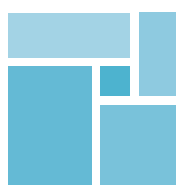


PewResearchCenter



THE PEW  
FORUM  
ON RELIGION  
& PUBLIC LIFE

DECEMBER 2012

# The Global Religious Landscape

*A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's  
Major Religious Groups as of 2010*

PEW-TEMPLETON  
GLOBAL  
RELIGIOUS  
FUTURES PROJECT

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## Preface

Three years ago the Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life launched an effort to generate up-to-date and fully sourced estimates of the current size and projected growth of the world’s major religious groups. As part of this multi-phase project, the Pew Forum has assembled data on the size and geographic distribution of eight major religious groups – including the religiously unaffiliated – as of 2010. These estimates are presented in this report.

The estimates are based on a country-by-country analysis of data from more than 2,500 censuses, surveys and official population registers that were collected, evaluated and standardized by the staff of the Pew Forum over the past several years. Researchers at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria, and at the Vienna Institute of Demography in Vienna, Austria, collaborated on the analysis.

This effort is part of the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project, which analyzes religious change and its impact on societies around the world. The project is jointly and generously funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the John Templeton Foundation.

In order to present data that are comparable across countries, this study focuses on groups and individuals who identify themselves in censuses, large-scale surveys and other sources as being members of five widely recognized world religions – Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. The study also includes estimates for the size and geographic distribution of three other groups: the religiously unaffiliated (those who say they are atheists and agnostics, as well as people who do not identify with any particular religion in surveys); adherents of folk or traditional religions, including members of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions; and adherents of other religions.

Some of the faiths that have been consolidated into the “other religions” category, such as the Baha’i faith, Jainism, Sikhism, Shintoism and Taoism, have millions of adherents around the world. However, in the overwhelming majority of countries, these religions are not specifically measured in censuses and large-scale surveys. For example, among the census and survey data we found from recent decades, Sikhs are measured in fewer than 20 countries.

In addition to providing estimates on the size and distribution of the world’s major religions, this report also includes information on the religious groups’ median ages, both globally and in particular regions. The age composition of a religious group is one of several factors that influence population growth, along with such factors as fertility and mortality rates, religious switching and migration. These factors will be explored in future Pew Forum reports.

The new study on the global religious landscape as of 2010 complements two previous reports by the Pew Forum on the size and distribution of the world's Christian and Muslim populations: "Mapping the Global Muslim Population" (October 2009) and "Global Christianity" (December 2011). A third report, "The Future of the Global Muslim Population" (January 2011), projects the future growth of the world's Muslim population through the year 2030. The Pew Forum is now collaborating with IIASA researchers to project the future growth of all major religious groups, including the religiously unaffiliated. We expect to publish those projections in 2013.

The primary researchers for "The Global Religious Landscape: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Major Religions as of 2010" are Pew Forum demographer Conrad Hackett and senior researcher Brian J. Grim, the Pew Forum's director of cross-national data. They received valuable research assistance from research analyst Noble Kuriakose and other Pew Forum staffers listed on the masthead of this report. We are also indebted to our colleagues at IIASA, Marcin Stonawski, Vegard Skirbekk and Michaela Potančoková, and to Guy Abel at the Vienna Institute of Demography.

While the data collection and analysis were guided by our collaborators, the Pew Forum is solely responsible for the interpretation and reporting of the data.

Luis Lugo, Director

Alan Cooperman, Associate Director, Research

## Executive Summary

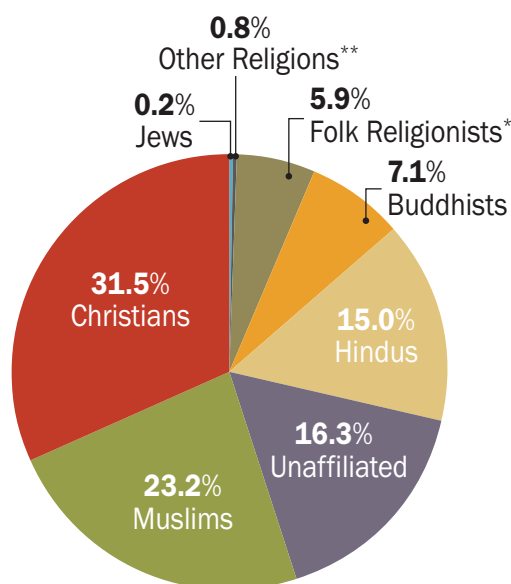
Worldwide, more than eight-in-ten people identify with a religious group. A comprehensive demographic study of more than 230 countries and territories conducted by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life estimates that there are 5.8 billion religiously affiliated adults and children around the globe, representing 84% of the 2010 world population of 6.9 billion.

The demographic study – based on analysis of more than 2,500 censuses, surveys and population registers – finds 2.2 billion Christians (32% of the world's population), 1.6 billion Muslims (23%), 1 billion Hindus (15%), nearly 500 million Buddhists (7%) and 14 million Jews (0.2%) around the world as of 2010. In addition, more than 400 million people (6%) practice various folk or traditional religions, including African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions. An estimated 58 million people – slightly less than 1% of the global population – belong to other religions, including the Baha'i faith, Jainism, Sikhism, Shintoism, Taoism, Tenrikyo, Wicca and Zoroastrianism, to mention just a few.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, the new study by the Pew Forum also finds that roughly one-in-six people around the globe (1.1 billion, or 16%) have no religious affiliation. This makes the unaffiliated the third-largest religious group worldwide, behind Christians and Muslims, and about equal in size to the world's Catholic population. Surveys indicate that many of the unaffiliated hold some religious or spiritual beliefs (such as belief in God or a universal spirit) even though they do not identify with a particular faith. (See page 24.)

### Size of Major Religious Groups, 2010

Percentage of the global population



\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

\*\*Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

1. Although some faiths in the "other religions" category have millions of adherents around the world, censuses and surveys in many countries do not measure them specifically. Estimates of the global size of these faiths generally come from other sources, such as the religious groups themselves. By far the largest of these groups are Sikhs, who number about 25 million, according to the World Religion Database. For more information, see Spotlight on Other Religions on page 40.

## Geographic Distribution

The geographic distribution of religious groups varies considerably. Several religious groups are heavily concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region, including the vast majority of Hindus (99%), Buddhists (99%), adherents of folk or traditional religions (90%) and members of other world religions (89%).

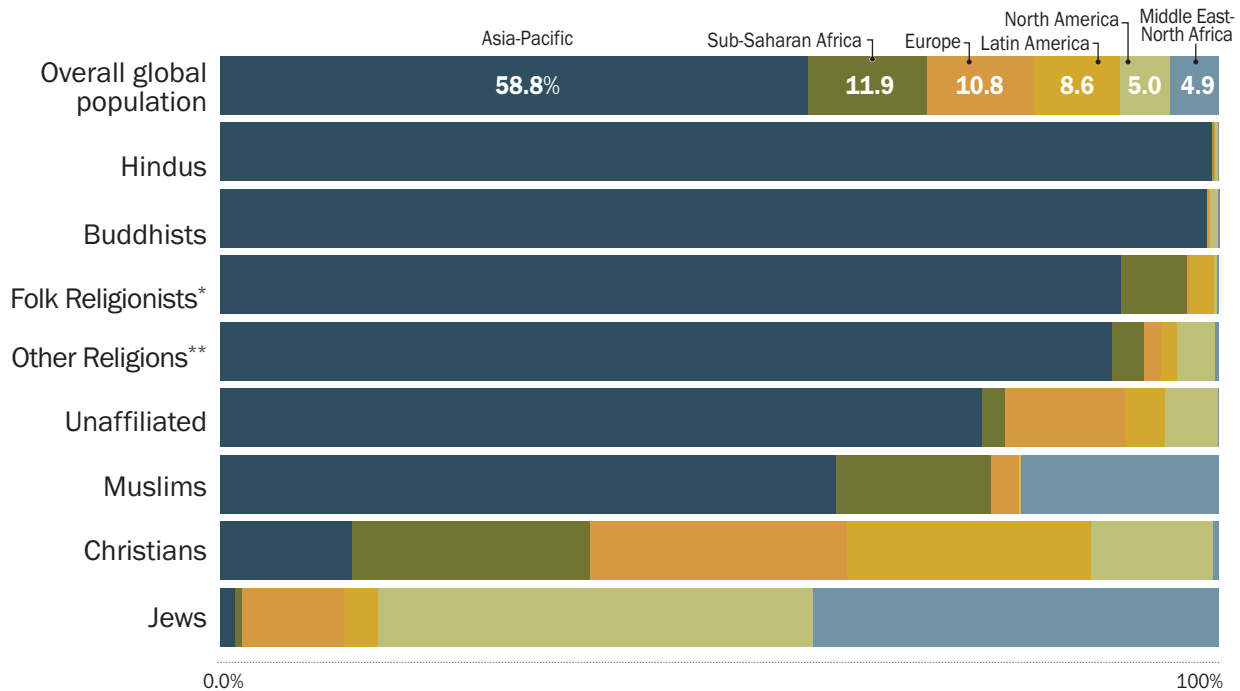
Three-quarters of the religiously unaffiliated (76%) also live in the massive and populous Asia-Pacific region. Indeed, the number of religiously unaffiliated people in China alone (about 700 million) is more than twice the total population of the United States.

The Asia-Pacific region also is home to most of the world’s Muslims (62%). About 20% of Muslims live in the Middle East and North Africa, and nearly 16% reside in sub-Saharan Africa.

Of the major religious groups covered in this study, Christians are the most evenly dispersed. Roughly equal numbers of Christians live in Europe (26%), Latin America and the Caribbean (24%) and sub-Saharan Africa (24%).

### Geographic Distribution of Religious Groups

*Percentage of each group’s total population that lives in particular regions*



More detailed bar charts, with percentages labeled, appear in the chapters on each of the eight religious groups. For example, the chart showing the percentage of Christians living in each region appears on page 17.

\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

\*\*Includes Bahai’s, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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A plurality of Jews (44%) live in North America, while about four-in-ten (41%) live in the Middle East and North Africa – almost all of them in Israel.

## Living as Majorities and Minorities

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of the world's people live in countries in which their religious group makes up a majority of the population. Only about a quarter (27%) of all people live as religious minorities. (This figure does not include subgroups of the eight major groups in this study, such as Shia Muslims living in Sunni-majority countries or Catholics living in Protestant-majority countries.)

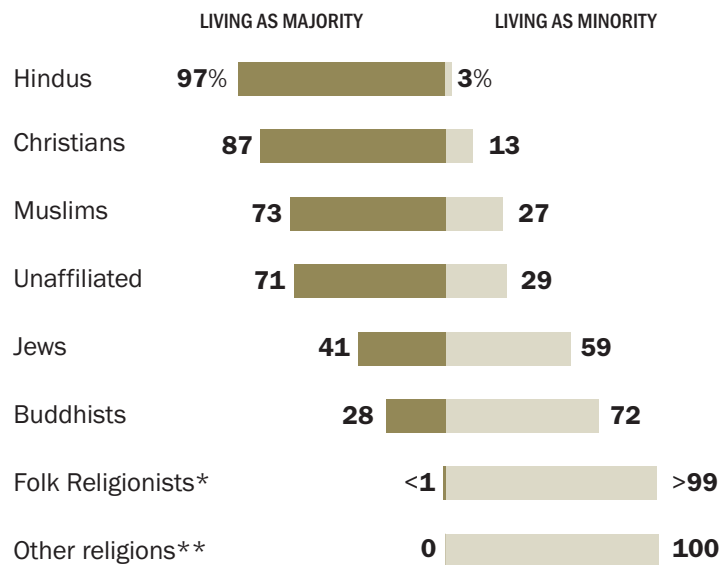
Overwhelmingly, Hindus and Christians tend to live in countries where they are in the majority. Fully 97% of all Hindus live in the world's three Hindu-majority countries (India, Mauritius and Nepal), and nearly nine-in-ten Christians (87%) are found in the world's 157 Christian-majority countries. (To see the religious composition of each country, see the table on page 45.)

Though by smaller margins, most Muslims (73%) and religiously unaffiliated people (71%) also live in countries in which they are the predominant religious group. Muslims are a majority in 49 countries, including 19 of the 20 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The religiously unaffiliated make up a majority of the population in six countries, of which China is by far the largest. (The others are the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hong Kong, Japan and North Korea.)

Most members of the other major religious groups live in countries in which they are in the minority. Seven-in-ten Buddhists (72%), for example, live as religious minorities. Just three-

### Majority or Minority

Percentage of each religious group that lives in countries where its adherents are a majority or a minority



\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

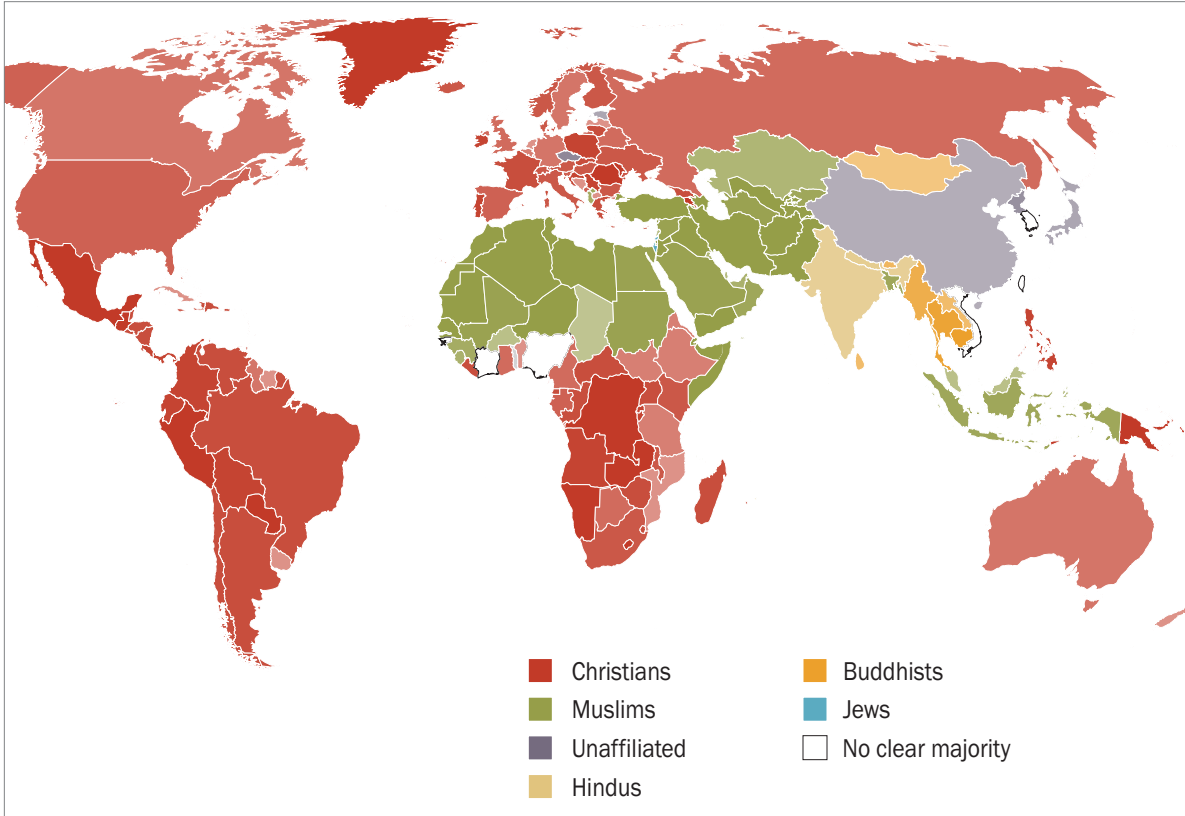
\*\*Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

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### Majority Religion, by Country

Countries are colored according to the majority religion. Darker shading represents a greater prevalence of the majority religion.



Nine countries have no clear religious majority: Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Macau, Nigeria, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Togo and Vietnam. There are no countries in which adherents of folk religions make up a clear majority. There are also no countries in which followers of other religions (such as Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans or Zoroastrians) make up a clear majority.

