

GLOBAL THREATS & TRENDS
WHICH IMPACT THE CHRISTIAN
YOUTH AND CHILDREN

FOCUS ISSUES OF TODAY

TRENDS AND FACTS THAT PORTRAY THE DANGER THAT THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH FACES - LOCALLY, CONTINENTALLY, AND GLOBALLY - AS A RESULT FO THE AGGRESSIVE EFFORTS BY FORCES OF EVIL TO CAPTURE AND DOMINATE THE MINDS OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH BELIEFS, LIFESTYLE, PURSUITS, AND INTERESTS THAT UNDERMINE THEIR FAITH AND CHRISTIAN HERITAGE AND VALUES; THE DYNAMISM OF THE DEMOGRAPHICS THAT SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH POSITIVELY, IF EXPLOITED CAREFULLY, OR NEGATIVELY, IF IGNORED AND ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO ERODE OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH.

THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF SECULAR EDUCATION

“My biggest concern about young Christians being indoctrinated into secularism via education is not that they will become atheists. My biggest concern is that they will become dualists. A Christian dualist is *one who reads the Bible, prays, goes to Church on Sunday, maybe teaches Sunday School, and yet doesn't make any substantive connections between God's Word and what goes on in the workplace* for 40-60 hours Monday through Friday at ‘workplace’, because **he or she thinks "faith" is a personal matter, and the workplace is "public," and therefore "secular."**

[Dr. Christian Overman – Founder and Director, Worldview Matters]

IMPACT OF MEDIA USE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Evidence suggests that television's influence on children and adolescents is related to how much time they spend watching television. As a result, with prolonged viewing, the world shown on television becomes the real world . There is a relationship between watching violent television programming and an increase in violent behaviour by children.

IMPACT OF MEDIA USE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

In industrialized countries, there have been recent outcries over rising levels of aggression, obesity, substance abuse, eating disorders and unsafe sexual behavior among youth, increasingly attributed to commercial media aimed at children and youth. In developing countries, where resources limit domestic productions, a majority of programs for children and youth are imported. Unfortunately, much of the content contains characters and messages that, at best, are simply not relevant to local cultures, and at worst convey violent images and mass marketing messages.

THE IMPACT AND INFLUENCE OF PEER CULTURE

A peer group is both a social group and a primary group of people who have similar interests, age, background, or social status. The members of this group are likely to influence the person's beliefs and behaviour [Wikipedia]

The relationships kids form with their peers from the young age of six months through adolescence exert enormous influence on their lives.

Children begin their lives in the social world of their families, however, as they mature they are introduced to the social world of peers and spend increasing amounts of time with kids their own age.

(Gary Ladd, Arizona State University Professor of Psychology and Human Development)

THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

It is generally a collection of *Eastern-influenced metaphysical thought systems*, a conglomeration of theologies, hopes, and expectations held together with an eclectic teaching of 'salvation', of "correct thinking" and "correct knowledge". It is a theology of "feel-goodism", "universal tolerance", and "moral relativism". Though the NAM is tolerant of almost any theological position, it is opposed to the "narrow-mindedness" of Christianity that teaches Jesus is the only way and that there are moral absolutes.

THE FAMILY-ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE UPBRINGING OF CHILDREN

“A Counsellor, Mrs Funmi Adegboyega, on said that ***a successful marriage was key to bringing up successful and responsible children.*** A successful marriage brings about successful children. ***When children are nurtured in the environment of love and care, they excel in life, show love to others, they are happy, generous and always smile.*** Such children are often not afraid to speak outside and can express themselves anywhere because they have been influenced by a happy home,” She also said that the same children born from ***a home synonymous with violence and crises*** were usually those that ***grow up to become thugs and terrorists in the society.*** (PM News - Sunday, April 14, 2019)

EXPONENTIAL BENEFITS OF INVESTING ON CHILDREN

**“If your plan is for one year
plant rice. If your plan is for ten
years plant trees. If your plan is
for one hundred years educate
children”**

GLOBAL TRENDS OF INTEREST

Younger adults tend to be less religious than older adults in many countries

- Countries where **younger people** (ages 18-39) are less religious
- Countries where **older people** (ages 40+) are less religious
- No difference
- No data

