Research Services

Church Starts in the Church of the Nazarene USA/Canada Region, Between 2000-2018

Bill Kirkemo, Lead Author

Research Services, Coordinator

Richard Houseal, Ed.D.

Research Services, Director

Laura Lance

Senior Programmer Analyst

Church of the Nazarene Global Ministry Center

Lenexa, Kansas

November 2019

research@nazarene.org

CONTENTS

Methodology

This study reports on quantitative data received from the 2,155 new churches started between 2000 and 2018 on the USA/Canada Region of the Church of the Nazarene. We have grouped these churches into cohorts according to their founding year. Therefore, this study looks at 19 cohorts that include the 2,155 Church Starts. We have also utilized data from all other Church of the Nazarene churches on the USA/Canada region, a group we are calling Established Churches, for comparison data. The Annual Pastor's Report served as the data source for both populations, Church Starts and Established Churches.

We have divided the data into Demographic Markers and Missional Markers categories.

Demographic Markers

- Church Start trends
- Community types
- Ethnicity
- Organization and Active Status
- Survivability

Mission Markers

- Evangelism
  - Conversions
  - Worship attendance
- Discipleship
  - SDMI Attendance
  - Baptisms
  - New Nazarenes
  - Stewardship

Summary Tables

Table 1: Church Starts Quick Facts

	N	%
Total Church Starts	2,155	
Ever Organized (2000-2013)	656	46%
Ever Organized (2000-2018)	719	33%
Still Active After 5 Years	894	62%
Still Active After 10 Years	430	43%
Still Active After 15 Years	164	38%
Total Conversions	90,815	
Total Baptisms	37,672	
Total New Nazarenes	87,787	
Current Membership	54,976	
Total Income Raised	$614,788,767	
Total Given to WEF	$18,231,537	
Total Given to Approved Specials	$15,813,918	
Total Given to Pensions and Benefits	$6,431,025	
Total Given to Educational Institutions	$6,985,473	
Total Given to District Allocation	$20,508,294	
Total Funding the Mission Giving	$67,970,247	11%
Portion of Church Starts to Total Current Nazarene Churches in 2018		25%
Portion of Organized Church Start's Income Given to Funding the Mission in 2018		14%

Table 2: Organization Status and Membership by Cohort

Cohort	N	Ever Organized		Still Active		Current Membership		
		N	%	N	%	Total	Average	Median
'00	99	36	36%	35	35%	2,629	73	52
'01	58	27	47%	29	50%	2,819	91	77
'02	95	34	36%	33	35%	3,356	96	61
'03	176	57	32%	61	35%	5,341	85	63
'04	131	39	30%	48	36%	3,835	83	48
'05	105	29	28%	36	34%	4,025	115	64
'06	118	29	25%	38	32%	1,795	54	46
'07	83	29	35%	32	39%	3,237	98	60
'08	125	46	37%	58	46%	4,646	82	61
'09	94	29	31%	52	55%	3,447	75	50
'10	80	23	29%	43	54%	2,094	56	36
'11	72	25	35%	41	57%	2,054	54	51
'12	109	22	20%	74	68%	2,133	42	33
'13	104	24	23%	60	58%	2,994	64	36
'14	136	27	20%	91	67%	2,476	38	25
'15	143	29	20%	109	76%	3,155	55	33
'16	159	33	21%	138	87%	2,986	36	24
'17	133	13	1%	122	92%	1,371	26	20
'18	135	2	1%	135	100%	583	19	15
Totals	**2,155**	**553**		**1,235**		**54,976**		

Table 3: Conversions, Baptisms, New Nazarenes by Cohort

Cohort	Conversions		Baptisms		New Nazarenes	
	Total	Median	Total	Median	Total	Median
'00	5,250	385	3,577	182	7,058	295
'01	7,706	551	3,600	210	5,611	275
'02	5,039	377	2,878	174	7,254	397
'03	11,195	877	4,754	318	10,661	616
'04	8,751	681	3,409	202	9,326	507
'05	9,931	621	2,821	213	7,040	454
'06	3,426	278	1,519	119	3,289	243
'07	8,790	751	3,064	267	5,726	445
'08	5,768	562	2,551	242	6,442	529
'09	4,427	417	2,076	190	5,274	416
'10	3,243	309	1,100	136	2,955	249
'11	3,165	408	1,247	165	3,321	341
'12	2,626	414	958	148	2,265	324
'13	3,372	573	1,385	250	2,957	486
'14	2,566	551	979	154	2,584	478
'15	2,141	492	732	215	2,116	474
'16	2,104	870	691	291	2,247	673
'17	717	359	265	133	1,256	628
'18	598	598	66	66	405	405
Totals	**90,815**		**37,672**		**87,787**	

Table 4: Worship and SDMI by Cohort				
Cohort	**Current Worship**		**Current SDMI**	
	Total	**Median**	**Total**	**Median**
'00	3,846	47	3,499	36
'01	2,774	60	2,412	57
'02	2,565	61	2,178	59
'03	5,011	45	4,525	45
'04	3,111	46	2,417	41
'05	4,365	51	3,355	43
'06	1,521	40	1,503	32
'07	3,389	41	2,660	44
'08	3,720	45	2,952	39
'09	2,584	42	2,512	35
'10	2,283	32	1,959	32
'11	2,072	44	2,049	37
'12	1,955	23	1,968	20
'13	3,533	35	2,833	31
'14	3,063	33	2,614	29
'15	4,353	32	3,397	29
'16	4,796	32	4,056	31
'17	2,446	25	2,074	21
'18	1,458	25	1,079	19
Totals	**58,845**		**50,042**	

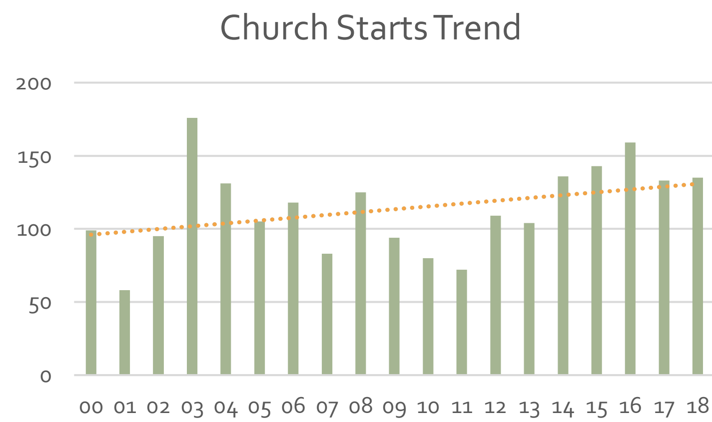
Table 5: Stewardship by Fiscal Year

Fiscal Year	Total Raised	WEF and Approved Specials	District Allocation	Pensions and Benefits	Educational Allocation	Total Given to Others	% Given to Others
2000	$774,864	$11,809	$12,274	$132	$2,242	$26,457	3%
2001	$3,328,841	$177,849	$36,275	$5,766	$11,586	$231,476	7%
2002	$7,312,697	$312,211	$94,241	$17,986	$36,976	$461,414	6%
2003	$11,583,939	$1,098,881	$235,913	$42,362	$77,739	$1,454,895	13%
2004	$15,899,653	$1,121,127	$338,051	$82,407	$143,566	$1,685,151	11%
2005	$21,978,966	$1,159,311	$468,521	$134,050	$230,105	$1,991,987	9%
2006	$26,530,547	$1,626,977	$663,025	$160,728	$278,583	$2,729,313	10%
2007	$31,365,100	$1,574,100	$741,665	$185,505	$296,121	$2,797,391	9%
2008	$34,174,681	$1,702,601	$1,223,833	$222,700	$312,631	$3,461,765	10%
2009	$36,524,305	$1,720,208	$1,056,483	$248,496	$308,407	$3,333,594	9%
2010	$38,543,289	$1,552,623	$1,290,805	$264,833	$324,777	$3,433,038	9%
2011	$37,970,317	$2,056,758	$1,438,310	$340,252	$358,114	$4,193,434	11%
2012	$39,442,996	$2,019,348	$1,497,517	$410,849	$440,750	$4,368,464	11%
2013	$42,846,386	$2,299,650	$1,556,057	$552,762	$467,319	$4,875,788	11%
2014	$44,674,624	$2,396,439	$1,634,801	$569,209	$522,669	$5,123,118	11%
2015	$50,380,997	$2,809,735	$1,888,941	$708,238	$671,427	$6,078,341	12%
2016	$53,582,488	$3,109,647	$2,023,611	$761,199	$780,855	$6,675,312	12%
2017	$56,945,464	$3,412,608	$2,077,288	$831,800	$818,059	$7,139,755	13%
2018	$60,928,613	$3,883,573	$2,230,683	$891,751	$903,547	$7,909,554	13%
Totals	**$614,788,767**	**$34,045,455**	**$20,508,294**	**$6,431,025**	**$6,985,473**	**$67,970,247**	**11%**

