The General Social Survey

GSS

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SUMMARY

Increased concerns of disclosure risk led to a variety of changes beginning with the 2024 General Social Survey (GSS) cross-section data release. As such, new variables are being constructed that preserve the rich data the GSS collects, while balancing data utility and respondent privacy. With the removal of variables identifying specific Protestant denominations (DENOM, expanded version) and other Protestant denominations (OTHER) from the public-use data file, the GSS PIs and research team looked to other resources to preserve detailed religious affiliation.

We use previously released (1972-2024) and unreleased (2024) GSS data to construct a user-generated variable that measures religious tradition, RELTRAD (Steensland et al. 2000). We then adapted that code to construct a new variable of religious tradition at age 16, RELTRAD16. In doing so, the GSS continues to make strides to protect respondent identity while providing robust data on religious affiliation.

The respondent-level RELTRAD was made available in Release 2 of the 2024 GSS cross-section. Religious tradition at age 16 (RELTRAD16) was made available in Release 3. RELTRAD and RELTRAD16 are available to the public on the GSS website[1] and on the GSS Data Explorer.[2]

BACKGROUND

NORC has enhanced privacy protections in the GSS and developed a plan for the 2024 data release to reduce identification risks, especially in demographic variables. The GSS has always been committed to ensuring the confidentiality of respondents and has engaged in various forms of disclosure review over its 50-year history. Due to recent advances in computing and the growing availability of personal data, the risk of re-identifying GSS respondents has increased. In response, the GSS team implemented changes in the 2024 data release, restricting or coarsening variables that pose higher disclosure risks. Among key religious variables, the GSS has coarsened, the collapsing or top/bottom coding of sensitive or low-frequency categories, or restricted the release. See Appendix A for the full list of religious identity variables in the GSS.

Historically, the GSS has released a series of detailed religious affiliation measures, including RELIG, DENOM, OTHER, and JEW (as well as its corresponding variants for the respondent at age 16 and the respondent's spouse/partner). Following the disclosure review process for the 2024 GSS Cross-section described above, reductions in the level of detail provided on religious affiliation were required. As such, DENOM was coarsened down to the seven major denominations (consistent with what the GSS captured during its first decade), and OTHER and JEW were removed from the public datafile. The historical DENOM variable, OTHER, and JEW will be available via the sensitive data process. These changes also apply to the corresponding variants of these variables (e.g., RELIG16, SPDEN).

To compensate for the loss of detailed religious affiliation data in the public dataset, the GSS introduced a new religion variable that offers more nuance than RELIG and the coarsened version of DENOM.[3] GSS PIs chose to replicate and formally release a heavily cited (e.g., Olson et al. 2006; Shelt 2018, Smidt 2019) variable generated

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[1] https://gss.norc.org/get-the-data.html
[2] https://gssdataexplorer.norc.org/
[3] DENOM was coarsened to the larger groups of Protestant denominations (e.g., "Baptist") instead of specific Protestant denominations (e.g., "American Baptist Association", "Southern Baptist Convention") now historically referenced in DENOM_7222. Please see the 2024 GSS codebook to read more about the coarsening procedure.

from these impacted variables: RELTRAD, a measure of religious tradition. Our goal was to strictly reproduce the approach detailed in Steensland et al. (2000) along with the subsequent corrections from Stetzer and Burge (2015), without any additional religious coding by the GSS team in its replication. We then use that existing code to create the corresponding variants for the respondent at age 16, where respondent information is available (see Methods below). Details regarding the creation of RELTRAD and RELTRAD16 are covered in Appendix B and C, respectively.

METHODS

Data

We use previously released (1972-2022) and unreleased (2024) GSS data to reproduce the user-generated variable RELTRAD. RELTRAD uses the following GSS variables to create the respondent's religious tradition:

- RELIG – This is the primary variable asking respondents, "What is your religious preference?" Respondents can choose from nine categories.
- DENOM – Respondents are routed to the denomination series of questions if they choose "Protestant" under RELIG.
- OTHER - This is a recoded variable based on verbatim responses from respondents after choosing "other" Protestant choices.
- ATTEND – This question measures religious behavior by asking respondents, "How often do you attend religious services?" Response options range from "never" to "several times a week."
- RACE - This race variable categorizes respondents into three categories: White, Black, or Other.

