DOES RELIGIOSITY INFLUENCE CHARITABLE GIVING?

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CONCEPT

RELIGIOUS + PRACTICES → CHARITABLE GIVING
HYPOTHESIS
Those who are involved in religious practices are more generous to charities than those who are not involved in religious practices.

www.zimbio.com (Nov. 23, 2010 - Source: Pool/Getty Images North America)
Arthur C. Brooks’ article, “Faith, Secularism, and Charity.”
(Faith and Economics, 2004)

The Chronicle of Philanthropy article on “Religious Americans Give More, New Study Finds.” by Alex Daniels (November 25, 2013)

“Who Gives to the Poor? The Influence of Religious Tradition and Political Location on the Personal Generosity of Americans toward the Poor.”
Data Collection Method

2014 General Social Survey (GSS)
Nationally representative sample of U. S. adults over the age of 18 years (n= 2,538)
This is a cross-sectional, nationally representative survey probing many beliefs and the behaviors of Americans. I used the variables in the data that concern the religious practices, beliefs and the charitable giving behavior of those respondents who give to charities.
Definition of Measures

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE: Religious practices (i.e. affiliation and strength of religious beliefs)

DEPENDENT VARIABLE: Respondent’s Charitable Giving (measured as frequency of giving, volunteering and dollar amount given within the year)
Religious Practices can be Measured by Various Variables within the Data

Independent Variables

Religious Affiliation
Strength of Religious Beliefs
Member of a Religious Group
Religious Activities

Dependent Variables

Amount Given to Charity
Amount of Money Given
Amount of Volunteering
Analytic Methodology

Measurements of Central Tendency

Bivariate cross tabulations

Planned Future Analysis

Multiple Regression
RESULTS

Let’s take a look at some preliminary results and conclusions.
WHO GIVES TO CHARITY MORE OFTEN?

% OF RESPONDENTS

STRENGTH OF RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Very religious

Moderately Religious

Slightly Religious

Not Religious

- more than once a wk.
- once a wk.
- once a month
- at least 2 or 3x per yr.
- once in the past yr.
- 0 in the past yr.
WHO VOLUNTEER FOR CHARITY MORE OFTEN?

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

Very strong | Not very strong | Somewhat strong | No religion

% OF RESPONDENTS

more than once a week | once a week | once a month | at least 2 or 3 x a month | once a year | 0 in the year
CONCLUSIONS

According to the data, higher levels of religiosity are associated with higher levels of charitable giving. The strength of religious affiliation matters in the amount of money given to charity. Being somewhat religiously affiliated means one volunteers more of their time to charity.

Future hypothesis: Does religious denomination or gender influence the amount given to charity?
ANY QUESTIONS?