

## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Muslim Demographics

Dr. Suad Joseph, General Editor

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies, University of California, Davis

#### EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ The Muslim population worldwide is expected to increase by 35% in the next 20 years. The total 2010 population of 1.6 billion will increase to 2.2 billion by 2030. The Muslim population is growing at twice the rate of growth of the non-Muslim populations. An average annual growth rate for Muslims at 1.5% versus 0.7% for non-Muslims.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ At the current growth rate, Muslims are projected to make up 26% of the world's estimated population of 8.3 billion by 2030 which is a three percent increase of 2010's estimation of the Muslim population for that year. The pace of growth is predicted to slow down to an average annual rate of 1.5 percent for the period of 2010-2030 versus 2.2 percent from 1990 to 2010.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ There are a total 32 countries with a 90% or greater Muslim majority population. Twelve countries with a 70%-89% Muslim majority and six countries with a 50%-69% Muslim majority. The country with the largest total population is Indonesia with 212 million Muslims out of 241 million people or 88% of its population.<sup>3</sup> By 2030, Pakistan is predicted to have the largest Muslim population and the 5<sup>th</sup> highest population increase at 43.8%.<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ Muslims are citizens of every continent. There are 581 million Muslims in Africa, 1.3 billion in Asia, 56 million in Europe, eight million in North America, two million in South America, and 1 million in Oceania with a total of two billion Muslims in the world in 2014.<sup>5</sup> About 62% of the Muslims in the world live in South Asia.<sup>6</sup>
- ❖ Sunni and Shia Muslims are the two main sects of Islam. Sunni Muslims are projected to reach nearly 2 billion by 2030, up from 1.4 billion in 2010. Sunnis are also expected to compose 87-90% of the world's Muslims population in the next 20 years. Shia Muslims are projected to increase from 162 million to 219 million making up 10-13% of the Muslim population.<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ In 2030 it is expected that 79 countries will have a million or more Muslim residents, presently there are only 72. By 2030 Pakistan is projected to surpass Indonesia as the country with the single largest Muslim population.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/01/27/the-future-of-the-global-muslim-population/>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/27/new-pew-forum-report-proj\\_n\\_814818.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/27/new-pew-forum-report-proj_n_814818.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.prb.org/Publications/Articles/2013/demographics-muslims.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> <http://qismat.org.pk/the-future-of-the-global-muslim-population>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.muslimpopulation.com/World/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/01/27/future-of-the-global-muslim-population-regional-asia/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.pewforum.org/2011/01/27/future-of-the-global-muslim-population-sunni-and-shia/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://islamicvoice.com/March2011/GLOBALAFFAIRS/>