

The people Who Call Themselves Nazarenes:

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A Portrait Drawn from the CUNY Survey of American Religious Affiliation Conducted from April 1989 through April 1990 Prepared for the Church Growth Division of the Church of the Nazarene Bill M. Sullivan, Director

From April of 1989 through April of 1990 a national survey of religious identification was conducted for the City University of New York by the ICR Survey Research Group of Media, Pennsylvania, as part of their omnibus market research (EXCEL) survey. Telephone interviews with 113,000 American households in the continental United States were conducted at various times of day, with some bias toward even interviews. If the call was not answered on the first attempt, up to three additional attempts were made during a four day period. In order to obtain random responses within households, interviewers asked to speak with the person eighteen years or older whose birthday was most recent.

The primary question in the study was, "What is your religion?" The sample used in the study was so large that the relatively small percentage of Americans who are Nazarenes are represented in a large enough number for analysis on their own. Those 385 respondents who identified themselves as Nazarene are the subject of this report. The socio-demographic questions which were asked of all respondents permit the construction of a portrait of the people who call themselves Nazarenes.

Personal Characteristics

The gender distribution of adult Nazarenes is almost precisely the same as the larger society. Females are a slight majority in the population and among the Nazarenes.

<i>Table 1</i>		
<i>Gender Distributions</i>		
	<i>Adult Americans</i>	<i>Adult Nazarenes</i>
Male	47.5%	47.3%
Female	52.5%	52.7%

Nzarenes appear to be younger than the larger society. While the proportion of adults who are 25 years old or younger is almost the same, the proportion over 65 years is only about half as large. There also appears to be a larger concentration of Nazarenes in the "Baby Boom" cohort - 26 through 45 years.

Table 2		
Age Distribution		
	Adult Americans	Adult Nazarenes
25 or under	16.9%	16.2%
26 through 45	41.9%	48.2%
46 through 65	21.1%	26.4%
Over 65	21.0%	9.2%

Nazarenes are not as ethnically diverse as the general population. Almost all respondents identified themselves as white.

Table 3		
Ethnic Identification		
	Adult Americans	Adult Nazarenes
Hispanic	5.6%	.3%
White	77.5%	97.4%
Black	13.5%	1.0%
Other	2.5%	1.6%

Family characteristics

Nazarenes have a smaller proportion of singles who have never married. They are slightly more likely to be married. While they also appear to be slightly more likely than the larger society to be widowed or divorced, the statistical margin of error for a sample of 385 is larger than the difference observed in table 4.

Table 4		
Marital Status		
	Adult	Adult

	<i>Americans</i>	<i>Nazarenes</i>
Single, never marries	21.3%	13.8%
Married	62.0%	68.8%
Separated	2.1%	0.8%
widowed	7.3%	8.1%
divorced	6.9%	8.6%

The proportion of households with only one person is about the same size for Nazarenes and the total population. However, Nazarenes tend to have more households with only two people than the total population.

<i>Table 5</i>						
<i>Size of Households</i>						
<i>Number</i>	<i>Family Size</i>		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>	
	<i>Total Nazarene</i>		<i>Total Nazarene</i>		<i>Total Nazarene</i>	
None	-	-	20.6%	14.5%	9.9%	5.7%
One	5.3%	5.5%	66.2	72.2%	76.3%	82.3%
Two	56.0%	66.2%	10.2%	10.4%	22.0%	10.6%
Three	12.9%	11.7%	1.9%	1.8%	2.9%	0.8%
Four	4.1%	4.4%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%
Five	1.0%	1.0%	0.15%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Six	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Seven	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Eight or more	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

A higher proportion of the Nazarene households with only two people appear to be childless couples, according to table 6. In each of the three age categories studied, the proportions with no children in the household are significantly higher among the Nazarenes than among the total population.

