

# The Impacts of Islamophobia on Muslim Americans

## October/November 2020

Overall (n = 1,123)

### Q1. How old are you?

18-29	224 (19.9%)
30-49	548 (48.8%)
50-64	267 (23.8%)
65-74	64 (5.7%)
75 and over	20 (1.8%)

### Q2. What is your sex/gender identity?

Female	550 (49.0%)
Male	573 (51.0%)

### Q3. What is your race or ethnicity?

African-American or Black	60 (5.3%)
Afro-Arab	39 (3.5%)
Arab	283 (25.2%)
Central Asian	33 (2.9%)
East Asian	45 (4.0%)
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	12 (1.1%)
Native American	0 (0%)
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	0 (0%)
South Asian	400 (35.6%)
White or of European descent	79 (7.0%)

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Multi-Racial	13 (1.2%)
Other	159 (14.2%)

### Q4. Were you born in the United States?

Yes	436 (38.8%)
No	687 (61.2%)

### Q5. If you were not born in the United States, how many years have you lived in the United States?

0-5 years	31 (2.8%)
6-10 years	48 (4.3%)
11-20 years	149 (13.3%)
21-40 years	363 (32.3%)
More than 40 years	96 (8.5%)

### Q6. In which state or district do you currently reside?

Alabama	6 (0.5%)
Alaska	0 (0%)
Arizona	10 (0.9%)
Arkansas	2 (0.2%)
California	396 (35.3%)
Colorado	3 (0.3%)
Connecticut	14 (1.2%)
Delaware	10 (0.9%)

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District of Columbia	6 (0.5%)
Florida	16 (1.4%)
Georgia	23 (2.0%)
Hawaii	0 (0%)
Idaho	6 (0.5%)
Illinois	45 (4.0%)
Indiana	12 (1.1%)
Iowa	1 (0.1%)
Kansas	4 (0.4%)
Kentucky	8 (0.7%)
Louisiana	10 (0.9%)
Maine	0 (0%)
Maryland	69 (6.1%)
Massachusetts	8 (0.7%)
Michigan	65 (5.8%)
Minnesota	10 (0.9%)
Mississippi	0 (0%)
Missouri	4 (0.4%)
Montana	0 (0%)
Nebraska	2 (0.2%)

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Nevada	1 (0.1%)
New Hampshire	2 (0.2%)
New Jersey	46 (4.1%)
New Mexico	3 (0.3%)
New York	71 (6.3%)
North Carolina	33 (2.9%)
North Dakota	1 (0.1%)
Ohio	17 (1.5%)
Oklahoma	19 (1.7%)
Oregon	19 (1.7%)
Pennsylvania	15 (1.3%)
Rhode Island	0 (0%)
South Carolina	3 (0.3%)
South Dakota	2 (0.2%)
Tennessee	7 (0.6%)
Texas	71 (6.3%)
Utah	2 (0.2%)
Vermont	0 (0%)
Virginia	60 (5.3%)
Washington	11 (1.0%)

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West Virginia	2 (0.2%)
Wisconsin	8 (0.7%)
Wyoming	0 (0%)

### Q7. What is the last level of education you have obtained?

College graduates	1,019 (90.7%)
Non-college graduates	104 (9.3%)

### Q8. What is your individual annual income pre-tax?

Less than \$25,000	194 (17.3%)
\$25,001 - \$50,000	163 (14.5%)
\$50,001 - \$75,000	151 (13.4%)
\$75,001 - \$100,000	141 (12.6%)
\$100,001 - \$150,000	195 (17.4%)
\$150,001 - \$200,000	102 (9.1%)
\$200,001 - \$250,000	0 (0%)
Over \$250,000	114 (10.2%)

### Q9. How do you assess your English proficiency?

I am a native English speaker	549 (48.9%)
I speak English very well	489 (43.5%)
I speak English well	83 (7.4%)
I do not speak English well	2 (0.2%)

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I do not speak English at all

0 (0%)

### Q10. Do you speak another language besides English at home?

Yes

938 (83.5%)

No

185 (16.5%)

### Q11. How would you describe your employment status?

Employed

723 (64.4%)

Unemployed

89 (7.9%)

Self-employed

114 (10.2%)

Retired

73 (6.5%)

A student

95 (8.5%)

Not in the labor force

29 (2.6%)

### Q12. If employed, would you describe your employment as:

Full-time

714 (63.6%)

Part-time

143 (12.7%)

Casual

21 (1.9%)

Not applicable

156 (13.9%)

### Q13. Do you believe that Islamophobia exists in the United States?

Yes

1,098 (97.8%)

No

25 (2.2%)

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## Q14. How big of a problem is Islamophobia in the United States, if at all?

