

# THE CHANGING AMERICAN LANDSCAPE

Presented by Robert P. Jones

At The White House, Fifth Annual President's Interfaith and  
Community Service Campus Challenge, September 10, 2015



**Public  
Religion  
Research  
Institute**

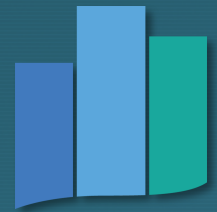




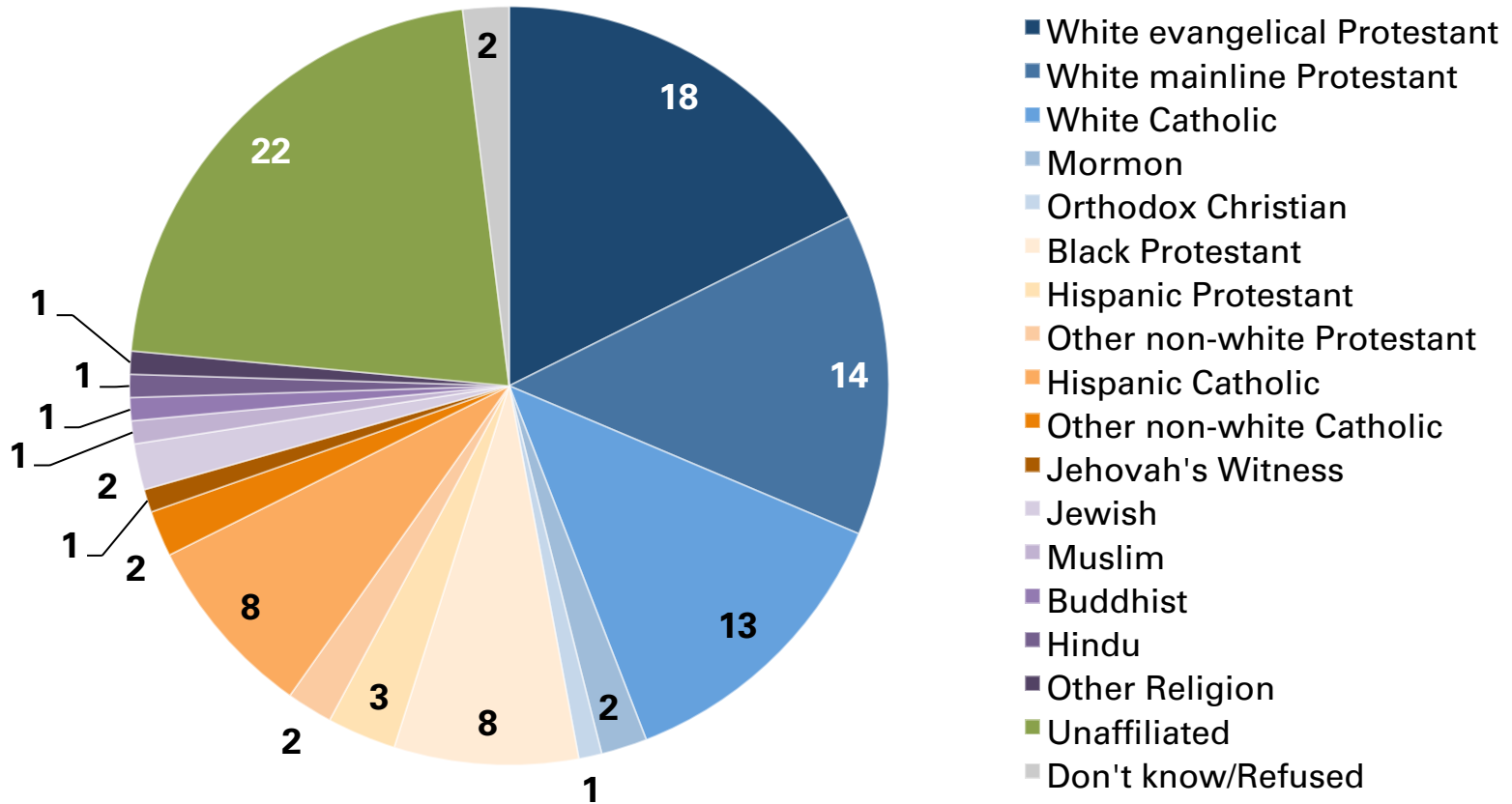
# AMERICA THE DIVERSE

The Current Religious Landscape

# The Current Religious Landscape

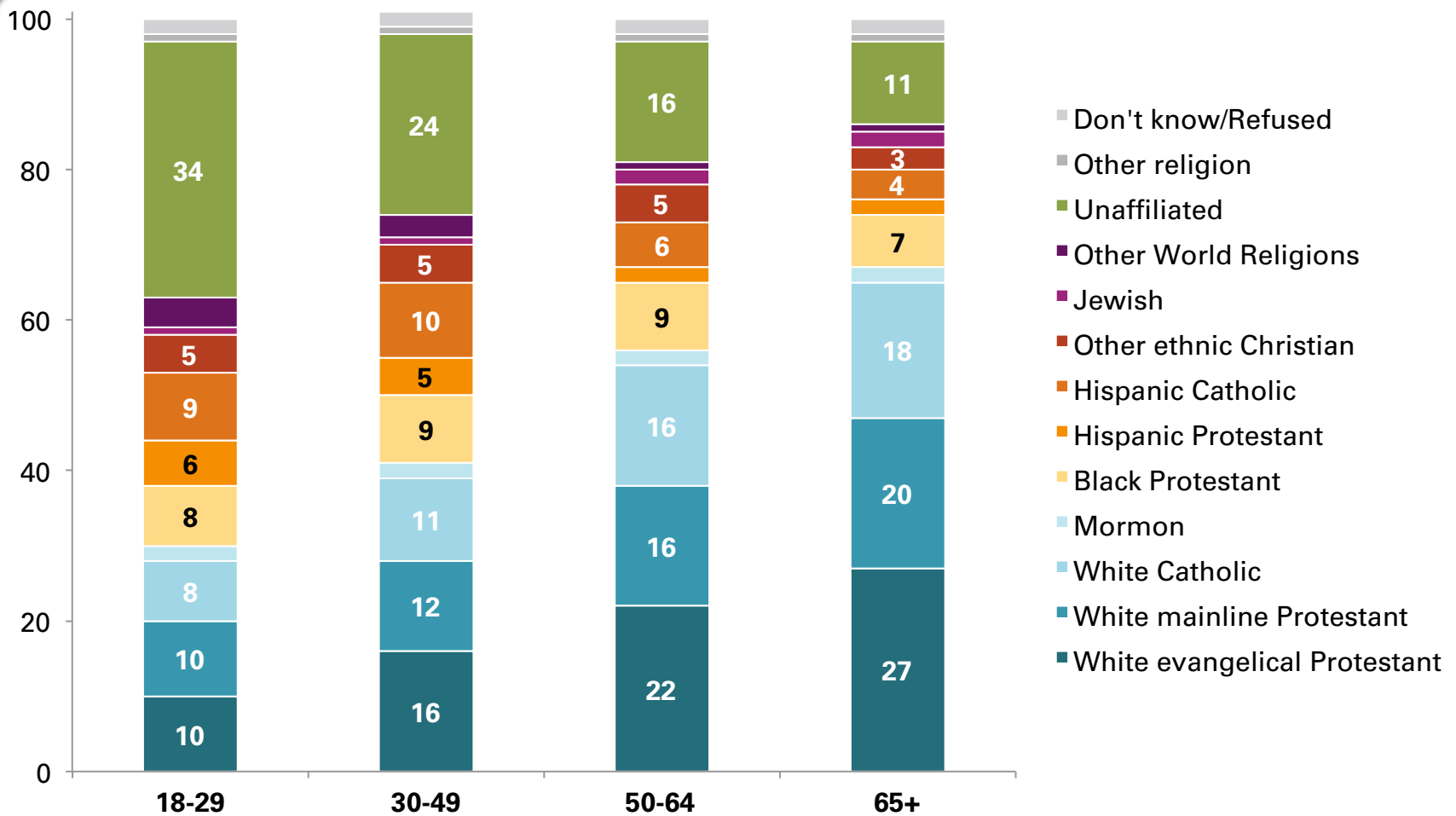
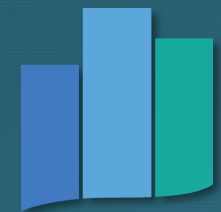


## The American Religious Landscape in 2014



Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014.

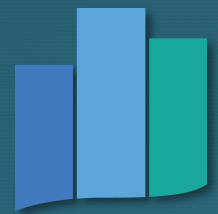
# Religious Affiliation by Age



Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014.



# Religious Switching



	Childhood Affiliation	Current Affiliation	Net Gain/Loss
Catholic	31.4	22.0	-9.4
White Mainline Protestant	18.7	14.9	-3.8
Black Protestant	9.4	8.5	-0.9
White Evangelical Protestant	20.3	19.9	-0.4
Other Christian	9.5	10.4	0.9
Non-Christian Religious	3.7	5.7	2
Unaffiliated	7	18.6	11.6

Source: PRRI, LGBT Issues & Trends Survey, February 2014.