<i>Table 6</i>			
<i>Numbers of Children in Households</i>			
<i>Number</i>	<i>Under 6 Years</i>	<i>6 to 11 Years</i>	<i>12 to 17 Years</i>

	<i>Total Nazarene</i>		<i>Total Nazarene</i>		<i>Total Nazarene</i>	
None	21.2%	31.9%	20.8%	27.3%	20.7%	26.5%
One	11.9%	12.7%	11.9%	15.3%	12.2%	16.1%
Two	4.8%	5.5%	4.9%	7.3%	4.6%	5.7%
Three	0.7%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	2.1%
Four	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%

Educational Attainment

High school graduation is the highest level of formal education completed for about six out of ten (57%) adult Americans. This proportion appears to be slightly higher (65%) among Nazarene adults. At the 95% confidence level, the margin of error for a sample of 385 with a proportion of 65% would be 5%.

<i>Table 7</i>		
<i>Formal Education</i>		
	<i>Adult Americans</i>	<i>Adult Nazarenes</i>
Less than high school	21.4%	20.0%
High School graduate	35.6%	44.7%
Technical school*	1.7%	0.5%
Some college	21.1%	17.1%
College graduate	13.8%%	12.5%
Graduate school or more	5.9%	3.9%

Economic Characteristics

Most (69%) American adults and most (72%) adult Nazarenes own their own home. This proportion among Nazarenes may be slightly higher than in the larger society.

<i>Table 8</i>		
<i>Home Ownership</i>		
<i>Is your home owned or rented?</i>		
	<i>Adult</i>	<i>Adult</i>

	<i>Americans</i>	<i>Nazarenes</i>
Owned	69.0%	72.2%
Rented	30.2%	26.8%

Totals do not equal 100% since some respondents did not answer the question.

Half of the Nazarene adults are employed full-time. Nazarene employment patterns are very similar to those found in the total population.

Table 10		
<i>Before Taxes Total Annual Household Income From All Sources</i>		
<i>Family Income</i>	<i>Adult Americans</i>	<i>Adult Nazarenes</i>
Less than \$10,000	13.5%	14.0%
\$10,000 but less than \$15,000	13.5%	14.0%
\$15,000 but less than \$20,000	9.4%	10.1%
\$20,000 but less than \$25,000	9.7%	13.0%
\$25,000 but less than \$30,000	9.4%	10.1%
\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	12.1%	16.4%
\$40,000 but less than \$50,000	8.5%	8.6%
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	8.9%	4.7%
\$75,000 and over	4.8%	1.3%

Political Identification

In contrast to the larger population, Nazarenes are more likely to identify themselves politically as Republican than anything else. However, a majority of Nazarenes do not identify themselves as Republican.

Table 11

<i>Political Party Identification</i>		
	<i>Adult Americans</i>	<i>Adult Nazarenes</i>
Republican	29.0%	41.8%
Democrat	35.0%	28.6%
Independent	29.1%	24.9%

Totals do not equal 100% since some people did not identify with any of these groups.

Summary

A slight majority of adult Nazarenes are female. This matches the larger population.

In age, fewer Nazarenes are over 65 years old than in the larger society. Nazarenes are more likely to be in the "Baby Boom" cohort - 26 through 45 years - or between 45 and 65 than is found in the total population.

Nzarenes are not as ethnically diverse as the general population. Almost all respondents identified themselves as white.

In family characteristics, Nazarenes are less likely to be never-married singles. More are married. Widowhood, separation, and divorce appear to be as common among Nazarenes as in the total American population. Family size appears to be smaller for Nazarenes, with fewer children in any of the age categories studied.

Educational attainment for Nazarenes is not unusual. In spite of an impressive network of colleges, most adult members have not attended college.

Most adult Nazarenes own their own home. Half of the Nazarene adults are employed full-time. Nazarene employment patterns are very similar to those found in the total population.

While there appears to have been a rise in socio-economic status over the last few decades, Nazarenes tend to have moderate incomes. Almost half appear to have total annual household incomes of under \$25,000.

In contrast to the larger population, Nazarenes are more likely to identify themselves politically as Republican than anything else. However, a majority of Nazarenes do not identify themselves as Republican.