A very big problem	681 (60.6%)
A somewhat big problem	386 (34.4%)
Not a problem	34 (3.0%)
I do not know	22 (2.0%)

## Q15. I believe that Islamophobia exists because of:

Negative images of Islam or Muslims in the mainstream media	22 (2.0%)
The misrepresentation of Islam or Muslims in popular culture	0 (0%)
People do not know enough about Islam or Muslims	6 (0.5%)
Blaming Islam or Muslims for the acts of individual Muslims	3 (0.3%)
Anti-Islam or anti-Muslim groups' activities and campaigns	5 (0.4%)
Prejudiced Federal Government policies towards Muslims	0 (0%)
Political campaigns that seek to dehumanize Muslims	0 (0%)
The US Congress' unwillingness to take action to protect Muslim Americans	1 (0.1%)
I do not know	7 (0.6%)
Other	1,079 (96.1%)

## Q16. When did you first notice the existence of Islamophobia?

0-4 years ago	77 (6.9%)
5-12 years ago	280 (24.9%)

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13-19 years ago	324 (28.9%)
More than 19 years ago	385 (34.3%)
I do not know	30 (2.7%)
I am unaware of the existence of Islamophobia	2 (0.2%)

### Q17. How did you first notice the existence of Islamophobia?

By watching negative media reporting on Muslims	46 (4.1%)
During an election campaign	3 (0.3%)
Through personal experience	38 (3.4%)
Through my community, or the work of community organizations	3 (0.3%)
At school, college, or university	5 (0.4%)
Through a family member or friend's personal experience(s)	5 (0.4%)
By witnessing a verbal attack against a Muslim or someone perceived to be Muslim in a public space	2 (0.2%)
By witnessing a physical attack against a Muslim or someone perceived to be Muslim in a public space	1 (0.1%)
Online, or through the internet	1 (0.1%)
Through movies, comics, magazines, books	4 (0.4%)
I do not know	4 (0.4%)
I am unaware of the existence of Islamophobia	3 (0.3%)
Other	1,008 (89.8%)



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## Q18. Who do you believe is more at risk of experiencing Islamophobia?

Men	50 (4.5%)
Women	834 (74.3%)
Transgender or Non-binary individuals	10 (0.9%)
Everyone is equally at risk	200 (17.8%)
I do not know	29 (2.6%)

## Q19. What age groups do you believe are the most at risk of experiencing Islamophobia?

Children under the age of 11-years old	73 (6.5%)
Children between the ages of 12 and 17-years old	217 (19.3%)
Young adults between the ages of 18 and 25-years old	203 (18.1%)
Adults older than 25-years old	108 (9.6%)
All age groups are equally at risk	442 (39.4%)
I do not know	80 (7.1%)

## Q20. Have you personally experienced Islamophobia directed at you?

Yes	758 (67.5%)
No	365 (32.5%)

## Q21. If you have directly experienced Islamophobia, how often have you experienced it?

Very Often	39 (3.5%)
Often	0 (0%)
Sometimes	0 (0%)

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Rarely	444 (39.5%)
Never	5 (0.4%)
Total Yes (experienced Islamophobia):	483 (43.0%)
Total No (experienced Islamophobia):	5 (0.4%)

### Q22. If you have directly experienced Islamophobia, where have you experienced it?

Airport	64 (5.7%)
College or university	9 (0.8%)
Vocational or technical school	2 (0.2%)
K - 12 school	16 (1.4%)
Healthcare setting	3 (0.3%)
Online or on the internet	18 (1.6%)
Public park	6 (0.5%)
Public playground	0 (0%)
Public transportation	4 (0.4%)
Retail store	0 (0%)
Restaurant	8 (0.7%)
Sports setting	1 (0.1%)
Workplace	24 (2.1%)
Other	732 (65.2%)
I have not experienced Islamophobia	236 (21.0%)

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### Q23. Within the last 12 months, how often (if at all) did you personally experience Islamophobia in your everyday life?

