

## Southern Baptist Convention

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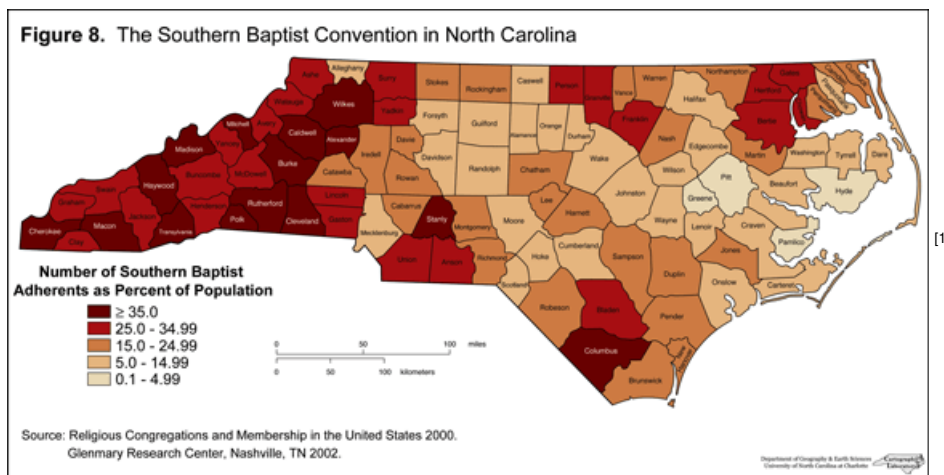


## The Southern Baptist Convention

by Alfred W. Stuart

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The large Southern Baptist church congregations increased in number by 190 between 1990 and 2000. The average congregation is relatively large, averaging 407 adherents in 2000. As Figure 8 shows above, they were found in every one of the state's 100 counties. The greatest relative concentrations are found in western North Carolina and in the northeastern and southeastern corners of the state. On the other hand, the smaller proportions (which still account for 10% to 15% of the population--more than almost any other denomination) are in the central part of eastern North Carolina, along with central counties of the some of the larger metro areas, notably [Forsyth](#) [2], [Mecklenburg](#) [3] and [Orange](#) [4] counties. In fact, proportions of Baptist adherents are smaller throughout much of the [Piedmont corridor](#) [5] but, here again, in most areas Baptists make up between 10% and 20% of the total population, levels that are far higher than other denominations. These levels appear low only in comparison with the 40% or higher levels that are prevalent in nearby western counties, such as [Cleveland](#) [6], [Rutherford](#) [7], [Burke](#) [8], [Caldwell](#) [9], and [Wilkes](#) [10].

### Additional Resources:

2012 Statistical Abstract. Population: Religion. U.S. Census Bureau.  
<http://www.census.gov/library/publications/2011/compendia/statab/131ed/p...> [11]

Guide to Researching the History of Religion in North Carolina: Baptist Church. UNC-Chapel Hill Libraries. <https://guides.lib.unc.edu/religious-studies> [12]

Hartford Institute for Religion Research. <http://www.hartfordinstitute.org/> [13]

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31 October 2010 | Stuart, Alfred W.

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[2] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/forsyth>

[3] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/mecklenburg>

[4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/orange>

[5] <https://ncpedia.org/our-state-geography-snap-three>

[6] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/cleveland>

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