National Survey of Religious Identification: A Comparison of the

**People Who Call Themselves Nazarenes
With the Total Sample of Americans in
This Study**

	Adult Americans %	Adult Nazarenes %
1. Is your home owned or rented?		
Owned	69.0	72.2
Rented	30.2	26.8
Refuse or don't know	.4	1.0
2. Are you:		
Single, that is, never married	21.3	13.8
Married	62.2	68.8
Separated	2.1	.8
Widowed	7.3	8.1
Divorced	6.9	8.6
Refused	.4	.0
3. Would you consider yourself to be the head of this household?		
Yes	83.0	89.9
NO	16.6	9.9
Refuse or don't know	.3	.3
4a. If not employed, are you		
Retired	17.3	15.3
A Housewife	9.0	12.5
A student	3.0	1.0
Temporarily unemployed	3.0	1.0
5. Including yourself, how many people are there living in your household?		
One	19.6	10.6
Two	32.2	32.2
Three	18.8	20.3
Four	16.8	22.9
Five	7.7	9.9
Six	2.6	3.4
Seven	.9	.3
Eight or more	.6	.0

Refused	.7	.5
5a. If number of people in the household is ore than one: How many of these are adults, 18 or older?		
One	5.3	5.5
Two	56.0	66.2
Three	12.9	11.7
Four	4.1	4.4
Five	1.0	1.0
Six	.3	.0
Seven	.1	.0
Eight or more	.1	.0
20.3% of total sample were not asked this question		
11.2% of Nazarenes were not ask this question		
5b. How many of these adults are male?		
None	20.6	14.5
One	66.2	72.2
Two	10.2	10.4
Three	1.9	1.8
Four	.3	.5
Five	.1	.0
.7% of total sample were not asked this question		
.5% of Nazarenes were not asked this question		
5c. How many of these adults are female?		
None	9.9	4.7
One	76.3	82.3
Two	22.0	10.6
Three	2.9	.8
Four	.4	.0
.7% of total sample were not asked this question		
.5% of Nazarenes were not asked this question		
5d. How many are children 12 to 17?		
None	20.7	26.5
One	12.2	16.1
Two	4.6	5.7
Three	.9	.2.1
Four	.2	.3
.61.3% of total sample were not asked this question		
.49.4% of Nazarenes were not asked this question		
5e. How many are children 6 to 11?		

None	20.8	27.3
One	11.9	15.3
Two	4.9	7.3
Three	.8	.8
Four	.1	.0
.61.3% of total sample were not asked this question		
.49.4% of Nazarenes were not asked this question		
5f. How many are children are under 6?		
None	21.2	31.9
One	11.9	12.7
Two	4.8	5.5
Three	.7	.5
Four	.1	.0
.61.3% of total sample were not asked this question		
.49.4% of Nazarenes were not asked this question		
6. What's your age?		
25 or under	16.9	16.2
26-45	41.9	48.2
46-65	21.1	26.4
Over 65	20.1	9.2
7. What is the last grade of school you completed?		
Less than high school education	21.4	20.0
High School graduate	35.6	44.7
Technical School or other	1.7	.5
Some college	21.1	17.1
Graduate College	13.8	12.5
Graduate School or more	5.9	3.9
Refused	.6	1.3
8. Is your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes:		
Less than \$10,000	13.5	14.0
10,000 but less than \$15,000	9.4	10.1
\$15,000 but less than \$20,000	9.7	13.0
\$20,000 but less than \$25,000	9.7	10.9
\$25,000 but less than \$30,000	9.4	10.1

\$30,000 but less than \$40,000	12.1	16.4
\$50,000 but less than \$75,000	8.5	8.6
\$75,000 and over	4.8	1.3
Don't know or refused	13.9	10.9
9. Are you of Hispanic origin or background?		
Yes	5.6	.3
No	93.0	98.2
Don't know or refused	1.5	1.6
9a. Are you White Hispanic or Black Hispanic?		
White	4.4	.3
Black	.8	.0
Don't know or refused	.4	.0
10. Would you consider yourself to the White, Black or of some other race?		
White	82.0	97.4
Black	14.3	1.0
Don't know or refused	3.6	1.6
11. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as:		
A Republican	29.0	41.8
A Democrat	35.0	28.6
An Independent	29.1	24.9
Don't know or refused	6.9	4.6
12. Sex of respondent?		
Male	47.5	47.3
Female	52.5	52.7