Religious Resilient School: A Mental Health School Study

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Abstract: This study aims to find the correlation between religiosity, resilience, and mental health. We conducted a survey to 115 samples of public high school students at Depok, Indonesia (Mage=16.23, Male=31) to prove our hypothesis that high resilience and high religiosity positively correlate with positive mental health. We used Indonesian Version MHI-38 (Veit & Ware, 1983) (α =0.658), Psychological Capital Resilience dimension (Luthans, 2002) (α =0.636), and adapted scale for religiosity from National Study of Youth and Religion (Pearce, 2016) (α =0.676). The result is that mental health well-being significantly correlated with resilience and religiosity (p<0.05), mental health personality distress negatively correlated with resilience (p<0.5) and negatively correlated with religiosity (p<0.5). Resilience and religiosity were highly correlated (p<0.001). We proposed a model for relationship between resilience, the five dimension of religiosity and mental health. This lead us to further discussion and research about the relationship between mental health, resilience, and religiosity at school.

Keywords: External Practice, Mental Health, Personal Practice, Psychological Distress, Psychological Well Being, Resilience, Religious Belief, Religious Exclusivity, Religious Salience, Religiosity.

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia Ministry of Health had released Basic Health Research in 2018, stated that mental health issues in Indonesia including smoking behavior, alcoholic abuse, psychosis, depression, and emotional disorder [1]. This research target was 1000 household in Indonesia from national survey. The results were that 33.8% of Indonesian population are still smoking, and that included 9.1% of 10-18 years old population. Around 3.3% drink alcohol, and 0.8% of the population above 10 years old were alcohol abusive. Around 7% of the household had family member with psychosis, and 6.1% of the population above 15 years old, had depression. Among the population above 15 years old, 9.8% had emotional disorder. These findings had shown that mental health must be a crucial issues, especially in Indonesia.

The concept of Mental Health at School is not yet became a popular theme in the world of Indonesia education. Yet, we find that the research topics about mental health at school in 2019, appeared with keyword such as deviant and problematic behaviors. Among the signs of mental health that can be observed from students were: 1) Learning difficulties, 2) Juvenile delinquencies, 3) Discipline, and 4) Mental Problems.

Generally, school are still focusing on academic achievement and physical health. In fact, mental health problems are also as important as physical health. Mental Health as defined by the World Health Organization [2], is a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively, and able to make a contribution to her or his community.

According to the latest definition of mental health, it is a dynamic state of internal equilibrium which enables individuals to use their abilities in harmony with universal values of society. Basic cognitive and social skills; ability to recognize, express and modulate one's own emotions, as well as empathize with others; flexibility and ability to cope with adverse life events and function in social roles; and harmonious relationship between body and mind represent important components of mental health which contribute, to varying degrees, to the state of internal equilibrium [3].

Indonesia Mental Health Association used this latest definition of mental health, as proposed by Galderisi, et al. [3] because it presented the dynamics between internal equilibrium of individual with the community values, so that when we discuss the mental health, we also mentioned the self and social aspects.

When mental health was not well achieved, the students would frequently perform problematic behavior in their social environment. Problematic behavior such as aggressive behavior, for example, fighting, disturbing other students, or verbal aggressive behavior, including swearing, cursing others, mocking, speaking harshly, fighting teachers and spreading gossip about other people [4]; [5]. Deviant behavior includes premarital sex, skipping school, drug use, and suicidal thoughts [6].

Discussions about mental health at school were not only about problematic behavior and deviant behavior, but also the resiliency of the students and school employees, including the principal, teachers and administrations. By focusing to improve the resiliency, then the school would grow toward positive orientation and becoming a mentally healthy school.

During a three months resilience program that aims to promote mental health at school in Australia, children's optimism was significantly increased (Anthony & McLean, 2015) [7]. The Bounce Back classroom resiliency program [8] was a whole school, universal program that promoting resilience and positive mental health by teaching social and emotional competencies and positive psychology skills. We would like to find out whether the same resiliency program could be conducted in Indonesia to promote mental health at school. In order to conduct the same program, we would like to know which kind of target that need to be promoted in resilience in order to have increase their mental health.

