

Asian Pacific Islander Catholics in the United States: A Preliminary Report¹

January 2015

Prepared by

Jerry Z. Park
W. Matthew Henderson
Kenneth Vaughan
Baylor University²

Tricia Bruce
Maryville College³

Stephen Cherry
University of Houston-Clear Lake⁴

¹ This report is funded in part by support from the US Catholic Conference of Bishops. We are grateful for data and reports from the Pew Research Centers, and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate from which these findings were developed. All errors are the responsibility of the research team.

² Jerry Z. Park is associate professor of sociology at Baylor University; W. Matthew Henderson and Kenneth Vaughan are graduate students in the department of sociology at Baylor University

³ Tricia Bruce is associate professor of sociology at Maryville College.

⁴ Stephen Cherry is assistant professor of sociology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake

Introduction

Christianity throughout the world constitutes the largest body of religious peoples according to recent estimates. As of 2010, there are an estimated 2.2 billion Christians in the world, nearly one-third of the world population. At an estimated 1.1 billion, Roman Catholicism stands as the largest body of Christian believers when divided along the most traditional demarcations of Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant.

The largest concentration of the world's 7 billion inhabitants is in Asia, and historically Christianity has been a minority faith community within the many nations that make up this continent (about 6 percent), and a majority faith in a very few. The 20th and 21st centuries, however, have born witness to a growth of Christianity throughout more countries in this region. We know this more clearly in recent years as researchers have made better efforts to collect the best estimates of the world's religious adherents. We know also that of the [214 million individuals who have emigrated from one country to another](#), Christians are the largest share of these sojourners (49 percent). Moreover, we now know the specific origins of religious immigrants. [Migration to the United States from Asia competes with migration from Latin America](#), and religion plays an important part in the stories of immigrants. While Christianity, specifically Catholicism, is the dominant religion among immigrants from Latin America, it is a minority faith among immigrants from Asia. In the specific US context, the largest receiving nation of the world's migrants, Christianity remains the majority among today's new arrivals, and much like Asian immigrants around the world, the majority of US Asian immigrants are not Christian.

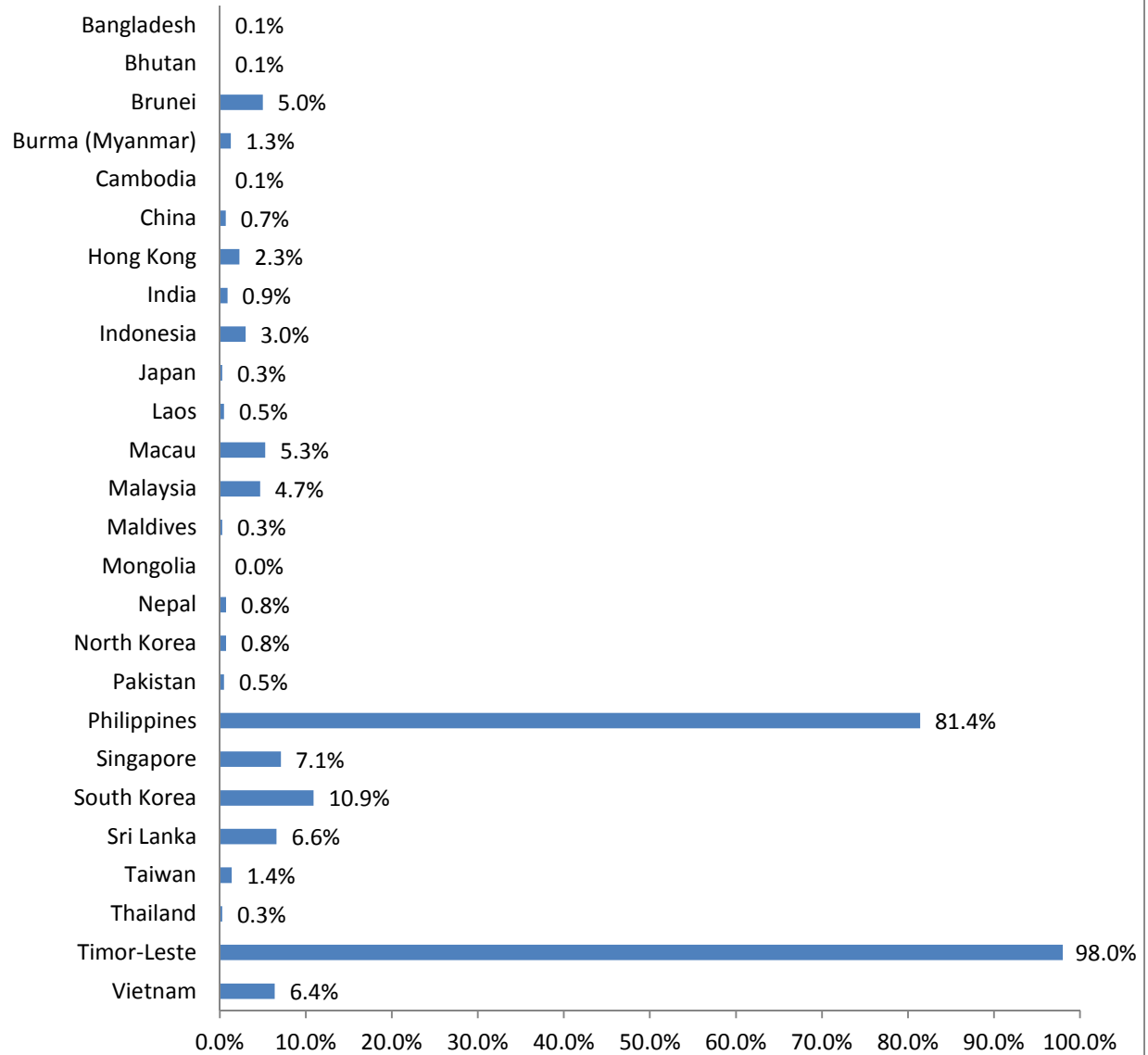
In this report, we present some of these new estimates as they relate to several important but largely overlooked populations: Catholics in Asia and the Pacific Islands, and Asian and Pacific Islander Catholic Americans. We find that the Catholic population in Asia and the Pacific Islands stretches across more than 40 nations, but the majority are located in but a handful of countries. Catholicism in Asia varies significantly from Catholicism in the Pacific Islands. The nations of the Pacific Islands are predominantly Christian, whereas only one country in Asia is predominantly Christian. In both regions, Catholicism specifically dominates only one nation. Christianity is not the dominant religion among the migrants from Asia, but a large fraction of US Asian immigrants are Catholic. Among the 16 million people who identify as Asian or Pacific Islander Americans, both immigrant and native-born, Catholicism is also a large but not a dominant fraction. Relative to other religious Asian Americans, Catholic Asian Americans are highly devout, retain their faith across generations, and marry within their faith tradition.

Catholicism in Asia

- According to analyses of numerous surveys across 26 countries in Asia, the Pew Research Centers estimate about 120 million Catholics living in Asia. This is the largest percentage of Catholics in the Asian and Pacific Island region.
- Only 3 percent of Asia's population identifies as Catholic.
- The only Asian nations or territories⁵ with Catholic majorities are the Philippines (about 81 percent of the Filipino population) and Timor-Leste (98 percent).
- Timor-Leste's percentage of Catholics is also the highest percentage among all Asian and Pacific Islands nations.
- Among the Asian host nations and territories, Catholics make up a majority of Christians in Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, and the Philippines. Catholics make up a very slight majority of the Christian population in Brunei and Malaysia.
- Of the Asian nations and territories, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, and Mongolia have the lowest percentages of Catholics. All of these nations have Catholic populations of less than 0.1 percent.
- The persecution of minority Christians in several of the Asian host nations have contributed to Asian Christian immigration to the United States.

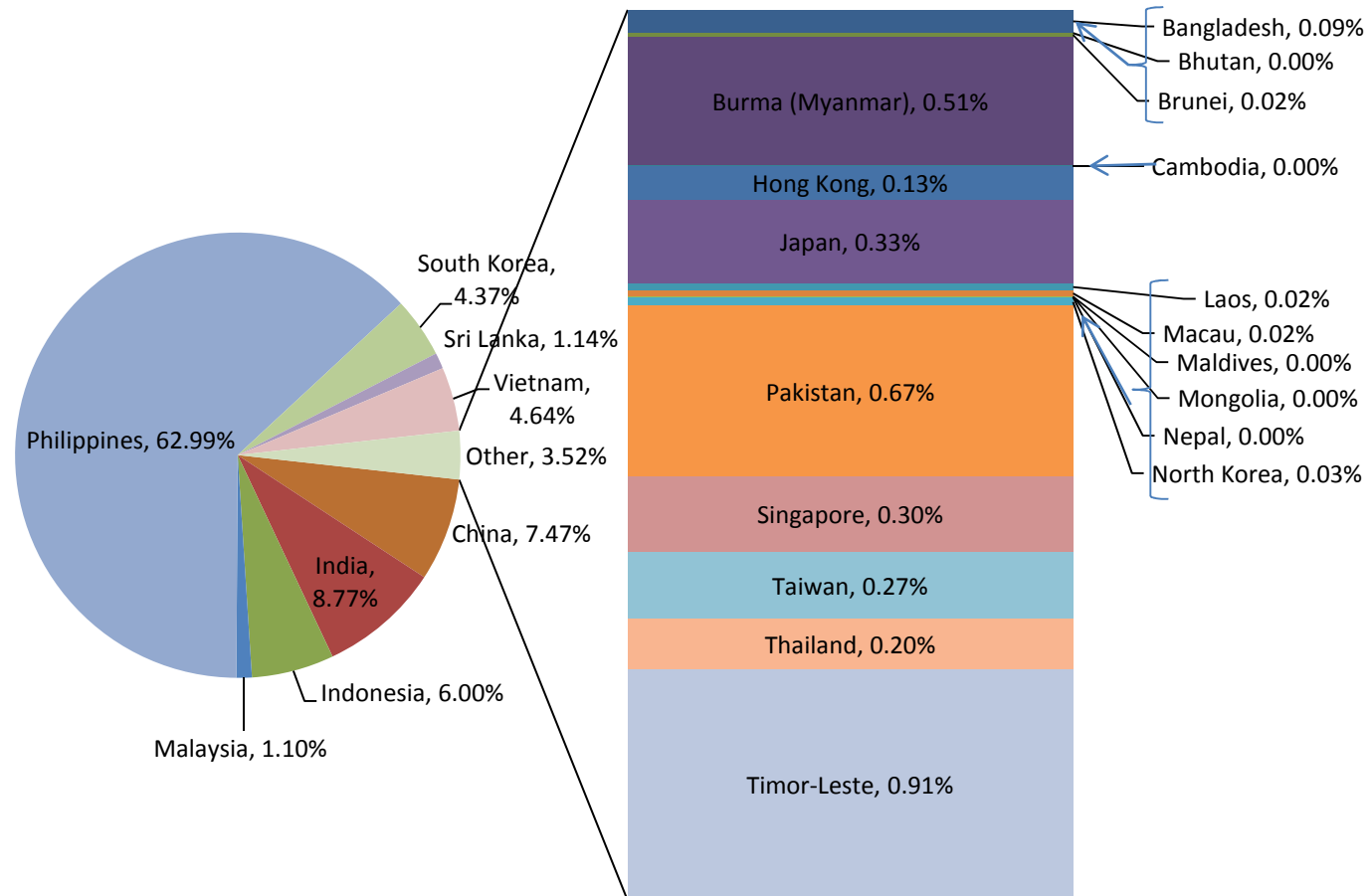
⁵ Territories refer to disputed territories and culturally distinct or governmentally autonomous areas that are under the governance of another nation.

