

Indicator 54. Religion

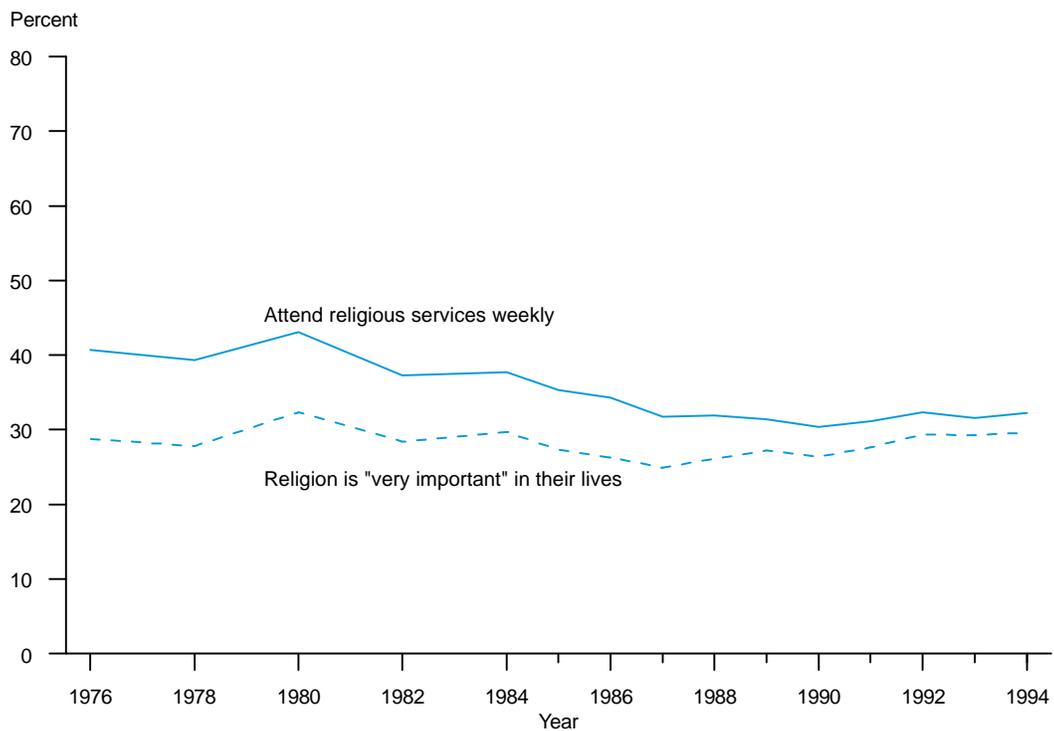
Religious involvement of high school seniors: 1976 to 1994

Year	Attending religious services (in percent)				Importance of religion in my life (in percent)			
	Weekly	1 to 2 times per month	Rarely	Never	Very important	Pretty important	A little	Not important
1976	40.7	16.3	32.0	11.0	28.8	30.5	27.8	12.9
1978	39.4	17.2	34.4	9.0	27.8	33.0	27.9	11.2
1980	43.1	16.3	32.0	8.6	32.4	32.6	25.3	9.8
1982	37.3	17.4	35.8	9.6	28.4	33.0	27.9	10.7
1984	37.7	16.2	35.8	10.2	29.7	32.6	26.7	11.0
1985	35.3	16.6	37.0	11.1	27.3	32.4	27.6	12.7
1986	34.3	16.8	36.9	12.0	26.3	32.7	27.8	13.3
1987	31.8	15.6	39.6	13.0	24.9	31.7	28.8	14.5
1988	31.9	17.3	39.0	11.7	26.1	31.9	28.4	13.6
1989	31.4	16.6	38.5	13.5	27.2	30.3	27.8	14.7
1990	30.4	15.7	39.7	14.1	26.4	29.5	28.7	15.5
1991	31.2	16.8	37.6	14.4	27.7	30.0	27.0	15.3
1992	32.4	17.6	36.3	13.8	29.4	29.8	26.2	14.6
1993	31.6	16.4	37.6	14.4	29.3	28.6	27.2	14.9
1994	32.3	16.5	36.8	14.3	29.6	28.6	26.4	15.4

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future*, various years.

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SOURCE: University of Michigan, Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future*, various years.

The proportion of high school seniors who attend religious services every week showed little change between 1976 and 1980, but then declined from 43 percent in 1980 to 32 percent in 1987. There was little change after that. This pattern was mirrored to some extent by the changes in the proportion who felt that religion was “very important” or “pretty important” in their lives, which dropped from 65 percent in 1980 to 57 percent in 1987. The percentage was 58 percent in 1994.