Very Often	0 (0%)
Often	116 (10.3%)
Sometimes	364 (32.4%)
Rarely	373 (33.2%)
Never	199 (17.7%)
Total Yes (experienced Islamophobia):	853 (76.0%)
Total No (experienced Islamophobia):	199 (17.7%)

### Q24. Have you, your family members, friends, or members of your community been affected by federal policies and/or state policies that disproportionately discriminate against Muslims?

Yes	704 (62.7%)
No	280 (24.9%)
I do not know	139 (12.4%)

### Q25. Have you ever been treated unfairly by a law enforcement officer because of your religious identity?

Very Often	48 (4.3%)
Often	65 (5.8%)
Sometimes	229 (20.4%)
Rarely	256 (22.8%)
Never	525 (46.7%)
Total Yes:	598 (53.3%)

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Total No: 525 (46.7%)

### Q26. How often do you feel comfortable calling law enforcement for help or protection?

Very Often 230 (20.5%)

Often 255 (22.7%)

Sometimes 257 (22.9%)

Rarely 219 (19.5%)

Never 162 (14.4%)

Total Yes: 961 (85.6%)

Total No: 162 (14.4%)

### Q27. Do you feel that you are treated fairly by health care providers when seeking medical attention (i.e. doctors, dentists, nurses, chiropractors, psychologists, etc.)?

Very Often 557 (49.6%)

Often 360 (32.1%)

Sometimes 145 (12.9%)

Rarely 33 (2.9%)

Never 28 (2.5%)

Total Yes: 1,095 (97.5%)

Total No: 28 (2.5%)

### Q28. How often does Islamophobia affect your emotional and mental well-being, if at all?

Very Often 154 (13.7%)

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Often	269 (24.0%)
Sometimes	439 (39.1%)
Rarely	190 (16.9%)
Never	64 (5.7%)
I do not know	7 (0.6%)
Total Yes (affected):	1,052 (93.7%)
Total No (affected):	64 (5.7%)

### Q29. If Islamophobia affects your emotional and mental well-being, how would you describe the effect(s)?

Anger	53 (4.7%)
Anxiety	27 (2.4%)
Depression	3 (0.3%)
Fear	15 (1.3%)
Insecurity	30 (2.7%)
Isolation	5 (0.4%)
Paranoia	2 (0.2%)
Stress	35 (3.1%)
Other	882 (78.5%)
None of the Above	0 (0%)

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### Q30. When you think about the impact(s) of Islamophobia, what comes to mind?

Harassment and/or violence against Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim	11 (1.0%)
Surveillance of Muslims by law enforcement	5 (0.4%)
Policies that discriminate against Muslims	1 (0.1%)
Unequal treatment of Muslims	8 (0.7%)
The exploitation of political campaigns that call for anti-Muslim/anti-Islam as someone or something to be feared or excluded from the US society	1 (0.1%)
Negative media representation	5 (0.4%)
Negative representation in pop culture	1 (0.1%)
All of the above	649 (57.8%)
I do not know	6 (0.5%)
Other	436 (38.8%)

### Q31. Have you heard of any stereotypes about Muslims that you believe are true?

Yes	284 (25.3%)
No	839 (74.7%)

### Q32. Have you ever hid, or tried to hide, your religious identity?

Yes	370 (32.9%)
No	753 (67.1%)

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### Q33. Do you censor your speech or actions out of fear of how people might respond or react to you?