Previous study also discuss relationship between religiosity and mental health. A study about mental health school had compared social, emotional, and behavioral risks between parochial school and public school in Maryland, US [9]. It turned out that parochial school provide better social and academic experiences, but they might struggle with issues related to social, emotional, and behavioral health risk. The students of parochial school were more likely report being stressed and more likely to report being a cyberbully than students of public school.

The results of those mental health at school study made us want to confirm the relation between religiosity, resiliency, and mental health, especially in Indonesia context. We wanted to know the relationship between resiliency and positive mental health at Indonesia school, especially in public school. Whether the public school students resiliency lead to positive mental health. And in case of religiosity, we wanted to know does religiosity indeed lead to positive mental health, and if it does, which aspect of religiosity. Our hypothesis was that resiliency at public school lead to positive mental health, and higher religiosity lead to positive mental health.

2. RESILIENCE, RELIGIOSITY, AND MENTAL HEALTH: BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS

In Psychology, resilience, well-being, and positive mental health have become familiar terms and essential constructs in trans-disciplinary integrative psychiatry, and psychology [10]. These recent years, religiosity has gained a central issue about its conceptualization, measurement, and relationships in research topic [11], However, the definition and relationship on the whole construct of religiosity is still in exploration to establish general agreement. Therefore, examining the use of these terms should always be accompanied by a brief explanation of respective expert's definition and theoretical framework [10].

2.1 Mental Health

Mental health is not only about the condition of mere lack of mental disorders, but also how persons can functioning effectively, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and able to make a contribution to his or her surrounding environment [12]. The positive dimension of mental health is one of our concern issue. WHO states that: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." [2]. Veit and Ware [13] pointed out that mental health has two dimensions: psychological distress and psychological well-being. Anger or irritability, anxiety and exhaustion are typical states of psychological distress, as well as the tendency to devalue and an inclination to isolate, stay away, not engaging in activities with others. Psychological well-being is often associated with happiness: a sense of balance and vitality accompanied by a feeling of self- worth are the most important characteristics [14].

In the 1950s and 1960s, researchers began to wonder how a number of seemingly extraordinary children managed to emerge from severely challenging circumstances relatively unscathed [15]. These findings lead us to what factors can lead to positive mental health. One of the factors is resiliency.

2.2 **Resilience**

Resilience is the condition of positive coping and adaptation of persons in their life that characterized with challenging reality and struggling life in the face of significant risk [16]. In this research, the resilience will be focus on work context that take out from dimension of psycap (HERO). Ogińska-Bulik, Juczyński [17] stated that resilience is an important feature of personality, conducive to good health and a "key to it" and may also be regarded as a "meta-source" of special regulatory power, influencing the activation of other resources needed in the process of coping with life events [18].

In work context, resilience is defined as the "positive psychological capacity to rebound, to 'bounce back' from adversity, uncertainty, conflict, failure, or even positive change, progress and increased responsibility [19].

Some research about resilience and mental health used Psycap to measure resilience [20]. We specifically measured the resilience and not the other dimensions, because we only focused on the relationship between resilience, religiosity, and mental health.

The resiliency in this research was adapted to work context of high school student. Since the student has also homework to do, they also doing their school work, house work and part time work. We seen that these works can lead to distress, or negative mental health, if cannot be managed.

2.3 Religiosity

The religiosity was also known with another term such as religiousness, orthodoxy, faith, belief piousness, devotion and holiness Holdcroft [21] The complexity is that current interest in the concept of religiosity correlated with several academic disciplines, each perspective field approaching religiosity from different points of view, and one is not refer to the other perspective [22]; [23]. Glock and Stark [24] are studying religious orientations, origins, and dimensions. in their focus discipline. Glock and Stark had investigate five dimensions of religiosity: experiential, ritualistic, ideological, intellectual, and consequential. Referring to the Glock and other religiosity construct researchers, Lisa Pearce had conducted validation to religiosity dimensions and found five dimensions that are ubiquitous across frameworks and have multiple valid empirical measures corresponding to these five dimensions (Pearce, Hayward, & Pearlman, 2017). The five unique dimensions of religiosity that are important in the lives of adolescents are religious beliefs, religious exclusivity, external practice, personal practice, and religious salience [25]

Religious belief is what people call the "ideological" [26] or "doctrine" component [27] of religiosity. It defined as the acceptance of a standard set of religious beliefs, such as God, the afterlife, the supernatural, etc. It indicates a meaning system that involves a higher power and a sacred or supernatural realm.