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in-ten (28%) live in the seven countries where Buddhists are in the majority: Bhutan, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

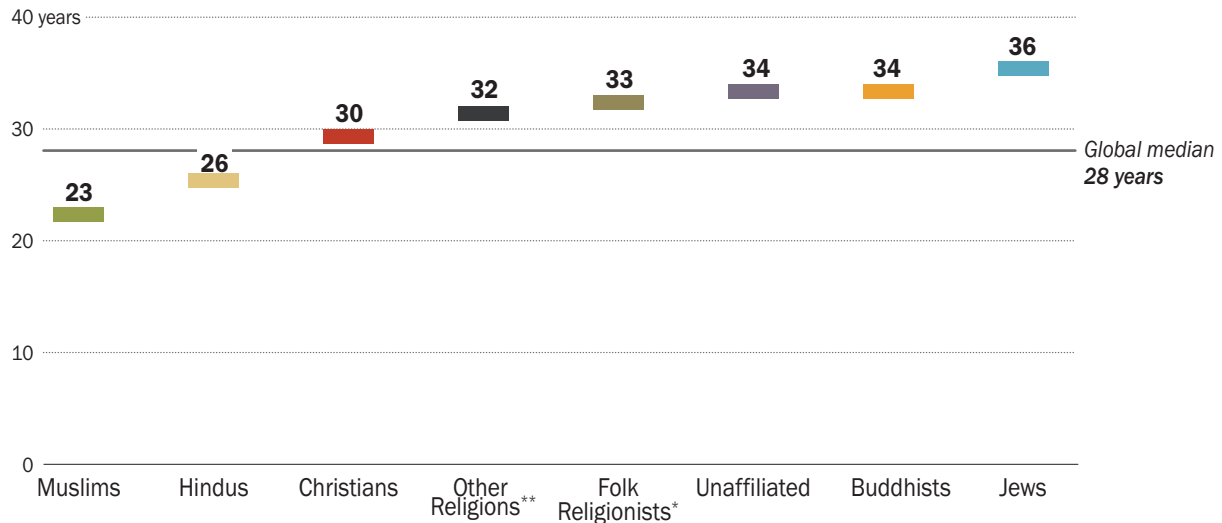
Israel is the only country with a Jewish majority. There are no countries where members of other religions (such as Baha'is, Jains, Shintoists, Sikhs, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans and Zoroastrians) make up a majority of the population. There are also no countries where people who identify with folk or traditional religions clearly form a majority.<sup>2</sup>

.....

<sup>2</sup> For a discussion of the challenges of measuring the pervasiveness of folk or traditional religions, see the section on Folk Religionists on page 34.



## Median Age of Religious Groups, 2010



Religious groups are ordered by median age from youngest to oldest.

\*Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

\*\*Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

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## Young and Old

Some religions have much younger populations, on average, than others. In part, the age differences reflect the geographic distribution of religious groups. Those with a large share of adherents in fast-growing, developing countries tend to have younger populations. Those concentrated in China and in advanced industrial countries, where population growth is slower, tend to be older.

The median age of two major groups – Muslims (23 years) and Hindus (26) – is younger than the median age of the world's overall population (28).<sup>3</sup> All the other groups are older than the global median. Christians have a median age of 30, followed by members of other religions (32), adherents of folk or traditional religions (33), the religiously unaffiliated (34) and Buddhists (34). Jews have the highest median age (36), more than a dozen years older than the youngest group, Muslims.

<sup>3</sup> The median in a population is the midpoint when the entire population is ordered by some characteristic, such as age or income. If everyone alive in 2010 lined up from youngest to oldest, the person in the middle (the median) would be 28 years old.

## About the Study

These are among the key findings of a new study of the global religious landscape conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life as part of the Pew-Templeton Global Religious Futures project, which analyzes religious change and its impact on societies around the world.

The demographic study explores the size, geographic distribution and median age of eight major religious groups – including the unaffiliated – that together represent 100% of the estimated 2010 global population. The study is based on a country-by-country analysis of data from more than 2,500 national censuses, large-scale surveys and official population registers that were collected, evaluated and standardized by the Pew Forum’s demographers and other research staff.<sup>4</sup> Many countries have recently conducted a national census or are in the midst of doing so. Therefore, new data are likely to emerge over the next few years. However, a data-collection cut-off had to be made at some point; this report is based on information available as of early 2012.<sup>5</sup>

For estimates of the religious composition of individual countries, see table on page 45. For details on the methodology used to produce estimates of religious populations in 232 countries and territories, see Appendix A. For a list of data sources by country, see Appendix B.

To see each country’s and territory’s population broken down by number and percentage into the eight major religious groups in the study, see the sortable tables at <http://features.pewforum.org/grl/population-number.php>.

There are some minor differences between the estimates presented in this study and previous Pew Forum estimates of Christian and Muslim populations around the world. These differences reflect the availability of new data sources, such as recently released censuses in a few countries, and the use of population growth projections to update estimates in countries with older primary sources. (For more details, see page 64 in the Methodology.)

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4 A population register is a list of all permanent residents of a country. See the United Nations Statistics Division’s description of population registers (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/popreg/popregmethods.htm>).

5 For instance, in December 2012, just before the release of this report, new religion data were released from the 2011 Census of England and Wales. The new data suggest a slightly different religious landscape than the estimate made by this study for the broader United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland), which is based primarily on the 2010 Annual Population Survey carried out by the U.K.’s Office for National Statistics.

## Defining the Religious Groups

This study is based on self-identification. It seeks to estimate the number of people around the world who view themselves as belonging to various religious groups. It does not attempt to measure the degree to which members of these groups actively practice their faiths or how religious they are.

In order to obtain statistics that are comparable across countries, the study attempts to count groups and individuals who self-identify as members of five widely recognized world religions – Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims and Jews – as well as people associated with three other religious categories that may be less familiar:

### Folk or Traditional Religions

Folk religions are closely tied to a particular people, ethnicity or tribe. In some cases, elements of other world religions are blended with local beliefs and customs. These faiths often have no formal creeds or sacred texts. Examples of folk religions include African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

### The Religiously Unaffiliated

The religiously unaffiliated population includes atheists, agnostics and people who do not identify with any particular religion in surveys. However, many of the religiously unaffiliated do hold religious or spiritual beliefs. For example, various surveys have found that belief in God or a higher power is shared by 7% of unaffiliated Chinese adults, 30% of unaffiliated French adults and 68% of unaffiliated U.S. adults.<sup>6</sup>

### Other Religions

The “other religions” category is diverse and comprises groups not classified elsewhere. This category includes followers of religions that often are not measured separately in censuses and surveys: the Baha’i faith, Jainism, Shintoism, Sikhism, Taoism, Tenrikyo, Wicca, Zoroastrianism and many other religions. Because of the lack of data on these faiths in many countries, the Pew Forum has not attempted to estimate the size of individual religions within this category, though some rough estimates are available from other sources. (See Spotlight on Other Religions on page 40.)

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<sup>6</sup> For more information on the beliefs and practices of religiously unaffiliated adults in the United States, see the Pew Forum’s October 2012 report “‘Nones’ on the Rise.” The Pew Forum’s U.S. surveys typically ask about belief in “God or a universal spirit.” French results are based on a Pew Forum analysis of 2008 International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) data. The ISSP survey asks about belief in God or a “higher power of some kind.” Chinese results are based on a Pew Forum analysis of the 2007 Spiritual Life Study of Chinese Residents, conducted by the Chinese polling firm Horizon. In China, the belief in God statistic measures belief in God, gods, spirits, ghosts or Buddha.

## Roadmap to the Report

These and other findings are discussed in more detail in the remainder of this report, which is divided into eight sections – one for each of the major religious groupings, in order of size:

- Christians
- Muslims
- Religiously Unaffiliated
- Hindus
- Buddhists
- Folk Religionists
- Other Religions
- Jews

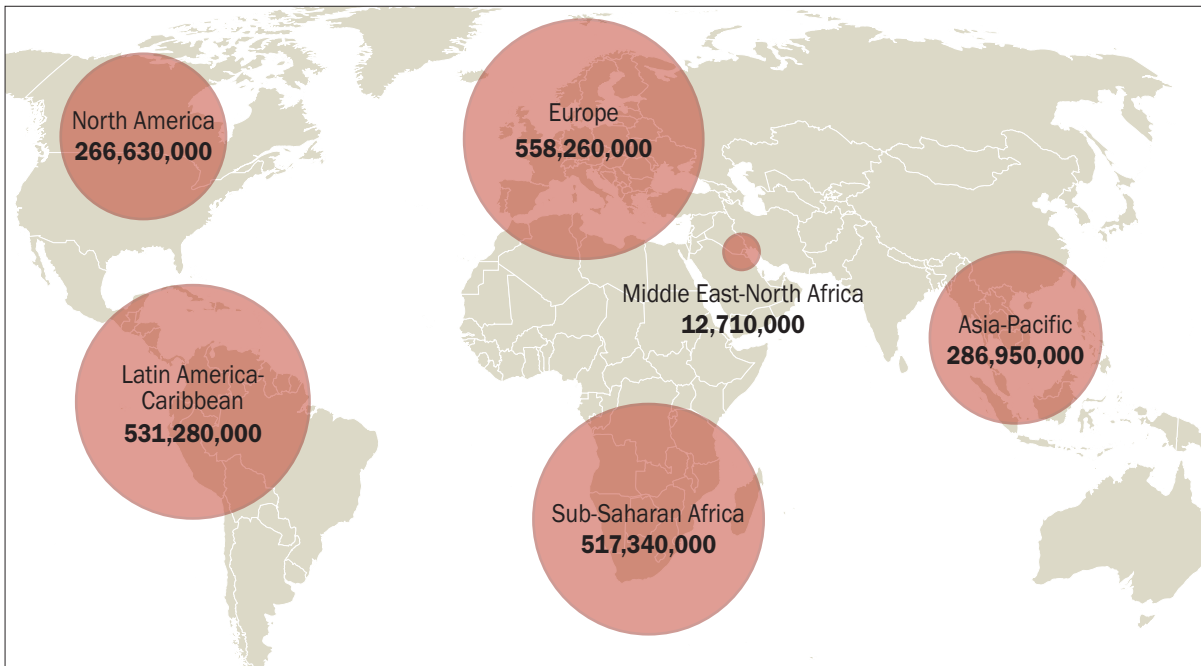
To discuss the geographic distribution of religious groups, this report divides the world into six major regions: Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and sub-Saharan Africa. For a list of countries in each region, see the Methodology.

# Christians

Christians number 2.2 billion, or about one-in-three (32%) people worldwide. About half of all Christians are Catholic (50%). An estimated 37% of Christians belong to the Protestant tradition, broadly defined to include Anglicans as well as independent and non-denominational churches. The Orthodox Communion, including the Greek and Russian Orthodox, make up 12% of Christians. And people who belong to other traditions that view themselves as Christian (including Christian Scientists, Mormons and Jehovah’s Witnesses) make up about 1% of the global Christian population.<sup>7</sup>

## Regional Distribution of Christians

Population by region as of 2010



Percentage of world Christian population in each region as of 2010



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

<sup>7</sup> As previously noted, this study is based on self-identification. The intent is sociological rather than theological, and no set of beliefs (such as adherence to a particular creed) or practices (such as regular church attendance) is used to define who is a Christian. For more information on Christian traditions, see the Pew Forum’s December 2011 report “Global Christianity: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World’s Christian Population.”

Christianity has spread far from its historical origins and is geographically widespread. Indeed, the vast majority of Christians (99%) live outside the Middle East-North Africa region where Christianity began. The greatest share of the global Christian population is in Europe (26%), followed closely by Latin America and the Caribbean (24%) and sub-Saharan Africa (24%). Significant numbers of Christians also live in Asia and the Pacific (13%) and North America (12%). Less than 1% of the world's Christians are found in the Middle East and North Africa.

### World Christian Population by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 CHRISTIAN POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS CHRISTIAN
Europe	558,260,000	742,550,000	75.2 %
Latin America-Caribbean	531,280,000	590,080,000	90.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	517,340,000	822,720,000	62.9
Asia-Pacific	286,950,000	4,054,990,000	7.1
North America	266,630,000	344,530,000	77.4
Middle East-North Africa	12,710,000	341,020,000	3.7
<b>World Total</b>	<b>2,173,180,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>31.5</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Christians

	ESTIMATED 2010 CHRISTIAN POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS CHRISTIAN	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD CHRISTIAN POPULATION
United States	243,060,000	78.3 %	11.2 %
Brazil	173,300,000	88.9	8.0
Mexico	107,910,000	95.1	5.0
Russia	104,750,000	73.3	4.8
Philippines	86,370,000	92.6	4.0
Nigeria	78,050,000	49.3	3.6
China	68,410,000	5.1	3.1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	63,210,000	95.8	2.9
Germany	56,540,000	68.7	2.6
Ethiopia	52,070,000	62.8	2.4
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	1,033,670,000	40.0	47.6
Subtotal for Rest of World	1,139,500,000	26.4	52.4
<b>World Total</b>	<b>2,173,180,000</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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Among the six regions analyzed in this study, four have Christian majorities: Latin America and the Caribbean (90%), North America (77%), Europe (75%) and sub-Saharan Africa (63%). Christians live as minorities in the Asia-Pacific region (7%) and the Middle East-North Africa region (4%).

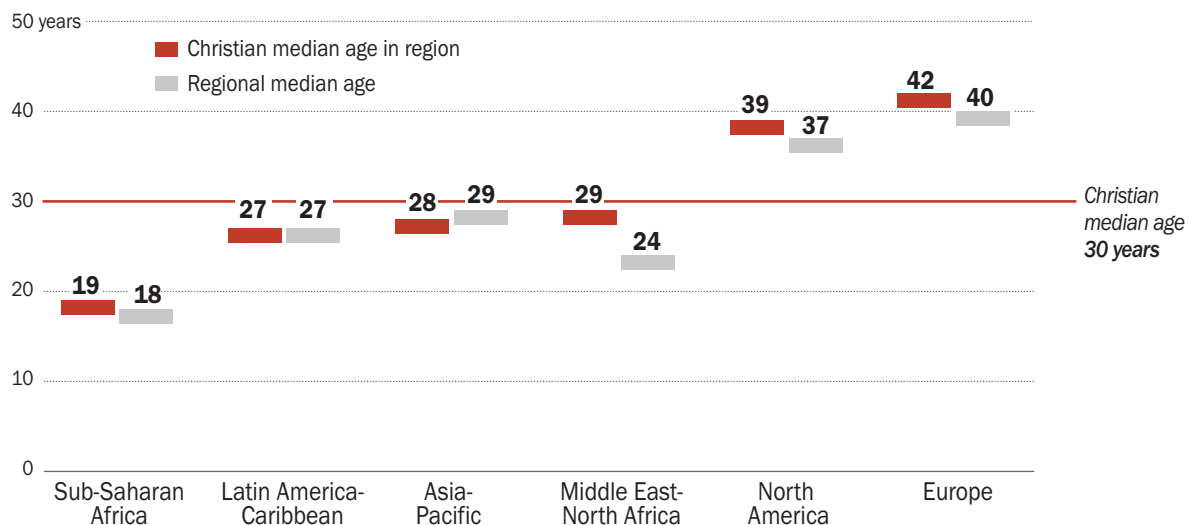
The 10 countries with the largest number of Christians account for about half (48%) of the global Christian population. The largest share of all Christians live in the United States (11%), followed by Brazil (8%), Mexico (5%), Russia (5%), the Philippines (4%), Nigeria (4%), China (3%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (3%), Germany (3%) and Ethiopia (2%).

Most Christians (87%) live in countries where Christians are in the majority. Of the 232 countries and territories included in this study, 157 have Christian majorities. However, most of the Christian-majority countries have relatively small populations: about seven-in-ten have fewer Christians than the Christian-minority country of Vietnam (7 million Christians).

## Median Age

As a whole, Christians are older (median age of 30) than the overall global population (median age of 28). Among the six regions analyzed in this study, Christians are youngest in sub-Saharan Africa (median age of 19), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (27), Asia and the Pacific (28), the Middle East and North Africa (29) and North America (39). Europe has the oldest Christian population (42).

### Regional Median Ages of Christians Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010



Regions are ordered by median age of Christians from youngest to oldest.

Median age is not presented when reliable age structure data are unavailable.

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Christians are older than the general population in four regions: the Middle East and North Africa (where the Christian median is 29 years and the general population median is 24 years), North America (39 vs. 37), Europe (42 vs. 40), and sub-Saharan Africa (19 vs. 18). Christians have the same median age as the general population in Latin America and the Caribbean (27). Christians are younger than the general population in the Asia-Pacific region (28 vs. 29).



