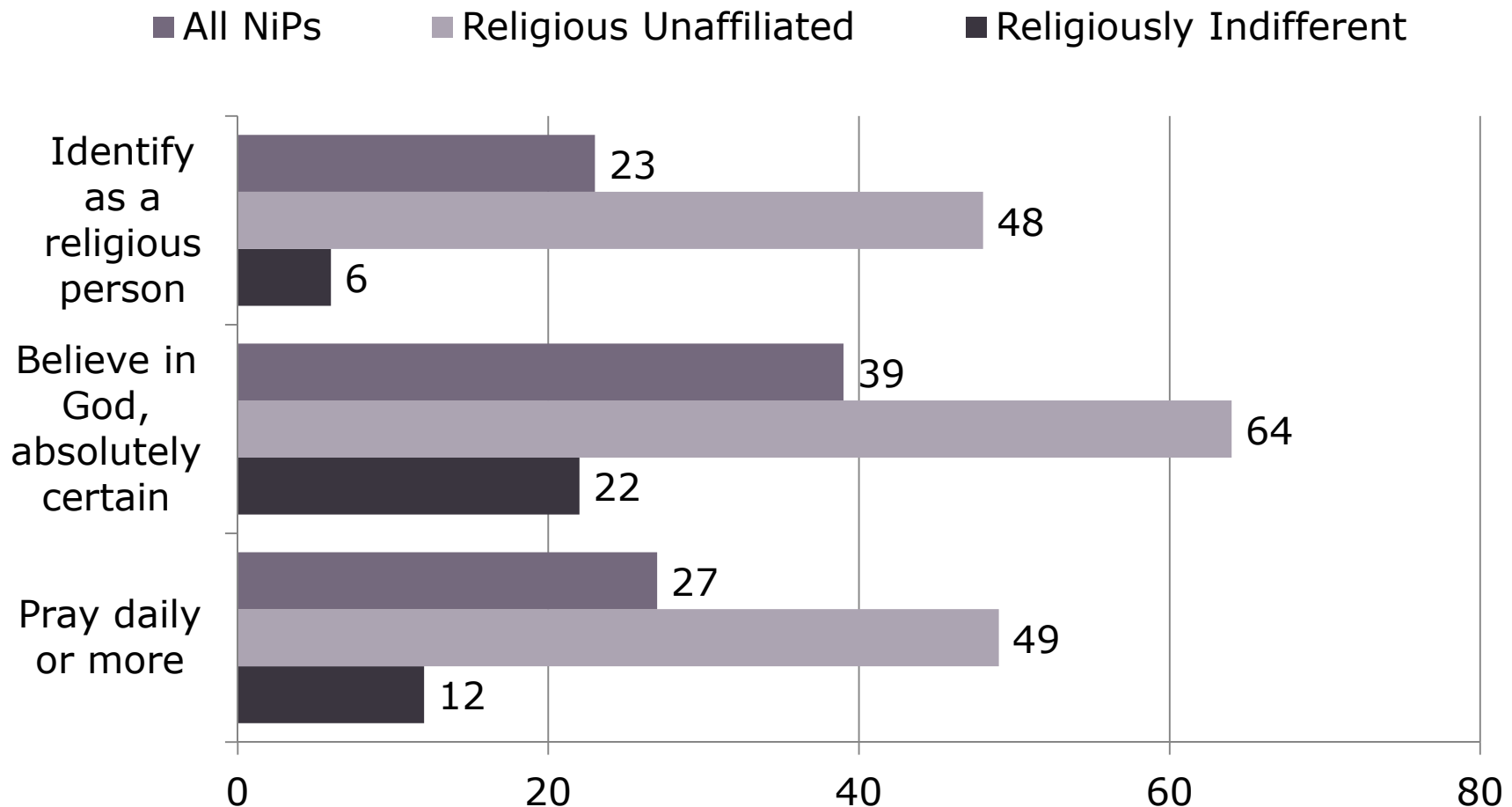
Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Composition of the Unaffiliated

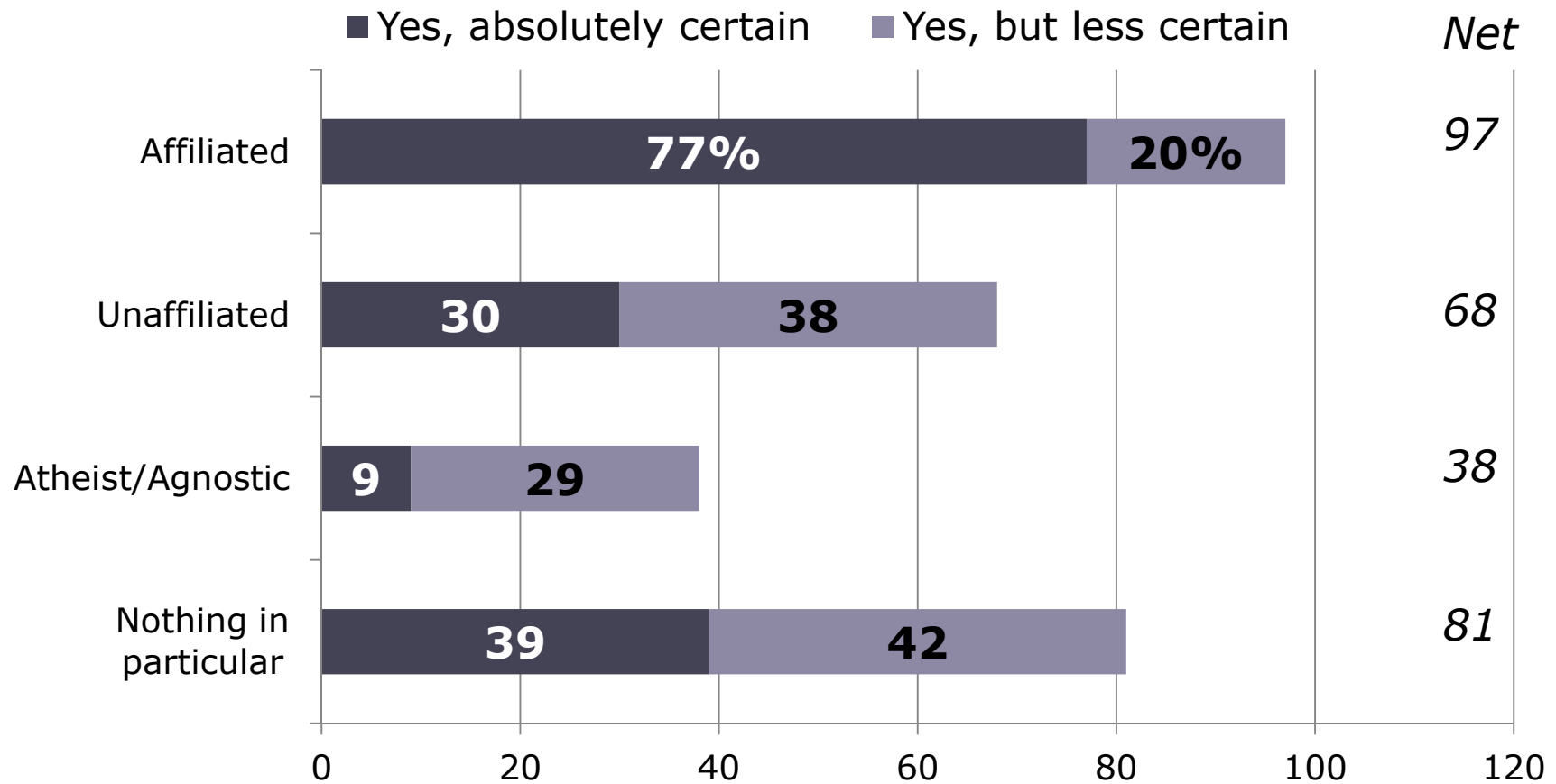


Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

A Closer Look at the Nothing in Particulars

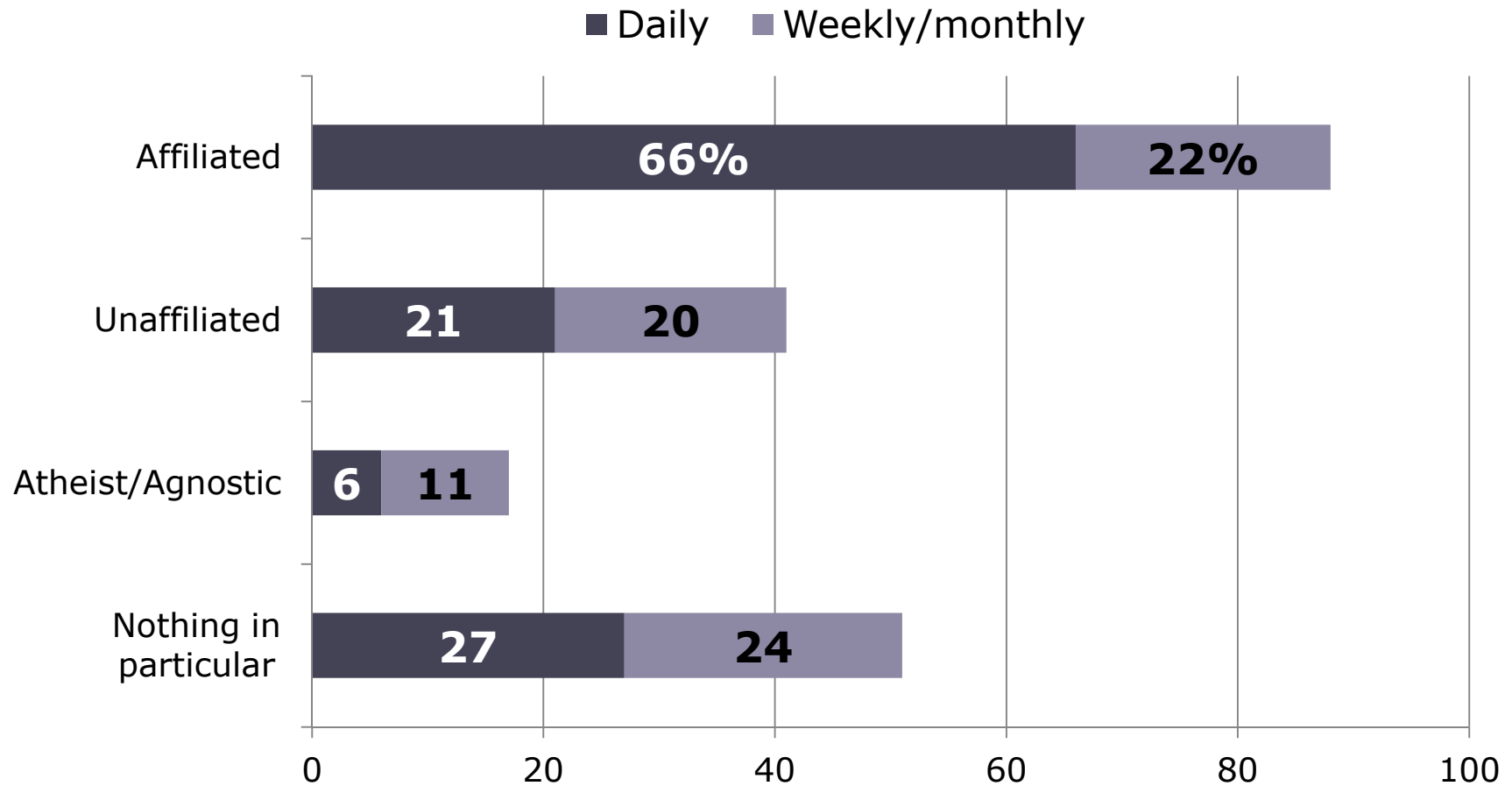


Believe in God or Universal Spirit?



Source: Pew Research Center/Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Frequency of Prayer



Source: Pew Research Center/Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Frequency of Worship Attendance

| | Weekly | Monthly/ Yearly | Seldom/ Never | DK | N |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------|---------|--------|
| | % | % | % | % | |
| U.S. general public | 37 | 33 | 29 | 1 = 100 | 17,010 |
| Affiliated | 48 | 34 | 18 | 1 = 100 | 13,821 |
| Christian | 49 | 33 | 17 | 1 = 100 | 13,086 |
| Protestant | 49 | 33 | 17 | 1 = 100 | 7,316 |
| White evangelical | 63 | 27 | 10 | 1 = 100 | 3,473 |
| White mainline | 27 | 43 | 30 | * = 100 | 3,035 |
| Black Protestant | 56 | 32 | 12 | 1 = 100 | 1,319 |
| Catholic | 41 | 41 | 17 | 1 = 100 | 3,692 |
| White Catholic | 41 | 41 | 18 | * = 100 | 2,546 |
| Hispanic Catholic | 42 | 41 | 16 | 1 = 100 | 866 |
| Unaffiliated | 5 | 22 | 72 | 1 = 100 | 2,942 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 3 | 13 | 83 | 1 = 100 | 908 |
| Nothing in particular | 6 | 26 | 67 | 1 = 100 | 2,034 |

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, January-July 2012. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Other Spiritual Beliefs

% saying they believe in each of the following

| | Unaffiliated | Affiliated |
|--|--------------|------------|
| | % | % |
| Spiritual energy located in physical things such as mountains, trees and crystals | 30 | 25 |
| Yoga, not just as exercise, but as a spiritual practice | 28 | 23 |
| Reincarnation, that people will be reborn again and again | 25 | 24 |
| Astrology, that the position of stars/planets can affect people's lives | 25 | 25 |
| Evil eye, that certain people can cast curses or spells that cause harm | 12 | 17 |

Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, August 2009. Q291a-c,e,f.
Other responses and those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Supernatural Experiences

| | Unaffiliated | Affiliated |
|--|--------------|------------|
| <i>% saying they have experienced each of the following:</i> | <i>%</i> | <i>%</i> |
| Been in touch with someone who has already died | 31 | 29 |
| "Religious" or mystical experiences | 30 | 53 |
| Seen or been in the presence of a ghost | 19 | 18 |
| Consulted a fortuneteller or psychic | 15 | 15 |

Source: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life survey, August 2009.Q292a-c;Q290.
Other responses and those who did not give an answer are not shown.