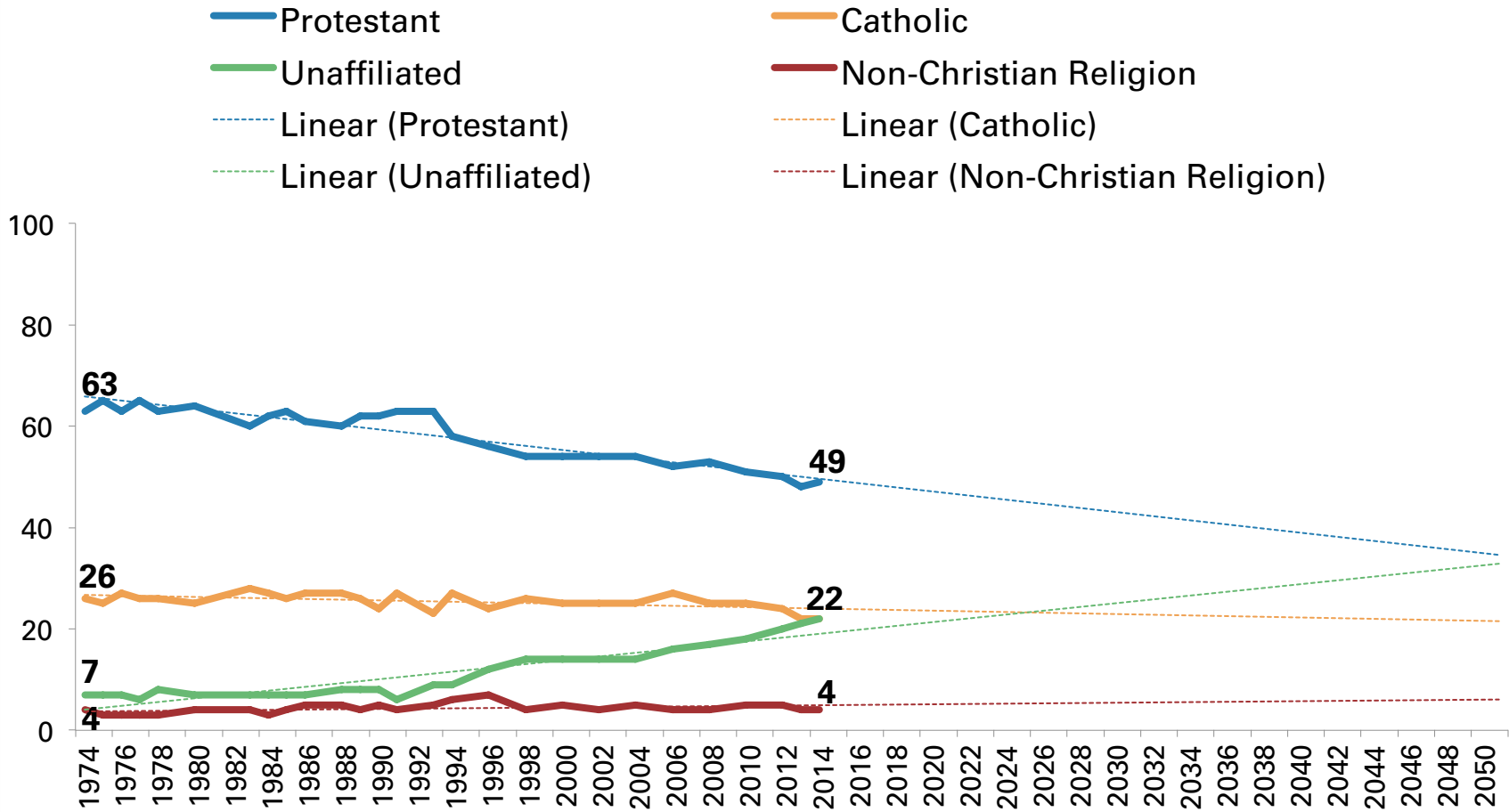
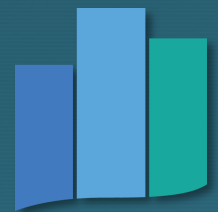
# **RACE AND RELIGION: TWIN ENGINES OF CHANGE**

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Trends Reshaping the American Cultural Landscape

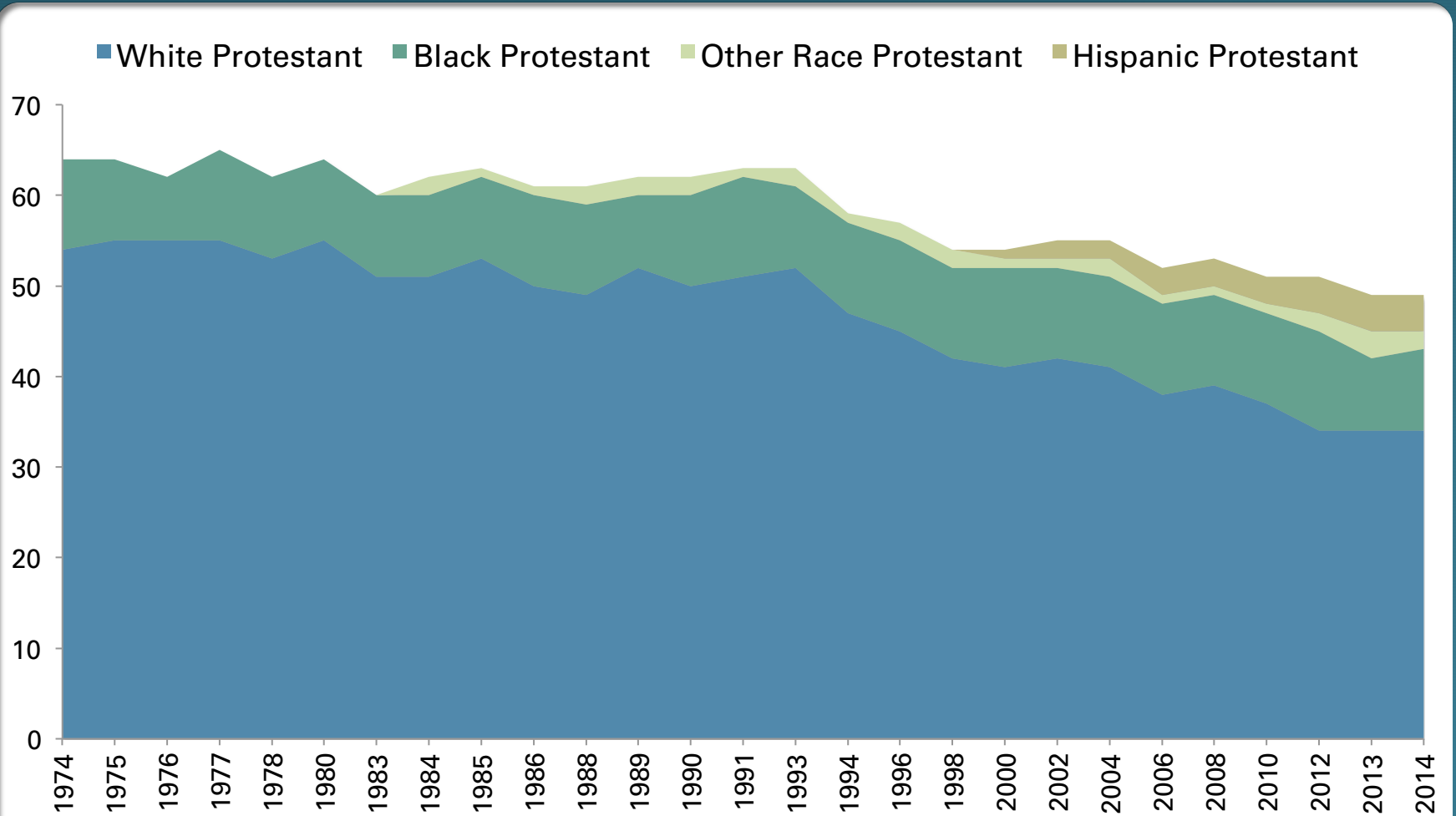
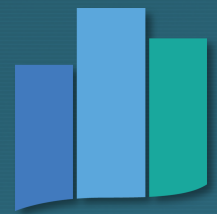


# Religious Affiliation in the US, 1974-2050



Sources: General Social Survey, 1974-2012; PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2013 and 2014.