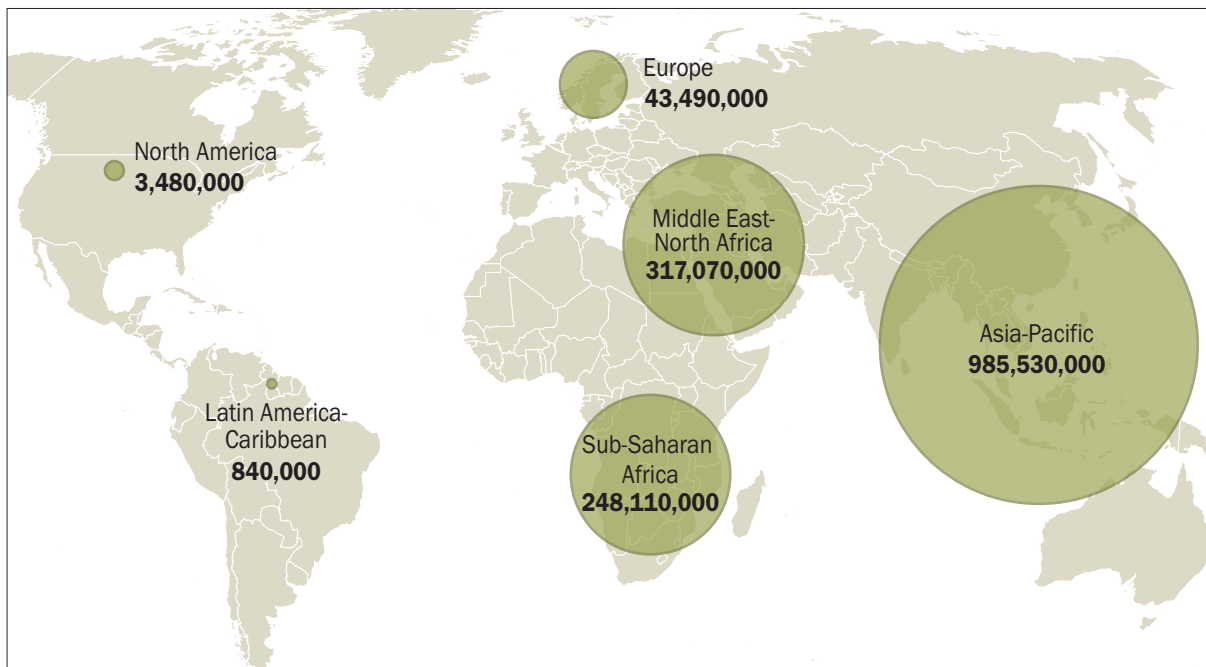
## Muslims

Muslims number 1.6 billion, representing 23% of all people worldwide. There are two major branches of Islam – Sunni and Shia. The overwhelming majority (87-90%) of Muslims are Sunnis; about 10-13% are Shia Muslims.<sup>8</sup>

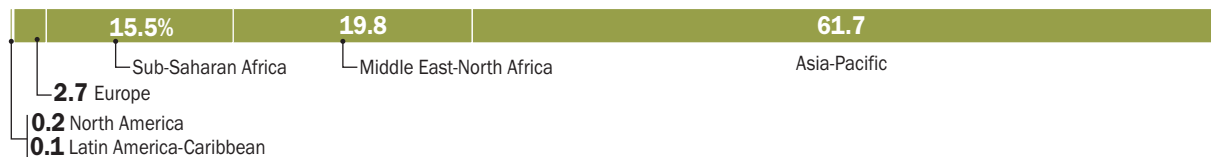
Muslims are concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region, where six-in-ten (62%) of all Muslims reside. Many Muslims also live in the Middle East and North Africa (20%) and sub-Saharan Africa (16%). The remainder of the world's Muslim population is in Europe (3%), North America (16%), and Latin America and the Caribbean (also less than 1%).

### Regional Distribution of Muslims

*Population by region as of 2010*



*Percentage of world Muslim population in each region as of 2010*



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

<sup>8</sup> For definitions of Sunni and Shia Muslims and more information on their geographic distribution, see the Pew Forum's October 2009 report "Mapping the Global Muslim Population: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Muslim Population."

Although a majority of the world's Muslims live in Asia and the Pacific, only about one-in-four people (24%) in that region are Muslims. By contrast, the Middle East-North Africa region has an overwhelmingly Muslim population (93%), but they represent only about 20% of the world's Muslims. Muslims also make up about three-in-ten people in sub-Saharan Africa, 6% of those who live in Europe, 1% of North Americans, and less than 1% of the population of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### World Muslim Population by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 MUSLIM POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS MUSLIM
Asia-Pacific	985,530,000	4,054,990,000	24.3 %
Middle East-North Africa	317,070,000	341,020,000	93.0
Sub-Saharan Africa	248,110,000	822,720,000	30.2
Europe	43,490,000	742,550,000	5.9
North America	3,480,000	344,530,000	1.0
Latin America-Caribbean	840,000	590,080,000	0.1
<b>World Total</b>	<b>1,598,510,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>23.2</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Muslims

	ESTIMATED 2010 MUSLIM POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS MUSLIM	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD MUSLIM POPULATION
Indonesia	209,120,000	87.2 %	13.1 %
India	176,190,000	14.4	11.0
Pakistan	167,410,000	96.4	10.5
Bangladesh	133,540,000	89.8	8.4
Nigeria	77,300,000	48.8	4.8
Egypt	76,990,000	94.9	4.8
Iran	73,570,000	99.5	4.6
Turkey	71,330,000	98.0	4.5
Algeria	34,730,000	97.9	2.2
Morocco	31,940,000	99.9	2.0
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	1,052,120,000	47.0	65.8
Subtotal for Rest of World	546,400,000	11.7	34.2
<b>World Total</b>	<b>1,598,510,000</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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The 10 countries with the largest number of Muslims are home to fully two-thirds (66%) of all Muslims. The largest share lives in Indonesia (13%), followed by India (11%), Pakistan (11%), Bangladesh (8%), Nigeria (5%), Egypt (5%), Iran (5%), Turkey (5%), Algeria (2%) and Morocco (2%).<sup>9</sup>

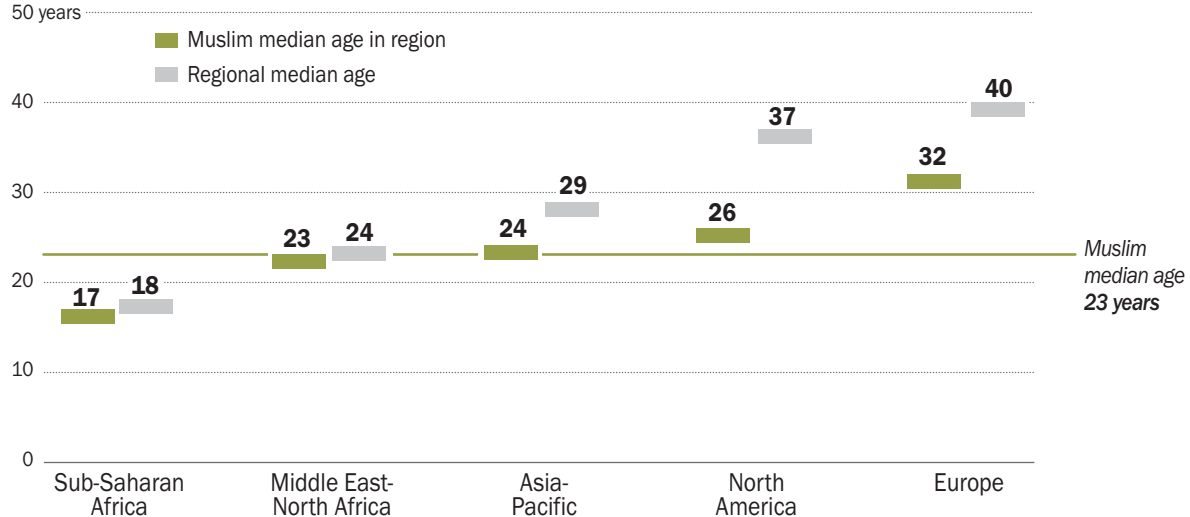
Muslims make up a majority of the population in 49 countries. Nearly three-quarters of all Muslims (73%) live in these countries. Although Muslims are a minority in India (14% of the total population), India nonetheless has one of the largest Muslim populations in the world (in raw numbers).

## Median Age

Globally, Muslims are younger (median age of 23) than the overall global population (median age of 28). Among the five regions for which data are available, Muslims are youngest in sub-Saharan Africa (median age of 17), followed by the Middle East and North Africa (23), Asia and the Pacific (24), North America (26) and Europe (32).

Muslims are younger than the general population in each of the major regions for which data are available: North America (Muslims 26 years; general population 37 years), Europe (32 vs. 40), Asia and the Pacific (24 vs. 29), sub-Saharan Africa (17 vs. 18) and the Middle East and North Africa (23 vs. 24).

### Regional Median Ages of Muslims Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010



Regions are ordered by median age of Muslims from youngest to oldest.

Median age is not presented when reliable age structure data are unavailable.

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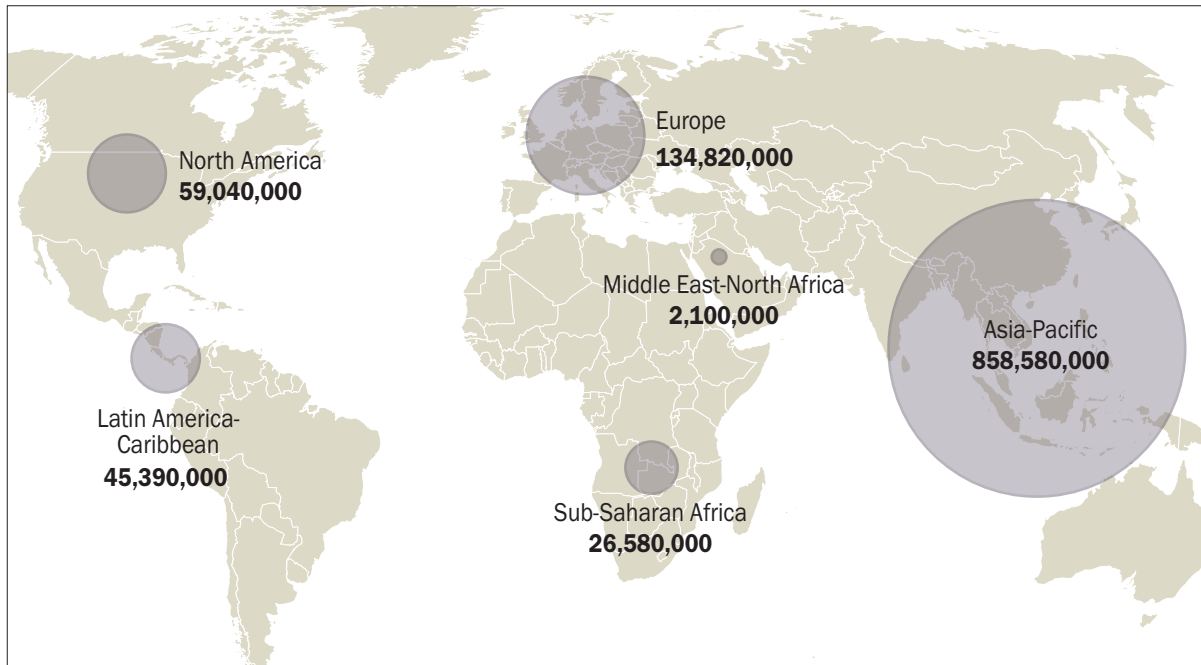
<sup>9</sup> India and Pakistan have Muslim populations of roughly similar size, and it is not entirely clear which is larger. The Pew Forum previously estimated that Pakistan had the world's second-largest Muslim population and India had the third-largest; see the Pew Forum's January 2011 report "The Future of the Global Muslim Population" and October 2009 report "Mapping the Global Muslim Population." The difference between the rankings in this report and the previous reports is primarily due to a downward revision by the United Nations Population Division of its estimate of the size of Pakistan's total population and an upward revision of the U.N. estimate of India's total population. For more details, see the discussion in the Methodology.

## Religiously Unaffiliated

The religiously unaffiliated number 1.1 billion, accounting for about one-in-six (16%) people worldwide. The religiously unaffiliated include atheists, agnostics and people who do not identify with any particular religion in surveys. However, many of the religiously unaffiliated have some religious beliefs. For example, belief in God or a higher power is shared by 7% of Chinese unaffiliated adults, 30% of French unaffiliated adults and 68% of unaffiliated U.S. adults. Some of the unaffiliated also engage in certain kinds of religious practices. For example, 7% of unaffiliated adults in France and 27% of those in the United States say they attend religious services at least once a year. And in China, 44% of unaffiliated adults say they have worshiped at a graveside or tomb in the past year.<sup>10</sup>

### Regional Distribution of the Unaffiliated

Population by region as of 2010



Percentage of world unaffiliated population in each region as of 2010



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.  
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<sup>10</sup> Beliefs and practices of unaffiliated adults in the United States are documented in the Pew Forum's October 2012 report "Nones' on the Rise." The Pew Forum's belief-in-God question measures belief in God or a universal spirit. French results are based on a Pew Forum analysis of 2008 International Social Survey Programme (ISSP) data; the ISSP survey measures belief in God or a "higher power of some kind." Chinese results are based on a Pew Forum analysis of the 2007 Spiritual Life Study of Chinese Residents survey, conducted by the Chinese polling firm Horizon. In China, the belief-in-God statistic includes belief in God, gods, spirits, ghosts or Buddha.

The religiously unaffiliated are heavily concentrated in Asia and the Pacific, where more than three-quarters (76%) of the world's unaffiliated population resides. The remainder is in Europe (12%), North America (5%), Latin America and the Caribbean (4%), sub-Saharan Africa (2%) and the Middle East and North Africa (less than 1%).

Although a majority of the religiously unaffiliated live in Asia and the Pacific, only about one-in-five people (21%) in that region are unaffiliated. More than one-in-six people in Europe

### World Unaffiliated Population by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 UNAFFILIATED POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS UNAFFILIATED
Asia-Pacific	858,580,000	4,054,990,000	21.2 %
Europe	134,820,000	742,550,000	18.2
North America	59,040,000	344,530,000	17.1
Latin America-Caribbean	45,390,000	590,080,000	7.7
Sub-Saharan Africa	26,580,000	822,720,000	3.2
Middle East-North Africa	2,100,000	341,020,000	0.6
<b>World Total</b>	<b>1,126,500,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>16.3</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Unaffiliated

	ESTIMATED 2010 UNAFFILIATED POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS UNAFFILIATED	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD UNAFFILIATED POPULATION
China	700,680,000	52.2 %	62.2 %
Japan	72,120,000	57.0	6.4
United States	50,980,000	16.4	4.5
Vietnam	26,040,000	29.6	2.3
Russia	23,180,000	16.2	2.1
South Korea	22,350,000	46.4	2.0
Germany	20,350,000	24.7	1.8
France	17,580,000	28.0	1.6
North Korea	17,350,000	71.3	1.5
Brazil	15,410,000	7.9	1.4
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	966,040,000	39.9	85.8
Subtotal for Rest of World	160,460,000	3.6	14.2
<b>World Total</b>	<b>1,126,500,000</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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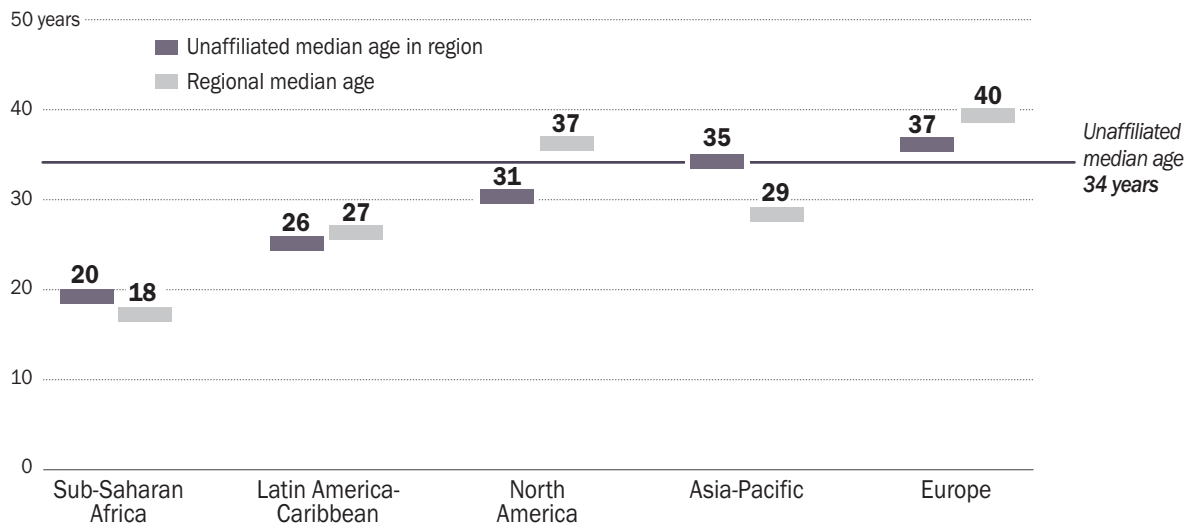
(18%) and North America (17%) are religiously unaffiliated. The unaffiliated make up smaller shares in the remaining regions. For instance, less than 1% of those who live in the Middle East-North Africa region are unaffiliated.

More than six-in-ten (62%) of all religiously unaffiliated people live in one country, China.<sup>11</sup> The largest populations of the religiously unaffiliated outside China are in Japan (6% of all unaffiliated), the United States (5%), Vietnam (2%) and Russia (2%).

There are six countries where the religiously unaffiliated make up a majority of the population: the Czech Republic (76% are religiously unaffiliated), North Korea (71%), Estonia (60%), Japan (57%), Hong Kong (56%) and China (52%).

This report estimates that 16.4% of the total U.S. population (adults and children) was unaffiliated as of 2010. However, recent Pew Research Center surveys found that, as of 2012, 19.6% of U.S. adults are unaffiliated. The different findings reflect both an increase in the percentage of U.S. adults who are religiously unaffiliated and differences between the portion of adults and the portion of children in the U.S. who are unaffiliated. Slightly higher shares of children than adults are estimated to have a religious affiliation.

### Regional Median Ages of the Unaffiliated Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010



Regions are ordered by median age of the unaffiliated from youngest to oldest.

Median age is not presented when reliable age structure data are unavailable.