We use the same data to adapt the code to religious tradition at age 16 (RELTRAD16), apart from ATTEND. The GSS does not ask about respondents' religious attendance at age 16, and there is no comparable variable to replace this measure. RELTRAD16 uses the following GSS variables to create the respondent's religious tradition at age 16:

- RELIG16 – This is the primary variable asking respondents, "In what religion were you raised?" Respondents can choose from nine categories.
- DENOM16 – Respondents are routed to the denomination series of questions if they choose "Protestant" under RELIG16.
- OTH16 - This is a recoded variable based on verbatim responses from respondents after choosing "other" Protestant choices.
- RACE - This race variable categorizes respondents into three categories: White, Black, or Other.

Variable Construction

First, we recreate the RELTRAD code made available from Steensland et al. (2000), along with the subsequent corrections from Stetzer and Burge (2015), in Stata with the R4 release of the 1972-2022 public use data file. Here, we identify that the most recent RELTRAD code we reference (Steensland et al. 2000) stops at OTHER category 148. Please see Appendix B for the SAS code used to create RELTRAD.

Next, we adapt that code to SAS, where the current GSS is primarily cleaned and disseminated for public use. Because there are other Protestant denominations (variables OTHER and OTH16) that have categories that can go to value 225, we assign the uncategorized values (149+) to ".z: Variable-specific reserve code."

The process to construct RELTRAD was the same as RELTRAD16, using the religion at age 16 suite of variables (detailed above) and excluding the use of variable ATTEND. Please see Appendix C for the SAS code used to create RELTRAD16.

Due to the construction of RELTRAD and RELTRAD16, respondent counts and missing data will not match those of RELIG and RELIG16 across years. For example, RELTRAD uses attendance of religious services (ATTEND) and the respondent's race (RACE), in addition to the religious preference variables. Because there is no measure for attendance of religious services at age 16, RELTRAD16's construction does not include a comparable ATTEND variable. Please see Appendix D and E for respondent counts and missing data of RELTRAD and RELTRAD16 (respectively) across GSS years.

RESULTS

RELTRAD Variables

Exhibits 1 and 2 show weighted[4] proportions from the 2024 GSS. Exhibit 1 shows that the nonaffiliated category has the highest proportion of respondents (28%), followed by Catholic (23.4%). The normally large Protestant group of RELIG (see Exhibit 3) is divided into three categories: evangelical Protestant (21.5%), mainline Protestant (9.6%), and Black Protestant (5%). The remaining categories of religious tradition include the Jewish faith (1.8%) and a category for other faiths (11%).

Exhibit 1. Respondent Religious Tradition (RELTRAD) in the 2024 GSS (n=2,989).

Religious Tradition	Weighted %
Evangelical Protestant	21.5
Mainline Protestant	9.6
Black Protestant	4.9
Catholic	23.4
Jewish	1.8
Other Faith	10.9
Nonaffiliated	27.9

Note: Proportions weighted with GSS weight WTSSPS. Missing values (e.g., "no answer") are not shown.

Differing from the current religious tradition of respondents in Exhibit 1, Exhibit 2 shows that the Catholic category has the highest proportion of respondents' religious tradition at age 16 (35.7%). The three Protestant categories are also slightly more distributed: evangelical Protestant (18.2%), mainline Protestant (14.2%), and Black Protestant (6.5%). The remaining categories of religious tradition at age 16 include the nonaffiliated category (14.1%), Jewish faith (1.9%), and a category for other faiths (9.4%).

Exhibit 2. Respondent at Age 16 Religious Tradition (RELTRAD16) in the 2024 GSS (n=3,002).

Religious Tradition	Weighted %
Evangelical Protestant	18.2
Mainline Protestant	14.2
Black Protestant	6.5
Catholic	35.7

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[4] All weighted proportions are weighted with GSS weight WTSSPS.

| Jewish	1.9
Other Faith	9.4
Nonaffiliated	14.1

Note: Proportions weighted with GSS weight WTSSPS. Missing values (e.g., "no answer") are not shown.

While the 2024 data is shown above, RELTRAD and RELTRAD16 have been applied through all applicable years. Users can access this data through gss.norc.org or the GSS Data Explorer website.

Protestant Comparison of RELTRAD with RELIG

To demonstrate the added nuance that the variable RELTRAD brings to the GSS, Exhibit 3 reports the single Protestant category from RELIG across years, while Exhibit 4 reports all three Protestant categories in RELTRAD. The Protestant category represented in the GSS variable shows a consistent proportion of Protestant respondents throughout the 1970s and 1980s, then a slight decline beginning in the mid-1990s.

