

Executive Summary

Annual Church Profile (ACP) 2022 data were used to investigate various defining attributes of Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches. Only churches are included in the results and not every church reported all the demographic information or ACP statistics.

Demographic Highlights:

- 78% of churches are in the South region of the United States.
- A plurality of churches (45%) is in suburban areas.
- Nearly three in four churches (73%) have an average AM worship attendance of less than 100.
- Around one-third of churches (35%) have 50% or less of worship attendance regularly involved in Sunday school or small groups.

Crosstab Highlights:

- Churches in the Northeast (60%) and West (60%) are most likely in urban areas.
- The Midwest (45%) and South (47%) churches are most likely in suburban areas.
- More than half of churches in the Northeast (53%), Midwest (55%), and West (53%) average between 1-49 AM worship attendees.
- Churches with 100+ attendees are more often in suburban (32%) and urban (38%) areas than rural areas (16%).
- Across eras when church was organized, the attendance distribution is similar.

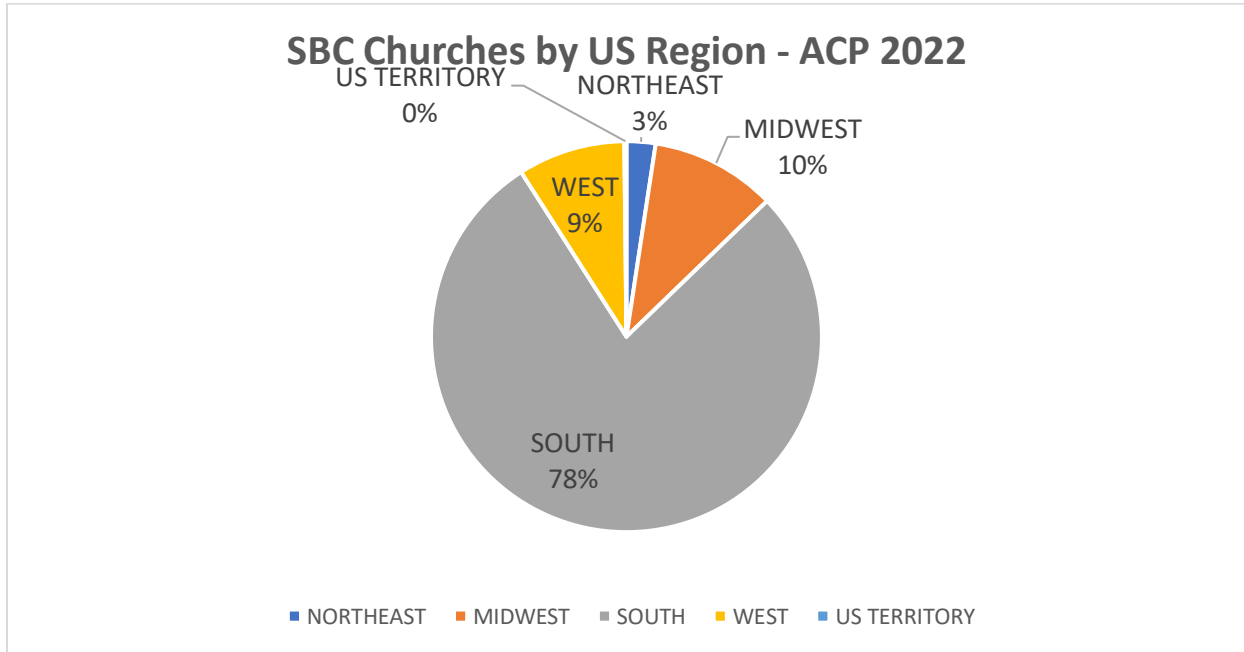
Compared to 2017 Highlights:

- There was an 18% increase in the number of churches in the West South Central division which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas.
- The percentage of churches with average attendance between 1 and 49 increased from 36% to 45% of SBC churches. There was a 16% increase in the number of churches in this attendance range while all other groups saw a decrease.
- There has been a large change in the number of churches where only at most 25% of the worship attendees are involved in Sunday school or small groups. The percentage of SBC churches in this category went from 5% to 16% which reflects a 219% increase in the number of churches reporting this level of participation.

