

Nation / World

# U.S. Muslim numbers to double

## Study looks at future of Islamic population

By Cathy Lynn Grossman  
USA TODAY

Muslims will be more than one-quarter of the Earth's population by 2030, according to a study released today.

The number of U.S. Muslims will double, so you are as likely to know a Muslim here in 20 years as you are to know someone Jewish or Episcopalian today.

These are among key findings in "The Future of the Global Muslim Population," the first comprehensive examination of Muslims, whose numbers have been growing at a faster rate than all other groups combined for the past two decades.

"We're not surprised. Our mosques and schools are already overflowing," says Imam Johari Abdul-Malik, outreach director of a mosque in Falls Church, Va.

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life analyzed statistics from United Nations data and census material from more than 200 countries

and studies by 50 international demographers.

If immigration patterns and Muslim's comparatively higher birth rates continue, Pew projects:

► U.S. Muslims will go from a tiny minority now, less than 1% of the nation, to 1.7%. That's a jump from 2.6 million people in 2010 to 6.2 million.

► Muslim immigration to the USA and Muslims' share of all new legal permanent residents will continue to rise. Most of the immigrants will arrive from South Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

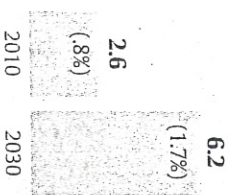
► Though 64.5% of U.S. Muslims today were born abroad, that percentage will fall to 55% as the number of native-born Muslims rises.

► Worldwide, Muslims will climb from 23.4% to 26.4% of the population, going from 1.6 billion people in 2010 to 2.2 billion in 2030, concentrated in Muslim-majority countries.

Just as now, about 3% of the global Muslim

### Muslims in the USA

Muslims, in millions (percent of total population)



Note: estimates  
Source: The Future of the Global Muslim Population, Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

By Frank Tompa, USA TODAY

population will live in the world's most developed regions. In several northern and eastern European nations, the percentage of Muslims will near or pass 10%, raising their political and cultural clout, particularly in urban areas.

Alan Cooperman, Pew Forum associate director of research, says the Muslim rate is "growing but slowing" and political and economic uncertainties can make dramatic shifts in projections.

"The study does not project Muslims' religiosity or their politics," Cooperman says. "People will say, 'I don't care how many Muslims there will be, I care how many radical Muslim terrorists there will be.' But no one knows that."

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, says, "We Muslims need to redouble our outreach efforts because of growing challenges from the vocal minority who see us as suspect."

\* Why should you <sup>learn</sup> know about Islam?

- When Muslim population is growing
- Not foster hate due to ignorance

(Education is key to live in a civilized world!)

- bible burning
- Koran burning