Exhibit 3. Protestant Religious Affiliation (RELIG), 1972-2024.
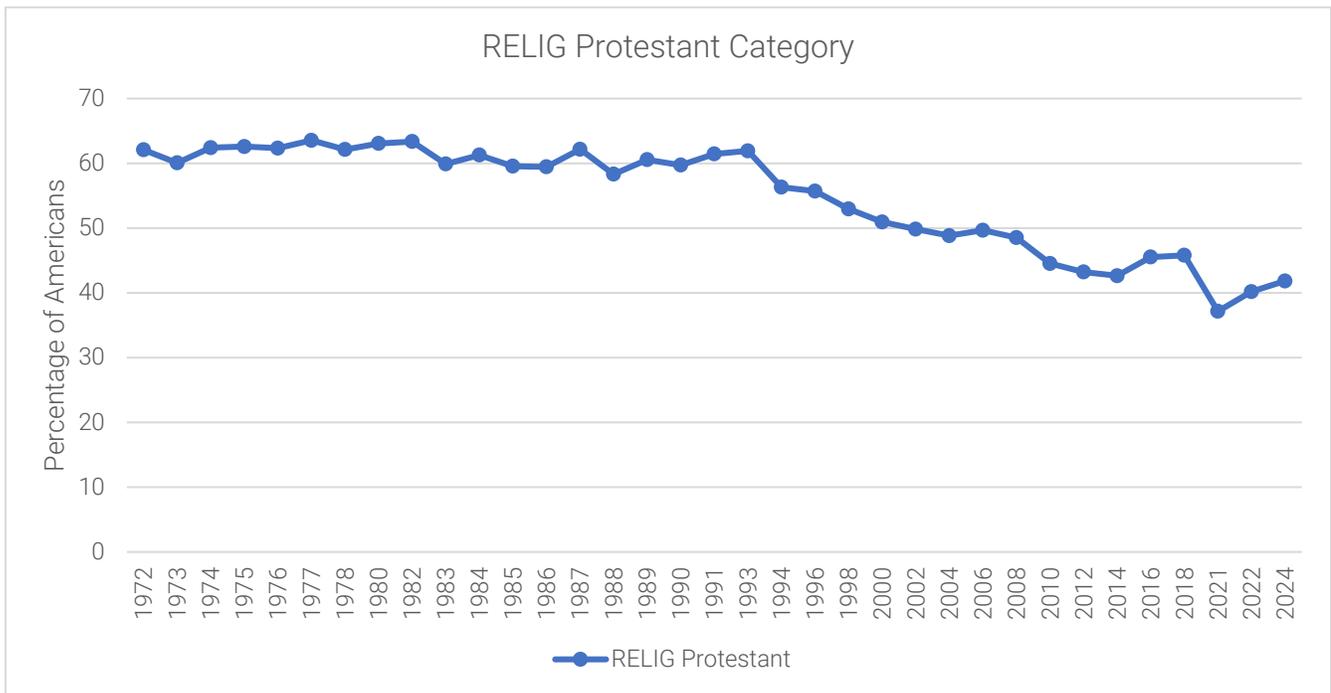
Note: Weighted with WTSSPS

Exhibit 4 shows three categories that make up the Protestant categories of religious tradition (RELTRAD). Two notable patterns include the decline of the Mainline Protestant category (31% in 1972 to 9.6% in 2024) and the fluctuating nature of the Evangelical Protestant category, which surpasses Mainline Protestants in 1983 at 23%. The Black Protestant category remains stable across 1970s to the early 2000s, and a slow decline in recent years.