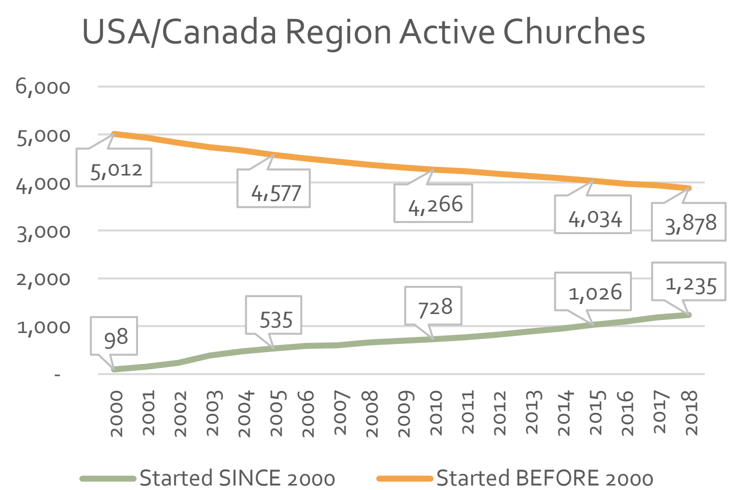
Table 6: Stewardship by Cohort

Cohort	Total Raised	WEF and Approved Specials	District Allocation	Pensions and Benefits	Educational Allocation	Total Given to Others	% Given to Others
‘00	$70,300,782	$3,687,107	$2,496,763	$719,198	$885,996	$7,789,064	11%
‘01	$67,281,844	$3,877,234	$2,207,630	$703,301	$837,602	$7,625,767	11%
‘02	$61,220,412	$7,330,760	$1,888,303	$601,836	$782,013	$10,602,912	17%
‘03	$104,165,721	$5,025,648	$3,887,910	$1,117,600	$1,137,362	$11,168,520	11%
‘04	$55,277,799	$2,225,556	$1,430,346	$411,861	$464,178	$4,531,941	8%
‘05	$46,469,307	$2,318,096	$1,502,189	$532,416	$529,214	$4,881,915	11%
‘06	$25,087,200	$812,514	$865,447	$218,074	$184,570	$2,080,605	8%
‘07	$30,344,571	$875,861	$832,763	$219,430	$260,006	$2,188,060	7%
‘08	$39,673,512	$2,106,240	$1,218,315	$497,539	$496,457	$4,318,551	11%
‘09	$25,018,360	$934,499	$822,587	$261,799	$239,534	$2,258,419	9%
‘10	$13,756,256	$696,310	$539,011	$140,916	$132,238	$1,508,475	11%
‘11	$14,171,662	$688,081	$514,051	$173,840	$182,586	$1,558,558	11%
‘12	$11,272,049	$662,226	$453,811	$126,696	$111,462	$1,354,195	12%
‘13	$14,091,398	$549,559	$416,803	$186,510	$180,705	$1,333,577	9%
‘14	$10,517,124	$354,055	$413,338	$115,319	$113,589	$996,301	9%
‘15	$16,258,083	$1,488,367	$665,101	$298,945	$332,697	$2,785,110	17%
‘16	$7,606,634	$337,891	$283,580	$86,397	$88,618	$796,486	10%
‘17	$1,764,023	$55,246	$56,905	$15,748	$23,022	$150,921	9%
‘18	$512,030	$20,205	$13,441	$3,600	$3,624	$40,870	8%
Totals	**$614,788,767**	**$34,045,455**	**$20,508,294**	**$6,431,025**	**$6,985,473**	**$67,970,247**	**11%**

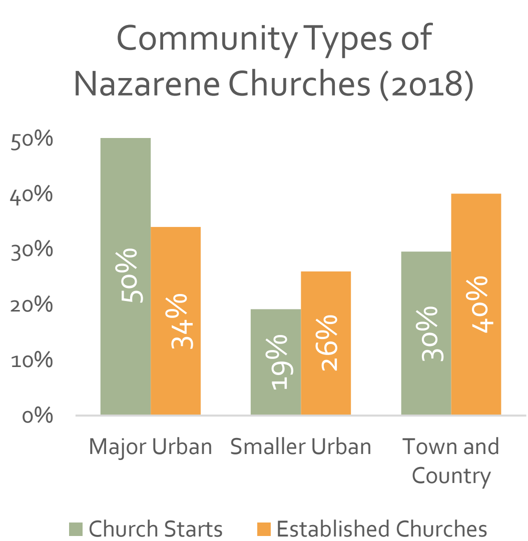
Demographic Markers



Church Starts Trends Nazarenes on the USA/Canada region started 2,155 new churches between 2000 and 2018. Of those, 1,235 were still active at the end of the study period. The average number of churches started each year was 113, with a high of 176 in 2003 and a low of 58 in 2001. The median number of Church Starts for the period is 109 per year.



While Church Starts have a net increase of 1,235 active churches between 2000 and 2018, Established Churches have decreased by 1,134. The result: in 2018, one out of every four Nazarene churches had started since 2000. If the current trends continue, by 2045 the number of active churches begun since 2000 will outnumber the active churches begun before 2000.

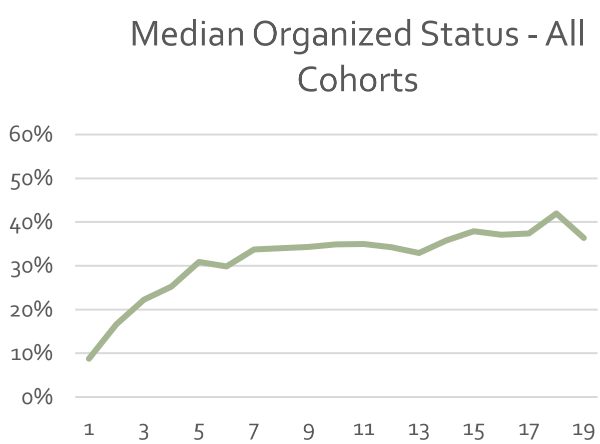


Community Types. Half of all Church Starts surviving to 2018 are located in Major Urban communities, 19% in Smaller Urban communities, and 30% in Town and Country communities. This distribution varies from Established Churches on the USA/Canada region, where the largest group is Town and Country communities (40%), followed by Major Urban communities (34%), and Smaller Urban communities (26%). While Church Start distribution differs from the distribution of Established Churches, it does seem to mirror changing demographics in the USA region, where Urban population growth has been increasing since 2000.[1]

Ethnicity White/English-speaking and Hispanic churches accounted for 75% of all Church Starts during the study period. Thirty-eight other ethnicities comprised the remaining 25% of churches. There does not appear to be a relationship between Church Starts survivability and ethnicity, as the ethnic distribution of Church Starts changed very little between the founding year and the final year of the study.

Church Starts by Ethnicity

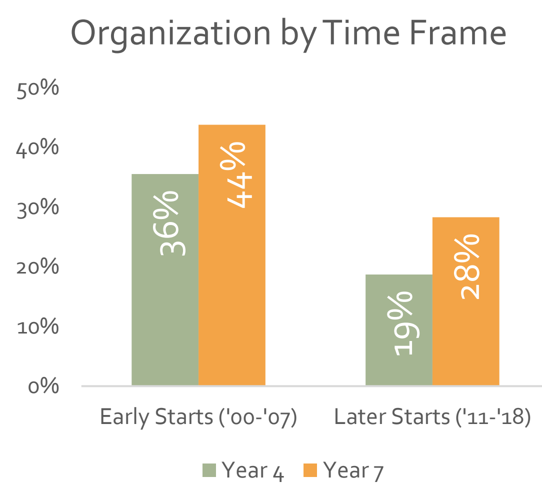
	Start Year		Active (2018)	
	N	%	N	%
Black	68	3%	24	2%
Haitian	89	4%	51	4%
Korean	72	3%	44	4%
Hispanic	756	35%	448	36%
Multicultural	153	7%	85	7%
White	830	39%	481	39%
Other (34)	167	9%	99	8%
		100%		100%

