

Abstract

(2018) , 80 % , (r = 0,11), . Abdyldaeva et al. (2023) et al. (2021)

(2024) , 60 % , (2018) , (2020) (, 2024b) : 50 6,14 %, 9,3 %.

Paper search

Using your research question ” ”, we searched across over 126 million academic papers from the Semantic Scholar corpus. We retrieved the 50 papers most relevant to the query.

Screening

We screened in papers that met these criteria:

- **Religious-Demographic Data:** Does the study analyze religious affiliation data alongside specific demographic outcome measures?
- **Population Scope:** Does the study examine demographic patterns at a national or regional (multi-community) level?
- **Demographic Indicators:** Does the study investigate at least one key demographic indicator (birth rates, mortality, migration, or marriage patterns)?
- **Study Design:** Is the study either a longitudinal analysis, cross-sectional comparison of multiple regions/countries, or a systematic review/meta-analysis?
- **Empirical Evidence:** Does the study present empirical data (either quantitative or qualitative)?
- **Study Scope:** Does the study examine broader population patterns beyond individual-level practices or single institutions?
- **Research Focus:** Does the study include demographic components beyond purely theological or doctrinal discussions?

We considered all screening questions together and made a holistic judgement about whether to screen in each paper.

Data extraction

We asked a large language model to extract each data column below from each paper. We gave the model the extraction instructions shown below for each column.

- **Study Design Type:**

Identify the primary research methodology used in the study. Options may include:

- Quantitative survey
- Ethnosociological research
- Census data analysis
- Comparative cross-national study
- Mixed methods

Look in the methods section or abstract for explicit description of research approach. If multiple methods are used, list all and indicate primary method. If unclear, note "methodology not clearly specified".

- **Data Sources and Collection Methods:**

Specify the primary data sources used in the study, such as:

- Population census data (specify years)
- Survey data (specify survey name, waves, years)
- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Statistical databases

Extract specific details about data collection, including:

- Number of data collection waves
- Years of data collection
- Specific sources (e.g., "European Values Survey, waves from 1999, 2008, 2018")

If multiple data sources were used, list all in order of primary to supplementary sources.

- **Geographic Scope and Population Characteristics:**

Identify and extract:

- Countries/regions studied
- Specific ethnic/religious groups examined
- Urban vs rural population breakdown
- Sample size for each population segment

Look for explicit descriptions in methodology, sample description, or results sections. If multiple population segments are analyzed, list each with its corresponding sample size and characteristics.

Example format:

- Russia (total sample: X)
 - Urban population: Y
 - Rural population: Z
- Ethnic groups: Russian, Finno-Ugric, etc.

- **Religious Composition and Identity:**

Extract information about:

- Dominant religious groups

- Level of religious participation (e.g., regular service attendance)
- Religious socialization indicators
- Variations in religious identity across demographic groups

Look for quantitative measures of religious participation, descriptions of religious landscape, and analysis of religious identity. Note any specific metrics or scales used to measure religious involvement.

- **Demographic Outcomes and Religious Correlations:**

Identify and extract:

- Specific demographic outcomes studied (e.g., fertility rates)
- Strength and nature of correlation between religious identity and demographic variables
- Contextual factors influencing these relationships

Look in results and discussion sections for:

- Statistical correlations
- Regression analysis results
- Interpretative explanations of observed relationships

Capture both quantitative findings and qualitative interpretations of demographic-religious interactions.

Results

Characteristics of Included Studies

Study	Research Focus	Geographic Region	Study Design	Population Characteristics	Full text retrieved
Abdyldaev , 2018	Ethno-religious situation	Kyrgyzstan	Ethnosociological research	Over 80% Muslim population, primarily Kyrgyz and Uzbek ethnic groups	Yes
Manakov, 2019	Confessional space transformation	Russia	Census data analysis	Orthodox Christian, Muslim, and Buddhist populations	Yes
Vukcevic, 2020	Migration and religion	Serbia	Mixed methods	Migrants and local population, various religious groups	Yes