Exhibit 4. Constructed Protestant Categories of Religious Tradition (RELTRAD), 1972-2024.
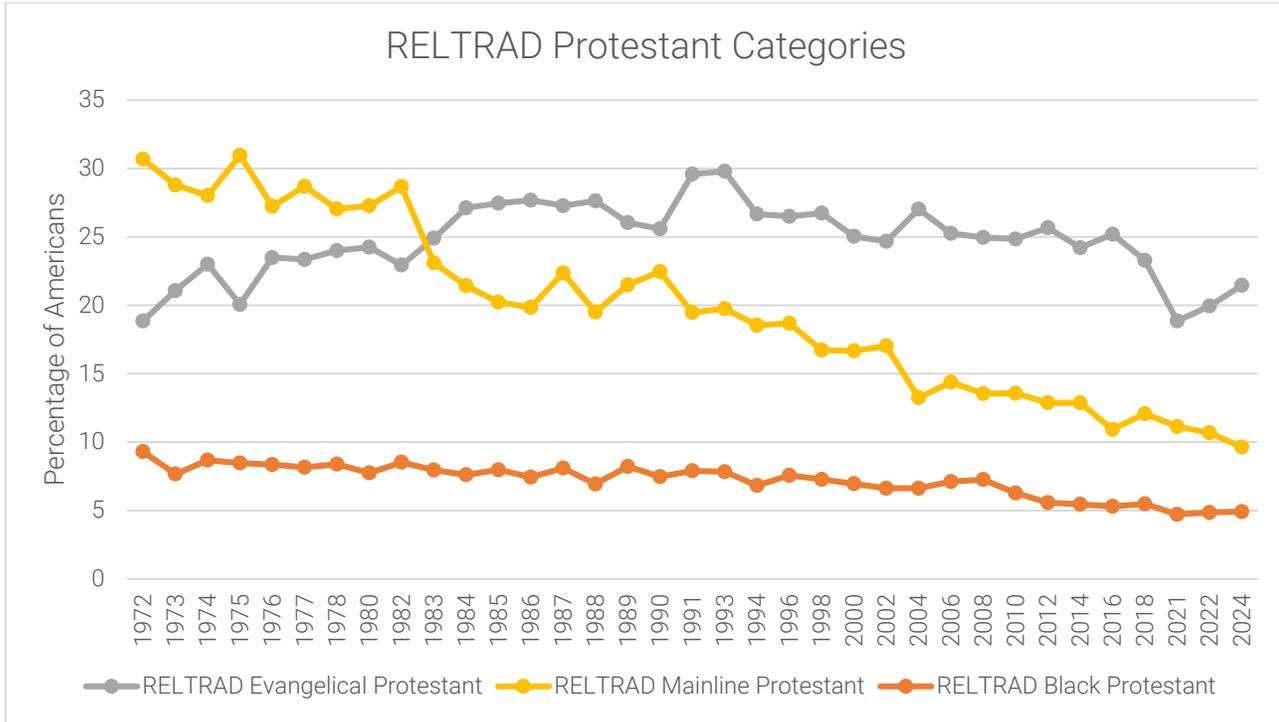
Note: Weighted with WTSSPS

DISCUSSION

The introduction of RELTRAD and RELTRAD16 to the GSS suite of religious identification variables (see Appendix B and C) provides a way to maintain religious stratification as seen through the many Protestant denominations in the U.S., while also minimizing risk to GSS respondents. By reconstructing a widely used, peer-reviewed typology (Steensland et al. 2000), the GSS's inclusion of RELTRAD provides depth in its religious description by using other Protestant denominations (Shelton 2018), which breaks Protestants into three categories large enough to protect respondent confidentiality, and offers a solution to continue to study religious stratification among Protestants in the public data file.

In a future GSS release, we will explore variations of RELTRAD, including more religious traditions and the unassigned other Protestant denominations (variable OTHER) not covered by the originally proposed variable. Moreover, the GSS will continue to explore additional constructed variables to continue to preserve respondents' religious affiliation in the data. This will further represent the rich religious traditions observed in the U.S. through GSS data.

RELTRAD was made available in Release 2 (R2), and RELTRAD16 was made available in Release 3 (R3) of the 2024 GSS. Researchers interested in the restricted religious preference variables not released in 2024 (see Appendix A) can email gss@norc.org or learn how to prepare a GSS Sensitive Data Application here.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A: RELIGIOUS IDENTITY VARIABLES

Below we include a table of religious identity variables in the GSS, organized by respondent religious preference, followed by the respondent's religion at age 16, spouse's religion, partner's religion, and a version of respondent religion asked only on the 2022 GSS follow-on survey. Please see the GSS Codebook[5] for more variables regarding religion, such as religious beliefs and practices.

