

## Appendix B: Religious Demography of Sub-Saharan Africa

This appendix provides statistical estimates for the distribution of Christians, Muslims and other religious groups in the 19 countries surveyed by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. In addition to the Pew Forum's 2009 data, results are shown from national censuses, demographic and health surveys, and other general population surveys.

### Sources

National censuses are the best starting point for the distribution of religious adherents because they generally cover the entire population. Some censuses, such as South Africa's, even provide layers of detail under the major religious traditions. Censuses, however, can be affected by methodological decisions, political bias and social concerns that affect how the data are managed and whether respondents feel free to be truthful.

In the absence of reliable census data on religion, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)<sup>1</sup> provide nationally representative data on religion that is highly regarded by experts. The DHS usually sample at least 7,000 households and are often repeated at multiple time points. The DHS generally survey people ages 15 to 49 and oversample (and sometimes only sample) women. This is a limitation, since religious adherence differs, albeit slightly, by sex and age.

General population surveys such as those by the Pew Global Attitudes Project and Afrobarometer also provide valuable information on the percentage of the population belonging to major religious groups.<sup>2</sup> Because general population surveys typically involve 1,000 to 2,000 respondents, however, they cannot provide accurate detail on the size of small religious groups.

Readers should note that the Pew Forum's Africa survey was not designed to provide the level of demographic detail and precision possible in a census or very large sample survey. Nonetheless, survey results are presented on the general religious makeup of each country. Given the limited sample size and coverage of the surveys, these findings should be viewed as broad approximations.

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<sup>1</sup> The MEASURE DHS (Demographic and Health Surveys) project has provided technical assistance to more than 240 surveys in 84 countries since 1984. DHS is funded by USAID and other donors and collects and disseminates nationally representative demographic and health data ([www.measuredhs.com](http://www.measuredhs.com)).

<sup>2</sup> The Afrobarometer survey is coordinated by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa, the Ghana Center for Democratic Development, the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy in Benin and Michigan State University. The 2008 round of the Afrobarometer survey included surveys in 19 countries. It was funded by the Canadian International Development Agency, the U.K. Department for International Development, the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the U.S. Agency for International Development (<http://afrobarometer.org/index.html>).

Estimates of the Religious Makeup of 19 Sub-Saharan African Countries From Various Sources					
	Pew Forum	Census	DHS	Afrobarometer	Pew Global Attitudes Project
<b>Botswana</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2001</b>		<b>2008</b>	
Christian	87	72		70	
Muslim	2	<1		1	
Other/None	11	28		29	
<b>Cameroon</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>2004</b>		
Christian	80	69	70		
Muslim	16	2	18		
Other/None	3	29	12		
<b>Chad</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>2004</b>		
Christian	40	35	40		
Muslim	54	54	56		
Other/None	7	11	4		
<b>DR Congo</b>	<b>2009</b>		<b>2007</b>		
Christian	80		96		
Muslim	12		1		
Other/None	8		3		
<b>Djibouti</b>	<b>2009</b>				
Christian	2				
Muslim	97				
Other/None	1				
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2005</b>		<b>2007*</b>
Christian	69	63	68		54
Muslim	30	34	29		36
Other/None	1	3	3		11
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Christian	83	69	75	79	77
Muslim	11	16	16	16	15
Other/None	5	15	9	6	8
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1950</b>			
Christian	62	2			
Muslim	38	35			
Other/None	1	63			
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Christian	88	54	89	86	91
Muslim	11	8	7	9	7
Other/None	0	38	4	4	2
<b>Liberia</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	
Christian	69	86	84	87	
Muslim	19	12	11	10	
Other/None	12	2	5	3	

	Pew Forum	Census	DHS	Afrobarometer	Pew Global Attitudes Project
<b>Mali</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Christian	8	1	3	4	7
Muslim	90	76	93	92	90
Other/None	2	23	4	4	3
<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2008</b>	
Christian	63	52	65	60	
Muslim	23	18	19	23	
Other/None	15	30	16	17	
<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>	
Christian	46	36	53	56	
Muslim	52	48	45	43	
Other/None	1	16	2	1	
<b>Rwanda</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2005</b>		
Christian	93	93	96		
Muslim	5	2	2		
Other/None	2	5	2		
<b>Senegal</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Christian	10	4	4	3	3
Muslim	89	94	96	96	97
Other/None	1	2	<1	<1	0
<b>South Africa</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2001</b>		<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>
Christian	87	80		76	74
Muslim	2	1		2	1
Other/None	11	19		22	25
<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>1967</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2008</b>
Christian	60	34	57	63	64
Muslim	36	31	30	29	35
Other/None	4	35	13	8	--
<b>Uganda</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2007</b>
Christian	86	84	87	89	85
Muslim	13	12	12	11	13
Other/None	1	4	2	<1	2
<b>Zambia</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	
Christian	98	87	98	85	
Muslim	2	<1	1	0	
Other/None	1	13	2	15	

\* Disproportionately urban sample