Identify with any religious group



41 63 2★
Number of countries

Consider religion 'very important' in their lives



46 58 2★

Attend worship weekly

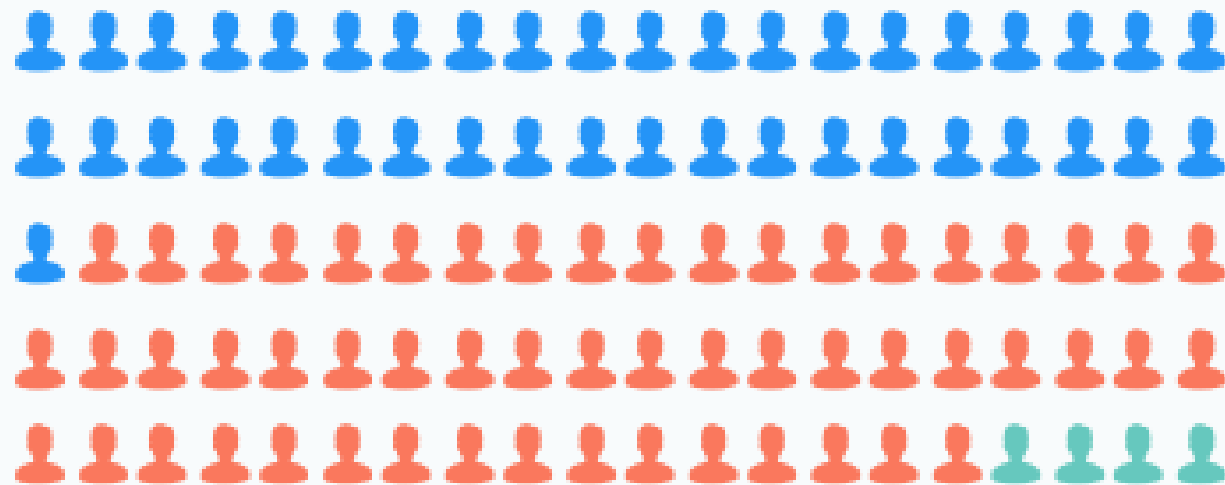


Pray daily



THE UNHARNESSED POTENTIALS OF THE CHRISTIAN YOUTH OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Age Breakdown of Christians in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2010



AGE
0-14



AGE
15-59



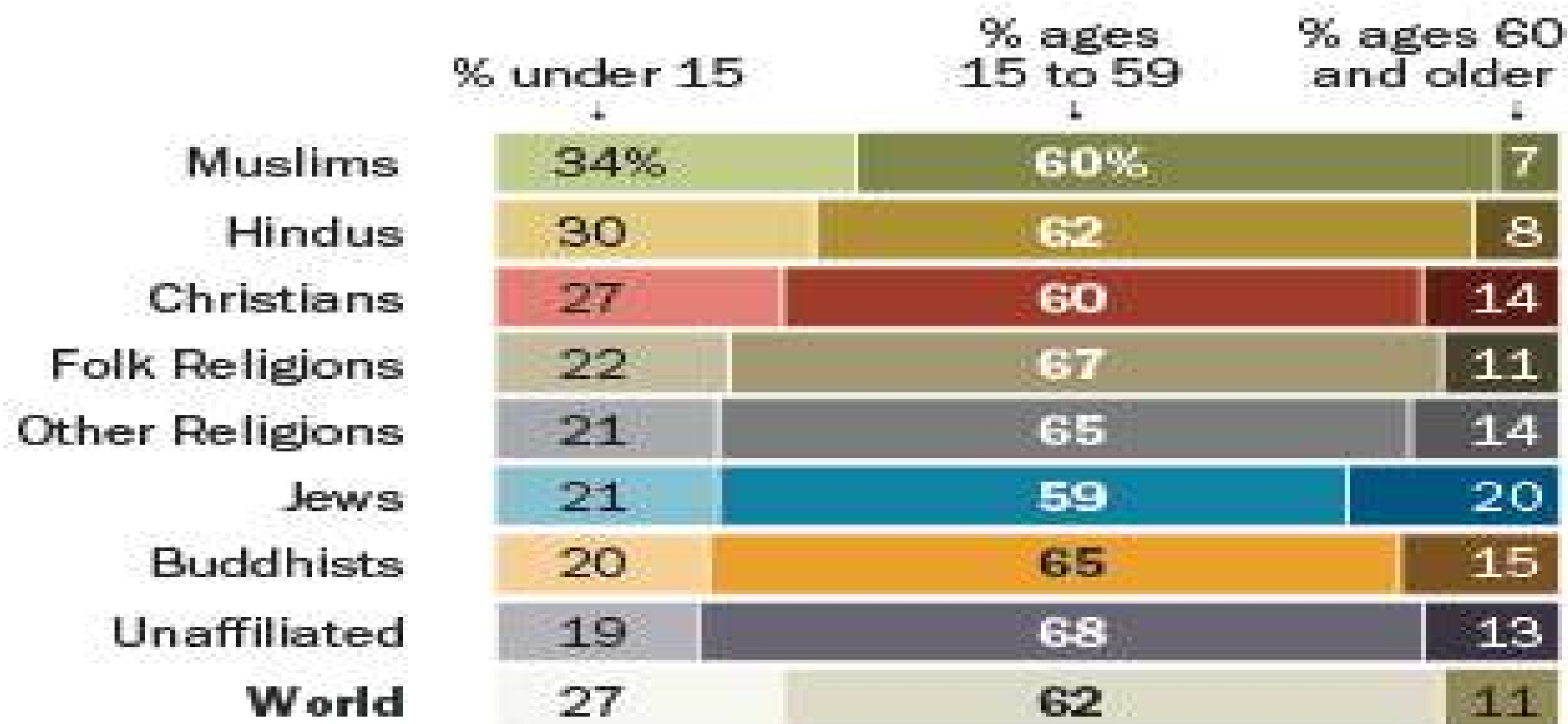
AGE
60+

Median age for Christians in
Sub-Saharan
Africa is

19 years.

Of course, we all know about the youth explosion in Africa, but recognizing that 19 is the median age of all African Christians is an important and sobering statistic.

Age Distribution of Religious Groups, 2010



Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: The Future of World Religions: Population Growth Projections, 2010-2050

RESCUING OUR CHILDREN AND THE YOUTH