Figure 1. Estimated Percent Catholic Per Asian Nation



- While Catholicism may be a small percentage of a given country, they may still be a large proportion of the Catholics in Asia. In the following pie graph (Figure 2) we show the distribution of nationalities represented Catholic Asian.
- About 76 million or 63 percent of Catholics in Asia are from the Philippines.
- Catholics in China and India take up an additional 16 percent of the Catholics in Asia.
- Catholics in Indonesia, Vietnam, and South Korea comprise another 15 percent of the Catholics in Asia.
- The remaining 6 percent of Catholics in Asia come from 12 more Asian countries.

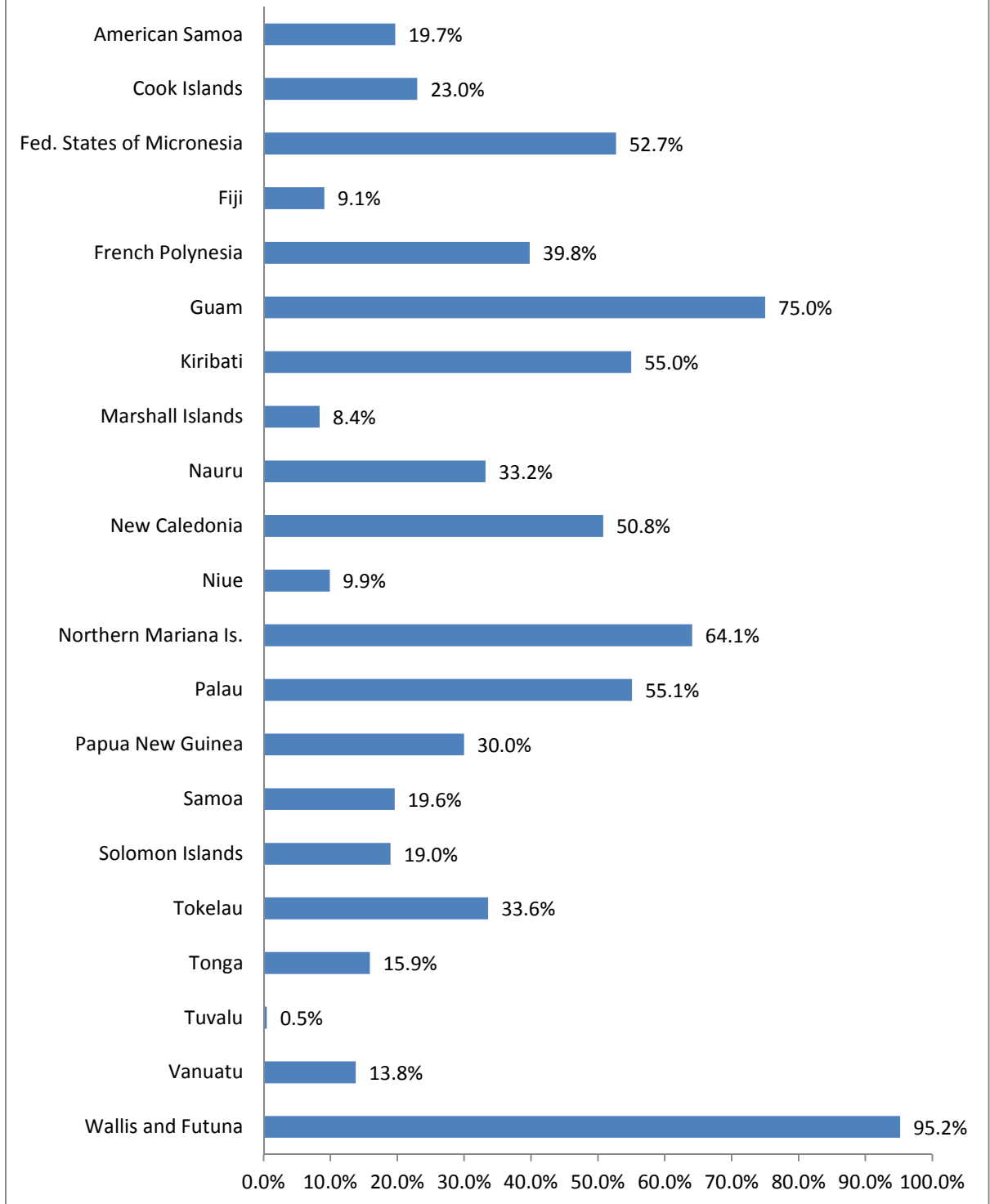
Figure 2. Estimated Ethnic Distribution of Asian Catholics (2010)



Catholicism in the Pacific Islands

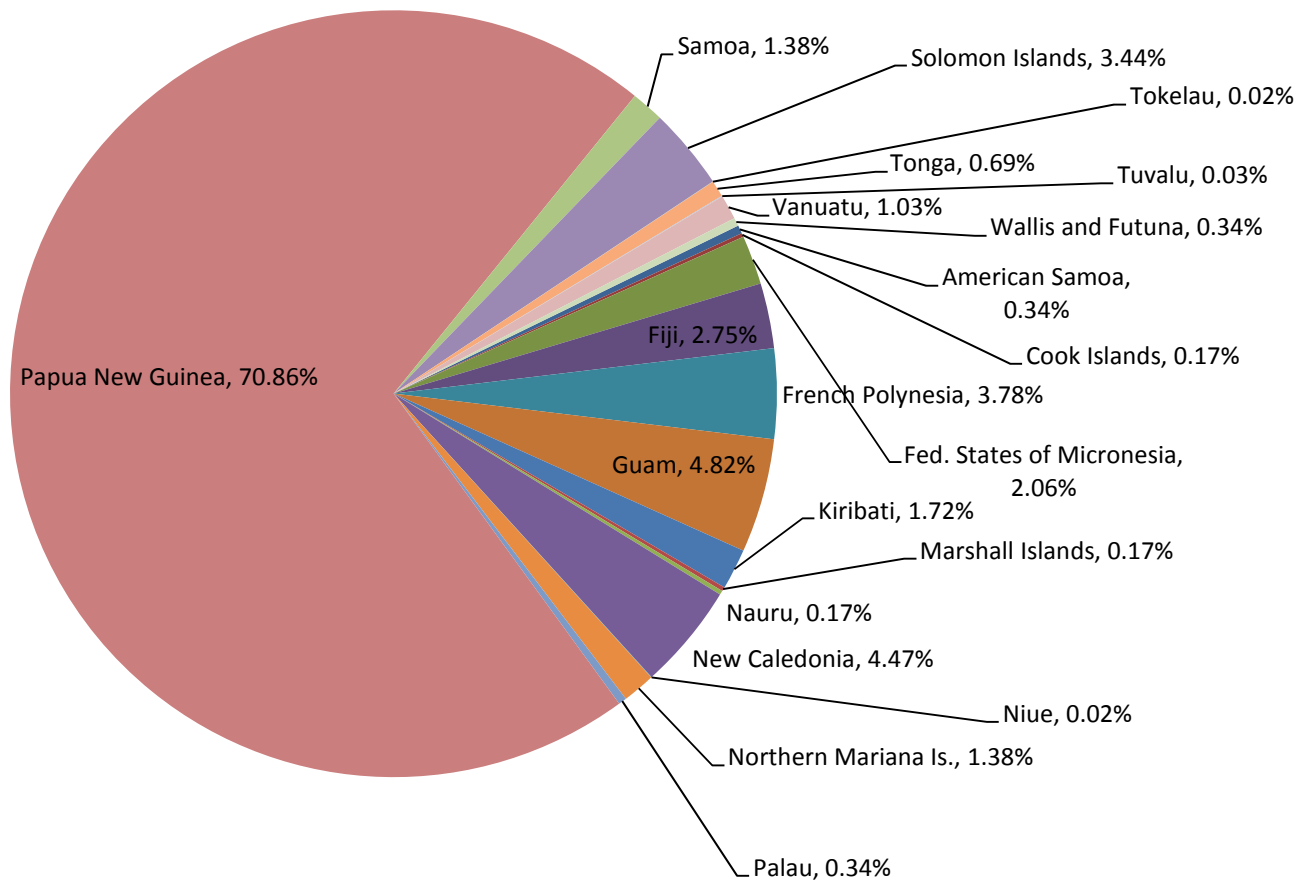
- Of the estimated 9.9 million people in 21 major Pacific Island nations, about 2.9 million or 29 percent identify as Catholic.
- In the Pacific Islands, Catholicism is the dominant religion of seven nations including the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, New Caledonia, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and Wallis and Futuna (see Figure 3).
- Of the Pacific Island host nations, Wallis and Futuna has the highest percentage of Catholics at 95.2 percent.
- The Pacific Island nations and territories have a much higher percentage Catholic than do the Asian host nations and territories.
- None of the Pacific Island host nations have a non-Christian majority religion.
- Of the Pacific Island nations and territories, Tuvalu has the lowest percentage of Catholics at 0.5 percent.