Previous research found that religious belief has linked with physical and mental health [28]; [29]. For adolescents including school age students, this dimension is important to assess the development of their religious identity. The more mature and developed their cognitive skills, they can process their belief and religious belief becomes more authentic and representative of their own systems of meaning [30].

Religious exclusivity shares much in common with "doctrinal orthodoxy" [31] or "dogmatism" [32]. This dimension focus on orthodoxy or dogmatism, whether one holds particular religious beliefs to a more global belief in absolutes. It is the view that there are definite rights and wrongs—that rules for living are unambiguous, permanent, and ordained by God. This dimension also known as "religious fundamentalism" [33]. Youth who score high on religious exclusivity may be less tolerant of those they deem "wrong" in belief or action. They may also be less likely to engage in behaviors they consider "wrong," such as early sexual initiation or illicit drug or alcohol use.

Next dimension of religiosity is External Practice. It universally includes religious service attendance, group membership, and social activities. There is something unique about the practice of religion with other people and the resources that come from religious institutions and co-congregates [34]. For example, The study of adolescent sexual behavior that show the

association with other religious variable with the time of sexual initiation and others could maintain its own statistically significant association to those behaviors [35]. In adolescence, they usually practice external forms of religiosity based on the request of their family, so this is one dimension of religiosity that may not always reflect adolescents' own religious commitments. As adolescents gain autonomy, it is likely that their level of religious service attendance is more reflective of their own interest in religion.

The fourth dimension is Personal Practice, the dimension that Lenski [31] referred to as "devotionalism," or an emphasis on means for a personal connection to the sacred. It involves religious behaviors usually done individually, thus requiring a level of personal dedication. This is the dimension that heavily reflects how adolescents practice their religion.

The final dimension is Religious Salience, that represents the place in one's hierarchy of identities that religion holds [36]. This dimension represents religion's relative position among other influential identities (e.g., friend, loving partner, popular student, or progressive) [37]. This dimension is likely to be most associated with whether one acts in line with religious values or schema [38]; [39]. It is unique to describe the potential level of influence that religion might have on other realms of life.

There were previous research studying the relationship between resilience and mental health, religiosity and mental health, or the correlation between the three variables.

Study about resilience had shown that it was a positive predictor for subjective well being [40]. Yet the discussion between resilience and mental health was about whether resiliency is the result of positive mental health, or resilient people makes better mental health. Study had proven that elements of psychological capital, including resiliency, are good predictor of mental health [41].

Some reviews showed that higher level of religiosity and spirituality were associated with better mental health [42];[43], even though some research showed the contradiction, that spirituality, but not religiosity, associated with better health and life satisfaction [44]; [45].

Indonesia is a country that have six formal religions as state religion. With majority number of Muslim citizens, there are also Christian, Catholics, Hindu, Buddha, and Kong Hu Cu (Confucianism) as the formal religion. Religion also taught at school as formal subjects, and beside public school, there were some Islamic School or Christian/Catholic School.

We suggest that if we conduct a study about resilience, religiosity, and mental health, the result will have some cross cultural differences with previous research in other countries. We hypothesized that in Indonesia, there is relationship between high level of religiosity and better mental health, and higher resilience will lead to higher score mental health. We want to know which one of the five dimension of religiosity that correlate with better mental health [25].

3 METHODS

3.1 Participants

One hundred and fifteen public high school students in suburban city Depok, Indonesia were recruited as participants for a national mental health survey (Mage=16.23, Male=31). There were 66 students (57.39%) on the 11th grade. Among the students, 103 mentioned Islam as their religion, 5 Christian, and 2 Catholics. The participants were given a ballpoint (on the same value as 0.5 USD) as a reward.

The survey were held after a final semester test. They were given a form of informed consent and debriefing form that mention the purpose of the research.

3.2 Materials

There were three variables measured in the study, mental health was measured by Indonesian Version MHI-38 that was developed by Viet & Ware [13], resiliency was measured with adapted resilience dimension from Psychological Capital Questionnaire [19], and religiosity measured with 21-item General Religiosity Scale, that developed from the Religiosity questionnaire [25].