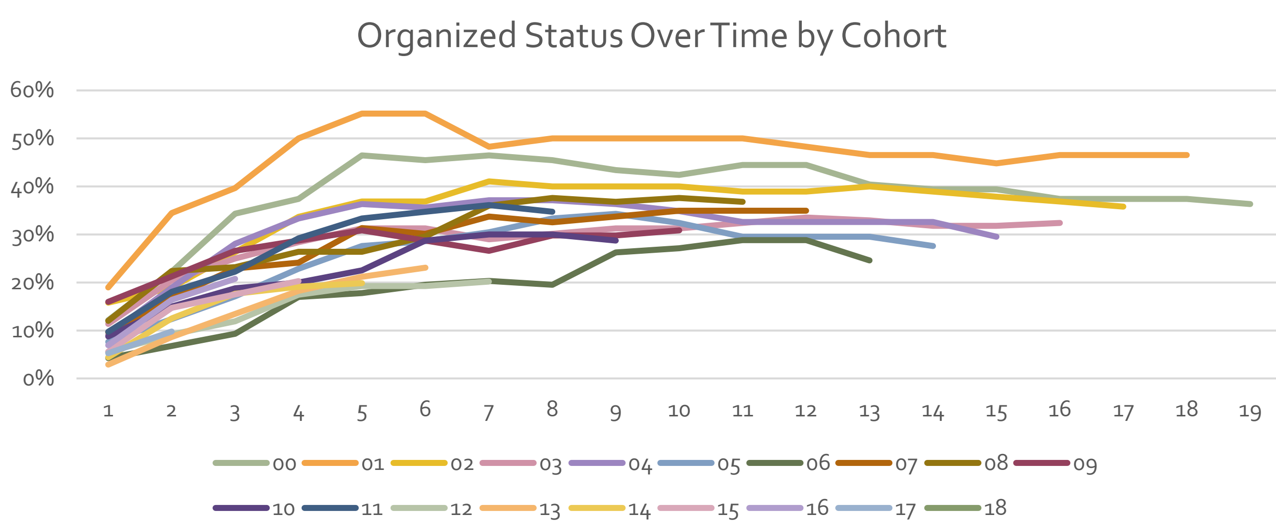


Organization and Active Status One of the goals of all Church Starts is to develop in size, financial stability, and organization in order to become designated an "Organized" church. One out of four churches in the study reached the Organized status by year four of their existence, with that proportion increasing to just over one out of three (34%) Organized by year seven. The peak year for organization status is year 14, when the two cohorts with that many year of data reported 42% active churches.

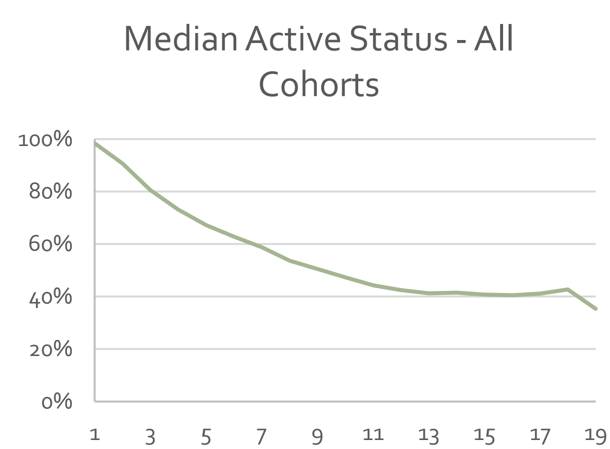
[1] https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2018/05/22/demographic-and-economic-trends-in-urban-suburban-and-rural-communities/

These benchmarks varied significantly between churches started toward the beginning of the study period compared to churches begun toward the end of the study period. By year four, 36% of Church Starts begun in the first four years of the study had become Organized, as opposed to 19% of churches toward the end of the study (those who had at four years of data). Likewise, 44% of churches at the beginning of the study were Organized by year seven, compared to 28% of those at the end of the study (those cohorts who had seven years of data).

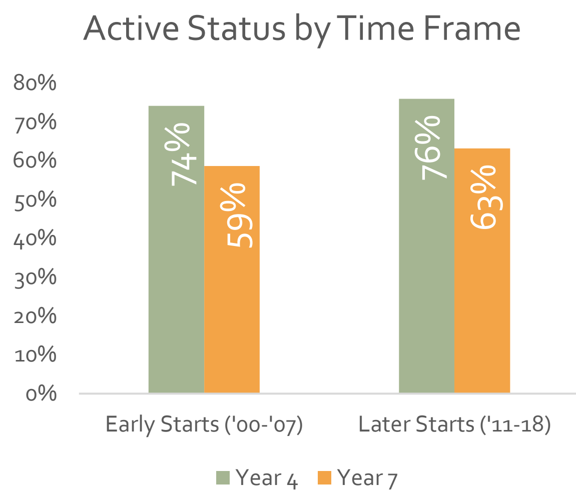


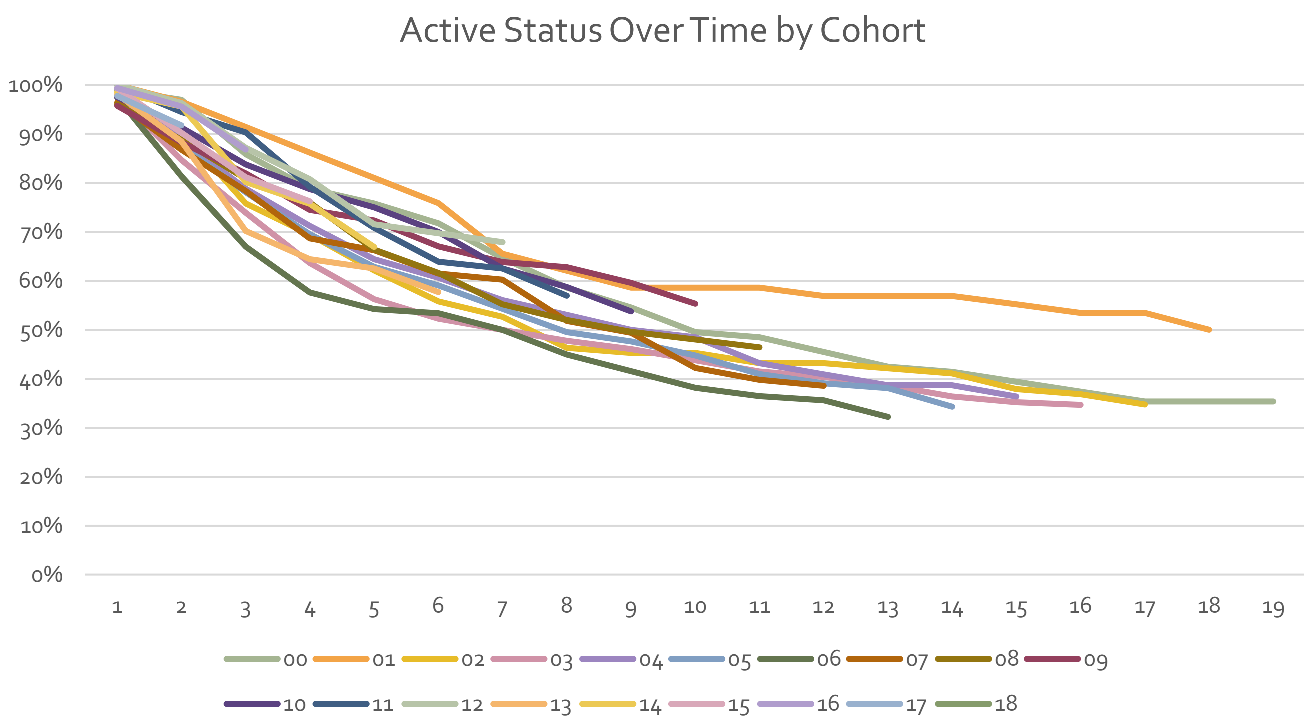


In contrast to Church Starts working toward the status of Organized, each Church Start begins with the status of Active. A Church Start becomes inactive when it ceases official active ministry. At year four 74% of Church Starts were still Active, at year seven that number decreased to 59%. The ’00 Cohort reported the lowest active percentage in their fifteenth year, 35%

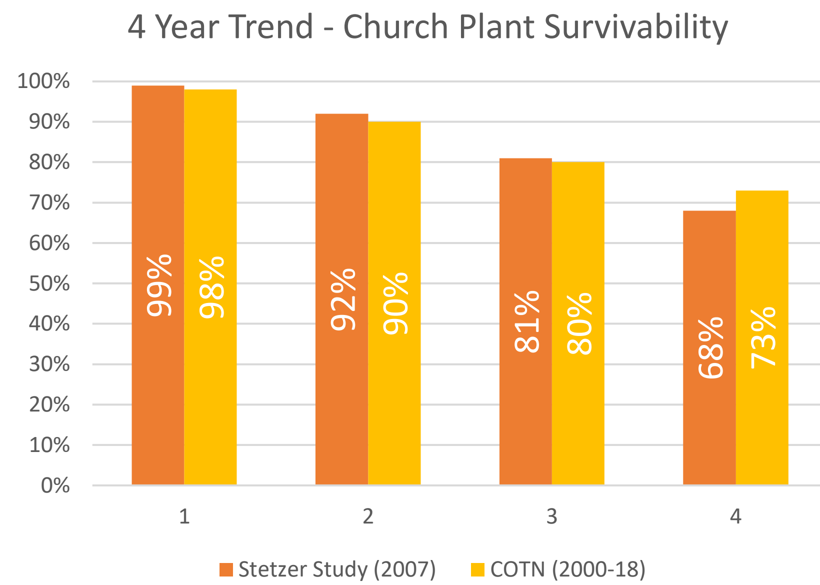


Unlike the findings with the Organization status, where there was a noticeable difference between those Church Starts toward the beginning years of the study and those toward the end of the study, there is little difference in regard to Active status according to when the churches started. The gap between the early and later groups is 2% at the four year mark (74% versus 76%) and 4% at the year seven that gap (59% versus 63%).





