

## Secularism

### Objective:

- 1) Introduce students to secularism in the United States
- 2) Explore the various measurement strategies used to examine secularism
- 3) Familiarize students with online research tools

### Activity:

Introduce students to the various measures sociologists utilize when examining secularism ([Atheism and Agnosticism](#), [Belief in God](#), [Religious Service Attendance](#), [Religious Behavior](#), [Religious Tradition](#), [Religious Salience](#))

Using [QuickLists](#), examine the [nations](#) and [regions of the world](#) with the highest percentages of atheists

Using [QuickLists](#), observe where atheists and agnostics rank in [number of adherents](#) against all other world religions

Using the [Compare Members](#) tool investigate the demographics, moral attitudes, and political attitudes to [Atheists and Agnostics](#); these two groups could also be compared with up to three other denominations ([example](#))

Using [QuickStats](#), investigate the percentage of Americans that report [no religious preference](#), the [demographic patterns](#) of this group, and changes in the size of this group [over time](#)

Using [QuickStats](#), examine how many Americans report [never attending](#) religious services, the [demographic patterns](#) of this group, and changes in the size of this group [over time](#); also investigate other religious behaviors like [frequency of prayer](#) ([demographics](#), [over time](#)) or [reading sacred texts](#) ([demographics](#))

### Assessment:

Using what they now know, direct students to read one of the Ahead of the Trend articles on The ARDA concerning [irreligion](#) or [secularism](#)

### Suggested reading:

“[Irreligion](#)” in the [Religion Dictionary](#) in Teaching Tools on The ARDA

“[Secularization](#)” in the [Religion Dictionary](#) in Teaching Tools on The ARDA

