

CENSUS DATA & PUBLIC OPINION POLLS ON RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION IN CHILE, 1920-2006

Compiled by Clifton L. Holland

5 February 2008

POLL	DATE	CATHOLIC	PROTESTANT	OTHER	NONE/NA
CENSUS	1920		1.44%		
CENSUS	1930		1.45%		
CENSUS	1940		2.34%		
CENSUS	1950		4.06%		
CENSUS	1960		5.58%		
CENSUS	1970		6.18%		
POLL	1990	73.5%	16%	0.6%	9.8%
CENSUS	1992	76.7%	12.4%	5.1%	5.8%
POLL	1996	71%	12%	4%	13%
POLL	2000	54%	10%	1%	35%
CENSUS	2002	70%	15.1%	6.6%	8.3%
POLL	2006	61%	17%	1%	21%

*This category includes "other religions," "no religion" and "no answer."

NOTE: Obviously, there is a problem with the consistency of these studies; also there is a need to clarify methodology used, the sample size and geographical distribution, the definitions for each category, the possibility of sampling errors, etc. It appears that the "Protestant" category for the 1990 poll probably included Marginal Christian groups, such the Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, rather than including those groups in "Other Religions." Also, there appears to be a serious overcount in the category "None/No Answer" for the 2000 poll, which was reported to be 35% and an undercount in the category "Protestant," which was reported to be 10%.

SOURCES:

1920-1990 = Arturo Fontaine Talavera y Harald Beyer, "Retrato del movimiento evangélico a la luz de las encuestas de opinión pública, 1990-1991" (pp. 13-14 and cuadro 8.1, p. 26).

1992 = Censo 1992

1996 = Estudio Mundial de Valores, Chile-MORI, Julio 2006, p. 11.

2000 = Estudio Mundial de Valores, Chile-MORI, Julio 2006, p. 11.

2002 = Censo 2002: Síntesis de Resultados, pp. 23-24.

2006 = Estudio Mundial de Valores, Chile-MORI, Julio 2006, p. 11.