

NATIONAL CENSUS OF BELIZE: RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION, 1970-2000

Compiled by Clifton L. Holland, Director of PROLADES

19 December 2007

CENSUS	CATHOLIC	PROTESTANT	OTHER	*NONE/NA
1970	65.0	33.0	2.0	--
1980	62.0	30.0	6.0	2.0
1991	57.7	34.3	2.0	6.0
2000	49.6	27.0	14.0	9.4

*This category includes "no religion" and "no answer."

NOTE: "Other religions" includes a wide range of smaller religions: Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses and other Marginal Christian groups. Non-Christian traditions include Hindus, Bahais, Chinese religions, as well as Black Muslim and Rastafarian communities among the Creole population. Official census categories, however, oversimplified religious identity in Belize. Some syncretistic beliefs and practices could easily be recognized. Many Garífuna for example, while nominally Roman Catholic, continue to uphold their traditional beliefs and practices, such as the *dugu* ritual, through which they honored their ancestors and perpetuated their distinctive Afro-Caribbean cultural identity. The Catholicism of many Mayans was similarly inflected with aspects of their own Amerindian cultural traditions. Among Creoles, the belief in Obeah, or witchcraft, has endured, particularly among the older generations of the urban and rural poor. Source: <http://countrystudies.us/belize/25.htm>

OTHER SOURCES:

1. Population by Religion, 1970 Population Census, Central Statistical Office (Belmopan, Belize).
2. Population by Religion, 1980 Population Census, Central Statistical Office (Belmopan, Belize).
3. Central Statistical Office (Belmopan, Belize). *1991 Population Census: Major Findings*. [1993?]. Selected results are presented from the 1991 census of Belize. The data include total population by sex and rural or urban area and district for 1970, 1980, and 1990; age distribution; ethnic groups, religion, language, disability, and place of birth; international migration; education; marital status and fertility; economic activity; income; and housing. Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Finance, Belmopan, Cayo, Belize.
4. Population by Religion, 2000 Population Census, Central Statistical Office (Belmopan, Belize).

PROLADES

Apartado 1524-2050

San Pedro, Costa Rica

Telephone (506) 2283-8300; Fax 2234-7682

E-Mail: prolades@racsa.co.cr

Internet: www.prolades.com