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<sup>11</sup> China, the world's most populous country, also is home to a majority of followers of folk or traditional religions (73%) and Buddhists (62%).

## Median Age

Globally, the religiously unaffiliated are older (median age of 34) than the overall global population (median age of 28). Among the five regions for which data are available, sub-Saharan Africa has the youngest population of religiously unaffiliated people (median age of 20), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (26), North America (31) and Asia and the Pacific (35). Europe has the oldest unaffiliated population, with a median age of 37.

Median ages of the religiously unaffiliated differ from the general population in each of the major regions for which data are available. In two regions, the religiously unaffiliated are older than the general population: Asia and the Pacific (where the unaffiliated median is 35 years and the general population median is 29 years) and sub-Saharan Africa (20 vs. 18). In three regions, the religiously unaffiliated are younger than the general population: North America (unaffiliated 31 years; general population 37 years), Europe (37 vs. 40) and Latin America and the Caribbean (26 vs. 27).

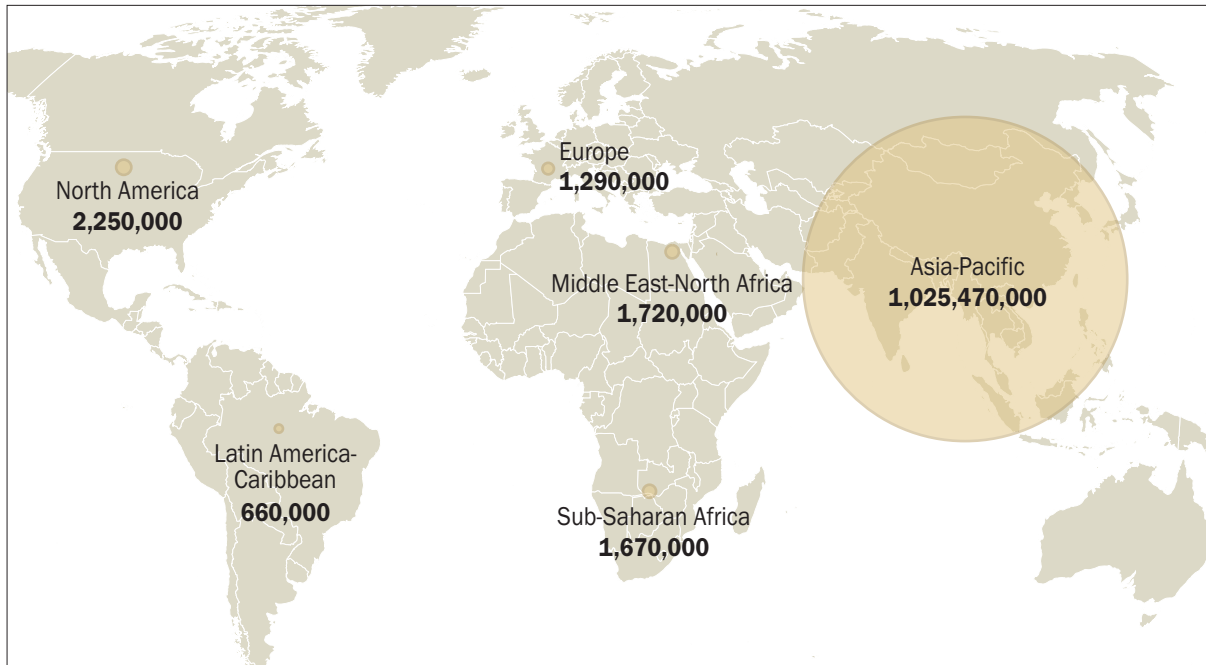
## Hindus

There are about 1 billion Hindus around the world, representing 15% of the global population. Major traditions within Hinduism include Vaishnavism, which is devoted to worship of the god Vishnu, and Shaivism, organized around worship of the god Shiva. Because of a lack of census or survey data on subgroups of Hindus in most countries, however, reliable estimates of the size of the traditions are not available.

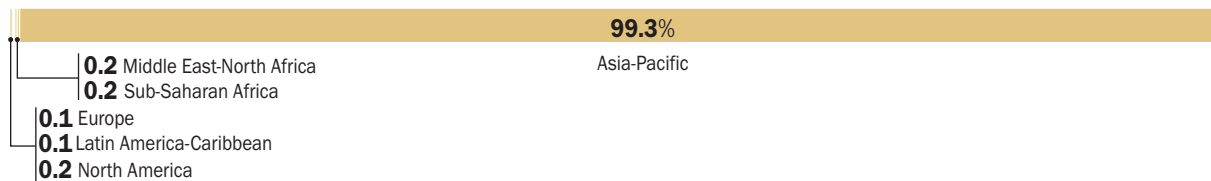
Hinduism traces its roots to the Asia-Pacific region, where the overwhelming majority of its adherents (more than 99%) reside. Indeed, Hinduism is the most geographically concentrated of the eight religious groups analyzed in this report. Less than 1% of Hindus live outside Asia and the Pacific.

### Regional Distribution of Hindus

*Population by region as of 2010*



*Percentage of world Hindu population in each region as of 2010*



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012



Although most Hindus live in Asia and the Pacific, only about one-in-four people (25%) across that vast and populous region are Hindu. Hindus make up less than 1% of the general population in the five other major geographic regions.

An overwhelming majority of Hindus (94%) live in one country, India. The largest populations of Hindus outside India are in Nepal (2% of all Hindus) and Bangladesh (1%).

### World Hindu Population by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 HINDU POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS HINDU
Asia-Pacific	1,025,470,000	4,054,990,000	25.3 %
North America	2,250,000	344,530,000	0.7
Middle East-North Africa	1,720,000	341,020,000	0.5
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,670,000	822,720,000	0.2
Europe	1,290,000	742,550,000	0.2
Latin America-Caribbean	660,000	590,080,000	0.1
<b>World Total</b>	<b>1,033,080,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>15.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Hindus

	ESTIMATED 2010 HINDU POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS HINDU	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD HINDU POPULATION
India	973,750,000	79.5 %	94.3 %
Nepal	24,170,000	80.7	2.3
Bangladesh	13,520,000	9.1	1.3
Indonesia	4,050,000	1.7	0.4
Pakistan	3,330,000	1.9	0.3
Sri Lanka	2,830,000	13.6	0.3
United States	1,790,000	0.6	0.2
Malaysia	1,720,000	6.0	0.2
Burma (Myanmar)	820,000	1.7	0.1
United Kingdom	800,000	1.3	0.1
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	1,026,780,000	44.9	99.4
Subtotal for Rest of World	6,290,000	0.1	0.6
<b>World Total</b>	<b>1,033,080,000</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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Southern Asia – a subregion defined by the U.N. Population Division as consisting of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka – is home to about 99% of the world’s Hindu population. Overall, an estimated 60% of Southern Asia’s total population is Hindu.

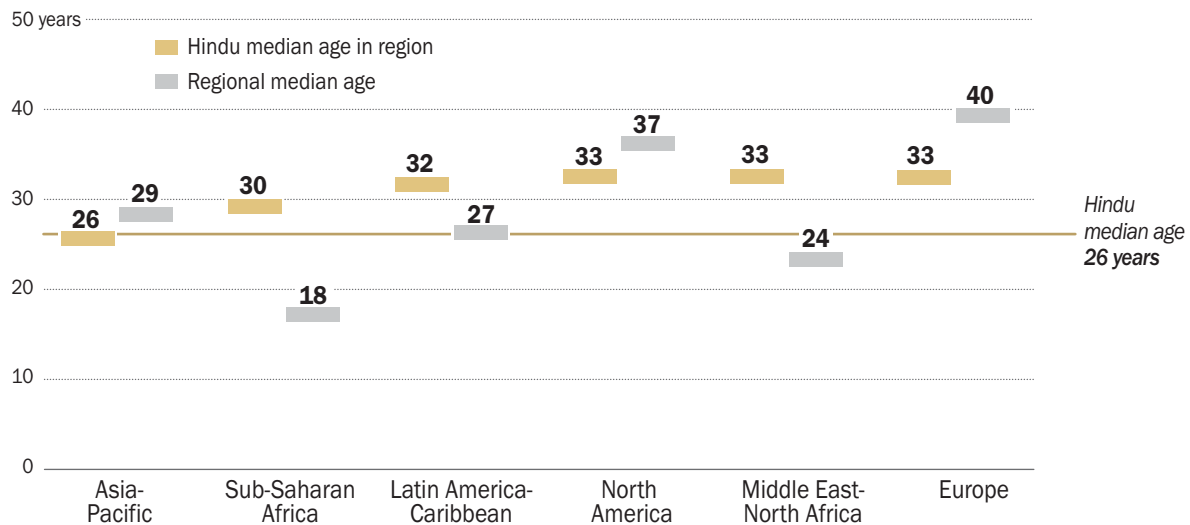
Hindus form a majority in just three countries: Nepal (81%), India (80%) and Mauritius (56%). But 97% of all Hindus live in those countries, making Hindus the most likely of the religious groups in this study to live as a majority.

## Median Age

As a whole, Hindus are younger (median age of 26) than the overall global population (median age of 28). Among the six regions analyzed in this study, the Asia-Pacific region has the youngest Hindu population (median age of 26), followed by sub-Saharan Africa (30) and Latin America and the Caribbean (32). In three regions – North America, the Middle East and North Africa and Europe – Hindus have a median age of 33.

Median ages of Hindus differ from the general population in each of the major geographic regions. In three regions, Hindus are older than the general population: sub-Saharan Africa (where Hindus have a median age of 30 and the general population has a median age of 18), the Middle East and North Africa (33 vs. 24) and Latin America and the Caribbean (32 vs. 27). In three regions, Hindus are younger than the general population: Europe (Hindus 33, general population 40), North America (33 vs. 37) and Asia and the Pacific (26 vs. 29).

### Regional Median Ages of Hindus Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010



Regions are ordered by median age of Hindus from youngest to oldest.

Median age is not presented when reliable age structure data are unavailable.

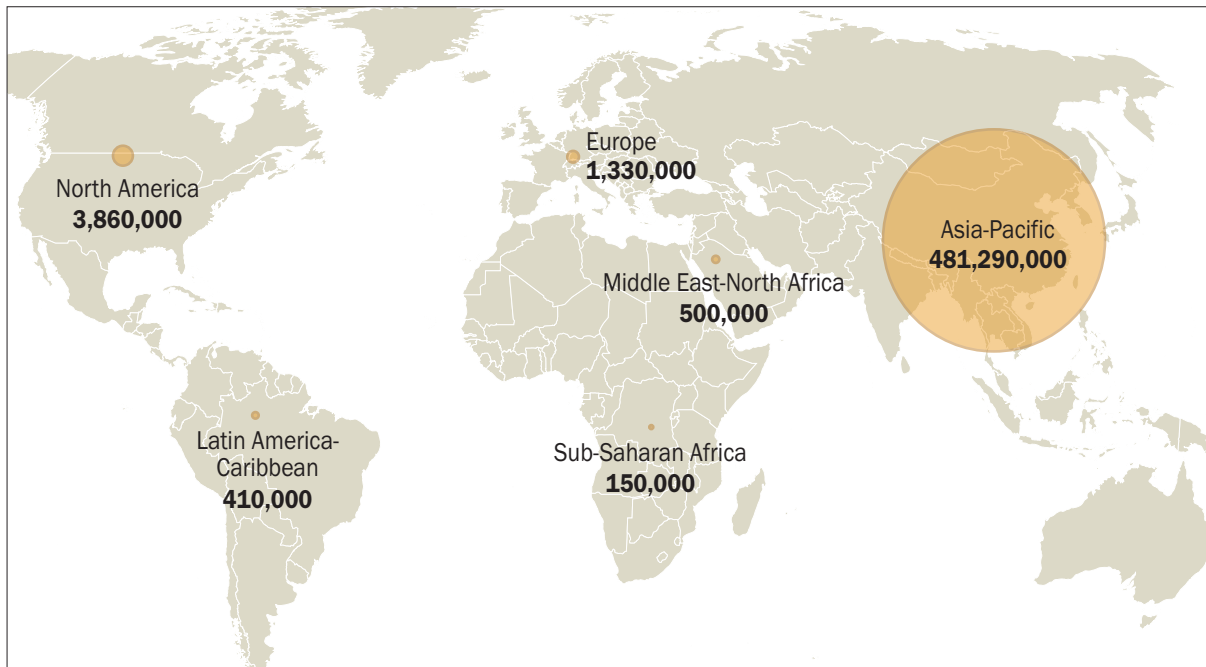
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## Buddhists

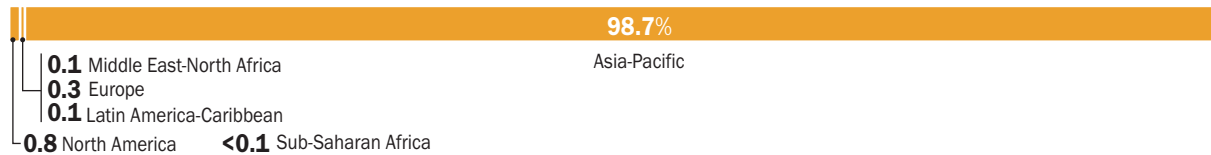
There are about 488 million Buddhists worldwide, representing 7% of the world's total population as of 2010. The three major branches of Buddhism in the modern world are Mahayana Buddhism, Theravada Buddhism and Vajrayana (sometimes described as Tibetan) Buddhism.<sup>12</sup> While affiliation with particular branches of Buddhism is not measured in most censuses and surveys, Mahayana Buddhism is widely believed to be the largest, because it is prevalent in several countries with very large Buddhist populations, particularly China, Japan, South Korea and Vietnam. Theravada Buddhism, the second-largest branch, is concentrated in such countries as Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), Sri Lanka, Laos and Cambodia. Vajrayana

### Regional Distribution of Buddhists

Population by region as of 2010



Percentage of world Buddhist population in each region as of 2010



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

<sup>12</sup> Alternatively, some scholars consider there to be two main Buddhist branches – Mahayana and Theravada – and classify Vajrayana as part of the Mahayana branch. Other schools within the Mahayana tradition include Zen, Nichiren and Pure Land. See, for example, Williams, Paul. 2008. "Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations." Routledge.

Buddhism, the smallest of the three major branches, is concentrated in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and Mongolia. The Buddhist population figures in this study also include members of other groups that identify as Buddhist, such as Soka Gakkai and Hoa Hao.

Buddhism began in Asia, and the vast majority of all Buddhists (nearly 99%) still live in the Asia-Pacific region. Only two other regions – North America (3.9 million) and Europe (1.3 million) – have more than 1 million Buddhists.

### World Buddhist Population by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 BUDDHIST POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS BUDDHIST
Asia-Pacific	481,290,000	4,054,990,000	11.9 %
North America	3,860,000	344,530,000	1.1
Europe	1,330,000	742,550,000	0.2
Middle East-North Africa	500,000	341,020,000	0.1
Latin America-Caribbean	410,000	590,080,000	< 0.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	150,000	822,720,000	< 0.1
<b>World Total</b>	<b>487,540,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>7.1</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Buddhists

	ESTIMATED 2010 BUDDHIST POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS BUDDHIST	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD BUDDHIST POPULATION
China	244,130,000	18.2 %	50.1 %
Thailand	64,420,000	93.2	13.2
Japan	45,820,000	36.2	9.4
Burma (Myanmar)	38,410,000	80.1	7.9
Sri Lanka	14,450,000	69.3	3.0
Vietnam	14,380,000	16.4	2.9
Cambodia	13,690,000	96.9	2.8
South Korea	11,050,000	22.9	2.3
India	9,250,000	0.8	1.9
Malaysia	5,010,000	17.7	1.0
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	460,620,000	15.3	94.5
Subtotal for Rest of World	26,920,000	0.7	5.5
<b>World Total</b>	<b>487,540,000</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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Although the majority of Buddhists live in Asia and the Pacific, only about one-in-eight people (12%) in that region are Buddhists. About 1% of North Americans are Buddhists. In each of the other four regions, Buddhists make up less than 1% of the population.

All 10 countries with the largest Buddhist populations are in the Asia-Pacific region, and these countries collectively are home to the lion's share (95%) of all Buddhists. Half (50%) of the world's Buddhists live in one country, China. The largest Buddhist populations outside China are in Thailand (13%), Japan (9%), Burma (Myanmar) (8%), Sri Lanka (3%), Vietnam (3%), Cambodia (3%), South Korea (2%), India (2%) and Malaysia (1%)

Seven countries have Buddhist majorities: Cambodia, Thailand, Burma (Myanmar), Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Laos and Mongolia.

