

1. Demographics

- ◆ Muslims constitute 0.8% (2,454,000) of the U.S. adult population.¹
- ◆ 65% of U.S. Muslims are foreign-born; 27% of them emigrated from South and Central Asia, including Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan.²
- ◆ 35% of Muslims in the U.S. self-identify as African American, the largest racial group within the community.³
- ◆ 18%, nearly one in five Muslim Americans, self-identify as Asian.³

¹ [Pew Research Center Forum on Religion and Public Life. *Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population*. Washington, DC: Author; 2009.](#) (Retrieved 1-10-11)

² [Pew Research Center. *Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream*. Washington, DC: Author; 2007.](#) (Retrieved 1-10-11)

³ [Gallup Center for Muslim Studies. *Muslim Americans: A National Portrait, An in-depth analysis of America's most diverse religious community*. Washington, DC: Author; 2009.](#) (Retrieved 1-10-11)

2. Statistics

All the data in this section is re-printed, with permission, from [Research by Peaceful Families Project](#):

- ◆ **Prevalence:** A survey of 63 Muslim leaders showed that 10% of Muslims experienced physical abuse in their homes.

Alkhateeb, Sharifa. "Ending domestic violence in Muslim families." *Journal of Religion and Abuse* 1.44 (1999): 49-59.

- ◆ **Prevalence:** A study of 23 Muslim married female immigrants from Bangladesh residing in Houston, Texas revealed a 10% prevalence rate of spousal abuse.

Rianon, Nahid J., and Shelton, A. J. "Perception of spousal abuse expressed by married Bangladeshi immigrant women in Houston, Texas, U.S.A". *Journal of Immigrant Health* 5.1 (2003): 37-44.

- ◆ **Attitudes:** A study of 162 women and 40 men was conducted in 202 Arab-American homes (98% of whom were Muslim). Interviewees approved of a man slapping his wife under the following conditions: 34% of women and 33% of men if she insults him when they are at home alone, 17% of women and 43% of men if she insults him in public, and 59% of both women and men if she hits him first in an argument.

Kulwicky, Anahid D., and Miller, June. "Domestic violence in the Arab American population: Transforming environmental conditions through community education." *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 20 (1999): 199-215.

- ◆ **Experiences:** Quantitative and qualitative interviews conducted with the executive directors of 9 domestic violence organizations serving significant numbers of Muslim women found that of the 1,962 total Muslim women served annually, the average age was 32 years, and 85% were of immigrant background. The women experienced various forms of domestic violence including 82% emotional or verbal abuse, 65% financial abuse, 49% spiritual abuse, 74% physical abuse, and 30% sexual abuse.

[Alkhateeb, Maha. "DV Organizations Serving Muslim Women: Preliminary Results of a 2009 Quantitative Survey." Peaceful Families Project. 2009.](#)

- ◆ **Shelter Residents:** A study of 57 closed-case files from an American Muslim women's shelter revealed that 37% had experienced multiple types of abuse, 23% experienced physical abuse, and 12% experienced emotional abuse.

Abdullah, Keilani. "A peaceful ideal, violent realities: A study on Muslim female domestic violence survivors." In: Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri (Eds.) *Change from within: Diverse perspectives on domestic violence in Muslim communities*. Great Falls, VA: Peaceful Families Project, 2007. 69-89.

- ◆ **Therapy Patients:** In a study of 190 Muslims seeking mental health counseling in Northern Virginia, 41% experienced domestic violence in the form of verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse. Victims were 71% adult females, 12% adult males, and 16% children. 60% of all clients experienced verbal or psychological abuse in their lifetime, 50% physical abuse, 14% sexual abuse, and 3% reported having a relative killed.

Abugideiri, Salma Elkadi. "Domestic violence among Muslims seeking mental health counseling." *Change from within: Diverse perspectives on domestic violence in Muslim communities*. Eds. Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri. Great Falls, VA: Peaceful Families Project, 2007. 91-115.

- ◆ **Role of Imams:** A study of 22 mosques in New York found that 96% of the participants perceived the imam as a counselor, and 74% had sought counseling from imams for safety issues.

Abu-Ras, Wahiba, Gheith, Ali and F. Cournos. "Religion and imams role in mental health promotion: A study at 22 mosques in New York City Muslim community." *Journal of Muslim Mental Health* 3.2 (2008): 157-78.

3. Selected Translated Materials

[Creating a Safety Plan, Arabic](#)

The Peel Committee Against Woman Abuse, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

Website: www.pcawa.org, Email: pcawa@pcawa.org, Tel: 905.282.9792

[Earth Words: Abuse Information in over 110 Languages](#)

[Legal Glossaries, Arabic, Bangla, Hindi, Urdu](#)

Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento, California

Website: www.saccourt.ca.gov, Tel: 916.874.6867

[Lifetime Spiral of Gender Violence, Farsi | Persian](#)

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, Oakland, CA

Website: www.api-gbv.org, Email: info@api-gbv.org, Tel: 415.568.3315

4. Other Resources

National Domestic Violence Hotline

For crisis intervention, safety planning, information about domestic violence and referrals to local service providers, contact 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or TTY 1-800-787-3224. Assistance available in English and Spanish, as well as other languages through interpreter services.

Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities Webpage

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence: www.api-gbv.org/violence/muslimwomen.php

Webpage with resources on domestic violence against Muslim immigrants living in the U.S.

KARAMAH Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights

KARAMAH is one of the central sources of scholarship on Islamic law : <http://karamah.org>

Peaceful Families Project | United Muslim Relief

www.peacefulfamilies.org | info@umrelief.org

For training and technical assistance on domestic violence among Muslim families and developing culturally sensitive programs to better serve Muslim communities.

- ◆ [Change From Within: Diverse Perspectives on Domestic Violence in Muslim Communities \(2007\)](#): Edited by Maha B. Alkhateeb and Salma Elkadi Abugideiri. Peaceful Families Project.
- ◆ [Muslim Power and Control Wheel](#): Peaceful Families Project, Great Falls, VA (Website: www.peacefulfamilies.org, Email: info@peacefulfamilies.org)

Bibliographies

- ◆ [Bibliography on Gender, Domestic Violence & Muslim Women \(2011\)](#): Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
- ◆ [Bibliography on Muslim Women and Domestic Violence: Three Key Topics \(2011\)](#): Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Directories

- ◆ **International Directories**
 - Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center, www.866uswomen.org
 - Hot Peach Pages, International Directory of Domestic Violence Agencies, www.hotpeachpages.net
- ◆ **National Directory:**
 - [Directory of Domestic Violence Programs Serving Asians & Pacific Islanders](#), Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

For questions, information, publications and technical assistance, contact the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence at 415-568-3315, info@api-gbv.org, www.api-gbv.org



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