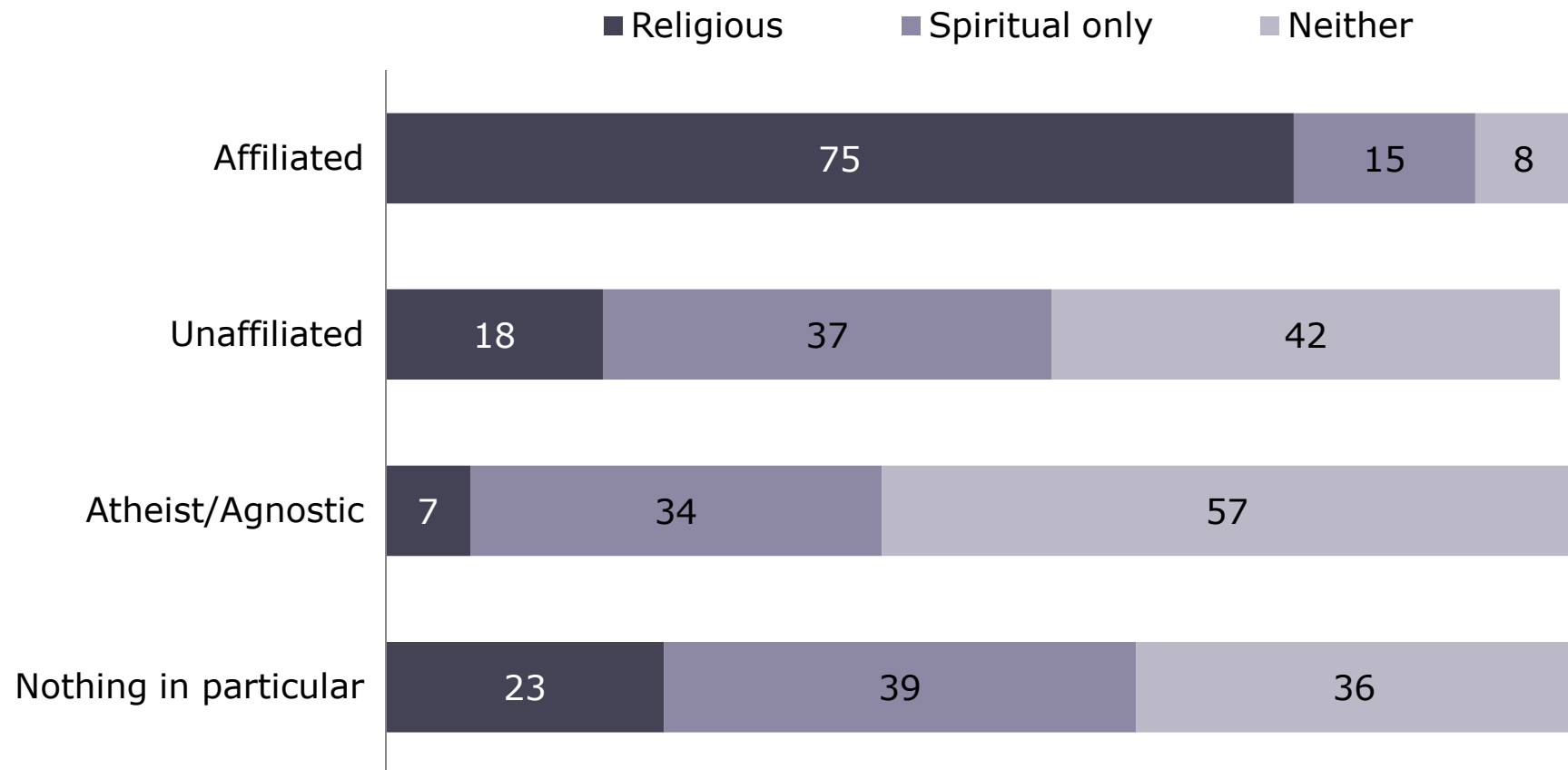
Reflecting on the Meaning of Life

How often, if at all, do you think about the meaning and purpose of life?

| | Often | Sometimes | Rarely / never | DK |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|---------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| Affiliated | 70 | 22 | 8 | 1 = 100 |
| Christian | 70 | 21 | 8 | 1 = 100 |
| Protestant | 73 | 20 | 7 | 1 = 100 |
| White evangelical | 79 | 15 | 5 | 1 = 100 |
| White mainline | 62 | 29 | 9 | * = 100 |
| Black Protestant | 82 | 14 | 3 | 1 = 100 |
| Catholic | 63 | 25 | 11 | 1 = 100 |
| White Catholic | 67 | 25 | 8 | * = 100 |
| Hispanic Catholic | 57 | 23 | 17 | 3 = 100 |
| Unaffiliated | 53 | 29 | 17 | 1 = 100 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 45 | 37 | 18 | * = 100 |
| Nothing in particular | 56 | 26 | 17 | 1 = 100 |

Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q21a. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Identity as a Spiritual or Religious Person



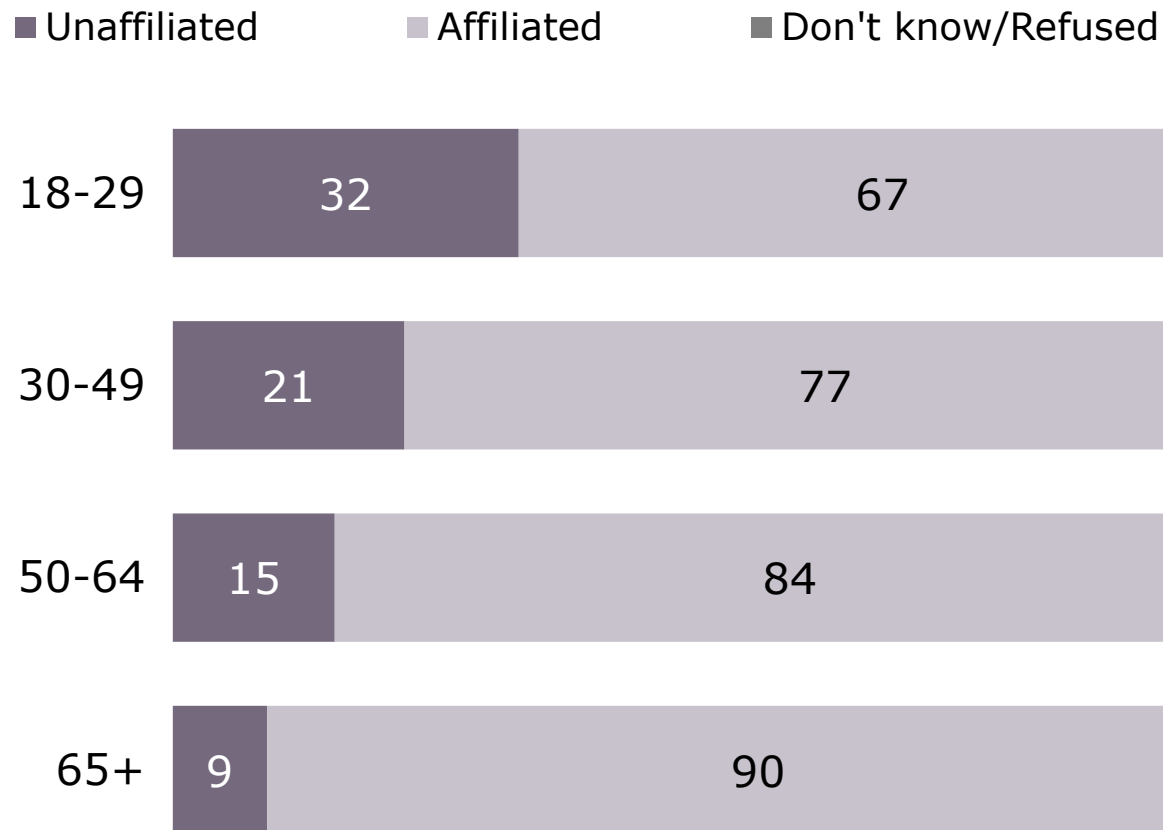
Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q50. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Looking for a Religion?

| | Nothing in <u>particular</u> |
|---|---|
| <i>% of "nothing in particulars" who are...</i> | <i>%</i> |
| Looking for religion that is right for them | 10 |
| Not doing this | 88 |
| Don't know | <u>2</u> |
| | <hr/> 100 <hr/> |

III

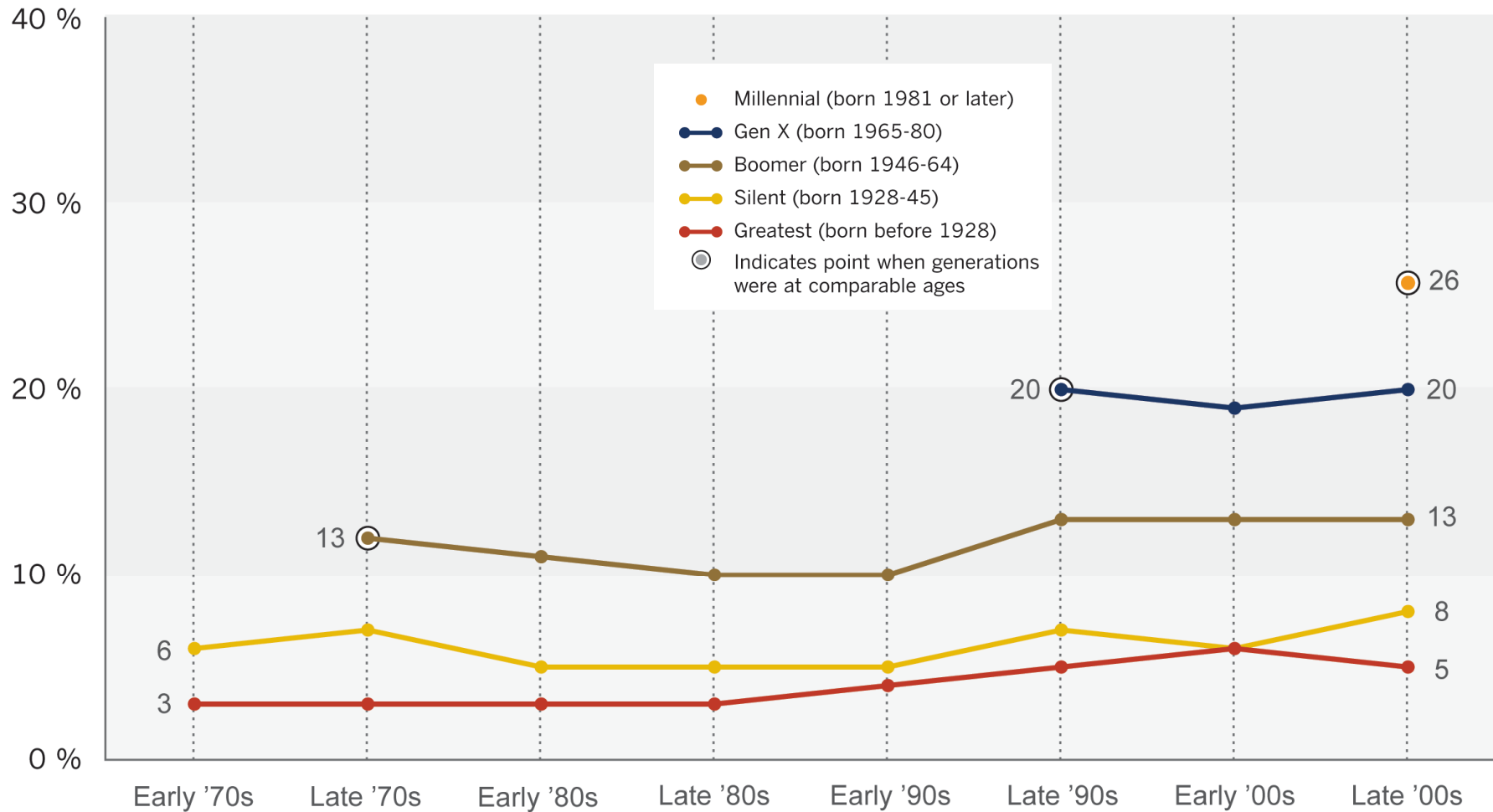
Religious Affiliation by Age



Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, January-July 2012.