Survivability The four-year survivability rate of Nazarene Church Starts closely follows a trend found by Ed Stetzer and Phillip Connor in a 2007 report. Their report was based on a national study of over 2,000 Church Starts from 13 Evangelical denominations (not including the Church of the Nazarene).[2] There is a 1 to 2--percentage difference between the studies for the first three years. In the first three years, survivability begins at 98% (99% for the Stetzer study) and ends at 80% (81% in the Stetzer study). In year 4, there was a five-point difference with the Nazarene starts at 73% and the Stetzer study churches at 68%. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find published studies tracking church start survivability statistics beyond the four-year mark for non-Nazarene churches.



We do have information on long-term survivability of Nazarene Church Starts though, and survivability for Nazarene plants at the five-year mark is 62%, at the ten-year mark 43% and at the fifteen-year mark 38%.

Of the four cohorts for which we have fifteen years of data ('00-'03) the '01 Cohort has the highest survivability percentage (53%) at year fifteen. The '01 Cohort also has the highest survivability percentage of all cohorts at the 5 Year and 10 Year marks as well. In fact, it also has a higher 15-year survivability percentage even when compared to the ten-year survivability statistics for cohorts in later years ('04-'08). It is also the only cohort to have a survivability percentage above 50% at both the

Church Starts 5-10-15 Year Survivability Percentage by Cohort

	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Total
N Starts	99	58	95	176	131	105	118	83	125	94	82	72	109	104	
5 Year	72%	76%	56%	52%	61%	59%	53%	61%	62%	67%	70%	64%	70%	58%	**62%**
10 Year	48%	59%	43%	41%	44%	41%	36%	40%	46%						**44%**
15 Year	37%	53%	37%	35%											**38%**

[2] Research Report: Church Plant Survivability and Health Study 2007. A publication of the Center for Missional Research, North American Mission Board. Authors: Ed Stetzer and Phillip Connor

10-year and 15-year marks. Interestingly, it is also the smallest cohort of the entire study, with only 58 Church Starts.

In contrast, the '03 Cohort, which was the largest cohort of the study, recorded the lowest survivability percentage at both the five and fifteen year marks.

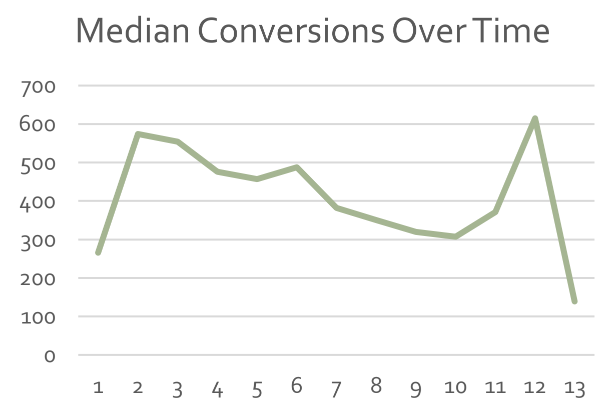
However, other than being interesting facts about the two cohorts, we find no relationship between a size of a cohort and its survivability when looking at the survivability of the other cohorts in the study.

Mission Markers

The global mission of the Church of the Nazarene is "to make Christlike disciples in the nations." In order to make "Christlike disciples" you must first have converts, and the USA/Canada region believes "starting a new church is the single best method of evangelism."[3] As a study of Nazarene Church Starts, we will therefore track both evangelistic and discipleship statistics when studying the Mission Markers of Church Starts.

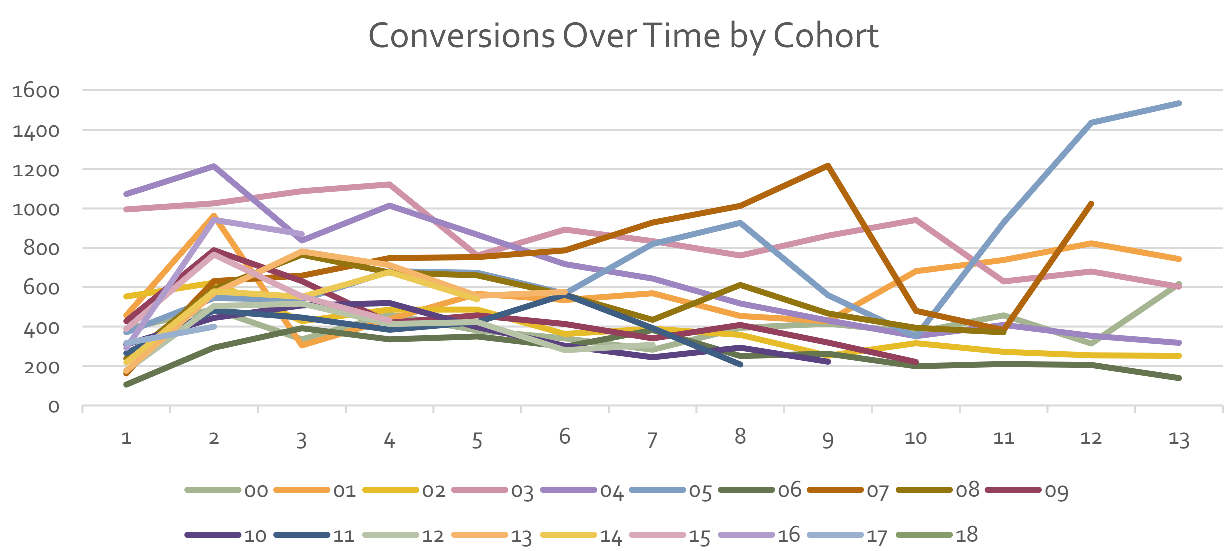
Evangelism Statistics

We begin with two evangelistic Mission Markers: Conversions and Worship attendance.



Conversions[4] Church Starts reported over 90,000 conversions between 2006 and 2018. This represents 13% of all Conversions reported by all USA/Canada Nazarene churches in this period. The '03 Cohort reported the most Conversions, 11,195, followed by the '04 Cohort with 9,931.

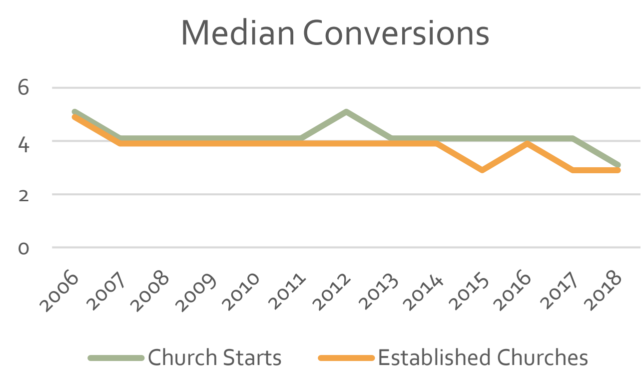
Conversions in Church Starts spike in the second year of a Church Start's existence, with the second year showing a 58% increase over the first year. From this spike though, conversions follow a



[3] https://www.usacanadaregion.org/ministries/church-planting
[4] Conversions were not included on the Annual Pastor's Report until 2006. Therefore, only 13 years of Conversions data is available for this study.

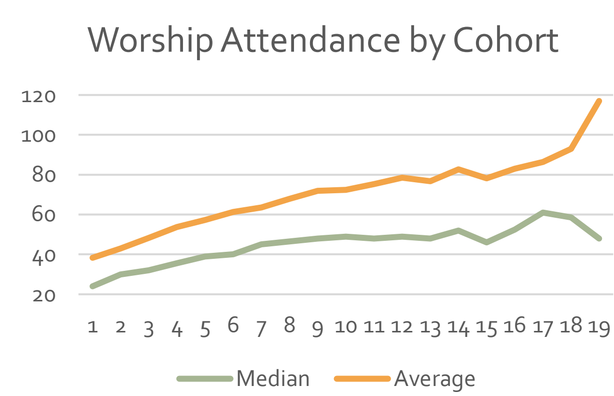
decreasing trend until year 10 where they begin an overall two-year rise. While there is a large drop at year 13, it should be noted there was only one cohort included in the year 13 statistics.

Comparing median Conversions between Church Starts and Established Churches from 2006 to 2018 results in similar trends. However, Church Starts did outperform Established Churches by one in three of the thirteen years. In 2018, 49% of Church Starts reported zero conversions, while 27% of Established Churches reported zero conversions.