The following pages contain graphs and tables for the attributes discussed above.

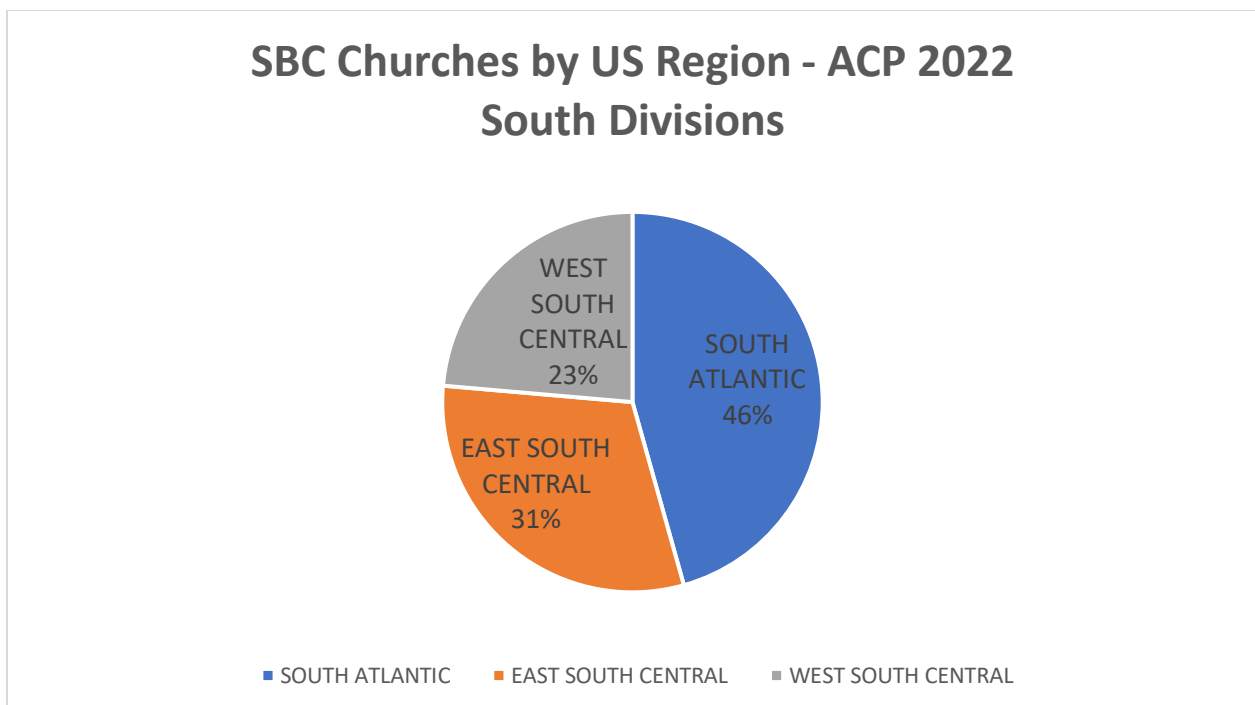
ACP 2022 Church Demographics

Regions: US Census Bureau regions are used to define Northeast, Midwest, South, and West.



South Division: The South is further divided into three areas.

- South Atlantic: Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia
- East South Central: Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee
- West South Central: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas

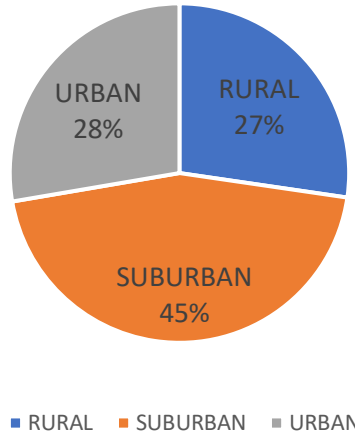


2022 ACP Church Statistics

Population: Population size as of January 31, 2023, was used for assigning group. Street address defined the city when available and mail address supplemented the data when necessary.