Figure 3. Estimated Percent Catholic Per Pacific Island Nation



- Papua New Guinea is the largest nation by population among the Pacific Island nations. As such, the 2 million Catholics comprise 71 percent of the Catholics of the Pacific Islands (see Figure 4).
- The Catholics of French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia and the Solomon Islands constitute another 17 percent of the Pacific Island Catholics.
- The remaining 13 percent of Pacific Island Catholics come from 16 other countries in the Pacific region.

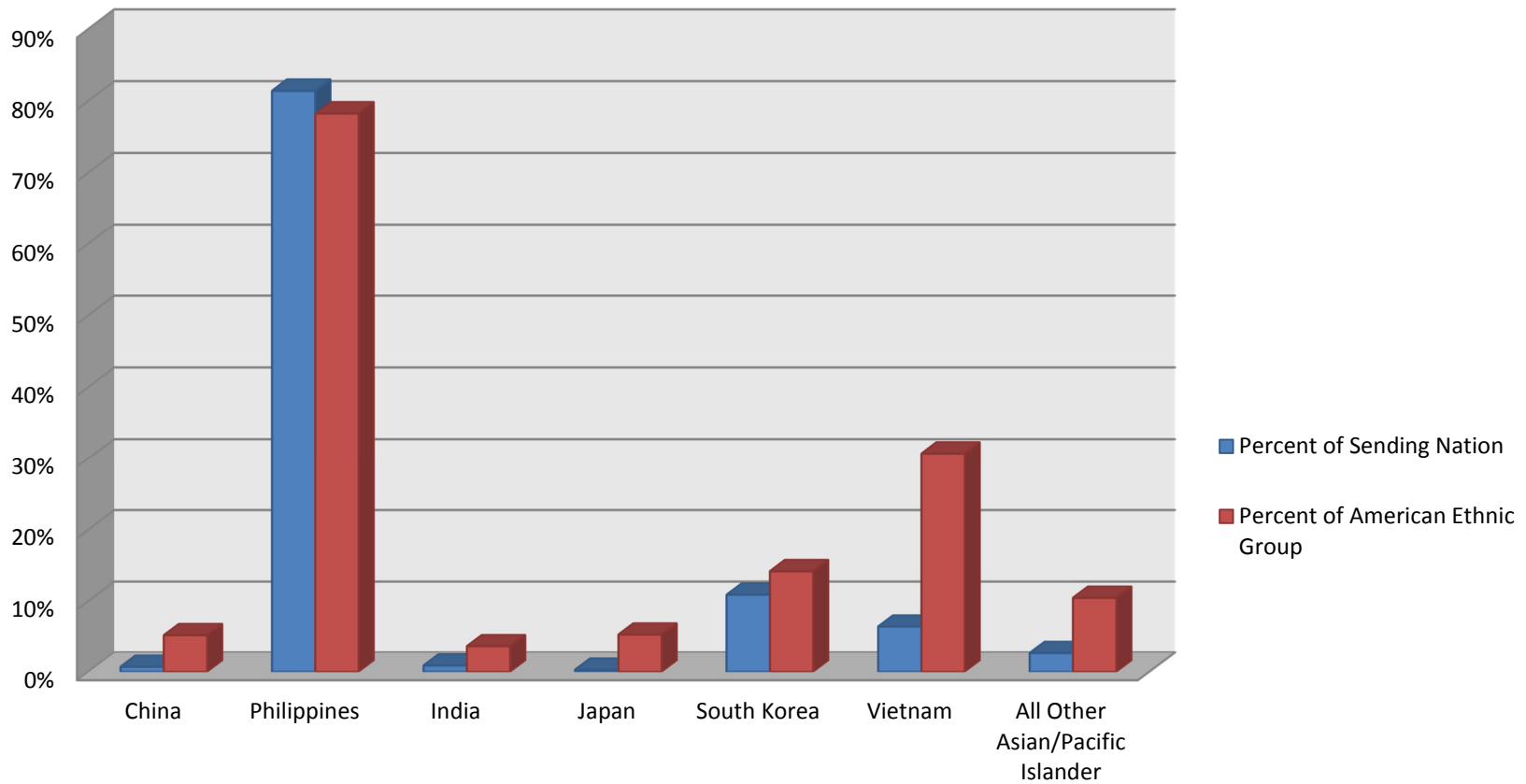
Figure 4. Estimated Ethnic Distribution of Pacific Islander Catholics (2010)



Catholicism in Migration: From Asia to the United States

- Scholars have long noted that migration to the US tends to be “pro-Christian.” Even in countries where Christianity is not the dominant religion, we find that immigrants from those countries are disproportionately Christian.
- In Figure 5, we showcase the comparative difference between the percentage of Catholics in specific Asian sending nations and the percentage of Catholic immigrants from those countries.
- With the exception of Filipino immigrants to the US, Asian immigrants are disproportionately Catholic compared to their presence in their countries of origin. For example, while less than 7 percent of Vietnam is Catholic, more than 30 percent of Vietnamese immigrants identify as Catholic.

Figure 5. Percent of Catholics in Sending Nations and among First Generation Asian American Ethnic Groups



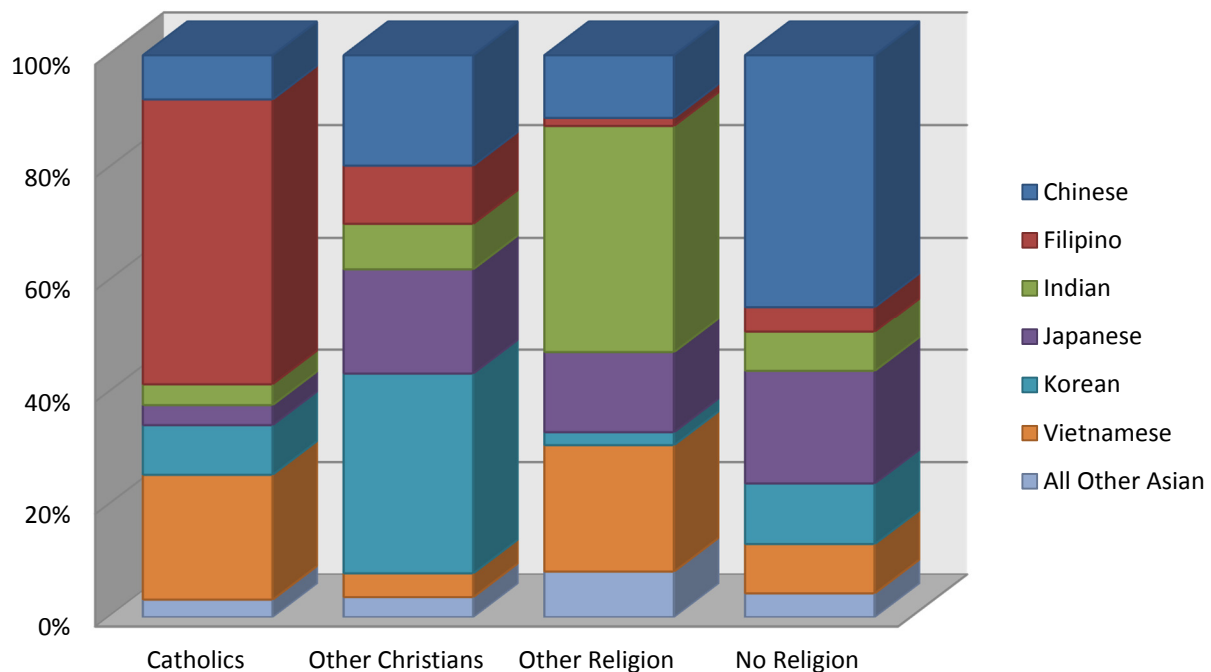
Catholicism among Asian Pacific Islanders in the US

In the following we present findings using data from the Pew Research Center's Asian American Survey 2012 (PAAS). Unlike most surveys, the PAAS was translated into 7 Asian languages to identify APIs with limited English fluency. Out of 3,500 adult respondents surveyed about 700 self-identified as Catholic. This is about 20 percent of the adult API population.

