

# Social Institutions

1

EDUCATION AND RELIGION

# Social Institutions

2

- What are institutions
- Organized patterns of beliefs and behavior that are centered on the fulfillment of basic human needs.
- How are they different than organization

# Examples of Social Institutions

3

- Education\*
- Religion\*
- Medicine
- Marriage
- Government
- Family
- Economy

# Cultural Universals

4

- Social Institutions are cultural universals and satisfy needs of a society
- Usually are expressed in an unique form based on native culture
  - Marriage
    - ✦ Divorce
  - Education
  - Medicine

# Functionalist POV

5

- Institutions are the foundations of society
  - The columns of society

Society

Marriage  
and  
Family

Education

Religion

Medicine

# 5 components of institutions

6

- Replace personnel
- Teaching new recruits
- Producing and Distributing Goods
- Preserving Order
- Sense of Purpose

# Conflict POV

7

- Agree with Functionalist, institutions perform functions, but perform them for who.
- Institutions are too conservative and do not change fast enough to keep up with society
- Institutions are a portrait of societies “isms”
- Institutions are designed to fulfill the ideology of the dominant class
  - Hegemony – Antonio Gramsci

# Interactionist POV

8

- Interactionism focus on the behavior between individuals within institutions
- Institutions alter our relationships and generate roles and statuses
  - Institutions create and establish roles for individuals to occupy
  - Guidelines give us boundaries



# Institutions

9

- **Macro level**
  - Functionalist – needed to support the needs of society
  - Conflict – work to improve the lives of the dominant class, slow to change
- **Micro level**
  - Interactionists – established roles and behaviors set up by institutions which guides our behavior

# Institution of Education

# Functional POV

11

- **Socialization**
  - Learn the norms and values of the large society
- **Cultural Innovation**
  - Develop new technologies and ideas for society as a whole
  - Genetic engineering
- **Social Integration**
  - People from differing backgrounds come in contact
  - Merging of different cultures

# Functional POV

12

- **Social Placement**
  - Education places us in order based on our skills and talents
- **Latent Functions**
- **Manifest Functions**
- **Cynical POV**
  - Warehouse for the unemployed