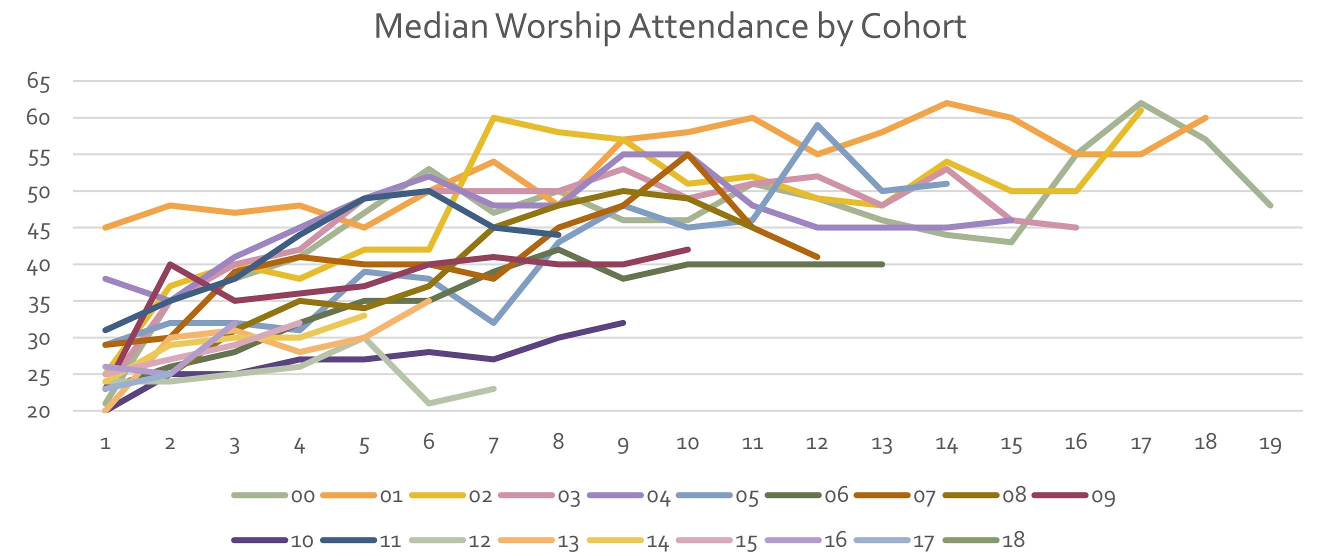
Worship Attendance A second measure of evangelistic effectiveness is Worship Attendance. While not all worship attendees at a Church Start will be new Christians, worship attendance is still a significant measure of evangelistic effectiveness as, according to Stetzer's 2015 study, "1/3 of all new church plants are made up of primarily previously unchurched people."[5]

Across all cohorts, median worship attendance grew for the first ten years, from 24 to 49. Average attendance grew for the first nine years, from 38 to 72, with a standard deviation of 8 at year nine. Median worship attendance peaks in year 17 at 61, and average worship attendance at year 19 with the '00 cohort averaging 117 (SD: 333), the highest average of any cohort at any year. However, as the standard deviation attests to, the average is significantly influenced by one church, the largest church in the study, which was organized in 2000, and whose worship attendance was over 10 times larger than the next largest church's attendance in their cohort.



[5] Stetzer, Fries, Im; "The State of Church Planting in the U.S.," 2015. p. 3

Breaking this down by cohort, three cohorts sustained continued total worship attendance and median attendance growth for six years ('00, '05 and '13 Cohorts for total attendance; '00, '03, '11 Cohorts for median attendance).



Of the 904 Church Starts active in 2018, 41 averaged more than 200 in worship, 90 averaged between 100 and 199, 215 averaged between 50 and 99, and 558 averaged less than 50. The largest of these Church Starts, Fargo Prairie Heights Community, averaged 1,927, more than twice as many as the second highest in attendance, Lodi Faith Community (918), in the study. The '05 Cohort had the most churches over 200 (6), the Sacramento District had the most churches over 200 (5).

Worship Sizes of Church Starts (2018)	
1-49	558
50-99	215
100-149	53
150-199	37
200-499	32
500 +	9
Total	**904**

Almost exactly mirroring the distribution of all Church Starts in this study, 51% of the Church Starts larger than 200 were located in Major Urban communities (overall 50%), 20% in Smaller Urban communities (overall 19%), and 30% in Town and Country communities (overall 30%). However, differing from the overall distribution, 73% of the churches over 200 were White/English Speaking (overall 39%), 12% were Hispanic (overall 35%), 5% were Multicultural (overall 7%). All ten of the largest Church Starts were White/English-Speaking.

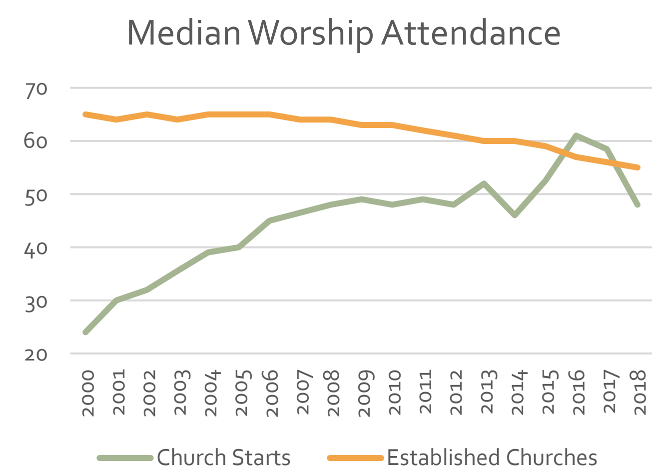
Church Starts With Over 200 in Worship Attendance (2018)

Cohort	Worship Attendance	District	Church Name	Community Type	Ethnicity

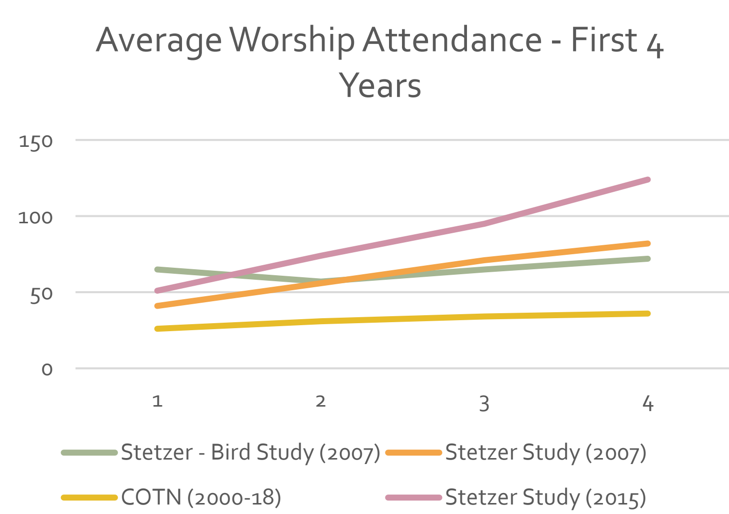
'00	1927	Prairie Lakes	Fargo Prairie Heights Community	Major Urban	White
'03	918	Sacramento	Lodi Faith Community	Smaller Urban	White
'15	908	Chicago Central	GatheringPoint	Town and Country	White
'13	881	North Arkansas	Crossroads Cowboy	Town and Country	White
'05	754	NW Illinois	BridgeWay Community	Town and Country	White
'07	701	Oregon Pacific	Mission Church	Smaller Urban	White
'05	656	S. Central Ohio	Lifepoint	Major Urban	White
'10	594	Eastern Kentucky	CrossPoint Community	Town and Country	White
'15	564	Chicago Central	College Church of the Nazarene, University Avenue	Smaller Urban	White
'07	459	Prairie Lakes	Grand Forks Thrive Community	Smaller Urban	White
'05	443	West Texas	Lubbock Refuge	Major Urban	White
'16	411	Joplin	Springfield The Well	Major Urban	White
'08	405	NW Ohio	Quest Community	Town and Country	White
'04	382	Chicago Central	House of Prayer Ministries	Major Urban	Black
'03	361	Colorado	Denver ThornCreek	Major Urban	White
'01	345	NE Oklahoma	Broken Arrow Core Church at Aspen Creek	Major Urban	White
'16	336	South Carolina	Greenville First Iglesias	Major Urban	Hispanic
'11	320	Southern Florida	House of Grace	Major Urban	Haitian
'01	305	Sacramento	Sacramento The Crossing Church of Natomas	Major Urban	White
'01	305	MidSouth	Dayspring Community	Town and Country	White
'04	301	Sacramento	Lincoln Emmaus Church Community	Smaller Urban	White
'02	276	Arizona	Sun City	Major Urban	White
'16	276	Eastern Michigan	Family Community	Town and Country	White
'07	275	Southern Florida	Fort Pierce Philadelphia	Smaller Urban	Haitian
'05	275	SW Ohio	Target Dayton CMC	Major Urban	Multicultural
'09	272	Arizona	Florence Mosaic	Town and Country	Multicultural
'09	260	NE Indiana	Decatur Common Ground	Town and Country	White
'10	253	North/East Texas	Lone Star Cowboy Church of Collin County	Town and Country	White
'01	251	Michigan	High Pointe Community	Smaller Urban	White
'07	251	North/East Texas	Lone Star Cowboy Church of Navarro County	Town and Country	White
'05	250	Metro New York	Centro de Avivamiento Valle de Sitim, una Iglesia	Major Urban	Hispanic
'03	235	Anaheim	Lynwood Grace Hispanic	Major Urban	Hispanic
'07	235	Southern California	Hesperia Casa De Oracion	Smaller Urban	Hispanic
'05	228	Kansas City	Independence Kayros	Major Urban	Hispanic