Variable Name	Variable Label	Years Available	Important Notes
RELIG	R's religious preference	1972-2024	
DENOM	Specific denomination	1972-2024	Coarsened to seven categories
DENOM_7222	Specific denomination	1972-2022	Not released in 2024
OTHER	Other protestant denomination	1972-2022	Not released in 2024
JEW	What sort of Jew R is	1988-2022	Not released in 2024
RELTRAD	Religious tradition	1972-2024	
NORELGSP	Is R atheist or agnostic	2021-2024	
FUND	Fundamentalism of R's religion	1972-2024	
RELIG16	Religion in which R was raised	1973-2024	
DENOM16	Denomination in which R was raised	1973-2024	Coarsened to seven categories
DENOM16_7322	Denomination in which R was raised	1973-2022	Not released in 2024
OTH16	Other protestant denomination	1973-2022	Not released in 2024
JEW16	What sort of Jew R was at age 16	1988-2022	Not released in 2024
RELTRAD16	Religious tradition age 16	1973-2024	
NORELGSP16	R no religion age 16	2024	
FUND16	Fundamentalism of R's religion age 16	1973-2024	
SPREL	Spouse's religious preference	1973-2024	
SPDEN	Specific denomination, spouse	1973-2024	Coarsened to seven categories
SPDEN_7322	Specific denomination, spouse	1973-2022	Not released in 2024
SPOTHER	Other protestant denomination	1973-2022	Not released in 2024
SPJEW	What sort of Jew is R's spouse	1988-2022	Not released in 2024
SPNORELGSP	Spouse no religion	2024	
SPFUND	Fundamentalism of spouse's religion	1973-2024	
COREL	Partner's religious preference	2012-2024	
CODEN	Partner's denomination	2012-2024	Coarsened to seven categories
CODEN_1222	Partner's denomination	2012-2022	Not released in 2024
COOTHER	Other protestant denomination	2012-2022	Not released in 2024
COJEW	What sort of Jew is R's partner	2012-2022	Not released in 2024
CONORELGSP	Partner no religion	2024	
COFUND	Fundamentalism of partner's religion	2012-2024	
RELIG_NEXT	Religion – Follow-on version	2022	2022 GSS Follow-On
DENOM_NEXT	Denomination – Follow-on version	2022	2022 GSS Follow-On
OTHER_NEXT	Other denomination - Follow-on version	2022	2022 GSS Follow-On

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[5] https://gss.norc.org/content/norc/us/en/gss/get-documentation.html

JEW_NEXT	What sort of Jew – Follow-on version	2022	2022 GSS Follow-On
FUND_NEXT	Religion fundamentalism – Follow-on version	2022	2022 GSS Follow-On