# Conflict POV

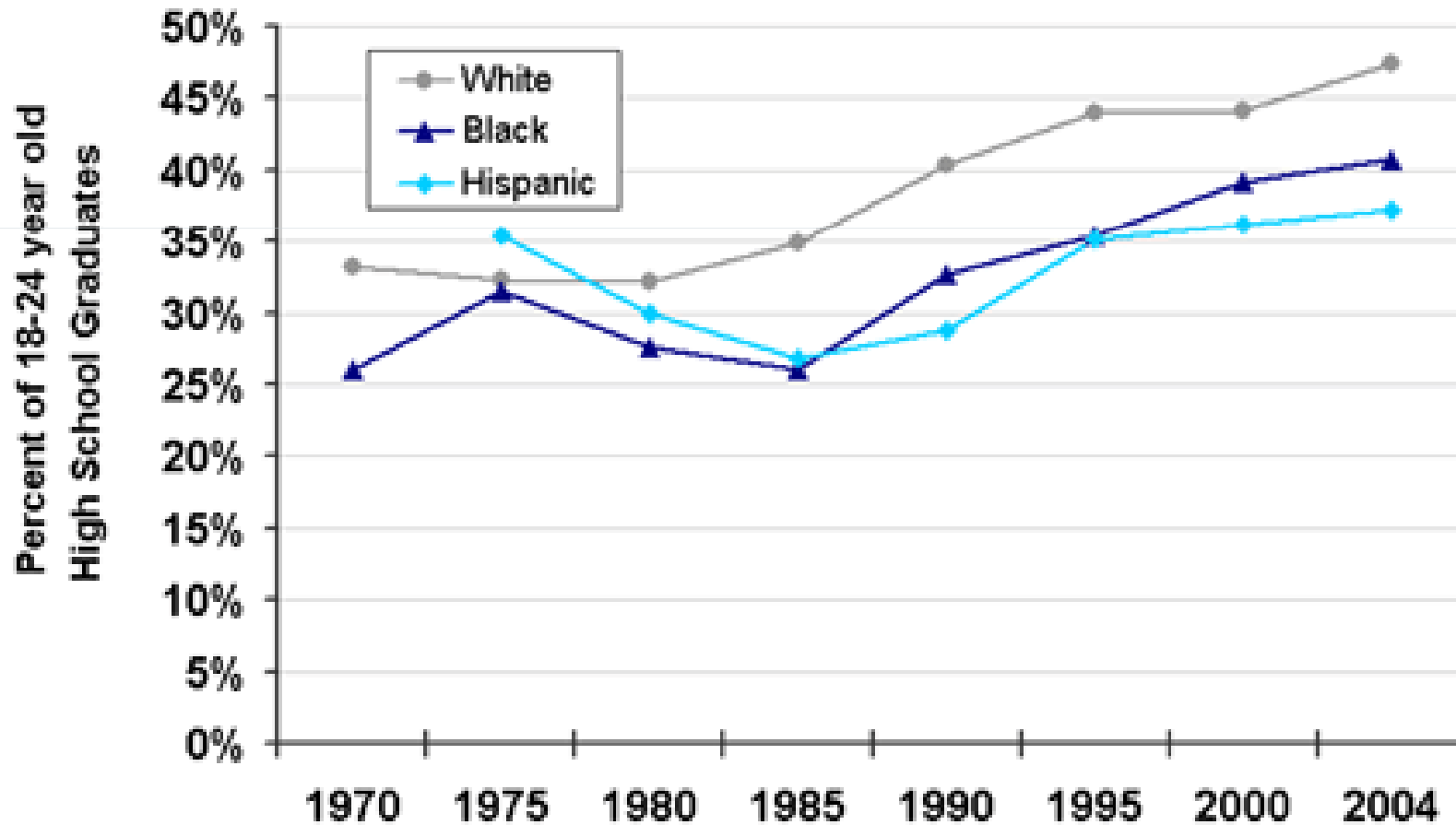
13

- Institution of education does not function equally for everyone
- Standardization as a whole
  - Not everyone learns at the same pace
  - One standard for everyone does not work
- Funding in disproportionate