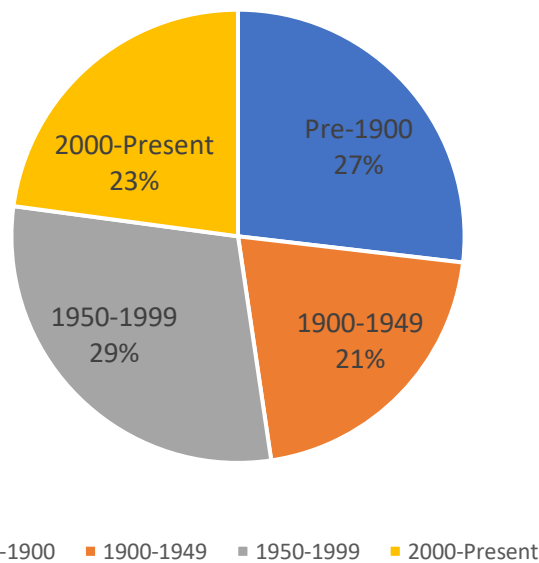
- Rural: Population less than 2,500
- Suburban: Population greater than or equal to 2,500 and less than 50,000
- Urban: Population greater than or equal to 50,000

SBC Churches by Population - ACP 2022



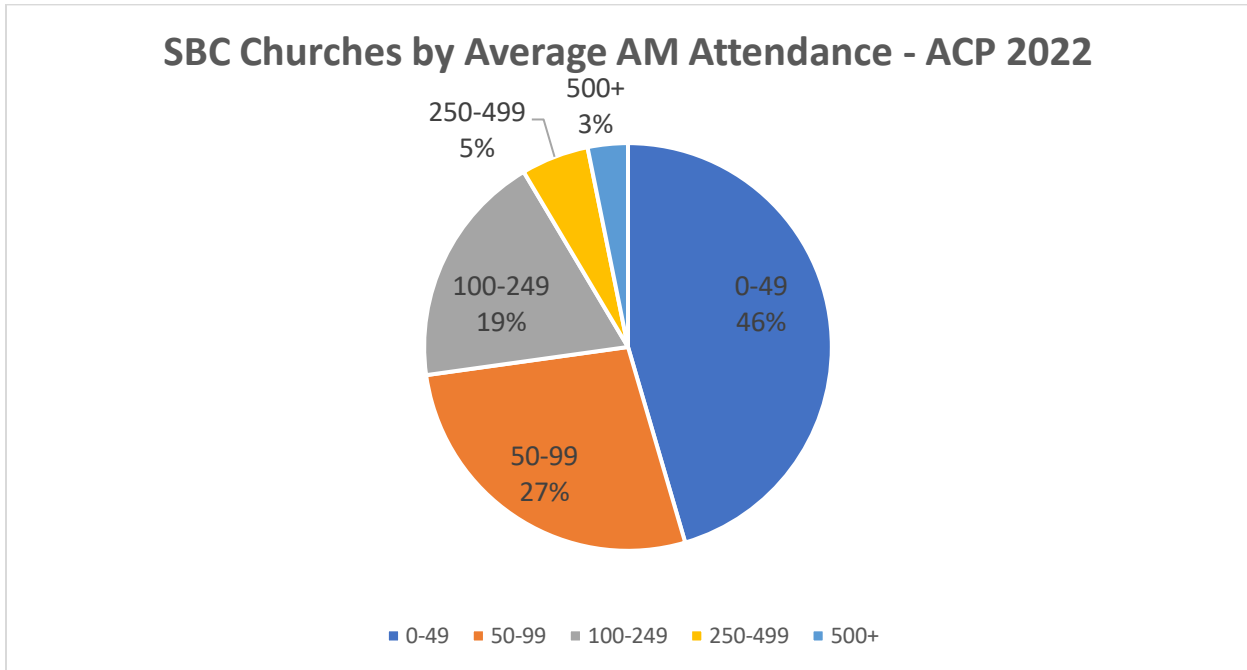
Year Organized: Churches were placed into four categories based on the year the church was organized: Pre-1900, 1900-1949, 1950-1999, 2000-Present.