'08	225	Canada Quebec	Ahuntsic	Major Urban	French
'03	225	Sacramento	Rio Linda LifePointe	Major Urban	White
'04	223	SW Ohio	The Shelter	Major Urban	White
'06	223	Eastern Kentucky	Independence Generations	Major Urban	White
'01	221	Sacramento	Truckee Tahoe Forest	Town and Country	White
'08	205	Arizona	Glendale Turning Leaf Community	Major Urban	White
'13	205	Arizona	Phoenix Renovation	Major Urban	White

Having looked at the median worship attendance trend for Church Starts, we now compare that trend to Established Churches. While Church Starts have had median increases in worship attendance for 13 out of the 19 years included in this study, Established Churches have experienced increases only twice. In addition, for 2016 and 2017, median worship attendance for Church Starts exceeded that of Established Churches.



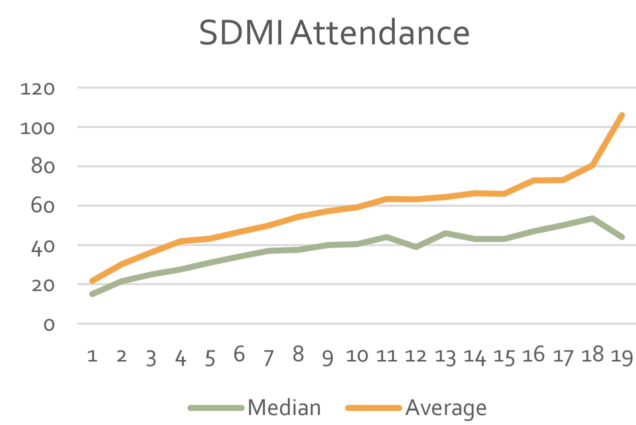
Worship attendance growth of Nazarene Church Starts lags behind growth seen in three other studies of Evangelical Church Starts. Compared to the other studies, Nazarene Church Starts begin smaller and remain smaller at the end of the four-year study. In average growth they rank third out of the four with a four-year average growth rate of 38%. The other three studies have growth rates of 143%, 100% and 11%.

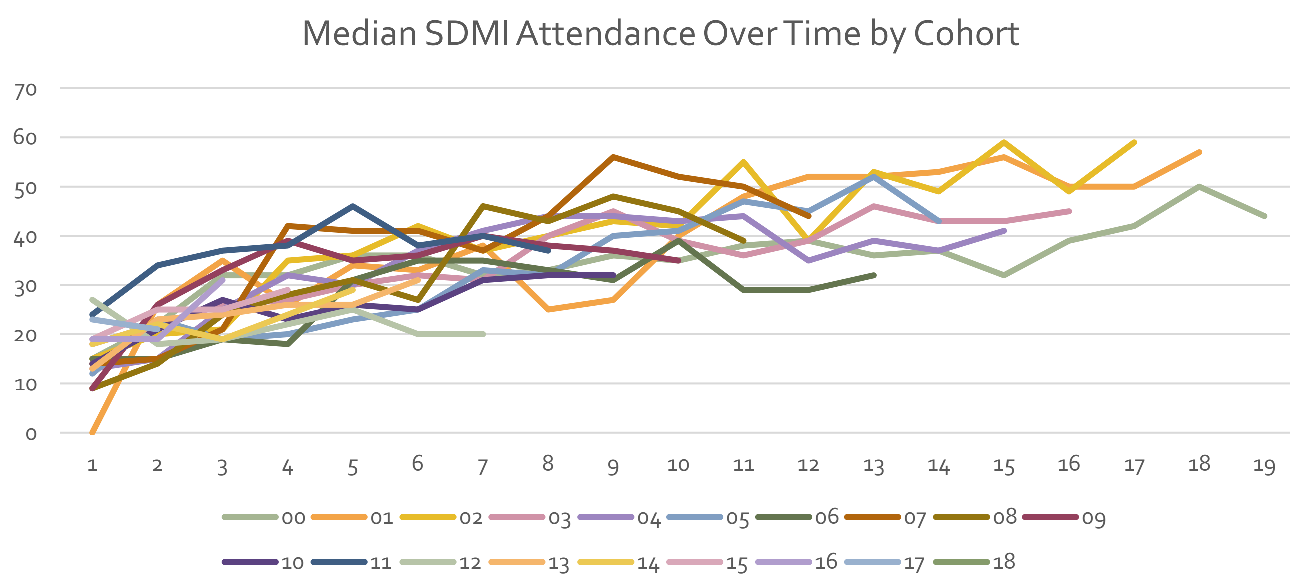


Discipleship Statistics

We now look at four discipleship Mission Markers: Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries (SDMI) attendance, Baptisms, New Nazarenes, and Stewardship.

SDMI Attendance Across all cohorts, median SDMI attendance grew for the first eleven years, from 15 to 44. Average attendance grew for the first eleven years as well, from 22 to 63, with a standard deviation of 8 at year eleven. Median SDMI attendance peaked in year eleven at 54, average SDMI attendance at year nineteen with the '00 Cohort averaging 106 (SD: 312), again, the highest average of any cohort at any year. However, as stated earlier, and as the standard deviation attests, the averages are overly influenced by one church, the largest church in the study, which was organized in 2000.





Again, as with Worship attendance, the ethnic makeup of the largest churches is not reflective of the distribution of all Church Starts in the study. Nine of the ten largest churches in SDMI attendance are White/English-speaking (the one other ethnicity is Hispanic).

However, reflective of the community types of Nazarene churches in the USA/Canada region, half of the largest Church Starts in SDMI attendance are in Major Urban communities, thirty percent of in Town and Country communities, and twenty percent in Smaller Urban communities. The ten largest Church Starts in SDMI attendance are all on different districts, and the only cohort with more than one church on this list is the '05 Cohort, with three.

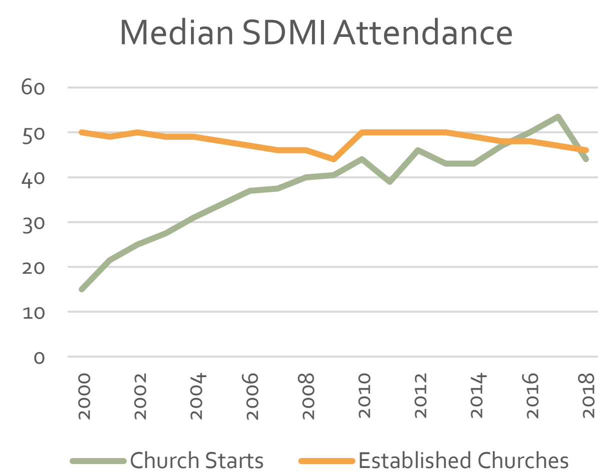
SDMI Sizes of Church Starts (2018)	
1-49	570
50-99	194
100-149	56
150-199	27
200-499	21
500 +	6
Total	**874**

Top 10 Church Starts by Largest SDMI Attendance (2018)

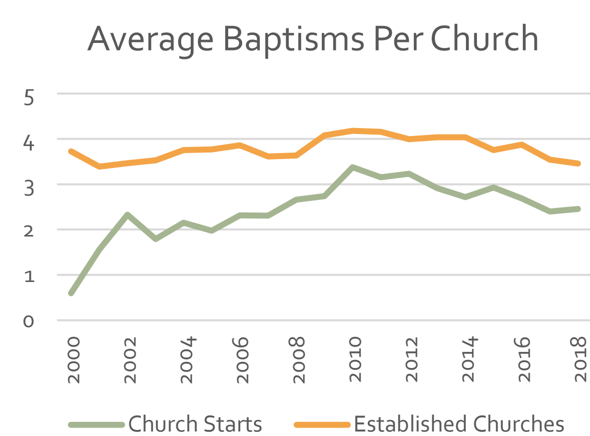
Cohort	SDMI Attendance	District	Church Name	Community Type	Ethnicity
'00	1790	Prairie Lakes	Fargo Prairie Heights Community	Major Urban	White
'03	1247	Sacramento	Lodi Faith Community	Smaller Urban	White
'05	620	Northwestern Illinois	BridgeWay Community	Town and Country	White
'15	607	Chicago Central	GatheringPoint	Town and Country	White
'13	595	North Arkansas	Crossroads Cowboy	Town and Country	White
'07	514	Oregon Pacific	Mission Church	Smaller Urban	White
'05	462	South Central Ohio	Lifepoint	Major Urban	White
'05	443	West Texas	Lubbock Refuge	Major Urban	White
'16	405	South Carolina	Greenville First Iglesias	Major Urban	Hispanic
'01	382	Northeast Oklahoma	Broken Arrow Core Church at Aspen Creek	Major Urban	White