# Race and Education

14

## College Enrollment Rates by Race

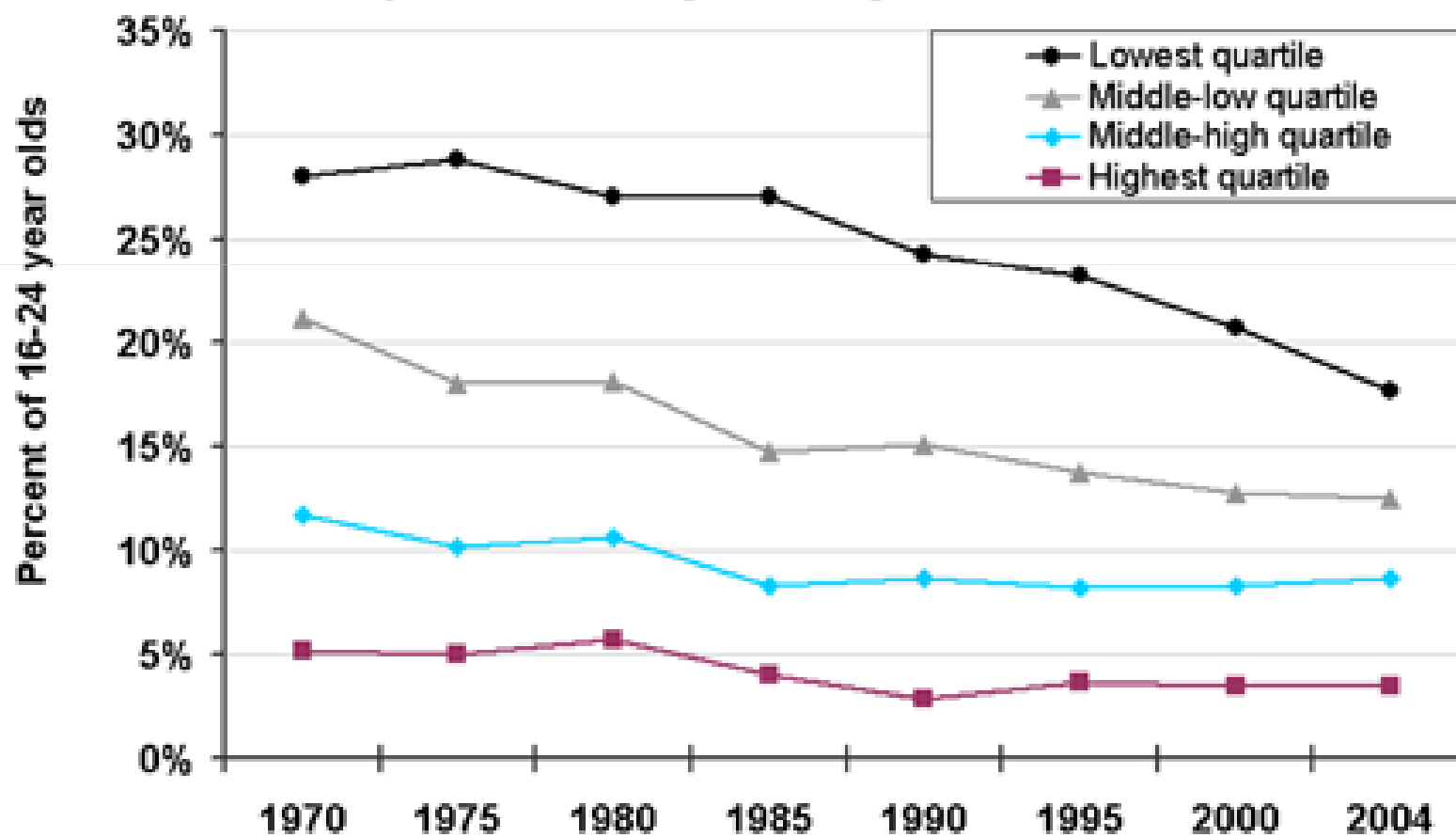


Source: US Dept of Education, NCES, Digest of Education Statistics 2005

# Education and Income

15

## Dropout Rate by Family Income Level



Source: US Dept of Education, NCES, Digest of Education Statistics 2005

# Interactionist POV

16

- How do children create relationships in school
- Impressions of the school we attend
  - Name of school
- Our behavior and attitudes change as our level of education changes
- Our level of education affects our quality of life
  - More education = better quality of life



# Education and Quality of Life

17

- **Highest Education Level Achieved Annual Income (1999)**
  - Professional Degree \$109,600
  - Doctoral Degree \$89,400
  - Master's Degree \$62,300
  - Bachelor's Degree \$52,200
  - Associate Degree \$38,200
  - Some College \$36,800
  - High School Graduate \$30,400
  - Not High School Graduate \$23,400

# Lifetime Income

18

- Highest Education Level Achieved Lifetime Income (40 years)
- Bachelor's Degree \$1,667,700
- Associate Degree \$1,269,850
- High School Graduate \$994,080
- Not High School Graduate \$630,000

# Education and Unemployment

19

- With more education, it is less likely that you will become unemployed
  - Non-High school – 6.5%
  - High School – 3.5%
  - Associates – 2.3%

