



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

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EWIC PUBLIC OUTREACH PROJECT

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EWIC Staff Report: **MUSLIM AMERICANS**

DIVERSITY

Muslims in North America just like Muslims all over the world are comprised of a diverse group of ethnicities and nationalities. In fact, according to a 2009 Gallup Poll Muslim Americans comprise the most racially diverse ethnic group in the United States. <http://www.gallup.com/home.aspx?ref=logo>

A 2011 report released by the Pew Forum reinforced this demographic data revealing that 37% of Muslims in the United States were born here while 26 % came originally from the Middle East/North Africa (MENA). An additional 9% come from Pakistan, 7% from South Asia, 3% from Iran, 5% from Europe, 7% from Sub-Saharan African and an additional 7% were listed as other.

RACIAL COMPOSITION

The racial composition of Muslims born in the United States is reflective of this trend in ethnic diversity. According to the same Pew poll forty percent of Muslims born in the United States identify as Black, 18% as white, 10% as Asian, 21% as other or mixed and 10% as Hispanic. www.pewresearch.org

EDUCATION

The abovementioned Gallup poll also found that Muslim American women comprise one of the most highly educated religious groups of women in the United States. Additionally, Muslim Americans have the “highest degree of economic parity at the high and low ends of the economic spectrum” according to the same 2009 Gallup poll. This data is supported by the Pew forum findings which indicate that Muslim Americans (regardless of place of nativity) are a highly educated group with 10% engaged in graduate study, 18% hold college degrees, 28% indicated that they had some college and 31 % were high school graduates, a mere 13% did not indicate that they had completed high school. www.pewresearch.org

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement among Muslim Americans in the 18-29 year age range is at 51%. Their political views tend towards moderate with 28% identifying as liberal or very liberal while 20% indicated that they ranked themselves as conservative or very conservative. <http://www.gallup.com/home.aspx?ref=logo>

Again, the data gathered by the Pew Research Center dovetails with that of the Gallup poll. They found that 66% of Muslim Americans are registered to vote, and 64% voted in the 2008 election.

LABOR

Muslim Americans employment almost mirrors that of the overall American public with 70% of Muslim Americans engaged in the labor sector as compared to 64% of Americans in general. <http://www.gallup.com/home.aspx?ref=logo>

The New York Times reported in 2010 that an increasing number of Muslims in the United States have faced discrimination in the workplace from co-workers, who either use derogatory names when addressing them or blatantly break federal law by barring them from wearing head scarves in the work place.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/24/business/24muslim.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

Muslims in America report incomes of \$100,000+ this number is commensurate with numbers reported by other Americans. However, when looking at the “middle scale 40% of Muslims in America reported family incomes between \$300,000 and \$100,000 as compared with 48% of the general public” according to the Pew Research Center. www.pewresearch.org

MUSLIMS IN THE UNITED STATES

“In America, Islam has had a long history, dating back to the 18th century, when African slaves brought Islam to our shores. During the 19th century, Muslim immigrants arrived from the Middle East. In the early-to-mid 20th century, leaders like Malcolm X inspired a new group of African-Americans to convert to Islam. Today, the American Muslim community is highly diverse.” www.linktv.org/sitecontent/teachers/fastfacts_islam.pdf

“American Muslim women are more likely than American Muslim men to have college and post-graduate degrees. Additionally, they are more highly educated than women in every other religious group except Jews, with 43% of Muslim American women holding a college or postgraduate degree, compared with 29% of American women overall. Muslim American women also are as likely as Muslim men to have a profession, with 30% in professional work and 25% self-employed. They also report incomes more nearly equal to men, compared with women and men of other faiths, and attend mosque as frequently as Muslim men.” <http://www.oismidwest.org/statement-on-galluppoll.htm>

High profile American Muslims include: Heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali; Fareed Zakaria, the editor of Newsweek International; Supermodel and entrepreneur Iman; Actor and hip hop artist Mos Def; NBA player Hakeem Olajuwon of the Houston Rockets; Rep. Keith Ellison of Minnesota.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau the Arab-American population is equally distributed across the four geographic regions of the United States.

As of 2000, 48 percent of the Arab population lived in the five states of California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York.

<http://www.census.gov/>

As indicated by the U.S. Census there are clearly Muslims living in basically every community in the United States, the largest populations are found in California, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Indiana, Michigan and Virginia.

www.linktv.org/sitecontent/teachers/fastfacts_islam.pdf

According to the Pew Research Center most Muslim immigrants in the United States hope to assimilate into U.S. Culture. Additionally, Muslim Americans enjoy the same habits and hobbies as other religious and non-religious groups in the U.S. The majority of Muslim Americans recycle, watch an hour plus of TV nightly, use social networking sites, watch pro and college sports and play video games. www.pewresearch.org