APPENDIX B: RELTRAD CODE

For transparency, we include the SAS code used in preparing RELTRAD for the public data release. We welcome feedback at GSS@norc.org from data users in order to correct any errors in the code below.

```
/*******************RELTRAD (RELIGIOUS TRADITION)**************************/

IF RELIG IN (1,11,13) THEN RELIG_1=1; /*CHRISTIAN*/
ELSE IF RELIG=2 THEN RELIG_1=4; /*CATHOLIC*/
ELSE IF RELIG=3 THEN RELIG_1=5; /*JEWISH*/
ELSE IF RELIG=4 THEN RELIG_1=9; /*NON AFFILIATED*/
ELSE IF RELIG IN (5:10) THEN RELIG_1=6; /*OTHER FAITH*/
ELSE IF RELIG=12 THEN RELIG_1=6; /*OTHER FAITH - NATIVE AMERICAN*/
ELSE RELIG_1=. ;

/****BLACK PROTESTANTS****/
BLPROT=0;
IF OTHER IN (7 14 15 21 37 38 56 78 79 85 86 87 88 98 103 104 128 133) THEN BLPROT=1;
IF DENOM IN (12,13,20,21) THEN BLPROT=1;

/*INCORPORATE BLACK RACE*/
BLRACE=0;
IF RACE=2 THEN BLRACE=1;
/*NOW WITH DENOM AND OTHER*/
BLDENOM=DENOM*BLRACE;
IF BLDENOM IN (10 11 14 15 18 23 28) THEN BLPROT=1;
BLOTHER=OTHER*BLRACE;
IF BLOTHER=93 THEN BLPROT=1;

/****EVANGELICAL PROTESTANTS****/
EVGPROT=0;
IF OTHER IN (2 3 5 6 9 10 12 13 16 18 20 22 24 26 27 28 31 32 34 35 36 39 41 42 43 45 47
             51 52 53 55 57 63 65 66 67 68 69 76 77 83 84 90 91 92 94 97 100 101 102 106
             107 108 109 110 111 112 115 116 117 118 120 121 122 124 125 127 129 131 132
             134 135 138 139 140 146)
THEN EVGPROT=1;
IF DENOM IN (32 33 34 42) THEN EVGPROT=1;
/*INCORPORATE WHITE AND OTHER RACES*/
IF RACE IN (1 3) THEN WHITEOTHERRACE=1;
ELSE IF RACE=2 THEN WHITEOTHERRACE=0;
/*NOW WITH DENOM AND OTHER*/
WHDENOM = DENOM*WHITEOTHERRACE;
IF WHDENOM IN (10 14 15 18 23) THEN EVGPROT=1;
WHOTHER= OTHER*WHITEOTHERRACE;
IF WHOTHER=93 THEN EVGPROT=1;
IF BLPROT=1 THEN EVGPROT=0;

/****MAINLINE PROTESTANTS****/
MAINPROT=0;
IF OTHER IN (1 8 19 23 25 40 44 46 48 49 50 54 70 71 72 73 81 89 96 99 105 119 148)
```

```
THEN MAINPROT=1;
IF DENOM IN (22 30 31 35 38 40 41 43 48 50) THEN MAINPROT=1;
IF WHDENOM IN (11 28) THEN MAINPROT=1;

/****OTHER ADDITION TO CATHOLIC****/
CATHOLIC = 0;
IF OTHER =123 THEN CATHOLIC=1;
IF RELIG_1=4 THEN CATHOLIC=1;

/****OTHER FAITHS MORE CODING****/
OTHFAITH=0;
IF OTHER IN (11 17 29 30 33 58 59 60 61 62 64 74 75 80 82 95 113 114 130 136 141 145)
THEN OTHFAITH=1;
NOTEVGPROT=1-EVGPROT;
NOTEVGPROTAFFIL=NOTEVGPROT*RELIG_1;
IF NOTEVGPROTAFFIL=6 THEN OTHFAITH=1;

/*PROTESTANT DK*/
PROTDK=0;
IF DENOM=70 THEN PROTDK=1;
IF ATTEND IN (0 1 2 3 .N .D .S) THEN PROTDK=0;
IF PROTDK=1 THEN EVGPROT=1;

/*CHRISTIANS*/
CHRISTIANS=0;
IF RELIG=11 THEN CHRISTIANS=1;
IF DENOM=70 THEN CHRISTIANS=2;
IF CHRISTIANS NE 1 THEN CHRISTIANS=0;
IF ATTEND IN (0 1 2 3 .N .D .S) THEN CHRISTIANS=0;
IF CHRISTIANS=1 THEN EVGPROT=1;

/*PUTTING INTERDENOMINATIONAL PEOPLE INTO RELTRAD*/
INTER=0;
IF RELIG=13 THEN INTER=1;
IF ATTEND IN (0 1 2 3 .N .D .S) THEN INTER=0;
IF INTER=1 THEN EVGPROT=1;

/****RELTRAD****/
RELTRAD=.;
IF EVGPROT = 1 THEN RELTRAD=1; /*EVANGELICALS*/
IF MAINPROT = 1 THEN RELTRAD=2; /*MAINLINE PROTS*/
IF BLPROT = 1 THEN RELTRAD=3; /*BLACK PROTS*/
IF CATHOLIC = 1 THEN RELTRAD=4; /*CATHOLICS*/
IF RELIG_1 = 5 THEN RELTRAD=5; /*JEWISH*/
IF OTHFAITH = 1 THEN RELTRAD=6; /*OTHER FAITHS*/
IF RELIG_1 = 9 THEN RELTRAD=7; /*NOT AFFILIATED*/

IF RELTRAD = . THEN DO;
    IF RELIG IN (.N,.D,.S,.I) THEN RELTRAD=RELIG;
    ELSE IF RELIG IN (1:13) THEN DO;
        IF DENOM IN (.N,.D,.S,.I) THEN RELTRAD = DENOM;
```

```
            ELSE IF DENOM IN (1:70) THEN DO;
                    IF OTHER IN (.N,.D,.S,.I) THEN RELTRAD = OTHER;
                    ELSE IF OTHER > 148 THEN RELTRAD = .Z ;
            END;
        END;
        IF RELTRAD = . THEN RELTRAD = .Z;
END;
```