# Sociology of Religion

# Religion

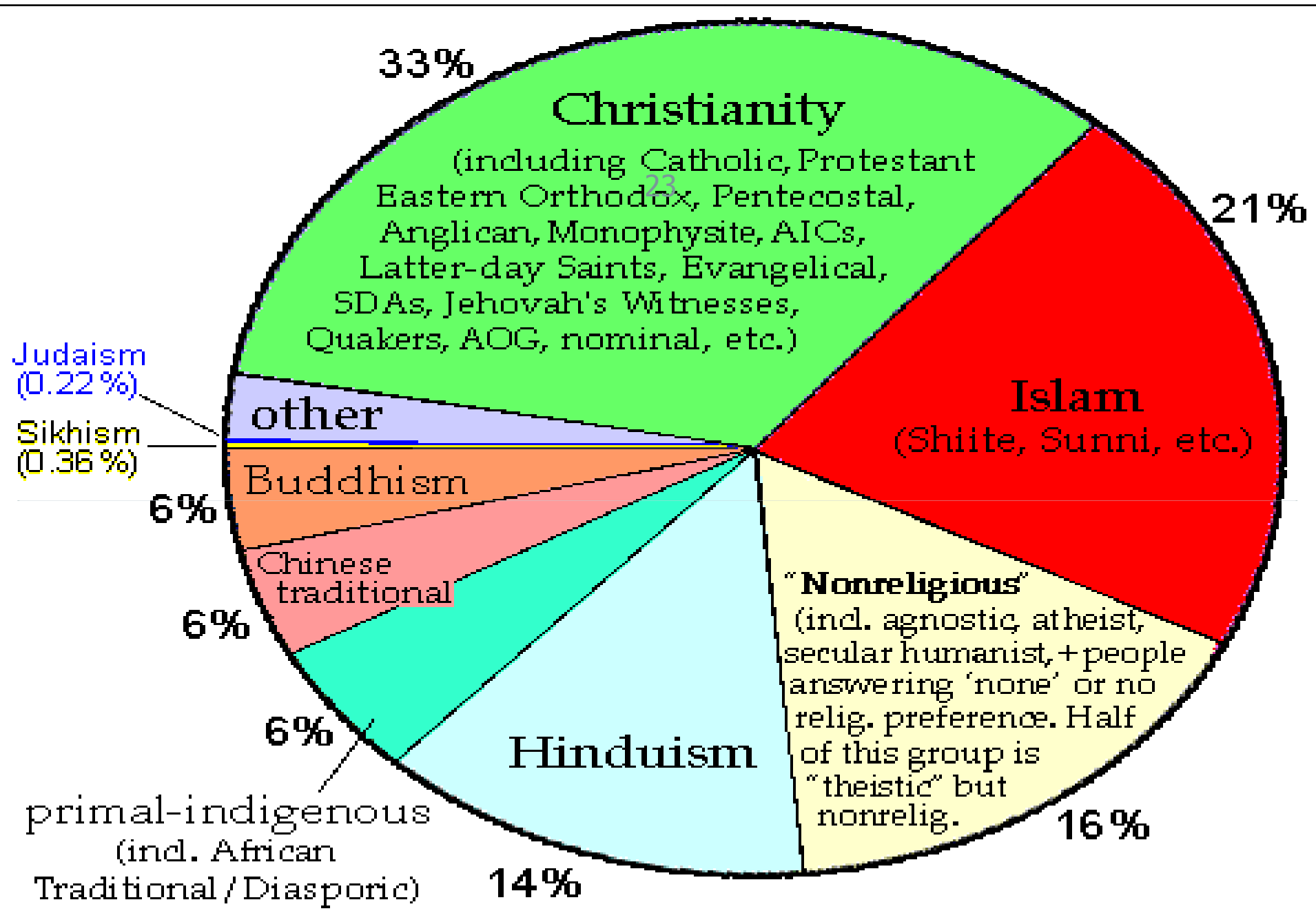
21

- Institution of Religion
- Cultural Universal
- Various expressions of religion throughout all cultures
- Unified system of beliefs and practices relative toward sacred things
  - Emile Durkheim

# Stats from around the world

22

- Christianity – 2.1 billion
- Buddhist – 376 million
- Hinduism – 900 million
- Islamist – 1.3 billion
- Judaist – 14 million
- Secular – 1.1 billion
- Scientologists – 500,000



NOTE: Total adds up to more than 100% due to rounding and because upper bound estimates were used for each group.

# Functionalist

24

- Integration and solidarity – Durkheim
  - Religious bonds tie people together
- Provides meaning and support to its members
- Purpose in life
- Salvation – religion's product
- Foundations for Community
- Meeting ground for individuals



# Functionalist con't

25

- **Social control function of religion**
  - Religious norms become sacred in society
  - Religious participation also inhibits and discourages behavior that violates norms
  - Religion also encourages helpful, friendly behavior

# Conflict POV

26

- Religion is the opiate of the masses
- Marx believed that religious beliefs are based on illusions
- The idea of salvation eases people view of their situation
- Religion gives people something to hold on to, intangible that can not be bought

# Conflict POV

27

- Attempts to control people and limit their decision making
- Biased towards dominant class
  - Harris County 2004
  - Bible in front of courthouse
- Impedes social change
- Hope of salvation discourages discontent

# Interactionist POV

28

- How we practice our beliefs
- Interaction between the church and its members
- Interaction between religions and their members
- Patterns and Changes of religious behavior
- Traditions and ceremonies within our culture
  - Christmas and Easter

# Religion in the US

29

- **Christian – 83% (1990), 79%(2001)**
  - Catholic – 26% (1990), 25% (2001)
  - Other – 61% (1990), 54% (2001)
- **Other -- 3.5%(1990), 5.4%(2001)**
  - Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu
- **Atheist, Agnostic – 8.4% (1990), 15% (2001)**