Life-Cycle Effect on Affiliation

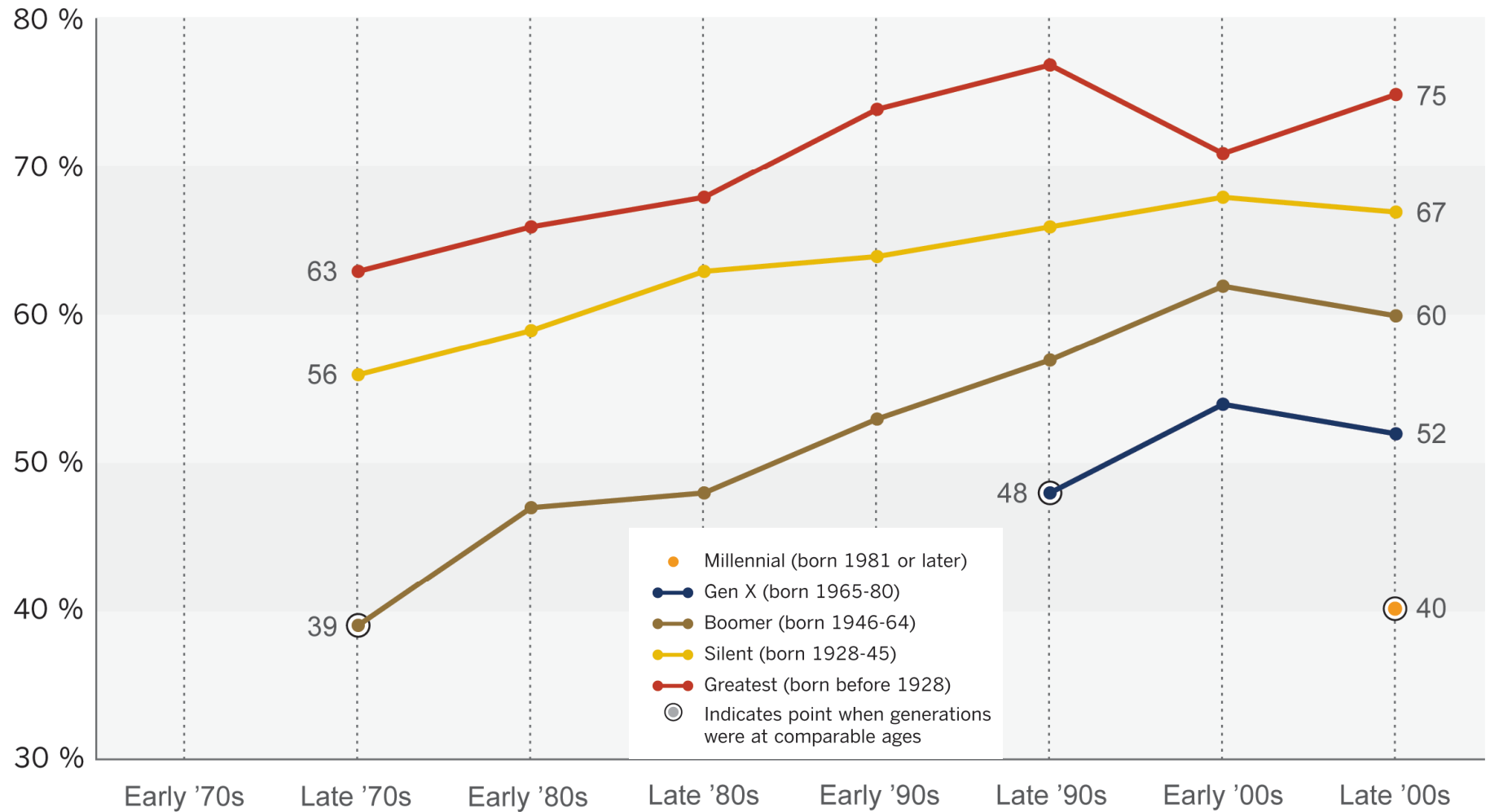
% unaffiliated with a religion, by generation



Source: General Social Surveys.

Importance of Religion

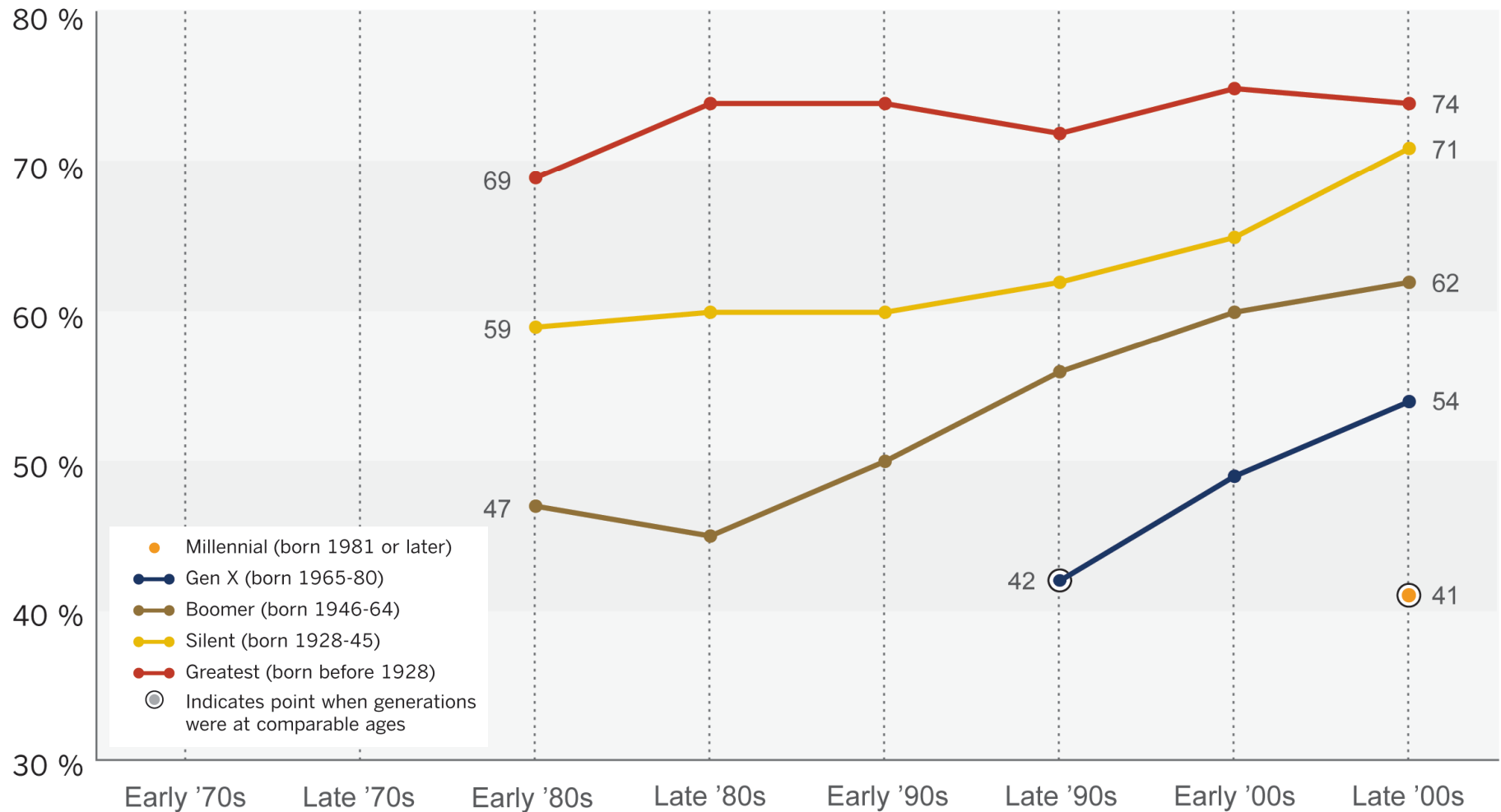
% saying religion is very important in their lives, by generation



Source: Gallup Surveys.

Daily Prayer

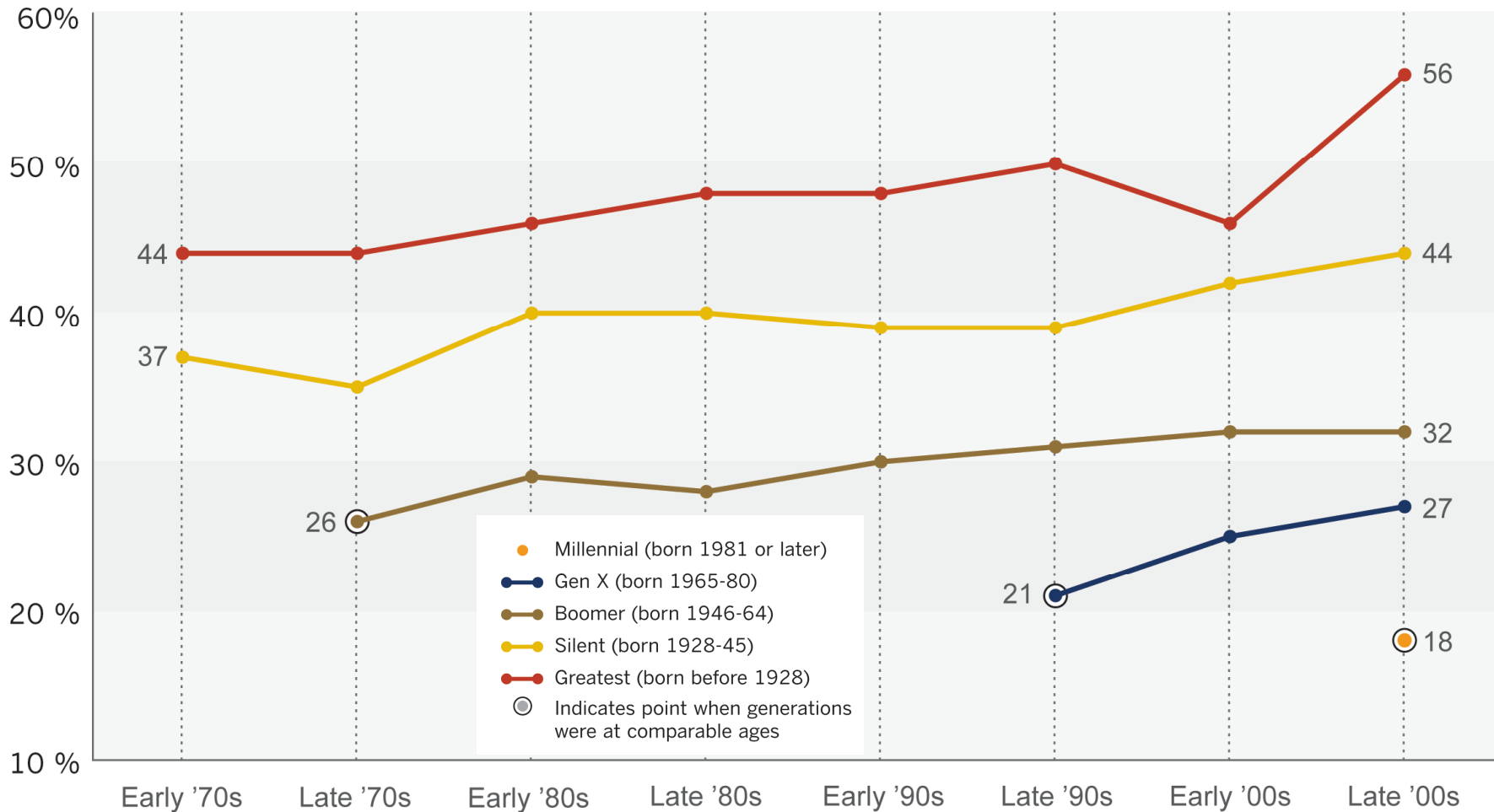
% saying they pray daily, by generation



Source: General Social Surveys.

Attendance at Religious Services

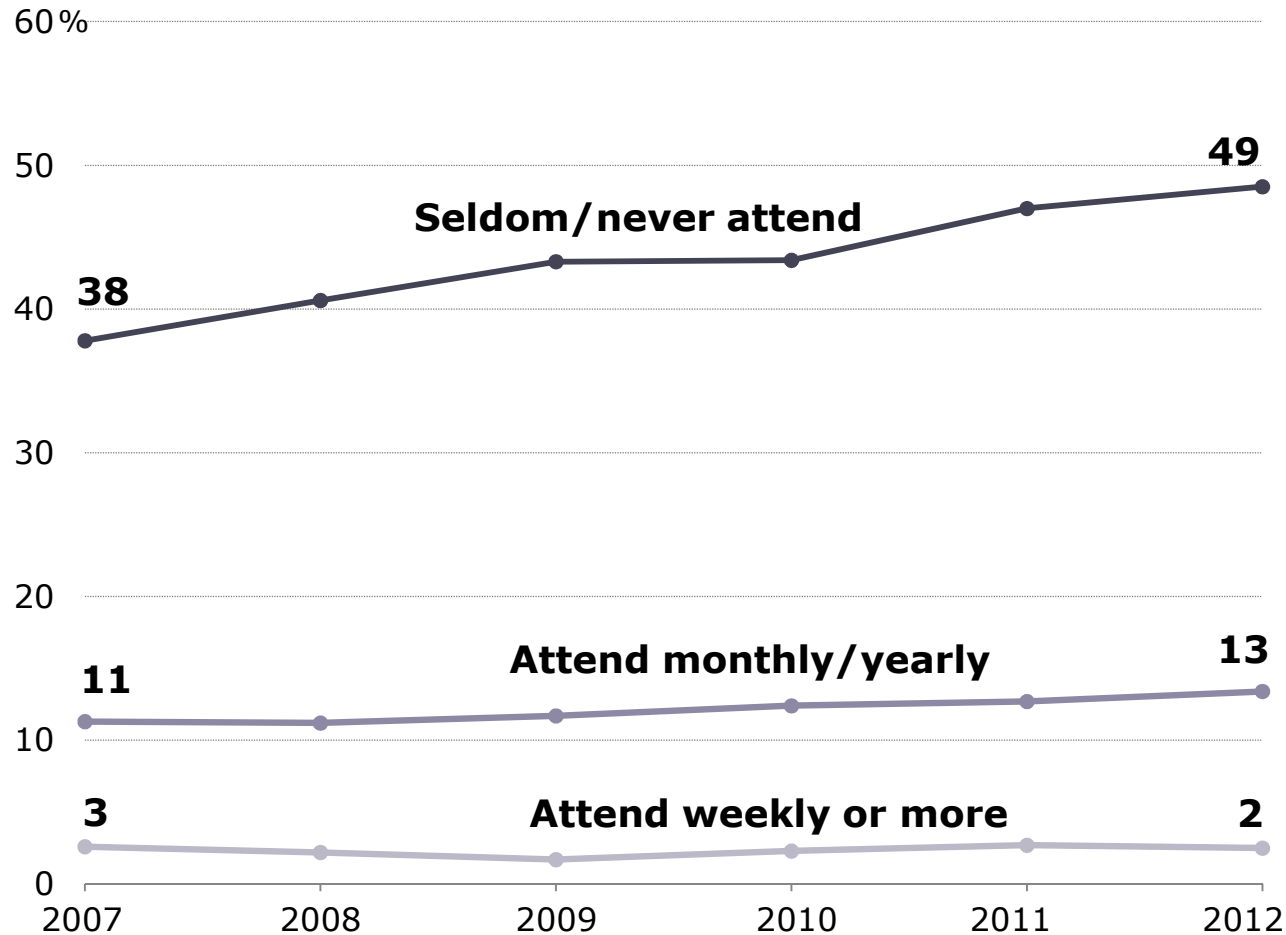
% saying they attend several times a week, every week or nearly every week, by generation



Source: General Social Surveys.

