

RELIGIOSITY SURVEY

Information and Analysis

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in collaboration with **The Aspen Institute, Religion & Society Program**

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Religiosity

We define religiosity as a measure of religious devotion demonstrated through actions performed either for the benefit of the devotee or to minister to others who may or may not share the same religious beliefs. Religiosity may be measured at the individual level or the organizational level (Ebaugh, 2010).

Our team used the literature review section from Helen Rose Ebaugh et al's 2010 article, [Where's the Faith in Faith-Based Organizations - Measures and Correlates of Religiosity in Faith-Based Social Service Coalitions](#), to create an overarching list of religious signifiers. We eliminated duplicate concepts and organized the signifiers into four categories. The four categories, listed below, allow us to consider the various ways religion presents itself in funder groups and philanthropic foundations.

1. Inter-organizational operations
2. Intra-organizational operations
3. Physical and virtual environments
4. Funding sources

Scoring Religiosity

Our religiosity survey asks funder groups and philanthropic foundations to indicate the extent to which religion influences their organization's inter- and intra-organizational operations, environment, and finances. The survey for funder groups contains 16 questions: 4 introduction questions and 12 topical questions. The survey for foundations contains 19 questions: 4 introduction questions and 15 topical questions. Each question has one of three types of response options: binary (yes/no), percentage (%), and 5-point Likert scale.

We will use responses to the topical questions to calculate an organization's religiosity score. Each question is worth 1 point. A funder group's religiosity score can range from 0 points (no religiosity/completely secular) to 12 points (high religiosity). A foundation's religiosity score can range from 0 points (no religiosity/completely secular) to 15 points (high religiosity).

The scoring for each type of response option is outlined below:

Binary: Yes (1 point) / No (0 points)

Percentage: Equivalent to the percentage. Ex: 68% (0.68 points), 32% (0.32 points)

5-point Likert scale: Always (1 point), Often (0.75 points), Sometimes (0.5 points), Rarely (0.25 points), Never (0 points), Not applicable (0 points)

References

Ebaugh, H. R., Chafetz, J. S., & Pipes, P. F. (2006). Where's the faith in faith-based organizations? Measures and correlates of religiosity in faith-based social service coalitions, *Social Forces*, 84(4), pp. 2259-2272. <https://doi.org/10.1353/sof.2006.0086>