Study	Research Focus	Geographic Region	Study Design	Population Characteristics	Full text retrieved
, 2018	Migration impact on demographics	North Caucasus Federal District, Russia	Mixed methods	Total population 9,775,000, Russian and Caucasian ethnicities	Yes
, 2024a	Ethnodemographic and confessional evolution	Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia	Census data analysis	Russian and Finno-Ugric ethnic groups, urban and rural populations	No
, 2024b	Ethnic and religious composition changes	Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia	Census data analysis	Russians (36.9%), Bashkirs (31.0%), Tatars (23.9%), other ethnic groups	Yes
, 2019	Demographic and socio-economic factors	Russia	Analysis of demographic factors	Russian and foreign ethnic groups	Yes
and , 2024	Religious identity of Russian population	Republic of Tatarstan, Russia	Mixed methods ethnosociological study	Russian population, urban and rural, various age groups	Yes
et al., 2023	Religiosity and fertility	39 European countries, including Russia	Comparative cross-national study	Orthodox populations in post-Soviet countries, Catholic and Protestant populations in Western Europe	Yes
et al., 2021	Demographic development	Countries of the Near Abroad (former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR))	Comparative cross-national study	Muslim and Christian populations	No

The report includes 10 studies focusing on various aspects of religion, ethnicity, and demographics.

Geographic Scope

- Russia (6 studies, including specific regions)
- Kyrgyzstan (1 study)
- Serbia (1 study)
- Multiple countries (2 studies)

Study Design

- Mixed methods (3 studies)
- Census data analysis (3 studies)
- Comparative cross-national (2 studies)
- Ethnological research (1 study)
- Demographic analysis (1 study)

Population Characteristics

- Multi-ethnic populations (2 studies)
- Urban and rural populations (2 studies)
- Other focuses (1 study each):
 - Muslim majority
 - Multi-religious
 - Migrants and locals
 - Multi-ethnic with specific percentages
 - Russian urban/rural
 - Multi-religious cross-national
 - Muslim and Christian populations

Population sizes were not consistently reported across the included studies. Only one study (, 2018) explicitly mentioned a total population figure (9,775,000 for the North Caucasus Federal District).

Thematic Analysis

Religious Influence on Fertility Patterns

- Key findings from et al. (2023):
 - Comprehensive cross-national study of 39 European countries
 - Varying strengths of correlation between religiosity and fertility rates across countries
 - In Russia: weak correlation ($r = 0.11$) between religiosity and fertility
 - Suggests religious affiliation may not strongly predict fertility rates in Russia

This weak correlation in Russia contrasts with the findings of et al. (2021), who observed a broader trend of population increase in Muslim countries and population decline in Christian countries of the former USSR.

The study by and (2024) in Tatarstan provides further nuance:

- Nearly 60% of the Russian population in Tatarstan identifies as Orthodox
- Variations in religious practices across age groups and urban/rural settings

Migration and Religious Demographics

- (2018) findings on North Caucasus Federal District of Russia:
 - Migration has led to an increase in the young population from national republics with high reproductive rates
 - Suggests that migration patterns have led to changes in the demographic composition, which may have implications for the religious composition of the region
- Vukcevic (2020) findings on Serbia:
 - Focused on integration of migrants with different religious backgrounds
 - No statistically significant correlation found between religious identity and demographic outcomes among migrants

Urban-Rural Religious Distribution

- and (2024) observations in Tatarstan:
 - Differences in religious practices between urban and rural populations
 - Urban residents more likely to attend church on religious holidays compared to rural residents
- (2024a) notes on Bashkortostan:
 - Importance of examining both urban and rural segments of ethnoconfessional groups
 - Specific findings not provided in the abstract

Demographic Indicator	Religious Factor	Context Impact	Key Findings
Fertility Rates	Religiosity	Varies by country	Weak correlation in Russia ($r = 0.11$), stronger in some European countries
Population Growth	Religious Affiliation	Post-Soviet context	Increase in Muslim countries, decline in Christian countries of former USSR
Migration Patterns	Religious Identity	Integration challenges	No significant correlation with demographic outcomes in Serbia
Urban-Rural Distribution	Religious Practices	Accessibility of religious infrastructure	Urban residents more likely to attend religious services in Tatarstan