Very Often	139 (12.4%)
Often	203 (18.1%)
Sometimes	447 (39.8%)
Rarely	201 (17.9%)
Never	133 (11.8%)
Total Yes:	990 (88.2%)
Total No:	133 (11.8%)

### Q34. How often do you socialize with non-Muslim groups?

Very Often	578 (51.5%)
Often	262 (23.3%)
Sometimes	219 (19.5%)
Rarely	60 (5.3%)
Never	4 (0.4%)
Total Yes (socialize):	1,119 (99.6%)
Total No (socialize):	4 (0.4%)

### Q35. Does Islamophobia prevent you from building social connections with non-Muslims?

Very Often	47 (4.2%)
Often	118 (10.5%)
Sometimes	410 (36.5%)

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Rarely	314 (28.0%)
Never	234 (20.8%)
Total Yes:	889 (79.2%)
Total No:	234 (20.8%)

### Q36. Does Islamophobia make it difficult for you to build community with other Muslim Americans?

Very Often	38 (3.4%)
Often	95 (8.5%)
Sometimes	308 (27.4%)
Rarely	344 (30.6%)
Never	338 (30.1%)
Total Yes:	785 (69.9%)
Total No:	338 (30.1%)

### Q37. How often do you feel uncomfortable making demands of your local authorities or Congressperson?

Very Often	106 (9.4%)
Often	190 (16.9%)
Sometimes	295 (26.3%)
Rarely	268 (23.9%)
Never	264 (23.5%)
Total Yes:	859 (76.5%)
Total No:	264 (23.5%)



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**Q38. How often do you feel that you can safely access community or social public spaces (i.e. swimming pools, beaches, festivals, concerts, movie theatres, etc.)?**

Very Often	380 (33.8%)
Often	401 (35.7%)
Sometimes	233 (20.7%)
Rarely	85 (7.6%)
Never	24 (2.1%)
Total Yes (safely access):	1,099 (97.9%)
Total No (safely access):	24 (2.1%)

**Q39. In the last 12 months, have you personally engaged in any of the following activities?**

Voted in the last state, primary, or presidential election	30 (2.7%)
Volunteered for a sporting association	0 (0%)
Volunteered for a faith-based organization	2 (0.2%)
Been a member in an American political party	1 (0.1%)
Organized a fundraiser for a social cause	0 (0%)
Made a charitable donation	26 (2.3%)
Been involved in organizing a petition or signed a petition	0 (0%)
Been involved in an organized protest	0 (0%)
Made a complaint about a product or service	1 (0.1%)
No, I have not engaged in public activities	40 (3.6%)

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## Q40. How do you most identify yourself in everyday encounters?

As a Muslim American	584 (52.0%)
As a Muslim only	69 (6.1%)
As an American	148 (13.2%)
As of your birthplace or family origin only (e.g. Bangladeshi, Colombian, Ethiopian, Syrian, etc.)	103 (9.2%)
As of your birthplace/family origin-American (e.g. Bosnian-American, Indian-American, Senegalese-American, etc.)	127 (11.3%)
As of your region (e.g. African, Arab, Asian, Hispanic or Latino/a/x, etc.)	44 (3.9%)
Other	48 (4.3%)

## Q41. Islamic values are consistent with US values.

Strongly Agree	449 (40.0%)
Somewhat Agree	443 (39.4%)
Somewhat Disagree	161 (14.3%)
Strongly Disagree	70 (6.2%)
Total Agree:	892 (79.4%)
Total Disagree:	231 (20.6%)

## Q42. It is a good thing that the US society is made-up of people from different cultures.

Strongly Agree	1,032 (91.9%)
Somewhat Agree	81 (7.2%)

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Somewhat Disagree	7 (0.6%)
Strongly Disagree	3 (0.3%)
Total Agree:	1,113 (99.1%)
Total Disagree:	10 (0.9%)

### Q43. Racial prejudice is a major problem in the US.

Strongly Agree	932 (83.0%)
Somewhat Agree	158 (14.1%)
Somewhat Disagree	21 (1.9%)
Strongly Disagree	12 (1.1%)
Total Agree:	1,090 (97.1%)
Total Disagree:	33 (2.9%)

### Q44. The US is weakened by people of different racial and/or ethnic backgrounds sticking to their old ways.

Strongly Agree	97 (8.6%)
Somewhat Agree	166 (14.8%)
Somewhat Disagree	283 (25.2%)
Strongly Disagree	577 (51.4%)
Total Agree:	263 (23.4%)
Total Disagree:	860 (76.6%)

