ARDA Tutorial:

How to Find Information on Religion in Your Locale

Many people are surprised to learn that, given the amount of information that the U.S. Census Bureau collects, it does not collect data on Americans' religion. This was not always the case. The government conducted a census of religion several times during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with the last one in being completed in 1936. You can find these historical data files in the ARDA's <u>Data Archive</u>.

So what are researchers and community leaders supposed to do today if they want to find out how many congregations or religious adherents there are in their communities? Fortunately, an organization known as the <u>Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB)</u> collects data on the number of congregations and religious adherents at the local level every ten years. Currently, this is the closest thing we have to a census of religion in the United States. The compilation of these data makes up the *Religious Congregations and Membership Study (RCMS)*. The last collection was in 2010 (Note: Before 2000, these data were called the *Church and Church Membership Study*).

ASARB has generously allowed the ARDA to provide access to their data on our website. You can find the raw data for the 2010 edition <u>here</u> along with a description of how the ASARB collected these data.

In addition, the ARDA provides tools for examining these data in a more user-friendly format. There are three options. Each provide the same data, but they differ in the way that the data are presented.

1) Membership Report

Membership reports will allow you to examine a **sortable list** of religious groups in your county, state, or Metropolitan Statistical Area, along with the raw number of congregations and adherents in each religious group.

2) Membership Map

A membership map will allow you to examine a color-coded **static map** for an individual state or for the entire U.S. The map will graphically show where a particular group has many (or few) congregations or adherents. It is an easy way to quickly visualize the geography of religion.

3) Interactive GIS Map

Another map? Yes, but this is a little different from the mapping tool described above. An Interactive GIS Map is just that – an **interactive map**. It will give you more options for displaying the data. You can zoom in and out, move the map around, and search the map for specific locations. It might take a little more practice to learn to use this tool than the regular Membership Map, but you may also find this option more fun!

See below for step-by-step instructions on acquiring religion data using each of these options:

How to get a Membership Report:

- 1) Go to the ARDA homepage: <u>www.theARDA.com</u>.
- 2) Move your mouse over "U.S. Congregational Membership."
- 3) A menu will appear under "U.S Congregational Membership."
- 4) Click on "Reports."
- 5) Choose the geographic unit you desire (Counties, Metro Areas, States, United States). Note that you can also enter your zip code to get a County Report for that zip code.
- 6) Select the specific metro area, state and/or county you wish to view.
- 7) Click "Submit."
- 8) You should now see the report.