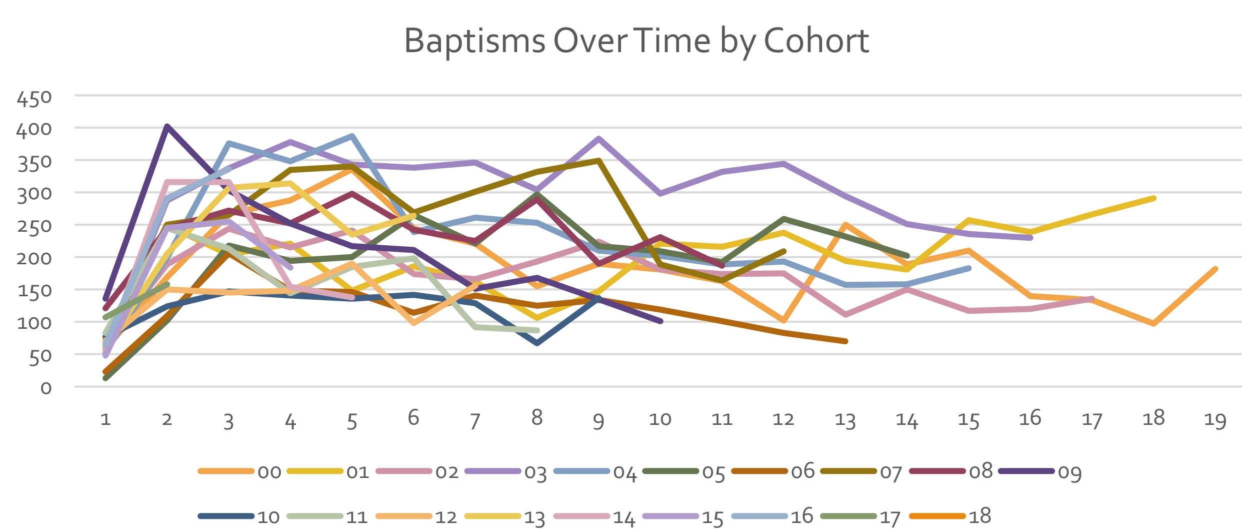
In comparing the median SDMI attendance trend of Church Starts to Established Churches we find that, while attendance increased 14 out of the 19 years for Church Starts, SDMI attendance for Established Churches increased only twice over the same period. As with median worship attendance, in the years 2016 and 2017 SDMI attendance for Church Starts was higher than for Established Churches.

.



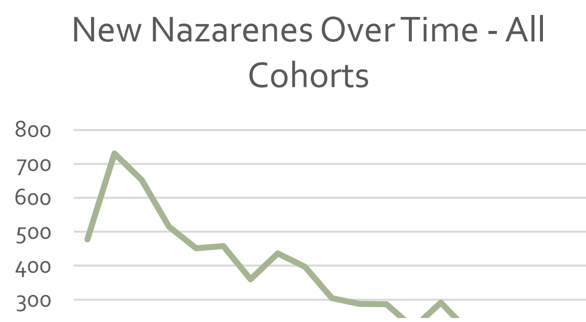
Baptisms Church Starts reported 37,672 Baptisms over the course of the study. Baptisms, like Conversions, spike in year two, however unlike Conversions, they also grow into year three. After year three they begin an overall downward trend until the end of the study. While Baptisms follow the same trend as Conversions, they are fewer in number than Conversions: there is only about one Baptism for every three Conversions (37%). This is especially striking since we only have 13 years of data for Conversions, but the full 18 years of data on Baptisms. When we limit the Baptism data to the same years as Conversion data, 2006-18, the result is a 1:2.5 ratio of Baptisms to Conversions.



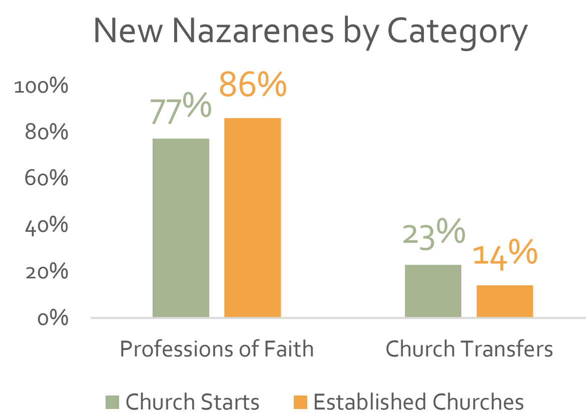


Tracking Median Baptisms per church for Church Starts and Established Churches is not very helpful, as all years for both groups was 1 except for Established Churches in 2002, where the median was 0. Tracking average Baptisms is more helpful, and shows Established Churches with higher rates of Baptisms for all yeas of the study. Both groups report overall rising Baptisms from 2000 to 2010, at which point both groups then show overall declines until the end of the study period.

New Nazarenes As a third sign of discipleship effectiveness, and another goal of all Nazarene churches, is to move new attendees toward becoming members of the local church: New Nazarenes. Two groups comprise this New Nazarenes category: existing Christians transferring membership from another denomination and new Christians becoming church members for the first time.

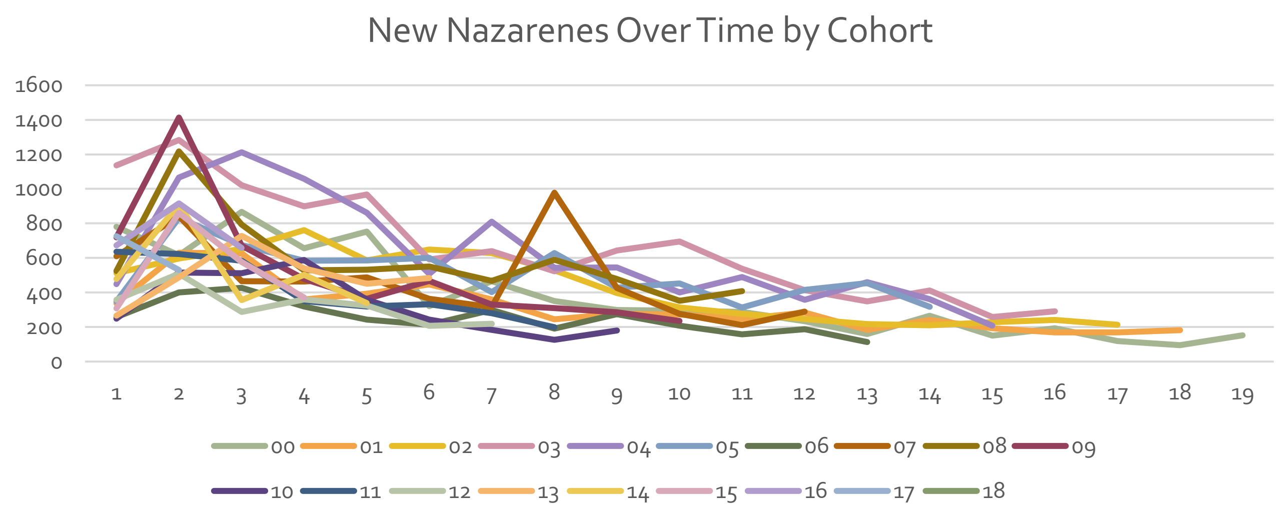


Over 87,000 people became New Nazarenes in Church Starts from 2000 to 2018. Again, as with Conversions and Baptisms, there is a spike at year two of a church's life, with an overall decline in the following years.