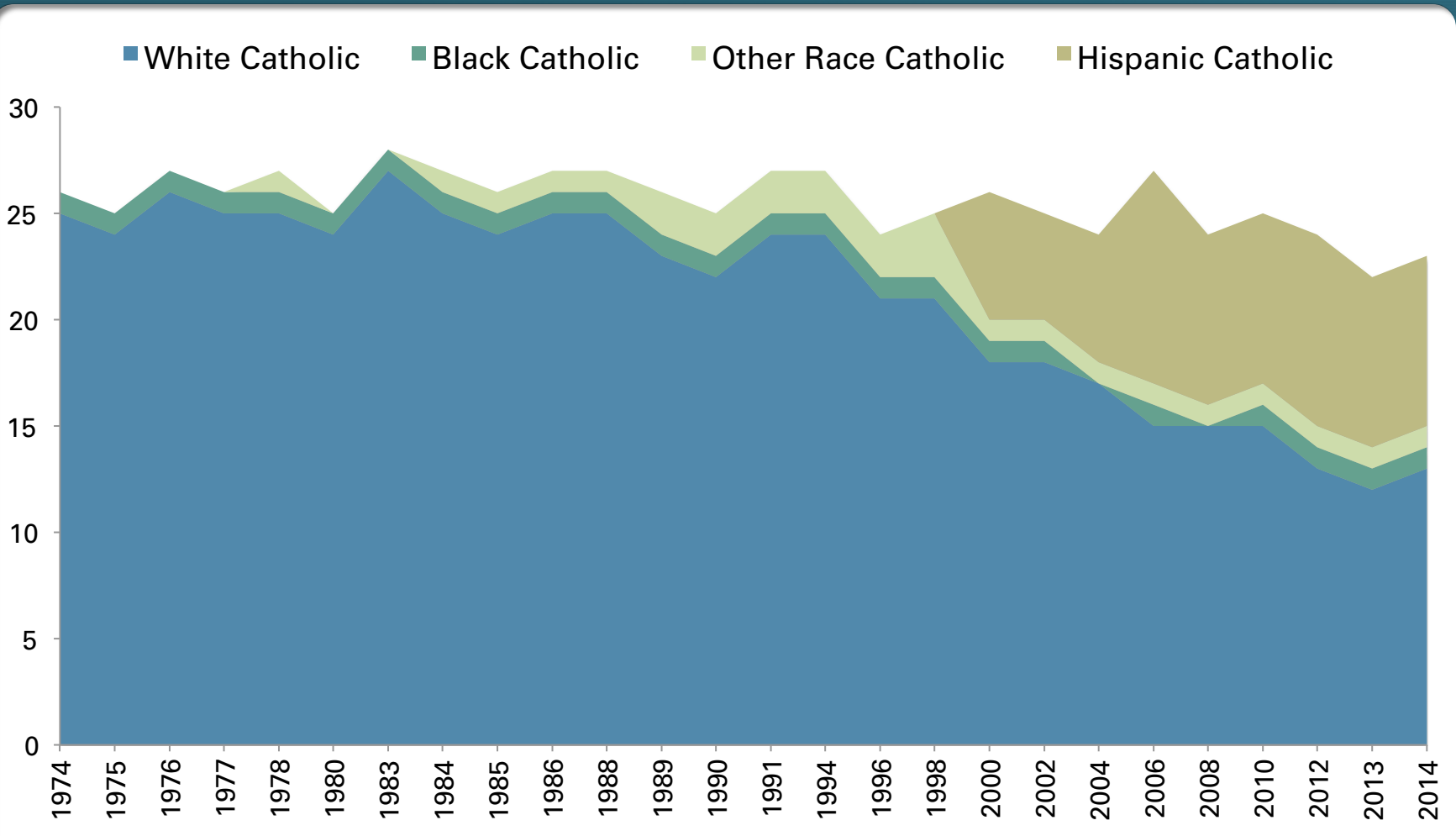
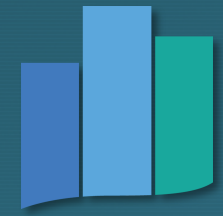
# Racial Composition of Protestants, 1974-2014



Sources: General Social Survey 1974-2012; PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2013 and 2014.

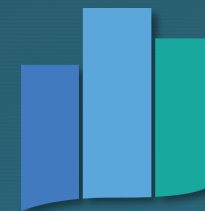


# Racial Composition of Catholics, 1974-2014

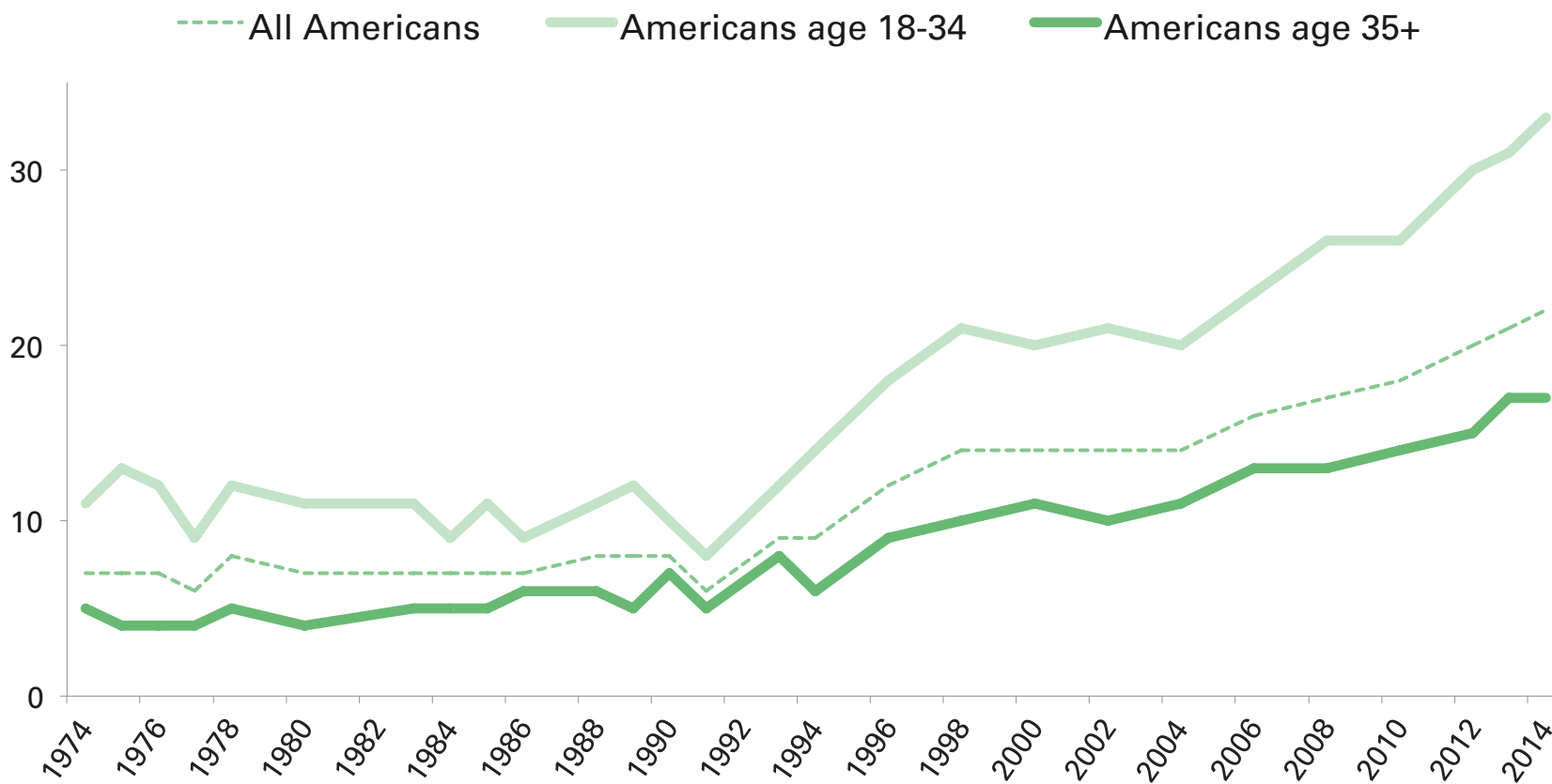


Sources: General Social Survey 1974-2012; PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2013 and 2014.

# Widening Generation Gap Among Religiously Unaffiliated



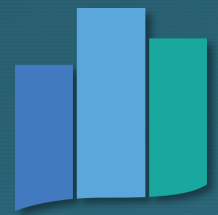
## Growth of the Religiously Unaffiliated, 1974-2014