### Q45. All races and ethnicities of people should be treated equally.

Strongly Agree	1,093 (97.3%)
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Somewhat Agree	19 (1.7%)
Somewhat Disagree	5 (0.4%)
Strongly Disagree	6 (0.5%)
Total Agree:	1,112 (99.0%)
Total Disagree:	11 (1.0%)

### Q46. The US mainstream media's portrayal of Muslims is unfair.

Strongly Agree	933 (83.1%)
Somewhat Agree	162 (14.4%)
Somewhat Disagree	19 (1.7%)
Strongly Disagree	9 (0.8%)
Total Agree:	1,095 (97.5%)
Total Disagree:	28 (2.5%)

### Q47. Relations between Muslims and non-Muslims in the US are friendly.

Strongly Agree	156 (13.9%)
Somewhat Agree	663 (59.0%)
Somewhat Disagree	267 (23.8%)
Strongly Disagree	37 (3.3%)
Total Agree:	819 (72.9%)
Total Disagree:	304 (27.1%)

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### Q48. Most immigrants coming to the US are doing enough to adapt to the American way of life.

Strongly Agree	444 (39.5%)
Somewhat Agree	522 (46.5%)
Somewhat Disagree	132 (11.8%)
Strongly Disagree	25 (2.2%)
Total Agree:	966 (86.0%)
Total Disagree:	157 (14.0%)

### Q49. I feel that I am an American.

Strongly Agree	740 (65.9%)
Somewhat Agree	261 (23.2%)
Somewhat Disagree	81 (7.2%)
Strongly Disagree	41 (3.7%)
Total Agree:	1,001 (89.1%)
Total Disagree:	122 (10.9%)

### Q50. It is important to me that my children are, or would be, fully accepted as Americans.

Strongly Agree	870 (77.5%)
Somewhat Agree	182 (16.2%)
Somewhat Disagree	52 (4.6%)
Strongly Disagree	19 (1.7%)
Total Agree:	1,052 (93.7%)

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Total Disagree: 71 (6.3%)

### Q51. If you have personally encountered an Islamophobic incident, did you report the incident to the authorities?

Yes 140 (12.5%)

No 622 (55.4%)

I have not personally encountered an Islamophobic incident 361 (32.1%)

### Q52. If `No`, why did you not report the incident to the authorities?

I did not know where to report the incident 41 (3.7%)

I was unaware that such an incident required reporting 138 (12.3%)

I did not feel safe to report the incident 100 (8.9%)

Other 844 (75.2%)

### Q53. Do you know where to report Islamophobic incidents?

Yes 385 (34.3%)

No 738 (65.7%)

### Q54. What can Muslim communities do to combat Islamophobia in the United States?

Participate in the electoral process 2 (0.2%)

Increase Muslim visibility in media outlets 1 (0.1%)

Participate in non-Muslim charity work 1 (0.1%)

Participate with non-Muslim led civil rights and civil liberty organizations in the US 3 (0.3%)

Educate my neighbors, friends, and community about Islam 0 (0%)

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Document and report Islamophobia	2 (0.2%)
Fund and support initiatives and activities that challenge Islamophobia	0 (0%)
Support public officials who intend to repeal policies that disproportionality impact Muslim individuals and communities	3 (0.3%)
I do not know	20 (1.8%)
Other	1,091 (97.2%)

#### **Q55. What would you like our team to focus on for future research in regards to understanding the impacts of Islamophobia on Muslim Americans?**

The impacts of Islamophobia on Muslim Americans' psychological and emotional health	13 (1.2%)
Muslim Americans' sense of belonging, safety, and inclusion in the United States	11 (1.0%)
Muslim Americans' participation in civic and cross-cultural engagements, and the labor force	9 (0.8%)
The impact of domestic Islamophobia, the US legal system, and foreign policies on Muslim Americans	7 (0.6%)
The portrayal and visibility of Muslim Americans in mainstream media and popular culture	14 (1.2%)
The impacts of Islamophobia on Muslim American children and youth	16 (1.4%)
I do not know	41 (3.7%)
Other	1,012 (90.1%)