In order to verify our coding, we compared our code with that from Ryan Burge[6] (co-author of the Stetzer and Burge (2015) article). Burge's Stata code (adjusted to account for a wider array of missing values, e.g., .D, .N, .S) produced the following distribution for RELTRAD using the R4 release of the 1972-2022 public use data:

```
. tab reltrad, missing

        reltrad |      Freq.     Percent        Cum.
----------------+-----------------------------------
     evangelical |     17,076       23.59       23.59
       mainline |     13,327       18.41       42.00
black protestant |      6,088        8.41       50.41
       catholic |     17,244       23.82       74.23
         jewish |      1,422        1.96       76.19
    other faith |      3,852        5.32       81.52
   nonaffiliated |      9,895       13.67       95.18
              . |      3,486        4.82      100.00
----------------+-----------------------------------
          Total |     72,390      100.00
```

Our version of RELTRAD for 1972-2022, using the R2 1972-2024 public use file, produces the following distribution:

```
. use gss7224_r2.dta
. tab reltrad if year < 2024, missing

   religious tradition |      Freq.     Percent        Cum.
-----------------------+-----------------------------------
  evangelical protestant |   17,076       23.59       23.59
    mainline protestant |   13,327       18.41       42.00
       black protestant |    6,088        8.41       50.41
               catholic |   17,244       23.82       74.23
                 jewish |    1,422        1.96       76.19
            other faith |    3,852        5.32       81.52
          nonaffiliated |    9,895       13.67       95.18
             don't know |      198        0.27       95.46
                    iap |    2,687        3.71       99.17
              no answer |      470        0.65       99.82
          skipped on web |       48        0.07       99.89
            see codebook |       83        0.11      100.00
-----------------------+-----------------------------------
                  Total |   72,390      100.00
```

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[6] https://github.com/ryanburge/reltrad/blob/master/GSS/Stata_Coding_GSS

APPENDIX C: RELTRAD16 CODE

For transparency, we include the SAS code used in preparing RELTRAD16 for the public data release.

```
/*******************RELTRAD16**************************/

if relig16 in(1,11,13) then relig116=1; /*christian*/
else if relig16=2 then relig116=4; /*catholic*/
else if relig16=3 then relig116=5; /*jewish*/
else if relig16=4 then relig116=9; /*non affiliated, taken from RELIG 4 NONE*/
else if relig16 in(5:10) then relig116=6; /*other faith*/
else if relig16=12 then relig116=6; /*other faith - native american*/
else relig116 = . ;

/****black protestants****/
blprot16=0;
if oth16 in (7 14 15 21 37 38 56 78 79 85 86 87 88 98 103 104 128 133) then blprot16=1;
if denom16 in(12,13,20,21) then blprot16=1;

/*incorporate black race*/
blrace16=0;
if race=2 then blrace16=1;
/*now with denom and other*/
bldenom16=denom16*blrace;
if bldenom16 in (10 11 14 15 18 23 28) then blprot16=1;
blother16=oth16*blrace16;
if blother16=93 then blprot16=1;

/****evangelical protestants****/
evgprot16=0;
if oth16 in (2 3 5 6 9 10 12 13 16 18 20 22 24 26 27 28 31 32 34 35 36 39 41 42 43 45 47
             51 52 53 55 57 63 65 66 67 68 69 76 77 83 84 90 91 92 94 97 100 101 102 106
             107 108 109 110 111 112 115 116 117 118 120 121 122 124 125 127 129 131 132
             134 135 138 139 140 146)
then evgprot16=1;
if denom16 in (32 33 34 42) then evgprot16=1;
/*incorporate white and other races*/
if race in (1 3) then whiteotherrace16=1;
else if race= 2 then whiteotherrace16=0;
/*now with denom and other*/
whdenom16 = denom16*whiteotherrace16;
if whdenom16 in (10 14 15 18 23) then evgprot16=1;
whother16= oth16*whiteotherrace16;
if whother16=93 then evgprot16=1;
if blprot16=1 then evgprot16=0;

/*mainline protestants*/
mainprot16=0;
```

```
if oth16 in (1 8 19 23 25 40 44 46 48 49 50 54 70 71 72 73 81 89 96 99 105 119 148) then
mainprot16=1;
if denom16 in (22 30 31 35 38 40 41 43 48 50) then mainprot16=1;
if whdenom16 in (11 28) then mainprot16=1;

/*OTHER addition to Catholic*/
catholic16 = 0;
if oth16 =123 then catholic16=1;
if relig116=4 then catholic16=1;

/*Other Faiths more coding*/
othfaith16=0;
if oth16 in (11 17 29 30 33 58 59 60 61 62 64 74 75 80 82 95 113 114 130 136 141 145)
then othfaith16=1;
notevgprot16=1-evgprot16;
notevgprotaffil16=notevgprot16*relig116;
if notevgprotaffil16=6 then othfaith16=1;

/* Protestant DK */
protdk16=0;
if denom16 =70 then protdk=1;
if protdk16=1 then evgprot16=1;

/***CHRISTIANS***/
christians16=0;
if relig16=11 then christians16=1;
if denom16=70 then christians16=2; /*come back to this one*/
if christians16 ne 1 then christians16=0;
if christians16=1 then evgprot16=1;

/***Putting interdenominational people into RELTRAD***/
inter16=0;
if relig16=13 then inter16=1;
if inter16=1 then evgprot16=1;

reltrad16=.;
if evgprot16 = 1 then reltrad16=1; /*evangelicals*/
if mainprot16 = 1 then reltrad16=2; /*mainline prots*/
if blprot16 = 1 then reltrad16=3; /*black prots*/
if catholic16 = 1 then reltrad16=4; /*catholics*/
if relig116 = 5 then reltrad16=5; /*jewish*/
if othfaith16 = 1 then reltrad16=6; /*other faiths*/
if relig116 = 9 then reltrad16=7; /*not affiliated*/

if reltrad16 = . then do;
     if relig16 in(.d,.s,.n,.i) then reltrad16=relig16;
     else if relig16 in(1:13) then do;
          if denom16 in(.n,.d,.s,.i) then reltrad16 = denom16;
          else if denom16 in(1:70) then do;
               if oth16 in(.n,.d,.s,.i) then reltrad16 = oth16;
               else if oth16 > 148 then reltrad16 = .z ;
```