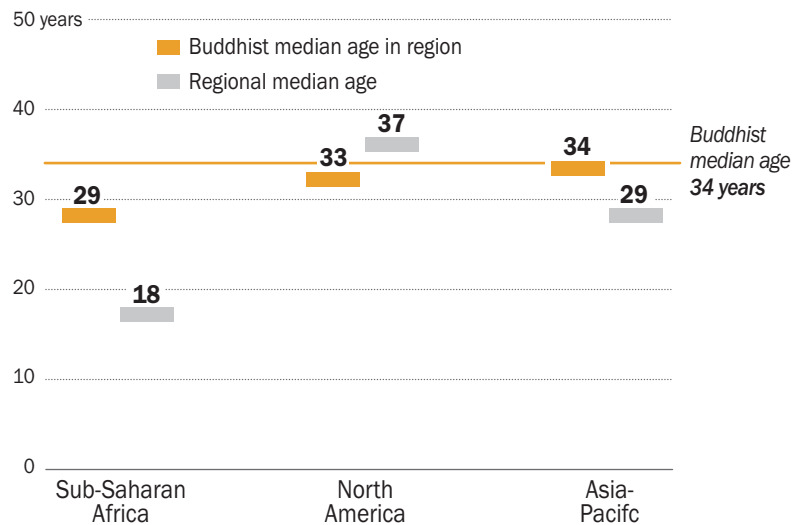
## Median Age

Globally, Buddhists are older (median age of 34) than the overall population (median age of 28). Of the three regions for which data are available, sub-Saharan Africa has the youngest Buddhist population (median age of 29), followed by North America (33). The Asia-Pacific region has the oldest Buddhist population, with a median age of 34.

Buddhists are older than the general population in two of the three major regions for which data are available: sub-Saharan Africa (where

Buddhists have a median age of 29 and the general population has a median age of 18) and Asia and the Pacific (34 vs. 29). In North America, the median age of Buddhists is 33, four years younger than the general population (37).

**Regional Median Ages of Buddhists Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010**



Regions are ordered by median age of Buddhists from youngest to oldest.

Median age is not presented when reliable age structure data are unavailable.

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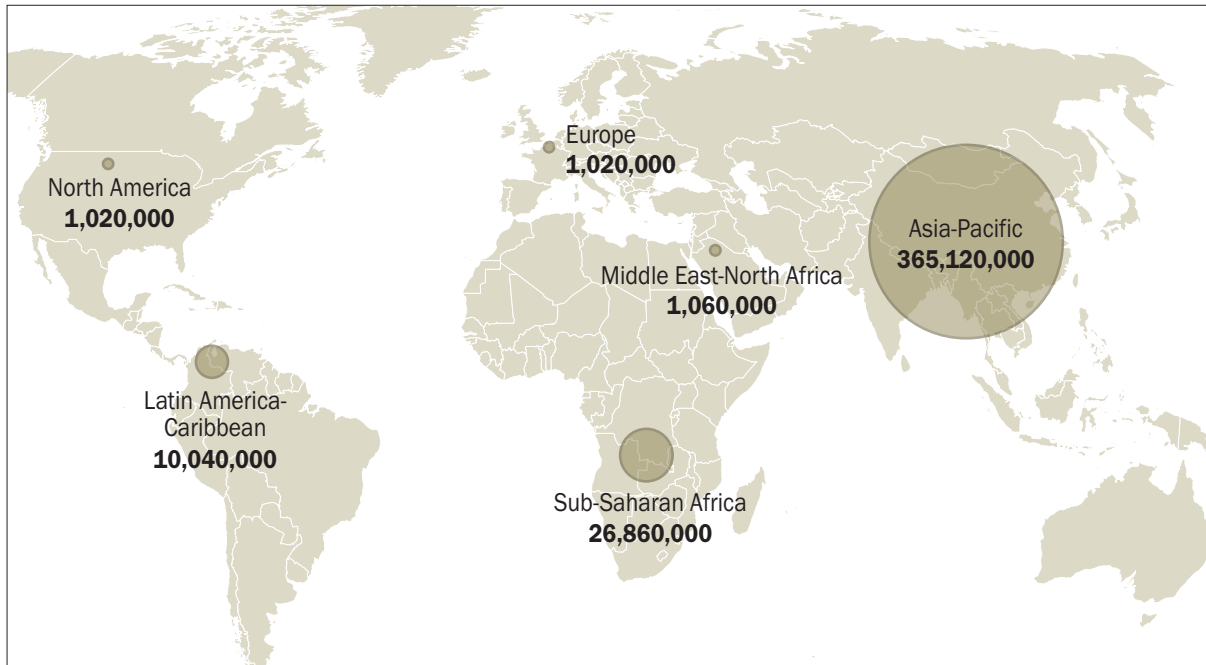
## Folk Religionists

An estimated 405 million people – or about 6% of the world’s total population – are adherents of folk or traditional religions. These are faiths that are closely associated with a particular group of people, ethnicity or tribe. They often have no formal creeds or sacred texts. Examples of folk religions include African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

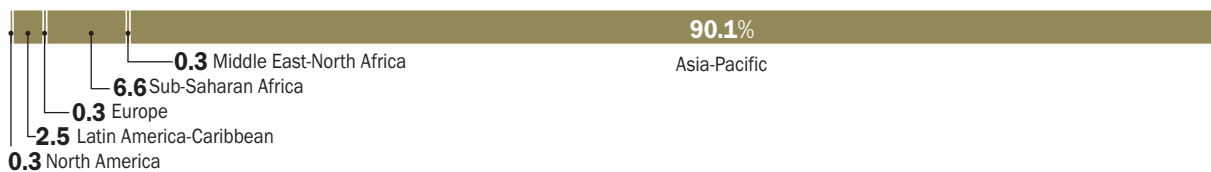
Folk religions are challenging to measure. Less institutionalized and more diffuse than many other faiths, folk religions often are omitted as a category in surveys even in countries where they are widely practiced. For example, though folk religions are pervasive in China, they typically do not appear in surveys in China because they are not one of the five religions officially recognized by the government. Of necessity, the Pew Forum’s estimate of the number of folk religionists in

### Regional Distribution of Folk Religionists

*Population by region as of 2010*



*Percentage of world folk religionist population in each region as of 2010*



Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions. Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Pew Research Center’s Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

China relies instead on survey questions about worship of gods or spirits associated with Chinese folk religions (see discussion in the Methodology).

In addition, the boundaries between folk religions and other religions are blurry in some contexts. For example, anthropologist Tik-sang Liu observes that for ordinary people in Hong Kong and Macau, “there is no clear boundary between Buddhism, Daoism and local

### World Folk Religionist Population by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 FOLK RELIGIONIST POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT BELONGS TO FOLK RELIGIONS
Asia-Pacific	365,120,000	4,054,990,000	9.0 %
Sub-Saharan Africa	26,860,000	822,720,000	3.3
Latin America-Caribbean	10,040,000	590,080,000	1.7
Middle East-North Africa	1,060,000	341,020,000	0.3
North America	1,020,000	344,530,000	0.3
Europe	1,020,000	742,550,000	0.1
<b>World Total</b>	<b>405,120,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>5.9</b>

Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Folk Religionists

	ESTIMATED 2010 FOLK RELIGIONIST POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT BELONGS TO FOLK RELIGIONS	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD FOLK RELIGION POPULATION
China	294,320,000	21.9 %	72.6 %
Vietnam	39,750,000	45.3	9.8
Taiwan	10,260,000	44.2	2.5
India	5,840,000	0.5	1.4
Brazil	5,540,000	2.8	1.4
South Sudan	3,270,000	32.9	0.8
North Korea	3,010,000	12.3	0.7
Burma (Myanmar)	2,760,000	5.8	0.7
Burkina Faso	2,530,000	15.4	0.6
Nigeria	2,290,000	1.4	0.6
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	369,570,000	11.8	91.2
Subtotal for Rest of World	35,550,000	0.9	8.8
<b>World Total</b>	<b>405,120,000</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Includes followers of African traditional religions, Chinese folk religions, Native American religions and Australian aboriginal religions.

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.

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[folk] religious practice.”<sup>13</sup> On the basis of the limited data available on religion in Macau, the Pew Forum estimates that about 59% of its people practice folk religions and that 17% practice Buddhism (this was the share of Buddhist affiliation measured in the 1991 census, the last census to measure religion in Macau). However, some recent descriptions of religion in Macau contend that 80% of its population practices Buddhism; presumably, this broad measure includes folk religion as part of Buddhism. Due to the uncertain boundary between folk religion and Buddhism in Macau, this study does not claim that Macau has a clear majority of folk religionists.

In sub-Saharan Africa, many of those who indicate that they are committed to the practice of Christianity and Islam also incorporate elements of African traditional religions into their lives.<sup>14</sup> Moreover, folk and traditional religions are not always offered as response categories in large-scale demographic and health surveys in the region.

Folk religionists are most prevalent in the Asia-Pacific region, where nine-in-ten of the world’s folk religionists (90%) reside. The remaining folk religion populations are concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa (7%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (between 2% and 3%).

Although the majority of folk religionists live in the Asia-Pacific region, less than one-in-ten people in the region (9%) are folk religionists. Folk religionists make up about 3% of the total population of sub-Saharan Africa and 2% of the total population of Latin America and the Caribbean. Folk religionists make up less than 1% of the population in the remaining regions.

More than seven-in-ten (73%) of the world’s folk religionists live in one country, China. The largest populations of folk religionists outside China are in Vietnam (10%), Taiwan (3%), India (1%) and Brazil (1%).

Practitioners of folk or traditional religions do not make up a clear majority of the population in any country.

## Median Age

Globally, folk religionists are older (median age of 33) than the overall population (median age of 28). Among the three regions for which data are available, sub-Saharan Africa has the youngest folk religionists (median age of 18), followed by Asia and the Pacific (34) and Latin America and the Caribbean (35).

The median age of folk religionists in sub-Saharan Africa (18) is the same as the median age of the general population in that region (18). However, folk religionists are older than the general

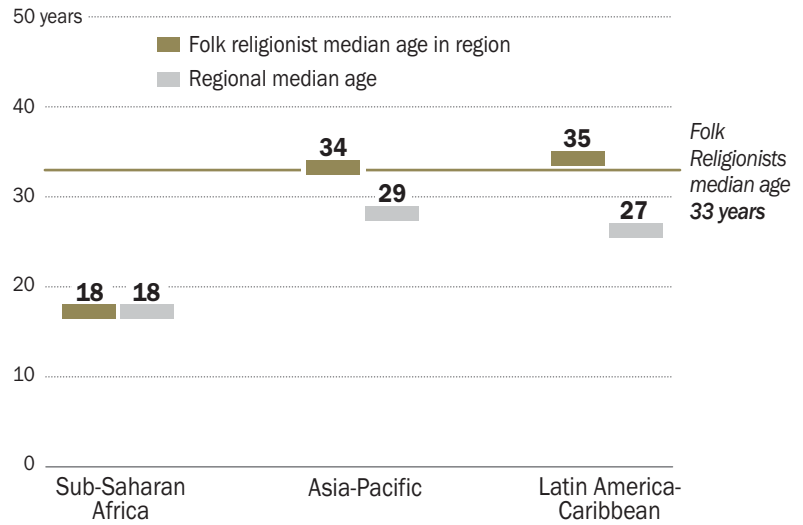
13 Liu, Tik-sang. “A Nameless but Active Religion: An Anthropologist’s View of Local Religion in Hong Kong and Macau.” *The China Quarterly*, number 174, pages 373-394.

14 See the Pew Forum’s April 2010 report “Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa.”



population in the remaining regions for which data are available: Latin America and the Caribbean (folk religionists 35 years; general population 27 years) and Asia and the Pacific (34 vs. 29).

**Regional Median Ages of Folk Religionists Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010**



Regions are ordered by median age of folk religionists from youngest to oldest.

Median age is not presented when reliable age structure data are unavailable.

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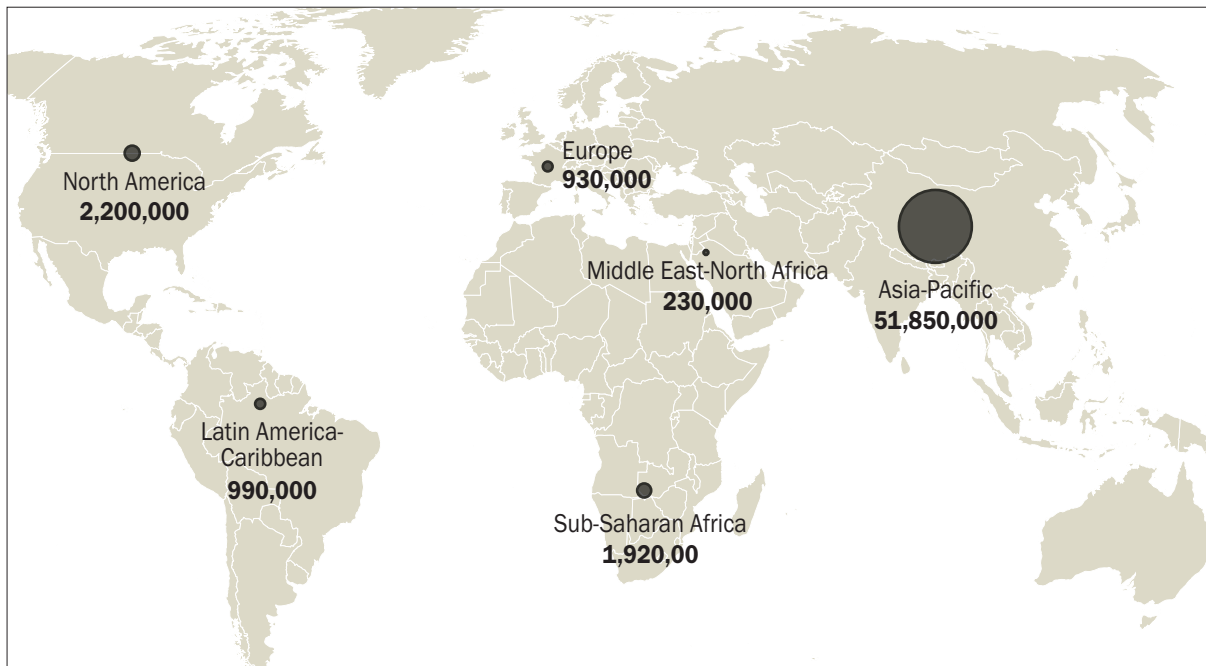
## Other Religions

Worldwide, there are an estimated 58 million members of other religions, accounting for nearly 1% of the global population. The “other religions” category is diverse and comprises groups not classified elsewhere. This category includes followers of religions that are not specifically measured in surveys and censuses in most countries: the Baha’i faith, Taoism, Jainism, Shintoism, Sikhism, Tenrikyo, Wicca, Zoroastrianism and many others. Because of the paucity of census and survey data, the Pew Forum has not estimated the size of individual religions within this category, though some estimates from other sources are provided in the Spotlight on Other Religions sidebar on page 40.

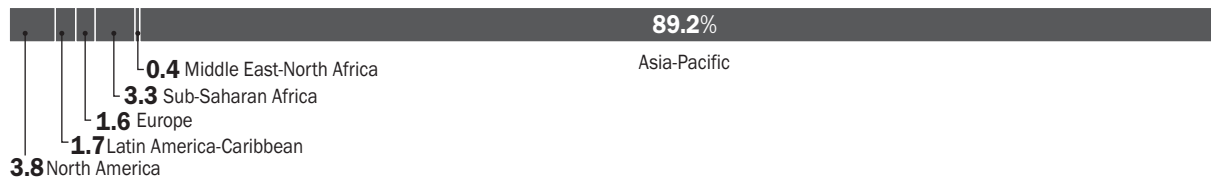
Members of other world religions are heavily concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region (89%). The remainder is divided among North America (4%), sub-Saharan Africa (3%), Latin America and the Caribbean (2%), Europe (2%) and the Middle East and North Africa (less than 1%).

### Regional Distribution of Other Religions

*Population by region as of 2010*



*Percentage of other world religion populations in each region as of 2010*



Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths. Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life • Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

Although the majority of members of other religions live in Asia and the Pacific, only about 1% of the people in the region adhere to these faiths. In the remaining regions, members of other religions make up less than 1% of the population.

India has the largest share (47%) of all members of other religions, including millions of Sikhs and Jains. Outside India, the largest shares of people who belong to faiths in the “other

### World Population of Other Religions by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 OTHER RELIGIONS POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT BELONGS TO OTHER RELIGIONS
Asia-Pacific	51,850,000	4,054,990,000	1.3 %
North America	2,200,000	344,530,000	0.6
Sub-Saharan Africa	1,920,000	822,720,000	0.2
Latin America-Caribbean	990,000	590,080,000	0.2
Europe	930,000	742,550,000	0.1
Middle East-North Africa	230,000	341,020,000	< 0.1
<b>World Total</b>	<b>58,110,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>0.8</b>

Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Adherents of Other Religions

	ESTIMATED 2010 OTHER RELIGIONS POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT BELONGS TO OTHER RELIGIONS	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD OTHER RELIGIONS POPULATION
India	27,560,000	2.3 %	47.4 %
China	9,080,000	0.7	15.6
Japan	5,890,000	4.7	10.1
Taiwan	3,760,000	16.2	6.5
North Korea	3,130,000	12.9	5.4
United States	1,900,000	0.6	3.3
Cameroon	530,000	2.7	0.9
Kenya	500,000	1.2	0.9
United Kingdom	500,000	0.8	0.9
Singapore	490,000	9.7	0.9
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	53,350,000	1.7	91.8
Subtotal for Rest of World	4,760,000	0.1	8.2
<b>World Total</b>	<b>58,110,000</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Includes Bahai's, Jains, Sikhs, Shintoists, Taoists, followers of Tenrikyo, Wiccans, Zoroastrians and many other faiths.