We gave the questionnaire to 200 participants. We debriefed the participants by telling them the procedure of the study, and they chose whether they want to continue/exit from the survey. Finally, we asked the participants to fill a form with their initials, grade, sex, occupations, ethnicity, religion, family income, school, and city they lived in. The demographic variables were not analyzed in this study, but further study.

3.2.1 Mental Health Questionnaire

Indonesian Version MHI-38 is a questionnaire consists of 38 item that results on Global Mental Health Scale (α =0.658). It also results on two factors which are psychological distress (anxiety, depression, loss of behavioral/emotional control), such as "In the last month, how often do you feel anxious?" (1-6, 1=every time, 6=never) (α =0.594) and psychological wellbeing (general positive affect, emotional ties, and life satisfaction), such as "During the last month, does your daily life full of interesting things?" (1-6, 1=always, 6=never, reverse scored) (α =0.65).

Some items were reversed and scoring method used to get the global scale, psychological distress scale, and psychological well-being scale.

3.2.2 Resilience Scale

Resilience measured by 6 item resilience dimension of Psychological Capital Questionnaire, such as "I usually take stressful things at work in stride." (α =0.636) [19]. The questionnaire was altered to fit the target group participants which are the students. The Resilience dimension of Psycap Questionnaire aims to measure the resilience of people at work. We adapt the items to measure the resilience of the people at school, including the students and the school management. The resilience score were computed from the total score of the items, with one item was reversed.

3.2.3. General Religiosity Scale

We developed a 21-item General Religiosity Scale that was adapted from National Study of Youth and Religion which measures religious belief, religious exclusivity, external practice, personal practice, and religious salience [25] α =0.676). Some of the items included were "How often, if ever, do you pray by yourself alone?" (1-7, 1=never, 2=less than once a month, 3=once or twice a month, 4=about once a week, 5=several times a week, 6=about once a day, 7=many times a day) and "Do you believe in angels?" (1=maybe, or no; 2=yes).

There were five score as a result from the scale, that represents each dimension of the religiosity scale. We also computed the total score of religiosity. Higher score means higher religiosity and lower score means lower religiosity.

3.3 Data Analysis

We were conducting Principal Component Analysis to confirm the factors of the variables: mental health, resilience, and religiosity. Some items of MHI-38 were reversed score, and we checked the total score and the multidimensional score of the variables. PsyCap resilience score were unidimensional and we compute the total score of the variable. The General Religiosity Scale resulted on five score for five dimensions, and each score represented the total score of each dimension of religiosity. We also computed the total score of religiosity for correlation analysis.

Inter-item correlation and Alpha Cronbach for item reliability were measured. After conducting the Principal Component Analysis, we found that some items are not measuring any of the dimensions. This results will become the basis of our evaluation for next research.

One item in the General Religiosity Scale were not representing any of the factors, so the item will be dropped from further analysis.

We confirmed two factor of mental health, which is Personal Distress and Psychological Well Being, and five factor of religiosity: religious belief, religious exclusivity, external practice, personal practice, and religious salience. All the analysis conducted with JASP 10.0.

3.4 Result and Discussion

We got the description about the students mental health, which results on three score, mental health global scale (mean=156.236, SD=19.737), mental health personal distress (mean=65.645, SD=14.992), and mental health well-being (mean=54.102, SD=6.967). Psycap Resilience total score (mean=23.609, SD=4.295), and General Religiosity score (mean=50.945, SD=5.117) which results on five dimensions: religious belief (mean=11.798, SD=0.612), religious exclusivity (mean=7.296, SD=0.805), external practice (mean=8.919, SD=2.516), personal practice (mean=14.482, SD=2.897), and religious salience (mean=8.393, SD=0.933).

To prove our hypothesis that high level of religiosity correlate with better mental health, and higher resilience correlate with higher score mental health, we used matrix correlations between mental health well-being, personality distress, resilience, and religiosity.

