



INDIANA NONPROFITS

Scope and Community Dimensions

Nonprofit Survey Series
Report #7

INDIANA NONPROFITS: A PROFILE OF RELIGIOUS NONPROFITS AND SECULAR CHARITIES

A JOINT PRODUCT OF

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DETAILED FINDINGS

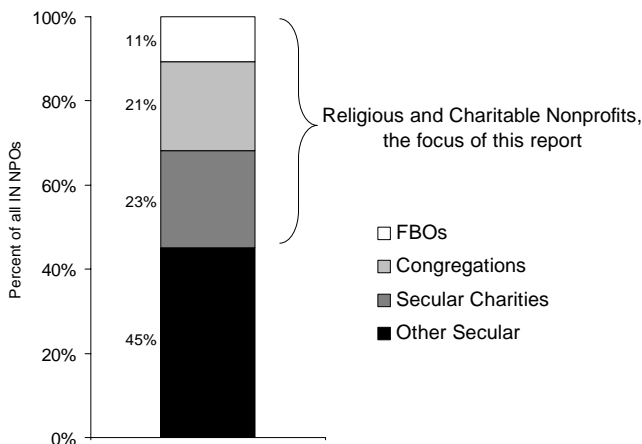
I. INDIANA’S RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE NONPROFITS

One in five Indiana nonprofits is a congregation (i.e. a church, synagogue, temple, or mosque). One in ten is some other faith-based organization, and nearly one-quarter of the nonprofits in the state are secular public charities. The remaining 45 percent are other types of secular nonprofits. More than one-half of the congregations in Indiana are evangelical Protestant; this is the most prevalent religious tradition in the state, followed by mainline Protestant.

Classification and Definitions: In this section we define the types of organizations that are the focus of this report by distinguishing nonprofits that have a religious or charitable focus from other types of nonprofits. For this analysis, we divided nonprofit organizations throughout the state into four broad categories: congregations, other faith-based organizations, secular charities, and other secular nonprofits. We exclude the latter category from the analyses presented in this report.

- **Congregations:** One-fifth (21 percent) of nonprofits in Indiana are religious congregations. See Figure 1.

Figure 1: Congregations, other FBOs, secular charities, and other secular nonprofits as a percentage of all Indiana nonprofit organizations (n=2,087)



- **Faith-Based Organizations:** One-tenth (11 percent) of all Indiana nonprofits are other faith-based organizations (FBOs). We define other FBOs as or-

ganizations that identify themselves as religiously oriented but not as congregations.¹⁰

- **Secular Charities:** Nearly one-quarter (23 percent) of Indiana nonprofits are secular charities. We define secular charities as public charities (registered with the IRS) that are not religiously oriented.
- **Other Secular Nonprofits:** The remaining 45 percent of Indiana nonprofits are organizations that do not fit into any of the three categories above. These include any nonprofits that are not registered as public charities and are not religiously oriented, such as advocacy groups, professional or housing associations, or member and mutual benefit nonprofits.¹¹

The Religious and Charitable Sector: In this report we focus explicitly on congregations and registered public charities (i.e. the first three groups identified above, omitting the ‘other secular’ category). Doing so allows for meaningful comparisons among congregations, other FBOs, and secular charities—what we refer to as Indiana’s religious and charitable nonprofits. Unless otherwise noted, the remainder of the report should be understood in reference to this subpopulation, not the entire population of Indiana nonprofits.

Two-fifths (39 percent) of religious and charitable nonprofits in Indiana are religious congregations, one-fifth (19 percent) are other FBOs, and two-fifths (42 percent) are secular charities. See Figure 2.

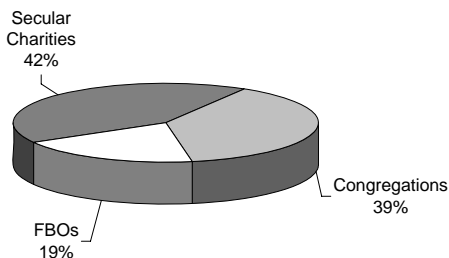
- **Congregations:** As we discuss later, the so-called “Charitable Choice” provision of the 1996 welfare reform legislation, as well as a series of more recent policy developments at the federal and state level, have sought to build the capacity of religious congregations to provide health or human service programs. In order to assess possible denominational differences in management capacity we categorize congregations by major type of theological tradi-

¹⁰ Some 119 organizations did not answer the question regarding religious affiliation; therefore we cannot determine their religious status and left them out of the analysis. See Question 21 in Appendix A for actual wording of the question. The full survey instrument can be found online at: www.indiana.edu/~nonprof/results/npsurvey/ins.survey.pdf

¹¹ As noted above, all previous reports have focused on the full range of Indiana nonprofits.

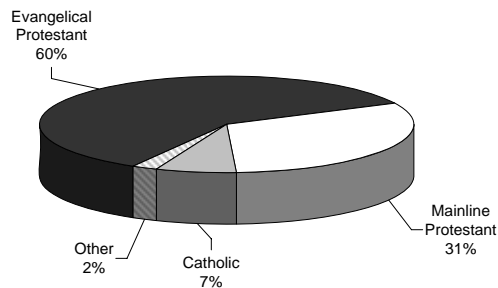
tions. Indiana congregations fall primarily into three such traditions: evangelical Protestant, mainline Protestant, and Catholic.¹²

Figure 2: Congregations, other FBOs, and secular charities as a percentage of all Indiana religious and charitable nonprofit organizations (n=1,040)



- **Evangelical Protestant:** The majority (60 percent) of Indiana congregations belong to the evangelical Protestant tradition. Examples of denominations in this tradition included in our sample are Baptist, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Nazarene, Assembly of God, Church of Christ, Pentecostal, Church of God, Community Church, Southern Baptist Convention, Mennonite, Missionary Baptist, and Seventh Day Adventist.¹³ See Figure 3.

Figure 3: Congregation type as a percentage of all Indiana congregations (n=481)



- **Mainline Protestant:** Three in ten (31 percent) congregations are mainline Protestant. Examples

of mainline Protestant denominations in our sample include United Methodist, Presbyterian, Disciples of Christ, Evangelical Lutheran, American Baptist Churches in the USA, United Brethren, Lutheran Church in America, Methodist, Quaker, and Episcopal.

- **Catholic:** Less than one in ten (7 percent) Indiana congregations is Roman Catholic.
- **Other:** The remainder of the congregations in Indiana (2 percent) belong to black Protestant (e.g. African Methodist Episcopal Church) and nontraditional (e.g. Unitarian Universalist and Mormon) denominations, as well as Jewish, Greek Orthodox, and other non-Christian traditions.

¹² Categorization of evangelical and mainline Protestant denominations here is based on Steensland et. al “The Measure of American Religion: Improving the State of the Art,” *Social Forces*, September 2000, 79(1):291-318

¹³ See Appendix B for a detailed breakdown of the types of congregations and percentages for each religious affiliation except for Catholic.