

# Religion Census Newsletter

December, 2016

*236 religious bodies were included in the 2010 Religion Census data released in 2012. We thought you'd like to know how valuable that inclusion has been.*

*Recently, we posted on-line information pertinent to [Indiana's December bicentennial](#). This analysis was only possible because religious groups agreed to participate in the decadal count of congregations and adherents.*

*This month's newsletter focuses on another Midwestern state with a 21st century bicentennial.*

*During November, over 3,000 people came to the [Religion Census website](#), looking for information about religious groups across the country and for particular areas. Here is one use of the data,*

## State Religion Patterns Available from the 2010 Religion Census

Several states are celebrating their bicentennials this century. Such celebrations are a time for reflection on the character of the state today. One of those characteristics is religious affiliation across the state.

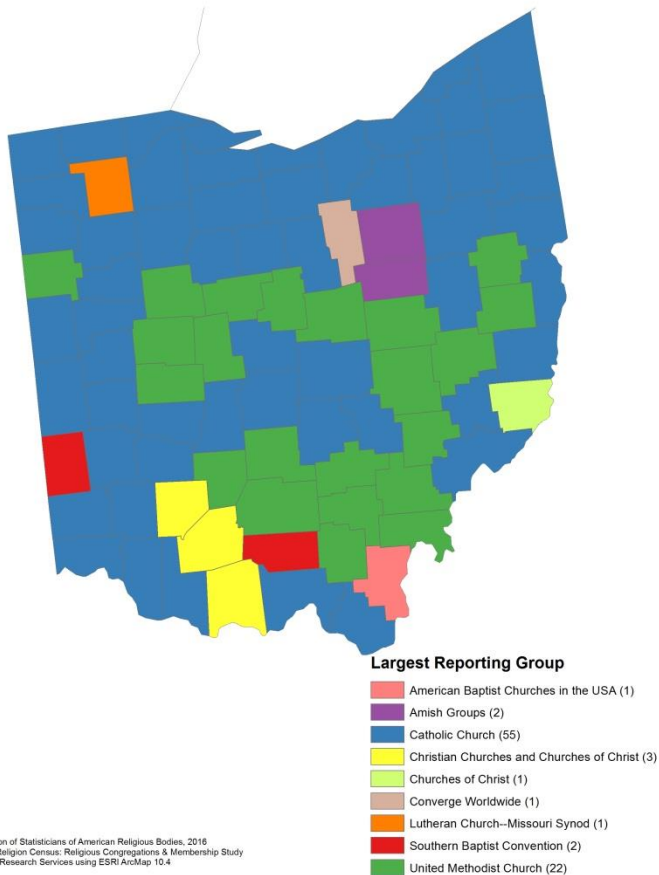
Ohio celebrated its bicentennial on March 1, 2003. The map to the left uses statistics from the 2010 U.S. Religion Census to show different religious regions in the state.

The largest single religious group in Ohio is the Catholic Church, claiming 39% of the state's religious adherents. The Catholic Church is the largest religious body in 55 of the states' 88 counties, including most of Ohio's major metropolitan centers.

The United Methodist Church claims about 10% of the religious adherents in Ohio. This is the largest group in 22 counties, mostly in the center of the state just outside the Columbus metropolitan core.

The next largest religious group in

Participating Religious Group with the Largest Number of Adherents, 2010



Ohio isn't even a group. Non-denominational churches were included in the 2010 Religion Census, but of course are not formally part of any religious tradition. Combined, they claim just over 9% of all religious adherents in Ohio. But even combined, they are not the largest single group in any county of the state.

The concentration of Baptist and Christian church denominations is smaller, but several counties have one of these groups as the largest, usually in southern Ohio. And the Amish concentration in northern Ohio is obvious on the map.

Seventeen faith groups claimed at least 50,000 adherents in Ohio during the 2010 Religion Census.

Faith Group	Congregations	Adherents	% of All Adherents
Catholic Church	881	1992567	39.3%
United Methodist Church	1893	496232	9.8%
Non-denominational Christian Churches	1420	468412	9.2%
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	566	223253	4.4%
Southern Baptist Convention	668	171951	3.4%
Christian Churches and Churches of Christ	466	141311	2.8%
United Church of Christ	366	117783	2.3%
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	560	109232	2.2%
American Baptist Churches in the USA	286	98102	1.9%
National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.	176	91223	1.8%
Church of the Nazarene	366	85226	1.7%
Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod	184	68642	1.4%
Assemblies of God	285	62230	1.2%
Amish Groups, undifferentiated	432	59103	1.2%
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	129	58605	1.2%
Church of God (Cleveland, Tennessee)	224	53489	1.1%
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)	182	51486	1.0%

Of course, non-Christian groups are also present in Ohio, but in smaller numbers. There are an estimated 33,408 Muslim adherents; 64,479 Jewish adherents, with Reform Judaism claiming just under half of these; 11,669 Buddhist adherents, mostly Mahayana; and 28,572 Hindu adherents, about evenly split between the Indian-American Hindu Temple Associations and Traditional Hindu Temples.

Every decade the Religion Census includes additional groups, making such studies increasingly accurate. The 236 groups that took part in 2010 are listed [on-line](#). If you can suggest additional groups for inclusion, please send us as much contact information as you can [here](#).

*This newsletter is intended for the following audiences:*

***Groups that participated in the 2010 Religion Census and yours is the latest contact information we have for obtaining their statistics.***

***Groups that are eligible to participate in the upcoming 2020 Religion Census and yours is the latest contact information we have for obtaining their statistics.***

***Members of the sponsoring agency for the Religion Census, the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies.***

***Those who requested to receive the newsletter through our website.***