

The Devil's Demographics

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At the beginning of the present decade, I conducted a survey that gathered basic demographic data from 140 self-identified Satanists. My findings initially appeared in article form in 2001 under the title "Who Serves Satan? A Demographic and Ideological Profile." This past summer, I sent out a more ambitious questionnaire to determine if and how the Satanic subculture had evolved, as well as to gather other kinds of information. To date, over 200 Satanists have completed the second survey. Though members of both samples were predominantly white males raised in Christian households, the average age of respondents rose from mid-twenties to thirty. Partly as a consequence of higher average age, the new sample exhibited more diversity – in terms of having a broader range of educational backgrounds, an increased likelihood of being a parent, and the like. Similarly, while the majority of respondents to the new survey were still broadly in the LaVeyan tradition, a far greater percentage than in the old survey professed some variety of Theistic Satanism. When contrasted with the first questionnaire, the picture that emerges from the second questionnaire could be summarized as 'Little Nicky grows up.'