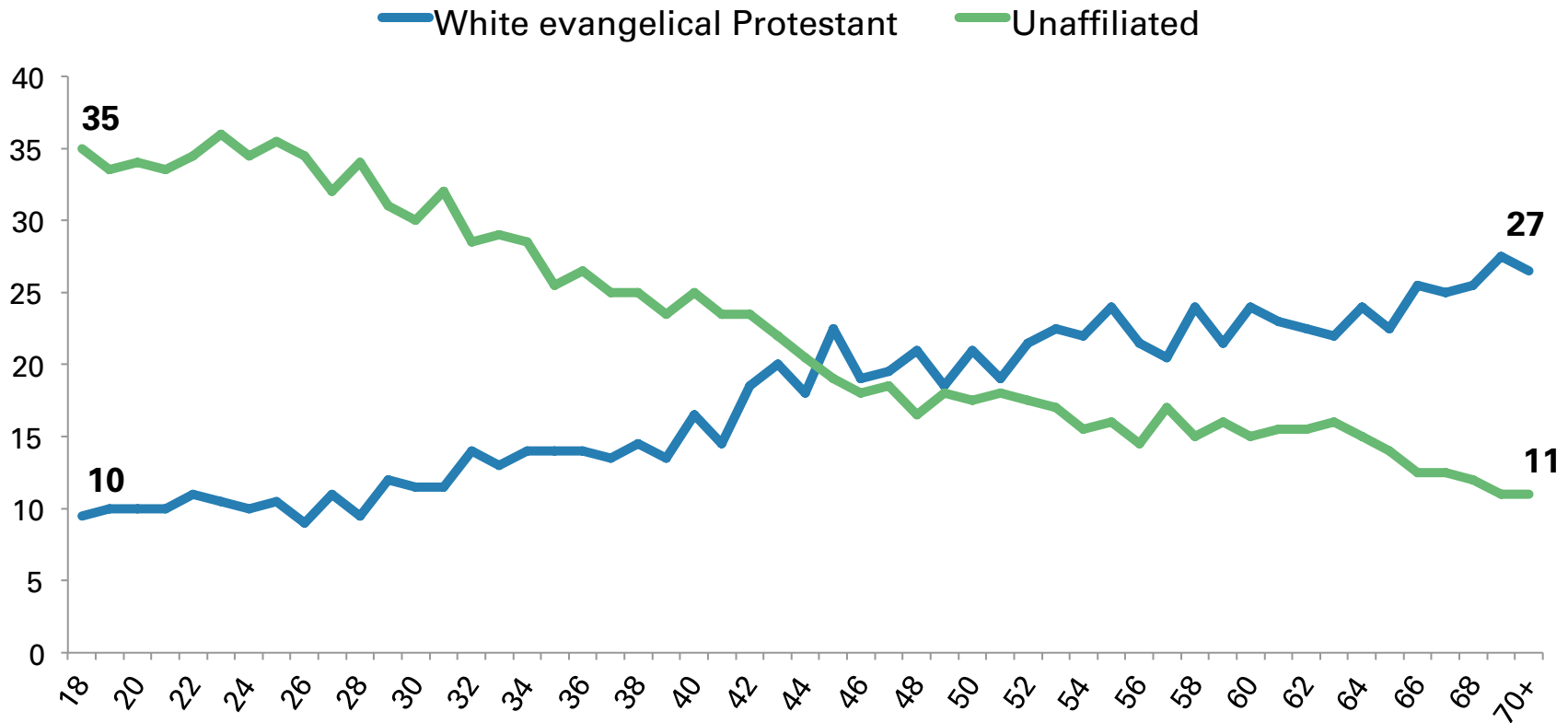
Sources: General Social Survey, 1974-2012; PRRI, 2013-2014.



# Generational Divides: White Evangelical Protestants vs. Unaffiliated

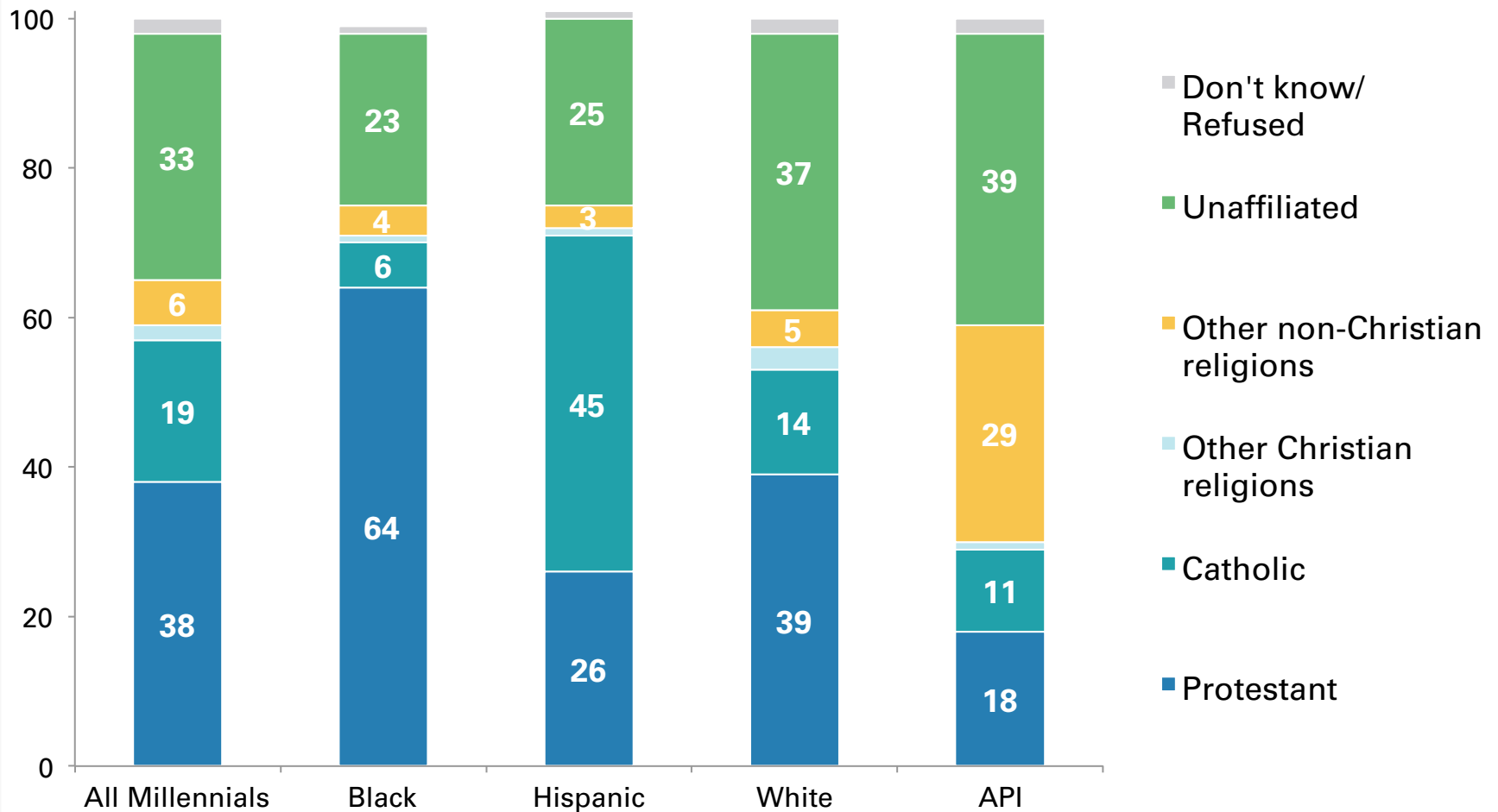


Percent who identify as white evangelical Protestant vs. unaffiliated by age (Moving Averages)



Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014.

# Religious Affiliation Among Millennials by Race/Ethnicity



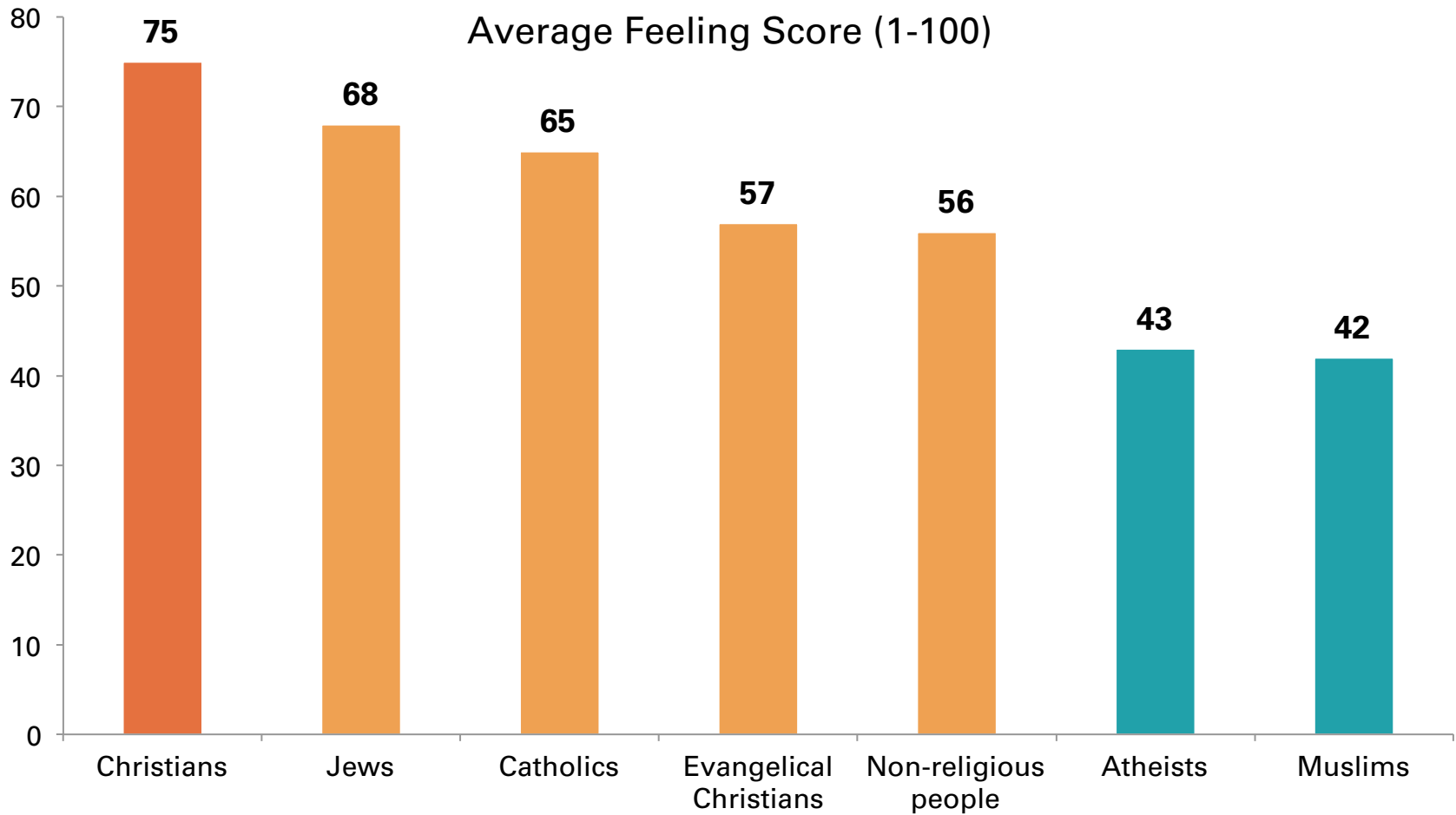
Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014.