Demographic Characteristics

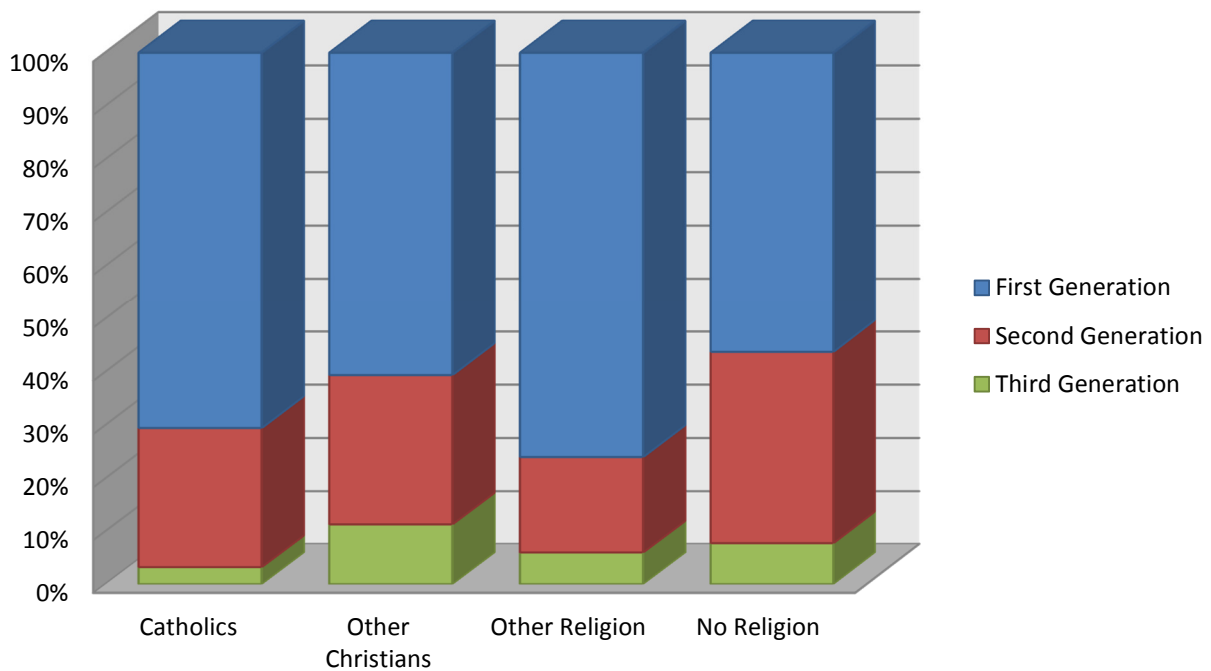
- The ethnic group with the largest share of Catholics among Asian Pacific Islanders is Filipino (51%)
- Asian Pacific Islander Catholicism is the second religion among Asian Pacific Islander Americans that is dominated by one ethnic group.

Figure 6. Ethnicity by Religious Tradition Among Asian Americans



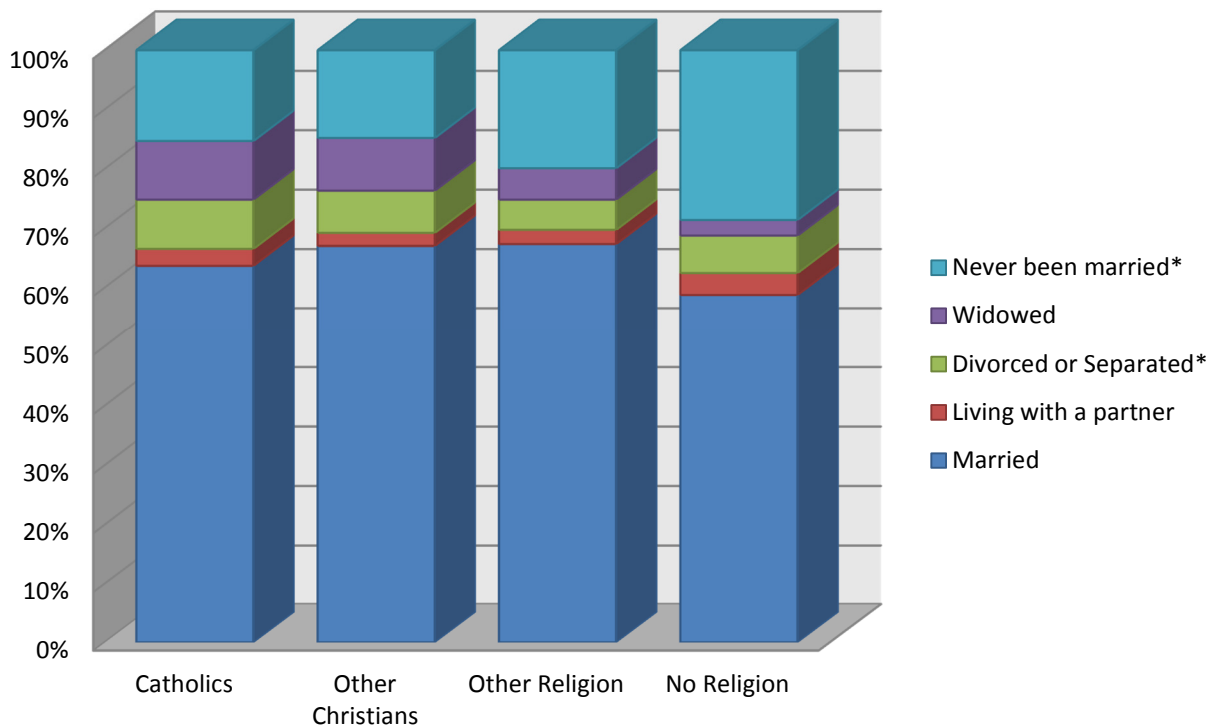
- The majority of Asian Pacific Islanders are foreign-born immigrants (about 70 percent), and Asian Pacific Islanders are dominated by members of this first generation (about 71 percent).
- Asian Pacific Islander Catholics are more largely first generation compared to other Christian APIs (see Figure 7).
- The second generation (those born in the US to immigrant parents, and those immigrants who were raised in the US (arriving prior to age 13)) take up the second largest share of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics (about 26 percent).

Figure 7. Generational Status by Religious Tradition



- About 64 percent of adult Asian Pacific Islander Catholics are married, a rate comparable to other Asian Pacific Islander Christians and APIs of other religions and no religion (see Figure 8).
- The second largest marital status for Asian Pacific Islander Catholics is “single, never married” a rate comparable to other Christian APIs, but lower than other religion APIs and APIs with no religion.
- About eight percent of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics report being divorced or separated, a rate comparable to other Christian APIs, but higher than APIs with other religions or no religion at all. However, since the Catholic church does not recognize divorce, we recommend caution in interpreting this finding. Some might interpret annulment as “never married” – therefore the divorce rate for API Catholics may be higher and the “never married” rate may be lower than what the survey data shows.

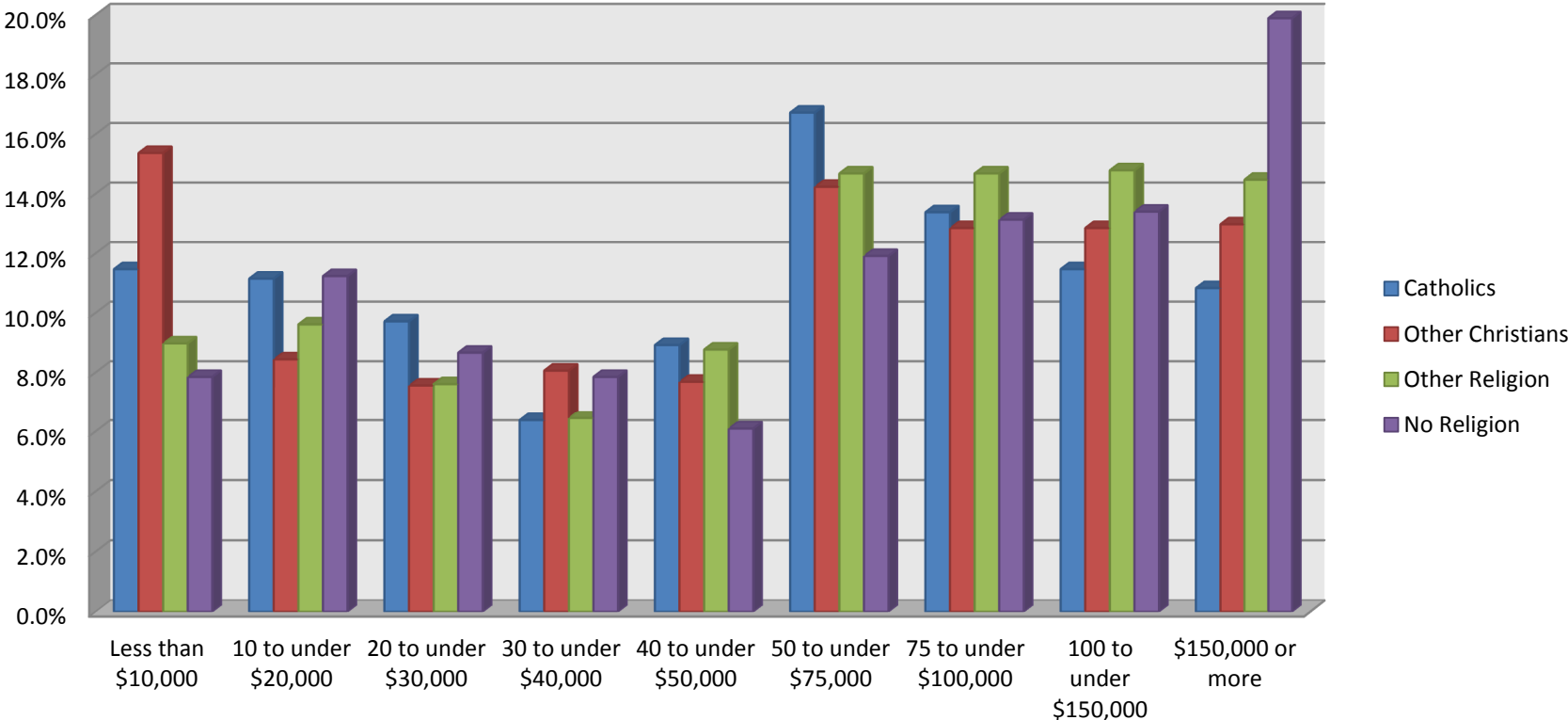
Figure 8. Marital Status by Religious Tradition



* Annulment is not an category available in most surveys. Some respondents may interpret annulment as being “never married” while others may interpret this as equivalent to “divorced” status. We recommend caution in interpreting these findings.

