

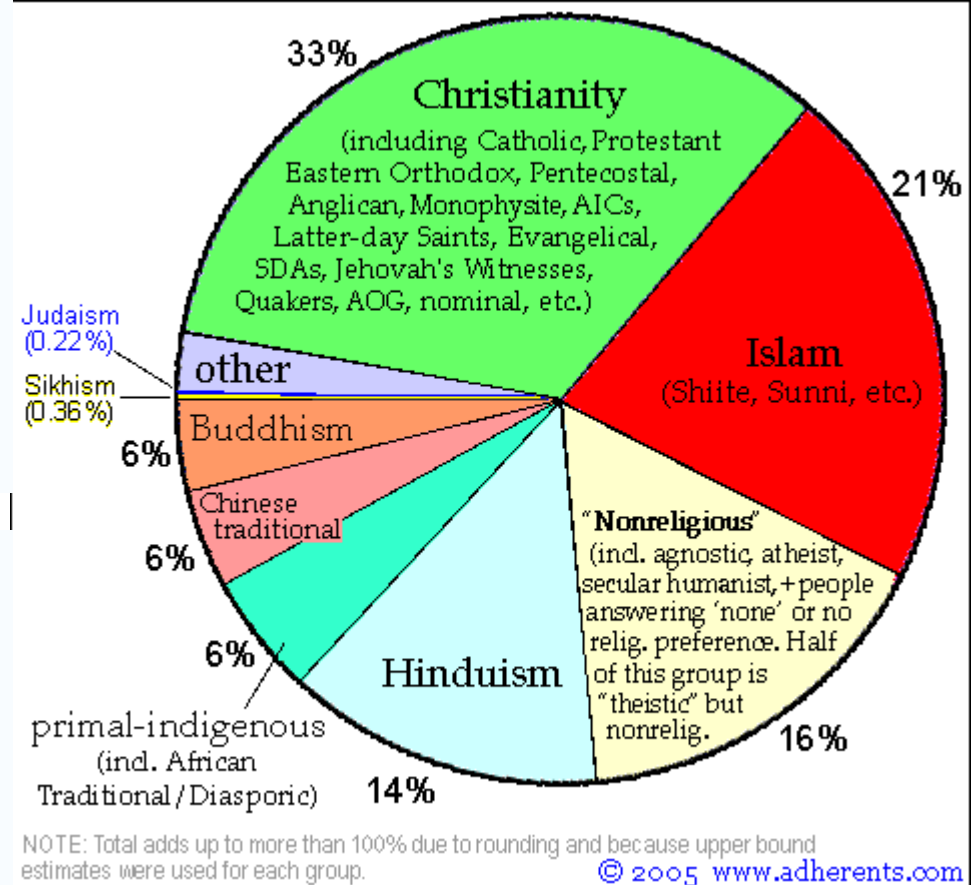
All religions or belief systems by number of adherents

Major world religions From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia:
accessed February 25, 2006

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_religions

This listing does not draw distinctions between organized religion, which has a single belief code and religious hierarchies, and informal religions, such as Chinese folk religion, which are a mix of different folk religious ideas.

1. Christianity 2.1 billion
 - o Roman Catholicism: 1.1 billion
 - o Protestantism: 350 million
 - o Eastern Orthodoxy: 240 million
 - o Anglican: 84 million
 - o Oriental Orthodoxy, Assyrians, and other Christians: 350 million
2. Islam 1.3 billion
 - o Sunnism: 940 million
 - o Shi'ism: 170 million
 - o Sufi, Ibadiyyah, Ahmadiyyah, Druze and other Muslims : 2 million
3. Secular/Irreligious/Agnostic/Atheist 1.1 billion
4. Hinduism 900 million
5. Chinese folk religion 394 million
 - o Not a single organized religion, includes elements of Taoism,Confucianism, Buddhism Chinese folk religion, and traditional nonscriptural religious observance.
6. Buddhism 376 million (see also Buddhism by country)
 - o Mahayana: 185 million
 - o Theravada: 124 million
7. Primal indigenous 300 million
 - o Not a single organized religion, includes a wide range of primarily Asian traditional or tribal religions, including Shamanism and Paganism.
8. African traditional and diasporic 100 million



- Not a single organized religion, this includes traditional African beliefs such as Yoruba as well as diasporic beliefs such as Santeria (which itself draws from Catholicism) and Vodoun.
 - 9. Sikhism 23 million
 - 10. Juche 19 million
 - Not considered a religion by adherents, who view it as secular and anti-revisionist. Juche is the political ideology of the Workers Party of Korea, the ruling party of the DPRK; some have argued it constitutes a religion due to its Great Leader Worship characteristics. The number is approximately the entire population of the country.
 - 11. Spiritism 15 million
 - Not a single organized religion, includes a variety of beliefs including some forms of Umbanda.
 - 12. Judaism 14 million
 - 13. Falun Gong 10-100 million*
 - Not necessarily considered a religion by adherents or outside observers. No membership or rosters, thus the actual figure of practitioners is impossible to confirm.
 - 14. Bahá'í Faith 7 million
 - 15. Jainism 4.2 million
 - 16. Shinto 4 million
 - 17. Cao Dai 4 million
 - 18. Zoroastrianism 2.6 million
 - 19. Tenrikyo 2 million
 - 20. Neopaganism 1 million
 - A blanket term for several religions like Wicca, Magik and Druidry
 - 21. Unitarian Universalism 800,000
 - 22. Rasta 600,000
 - 23. Scientology 500,000
- Source of statistics for all religions except Falun Gong: adherents.com, updated 2005. These statistics are based on analysis of a range of sources on religious populations, for more on the methodology, please see Adherent.com's explanation.

*Falun Gong estimate that of the People's Republic of China, other estimates are much higher.

Organized religions by population ranking

The Christian Science Monitor used a separate standard, examining only organized religions. The newspaper listed the following in 1998 as the "Top 10 Organized Religions in the World" based on descending level of population:

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. <u>Christianity</u> | 7. <u>Bahá'í Faith</u> |
| 2. <u>Islam</u> | 8. <u>Confucianism</u> |
| 3. <u>Hinduism</u> | 9. <u>Jainism</u> |
| 4. <u>Buddhism</u> | 10. <u>Shintoism</u> |
| 5. <u>Sikhism</u> | |
| 6. <u>Judaism</u> | |