# **VIEWS OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN THE U.S.**

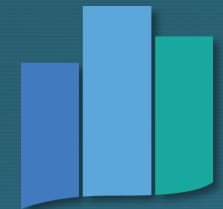
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# Views of Religious Groups in the U.S.

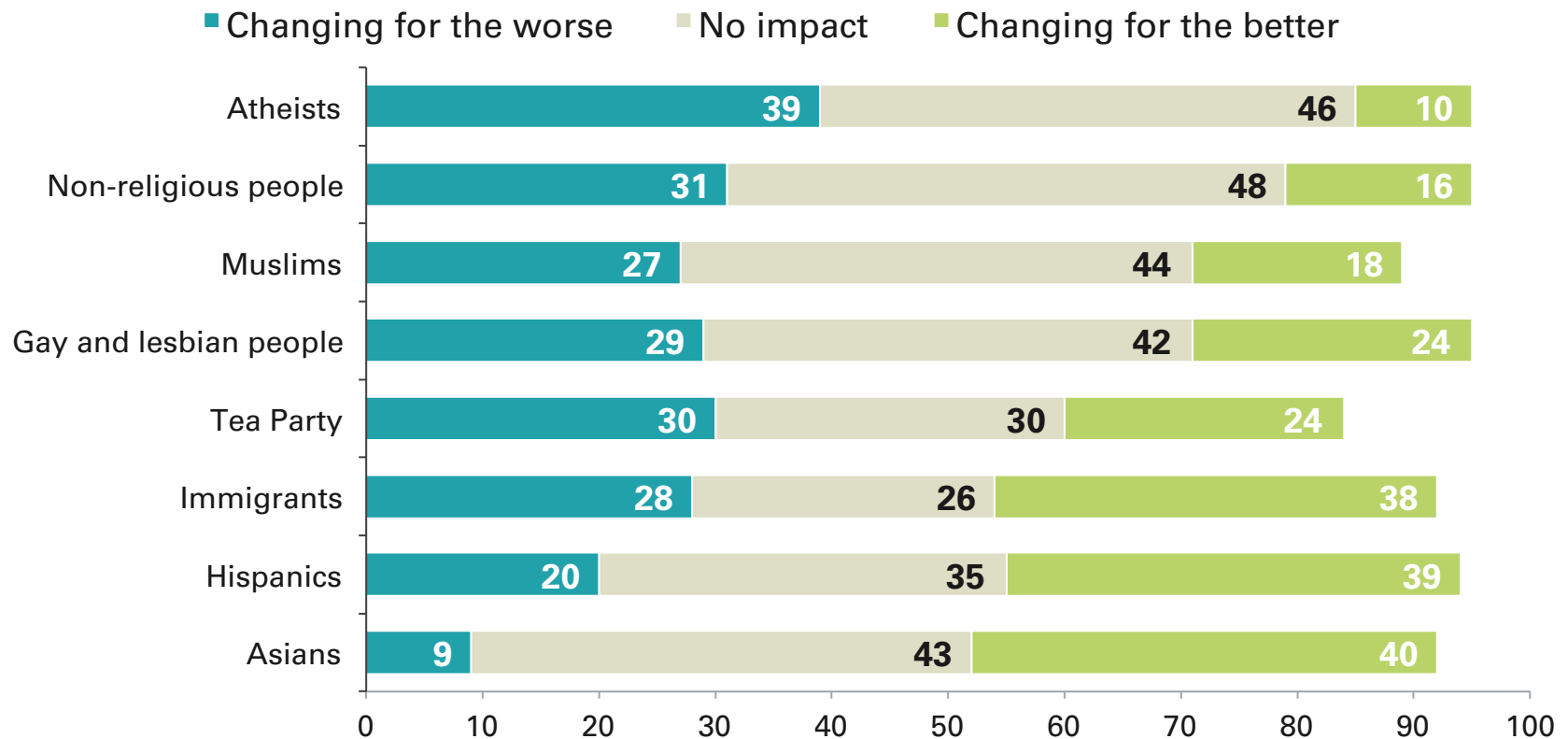


Source: PRRI, American Values Survey, October 2013.

# Perceptions of How Groups are Changing American Culture



Would you say the following groups are changing American culture and way of life for the better, changing it for the worse, or are they not having any real impact on American culture and way of life?



Source: PRRI/Brookings, Religion, Values & Immigration Reform Survey, March 2013.

# INTERRELIGIOUS METRICS

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Individuals

Families

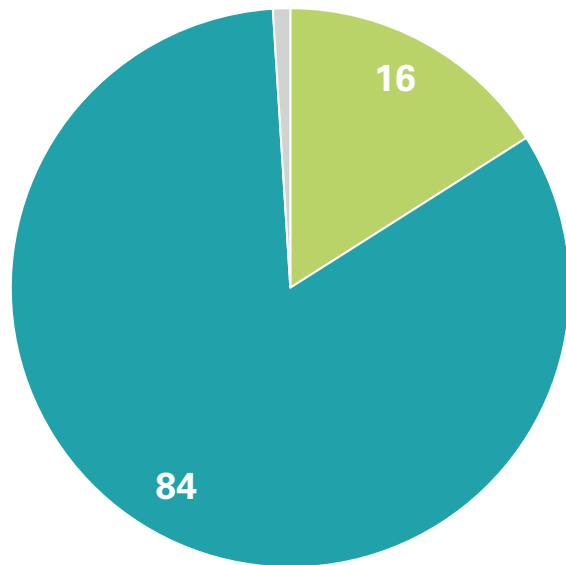
Core Social Networks



# Multi-Religious People and Interreligious Families

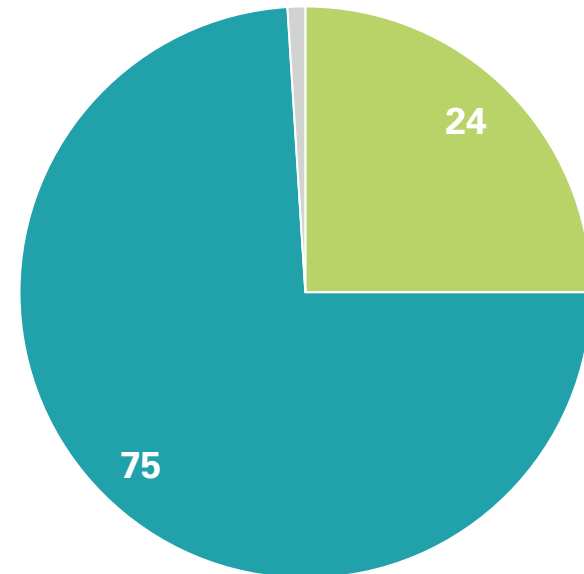
Do you follow the teachings or practices of more than one religion?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused



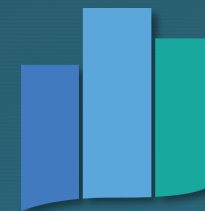
Is your current spouse's religious background different from your own?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/Refused

