

Swarthmore College

Religious Preference of First Year Students

Your current religious preference	2017	2019	2021	2023	2025	Peers	Nat'l
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025	2025
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Baptist	2.1%	0.9%	2.2%	0.9%	2.2%	1.6%	6.0%
Buddhist	4.3%	1.9%	1.8%	2.3%	3.2%	1.3%	0.8%
Church of Christ	0.9%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	3.6%	4.9%
Eastern Orthodox	0.4%	0.5%	0.9%	0.0%	1.1%	0.7%	1.2%
Episcopalian	3.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.9%	0.5%	2.6%	1.4%
Hindu	3.4%	0.0%	0.9%	2.8%	0.5%	1.4%	1.9%
Jewish	5.5%	5.6%	7.1%	6.9%	3.2%	4.2%	4.5%
Lutheran	0.0%	0.5%	0.9%	0.9%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%
Methodist	0.9%	0.5%	1.3%	0.0%	0.5%	1.2%	1.5%
Muslim	3.8%	3.8%	3.5%	1.8%	4.3%	2.1%	2.1%
Presbyterian	3.0%	2.3%	2.2%	2.3%	2.7%	1.5%	1.7%
Quaker	1.7%	2.8%	0.4%	0.5%	1.1%	0.3%	0.1%
Roman Catholic	11.1%	9.4%	8.0%	10.1%	12.4%	11.7%	25.5%
Seventh Day Adventist	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%	0.2%
The Ch. of Christ of LDS	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%
United Ch. of Christ/Congr'l	0.9%	0.5%	0.4%	1.4%	0.0%	0.5%	0.4%
Other Christian	6.0%	8.5%	5.8%	7.8%	9.7%	9.1%	13.9%
Other Religion(s)/Belief(s)*	4.7%	4.7%	3.1%	2.3%	4.4%	5.5%	12.3%
None, Agnostic, or Atheist	48.5%	55.9%	60.6%	57.6%	52.1%	51.0%	20.0%
TOTAL (n)	235	213	226	217	186	2,264	16,431

NOTES: Table reflects first-year students. Swarthmore survey response rates were:
2015 - 48%; 2017- 68%; 2019 - 55%; 2021 - 58%; 2023 - 60%; 2025 - 47%

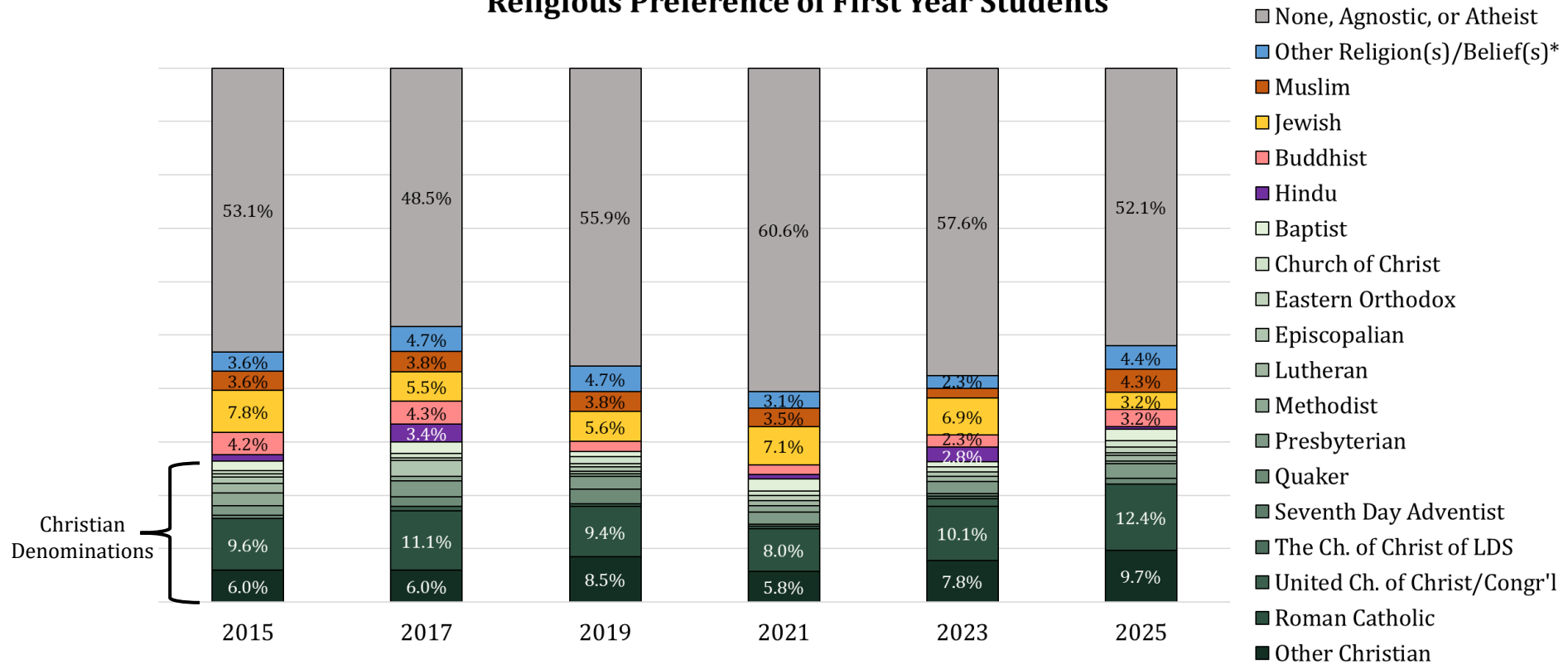
"Peers" comprise approximately 15 very highly selective Private/Nonsectarian 4-year Colleges.