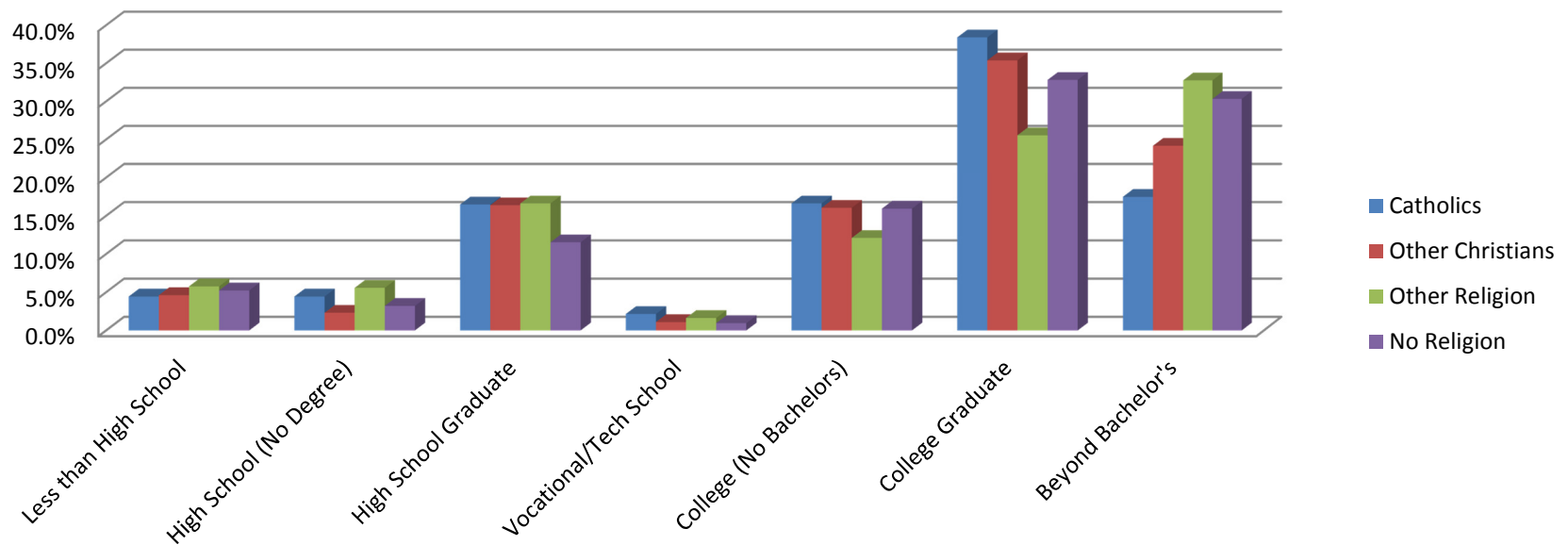
- Asian Pacific Islander Catholic annual household income is estimated around \$40,000 to \$50,000 (in 2012 dollars). This is comparable to average household income for other API Christians (see Figure 9).
- Asian Pacific Islander Catholic average household income is lower than APIs of other religions and those with no religion.

Figure 9. Annual Income By Religious Tradition



- Educational attainment among Asian Pacific Islander Americans is generally high; the average degree attainment reported for Asian Pacific Islander Catholics and other APIs is “college attendance without completion.” This means that about half of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics received less than a college education and about half received a college degree or higher (see Figure 10).
- The largest percentage of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics report graduating from college (about 38 percent).
- Compared to other APIs, Asian Pacific Islander Catholics have the lowest post-undergraduate education rate (18 percent).

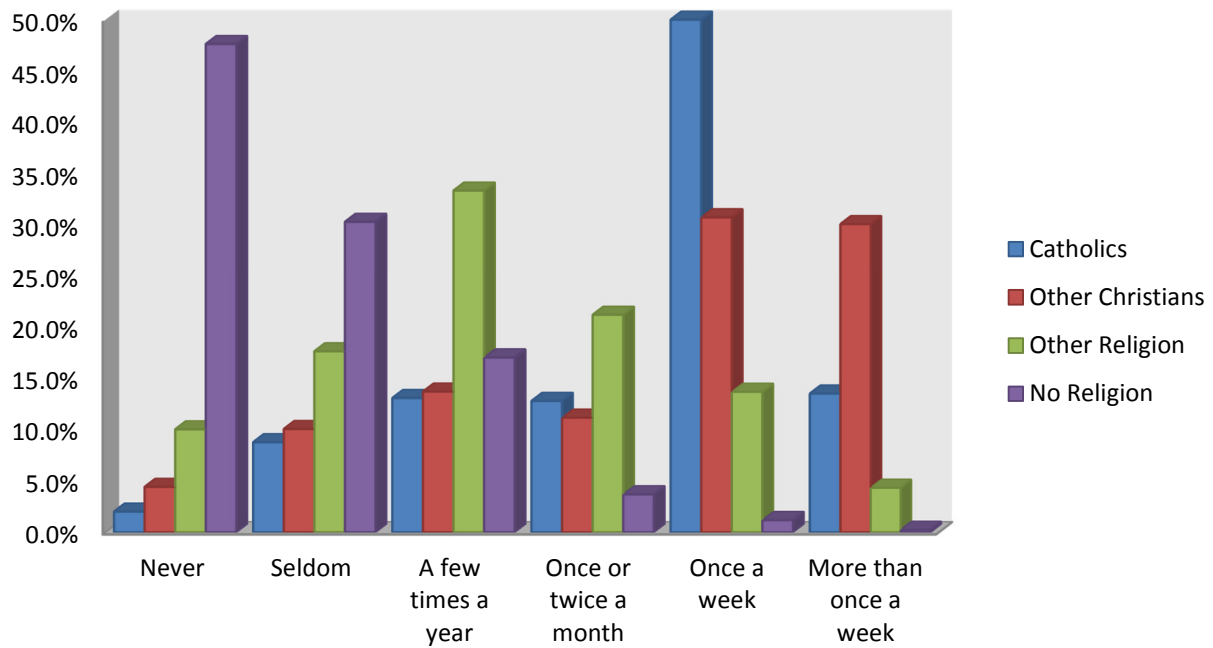
Figure 10. Education by Religious Tradition



Religious Characteristics

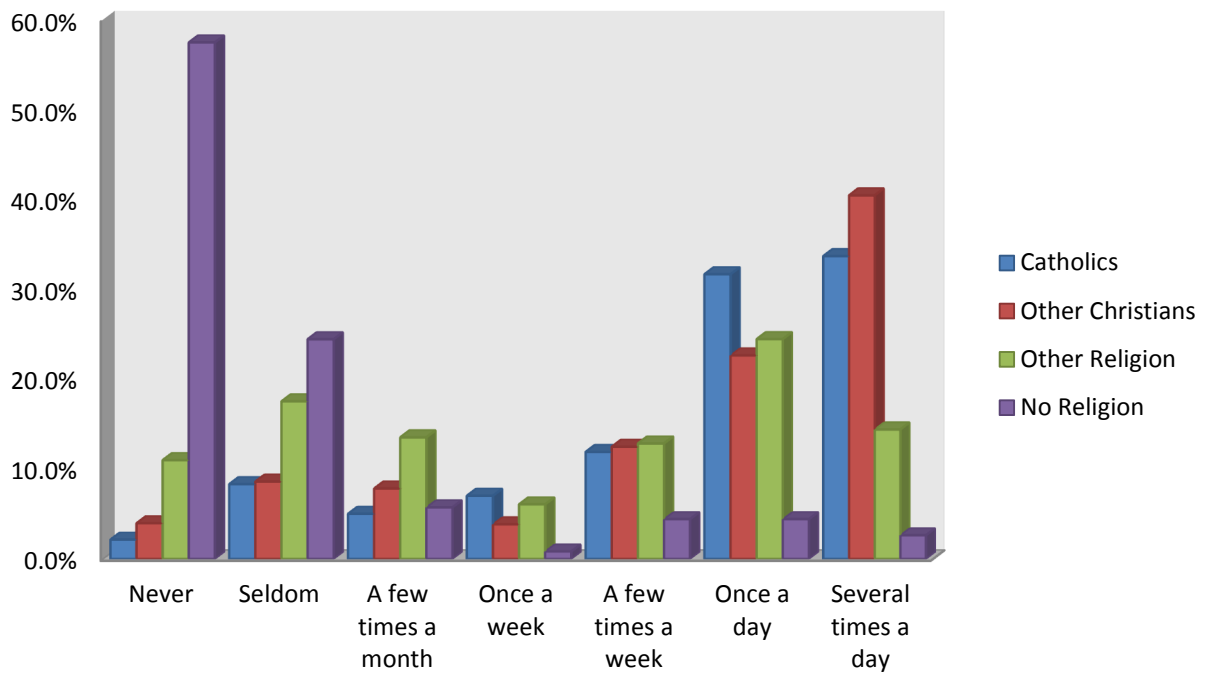
- Asian Pacific Islander Catholic church attendance is very high; more than 63 percent report attending church at least once a week (see Figure 11). This is comparable to the church attendance rate of other Christian APIs (61 percent).