Trends in Disaffiliation, by Religious Attendance

% of each attendance category that is unaffiliated



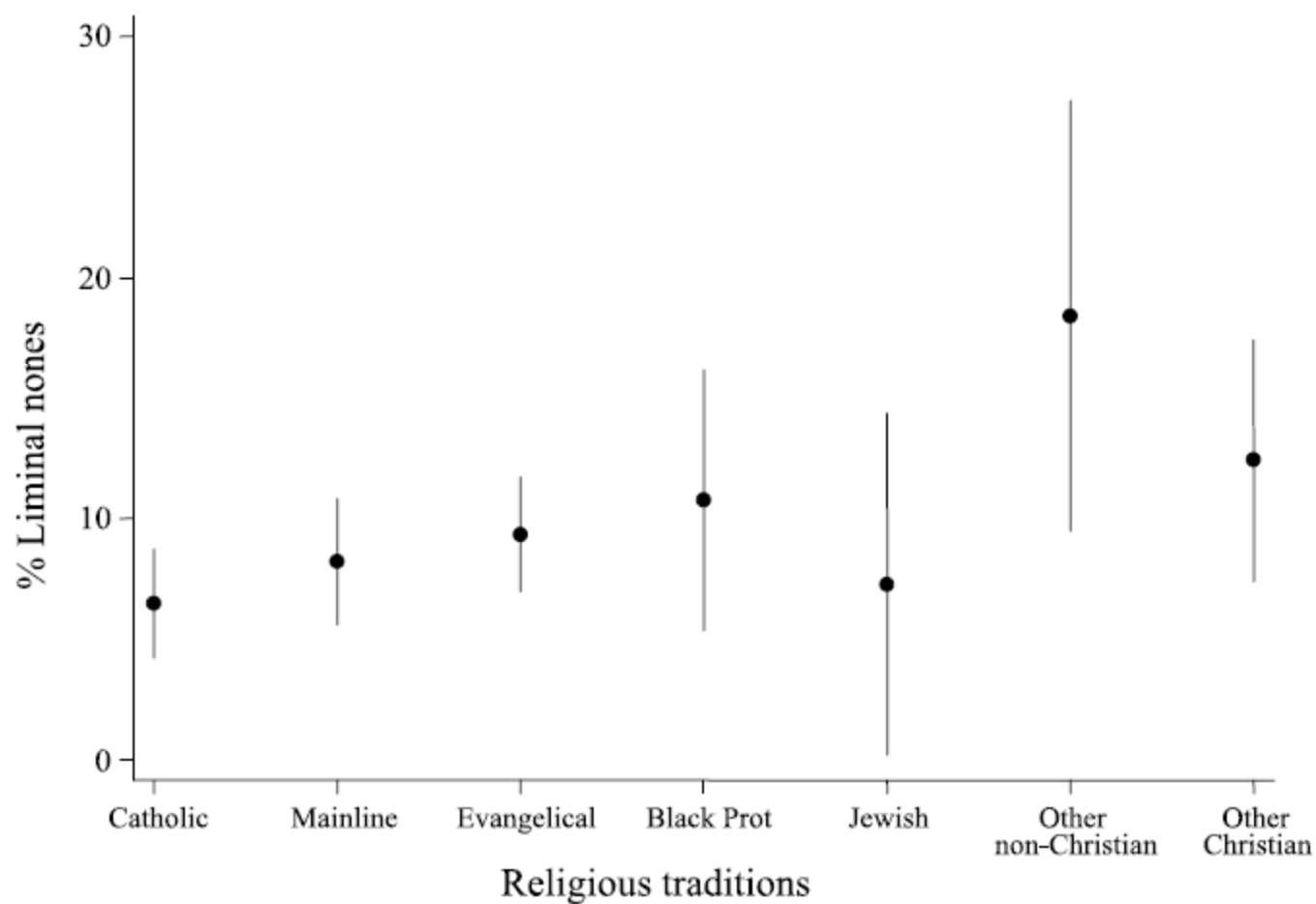
Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007-2012.

Common Reasons for Leaving Childhood Religion

| | Raised Catholic, now unaffiliated | Raised Protestant, now unaffiliated |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| <i>% saying important reason left former religion</i> | % | % |
| Just gradually drifted away from the religion | 71 | 71 |
| Spiritual needs not being met | 43 | 39 |
| Stopped believing in the religion's teachings | 65 | 50 |
| Found a religion they liked more | 10 | 11 |
| Unhappy with teachings about the Bible | 29 | 36 |
| Dissatisfied with atmosphere at worship services | 26 | 29 |
| Dissatisfied with clergy at congregation | 18 | 25 |

Liminal Nones

% of liminal nonees in various religious traditions



Source: Chaeyoon Lim, Carol Ann MacGregor, and Robert Putnam, *Secular and Liminal: Discovering Heterogeneity Among Religious Nones*, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Volume 49, Number 4, December 2010.

IV

Ideology Among Registered Voters

| | Conser- vative % | Mod- erate % | Lib- eral % |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| All registered voters | 39 | 36 | 21 |
| Unaffiliated | 20 | 38 | 38 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 13 | 32 | 51 |
| Nothing in particular | 23 | 41 | 31 |
| Affiliated | 44 | 36 | 17 |
| Christian | 46 | 35 | 15 |
| Protestant | 48 | 33 | 15 |
| White evangelical | 65 | 25 | 7 |
| White mainline | 39 | 39 | 20 |
| Black Protestant | 33 | 39 | 23 |
| Catholic | 39 | 42 | 17 |
| White Catholic | 41 | 42 | 15 |

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, January- July 2012. Based on registered voters. Those who did not give an answer are not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Social and Political Issues

| | U.S. general public | Unaffiliated | Affiliated |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------|
| | % | % | % |
| <i>Abortion should be...</i> | | | |
| Legal in all/most cases | 53 | 72 | 49 |
| Illegal in all/most cases | 41 | 24 | 46 |
| Don't know | 6 | 4 | 6 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| <i>Same-sex marriage...</i> | | | |
| Favor | 48 | 73 | 41 |
| Oppose | 44 | 20 | 50 |
| Don't know | 9 | 7 | 9 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| <i>Prefer...</i> | | | |
| Bigger gov't, more services | 39 | 42 | 38 |
| Smaller gov't, fewer services | 52 | 50 | 52 |
| Depends/don't know | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| | 100 | 100 | 100 |

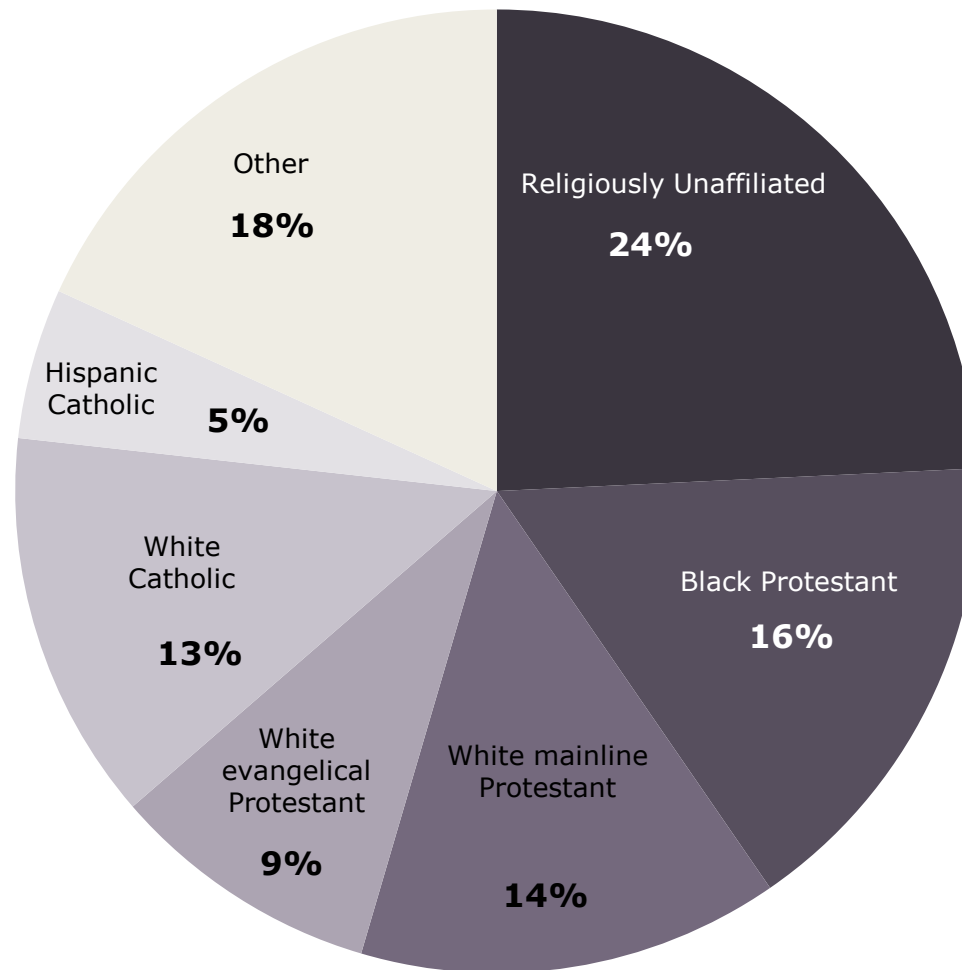
Source: Abortion figures from aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2011-2012. Same-sex marriage figures from aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2012. Views on role of government from Pew Research Center for the People & the Press survey, January 2012. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Party Identification Among Registered Voters

| | Rep/ Lean Rep % | Dem/ Lean Dem % |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| All registered voters | 43 | 48 |
| Unaffiliated | 26 | 63 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 18 | 73 |
| Nothing in particular | 30 | 58 |
| Affiliated | 48 | 45 |
| Christian | 49 | 43 |
| Protestant | 50 | 42 |
| White evangelical | 71 | 22 |
| White mainline | 52 | 40 |
| Black Protestant | 7 | 89 |
| Catholic | 44 | 47 |
| White Catholic | 50 | 41 |

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, January- July 2012. Based on registered voters. Those with no party preference (who refused to lean) are not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

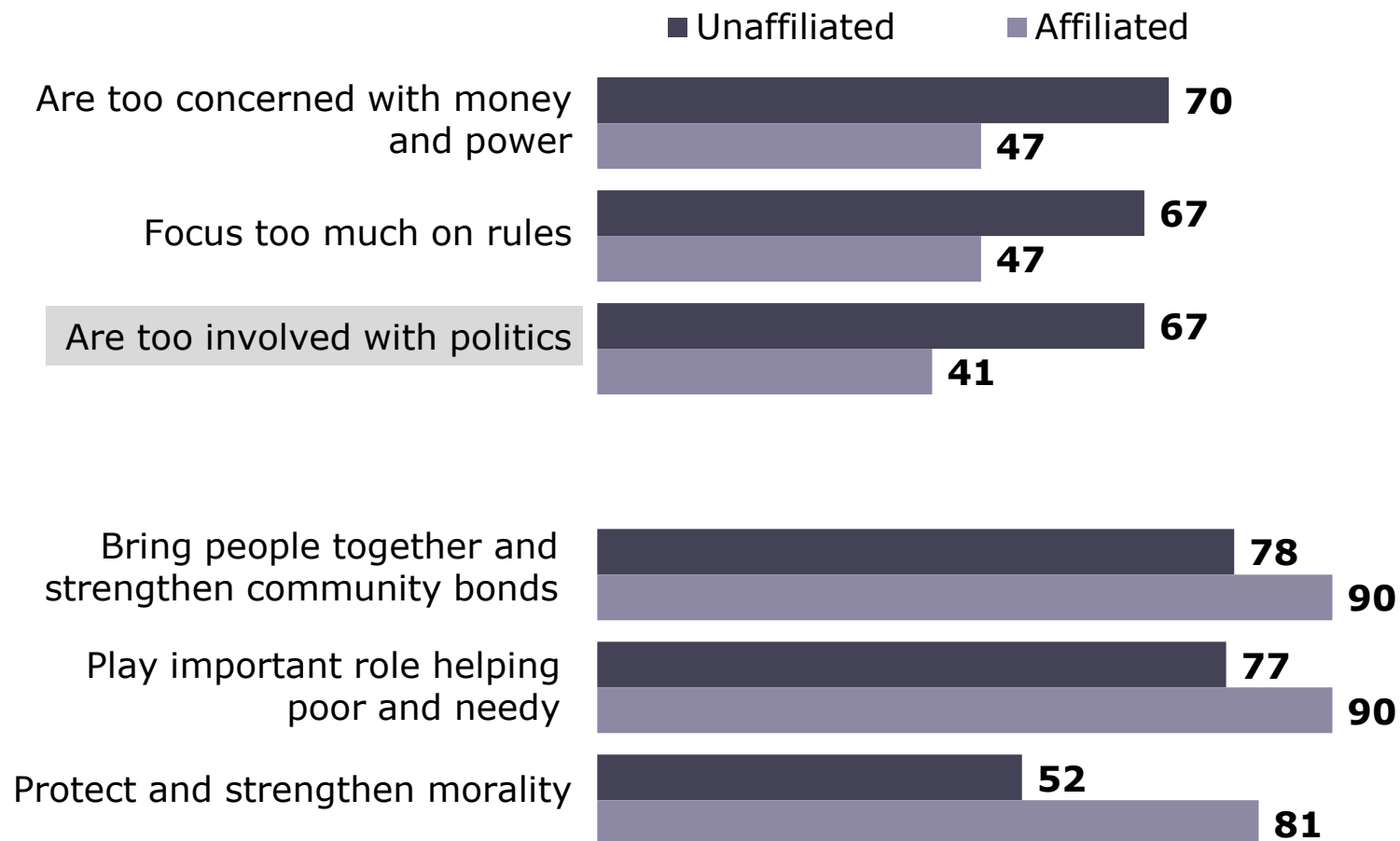
Religious Composition of Democratic/Democratic-Leaning Registered Voters



Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, January-July 2012. Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. "Other" includes Protestants and Catholics of a race or ethnic group not shown and those affiliated with other religions.

