

ISLAM IN THE UK – AN OVERVIEW

Population

- Muslims form 5% of the total population in England and Wales. The population has increased from 1.55 million in 2001 to 2.71 million in 2011. There are 77,000 Muslims in Scotland and 3,800 in Northern Ireland. The Muslim population is larger than all other non-Christian faith groups put together
- 47% of Muslims are UK-born. The remaining majority is from Asia and the Middle East
- The population is overwhelmingly young. 33% of Muslims aged 15 years or under, compared to 19% in the overall population. 4% of Muslims are aged 65, compared to 16% of the total population. The median age of the Muslim population is 25 years
- Of a total of 753 parliamentary constituencies in England and Wales, 26 have a Muslim population of 20% or more

Ethnic Makeup

- The majority of Muslims are Asian. The breakdown is as follows: 68% Asian (1.83 million of 2.71 million) and 32% non-Asian. 1 in 12 is Caucasian (8% of the Muslim population). The ethnic breakup is diverse
- Pakistanis make up the majority (38%) of the Muslim population, with Bangladeshis in second place (15%)
- One in three of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) population is Muslim 32% of the 7.9 million BME community
- There has been a significant rise in the Somali population since 2001 but very little numerical information on this so far

Mosques

- 44% of British mosques follow the Deobandi school of thought. It is part of one of the four Sunni schools of thought and stresses traditional observance, interpretation of the Quran and the study of traditions
- 96% of mosques are Sunni and 4% are Shia

Faction	Typical Ethnicity	All UK Masjids	London Masjids	London Congregations	Estimated London populations
Deobandi Masjids	<i>mainly Asian</i>	approx 700-800	192	115,000	317,000
Bareilvi Masjids	<i>Asian & Turkish</i>	approx 350	52	43,000	121,000
'Maudoodi' Masjids	<i>Asian</i>	60	7	3,200	9,000
Salafi Masjids	<i>diverse ethnicity</i>	60	20	12,600	35,000
Other mainstream Sunni	<i>Arab and African</i>	32	16	30,000	85,000
All Sunni Masjids		1,520	298	205,000	
Sunni population		96%	94%		570,000
All Shi'a Masjids	<i>mainly Asian, some Iraqi, Iranian</i>	67	20	9,000	
Shi'a population		4%	6%		36,000

Geographical Distribution

- According to the 2011 census, the majority of Muslims in the UK (76%) live in the inner city conurbations of Greater London (38%), West Midlands (14%), the North West and Yorkshire (13%) and Humberside (12%)
- There are 35 Local Authorities with a Muslim population of 10% or more
- Muslims form 12.4% of London's population
- The Muslim population in London has increased by 35% between 2001 and 2011
- The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has the biggest population of Muslims in London (36%), which increased from 71,000 in 2001 to 88,000 in 2011 (19%).

Bradford has the greatest concentration (24.7%) of Muslims in one area there are about 70 wards with a Muslim population of 40% or more. The wards with the highest percentage of Muslims (over 70%) are in Blackburn (Bastwell and Shear Brow), Birmingham (Washwood Heath, Bordesley Green and Sparkbrook), Burnley (Daneshouse with Stoneyholme) and Bradford (Toller, Manningham and Bradford Moor)

· Almost half (46%) of the Muslim population resides in the 10% most deprived areas of the UK

National Identity (page 2 of Islam in the UK)



The majority (73%) of the total British Muslim population identifies itself as British.

92% of the British Muslim population has English as their main language.

Family Life, Work and Education

- There is a higher rate of unemployment and inactivity in the British Muslim population compared to the overall population. Only 20% is in full time employment compared to 35% of the total population
- There's a high percentage of Muslim married households with dependent children *35% compared to 15% in the overall population
- Females making up 43% of Muslim full-time students
- Almost half (43%) of the population own their own home and 30% renting privately. 28% of Muslim households occupy social housing

Crime and Homelessness

- *Over 5% of the British Muslim population is homeless
- *Over 13% of the total prison population is Muslim

Muslim Public Views

According to a joint ComRes/BBC Radio 4 Today poll conducted in February 2015:

- Almost all Muslims living in Britain feel a loyalty to the country (95%). Just 6% say they feel a disloyalty
- Half (49%) believe Muslim clerics preaching that violence against the west can be justified are out of touch with mainstream Muslim opinion, while 45% disagree
- More than two in five (46%) feel that being a Muslim in Britain is difficult due to prejudice against Islam
- One in four (27%) British Muslims say they have some sympathy for the motives behind the attacks on Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

Public Views of Muslims

According to a joint ComRes/Radio 1 Newsbeat poll conducted in June 2013:

- More than a quarter of 18 to 24-year-olds in Britain do not trust Muslims
- Of the 1,000 young people questioned, 28% said Britain would be better off with fewer Muslims.

- 44% said Muslims did not share the same values as the rest of the population
- Some 60% thought the British public had a negative image of Muslims
- When asked about religious groups 27% said they didn't trust Muslims.

Views of Schoolchildren

According to one poll conducted by Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) in May 2015 of 6,000 schoolchildren between 2012-2014:

- 35% of schoolchildren agreed or partly agreed that "Muslims are taking over our country"
- Almost half (47%) agreed there are poor relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in England