Figure 11. Religious Attendance by Religious Tradition



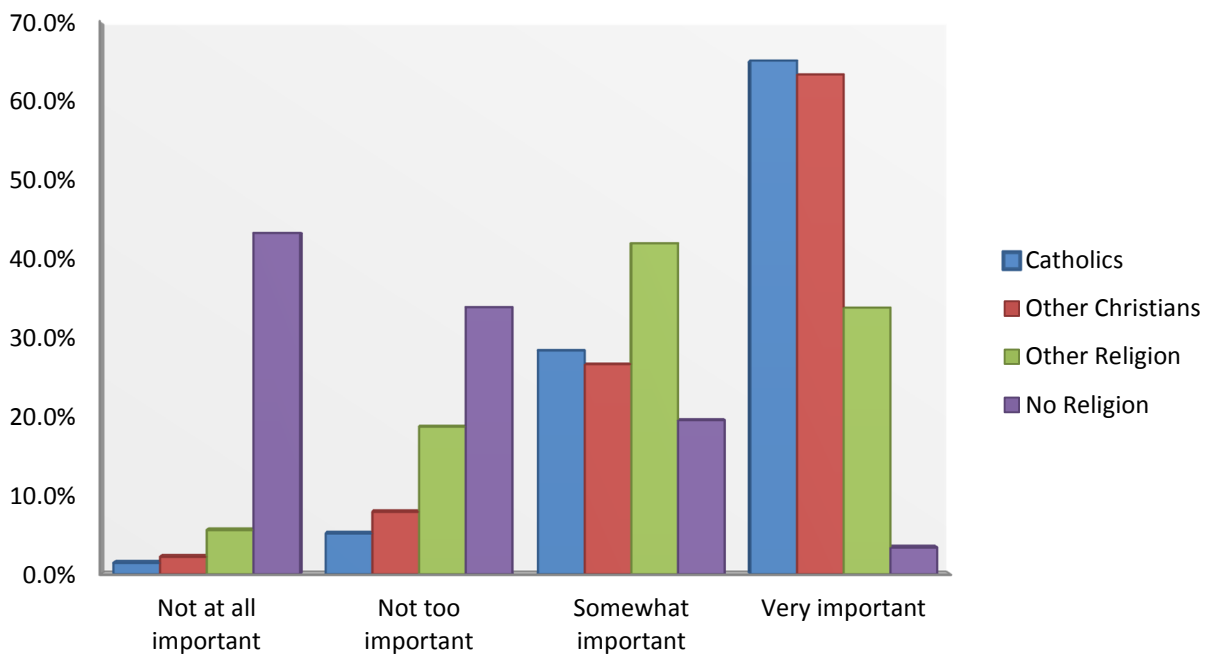
- Asian Pacific Islander Catholics pray frequently; about 65 percent report praying once a day; this is similar to the frequency of prayer of APIs of other Christian faiths (see Figure 12).

Figure 12. Frequency of Prayer by Religious Tradition



- Catholicism is very important to Asian Pacific Islander Catholics; over 93 percent reported that Catholicism was at least somewhat important to them personally (Figure 13).
- A majority (over 65 percent) reported that Catholicism was “very important.”

Figure 13. Religious Salience by Religious Tradition



- A traditional question asked of Americans on social surveys is their interpretation of the Christian scriptures. When asked for their view of the Bible, about one-third of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics affirmed that the Bible is “inspired word of God and should be taken literally.” The largest share (about 43 percent) supported the view that the Bible is the inspired word of God but should not be taken literally (see Figures 14a and 14b).
- Nearly a quarter of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics affirmed that the Bible is a book of stories and myth. This is a much higher rate than other Christian APIs’ view of the Bible (15 percent).

Figure 14a. API Catholic Views of the Bible

- Inspired and Literal
- Inspired but Not Literal
- Not Inspired

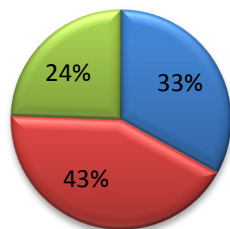
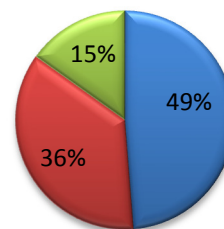


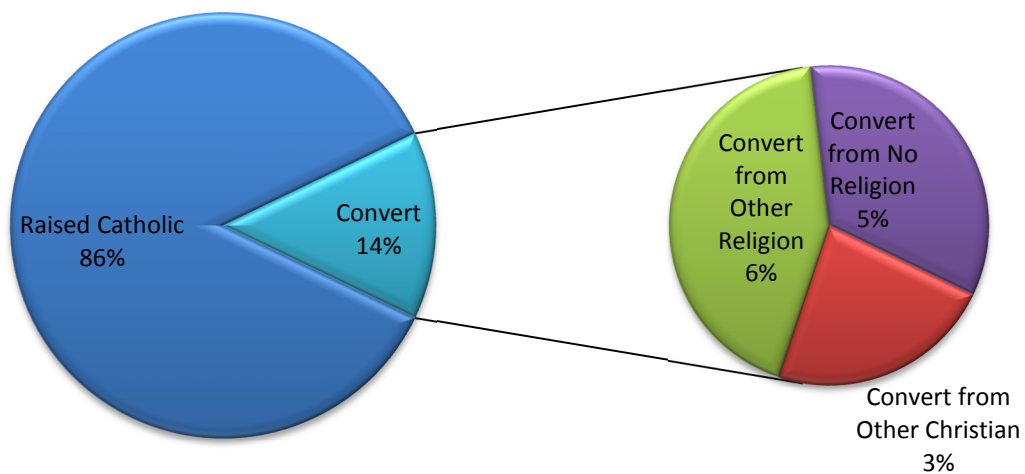
Figure 14b. API Christian (Non-Catholic) Views of the Bible

- Inspired and Literal
- Inspired but Not Literal*
- Not Inspired



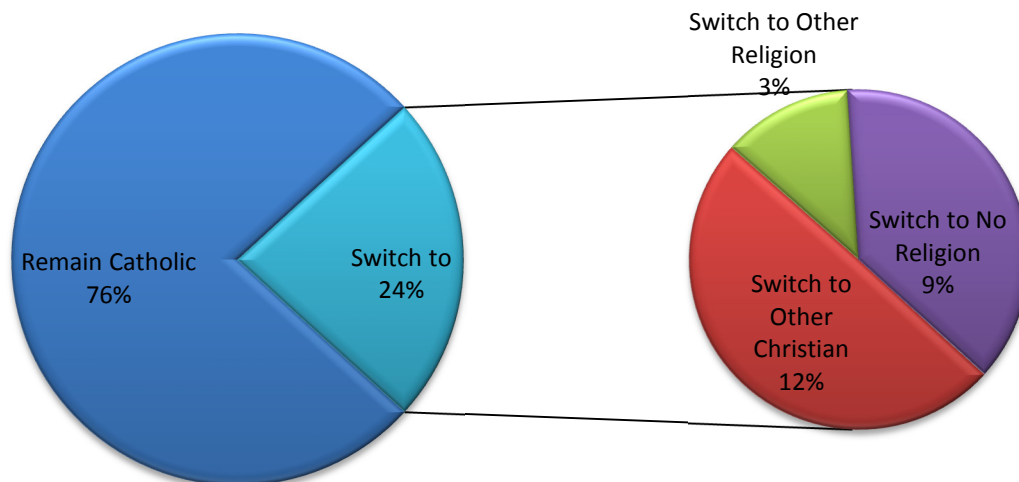
- Most Americans remain in the religion in which they started as a child. When identifying religious pathways, we can look at the rate of those who “switched to” one religion to another and those who “switched from” one religion to another. In the following we will show the relative difference between these two perspectives with regard to Asian Pacific Islander Catholics (see Figure 15).
- Most Asian Pacific Islander Catholics today report having grown up Catholic (about 86 percent)
- Another 14 percent reported converting (or switching) to Catholicism from another religion or no religion at all.
- Of the converts to Catholicism among APIs come primarily from three streams: non-Christian religions (6 percent), other Christian denominations (about 3 percent), and from no religion (5 percent).

Figure 15. Staying and Switching to Catholicism

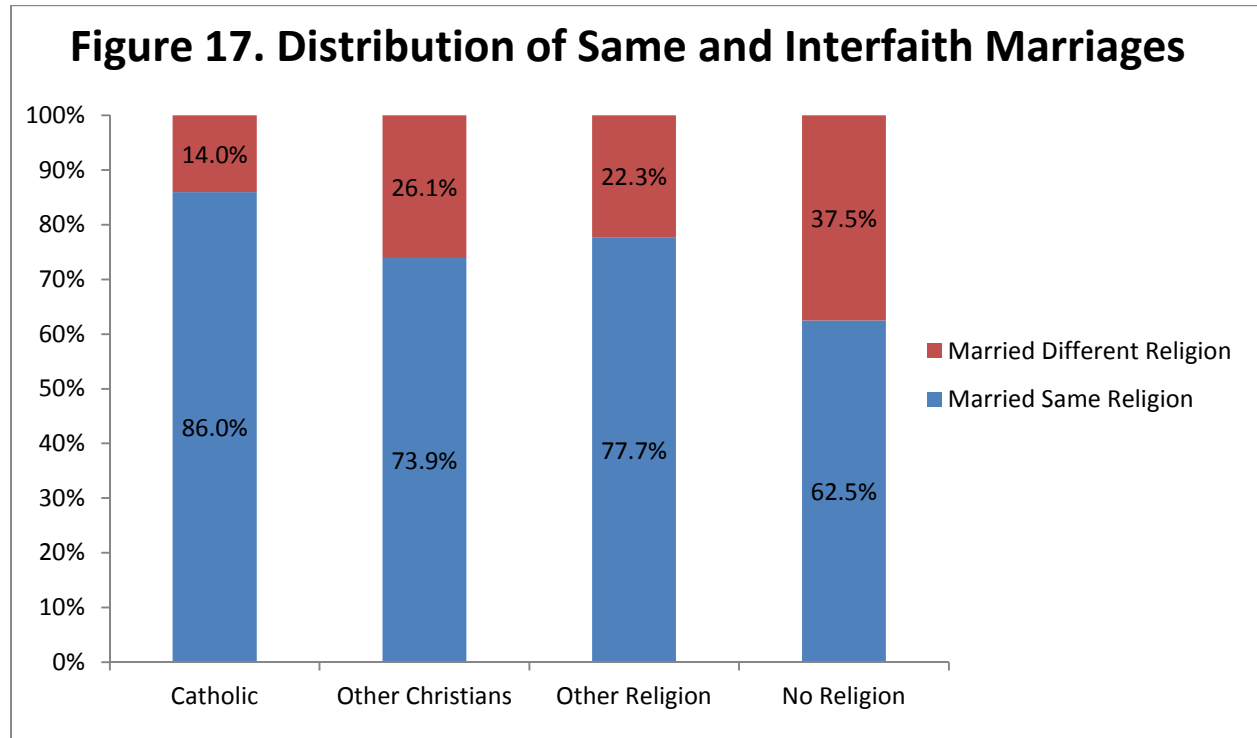


- Most Asian Pacific Islander Catholics who reported being Catholic as a child remained in their religion at present (about 77 percent) (see Figure 16).
- Almost a quarter of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics reported leaving (or switching out of) Catholicism for another Christian denomination or another religion or disaffiliating altogether.
- About half of the Asian Pacific Islander Catholics who switch out of Catholicism now identify as another Christian, usually Protestant.
- The next largest share of Catholics to leave Catholicism is those who no longer affiliate with any religion.
- A smaller percentage of those who grew up Asian Pacific Islander Catholic now affiliate with another non-Christian religion, usually Buddhism.