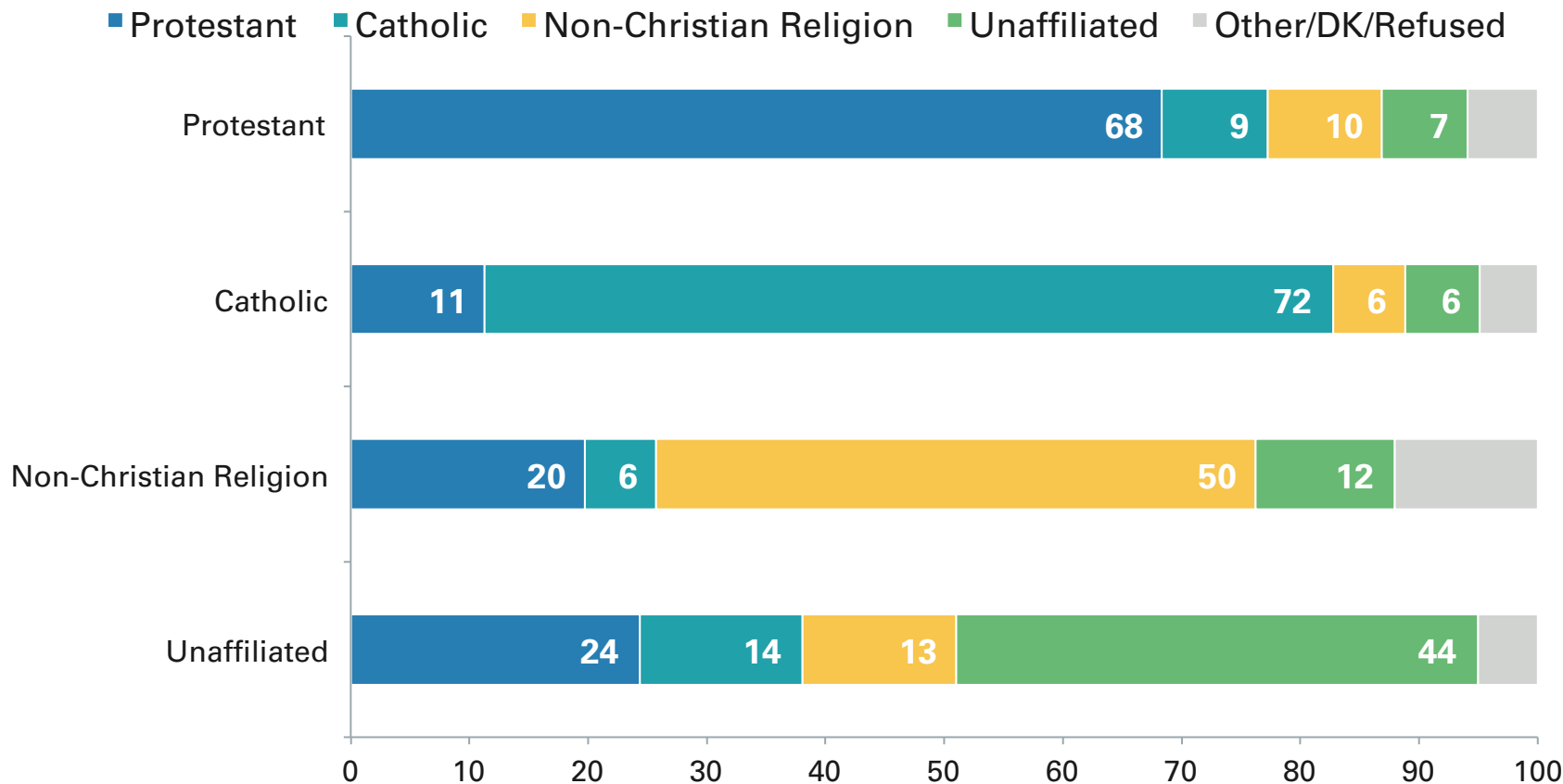


Source: PRRI, American Values Survey, October 2013.

# Interreligious Interaction: Core Social Networks



Religious composition of core social networks by religious affiliation



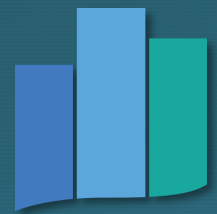
Source: PRRI, American Values Survey, October 2013.

A photograph of a paved road that splits into two paths, leading into a vast, green, grassy field under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The road has a yellow center line and white edge lines. The text is overlaid on the road.

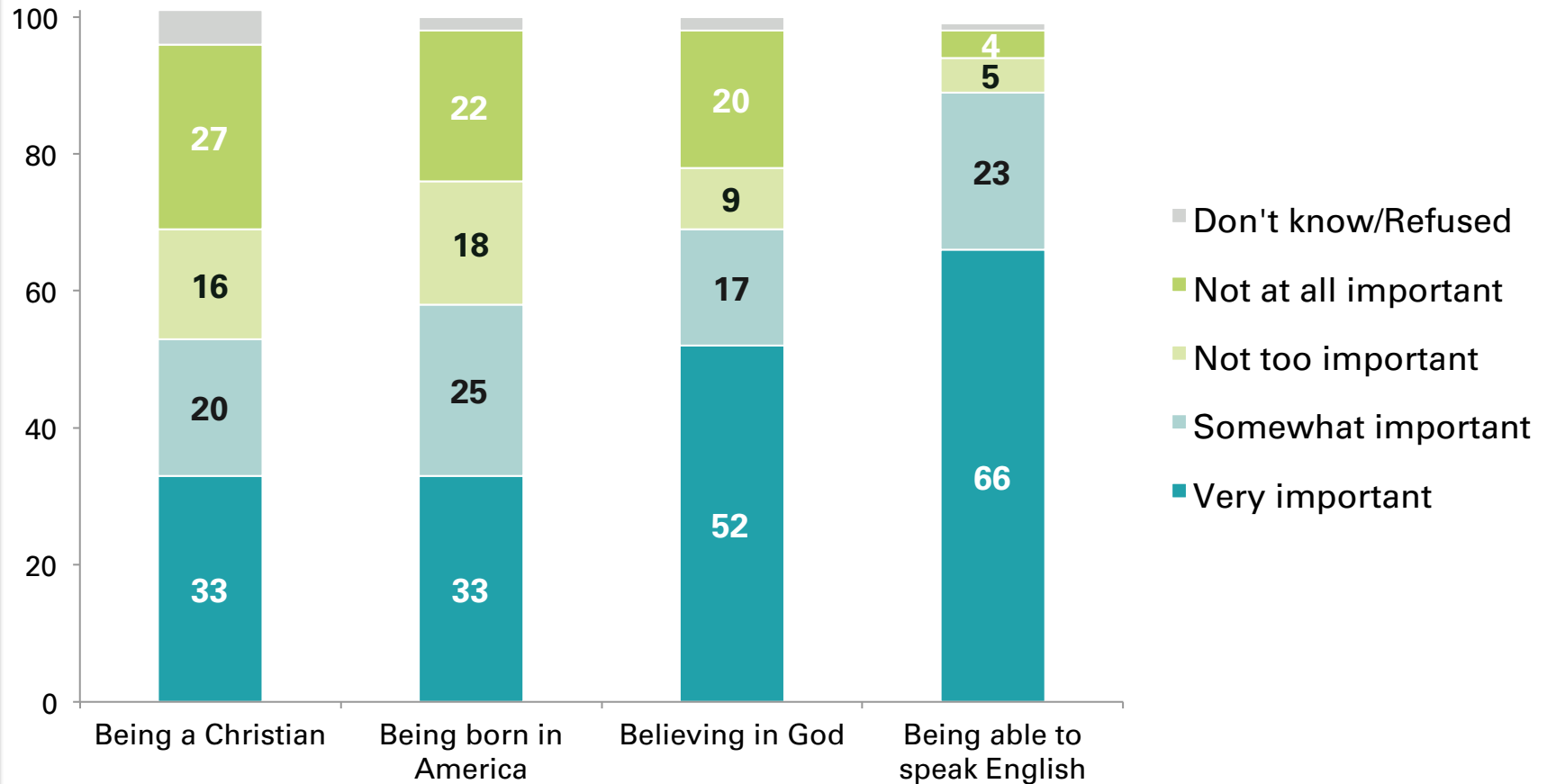
# THE ROAD AHEAD

Changing Conceptions of  
What it Means to Be an American

# What it Takes to be Truly American?



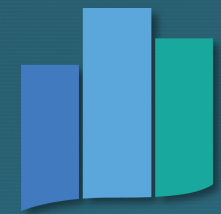
How important are each of the following for being truly American?



