



On January 6, 2016 the [Pew Research Center released a report](#) with a new estimate of how many Muslims there were in the United States in 2015: 3.3 million (1.0% of the US population), projected to double by the year 2050.

The [World Religion Database \(WRD\)](#), a product of the [International Religious Demography Project](#) at the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs (CURA) at Boston University estimates that, in 2015, there were 4.4 million Muslims in the United States (1.4% of the US population) projected to more than double to 10 million by 2050 (2.6% of the US population).

The WRD figure is higher than Pew's because the *WRD* utilizes an assessment of the strength of ethnic communities in the United States to generate its estimate. The largest communities are from the Middle East and Asia, such as Lebanese, Syrians, Iraqis, Pakistanis, Kurds, Bengalis, and Persians. More recent immigrants include 90,000 Somalis, nearly all of whom are Muslims. Another more recent community is the Bosnians, over 150,000, most of whom Muslims who immigrated after the early 1990s. In addition, approximately 29% of all Muslims in the United States are African Americans. The size of each of these communities is sourced either by the US government or by scholars who study these communities. Unfortunately, most surveys and polls fail to take into account the religious strength of these communities since they are still relatively small.

Because migration can be unpredictable, it is likely that the *WRD* estimate actually underestimates the numerical strength of the US Muslim population. It is important to be diligent in tracking immigrant groups to the US to keep updating members of ethnic communities.

The *World Religion Database* estimate is currently available online but will also appear in print in [Encyclopedia Britannica's Book of the Year 2016](#) and in several almanacs published throughout 2016.

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