Figure 16. Staying and Switching From Catholicism



- Asian Pacific Islander Catholics exhibit the highest rate of same-religion marriages (homogamous). About 86 percent of married API Catholics report that their spouse is also Catholic (see Figure 17). This rate is higher than other married API Christians, non-Christians and nonaffiliated.



Future Directions

Existing data from surveys taken around the world and in the United States helps shed some light on some of the broad characteristics of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics today. Asian Pacific Islander Catholics originate from a diverse collection of believers across many countries and ethnic groups. In most cases, Catholics in Asia are a minority religious community. In the nations of the Pacific Islands, Catholics form part of the dominant Christian presence in most of those nations. A substantial minority of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics today are emerging as native-born to the US. The largest share of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics resides in the Pacific western states, but the majority reside outside of this region. They are about average relative to other APIs in their household income levels and educational attainment, but a smaller percentage report holding advanced degrees. Asian Pacific Islander Catholics are highly committed in terms of basic Christian practices of attending worship services and personal prayer. They remain largely Catholic from an early age, but a substantial minority leave their faith, and a similar minority join the Catholic church as adults. Among married Asian Pacific Islander Catholics most are married to someone of the same faith, but a sizable minority are married to someone of a different faith.

Given the diversity of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics, there is still much that we do not know. Since the majority of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics are immigrants, we know little of the specific modes of worship that are important to their identities as ethnic Asian Pacific Islander Catholics. English language fluency is not an uncommon challenge for immigrants in general, yet we do not know whether Asian Pacific Islander Catholics specifically struggle with participation in their local Catholic community due to limited English proficiency. We do not

know if these immigrants and other socially vulnerable Asian Pacific Islander Catholics are receiving adequate support in meeting their basic needs to access medical, legal, occupational organizations to assist them with daily living. We do not know whether Asian Pacific Islander Catholics are primarily involved in parishes dominated by their ethnic group or whether they are on the margins of a local non-Asian Pacific Islander Catholic community. We do not know how involved Asian Pacific Islander Catholics are in their civic involvement. We know nothing of the post-immigrant Asian Pacific Islander Catholic experience: to what extent are second-generation Asian Pacific Islander Catholics actively involved in a local Catholic community? Are they participating in the parishes dominated by their ethnic group or are they integrated into predominantly white or Latino Catholic communities?

In addition to those larger questions, we do not know how different Asian Pacific Islander Catholic ethnic groups differ from one another on most of the factors presented in this report, nor any of the unanswered questions we just raised. As we have shown the majority of Asian Pacific Islander Catholics identify as Filipino or Vietnamese; when specific groups dominate a social category like Asian Pacific Islander Catholicism, most subsequent findings about that category are a function of the characteristics of the dominant groups. In other words, Chinese, Korean, Indian, and Japanese American Catholics might vary substantially from Filipino and Vietnamese American Catholics on a variety of social and demographic characteristics as well as religious characteristics. All of the findings reported here cannot be disaggregated into comparisons of groups that are more difficult to survey in a major study of all APIs. The need for bigger and more comprehensive data on Asian Pacific Islander Catholics is evident.

Appendix

Figure 18. Estimated Percent Catholic Per Nation

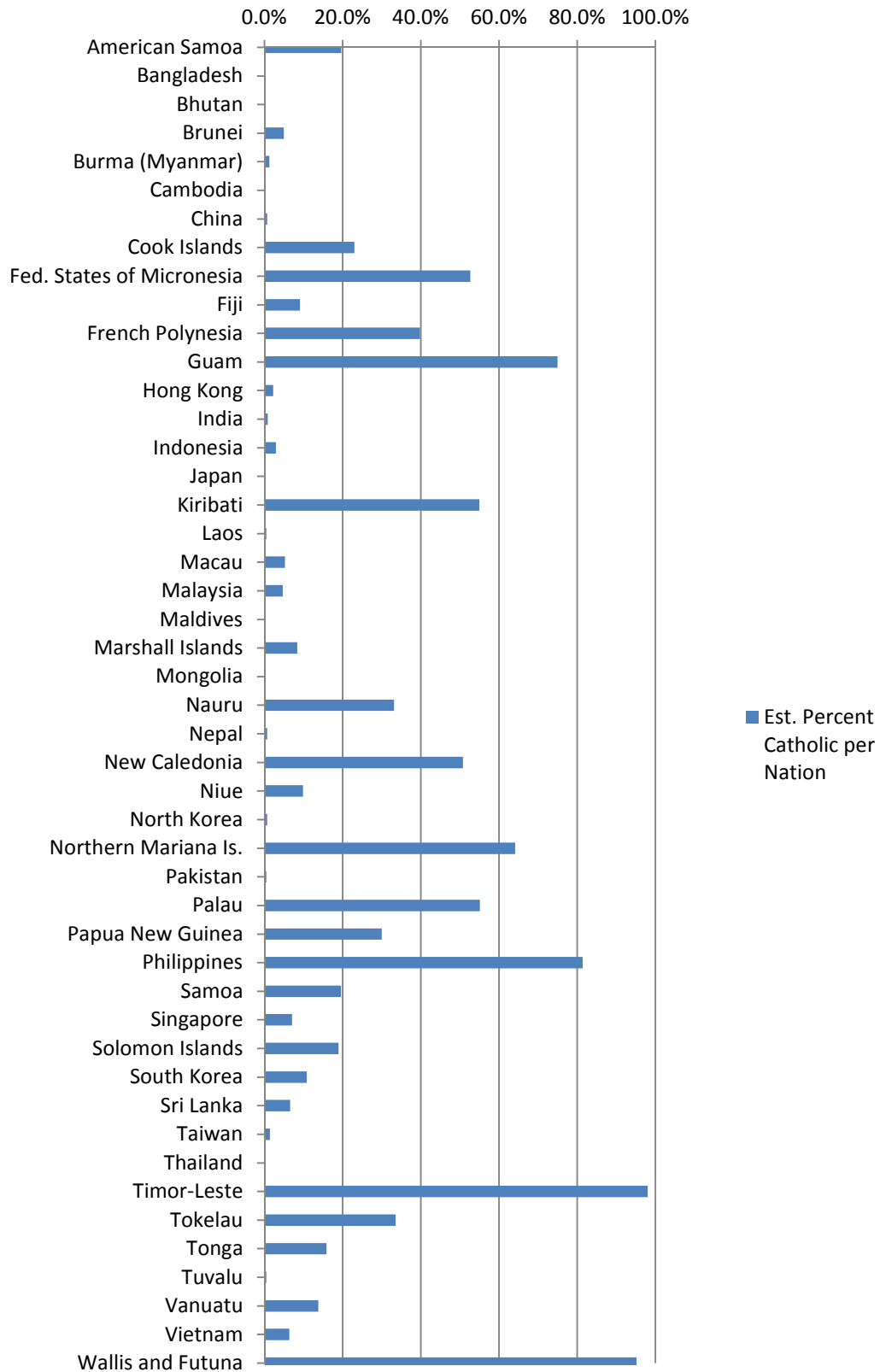


Table 1. Estimated Size and Percentages of Asian Catholics (2010)

Country or Territory of Origin	Estimated Number of Catholics	Catholic Percent of National Population	Catholic Percent of all Asian Catholics	Catholic Percent of all Asian Pacific Islander Catholics	Estimated National Population
Bangladesh	111,518	< 0.10%	0.09%	0.09%	148,690,000
Bhutan	548	< 0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	730,000
Brunei	20,000	5.00%	0.02%	0.02%	400,000
Burma (Myanmar)	623,480	1.30%	0.52%	0.51%	47,960,000
Cambodia	10,605	< 0.10%	0.01%	0.01%	14,140,000
China	9,389,380	0.70%	7.79%	7.61%	1,341,340,000
Hong Kong	162,150	2.30%	0.13%	0.13%	7,050,000
India	11,021,490	0.90%	9.14%	8.93%	1,224,610,000
Indonesia	7,196,100	3.00%	5.97%	5.83%	239,870,000
Japan	379,620	0.30%	0.31%	0.31%	126,540,000
Laos	31,000	0.50%	0.03%	0.03%	6,200,000
Macau	28,620	5.30%	0.02%	0.02%	540,000
Malaysia	1,334,800	4.70%	1.11%	1.08%	28,400,000
Maldives	960	0.30%	0.00%	0.00%	320,000
Mongolia	966	< 0.10%	0.00%	0.00%	2,760,000
Nepal	224,700	0.80%	0.19%	0.18%	29,960,000
North Korea	182,625	0.80%	0.15%	0.15%	24,350,000
Pakistan	867,950	0.50%	0.72%	0.70%	173,590,000
Philippines	75,913,640	81.40%	62.97%	61.49%	93,260,000
Singapore	361,390	7.10%	0.30%	0.29%	5,090,000
South Korea	5,251,620	10.90%	4.36%	4.25%	48,180,000
Sri Lanka	1,376,760	6.60%	1.14%	1.12%	20,860,000
Taiwan	325,080	1.40%	0.27%	0.26%	23,220,000
Thailand	207,360	0.30%	0.17%	0.17%	69,120,000
Timor-Leste	1,097,600	98.00%	0.91%	0.89%	1,120,000
Vietnam	5,622,400	6.40%	4.66%	4.55%	87,850,000

Source: Pew Research Religion and Public Life Project – Global Christianity – A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World’s Christian Population.