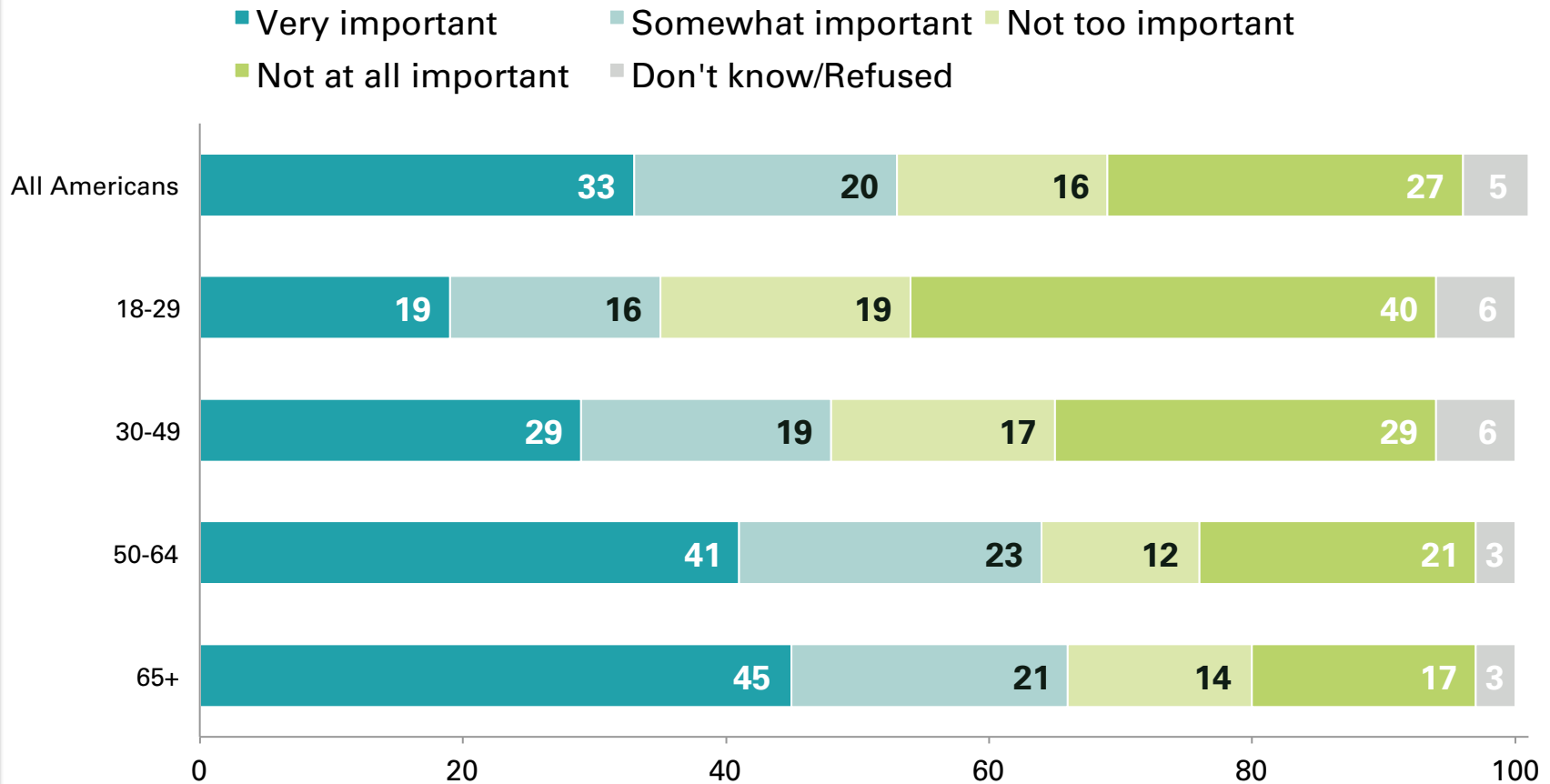
Source: PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, June 2015.



# How important do you think being a Christian is for being truly American?

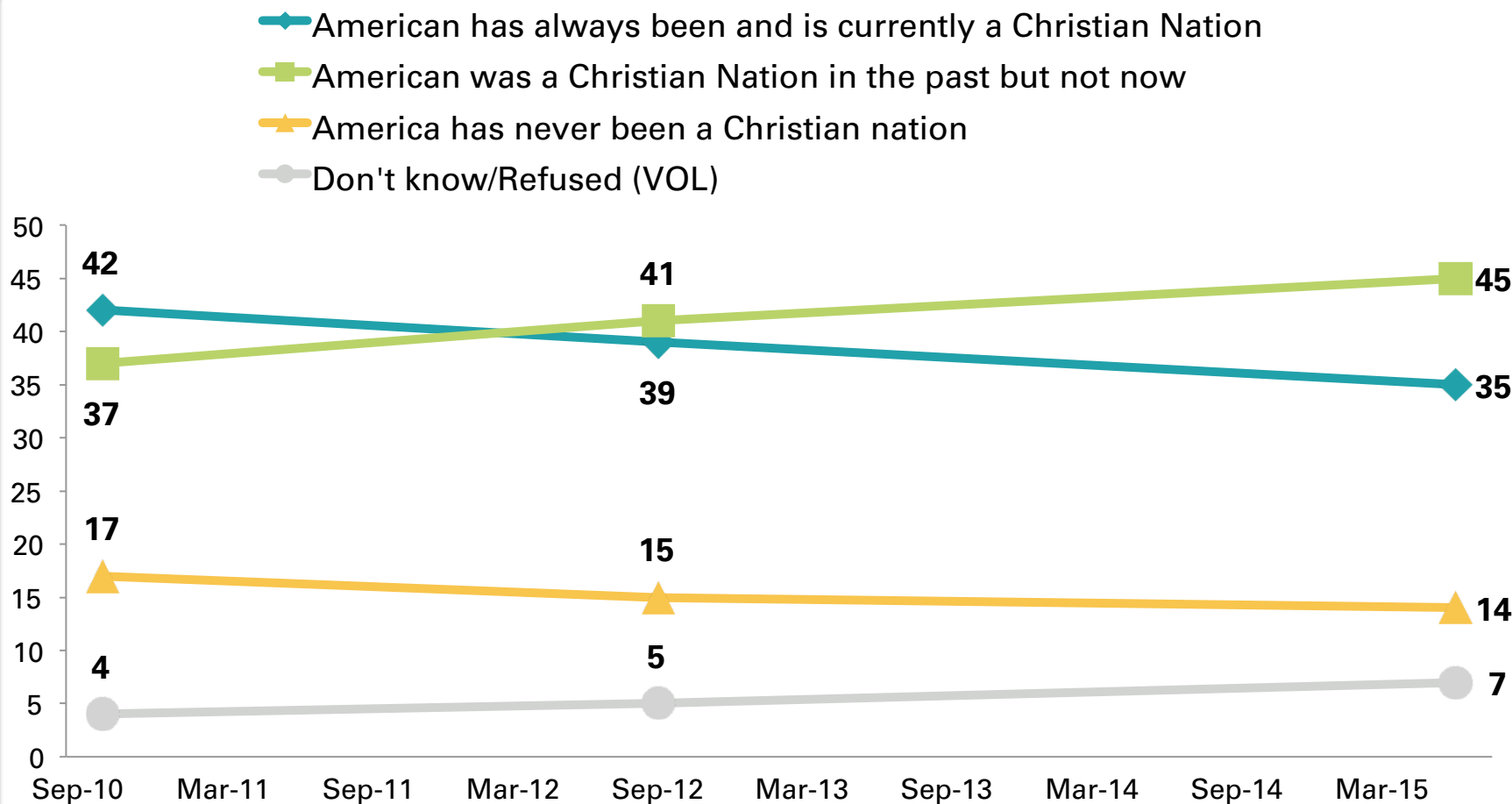
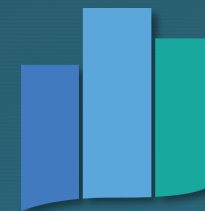


## By generation



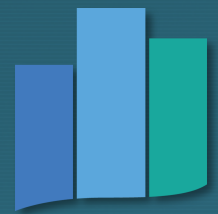
Source: PRRI/RNS, Religion New Survey, June 2015.

# Trend: Perception of American as a Christian Nation



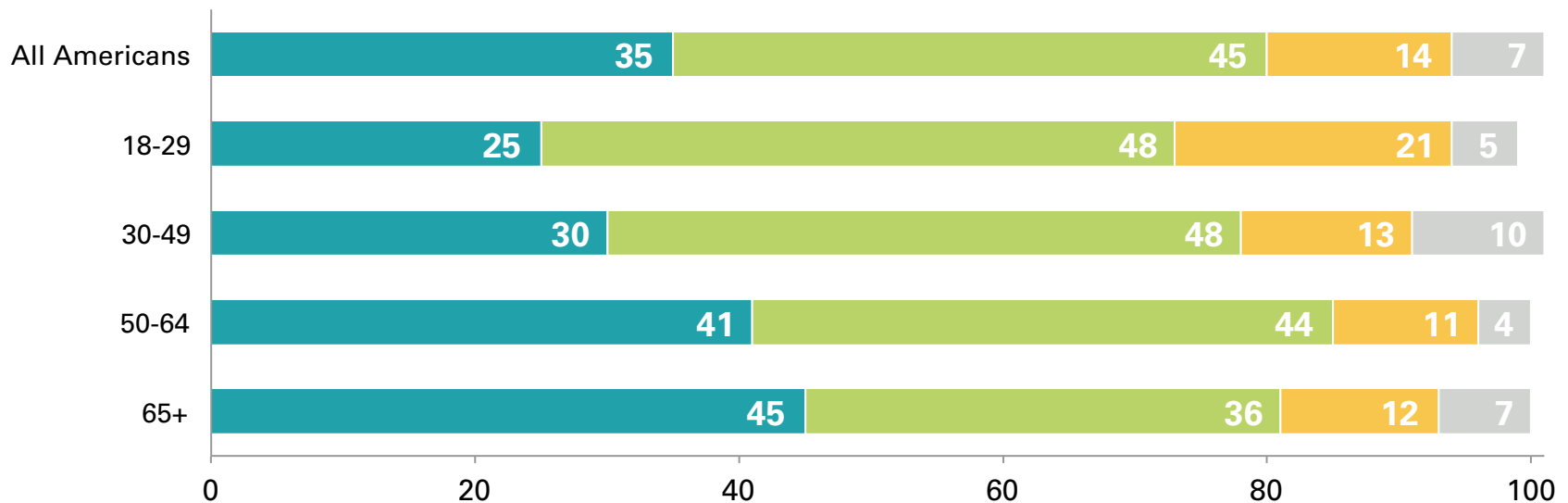
Sources: PRRI, American Values Survey, Oct. 2010; PRRI, Race, Class & Culture Survey, Sept. 2012; PRRI/RNS, Religion News Survey, June 2015.