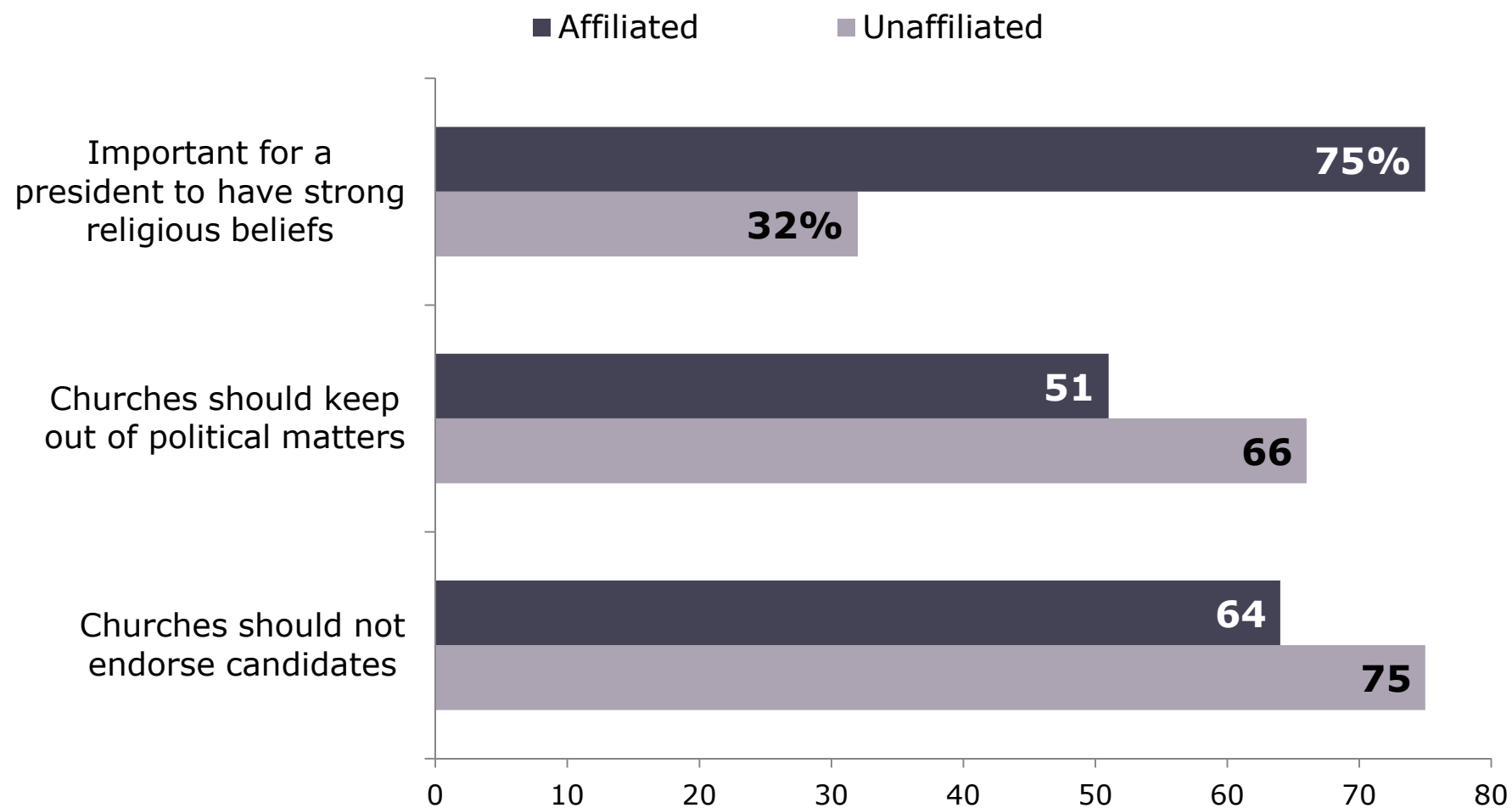
Views About Churches and Religious Organizations

% saying they agree that churches and other religious organizations do each of the following



Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q73a-g. Those saying "disagree" and those who did not give an answer are not shown.

Views on Religion and Politics



Sources: Data on president's religious beliefs and churches endorsing candidates comes from Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Data on church involvement in political matters comes from Pew Research Center survey, March 2012.

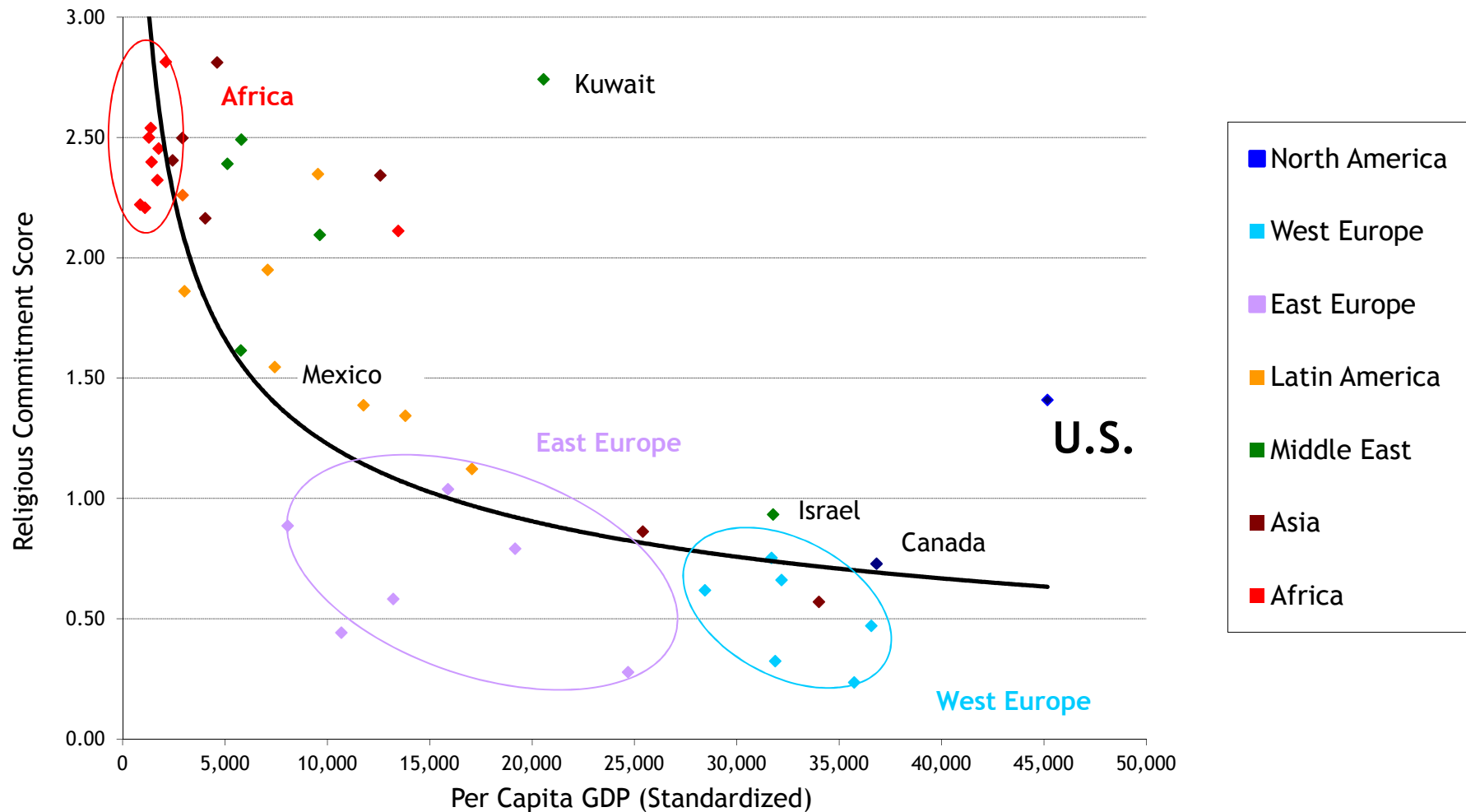
In Their Own Words – *Main* Reasons for Leaving Childhood Religion

| | Raised Catholic, now unaffiliated | Raised Protestant, now unaffiliated |
|---|---|---|
| | % | % |
| Religious and moral beliefs | 48 | 40 |
| <i>Do not believe in former religion/any religion</i> | 21 | 14 |
| <i>Biblical/Scriptural reason</i> | 2 | 4 |
| Religious institutions, practices and people | 36 | 20 |
| <i>Pedophilia scandal/Molestation</i> | 2 | 0 |
| Personal spirituality | 6 | 9 |
| Life cycle changes | 5 | 4 |
| <i>Family reasons</i> | 4 | 2 |
| Other reasons | 10 | 21 |
| Don't know/Refused | 4 | 10 |

Source: *Faith in Flux: Changes in Religious Affiliation in the U.S.*, April 2009, Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life

(2)

Wealth and Religious Commitment



This chart has been reprinted from "World Publics Welcome Global Trade – But Not Immigration," Pew Global Attitudes Project, 2007.

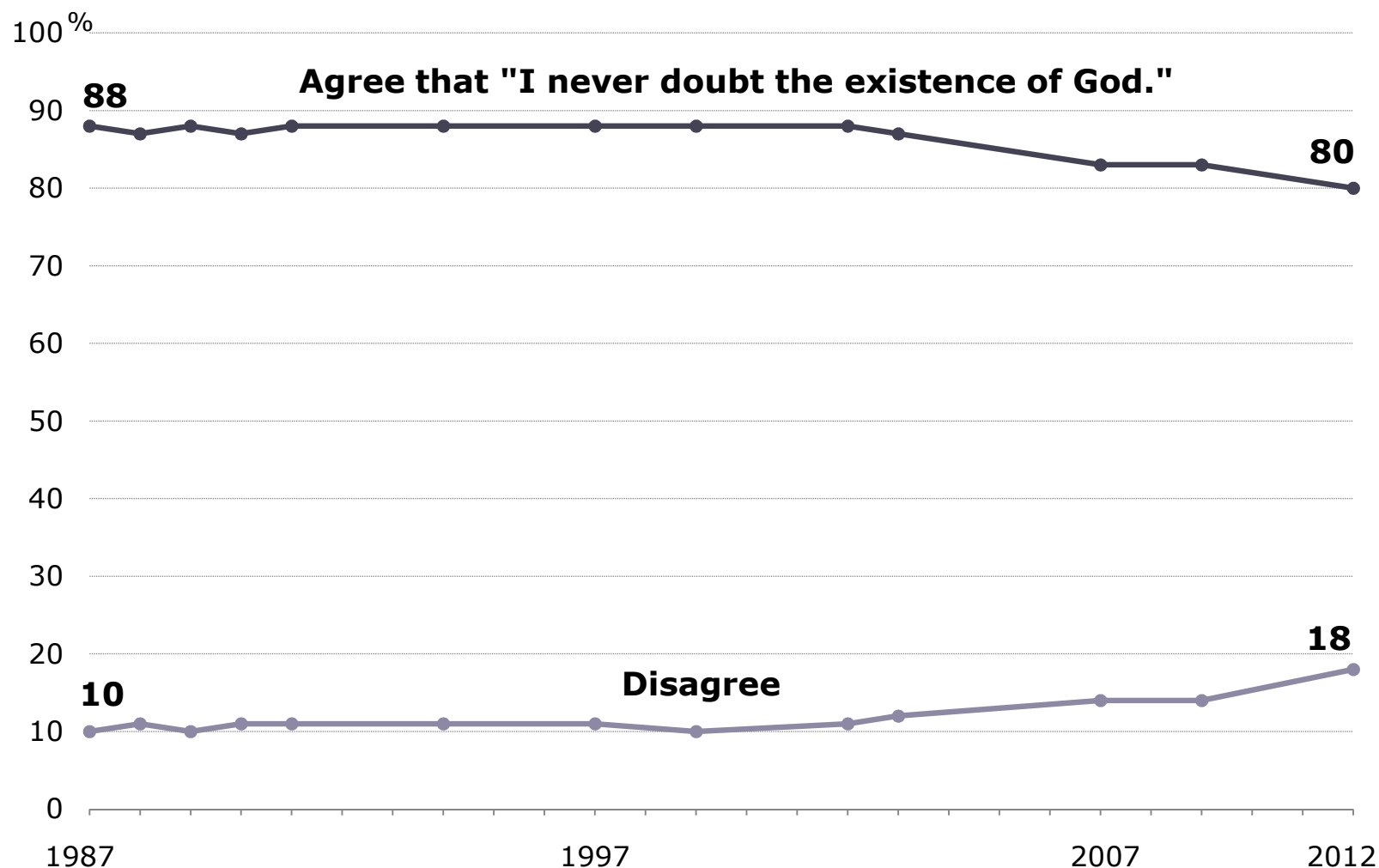
Influence of Religion on Society

% saying religion as a whole is ... its influence on American life

| | Increasing | Losing | Same (vol.) | DK |
|----------------------------|------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| U.S. general public | 25 | 66 | 2 | 7 = 100 |
| Unaffiliated | 27 | 63 | 2 | 7 = 100 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 34 | 59 | 2 | 5 = 100 |
| Nothing in particular | 24 | 65 | 2 | 8 = 100 |
| Affiliated | 24 | 67 | 2 | 6 = 100 |
| Christian | 24 | 68 | 2 | 6 = 100 |
| Protestant | 25 | 67 | 2 | 6 = 100 |
| White evangelical | 21 | 72 | 2 | 4 = 100 |
| White mainline | 20 | 73 | 2 | 6 = 100 |
| Black Protestant | 33 | 60 | 2 | 4 = 100 |
| Catholic | 21 | 70 | 3 | 6 = 100 |
| White Catholic | 18 | 75 | 2 | 5 = 100 |
| Hispanic Catholic | 27 | 60 | 5 | 8 = 100 |