SBC Churches by Year Organized - ACP 2022

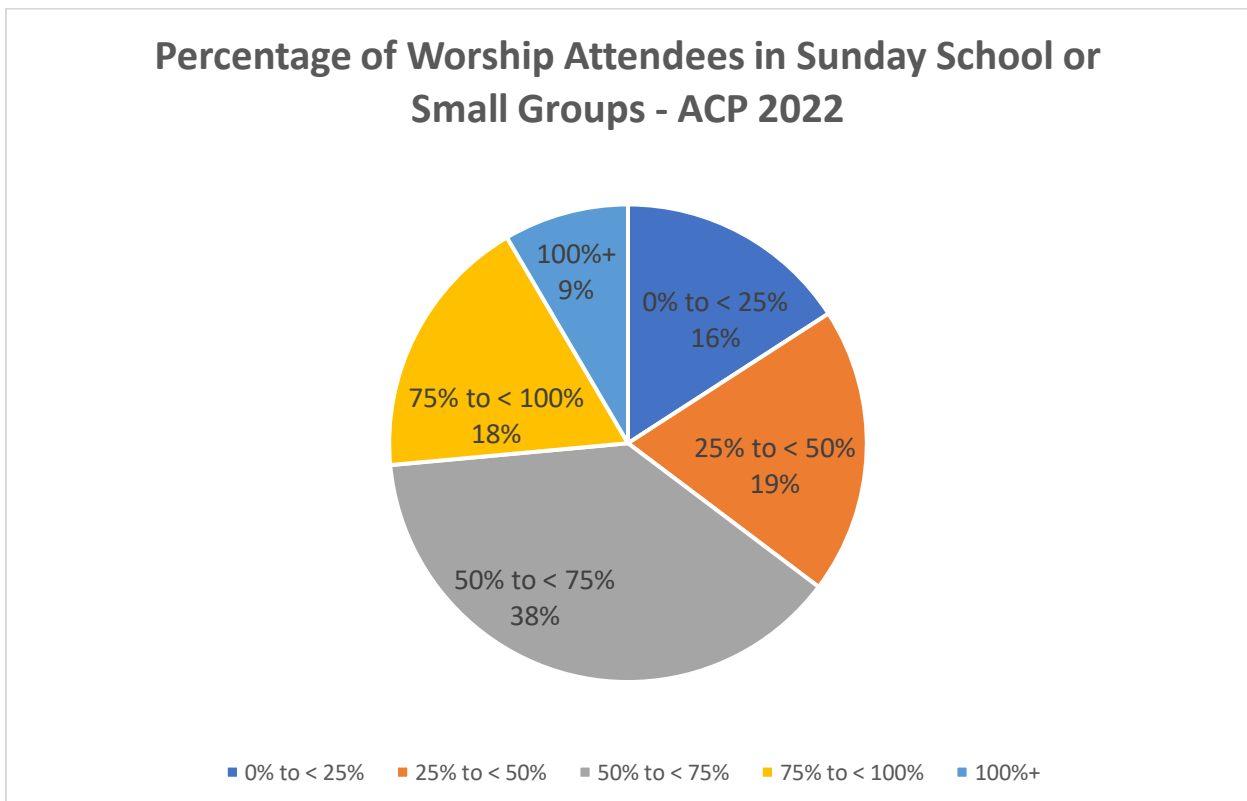


2022 ACP Church Statistics

AM Worship Attendance: Churches were divided into categories based on their average AM worship attendance: 0-49, 50-99, 100-249, 250-499, 500+.



Percentage of AM worship in Sunday school or small groups: Churches were divided into categories based on the average Sunday school or small group divided by average AM worship attendance.



ACP 2022 Church Crosstabs

Region vs Population: SBC churches in the Northeast and West are more likely to be in urban areas than those in the Midwest and South. The Midwest and South are predominately in rural and suburban areas.

	POPULATION		
REGION	Rural	Suburban	Urban
Northeast	7%	33%	60%
Midwest	33%	45%	22%
South	29%	47%	24%
West	11%	29%	60%
OVERALL	27%	45%	28%

Average AM Worship Attendance: The following tables show the distribution across various demographics as it relates to church size as defined by average AM worship attendance.