APPENDIX D: RELTRAD 1972-2024

Unweighted counts and missing values for RELTRAD are shown below.

RELTRAD (Religious tradition)	1972-1978	1980-1989	1990-1998	2000-2008	2010-2018	2021	2022	2024	Total
.d: Don't Know	16	3	10	69	60	20	20	26	224
.i: IAP	241	321	323	634	605	279	284	270	2957
.n: No Answer	32	76	105	102	77	46	32	6	476
.z: See Codebook	0	0	4	39	31	3	6	6	89
.s: Skipped on Web	0	0	0	0	0	39	9	12	60
Evangelical Protestant	2313	3547	3482	3630	2780	715	609	622	17698
Mainline Protestant	3074	3182	2574	2253	1420	470	354	308	13635
Black Protestant	980	1575	1101	1225	842	169	196	212	6300
Catholic	2687	3509	3213	3593	2674	824	744	649	17893
Jewish	254	284	269	283	195	76	61	46	1468
Other Faith	336	717	776	848	653	270	252	276	4128
Nonaffiliated	719	1027	1366	2251	2434	1121	977	876	10771
Total	10652	14241	13223	14927	11771	4032	3544	3309	75699

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APPENDIX E: RELTRAD16 1973-2024

Unweighted counts and missing values for RELTRAD16 are shown below.

RELTRAD16 (Religious tradition age 16)	1972-1978	1980-1989	1990-1998	2000-2008	2010-2018	2021	2022	2024	Total
.d: Don't Know	17	5	12	85	110	58	78	51	416
.i: IAP	1780	286	303	2052	767	335	338	218	6079
.n: No Answer	39	123	128	90	52	4	18	12	466
.z: See Codebook	0	1	4	13	13	0	5	4	40
.s: Skipped on Web	0	0	0	0	0	38	21	22	81
Evangelical Protestant	2037	3335	3350	2922	2327	581	514	556	15622
Mainline Protestant	2839	3579	2904	2434	1795	696	477	468	15192
Black Protestant	852	1797	1253	1294	1100	232	258	276	7062
Catholic	2435	3832	3793	4089	3827	1290	1159	1003	21428
Jewish	218	302	272	275	199	87	55	47	1455
Other Faith	181	523	532	643	574	212	217	218	3100
Nonaffiliated	254	458	672	1030	1007	499	404	434	4758
Total	10652	14241	13223	14927	11771	4032	3544	3309	75699