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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## Spotlight on Other Religions

The “other religions” category is diverse and comprises all groups not classified elsewhere. It includes followers of religions that are not specifically measured in most censuses and surveys, including but not limited to the faiths listed below. Estimates of population sizes for these groups generally come from sources other than censuses and nationally representative surveys.

### Baha’i Faith

The Baha’i faith began in Persia (now Iran) in the 19th century. Baha’is are widely dispersed across many countries, with significant populations in India, the United States, Kenya and elsewhere. The Baha’i International Community reports more than 5 million adherents.

### Jainism

Jainism originated in India and dates back to at least the 6th century B.C.E. Today, the vast majority of Jains live in India, though significant numbers also are found among Indian immigrant communities in Kenya, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. The 2001 Indian census enumerated more than 4 million Jains in India, but some Jains have contended that number is a substantial undercount. According to estimates by the World Religion Database, there are fewer than 250,000 Jains outside India.

### Shintoism

Shintoism is a Japanese faith that has been part of religious life in Japan for many centuries. Although Shinto rituals are widely practiced in Japan, only a minority of the Japanese population identifies with Shintoism in surveys. The World Religion Database estimates there are almost 3 million Shintoists worldwide, with the vast majority concentrated in Japan.

### Sikhism

Sikhism was founded at the turn of the 16th century by Guru Nanak in the Punjab, a region now split between India and Pakistan. More than nine-in-ten Sikhs are in India, but there are also sizable Sikh communities in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada. The World Religion Database estimates there are a total of about 25 million Sikhs worldwide.

### Taoism

Taoism (also known as Daoism) traditionally is said to have been founded in the 6th century B.C.E. by Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu. Adherents live predominantly in China and Taiwan. The World Religion Database estimates there are more than 8 million Taoists.

### Tenrikyo

Tenrikyo was founded in the 19th century by Nakayama Miki in Japan. The faith is one of many new Japanese religions; others

include Shinreikyo, Mahakari, Omoto and PL Kyodan. Reliable estimates of the number of followers of Tenrikyo and other new Japanese religions are not available.

### Wicca

Wicca is a Pagan or neo-Pagan religion that gained popularity in the 20th century. It is practiced mostly in the United Kingdom and the United States. Reliable estimates of the number of Wiccans around the world are not available.

### Zoroastrianism

Zoroastrianism traditionally is said to have been founded by Zarathustra in Persia

sometime before the 6th century B.C.E. Adherents live mainly in India and Iran. The World Religion Database estimates there are about 200,000 Zoroastrians worldwide.

### Others

Other faiths in the “other religions” category include Cao Dai, I-Kuan Tao, Mandaism, the Rastafari movement, the Rātana movement, Scientology and Yazidism, to list just a few.

religion” category are in China (16%), Japan (10%), Taiwan (7%), North Korea (5%) and the United States (3%).

Adherents of “other religions” do not make up a majority of the population in any country.

### Median Age

Globally, members of other religions are older (median age of 32) than the overall global population (median age of 28). Reliable regional data on the median age of followers of other world religions is available only for Asia and the Pacific, where it is 33, four years older than the overall regional median (29).

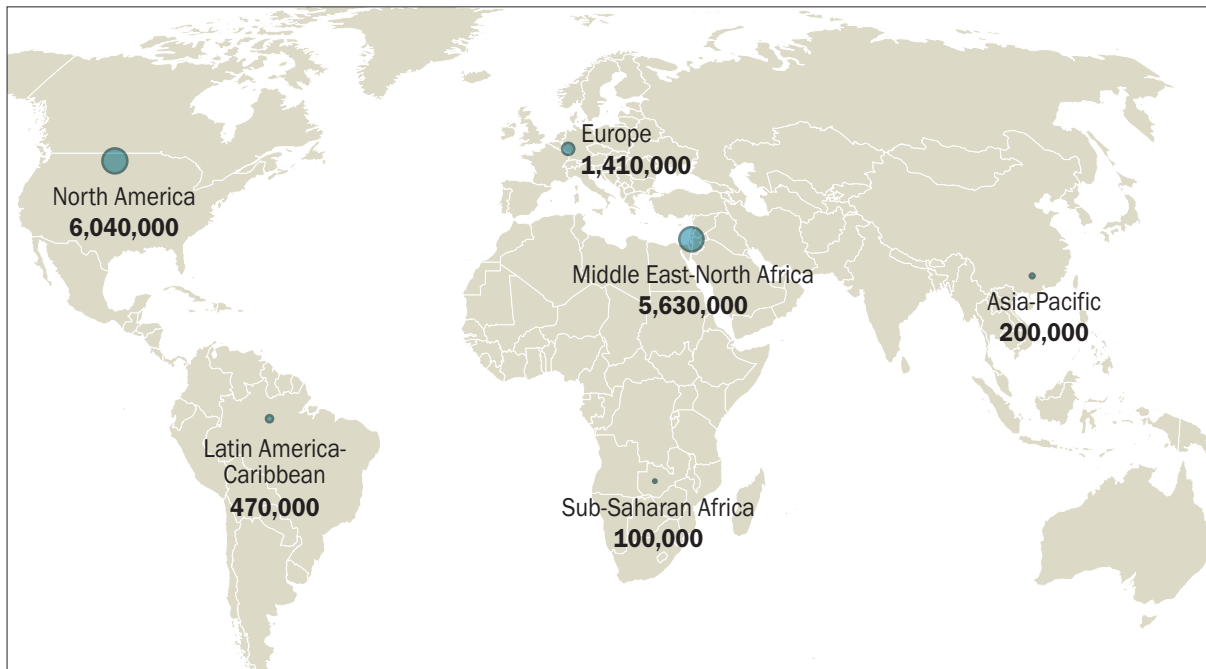
## Jews

There are about 14 million Jews around the world, representing 0.2% of the global population. This estimate is based on the number of people who self-identify as Jewish when asked about their religion on national censuses and large-scale surveys. However, the worldwide figure could be larger if a broader definition (such as having a Jewish grandparent) or smaller if a tighter definition (such as an unbroken line of matrilineal Jewish descent) were imposed.<sup>15</sup>

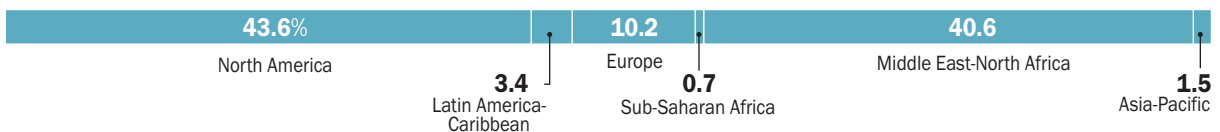
The main branches of Judaism in the United States include the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist movements. But it is difficult to estimate the size of these movements globally because they are not familiar or relevant to Jews in many other countries;

### Regional Distribution of Jews

*Population by region as of 2010*



*Percentage of world Jewish population in each region as of 2010*



Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.  
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<sup>15</sup> For more information on varying definitions of Jewishness and resulting population estimates, see DellaPergola, Sergio. 2011. "Jewish Demographic Policies: Population Trends and Options in Israel and the Diaspora." The Jewish People Policy Institute, pages 21-25. His estimate of the "core" population of Jews around the world as of 2010 is slightly lower than the Pew Forum's figure of 14 million. But he also estimates that there are 10-12 million people in the United States alone who would qualify for citizenship under Israel's Law of Return, including the non-Jewish spouses of Jews as well as all the children and grandchildren of Jews.

in Israel and elsewhere, distinctions are often made between Haredi or Ultra-Orthodox Jews, Modern Orthodox Jews and less traditional forms of Judaism.

Geographically, Jews are concentrated primarily in North America (44%) and the Middle East-North Africa region (41%). The remainder of the global Jewish population is found in Europe (10%), Latin America and the Caribbean (3%), Asia and the Pacific (between 1% and 2%) and sub-Saharan Africa (less than 1%).

### World Jewish Population by Region

	ESTIMATED 2010 JEWISH POPULATION	ESTIMATED 2010 TOTAL POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS JEWISH
North America	6,040,000	344,530,000	1.8 %
Middle East-North Africa	5,630,000	341,020,000	1.6
Europe	1,410,000	742,550,000	0.2
Latin America-Caribbean	470,000	590,080,000	< 0.1
Asia-Pacific	200,000	4,054,990,000	< 0.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	100,000	822,720,000	< 0.1
<b>World Total</b>	<b>13,850,000</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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### 10 Countries with the Largest Number of Jews

	ESTIMATED 2010 JEWISH POPULATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION THAT IS JEWISH	PERCENTAGE OF WORLD JEWISH POPULATION
United States	5,690,000	1.8 %	41.1 %
Israel	5,610,000	75.6	40.5
Canada	350,000	1.0	2.5
France	310,000	0.5	2.3
United Kingdom	280,000	0.5	2.0
Germany	230,000	0.3	1.7
Russia	230,000	0.2	1.6
Argentina	200,000	0.5	1.5
Australia	110,000	0.5	0.8
Brazil	110,000	< 0.1	0.8
Subtotal for the 10 Countries	13,130,000	1.4	94.8
Subtotal for Rest of World	720,000	< 0.1	5.2
<b>World Total</b>	<b>13,850,000</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Population estimates are rounded to the ten thousands. Percentages are calculated from unrounded numbers. Figures may not add exactly due to rounding.  
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Jews make up roughly 2% of the total population in North America and a similar proportion in the Middle East-North Africa region. In the remaining regions, they comprise less than 1% of the overall population.

While Jews historically have been found all around the globe, Judaism is highly geographically concentrated today. More than four-fifths of all Jews live in just two countries, the United States (41%) and Israel (41%). The largest remaining shares of the global Jewish population are in Canada (about 3%), France (2%), the United Kingdom (2%), Germany (2%), Russia (2%) and Argentina (between 1% and 2%).

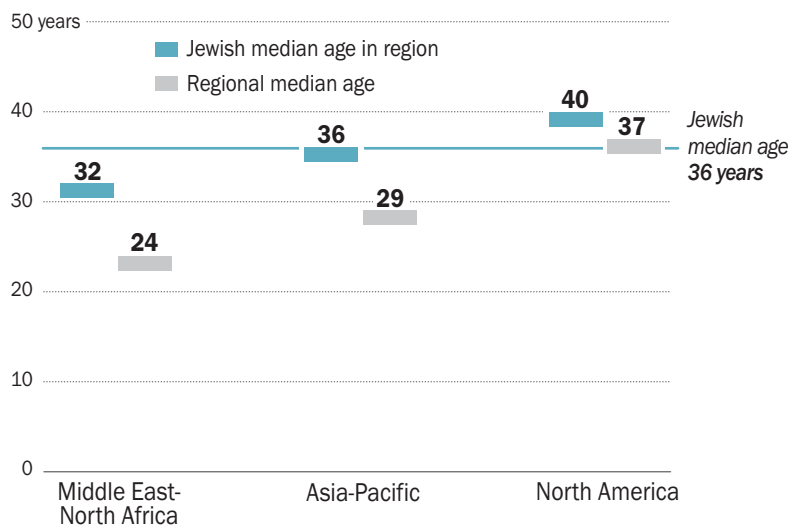
Israel is the only country with a Jewish majority (76%).

## Median Age

Globally, Jews are older (median age of 36) than the overall global population (median age of 28). Among the three regions for which data are available, the Middle East and North Africa has the youngest Jewish population, with a median age of 32, followed by Asia and the Pacific (36) and North America (40).

Jews are older than the general population in each of the major regions for which data are available: the Middle East and North Africa (Jews 32 years; general population 24 years), Asia and the Pacific (36 vs. 29) and North America (40 vs. 37).

**Regional Median Ages of Jews Compared with Overall Median Ages, 2010**



Regions are ordered by median age of Jews from youngest to oldest.

Median age is not presented when reliable age structure data are unavailable.

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Table: Religious Composition by Country

COUNTRY	2010 COUNTRY POPULATION	PERCENT CHRISTIAN	PERCENT MUSLIM	PERCENT UNAFFIL.	PERCENT HINDU	PERCENT BUDDHIST	PERCENT FOLK RELIGION	PERCENT OTHER RELIGION	PERCENT JEWISH
Afghanistan	31,410,000	0.1 %	99.7 %	< 0.1 %	< 0.1 %	< 0.1 %	< 0.1 %	< 0.1 %	< 0.1 %
Albania	3,200,000	18.0	80.3	1.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
Algeria	35,470,000	0.2	97.9	1.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
American Samoa	70,000	98.3	< 0.1	0.7	< 0.1	0.3	0.4	0.3	< 0.1
Andorra	80,000	89.5	0.8	8.8	0.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	0.3
Angola	19,080,000	90.5	0.2	5.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	4.2	< 0.1	< 0.1
Anguilla	20,000	90.6	0.3	4.0	0.4	< 0.1	2.9	1.6	0.1
Antigua and Barbuda	90,000	93.0	0.6	1.7	0.2	< 0.1	3.6	1.0	< 0.1
Argentina	40,410,000	85.2	1.0	12.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	0.3	0.5
Armenia	3,090,000	98.5	< 0.1	1.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	< 0.1
Aruba	110,000	91.9	0.2	6.0	< 0.1	0.1	1.3	0.1	0.4
Australia	22,270,000	67.3	2.4	24.2	1.4	2.7	0.7	0.8	0.5
Austria	8,390,000	80.4	5.4	13.5	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1	0.1	0.2
Azerbaijan	9,190,000	3.0	96.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Bahamas	340,000	96.0	0.1	3.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	0.3	< 0.1
Bahrain	1,260,000	14.5	70.3	1.9	9.8	2.5	< 0.1	0.2	0.6
Bangladesh	148,690,000	0.2	89.8	< 0.1	9.1	0.5	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1
Barbados	270,000	95.2	1.0	1.9	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.4	< 0.1
Belarus	9,600,000	71.2	0.2	28.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Belgium	10,710,000	64.2	5.9	29.0	< 0.1	0.2	0.2	< 0.1	0.3
Belize	310,000	87.6	0.1	8.9	0.2	0.5	1.5	0.1	1.0
Benin	8,850,000	53.0	23.8	5.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	18.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Bermuda	60,000	75.0	1.1	19.4	< 0.1	0.5	3.0	0.8	0.3
Bhutan	730,000	0.5	0.2	< 0.1	22.6	74.7	1.9	< 0.1	< 0.1
Bolivia	9,930,000	93.9	< 0.1	4.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.9	1.0	< 0.1
Bosnia-Herzegovina	3,760,000	52.3	45.2	2.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Botswana	2,010,000	72.1	0.4	20.6	0.3	< 0.1	6.0	0.6	< 0.1
Brazil	194,950,000	88.9	< 0.1	7.9	< 0.1	0.1	2.8	0.2	< 0.1
British Virgin Islands	20,000	84.5	1.2	3.9	1.2	< 0.1	8.4	0.8	< 0.1
Brunei	400,000	9.4	75.1	0.4	0.3	8.6	6.2	0.1	< 0.1
Bulgaria	7,490,000	82.1	13.7	4.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Burkina Faso	16,470,000	22.5	61.6	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	15.4	< 0.1	< 0.1
Burma (Myanmar)	47,960,000	7.8	4.0	0.5	1.7	80.1	5.8	0.2	< 0.1
Burundi	8,380,000	91.5	2.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	5.7	< 0.1	< 0.1
Cambodia	14,140,000	0.4	2.0	0.2	< 0.1	96.9	0.6	< 0.1	< 0.1
Cameroon	19,600,000	70.3	18.3	5.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	3.3	2.7	< 0.1
Canada	34,020,000	69.0	2.1	23.7	1.4	0.8	1.2	0.9	1.0
Cape Verde	500,000	89.1	0.1	9.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.5	0.2	< 0.1
Cayman Islands	60,000	83.5	0.4	9.4	0.9	< 0.1	4.5	0.6	0.8