Demographic Indicator	Religious Factor	Context Impact	Key Findings
Ethnic Composition	Religious Affiliation	Historical and cultural factors	Strong correlation in Kyrgyzstan (80% Muslim, primarily Kyrgyz and Uzbek)
Religious Demographic Shifts	Ethnic Identity	Long-term trends	6.14% growth in Muslim population, 9.3% decline in Orthodox Christian population over 50 years in Bashkortostan

The report found information on six different demographic indicators, each appearing in one study:

- Fertility Rates
- Population Growth
- Migration Patterns
- Urban-Rural Distribution
- Ethnic Composition
- Religious Demographic Shifts

Five different religious factors were examined across the studies:

- Religious Affiliation (2 studies)
- Religiosity (1 study)
- Religious Identity (1 study)
- Religious Practices (1 study)
- Ethnic Identity (1 study)

Key findings varied across studies:

- Correlations between religious factors and demographic indicators in 4 studies:
 - 1 reported a weak correlation
 - 1 reported varying correlations
 - 1 reported no significant correlation
 - 1 reported a strong correlation
- Trends related to religious demographics in 4 studies:
 - 2 reported declines in Christian populations
 - 1 reported an increase in Muslim countries
 - 1 reported growth in Muslim population
 - 1 reported higher religious service attendance in urban areas

The report didn't find consistent patterns across studies, likely due to the variety of demographic indicators, religious factors, and contexts examined.

Contextual Factors

Institutional Religious Infrastructure

- et al. (2023) findings:
 - Primary religious socialization important
 - Supportive religious context strengthens religiosity-fertility relationship
 - Strength of religious institutions may be more influential than mere religious affiliation
 - Role of socialization processes highlighted as significant
- and (2024) findings in Tatarstan:
 - Availability of religious infrastructure influences church attendance
 - Urban residents more likely to attend church than rural residents

Sociocultural Environment

- Impact of Soviet era's atheistic policies:
 - (2024b) notes on Bashkortostan:
 - * Historical constraints on collecting religious data
 - * Ethnic identity often used as proxy for religious identity
 - Complicates interpretation of current religious-demographic relationships
- Influence of modernization and globalization:
 - Varying strength of correlation between religiosity and demographic outcomes across countries and regions

Context Type	Religious Impact	Demographic Effect	Regional Variation
Institutional Religious Infrastructure	Influences religious socialization and practice	Potentially strengthens relationship between religiosity and fertility	Varies between urban and rural areas, stronger in countries with established religious institutions
Historical Legacy (e.g., Soviet atheism)	Affects religious data collection and expression	Complicates interpretation of current religious-demographic relationships	More pronounced in post-Soviet regions
Migration Patterns	Alters religious composition of regions	Changes age structure and potentially fertility rates	Significant in North Caucasus Federal District and other regions with high migration
Urbanization	Influences accessibility of religious institutions	Affects religious practices and potentially demographic patterns	Urban-rural divide observed in religious practices in Tatarstan

Context Type	Religious Impact	Demographic Effect	Regional Variation
Ethnic Composition	Often closely linked with religious identity	Shapes overall demographic landscape	Strong correlation in regions like Kyrgyzstan and Bashkortostan
Modernization and Globalization	May weaken traditional religious-demographic links	Potentially leads to convergence in demographic patterns	Implied by varying strength of religiosity-fertility correlation across countries
State Policies	Can shape religious landscape and expression	Influences religious-demographic relationships	Evident in post-Soviet countries' different trajectories

The report found various context types that influence the relationship between religion and demographics:

Religious Impact:

- 2/7 context types affect religious expression
- 1/7 each influences socialization, practice, data collection, composition, accessibility, identity, weakens links, and shapes the religious landscape

Demographic Effect:

- 1/7 context types each: strengthens religiosity-fertility relationship, complicates interpretation, affects age structure, influences fertility rates, impacts religious practices, shapes demographic patterns, affects overall landscape, leads to convergence, and influences religious-demographic relationships

Regional Variation:

- 2/7 context types show urban-rural differences
- 2/7 are more pronounced in post-Soviet regions
- 1/7 each: stronger in countries with established religious institutions, significant in high migration regions, shows strong ethnic-religious correlation, and implies cross-country differences

The report didn't find consistent patterns across all context types, suggesting that the relationship between religion and demographics is complex and varies depending on the specific context.

References

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