Notes: Percentage of Catholics in Asia and Asia and the Pacific Islands not included for nations with a “less than” estimate.

Table 2. Estimated Size and Percentages of Pacific Islander Catholics (2010)

Country or Territory of Origin	Estimated Catholic Population	Percent Catholic	Catholic Percent of all Pacific Island Catholics	Catholic Percent of all Asian & Pacific Island Catholics	Estimated National Population
American Samoa	13,790	19.70%	0.47%	0.01%	70,000
Cook Islands	4,600	23.00%	0.16%	0.00%	20,000
Federated States of Micronesia	57,970	52.70%	1.99%	0.05%	110,000
Fiji	78,260	9.10%	2.69%	0.06%	860,000
French Polynesia	107,460	39.80%	3.70%	0.09%	270,000
Guam	135,000	75.00%	4.64%	0.11%	180,000
Kiribati	55,000	55.00%	1.89%	0.04%	100,000
Marshall Islands	4,200	8.40%	0.14%	0.00%	50,000
Nauru	3,320	33.20%	0.11%	0.00%	10,000
New Caledonia	127,000	50.80%	4.37%	0.10%	250,000
Niue	990	9.90%	0.03%	0.00%	10,000
Northern Mariana Islands	38,460	64.10%	1.32%	0.03%	60,000
Palau	11,020	55.10%	0.38%	0.01%	20,000
Papua New Guinea	2,058,000	30.00%	70.79%	1.67%	6,860,000
Samoa	35,280	19.60%	1.21%	0.03%	180,000
Solomon Islands	102,600	19.00%	3.53%	0.08%	540,000
Tokelau	3,360	33.60%	0.12%	0.00%	10,000
Tonga	15,900	15.90%	0.55%	0.01%	100,000
Tuvalu	50	0.50%	0.00%	0.00%	10,000
Vanuatu	33,120	13.80%	1.14%	0.03%	240,000
Wallis and Futuna	9,520	95.20%	0.33%	0.01%	10,000

Table 3. Percentage of Catholics in Sending Nations and Asian American Ethnic Group

	Frequency*	Percent of Sending Nation
China	9,510,000	0.72%
Philippines	75,940,000	81.40%
India	10,570,000	0.90%
Japan	400,000	0.30%
South Korea	5,270,000	10.90%
Vietnam	5,590,000	6.40%
All Other Asian/Pacific Islander	16,017,540	2.66%

	Frequency	Percent of First Generation Asian American Ethnic Group
Chinese	55	7.6%
Filipino	356	70.6%
Indian	26	4.5%
Japanese	25	4.9%
Korean	62	12.3%
Vietnamese	156	31.0%
All Other Asian/Pacific Islander	22	12.9%

	Frequency	Percent of Second & Third Generation Asian American Ethnic Group
Chinese	34	8.4%
Filipino	115	37.3%
Indian	10	2.3%
Japanese	15	7.9%
Korean	7	1.8%
Vietnamese	30	7.3%
All Other Asian/Pacific Islander	13	15.1%

*Source: Pew Research Religion and Public Life Project – Global Christianity – A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World’s Christian Population and Pew Asian American Survey 2012. All figures are estimates.

Table 4. Demographic Characteristics of Asian American Catholics

Age	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
	691	51.0	51.6	45.8	43.7
Response Rate	98.4%				
Ethnic Group	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Chinese	55	7.8%	19.6%	11.1%	44.7%
Filipino	356	50.7%	10.3%	1.4%	4.5%
Indian	26	3.7%	8.0%	40.3%	7.0%
Japanese	25	3.6%	18.7%	14.3%	20.0%
Korean	62	8.8%	35.5%	2.3%	10.8%
Vietnamese	156	22.2%	4.2%	22.5%	8.8%
ALL Other Asian	22	3.1%	3.6%	8.1%	4.3%
TOTAL	702				
Response Rate	100.0%				
Generation	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
First Generation ^a	478	70.5%	60.6%	75.9%	56.2%
Second Generation ^b	178	26.3%	28.1%	18.0%	36.0%
Third Generation ^c	22	3.2%	11.3%	6.0%	7.8%
TOTAL	678				
Response Rate	96.6%				
Gender	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Male	341	48.6%	43.2%	53.1%	47.9%
Female	361	51.4%	56.8%	46.9%	52.1%
TOTAL	702				
Response Rate	100.0%				
Marital Status	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Married	446	63.7%	67.1%	67.4%	58.8%
Living with a partner	20	2.9%	2.2%	2.4%	3.7%
Divorced or Separated	58	8.3%	7.1%	5.1%	6.3%
Widowed	69	9.9%	8.9%	5.3%	2.6%
Never been married	107	15.3%	14.8%	19.9%	28.6%
TOTAL	700	100.0%			
Response Rate	99.7%				

^a Foreign born and raised abroad; ^b Native or emigrated at age < 13; ^c Respondent and both parents native-born

Table 5. Income and Education of Asian American Catholics

Income Bracket	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Less than \$10,000	72	11.5%	15.4%	9.0%	7.8%
10 to under \$20,000	70	11.1%	8.4%	9.6%	11.2%
20 to under \$30,000	61	9.7%	7.6%	7.6%	8.7%
30 to under \$40,000	40	6.4%	8.1%	6.4%	7.8%
40 to under \$50,000	56	8.9%	7.7%	8.8%	6.1%
50 to under \$75,000	105	16.7%	14.2%	14.7%	11.9%
75 to under \$100,000	84	13.4%	12.8%	14.7%	13.1%
100 to under \$150,000	72	11.5%	12.8%	14.8%	13.4%
\$150,000 or more	68	10.8%	13.0%	14.5%	19.9%
Mean		≈ 40,000 - \$50,000	≈ 40,000 - \$50,000	≈ 50,000 - \$75,000	≈ 50,000 - \$75,000
TOTAL	628				
Response Rate	89.5%				
Education	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Less than High School	31	4.4%	4.6%	5.8%	5.2%
High School (No Degree)	31	4.4%	2.3%	5.6%	3.2%
High School Graduate	115	16.5%	16.4%	16.6%	11.5%
Vocational/Tech School	15	2.1%	1.1%	1.6%	1.0%
College (No Bachelors)	116	16.6%	16.0%	12.1%	15.9%
College Graduate	268	38.4%	35.4%	25.6%	32.8%
Beyond Bachelor's	122	17.5%	24.2%	32.8%	30.3%
Mean		College – No Degree	College – No Degree	College – No Degree	College – No Degree
TOTAL	698				
Response Rate	99.4%				

Table 6. Religious Characteristics of Asian American Catholics

Religious Attendance	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Never	14	2.0%	4.4%	10.0%	47.6%
Seldom	61	8.7%	10.0%	17.6%	30.3%
A few times a year	91	13.0%	13.7%	33.3%	17.0%
Once or twice a month	89	12.8%	11.1%	21.1%	3.7%
Once a week	349	50.0%	30.7%	13.6%	1.2%
More than once a week	94	13.5%	30.1%	4.3%	0.2%
Mean		Once or twice a month	Once or twice a month	A few times a year	Seldom
TOTAL	698				
Response Rate	99.4%				
Prayer	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Never	15	2.2%	4.0%	11.0%	57.5%
Seldom	58	8.4%	8.6%	17.5%	24.4%
A few times a month	35	5.0%	7.9%	13.6%	5.8%
Once a week	49	7.1%	3.9%	6.1%	0.8%
A few times a week	83	12.0%	12.5%	12.9%	4.4%
Once a day	220	31.7%	22.6%	24.4%	4.4%
Several times a day	234	33.7%	40.5%	14.4%	2.6%
Mean		A few times a week	A few times a week	Once a week	Seldom
TOTAL	694	100.0%			
Response Rate	98.9%				
Religious Saliency	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Not at all important	10	1.4%	2.2%	5.6%	43.3%
Not too important	36	5.2%	7.9%	18.7%	33.8%
Somewhat important	198	28.3%	26.6%	42.0%	19.5%
Very important	455	65.1%	63.3%	33.8%	3.4%
Mean		Very important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important
TOTAL	699	100.0%			
Response Rate	99.6%				

Table 7. Religious Retention and Switching among API Catholics

Religious Switching	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Same Religions as Child	601	76.5%	73.5%	66.6%	56.6%
Converted to Catholic	-	-	3.5%	3.1%	5.3%
Converted to Other Christian	92	11.7%	-	10.5%	26.8%
Converted to Other Religion	23	2.9%	4.8%	-	11.3%
Converted to No Religion	70	8.9%	18.2%	19.8%	-
TOTAL	786				

Religious Conversion	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Same Religions as Child	601	85.7%	54.4%	87.8%	43.9%
Convert from Catholic	-	-	10.3%	2.2%	8.5%
Convert from Other Christian	23	3.3%	-	3.1%	14.6%
Convert from Other Religion	43	6.1%	16.1%	-	33.0%
Convert from No Religion	34	4.9%	19.1%	6.9%	-
TOTAL	701				

Table 8. Rates of Interfaith Marriage and Views of the Bible

Interfaith Marriage	Catholics	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Married Inside Religion	399	86.0%	73.9%	77.7%	62.5%
Married Outside Religion	65	14.0%	26.1%	22.3%	37.5%
TOTAL	464	100.0%			

Bible Views	Catholic Frequency	% or Mean for Catholics	Other Christians	Other Religion	No Religion
Inspired and Literal	223	33.0%	48.7%	15.4%	2.7%
Inspired but Not Literal	287	42.5%	36.1%	24.5%	10.1%
Not Inspired	165	24.4%	15.1%	60.1%	87.2%
TOTAL	675	100.0%			
Response Rate		96.2%			