## PEW FORUM ON RELIGION &amp; PUBLIC LIFE

COUNTRY	2010 COUNTRY POPULATION	PERCENT CHRISTIAN	PERCENT MUSLIM	PERCENT UNAFFIL.	PERCENT HINDU	PERCENT BUDDHIST	PERCENT FOLK RELIGION	PERCENT OTHER RELIGION	PERCENT JEWISH
Central African Republic	4,400,000	89.5	8.5	1.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.0	< 0.1	< 0.1
Chad	11,230,000	40.6	55.3	2.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.4	0.1	< 0.1
Channel Islands	150,000	85.2	< 0.1	14.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1
Chile	17,110,000	89.4	< 0.1	8.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.5	0.2	0.1
China	1,341,340,000	5.1	1.8	52.2	< 0.1	18.2	21.9	0.7	< 0.1
Colombia	46,290,000	92.5	< 0.1	6.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	< 0.1	< 0.1
Comoros	730,000	0.5	98.3	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.0	< 0.1	< 0.1
Cook Islands	20,000	96.0	< 0.1	3.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	< 0.1
Costa Rica	4,660,000	90.9	< 0.1	7.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	0.3	< 0.1
Croatia	4,400,000	93.4	1.4	5.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Cuba	11,260,000	59.2	< 0.1	23.0	0.2	< 0.1	17.4	< 0.1	< 0.1
Cyprus	1,100,000	73.2	25.3	1.2	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Czech Republic	10,490,000	23.3	< 0.1	76.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	65,970,000	95.8	1.5	1.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.7	0.1	< 0.1
Denmark	5,550,000	83.5	4.1	11.8	0.4	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Djibouti	890,000	2.3	96.9	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1	0.2
Dominica	70,000	94.4	0.1	0.5	< 0.1	0.1	3.0	1.7	< 0.1
Dominican Republic	9,930,000	88.0	< 0.1	10.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.9	0.1	< 0.1
Ecuador	14,460,000	94.1	< 0.1	5.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1	< 0.1
Egypt	81,120,000	5.1	94.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
El Salvador	6,190,000	88.2	< 0.1	11.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.5	0.3	< 0.1
Equatorial Guinea	700,000	88.7	4.0	5.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.7	0.5	< 0.1
Eritrea	5,250,000	62.9	36.6	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1
Estonia	1,340,000	39.9	0.2	59.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1
Ethiopia	82,950,000	62.8	34.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.6	< 0.1	< 0.1
Faeroe Islands	50,000	98.0	< 0.1	1.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1
Falkland Is. (Malvinas)	< 10,000	67.2	0.3	31.5	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1	0.8	< 0.1
Fed. States of Micronesia	110,000	95.3	< 0.1	0.9	< 0.1	0.4	2.7	0.7	< 0.1
Fiji	860,000	64.4	6.3	0.8	27.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.5	< 0.1
Finland	5,360,000	81.6	0.8	17.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
France	62,790,000	63.0	7.5	28.0	< 0.1	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5
French Guiana	230,000	84.4	0.9	3.4	1.6	< 0.1	9.1	0.5	< 0.1
French Polynesia	270,000	94.0	< 0.1	4.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.5	0.4	< 0.1
Gabon	1,510,000	76.5	11.2	5.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	6.0	0.7	< 0.1
Gambia	1,730,000	4.5	95.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Georgia	4,350,000	88.5	10.7	0.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Germany	82,300,000	68.7	5.8	24.7	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1	0.1	0.3
Ghana	24,390,000	74.9	15.8	4.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	4.9	0.2	< 0.1
Gibraltar	30,000	88.8	4.0	2.9	1.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	2.1
Greece	11,360,000	88.1	5.3	6.1	0.1	< 0.1	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1

## GLOBAL RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

COUNTRY	2010 COUNTRY POPULATION	PERCENT CHRISTIAN	PERCENT MUSLIM	PERCENT UNAFFIL.	PERCENT HINDU	PERCENT BUDDHIST	PERCENT FOLK RELIGION	PERCENT OTHER RELIGION	PERCENT JEWISH
Greenland	60,000	96.1	< 0.1	2.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	0.6	< 0.1
Grenada	100,000	96.6	0.3	1.0	0.7	< 0.1	1.3	0.2	< 0.1
Guadeloupe	460,000	95.9	0.4	2.5	0.5	< 0.1	0.4	0.4	< 0.1
Guam	180,000	94.2	< 0.1	1.7	< 0.1	1.1	1.5	1.6	< 0.1
Guatemala	14,390,000	95.2	< 0.1	4.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.6	< 0.1	< 0.1
Guinea	9,980,000	10.9	84.4	1.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.7	< 0.1	< 0.1
Guinea Bissau	1,520,000	19.7	45.1	4.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	30.9	< 0.1	< 0.1
Guyana	750,000	66.0	6.4	2.0	24.9	< 0.1	0.2	0.6	< 0.1
Haiti	9,990,000	86.9	< 0.1	10.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.2	0.3	< 0.1
Honduras	7,600,000	87.6	0.1	10.5	< 0.1	0.1	1.1	0.6	< 0.1
Hong Kong	7,050,000	14.3	1.8	56.1	0.4	13.2	12.8	1.5	< 0.1
Hungary	9,980,000	81.0	< 0.1	18.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1
Iceland	320,000	95.0	0.2	3.5	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.2	< 0.1
India	1,224,610,000	2.5	14.4	< 0.1	79.5	0.8	0.5	2.3	< 0.1
Indonesia	239,870,000	9.9	87.2	< 0.1	1.7	0.7	0.3	0.1	< 0.1
Iran	73,970,000	0.2	99.5	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
Iraq	31,670,000	0.8	99.0	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Ireland	4,470,000	92.0	1.1	6.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1
Isle of Man	80,000	84.1	0.2	15.4	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Israel	7,420,000	2.0	18.6	3.1	< 0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	75.6
Italy	60,550,000	83.3	3.7	12.4	0.1	0.2	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Ivory Coast	19,740,000	44.1	37.5	8.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	10.2	0.2	< 0.1
Jamaica	2,740,000	77.2	< 0.1	17.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	4.5	1.0	< 0.1
Japan	126,540,000	1.6	0.2	57.0	< 0.1	36.2	0.4	4.7	< 0.1
Jordan	6,190,000	2.2	97.2	< 0.1	0.1	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Kazakhstan	16,030,000	24.8	70.4	4.2	< 0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	< 0.1
Kenya	40,510,000	84.8	9.7	2.5	0.1	< 0.1	1.7	1.2	< 0.1
Kiribati	100,000	97.0	< 0.1	0.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.2	< 0.1
Kosovo	2,080,000	11.4	87.0	1.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Kuwait	2,740,000	14.3	74.1	< 0.1	8.5	2.8	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1
Kyrgyzstan	5,330,000	11.4	88.0	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Laos	6,200,000	1.5	< 0.1	0.9	< 0.1	66.0	30.7	0.7	< 0.1
Latvia	2,250,000	55.8	0.1	43.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
Lebanon	4,230,000	38.3	61.3	0.3	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Lesotho	2,170,000	96.8	< 0.1	3.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Liberia	3,990,000	85.9	12.0	1.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.5	0.1	< 0.1
Libya	6,360,000	2.7	96.6	0.2	< 0.1	0.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Liechtenstein	40,000	91.9	5.0	2.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1
Lithuania	3,320,000	89.8	< 0.1	10.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Luxembourg	510,000	70.4	2.3	26.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	0.1

TABLE: RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION BY COUNTRY

COUNTRY	2010 COUNTRY POPULATION	PERCENT CHRISTIAN	PERCENT MUSLIM	PERCENT UNAFFIL.	PERCENT HINDU	PERCENT BUDDHIST	PERCENT FOLK RELIGION	PERCENT OTHER RELIGION	PERCENT JEWISH
Macau	540,000	7.2	0.2	15.4	< 0.1	17.3	58.9	1.0	< 0.1
Madagascar	20,710,000	85.3	3.0	6.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	4.5	< 0.1	< 0.1
Malawi	14,900,000	82.7	13.0	2.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.7	< 0.1	< 0.1
Malaysia	28,400,000	9.4	63.7	0.7	6.0	17.7	2.3	0.2	< 0.1
Maldives	320,000	0.4	98.4	< 0.1	0.3	0.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Mali	15,370,000	3.2	92.4	2.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.6	< 0.1	< 0.1
Malta	420,000	97.0	0.2	2.5	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Marshall Islands	50,000	97.5	< 0.1	1.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	0.8	< 0.1
Martinique	410,000	96.5	0.2	2.3	0.2	< 0.1	0.2	0.6	< 0.1
Mauritania	3,460,000	0.3	99.1	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.5	< 0.1	< 0.1
Mauritius	1,300,000	25.3	16.7	0.6	56.4	< 0.1	0.7	0.3	< 0.1
Mayotte	200,000	0.7	98.6	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.5	< 0.1	< 0.1
Mexico	113,420,000	95.1	< 0.1	4.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Moldova	3,570,000	97.4	0.6	1.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.6
Monaco	40,000	86.0	0.4	11.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	1.7
Mongolia	2,760,000	2.3	3.2	35.9	< 0.1	55.1	3.5	< 0.1	< 0.1
Montenegro	630,000	78.1	18.7	3.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Montserrat	< 10,000	93.5	< 0.1	4.8	0.1	< 0.1	0.2	1.5	< 0.1
Morocco	31,950,000	< 0.1	99.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Mozambique	23,390,000	56.7	18.0	17.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	7.4	< 0.1	< 0.1
Namibia	2,280,000	97.5	0.3	1.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1
Nauru	10,000	79.0	< 0.1	4.5	< 0.1	1.1	8.1	7.4	< 0.1
Nepal	29,960,000	0.5	4.6	0.3	80.7	10.3	3.7	< 0.1	< 0.1
Netherlands	16,610,000	50.6	6.0	42.1	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Netherlands Antilles	200,000	93.9	0.2	3.3	0.2	0.5	1.2	0.3	0.3
New Caledonia	250,000	85.2	2.8	10.4	< 0.1	0.6	0.2	0.8	< 0.1
New Zealand	4,370,000	57.0	1.2	36.6	2.1	1.6	0.5	0.7	0.2
Nicaragua	5,790,000	85.8	< 0.1	12.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.4	0.1	< 0.1
Niger	15,510,000	0.8	98.4	0.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Nigeria	158,420,000	49.3	48.8	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.4	< 0.1	< 0.1
Niue	< 10,000	96.4	< 0.1	3.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
North Korea	24,350,000	2.0	< 0.1	71.3	< 0.1	1.5	12.3	12.9	< 0.1
Northern Mariana Is.	60,000	81.3	0.7	1.0	< 0.1	10.6	5.3	1.1	< 0.1
Norway	4,880,000	84.7	3.7	10.1	0.5	0.6	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
Oman	2,780,000	6.5	85.9	0.2	5.5	0.8	< 0.1	1.0	< 0.1
Pakistan	173,590,000	1.6	96.4	< 0.1	1.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Palau	20,000	86.7	< 0.1	1.2	< 0.1	0.8	0.8	10.4	< 0.1
Palestinian territories	4,040,000	2.4	97.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Panama	3,520,000	93.0	0.7	4.8	< 0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.4
Papua New Guinea	6,860,000	99.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.4	0.2	< 0.1

## GLOBAL RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

COUNTRY	2010 COUNTRY POPULATION	PERCENT CHRISTIAN	PERCENT MUSLIM	PERCENT UNAFFIL.	PERCENT HINDU	PERCENT BUDDHIST	PERCENT FOLK RELIGION	PERCENT OTHER RELIGION	PERCENT JEWISH
Paraguay	6,450,000	96.9	< 0.1	1.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.7	0.2	< 0.1
Peru	29,080,000	95.5	< 0.1	3.0	< 0.1	0.2	1.0	0.3	< 0.1
Philippines	93,260,000	92.6	5.5	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.5	0.1	< 0.1
Poland	38,280,000	94.3	< 0.1	5.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Portugal	10,680,000	93.8	0.6	4.4	0.1	0.6	0.5	< 0.1	< 0.1
Puerto Rico	3,750,000	96.7	< 0.1	1.9	< 0.1	0.3	0.8	0.1	< 0.1
Qatar	1,760,000	13.8	67.7	0.9	13.8	3.1	< 0.1	0.7	< 0.1
Republic of Macedonia	2,060,000	59.3	39.3	1.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Republic of the Congo	4,040,000	85.9	1.2	9.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.8	1.1	< 0.1
Reunion	850,000	87.6	4.2	2.0	4.5	0.2	0.4	1.1	< 0.1
Romania	21,490,000	99.5	0.3	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Russia	142,960,000	73.3	10.0	16.2	< 0.1	0.1	0.2	< 0.1	0.2
Rwanda	10,620,000	93.4	1.8	3.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.0	0.2	< 0.1
Samoa	180,000	96.8	< 0.1	2.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.4	< 0.1
San Marino	30,000	91.6	< 0.1	7.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.9	0.3
Sao Tome and Principe	170,000	82.2	< 0.1	12.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.9	2.4	< 0.1
Saudi Arabia	27,450,000	4.4	93.0	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	< 0.1
Senegal	12,430,000	3.6	96.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Serbia	7,770,000	92.5	4.2	3.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Seychelles	90,000	94.0	1.1	2.1	2.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.6	< 0.1
Sierra Leone	5,870,000	20.9	78.0	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	< 0.1	< 0.1
Singapore	5,090,000	18.2	14.3	16.4	5.2	33.9	2.3	9.7	< 0.1
Slovakia	5,460,000	85.3	0.2	14.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Slovenia	2,030,000	78.4	3.6	18.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Solomon Islands	540,000	97.4	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1	0.3	1.3	0.7	< 0.1
Somalia	9,330,000	< 0.1	99.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
South Africa	50,130,000	81.2	1.7	14.9	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.1
South Korea	48,180,000	29.4	0.2	46.4	< 0.1	22.9	0.8	0.2	< 0.1
South Sudan	9,950,000	60.5	6.2	0.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	32.9	< 0.1	< 0.1
Spain	46,080,000	78.6	2.1	19.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1
Sri Lanka	20,860,000	7.3	9.8	< 0.1	13.6	69.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
St. Helena	< 10,000	96.5	< 0.1	3.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
St. Kitts and Nevis	50,000	94.6	0.3	1.6	1.5	< 0.1	1.3	0.8	< 0.1
St. Lucia	170,000	91.1	0.1	6.0	0.3	< 0.1	0.5	2.0	< 0.1
St. Pierre and Miquelon	< 10,000	94.7	0.2	3.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.3	< 0.1
St. Vincent and the Gren.	110,000	88.7	1.5	2.5	3.4	< 0.1	2.0	2.0	< 0.1
Sudan	33,600,000	5.4	90.7	1.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.8	< 0.1	< 0.1
Suriname	520,000	51.6	15.2	5.4	19.8	0.6	5.3	1.8	0.2
Swaziland	1,190,000	88.1	0.2	10.1	0.1	< 0.1	1.0	0.4	< 0.1
Sweden	9,380,000	67.2	4.6	27.0	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.1

TABLE: RELIGIOUS COMPOSITION BY COUNTRY

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Switzerland	7,660,000	81.3	5.5	11.9	0.4	0.4	< 0.1	0.1	0.3
Syria	20,410,000	5.2	92.8	2.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Taiwan	23,220,000	5.5	< 0.1	12.7	< 0.1	21.3	44.2	16.2	< 0.1
Tajikistan	6,880,000	1.6	96.7	1.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Tanzania	44,840,000	61.4	35.2	1.4	0.1	< 0.1	1.8	< 0.1	< 0.1
Thailand	69,120,000	0.9	5.5	0.3	0.1	93.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Timor-Leste	1,120,000	99.6	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Togo	6,030,000	43.7	14.0	6.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	35.6	0.6	< 0.1
Tokelau	< 10,000	99.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
Tonga	100,000	98.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.9	< 0.1
Trinidad and Tobago	1,340,000	65.9	5.9	1.9	22.7	0.3	1.9	1.4	< 0.1
Tunisia	10,480,000	0.2	99.5	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Turkey	72,750,000	0.4	98.0	1.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1
Turkmenistan	5,040,000	6.4	93.0	0.5	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Turks and Caicos Islands	40,000	92.1	< 0.1	4.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.7	0.6	< 0.1
Tuvalu	< 10,000	96.7	0.1	1.3	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.9	< 0.1
Uganda	33,420,000	86.7	11.5	0.5	0.3	< 0.1	0.9	0.1	< 0.1
Ukraine	45,450,000	83.8	1.2	14.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1
United Arab Emirates	7,510,000	12.6	76.9	1.1	6.6	2.0	< 0.1	0.8	< 0.1
United Kingdom	62,040,000	71.1	4.4	21.3	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.5
United States	310,380,000	78.3	0.9	16.4	0.6	1.2	0.2	0.6	1.8
Uruguay	3,370,000	57.9	< 0.1	40.7	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	0.3	0.3
U.S. Virgin Islands	110,000	94.8	0.1	3.7	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.6	0.3
Uzbekistan	27,440,000	2.3	96.7	0.8	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Vanuatu	240,000	93.3	< 0.1	1.2	< 0.1	< 0.1	4.1	1.4	< 0.1
Vatican City	< 10,000	>99.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Venezuela	28,980,000	89.3	0.3	10.0	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	< 0.1	< 0.1
Vietnam	87,850,000	8.2	0.2	29.6	< 0.1	16.4	45.3	0.4	< 0.1
Wallis and Futuna	10,000	97.4	< 0.1	0.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.2	0.8	< 0.1
Western Sahara	530,000	0.2	99.4	0.4	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Yemen	24,050,000	0.2	99.1	0.1	0.6	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
Zambia	13,090,000	97.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	< 0.1	0.3	0.9	< 0.1
Zimbabwe	12,570,000	87.0	0.9	7.9	< 0.1	< 0.1	3.8	0.3	< 0.1
Asia-Pacific	4,054,990,000	7.1	24.3	21.2	25.3	11.9	9.0	1.3	< 0.1
Europe	742,550,000	75.2	5.9	18.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Latin America-Caribbean	590,080,000	90.0	0.1	7.7	0.1	< 0.1	1.7	0.2	< 0.1
Middle East-North Africa	341,020,000	3.7	93.0	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.3	< 0.1	1.6
North America	344,530,000	77.4	1.0	17.1	0.7	1.1	0.3	0.6	1.8
Sub-Saharan Africa	822,720,000	62.9	30.2	3.2	0.2	< 0.1	3.3	0.2	< 0.1
<b>World</b>	<b>6,895,890,000</b>	<b>31.5</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>

## Appendix A: Methodology

This study provides comprehensive demographic estimates of the size and distribution of eight major religious groups in the 232 countries and territories for which the United Nations Population Division provides general population estimates as of 2010.<sup>16</sup> It includes estimates for Christians, Muslims, the religiously unaffiliated, Hindus, Buddhists, folk religionists, adherents of other religions and Jews. This study also provides estimates for the median ages of these religious groups at the regional and global level.