# Changing Views of America's Religious Heritage



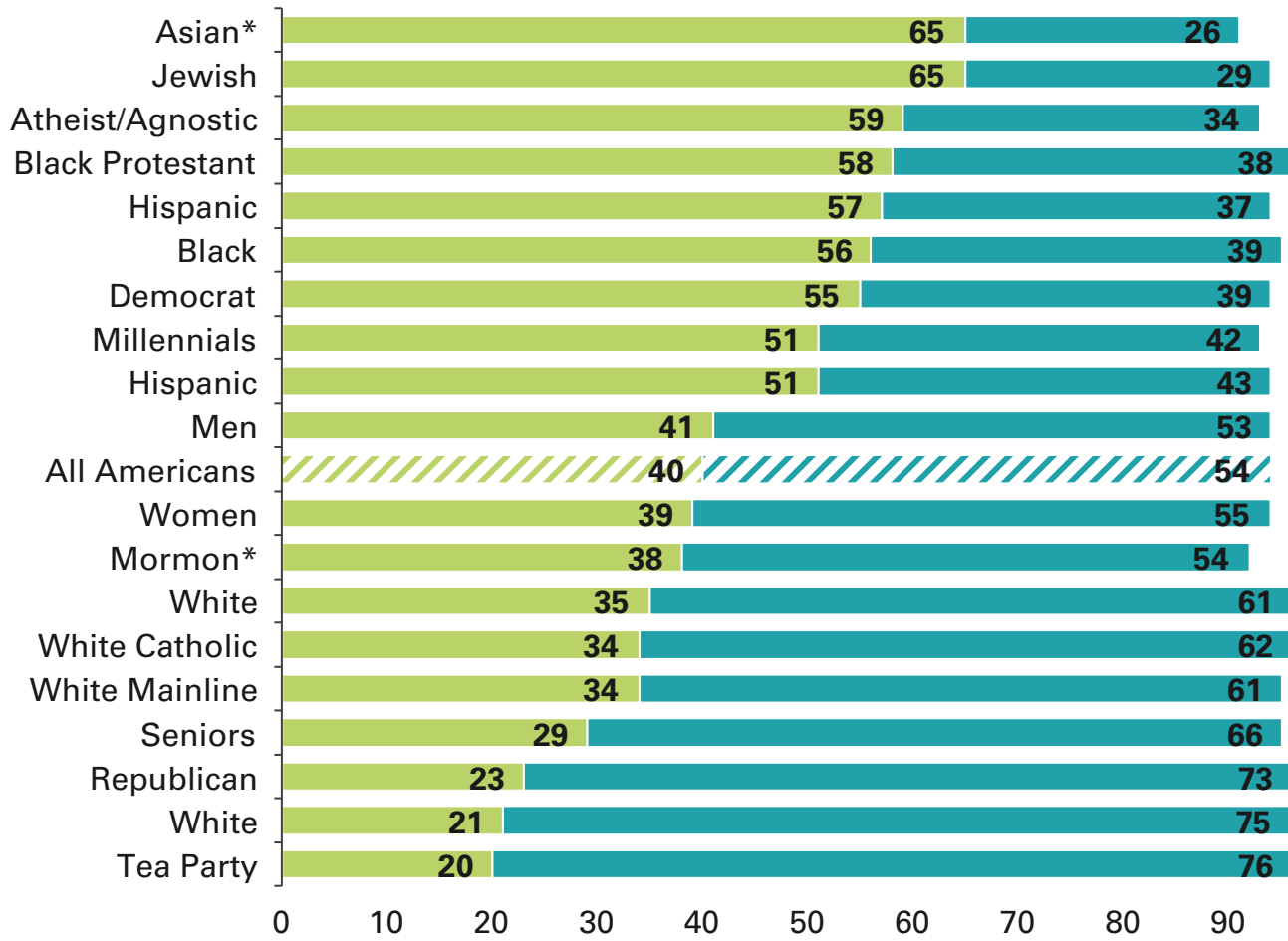
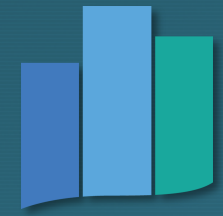
## Perception of America as a Christian Nation By generation

- American has always been and is currently a Christian Nation
- American was a Christian Nation in the past but not now
- America has never been a Christian nation
- Don't know/Refused (VOL)



Source: PRRI/RNS, Religion New Survey, June 2015.

# Perceptions of Changes to American Culture Since 1950s



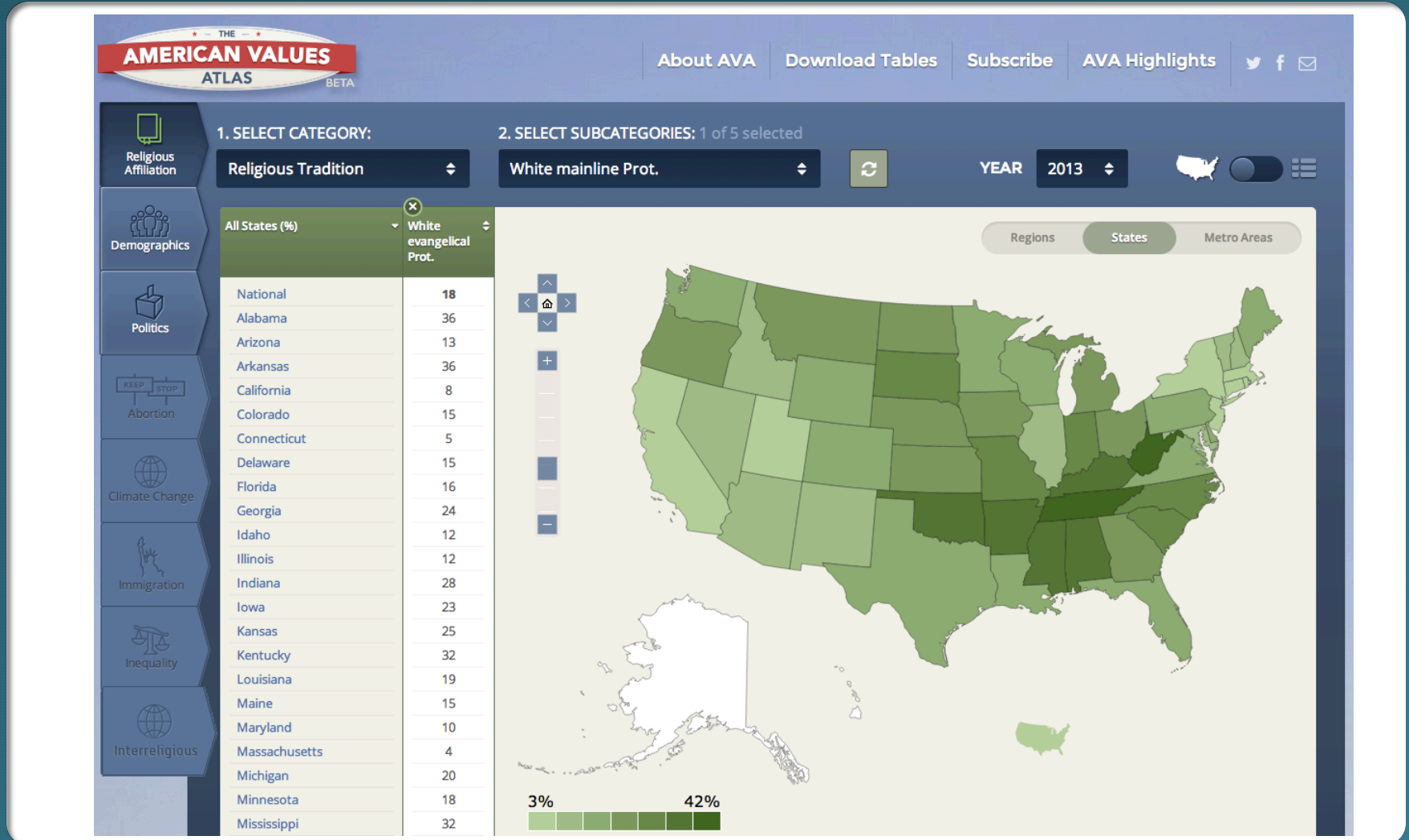
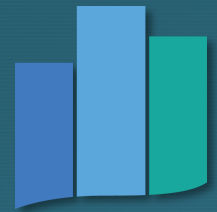
Since the 1950s, American culture and way of life has...

- Changed for the better
- Changed for the worse

\*Results should be interpreted with caution due to small number of cases. Asian N=94. Mormon N=97.  
Source: PRRI, LGBT Issues & Trends Survey, February 2014.



# The American Values Atlas: A New Interactive Tool



# The Changing American Landscape

A Fresh Look at Interreligious America

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