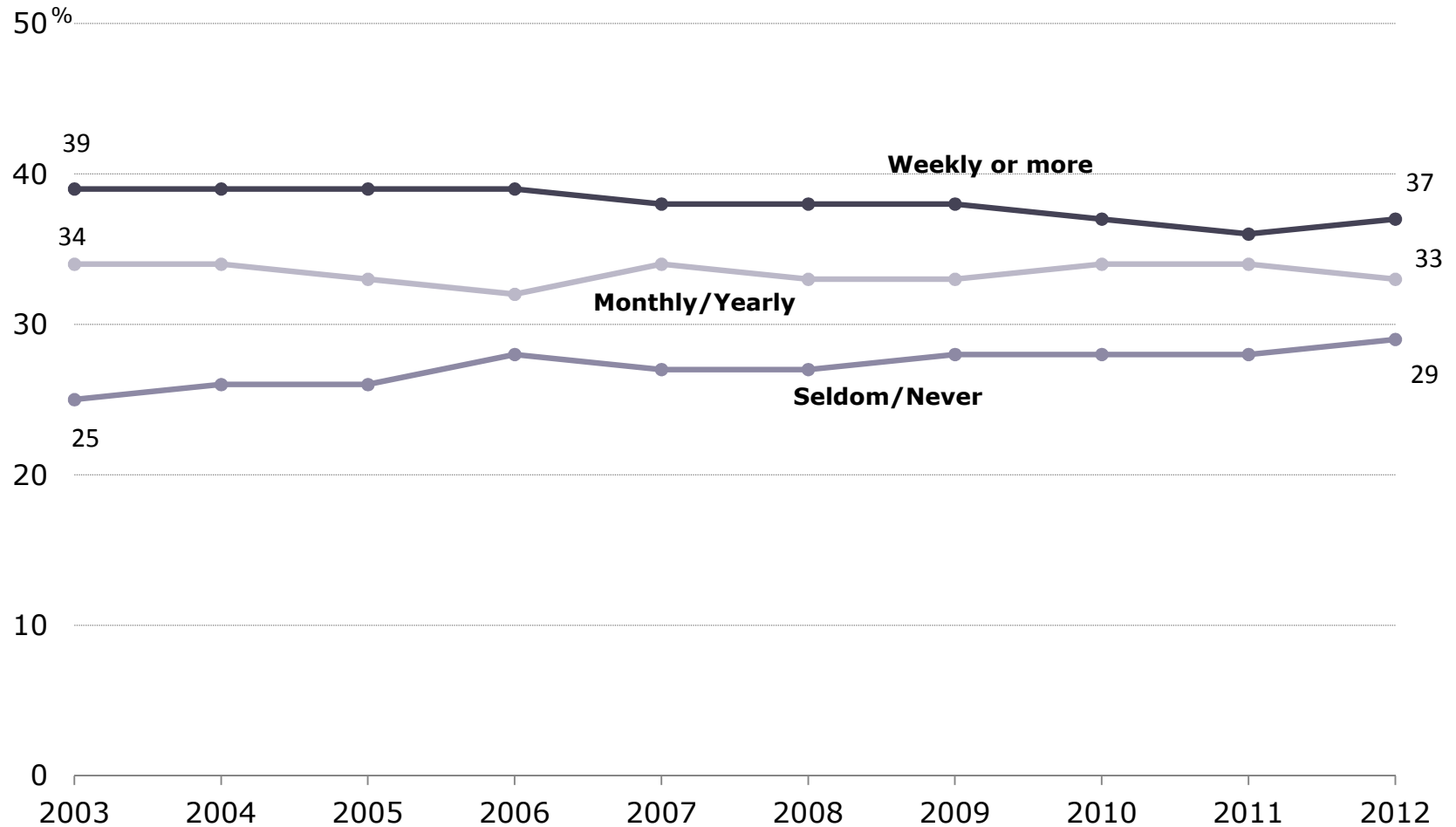
Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q42. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Declining Share Say They "Never Doubt" the Existence of God



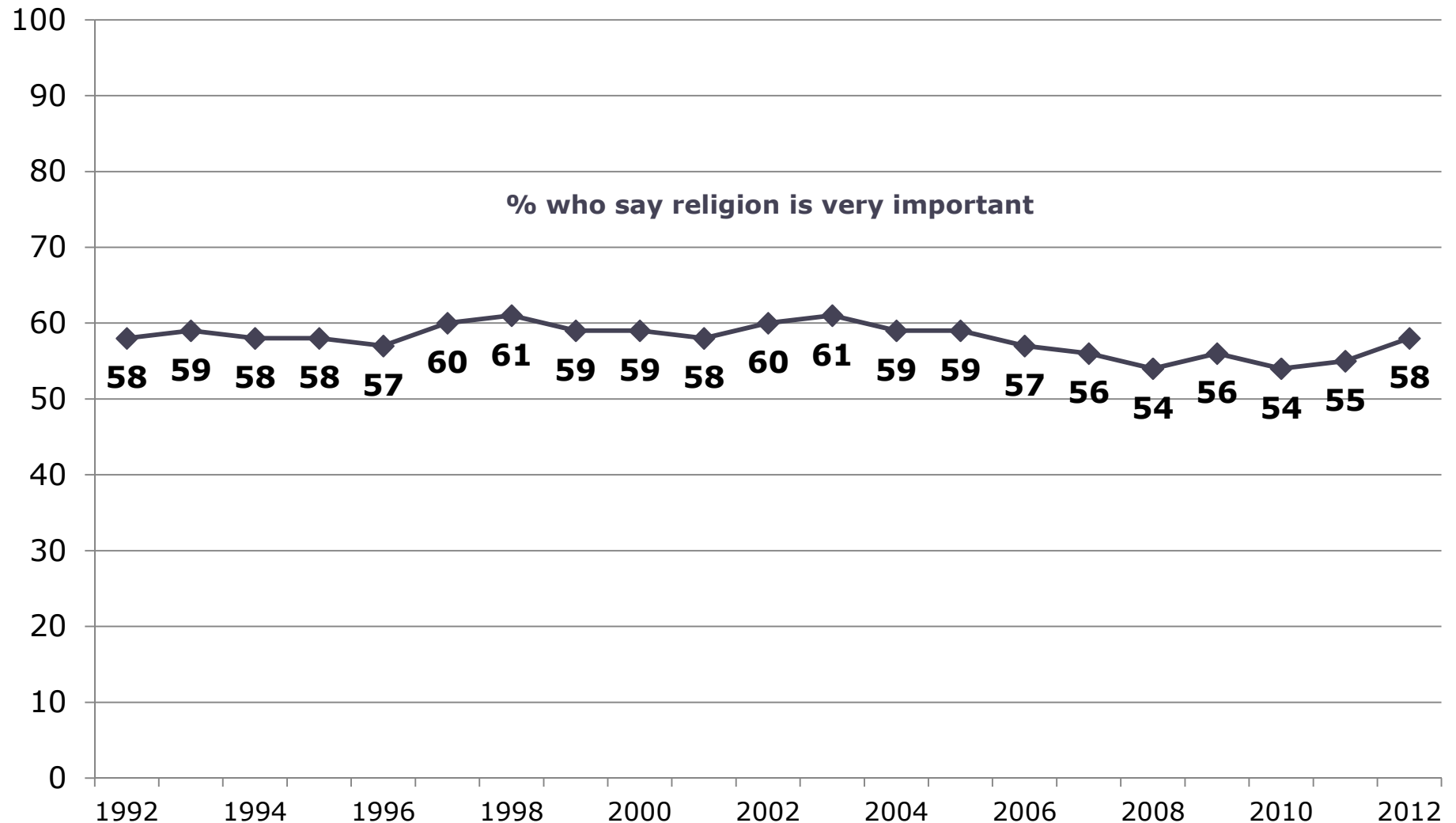
Source: Surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 1987-2012.

Religious Attendance of U.S. Adults, 2003-2012



Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2003-2012.

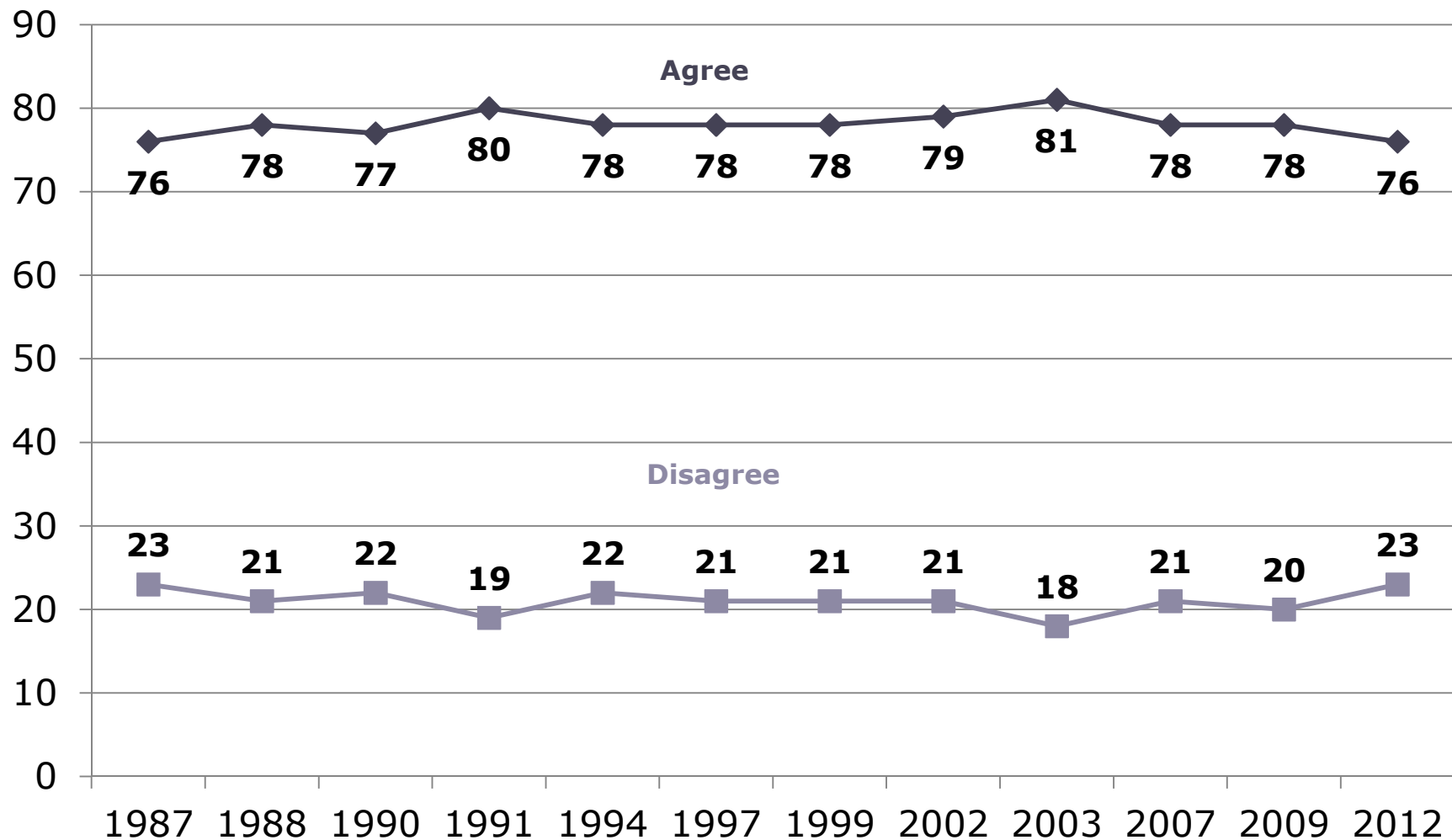
Importance of Religion, 1992-2012



Source: Surveys conducted by Gallup, 1992-2012.

Importance of Prayer, 1987-2012

Do you agree or disagree that prayer is an important part of your daily life?



Source: Surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 1987-2012.