# Mega churches

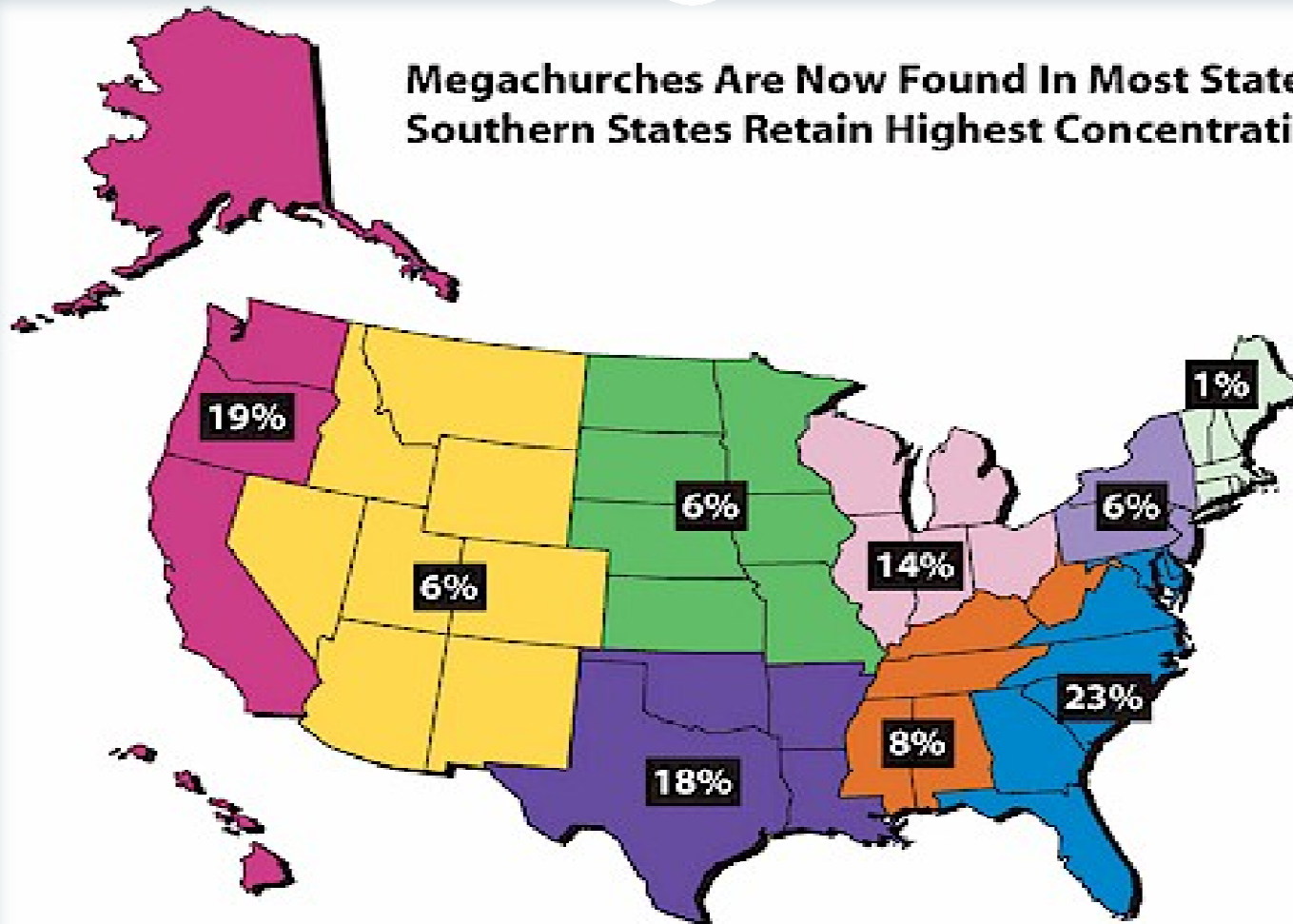
30

- Refers to any congregation with a sustained average weekly attendance of 2000 persons or more in its worship services.
- 60% located Texas, Florida, Georgia, and California
- Korea
  - 5/10 top mega churches in the world
  - 250,000 a week

# Churches around the U.S.

31

**Megachurches Are Now Found In Most States:  
Southern States Retain Highest Concentration**



# Mega churches con't

32

- Mega churches tend to grow to their great size within a very short period of time, usually in less than ten years, and under the tenure of a single senior pastor. Nearly all mega church pastors are **male**, and are viewed as having **considerable personal charisma**
- Lakewood Church – 30,000 members



# Houston's own Mega Preacher

33



# Mega churches

34



## City Harvest Church

Singapore

Titanium Clad – \$27 million



Houston, TX

Lakewood Church

<b>Church</b>	<b>Attendance*</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Pastor</b>
<b>Lakewood Church</b>	<b>25,060</b>	<b>Houston, Tex.</b>	<b>Joel Osteen</b>
World Changers	23,093	College Park, Ga.	Rev. Creflo Dollar
Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa	20,000	Santa Ana, Calif.	Pastor Chuck Smith
The Potter's House	18,500	Dallas, Tex.	Bishop T.D. Jakes
<b>Second Baptist Church</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>Houston, Tex.</b>	<b>Dr. H. Edwin Young</b>
Southeast Christian Church	17,863	Louisville, Ky.	Bob Russell
First Assembly of God	17,532	Phoenix, Ariz.	Dr. Tommy J. Barnett
Willow Creek Community Church	17,115	S. Barrington, Ill.	Bill Hybels
Calvary Chapel of Ft. Lauderdale	17,000	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	Pastor Bob Coy
Saddleback Valley Community Church	15,030	Lake Forest, Calif.	Dr. Rick Warren

# Institutions

36

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