	QUALI	QUALITY DATA ON RELIGION			h the ARDA	G	o! Advanced Searc	
	PROVIDING FREE ACCESS SINCE 1998			About the ARD			DA Tools FAQs Contact U	
Association of Religion Data Archives	DATA ARCHIVE	INTERNATION	NAL US CONG MEN	GREGATIONAL R MBERSHIP	ELIGIOUS GROUPS QUICKST	ATS INTER TIM	RACTIVE GIS ELINES MAPS	
County Membership R	eport							
Maps and Reports > Select County > Co	ounty Report			Search Map	a & Reports:		Go!	
Centre County, Pennsylva	ania							
Paligious Traditions 2010								
Kenglous maunons, 2010				06 216				
11,664	23,997	229	19,203	,510				
Evangelical Black	Maipline	Orthodox	Catholia	ther Undaime				
Protestant Protestant	Protestant	Orthodox	<u>catholic</u> <u>0</u>	<u>onciaine</u>	2			
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. [More information on the data sou	all full members, theorically African-Ame	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	ers who regularly atter . These denominations	nd services. The 2010 re s are not included in the	a sports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely	ints of congregati missing from the	ons and adherents 1990 and 1980	
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. [More information on the data sou Reports 2010 Report 2000 Report	all full members, th torically African-Ame urces]	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	ers who regularly atter These denominations	nd services. The 2010 re s are not included in the 1990-2010 Change	2 ports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change	ints of congregati missing from the	ons and adherents 1990 and 1980	
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. More information on the data sou Reports 2010 Report 2010 Report Religious Bodies	all full members, th torically African-Ame urces]	neir children, and othe erican denominations. 1980 Report	cations o ers who regularly atter These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition	nd services. The 2010 re s are not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family	2 ports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations	Ints of congregati missing from the Adherents	Adherence Rate ¹	
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports 2010 Report 2010 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church	all full members, th torically African-Ame urces]	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	cations of a second sec	nd services. The 2010 re s are not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family Methodist/Pietist	2 ports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations	ints of congregati missing from the Adherents	Adherence Rate ²	
Protestant Protestant Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. Itere information on the data source Reports 2010 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US	all full members, th torically African-Ame urces] 1990 Report	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	territoria di tras who regularly atter These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition Black Protestant Mainfine Protestant	nd services. The 2010 rr s are not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family Methodist/Pietist Baptist	2 ports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations 1 3	Adherents	Adherence Rate' 1.1 5.8	
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. Itere information on the data source largest belonging to the eight largest hist reports 2010 Report 2000 Report 2010 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US Amish Groups, undifferentiated* 1	all full members, th orically African-Ame urces] 1990 Report	neir children, and oth erican denominations.	Sention: 9 ars who regularly atten These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition Black Protestant Mainline Protestant Evangelical Protestant	Internet included in the services. The 2010 rr s are not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family Methodist/Pietist Baptist European Free-Chur	2 ports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations 1 3 ch 11	Adherents Adherents 171 8 88 1,764	Adherence Rate' 113 113 113 113	
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. 2010 Report 2000 Report 2010 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US Amish Groups, undifferentiated* Assemblies of God	Protestant all full members, th torically African-American urces] 1990 Report	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	In the second se	Internet included in the sare not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family Methodist/Pietist Baptist European Free-Chur Pentecostal	2 2000 reports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations 1 3 ch 11 4	Adherents Adherents 171 8 1,764 1,503	Adherence Rate [*] 1.1 5.8 11.5 9.8	
Protestant Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. 2010 Report 2010 Report 2000 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US Amish Groups, undifferentiated* Assemblies of God Bahá'í	Protestant all full members, th torically African-American urces] 1990 Report	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	rs who regularly atter These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition Black Protestant Maining Protestant Evangelical Protestant Cher	Internet included in the approximate included in the appro	2 2000 reports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations 1 3 ch 11 4 0 0	Adherents Adherents Adherents 1,774 1,764 1,753 1,764	Adherence Rate [*] 1.1 5.8 1.1.5 9.8 0.2	
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. 2010 Report 2000 Report 2010 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US Amish Groups, undifferentiated* Assemblies of God Bahá'í Brethren Church, The (Ashland, Ohio	protestant protestant all full members, th torically African-Ame urces] 1990 Report iA	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	rs who regularly atter These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition Black Protestant Waining Protestant Evangelical Protestant Other Evangelical Protestant	Internet included in the approximate included in the appro	2 2000 reports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations ch 11 ch 11 ch 11 ch 11	Adherents Adherents Adherents 1,774 1,764 1,503 1,377 9,91	Adherence Rate' 1190 and 1980 111 5.8 111.5 9.8 0.2 0.6	
Protestant Protestant Compregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. 2010 Report 2000 Report 2010 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US Amish Groups, undifferentiated* Assemblies of God Bahá'i Brethren Church, The (Ashland, Ohio Brethren In Christ Church	Protestant Protestant all full members, th torically African-American urces] 1990 Report	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	Cantonic O ars who regularly atter These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition Tradition Black Protestant Mainine Protestant Evangelical Protestant Other Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant	Internet including and services. The 2010 rr as are not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family Methodist/Pietist Baptist European Free-Chur European Free-Chur European Free-Chur	2 2000 reports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations ch 11 ch 11 ch 3	Adherents Adherents 1,771 1,888 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,774 1,503 1,774 1,503 1,774 1,503 1,774 1,754 1	Adherence Rate' 1190 and 1980 111 5.8 111.5 9.8 0.2 0.2 0.6	
Protestant Protestant Congregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. [More information on the data sou Reports 2010 Report 2000 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US Amish Groups, undifferentiated* Assemblies of God Bahá'i Brethren Church, The (Ashland, Ohio Brethren In Christ Church Catholic Church	protestant all full members, th torically African-Ame arces] 1990 Report	neir children, and othe erican denominations.	rs who regularly atter These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition Black Protestant Nainline Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Cher	Internet included in the approximate included in the appro	2 ports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change 1 Congregations 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Adherents Adherents 1,711 1,888 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,714 1,714 1,714 1,714 1,754 1	Adherence Rate' 1990 and 1980 1.1 1.5 0.8 0.2 0.6 0.6 0.6 124.7	
	Protestant all full members, th torically African-American arces] 1990 Report	1980 Report	Cantonic O rs: who regularly atter These denominations 1980-2010 Change Tradition Tradition Elack Protestant Wainline Protestant Protestant Vother Evangelical Protestant Other Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant Evangelical Protestant	Internet included in the services. The 2010 rr s are not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family Nethodist/Pietist Baptist European Free-Chur Pentecostal Other Groups European Free-Chur European Free-Chur Catholicism Holiness	2 2000 reports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations ch 11 ch 11 ch 1 ch 1 ch 1 ch 1 ch 1 c	Adherents Adherents Adherents 1,774 1,753 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,714 1,753 1,754 1,754 1,753 1,754 1,75	Adherence Rate' 1990 and 1980 Adherence Rate 1.1 5.8 0.1 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.6 124.7 14.2	
Protestant Protestant Protestant Compregational adherents include belonging to the eight largest hist reports. 2010 Report 2000 Report 2000 Report 2000 Report Religious Bodies African Methodist Episcopal Church American Baptist Churches in the US Amish Groups, undifferentiated [™] Assemblies of God Bahá'i Brethren Church, The (Ashland, Ohio Brethren In Christ Church Catholic Church Christian and Missionary Alliance, The Christian and Missionary Alliance, The	Protestant all full members, th torically African-American (1990 Report) (1990 Report)	1980 Report	Cantonic O rs: who regularly atter These denominations 1980:2010 Change Tradition Tradition Black Protestant Black Protestant Evangelical Protestant Protestant Cher Evangelical Protestant Catholic Evangelical Protestant Catholic Evangelical Protestant Catholic Evangelical Protestant Senderbard Exangelical	Internet included in the sare not included in the sare not included in the 1990-2010 Change Family Methodist/Pietist Baptist European Free-Chur Pentecostal Other Groups European Free-Chur European Free-Chur Catholicism Holiness Baptist	2 2000 reports contain incomplete cou 2000 reports and are largely 2000-2010 Change Congregations ch 11 ch 11 ch 3	Adherents Adherents Adherents 1,774 1,503 1,764 1,503 1,764 1,1503 1,764 1,1503 1,764 1,503 1,502	Adherence Rate' 1990 and 1980 111 5.8 111.5 9.8 0.2 0.6 0.6 0.6 0.2 0.6 124.7 124.7 14.2 9.8	

