Survey on religious affiliation at YLS

Catholic Law Students Association
Jewish Law Students Association
Muslim Law Students Association

October 2011

374 responses (54% of YLS students)
  • Response rate comparable to that of Yale College religious affiliation survey (51%)
  • Responses by class
    – 1Ls: 104
    – 2Ls: 135
    – 3Ls: 114
    – LLM/JSD/other/preferred not to answer: 21

Results may reflect selection bias among respondents
  • N.B. that Yale College data is based on self-reported religious affiliation at matriculation
Summary: Religious affiliation at YLS

- **Jewish**: 21%
- **Agnostic**: 20%
- **Atheist**: 14%
- **Roman Catholic**: 13%
- **Mormon**: 1%
- **Other Christian**: 20%
- **Unitarian Universalist**: 5%
- **Buddhist**: 2%
- **Muslim**: 1%
- **Hindu**: 1%
- **Other**: 1%

1. The only non-unique response within “Other” was Sikh (0.5%).

Note: Religious affiliation coded by primary response.
### Detail: Religious affiliation at YLS by class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1L</th>
<th>2L</th>
<th>3L</th>
<th>Other¹</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>35.6%</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>32.5%</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roman Catholic</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondenominational Christian</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopal/Anglican</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox Christian</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian (other)</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Jewish</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reform</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthodox</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other²</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agnostic</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Agnostic</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Atheist</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atheist</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>13.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hindu</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unitarian Universalist</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buddhist</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Muslim</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other (please specify)</strong></td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Includes LLM, JSD, other, and “Prefer not to answer.” 2. Includes Reconstructionist (1%).
Religious affiliation: YLS vs. Yale College

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
<th>YLS</th>
<th>Yale College¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian (other)</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unitarian Universalist</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnostic</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atheist</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Difference (pct. points)

- Catholic: 6
- Mormon: -19
- Christian (other): -12
- Jewish: 0
- Hindu: 0
- Muslim: -2
- Buddhist: -1
- Unitarian Universalist: 0
- Agnostic: 20
- Atheist: 1
- Other: 4

¹. Based on voluntary self-reporting at matriculation.
How important is religion in your life?

YS vs. United States

Prefer not to answer

YS: 3%
United States: 1%

Not too/not at all important

YS: 49%
United States: 26%

Somewhat important

YS: 22%
United States: 56%

Very important

YS: 26%
United States: 16%

How important is religion in your life?

YLS by affiliation

1. Includes Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Unitarian Universalist, and other affiliations.