

Appendix: How did we account for Buddhists who aren't proficient in English?

With more than 36,000 participants, Pew Research Center's 2023-24 Religious Landscape Study (RLS) can provide data on the demographic characteristics and religious experiences of many religious groups in the United States, including Buddhists. However, we conducted the RLS in just two languages, English and Spanish. As a result, people who are not proficient in either of those languages were unable to participate.

Our [2022-23 Survey of Asian Americans](#) (SAA) focused on Asian adults, not all U.S. adults. But the SAA surveyed people in six languages: Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), English, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese. We found that 21% of the Asians or Asian Americans who identified as Buddhist chose to complete the SAA in a language other than English.

To represent the racial and immigration characteristics of *all* U.S. Buddhists, this analysis combines data from both sources. We took data for non-Asian U.S. adults from the RLS, and we took data for Asians and Asian Americans from the SAA. Then we weighted the results based on the relative sizes of the non-Asian and Asian populations, using data from the [2020 U.S. census](#).

Our analysis of religious switching relies solely on the RLS because the SAA did not ask about people's childhood religion. Therefore, the figures on religious switching are representative only of English and Spanish speakers.