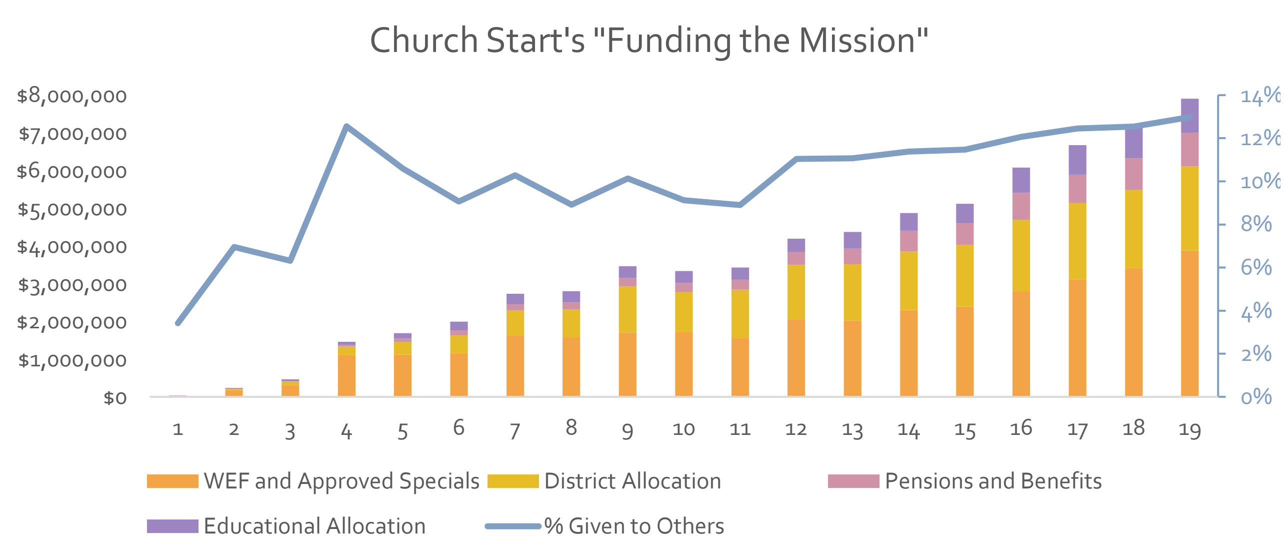


It is interesting to note that a person in a Church Start is more likely to become a church member than to be baptized. For over the 19 years of the study New Nazarenes outnumber Baptisms by more than 2 to 1 (87,608 to 37,672). A partial explanation for this is that about 1 in 4 New Nazarenes (23%) at Church Starts are not new

Christians, but existing Christians transferring their membership from another denomination. This portion of transfer growth in Church Starts is higher than in Established Churches (14%).



Stewardship Stewardship is the fourth discipleship marker we studied. We did this by tracking giving to Funding the Mission. Funding the Mission is a Nazarene denominational stewardship standard in which local Nazarene churches give a proportion of their income to five mission entities of the denomination: the World Evangelism Fund, Approved Specials (for Missions), Pensions and Benefits, the regional educational institution, and the District organization. Part of the proportion is a "tithe" of 10% to the first four entities, and an additional "offering" percentage to the Districts. Each District determines the "offering" percentage for their own district, which currently varies between 3%



and 10% depending on the district. Therefore, the total Funding the Mission percentage can vary among districts from 13% and 20%.

Collectively, the 2,155 Church Starts of this study raised $614,788,767, and gave 11% of that income to others in the form of Funding the Mission. When we factor out the Not-Yet-Organized churches, the Funding the Mission percentage for Organized Church Starts increases to 14% of their income in 2018. The overall Funding the Mission percentage by Established Churches in 2018 was 17%.

Two of the Church Starts cohorts matched that 17% figure in 2018, the '02 and '15 Cohorts. The '03 Cohort, the largest of the cohorts, has both raised the most money and given away the most money, having raised $104,165,721, and given away 11% ($11,168,520). In 2018, one Church Start, Sun City (Arizona) gave 50% of their income to Funding the Mission: $390,142. Over the course of their 16 years in existence, the Sun City Church of the Nazarene has given 45% of their income to Funding the Mission for a total of $5,736,518.

2018 LARGEST FUNDING THE MISSION GIVING BY CHURCH STARTS

	District	Church Name	Average Worship Attendance	Total Raised	Total Funding the Mission	% Given
'02	Arizona	Sun City	276	$785,945	$390,142	50%
'03	Sacramento	Lodi Faith Community	918	$2,393,684	$353,836	15%
'15	Chicago Central	GatheringPoint	908	$1,511,752	$274,203	18%
'15	Chicago Central	College Church of the Nazarene, University Ave.	564	$1,314,657	$274,166	21%
'08	Arizona	Glendale Turning Leaf	205	$1,753,351	$227,781	13%
'05	NW Illinois	BridgeWay Community	754	$636,895	$152,999	24%
'05	South Central Ohio	Lifepoint	656	$1,004,962	$150,967	15%
'01	MidSouth	Dayspring Community	305	$331,264	$121,234	37%
'08	NW Ohio	Quest Community	405	$680,525	$112,923	17%
'00	Prairie Lakes	Fargo Prairie Heights Community	1,927	$2,055,305	$92,359	4%

We find generosity in not just the large Church Starts with large incomes, but in all worship sizes and income levels. For example:

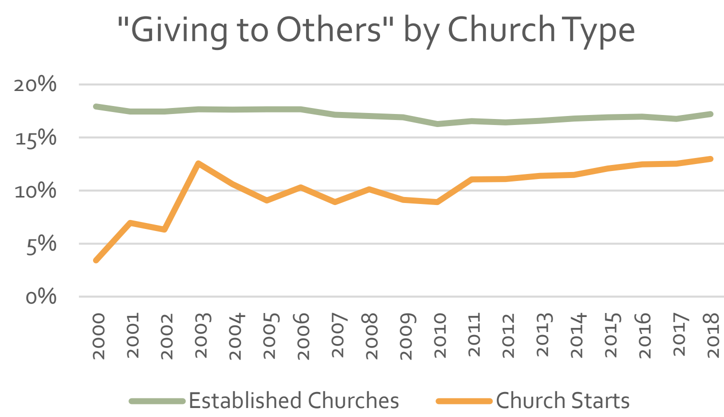
- The North Dallas Connections Church of the Nazarene, though only averaging 7 in worship attendance and raising just over $23,000 in income, gave 62% of their income to others through Funding the Mission giving.

- The Parkville Family Church of the Nazarene, averaging 58 in worship and raising $118,399, gave 54% of their income to Funding the Mission.
- The O'Fallon New Life Church of the Nazarene, averaging 155 in worship and raising $241,913, gave 35% of their income to Funding the Mission.

2018 TOP 2 LARGEST FUNDING THE MISSION PERCENTAGES – BY INCOME GROUP

Income Group	Cohort	District	Church Name	Average Worship	Income	Funding the Mission	% Given to Others
$1,000 k +	2015	Chicago Central	College Church of the Nazarene, University Avenue	564	$1,314,657	$274,166	21%
	2003	Sacramento	Lodi Faith Community	918	$2,393,684	$353,836	15%
$500k-999k	2002	Arizona	Sun City	276	$785,945	$390,142	50%
	2005	Northwestern Illinois	BridgeWay Community	754	$636,895	$152,999	24%
$250k-499k	2001	MidSouth	Dayspring Community	305	$331,264	$121,234	37%
	2003	E. Tennessee	Real Life Community	158	$267,766	$65,579	24%
$200k-249k	2001	Missouri	O'Fallon New Life	155	$241,913	$84,245	35%
	2002	Mid-Atlantic	Dover Mountain Grove Chapel	89	$208,937	$50,476	24%
$150k-199k	2009	Mid-Atlantic	Berlin The River	66	$151,926	$54,924	36%
	2011	South Texas	Celebrate Life	78	$175,301	$50,385	29%
$100k-149k	2012	Kansas City	Parkville Family	58	$118,399	$64,229	54%
	2000	SW Oklahoma	Oklahoma City R.O.C.	130	$132,507	$34,633	26%
$50k-99k	2016	E. Tennessee	Blackman Community	58	$96,930	$45,079	47%
	2014	Nebraska	Lone Star Cowboy Church of Farnam NE	79	$58,358	$20,480	35%
$0-49k	2010	North/East Texas	North Dallas Connections	7	$23,161	$14,401	62%
	2012	Los Angeles	The Glory Barn	15	$7,394	$4,060	55%

In 2018, the Church Starts of this study accounted for 8% of all reported church income on the USA/Canada region, and 6% of all World Evangelism Fund and Approved Specials giving. Over time, as Church Starts organize and grow, they are giving a larger portion of their income the Funding the Mission.



Initial Findings

- In 2018, one out of every four Nazarene churches had started since 2000. If the current trends continue, by 2045 the number of active churches begun since 2000 will outnumber the active churches begun before 2000.

- All ten of the largest Church Starts were White/English-Speaking. Nine of the ten largest churches in SDMI attendance are White/English-speaking (the one other ethnicity is Hispanic). The ethnic makeup of the largest churches is not reflective of the distribution of all Church Starts in the study.

- While Church Starts have had median increases in worship attendance for 13 out of the 19 years included in this study, Established Churches have seen increases only twice

- Compared to the other studies outside the Church of the Nazarene, Nazarene Church Starts, on average, begin smaller than other Church Starts, and remain smaller at the end of the four-year study.