



The Association Between Strength of Religious Beliefs and Political Attentiveness in U.S. Adults

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Introduction

- Religion has historically shaped civic participation in the U.S.
- Prior research finds religiosity increases political engagement (Wuthnow 1991)
- What is less known: Does stronger religious commitment correlate with higher political attentiveness?
- My study tests whether religiosity predicts attentiveness and whether this holds after controlling for income, education, and party affiliation.

Research Question

- Does stronger religiosity increase likelihood of political attentiveness?
- Does this relationship persist after controlling for demographic + political variables?

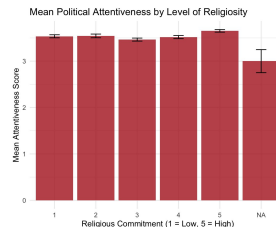
Results

Univariate

- Higher religiosity correlates slightly with higher political attentiveness.
- Relationship is statistically significant but small in magnitude.

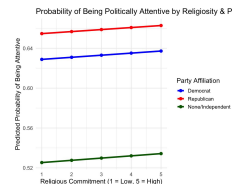
Bivariate

- ANOVA shows significant difference in attentiveness across religiosity levels - $F(4, 5488)=5.34, p < .001$
- Logistic regression (Attentive vs Not) \rightarrow religiosity significant when isolated - $p = .009$



Multivariate

- After controlling for education, income, and party affiliation, religiosity showed no meaningful effect on the likelihood of being politically attentive.
- Party affiliation mattered far more than religiosity.
- Republicans were the most politically attentive, followed by Democrats.
- None/Independent respondents consistently displayed the lowest attentiveness, regardless of religious commitment.
- Education was a positive predictor of attentiveness, while income showed almost no impact.
- Overall, attentiveness rises only slightly with religiosity, the effect exists, but is small.



Methods

Sample:

- Data: American National Election Studies 2024 (ANES)
- Nationally representative sample of U.S. adults aged 18+, Final analytic sample: ~5,000 respondents with complete data (N=2602)

Measures

- Religiosity: Measured as self-reported importance of religion (1–5). Recoded so 5 = strongest religious commitment.
- Political Attentiveness: Assessed with frequency of attention to politics (1–5). Recoded into Not Attentive (1–3) vs. Attentive (4–5).
- Party Affiliation: Categorized as Democrat, Republican, or Independent/None.

Discussion

- Religiosity shows only a small connection to attentiveness, and the effect disappears once education, income, and party affiliation are controlled.
- Education and partisanship matter more, suggesting attentiveness is shaped by information access and political identity rather than religious commitment.
- Independents were the least attentive overall, possibly due to weaker institutional mobilization.
- Overall, religion influences politics, but not strongly through attentiveness alone.

References

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