(3)

Religious Disaffiliation by Demographic Groups

| | <u>2007</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <i>% who describe themselves as religiously unaffiliated among...</i> | % | % | |
| U.S. general public | 15.3 | 19.6 | +4.3 |
| White | 15 | 20 | +5 |
| Black | 13 | 15 | +2 |
| Hispanic | 16 | 16 | -- |
| Married | 14 | 14 | -- |
| Not married | 20 | 24 | +4 |

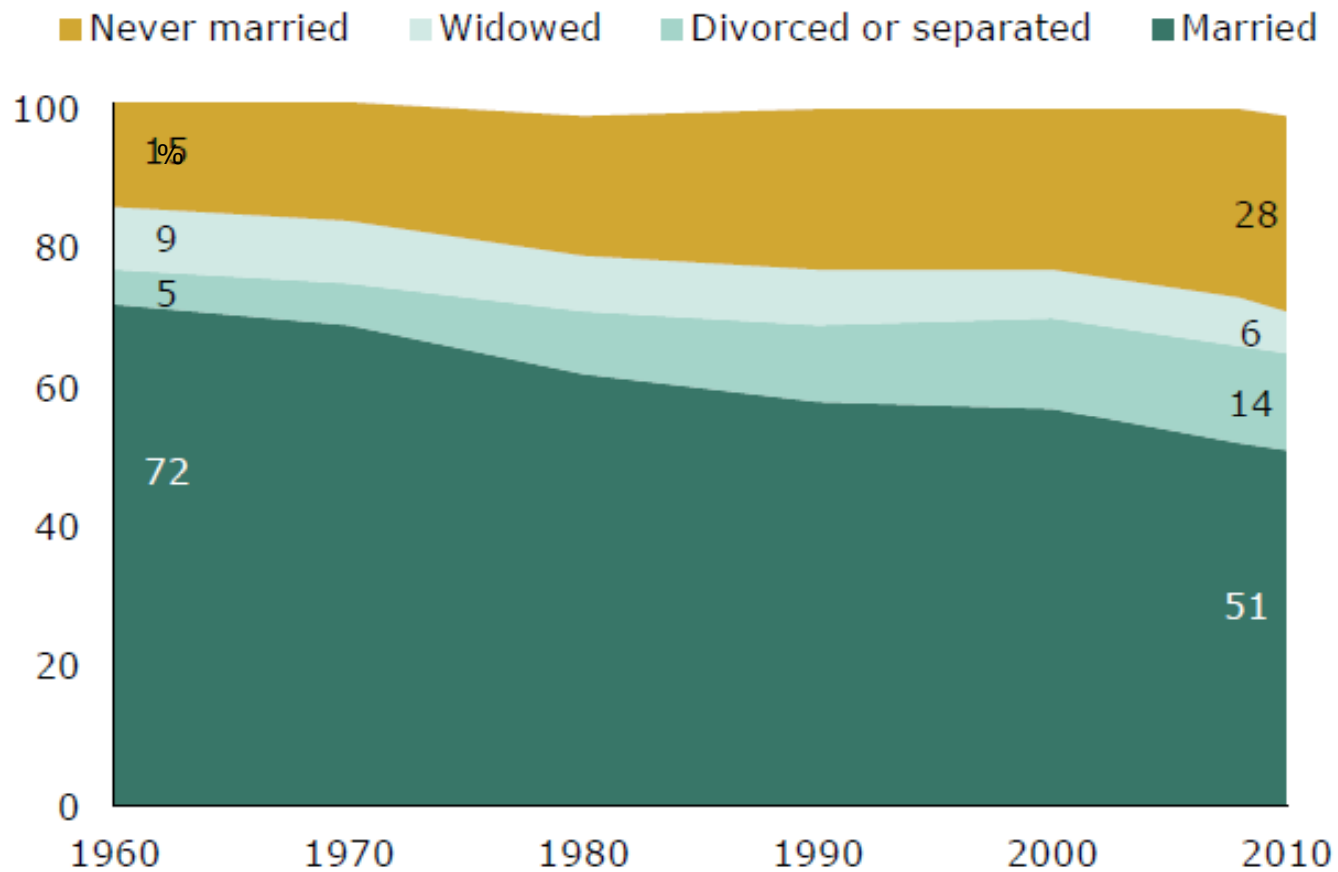
Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, 2007 and 2012. Hispanic figures based only on surveys that included Spanish interviewing. Changes that are statistically significant are shown in bold.

Marital Status of Religious Groups

| | Married | Living with partner | Divorced/ Separated/Widowed | Never married |
|----------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| | % | % | % | % |
| U.S. general public | 51 | 7 | 19 | 23 = 100 |
| Affiliated | 54 | 6 | 20 | 20 = 100 |
| Christian | 54 | 6 | 21 | 19 = 100 |
| Protestant | 54 | 5 | 23 | 19 = 100 |
| White evangelical | 62 | 3 | 22 | 13 = 100 |
| White mainline | 58 | 6 | 22 | 14 = 100 |
| Black Protestant | 36 | 6 | 27 | 32 = 100 |
| Catholic | 54 | 8 | 18 | 20 = 100 |
| White Catholic | 58 | 6 | 19 | 16 = 100 |
| Hispanic Catholic | 49 | 10 | 17 | 25 = 100 |
| Unaffiliated | 39 | 11 | 16 | 34 = 100 |
| Atheist/agnostic | 36 | 11 | 12 | 40 = 100 |
| Nothing in particular | 40 | 11 | 17 | 32 = 100 |

Source: Aggregated data from surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, January - July 2012.
Results repercentaged to exclude nonresponse. White and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Current Marital Status, 1960-2010

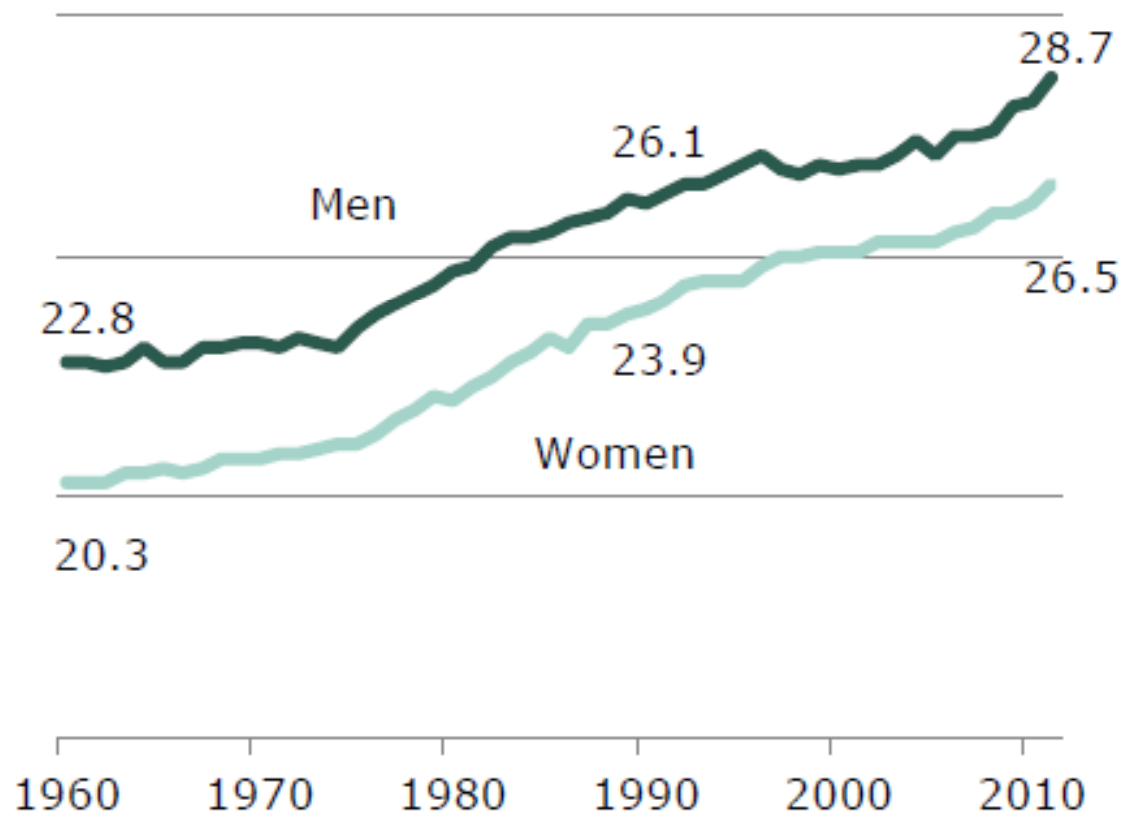


Note: Based on adults ages 18 and older. Percents may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center's Social and Demographic Trends analysis of Decennial Census (1960-2000) and American Community Survey data (2008, 2010), IPUMS.

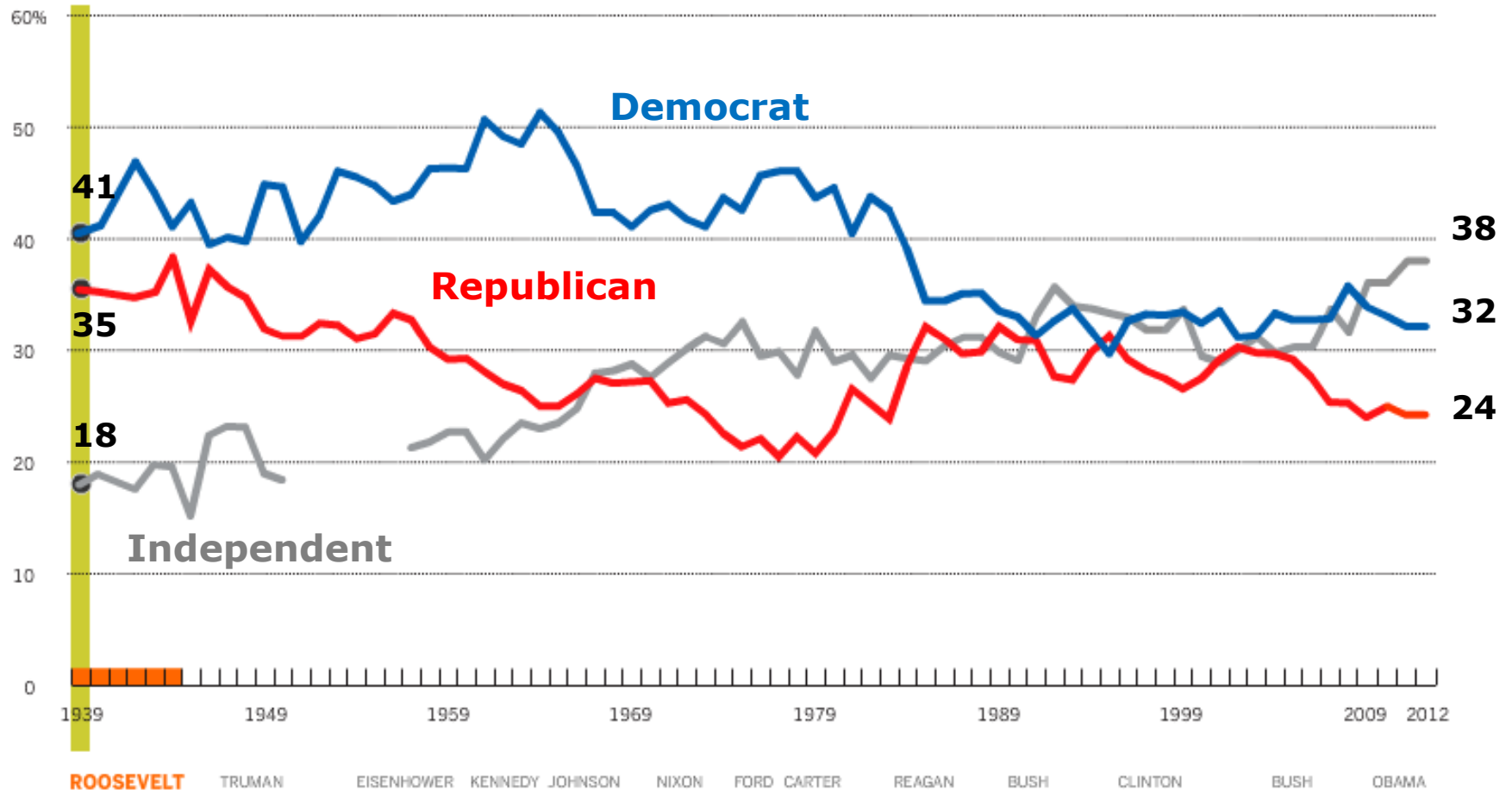
Median Age at First Marriage, 1960-2011

in years



Source: Pew Research Center's Social and Demographic Trends analysis of Current Population Survey, March and Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Trend in Party Identification: 1939-2012

