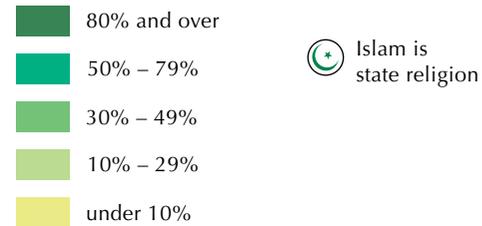


ISLAM

Muslims as a percentage of population
2006 or latest available data



The two main traditions within Islam are Sunni and Shi'a. After the death of the Prophet Muhammad, leadership of the Muslim community passed to a succession of caliphs ('deputies'). In the mid-7th century under the caliphate of Ali, the Prophet Muhammad's son-in-law, some came to believe that leadership of the Muslim community should be hereditary; these became known as the Shi'a (partisans of Ali). The majority held that the caliphs should be democratically chosen, according to the Sunna, the sayings and customs of the Prophet Muhammad. These are known as Sunni. They number more than 1.1 billion, and are in the majority in most Islamic countries. The Shi'a number 192 million and are in the majority in Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, Azerbaijan and Yemen.

Within Sunni and Shi'a there are various schools of law and traditions. The Sunni schools of law are widespread, such as the Maliki school that is dominant throughout most of Muslim Africa. In Shi'a Islam there are more localized traditions, such as the Alawite and Druze in Syria and Lebanon.

The Ibadiyah tradition originated in the decades immediately after the death of the Prophet Muhammad, before the split between Sunni and Shi'a. Small numbers of Ibadites, who are predominantly Bedouin Arabs, are found in the deserts of Arabia, Iraq and North Africa.

Muslims by continent 2006

Total worldwide: 1.34 billion

North America 0.4%

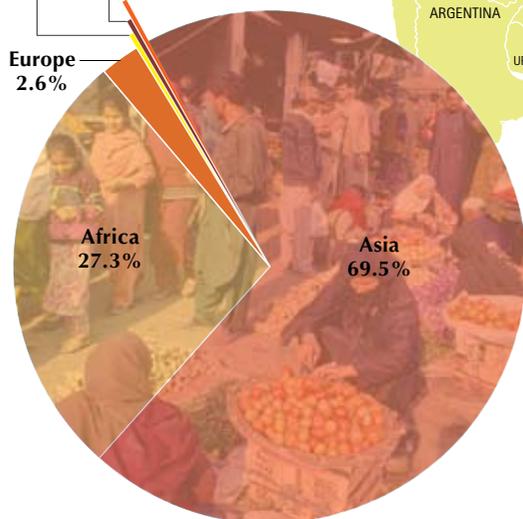
Latin America 0.13%

Oceania 0.03%

Europe 2.6%

Africa 27.3%

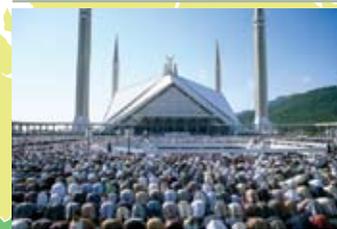
Asia 69.5%



The number of Muslims in Canada more than doubled between 1991 and 2001, from 253,300 to 579,600. Muslims currently represent 2% of the population.

There are more than 5.2 million Muslims in the USA, from 80 nations, representing 1.8% of the population. There are over 1,600 mosques and Muslim centres, the highest concentrations being in California, New York, Michigan and Illinois.

In 2001 there were 1.6 million Muslims living in the UK – 3% of the total population. Of these, 38% lived in London. There are over 1,070 mosques, Muslim centres and organizations in the country.



Pakistan has the third largest Muslim population in the world, at 151.8 million – 96% of its total population.

China's 20 million Muslims are represented before government and the Communist Party by The China Islamic Association. Chinese government figures record 40,000 Islamic places of worship, at least half of which are in Xinjiang Autonomous Region, and more than 45,000 imams nationwide.

India's Muslim population numbers 158.4 million. Although it is the second largest in the world, it represents only 13.4% of India's total population.

The 2000 Indonesian Census classifies 88.2% of the population as Muslims. This includes a wide range of movements, from the Shafi school of Sunni Islam to syncretistic traditions, which blend Islam with other Indonesian religions and traditions. Indonesia's 196.5 million Muslims represent the largest national population in the world.

The Hajj (pilgrimage) is one of the Five Pillars of Islam, and Muslims are expected to perform the pilgrimage to Makkah at least once in a lifetime – physical, financial and family circumstances permitting. In 2006, over 1.5 million Muslims, 46% of them women, arrived in Saudi Arabia from 177 countries. They joined a further half a million Saudis on the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