- a. At the top of the screen will be a bar chart summarizing six major groups.
- b. Below this will be a listing for each individual religious group.
- c. You can look at reports for 2000, 1990, 1980, and for change between decades by clicking on the tabs at the top of the listing.
 - d. You can sort any column by clicking on the heading.

How to get a Membership Map:

- 1) Go to the ARDA homepage: <u>www.theARDA.com</u>.
- 2) Move your mouse over "U.S. Congregational Membership."
- 3) A menu will appear under "U.S Congregational Membership."
- 4) Click on "Maps."
- 5) Choose the type of map you want (U.S. Map or Individual State).
- 6) If you want an Individual State map, select the state from the drop-down menu.
- 7) There are multiple maps available in four different categories: Major Religious Groups; Individual Denominations; U.S. Census Variables; and Crime, Voting and Other Measures.
- 8) Select the map you want in the listing by clicking on its name.
- 9) Click "Submit."
- 10) You should now see the map.



- a) If looking at a map of a religious group, you can alternate between Total Congregations, Total Adherents, and Rates of Adherence.
- - b) The legend tells you the range of values.

- c) Holding your mouse cursor over an individual state will provide the state's value and rank.
- d) You can choose another map or add a second map to compare to your first one.
- e) Below the map you will see a ranked listing of each state or county.

How to get an Interactive GIS Map:

- 1) Go to the ARDA homepage: <u>www.theARDA.com</u>.
- 2) Move your mouse over "U.S. Congregational Membership."
- 3) A menu will appear under "U.S Congregational Membership."
- 4) Click on "GIS Maps."
- 5) Under "GIS Maps," enter a zip code or a city and state to view the desired area on the map. This provides an initial area to explore.
- 6) You should see a map now.



a. The diamonds represent individual congregations.

- b. Holding your mouse cursor over a diamond provides additional details about each congregation, including its address and denomination.
- c. You can zoom in and out, move the map around, and change the map view.
- d. You can also build a community profile through the interactive GIS Map

Community Profile Builder:

- 1) Go to the ARDA homepage: <u>www.theARDA.com</u>.
- 2) Move your mouse over "U.S. Congregational Membership."
- 3) A menu will appear under "U.S Congregational Membership."
- 4) Click on "GIS Maps."
- 5) Enter your zip code or city and state.
- 6) You should see a map now.





a. Enter a radius in miles

b. Clicking a point on the map will select a center point for the radius

c. Clicking "Profile" will provide detailed information about this area. You should see an "ARDA Community Profile."



- a. The "ARDA Community Profile" provides a report for the complete census block groups that overlap with the radius selected in the previous section.
- b. Each tab provides information on the residents and the religious organizations in the selected community.
- c. See the <u>Community Profile Builder Guide</u> for assistance in using the information in the "ARDA Community Profile"