Region: Churches in the Northeast, Midwest, and West have between 1 -49 attendees more frequently than those in the South.

Average AM Worship Attendance	NORTHEAST	MIDWEST	SOUTH	WEST	OVERALL
1-49	53%	55%	43%	53%	45%
50-99	26%	23%	28%	25%	27%
100-249	14%	15%	20%	16%	19%
250-499	4%	5%	6%	4%	5%
500+	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%

Population: The smallest churches, 1 to 49 attendees, are most often in rural areas. Churches with 100+ attendees are in suburban and urban areas more frequently.

Average AM Worship Attendance	RURAL	SUBURBAN	URBAN	OVERALL
1-49	56%	41%	36%	45%
50-99	29%	27%	26%	27%
100-249	14%	22%	21%	19%
250-499	2%	7%	9%	6%
500+	0%	3%	7%	3%

2022 ACP Church Statistics

Year Organized: The distribution of church sizes is similar across all times where churches were organized.

Average AM Worship Attendance	Pre-1900	1900-1949	1950-1999	2000-Present	OVERALL
1-49	43%	46%	46%	47%	45%
50-99	29%	28%	26%	25%	27%
100-249	20%	19%	17%	18%	19%
250-499	5%	5%	6%	6%	5%
500+	3%	2%	4%	4%	3%

Percentage of AM worship in Sunday school or small groups: The smallest churches, 1 to 49 attendees, are both more likely to have the lowest and largest amount of participation. Churches with 50 to 99 attendees are more likely to have participation across the three middle levels.

Average AM Worship Attendance	0% to < 25%	25% to < 50%	50% to < 75%	75% to < 100%	100%+	OVERALL
1-49	59%	46%	40%	40%	55%	45%
50-99	20%	27%	31%	28%	20%	27%
100-249	13%	18%	20%	21%	16%	19%
250-499	4%	5%	5%	7%	5%	5%
500+	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	3%

ACP 2022 Compared to ACP 2017

The following tables show the demographics for churches in both 2017 and 2022. The definitions applied in the 2022 Church Demographics were used for 2017 to make the results comparable. There are no population groupings as the 2017 population data were not available in the same manner.

Region: No meaningful differences between 2022 and 2017. The number of churches in US territories went from 44 to 70 in the five years.

REGION	2022	2017	% Change Churches
Northeast	2%	3%	1%
Midwest	10%	11%	0%
South	78%	78%	6%
West	9%	9%	5%
US Territory	0%	0%	59%

South Divisions: There has been an increase in the distribution of churches in the West South Central which includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. While there was an increase in the number of churches in each division, the West South Central division saw an 18% increase.

SOUTH_REG	2022	2017	% Change Churches
South Atlantic	46%	46%	4%
East South Central	31%	32%	1%
West South Central	24%	21%	18%

Year Organized: In the past five years, the number of churches organized since 2000 increased by 1,837 churches, a 25% increase.

YR_ORG_GRP	2022	2017
Pre-1900	27%	28%
1900-1949	21%	22%
1950-1999	29%	31%
2000-Present	23%	19%

2022 ACP Church Statistics

AM Worship Attendance: The percentage of churches with average attendance between 1 and 49 increased from 36% to 45% of SBC churches. There was a 16% increase in the number of churches in this attendance range while all other groups saw a decrease.

ATT_GRP	2022	2017	% Change Churches
1-49	45%	36%	16%
50-99	27%	29%	-13%
100-249	19%	23%	-24%
250-499	5%	7%	-30%
500+	3%	4%	-29%

Percentage of AM worship in Sunday school or small groups: There has been a large change in the number of churches where only at most 25% of the worship attendees are involved in Sunday school or small groups. The percentage of SBC churches in this category went from 5% to 16% which reflects a 219% increase in the number of churches reporting this level of participation.

SS_AM_GRP	2022	2017	% Change Churches
0% to < 25%	16%	5%	219%
25% to < 50%	19%	18%	12%
50% to < 75%	38%	44%	-11%
75% to < 100%	18%	24%	-21%
100%+	8%	9%	-3%