Results of the correlation matrix had shown us that mental health well-being is very significantly correlated with resilience (p<0.001), and significantly correlated with total score of religiosity (p<0.01). The religiosity factors that correlate with mental health well-being are religious salience (p<0.01) and personal practice (p<0.5). Mental health personality distress is negatively correlated with resilience (p<0.5) and negatively correlated with religiosity (p<0.5), significantly negatively correlated with personal practice (p<0.01). Resilience and religiosity are highly correlated (p<0.001).

From the results above, we found that positive mental health indeed correlate with high level of religiosity, specifically, the religious salience and personal practice. We can see that not all factors of religiosity correlate with positive mental health. We interpret that, from the results, the higher the religious salience, or the more internalized the identity of the religion to a student, the more positive his/her mental health is. Also the more often the student practice his/her religion practice individually, or privately, the more positive his/her mental health.

The relationship between religiosity and negative mental health, which is personal distress, also significant for just one factor of religiosity. That factor is, the personal practice.

We can see that less often the student practice his/her religion practice individually, or privately, the higher the level of his/ her personal distress.

To prove the hypothesis that higher resilience correlate with higher score of mental health, we also see both of the dimension of mental health. From the result we can interpret that the higher the score of resilience, the better the mental health of the student. We can also see it from the negative aspect of mental health, which is the personal distress. The result shows that the lower the score of resilience, the higher the level of the student personal distress.

Further, we also want to see the relationship between resilience and religiosity. We then want to know which factor of religiosity that correlate with resilience, and found out three factors involved. Those three factors are religious exclusivity (p<0.01), personal practice (p<0.001), and religious salience (p<0.01). We interpreted that the higher the score of resilience, students tend to more exclusive on their religion, more often conduct their personal religion practice, and more internalizing their religious identity. This is also interesting evidence when we found that religiosity and resilience are correlated, but we want to know why these factors were involved, not the other factors.

From our results, we proposed a model for relationship between resilience, the five dimension of religiosity and mental health.

A research shown that high level of religiosity can improve resilience [46]. Religious belief could be a predictor variable for resilience, but it doesn't shown in this research [47]. We suggest perhaps it is because this research were using self-report survey, and for further research there might be some way using a method of training or observation so that the other factors of religiosity could be more manifest.

The religiosity factors that were significantly correlated with other factors is the personal practice. We cannot forget that the data were taken in a public school, not a religious school. We want to know further, whether, we can get the same results if we conduct the survey in a religious school, whether it is Islamic School or Catholic School.

Why we curious about the result, because in public school, the internalization of the religious belief is not conducted at school. The student also not obligated to do external religion practice like Friday prayer for Muslim, or Sunday prayer for Catholic/Christian, not like those student at religious school. We can conclude ourselves that no wonder the score of personal practice is highly correlated when we measure religiosity at public school, because the other factors of religiosity is not obligated to the student of public school not like to those student the religious school.

On the other hand, we can say that if the religious salience of the student at public school is high, it is really because of the student themselves has internalized their religion or because of their environment at home, not because of the school institution that internalize their religious identity. To get to this conclusion, we need to get more diverse population from the student of public school, from other area in Indonesia.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We found that personal practice and religious salience were correlated with mental health well-being. Personal practice also negatively correlated with mental health personal distress. We also found that mental health well-being are very significantly correlated with resilience, yet mental health personal distress are negatively correlated with resilience. These results answer our hypothesis that mental health is correlated with resilience and religiosity. We proposed a model for relationship between resilience, the five dimension of religiosity and mental health.

For further research, we suggest a larger number of populations conducted for mental health school survey in public school, religious school including Islamic School and Catholic/Christian school. We also suggest that the data were not only taken on the form of survey, but in a package of training and observation, this method will improve the possibility to get more reliable data of other factors of religiosity, for example, religious belief.

