

# PUBLIC OPINION POLLS ON RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION IN COSTA RICA, 1983-2009

Compiled by Clifton L. Holland, Director of PROLADES

Last updated on 18 September 2009

POLL	DATE	CATHOLIC	PROTESTANT	OTHER	*NONE/NA
ICCR	JUNE 1983	84.9%	8.6%	2.0%	4.5%
CID-GALLUP	JULY 1989	81.7%	8.9%	2.3%	7.1%
CID-GALLUP	JULY 1991	82.8%	10.6%	1.6%	5.0%
CID-GALLUP	JUNE 1994	81.2%	10.0%	3.4%	5.4%
DEMOSCOPIA	NOV 1995	78.9%	12.2%	**8.9%	--
BORGE	JULY 1997	77.9%	17.9%	2.8%	1.4%
CID-GALLUP	SEPT 1997	76.0%	14.0%	2.0%	8.0%
UNIMER	JAN 1999	72.7%	--	***15.8%	11.5%
CID-GALLUP	JULY 1999	74.0%	16.0%	3.0%	7.0%
DEMOSCOPIA	APRIL 2000 San José Metro Area	73.7%	15.1%	2.9%	8.3%
IDESPO	APRIL 2001	70.0%	--	***19.0%	11.0%
DEMOSCOPIA	NOV 2001	70.1%	18.1%	**11.8%	--
CID-GALLUP	SEPT 2003	69.0%	18.0%	1.0%	12.0%
UCR-EM	JUNE 2006	74.7%	12.8%	3.3%	9.2%
SIMER	NOV 2006 Gran Área Metropolitana (GAM)	48.5%	23.9%	3.2%	24.4%
UCR-EM	JUNE 2007	68.6%	16.7%	5.6%	9.1%
SIMER	AUG-SEP 2008 Gran Área Metropolitana (GAM)	47.2%	24.1%	1.7%	26.9%
CID-GALLUP	AUGUST 2009	71.0%	20.0%	2.0%	8.0%

\*The category "none/na" includes "no religion" and "no answer."

\*\*The category "other" includes "other religions" as well as "no religion" and "no answer."

\*\*\*Here, the category "other" includes all other religious groups, including Protestants.

**NOTE:** Obviously, there is a problem with the consistency of these polls (+ or – 2.5-3.0%), but also the methodology of each one needs to be clarified, the sample size and geographical distribution, the definitions used for each category, as well as the possibility of sampling errors, etc. The UCR-EM poll in 2006 probably has a sampling error, as there is no other indication that the size of the Protestant population declined between 2003 and 2007. Also, the Borge poll in 1997 appears to have a sampling error that inflated the size of the Protestant population.

## SOURCES:

1. Investigaciones Científicas de Costa Rica (ICCR), May-June 1983 Poll: published report.
2. CID-Gallup Poll, July 1989: published document.
3. CID-Gallup Poll, July 1991: published document.
4. CID-Gallup Poll, June 1994: published document.
5. Demoscopía Poll, November 1995: published document.
6. Borge y Asociados Poll, July 1997: published document.
7. CID-Gallup Poll, September 1997: published document.

8. Unimer-La Nación Poll, January 1999: published article.
9. CID-Gallup Poll, July 1999: published document.
10. Demoscopía Poll, April 2000, San José Metro Area: published document.
11. Instituto de Estudios Sociales en Población (IDESPO), Universidad Nacional, Heredia: April 2001 Poll, published document.
12. Demoscopía Poll, November 2001: published document.
13. Holland, Clifton L., "Un análisis del tamaño de la población protestante en Costa Rica entre 1935 y 2001 con base en fuentes históricas y encuestas de opinión pública." San Pedro, Costa Rica: PROLADES, 30 de enero de 2002.
14. CID-Gallup Poll, September 2003: published document.
15. Universidad de Costa Rica, Escuela de Matemática, 2006 Poll.
16. Universidad de Costa Rica, Escuela de Matemática, 2007 Poll.
17. The SIMER public opinion polls (2006 and 2008) were limited to the Gran Area Metropolitana (Greater Metropolitan Area) of the Central Valley, which includes the metro areas of the cities of San José, Heredia, Alajuela and Cartago.
18. CID-Gallup Poll, August 2009: published document.

## **PROLADES**

Apartado 1524-2050

San Pedro, Costa Rica

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

E-Mail: [prolades@racsa.co.cr](mailto:prolades@racsa.co.cr)

Internet: [www.prolades.com](http://www.prolades.com)