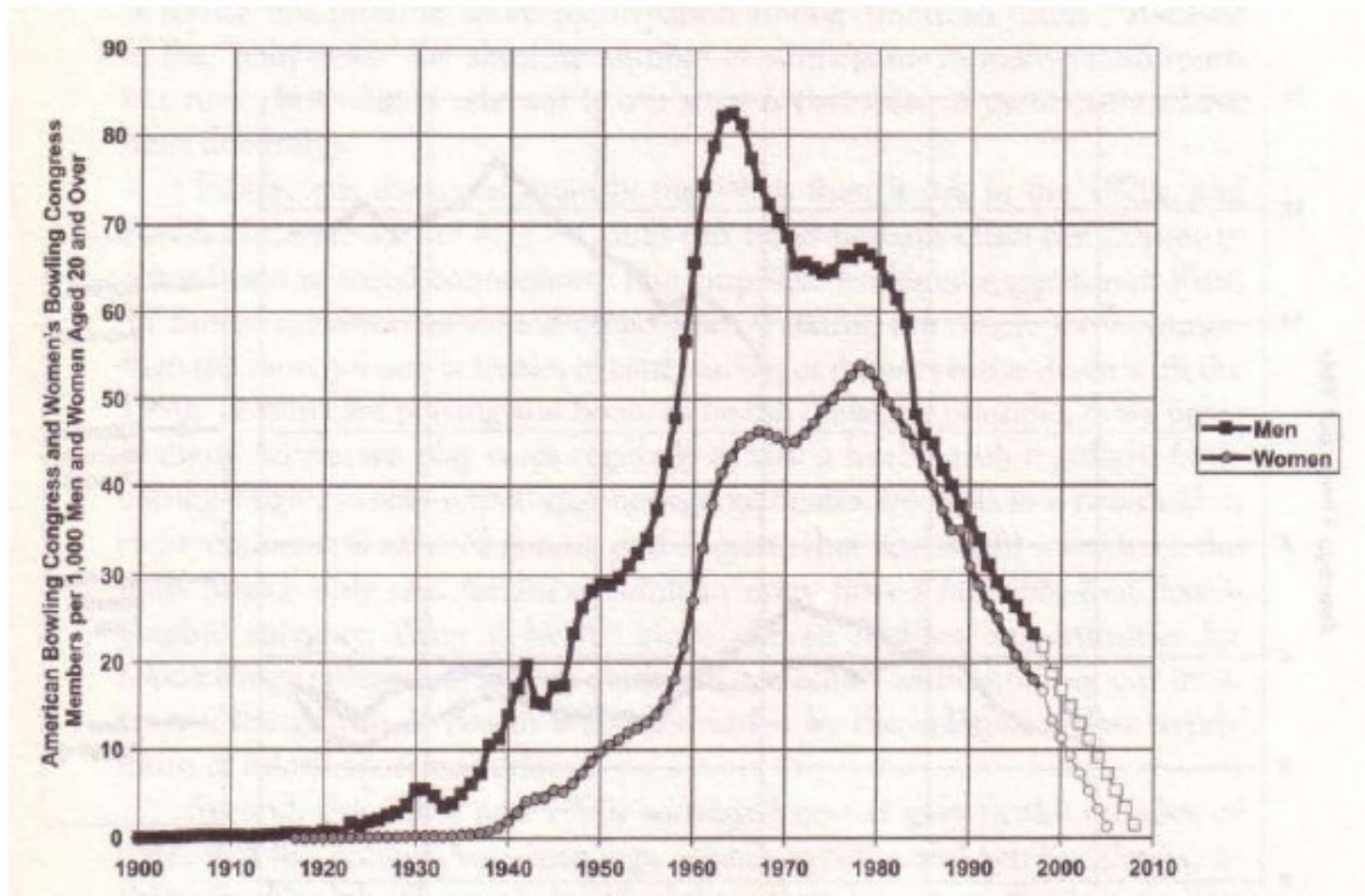


Source: 1929-1989 yearly averages from the Gallup Organization interactive website. 1990-2012 yearly totals from Times Mirror/Pew Research Center aggregate files. Based on general public. Independent data not available for 1951-1956.

Partisan Profile of Nonvoters

| | <u>All adults</u> | <u>Likely voters</u> | <u>Non-voters</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Party ID</i> | % | % | % |
| Republican | 28 | 34 | 17 |
| Democrat | 33 | 35 | 29 |
| Independent | 33 | 27 | 44 |

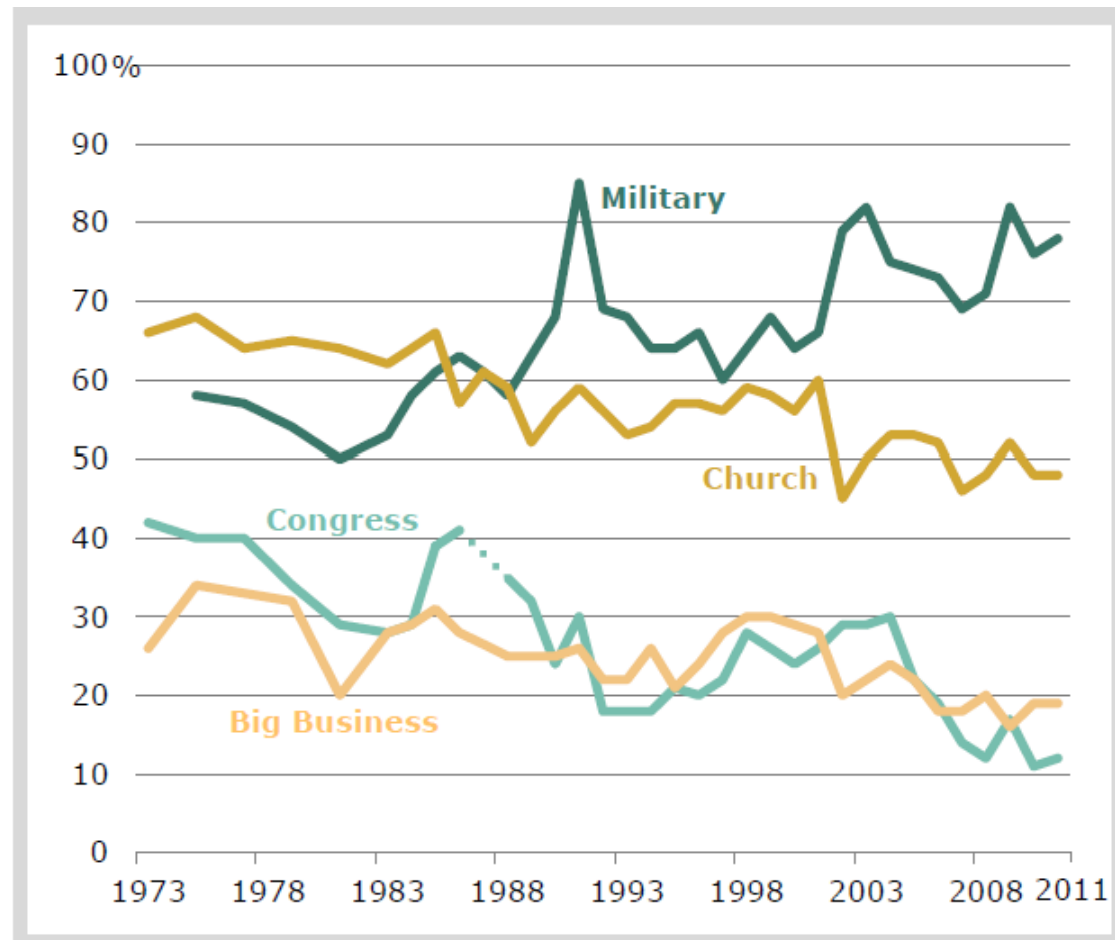
Rise and Decline of League Bowling



Source: Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community*, 2000.

Confidence in Institutions, 1973-2011

% saying they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence



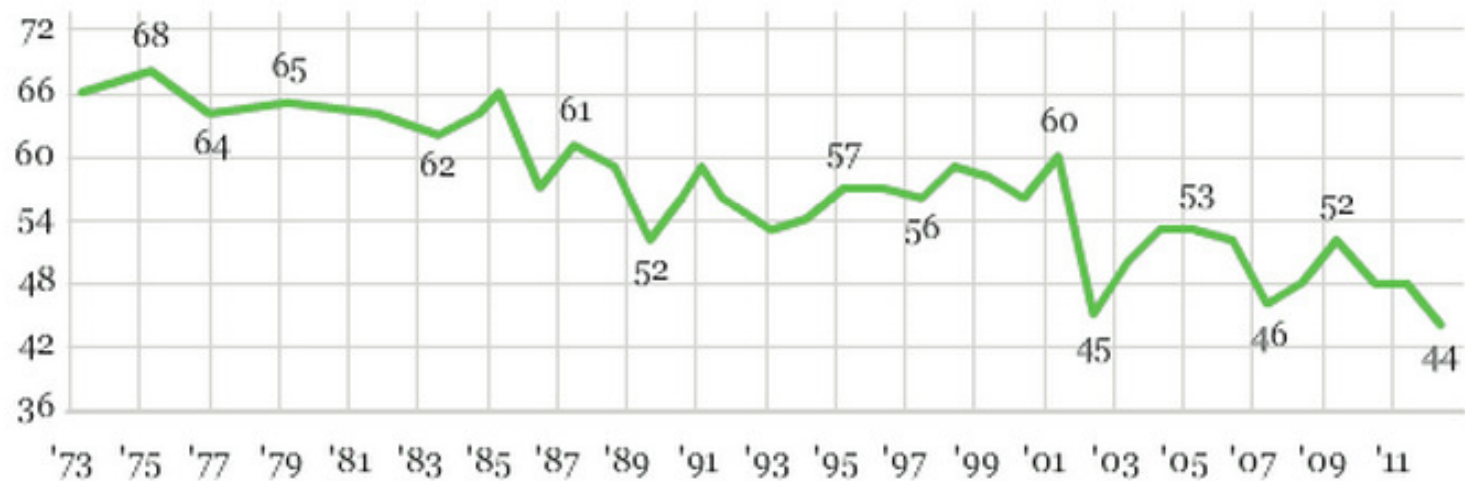
Question wording: "Now I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one – a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?"

Note: Data not available for Congress in 1987.

Source: Gallup New Service Survey, conducted June 9-12, 2011. Based telephone interviews of a national sample of 1,020 adults.

Confidence in the Church/Organized Religion

% saying they have a great deal or quite a lot of confidence



Question wording: "Now I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one – a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little?"

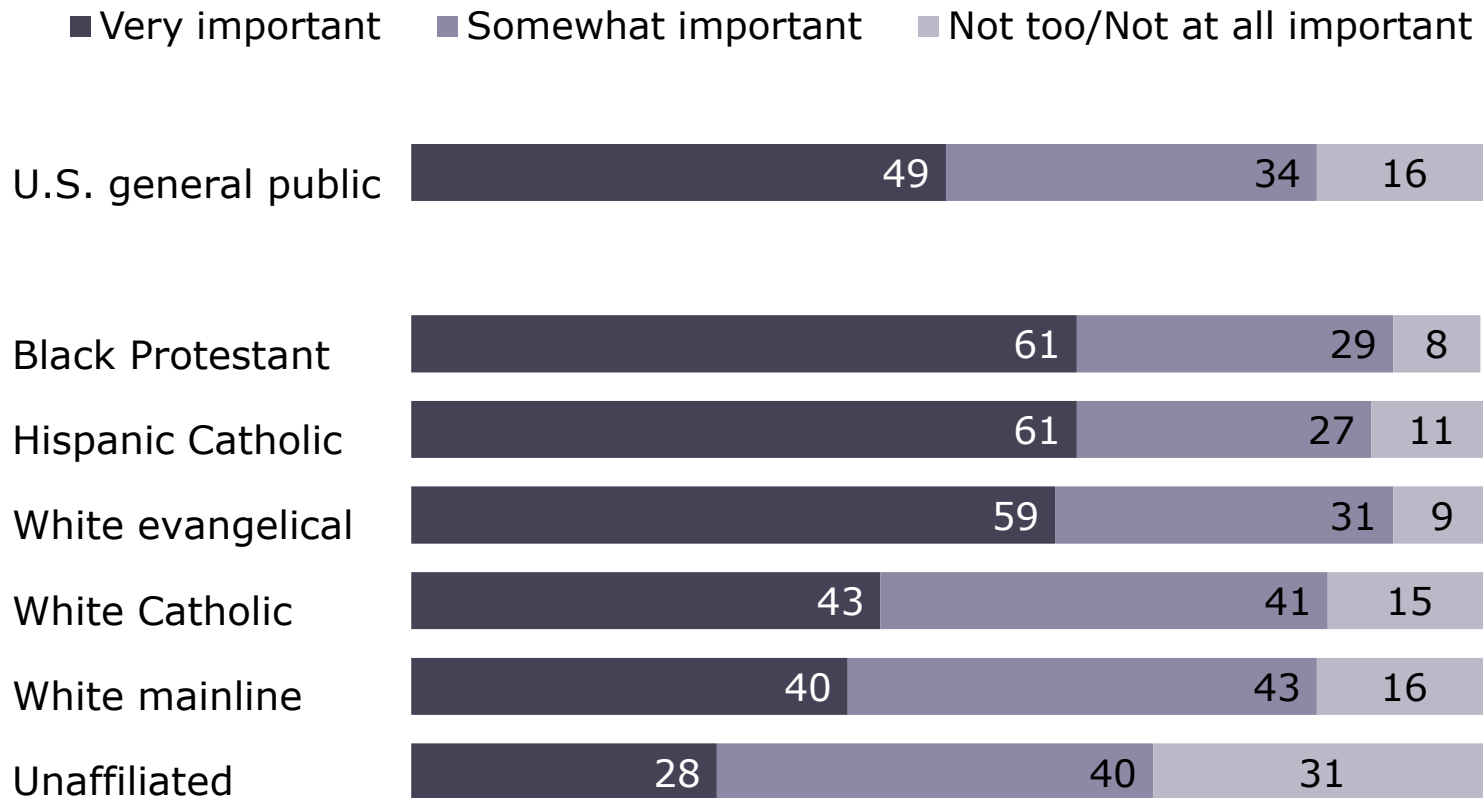
Source: Gallup New Service Survey, conducted June 7-10, 2012. Based telephone interviews of a national sample of 1,004 adults.

Other Organizations to Which Religiously Active Americans Belong

| | Those who are active in religious groups | Those who aren't active in such groups |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sports or recreation leagues | 35% | 17% |
| Charitable or volunteer organizations | 34 | 15 |
| Professional or trade associations | 29 | 14 |
| Political parties or organizations | 22 | 10 |
| Alumni associations | 20 | 10 |
| Performance arts groups | 19 | 5 |
| Literary, discussion, or study groups | 18 | 6 |
| Veterans organizations | 11 | 4 |
| Sports fantasy leagues | 8 | 6 |
| Farm organizations | 7 | 2 |

Importance of Shared Community

% saying belonging to a community of people who share your values and beliefs is...



Source: Pew Research Center survey, June 28-July 9, 2012. Q22 Those who did not give an answer are not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.



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