National totals include all participating baccalaureate institutions but are not nationally representative of all first-time, full-time, first-year students because the data are not uniformly weighted and normed.

*A "Spiritual" category, added in 2025, is included in "Other Religion(s)/Belief(s)"

SOURCES: CIRP "Freshman Surveys," administered biennially by Swarthmore.

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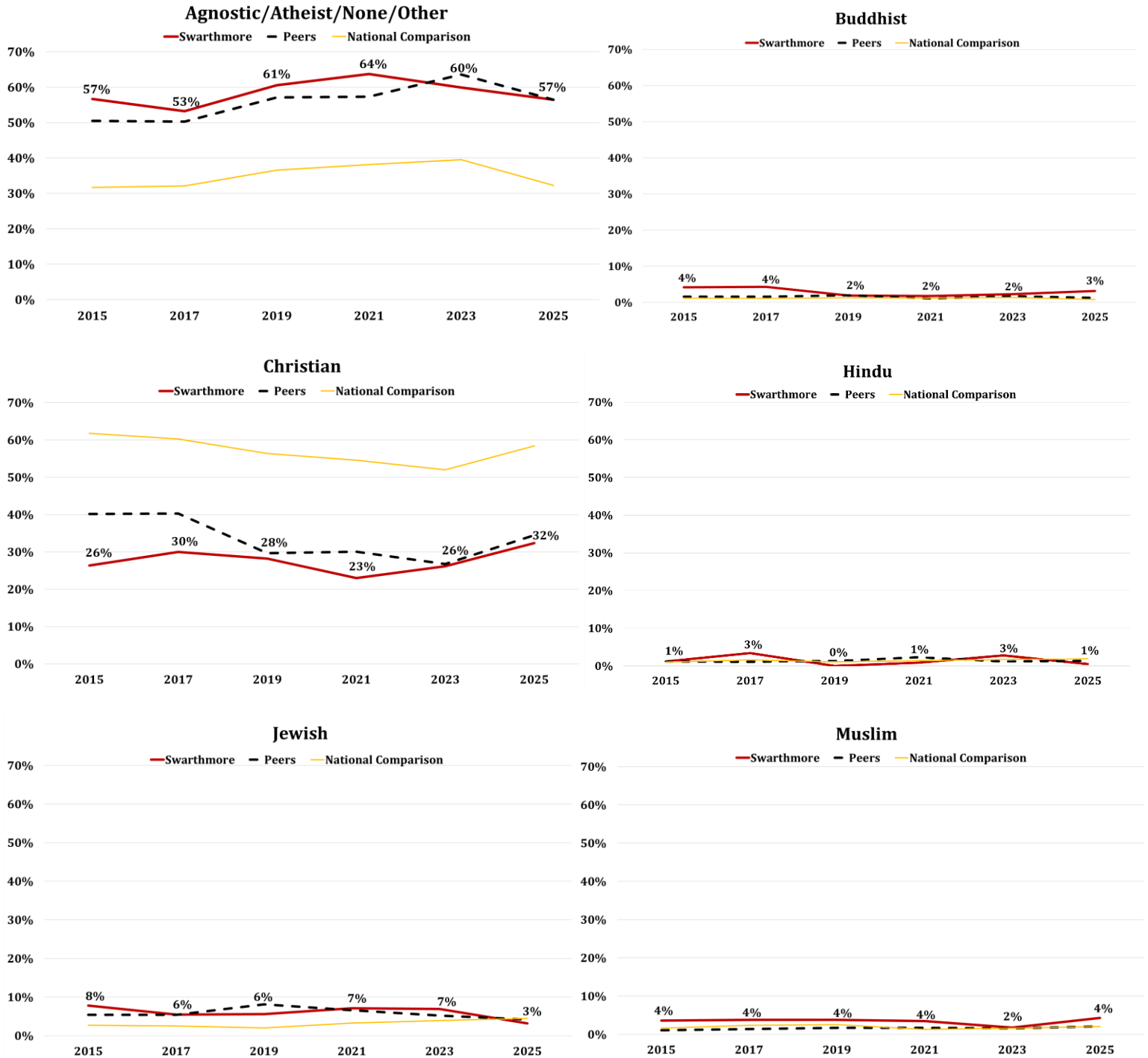
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(Percentages labels on line graphs reflect Swarthmore)



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