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APPENDIX

Appendix 1 Principal Component Religiosity Scale

Principal Component Analysis

	RC 1	RC 2	RC 3	RC 4	RC 5	Uniquenes
GRS1				0.766		0.222
GRS10					0.613	0.600
GRS11			0.699			0.485
GRS12				0.437	0.496	0.425
GRS13			0.565			0.554
GRS14			0.627			0.591
GRS15	0.777					0.384
GRS16				0.931		0.171
GRS17			0.582			0.622
GRS18	0.441					0.528
GRS19		0.535				0.684
GRS2		0.530			0.443	0.585
GRS20		0.485			0.561	0.469
GRS21		0.737				0.464
GRS3	0.712					0.464
GRS4						0.789
GRS5		0.548				0.485
GRS8	0.804					0.268
GRS7			0.504			0.705
GRS8					-0.492	0.703
GRS9	0.449					0.521

Appendix 2 Principal Component Analysis of Psycap Resilience

Principal Component Analysis

	RC 1	Uniqueness
PCQ1R		0.960
PCQ2	0.548	0.700
PCQ3	0.696	0.515
PCQ4	0.666	0.557
PCQ5	0.743	0.448
PCQ6	0.649	0.579

Note. Applied rotation method is promax.

Chi-squared Test

	Value	df	р
Model	22.294	9	0.008

Appendix 3 Principal Component Analysis of MHI-38 Analysis of General

Principal Component Analysis

	RC 1	RC 2	Uniqueness
MHI1		0.589	0.668
MHI10		0.644	0.599
MHI11	0.643		0.639
MHI12			0.911
MHI13	0.578		0.682
MHI14			0.861
MHI15	0.450		0.773
MHI16		-0.400	0.670
MHI17			0.656
MHI18		0.435	0.699
MHI19	0.777		0.396
MHI2		-0.451	0.674
MHI20	0.607		0.660
MHI21			0.852
MHI22			0.892
MHI23			0.928
MHI24			0.738
MHI25	0.672		0.565
MHI26		0.483	0.801
MHI27	0.605		0.493
MHI28			0.770
MHI29	0.673		0.559
MHI3	0.584		0.596
MHI30	0.794		0.354
MHI31		0.737	0.430
MHI32	0.774		0.454
MHI33	0.706		0.562
MHI34		0.635	0.529
MHI35	0.455		0.813
MHI36			0.747
MHI37			0.915
MHI38	0.737		0.426
MHI4		0.523	0.774
MHI5		0.597	0.704
MHI6	-		0.786
MHI7		0.625	0.672
MHI8 MHI9	-0.696 0.507		0.593

Note. Applied rotation method is promax.

Appendix 4 Correlation Matrix of Mental Health, Resilience, and Religiosity

Correlation Matrix

Pearson Correlations

	MHIPD	MHIPWB	MHITOT	PCQTOT	GRSRB	GRSRE	GRSEP	GRSPP	GRSRS	GRSTOT
MHIPD	-									
MHIPWB	-0.458***	-								
MHITOT	-0.932***	0.738***								
PCQTOT	-0.198*	0.368***	0.293**	-						
GRSRB	-0.186	0.149	0.144	0.168						
GRSRE	-0.002	0.067	0.014	0.254**	0.290**	-				
GRSEP	-0.121	0.144	0.171	0.163	0.134	0.279**				
GRSPP	-0.264**	0.210*	0.236*	0.324***	0.473***	0.340***	0.218*			
GRSRS	-0.019	0.291**	0.130	0.268**	0.407***	0.234*	0.092	0.279**	-	
GRSTOT	-0.239*	0.285**	0.279**	0.349***	0.567***	0.547***	0.663***	0.800***	0.469***	-

* p < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001

Appendix 5 Descriptive Statistics of the Variables

Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive Statistics

	MHIPD	MHIPWB	MHITOT	PCQTOT	GRSRB	GRSRE	GRSEP	GRSPP	GRSRS	GRSTOT	Jeniskelamin
Valid	110	108	108	115	114	115	111	114	112	109	98
Missing	5	7	9	O	1	0	4	1	3	6	17
Mean	65.645	54.102	156.236	23.609	11.798	7.296	8.919	14.482	8.393	50.945	
Std. Deviation	14.992	6.967	19.737	4.295	0.612	0.805	2.516	2.897	0.933	5.117	
Minimum	36.000	37.000	109.000	11.000	9.000	5.000	5.000	5.000	4.000	32.000	
Maximum	103.000	76.000	206.000	34.000	14.000	8.000	13.000	18.000	10.000	60.000	

Note. Not all values are available for Nominal Text variables

Appendix 6 Proposed Working Model Between Resilience, Religiosity, and Mental Health