This appendix describes various stages of the work that led to this study. First, it describes the data and procedures used to derive estimates of the overall religious composition of each country. Second, it describes the procedures used to estimate religious composition in each country by age and sex (e.g., males between the ages 0-4, or females ages 95+). (This data was needed to help calculate the median ages of the religious groups.) Third, this appendix describes how additional data on fertility, migration and religious switching were collected. (This information was used to project the religious composition of countries to 2010 when the primary data on religious composition for a country was collected prior to 2008.) The appendix ends with a discussion about measuring religion in China, notes about estimates that vary from previously published Pew Forum reports and a list of the countries included within each of the six regions used in this report.

### General Procedures for Composition Estimates

#### Data Collection and Documentation

Pew Forum researchers acquired and analyzed religious composition information from about 2,500 data sources, including censuses, demographic surveys, general population surveys and other studies – the largest project of its kind to date. Censuses were the primary source for Pew Forum religious composition estimates in 90 countries, which together cover 45% of all people in the world.<sup>17</sup> Large-scale demographic surveys were the primary sources for an additional 43 countries, representing 12% of the global population. General population surveys were the primary source of data for an additional 42 countries, representing 37% of the global

<sup>16</sup> Population sizes in this study are based on the U.N.'s 2010 population estimate for each country and territory. The U.N. provided special estimates for Sudan and the new nation of South Sudan. The population estimate for Kosovo is based on the figure from the World Religion Database, which is deducted from the U.N.'s Serbia estimate.

<sup>17</sup> Census data were among the sources considered for many other countries. For example, Pew Forum researchers studied 2001 census round data in Canada and in the United Kingdom, but they ultimately relied on more recent demographic surveys collected by the census agencies in each country. This enabled the researchers to capture substantial changes in religious populations since 2001. In some countries that collect ethnic group data but not religion data on their census, the census was an important secondary resource. For example, in Russia and China, certain ethnic populations are predominantly Muslim, so the size of these groups is a useful indicator of the size of the Muslim population in each country.

population. Together, censuses or surveys provided estimates for 175 countries representing 95% of the world's population. In the remaining 57 countries, representing 5% of the world's population, the primary sources for the religious-composition estimates include population registers and institutional membership statistics reported in the World Religion Database and other sources. A list of the primary sources used to estimate the overall religious composition of each country is provided in Appendix B.

Censuses and nationally representative surveys can provide valid and reliable measures of religious landscapes when they are conducted following the best practices of social science research. Valid measurement in censuses and surveys also requires that respondents are free to provide information without fear of negative governmental or social consequences. However, variation in methods among censuses and surveys (including sampling, question wording, response categories and period of data collection) can lead to variation in results. Social, cultural or political factors also may affect how answers to census and survey questions are provided and recorded.

### Standardization of Religious Categories and Measurement Strategies

At least three researchers worked together to produce each country's religious composition estimates, observing the general procedures and considerations described below.

Pew Forum researchers standardized religion categories in all available censuses and surveys for each country. Censuses and surveys collect religious identity at different levels of specificity. For example, depending on the source, the most specific level of affiliation measured could be Christian, Protestant, Baptist or Southern Baptist. Researchers coded religious identities into standard categories that aggregate into the eight major religious categories used in this report.

The measure of religious identity in this study is sociological rather than theological. In order to have statistics that are comparable across countries, the study attempts to count individuals who self-identify with each religion. This includes people who hold beliefs that may be viewed as unorthodox or heretical by others who claim the same religion. It also includes people who do not regularly practice the behaviors prescribed by their religion, such as those who seldom pray or attend worship services.

### Identifying Primary Source(s) for Religious Composition Estimates

After considering all evidence available, researchers identified one or more primary sources for each religious composition estimate. Researchers sought a recent, reliable source – ideally, a census or large-scale demographic survey. Researchers favored sources in which religion was



measured with a single question that permitted respondents to identify specific affiliations or no affiliation at all.<sup>18</sup>

Nationally representative surveys were occasionally chosen as a primary source rather than a census or demographic survey due to limitations in the measurement of religion in the latter sources. In Vietnam, for example, the 2009 census and the 2005 Demographic and Health Survey did not adequately measure folk religion identities. Researchers instead relied on the 2005 Asian Barometer survey, which measured a wider range of religious identities, including identification with folk religions.

### Making Adjustments for Groups Not Adequately Measured

As necessary, researchers made adjustments to the primary source(s) to account for omitted or underrepresented groups since small minority groups are sometimes not measured or not reported in surveys and censuses. Multiple survey sources, denomination counts and estimates produced by country experts for each nation were used to assess whether minority religious groups were omitted or undercounted in the selected primary source(s).

In cases where censuses and surveys lacked sufficient detail on minority groups, the estimates also drew on estimates provided by the World Religion Database, which takes into account other sources of information on religious affiliation, including statistical reports from religious groups themselves.

### Adjusting for Limitations in a Survey Questionnaire

Usually, researchers assumed that members of underrepresented groups were included in the sample but were not adequately measured by the survey instrument. Adjustments frequently were made among people who responded “other religion” or failed to answer the religion question. In a few cases, the study made adjustments based on evidence that political, legal, or cultural dynamics in a country compromised the validity of self-reported religious identity.

In India, for instance, there is evidence of a Christian undercount in the 2001 census; some Christians who belong to Scheduled Castes (historically referred to as Untouchables or Dalits) choose to identify as Hindu when completing official forms such as the census.<sup>19</sup> This is due to a mandate in the Indian constitution that specifies that only Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists can

<sup>18</sup> The wording of religious identity questions varies across censuses and surveys, but the ideal measure is a direct one-step question, such as “What is your religion?” In contrast, many European surveys use a two-step question, such as, “Are you religious? If yes, what is your religion?” Two-step questions do not correspond well with census religion questions, which are usually one-step, direct measures. Furthermore, in many countries two-step questions seem to filter out many respondents who might otherwise claim a religious identity but who do not consider themselves as having a significant level of religious commitment.

<sup>19</sup> This phenomenon is discussed in Kumar M, Ashok and Rowena Robinson. 2010. “Legally Hindu: Dalit Lutheran Christians of Coastal Andhra Pradesh” in “Margins of Faith: Dalit and Tribal Christianity in India,” edited by Rowena Robinson and Joseph Marianus Kujur. Sage Publications.

receive caste-based government affirmative-action benefits (known as reservations in India).<sup>20</sup> After analyzing Indian survey data and convening a special consultation on this topic with leading India demographers at the 2010 Asian Population Association's meeting in New Delhi, Pew Forum researchers adjusted the Christian population of India's 2001 population from 2.3% to 2.6%, assuming a 10% undercount in the census. In this case, the adjustment comes from the Hindu category. (Hinduism is the most common religion in India.)

### Adjusting for Sampling Limitations

In some situations, underrepresented groups are likely to be omitted from the sample itself. For example, recent migrants who may not be fluent in the language used in a survey are often missing in samples. Accounting for groups not included in the sample requires proportionately deflating survey data to account for underrepresented populations. For example, researchers made adjustments to survey-based estimates in Europe where they found evidence that some survey samples and population registers underrepresented Muslim migrants.

In this study, researchers sought to ensure that primary sources were representative of the entire country. When this was not the case, it was usually due to concerns about the safety of interviewers and census takers or disputes about political boundaries. In such cases, researchers attempted to make appropriate adjustments or find an alternative data source that was nationally representative.

For example, the 2001 Sri Lankan census was not conducted in a handful of northern and eastern districts because of perilous conditions due to armed conflict. After analyzing religion data from earlier censuses, Pew Forum researchers determined that the areas that were not covered by the 2001 census historically had a different makeup than the rest of the country. Pew Forum researchers adjusted the 2001 census data for Sri Lanka based on 1981 census data about regions omitted in the 2001 census.<sup>21</sup>

Religious identity is sometimes linked to ethnic identity, particularly for religious minorities. In a small number of countries where the census did not measure religious affiliation or where survey data on religious affiliation had sampling limitations, researchers used ethnicity data to estimate the religious affiliation of small groups. For example, ethnicity data from the 2002 Russian census was used together with 2005 Generations and Gender Survey data to estimate the proportion of Muslims in Russia. The survey did not adequately sample the country's predominantly Muslim areas but it did provide information on the share of Muslims within ethnic

20 Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. <http://socialjustice.nic.in/faqs1.php#sc4>

21 There was no census in Sri Lanka in 1991.

groups associated with Islam.<sup>22</sup> This information, combined with census ethnicity data, was used to adjust the Muslim composition estimate in regions the survey sampled inadequately.

### Making Adjustments for the Religious Affiliation of Infants

Parents are sometimes hesitant to report a religious affiliation for their infant children even though they will claim a religion for the child when he or she is slightly older. Forum researchers observed evidence of this phenomenon in some Christian-majority countries where Christian parents were disproportionately describing their infants as religiously unaffiliated.

This is evident when comparing census numbers over multiple years. In Brazil, for example, the 2000 census reported that 11% of those ages 0-4 were unaffiliated. By the time of the 2010 census, only 8% of the same birth cohort (who were then 10 to 14 years old) was unaffiliated. While some of this change may be explained by mortality and migration, it is at least partly due to parents being more willing to describe their older children as Christians.

In order to compensate for this measurement bias in Brazil and a few other countries where there was considerable evidence of this phenomenon, Pew Forum researchers applied the religious composition of older children (those 5-9 years old) to infants and young children (those 0-4 years old). This adjustment was made only where there was a substantial difference between the religious composition of the youngest age group and children ages 5-9. (For countries in which this adjustment was made, there is a corresponding note in the list of sources by country in Appendix B.)

### Making Adjustments for Missing Religion Data

Some degree of missing data is found in most surveys and censuses. Census agencies typically make adjustments for missing data before reporting results. For example, though some respondents fail to answer questions about sex and age, census agencies follow procedures to impute missing values so it is not necessary to report “sex not stated” and “age not stated” as sex and age categories. Some census agencies, such as Statistics Canada, have historically imputed religion values for respondents who have not answered the census religion question.

The likelihood that religion data will be missing increases when religion questions are labeled as optional, as is the case in censuses in countries such as Australia, the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic.<sup>23</sup> Census agencies in countries where religion is labeled as an optional question often report “religion not stated” results alongside standard categories of affiliation and non-

22 Ethnicities with close links to Muslim identity include Tatars, Bashkirs, Chechens, Avars, Azeris, Kazakhs, Kabardian, Ossetians, Dargins, Kumyks, Ingush, Lezgins, Karachays, Adyghe, Balkar and Circassian.

23 The religion question became optional in the 2011 Czech Republic census. In that census, nearly half (45%) of Czech respondents did not state their religion. In other cases, non-response rates were more modest. For example, religion was not stated for about 8% of respondents in the 2011 Australian census.

affiliation. This strategy allows the census agencies to demonstrate that answering their religion question was indeed optional. However, for purposes of this study, the “religion not stated” category is not a meaningful religious identity. Therefore, after making any necessary adjustments for undercounted groups, religious shares were re-calculated based on the population of all people who gave valid responses to the census or survey. The effect of this approach was to proportionately raise the shares of all religious groups, including the religiously unaffiliated.

Following the procedures described above, researchers produced national-level estimates of the religious composition of each country for the year measured by the primary source. In order to report 2010 population figures, the religious composition percentages based on data collected in 2008 or later have been multiplied by the U.N.’s 2010 population estimate for each country and territory.<sup>24</sup> Estimates based on data collected prior to 2008 have been projected forward to 2010. These projections required additional information, including the religious composition of age and sex groups within each country.

Researchers from the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) in Laxenburg, Austria, collaborated with Pew Forum researchers on data collection and religious composition estimates for Europe; Pew Forum researchers gathered data outside Europe. IIASA researchers also collaborated on development of the procedures described below, which were used to standardize information across countries for age breakdowns, childbearing patterns, migration flows and religious switching patterns. Researchers from the Vienna Institute of Demography provided initial estimates of country-to-country migrant flows by age and sex.

## Age Structure Procedures

Religious affiliation varies by age.<sup>25</sup> In this section, the phrase “age structure” is used as shorthand to refer to the religious composition of age-sex groups. In order to calculate the median ages of religious groups and carry out population projections, Pew Forum researchers assembled age structures for each of the eight religious groups in every country. Data on age structures were collected in 20 age categories (measured in five-year increments with a top value of 95 and above) for males and females (e.g. males between the ages of 15 and 19), resulting in a total of 40 categories.

Age structures were compiled in three steps. First, census or survey data were used to capture the religious affiliation of each available age group. Second, survey data on religion by age

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<sup>24</sup> Some data sources report figures for 2011. The religious distributions from these sources have also been applied to the U.N.’s 2010 population estimates.

<sup>25</sup> The religious affiliation of young people often differs from the affiliation of the older population due to religious switching, migration and variation in childbearing patterns by religion.

were adjusted to account for small sample sizes. And third, results were adjusted to match the religious breakdown by age and sex to each country's overall religious composition. These steps are described in detail below.

## Estimating Religion by Age and Sex

Pew Forum researchers constructed initial age structures by analyzing survey datasets, census datasets and tables published by census agencies. While censuses usually enumerate religion for the entire population, including children, general population surveys do not usually include interviews with children. Since age structures require religious affiliation data for children, children were assigned religious affiliations when necessary based on the best methods available. For datasets that measured religious affiliation only for adult respondents, yet included the number and ages of children (and other adults) in the household, researchers were able to estimate the religious affiliation of remaining household members. In most cases, the religious affiliation of the respondent or head of the household was assigned to all additional members of the household who were not surveyed.<sup>26</sup> For surveys that did not offer household information, such as the AmericasBarometer or the European Values Study, children were assigned a religious affiliation based on the fertility patterns and religious affiliation of women of child-bearing age, as well as information about the religious affiliation of the youngest respondents measured in the survey.

For many countries, reliable age data were not available for all eight religious groups. Sometimes a survey indicated the overall size of a small religious group yet lacked sufficient numbers to reliably estimate the group's age breakdown. In such cases, the age breakdowns of minority religious groups were based on the country's overall age distribution or the combined age distribution of respondents from all minority religions in a survey.

## Adjustments to Minimize Errors Due to Sample Size

The reliability of survey estimates is partly dependent on the number of people surveyed (the sample size). Since respondents who identify with religious groups are divided into 40 age and sex categories, the number of Muslims, for example, in any one age-sex category may be small and produce less reliable estimates than a larger count would produce. This introduces significant variation in patterns of religious affiliation by age: affiliation levels may bounce be-

26 Some demographic surveys, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys, ask the religious affiliation question only to members of the household who are in their reproductive years (usually between 15 and 49 years of age for women). Procedures used to assign religious affiliations to individuals in the Demographic and Health Surveys were validated against census data that enumerated all individuals in the country. Results of this validation exercise from Brazil, Ghana and Mozambique – countries that had both census data and data from Demographic and Health Surveys were presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the Population Association of America (Andrew Gully and Noble Kuriakose. "Can DHS Household Files be Used to Provide an Accurate Estimate of the Market Share and Age Structure of Large Religious Groups?").

tween highs and lows for consecutive age groups. To eliminate unlikely variation, researchers smoothed data using statistical procedures intended to reveal the general underlying pattern.<sup>27</sup>

Census data are not smoothed because census data represent a complete enumeration of all individuals living in a country. However, in some cases, the age categories reported by census agencies are in 10-year age groups or aggregated for all adults above a certain age, such as 60. Researchers used statistical modeling techniques to distribute the composition of these aggregated age groups across the more specific five-year age categories used in this study.

### Matching Religion by Age and Sex to Overall Population by Age and Sex

The overall religious affiliation resulting from the age structure procedures sometimes varies from the religious composition estimated for the country using the procedures described in the first section of this appendix. This difference exists for two reasons. First, the data sources used for the age-structure procedure may be different from the data sources used for the religious composition. Second, overall religious compositions were adjusted manually to account for undercounts and sampling issues.

In order to match the overall religious composition figures to the data on religion by age and sex, the age structure was adjusted. The adjustment procedure used is often referred to as Iterative Proportional Fitting (IPF), or raking. Raking makes adjustments to the percentages of religious affiliation for each age group without significantly altering the underlying religious affiliation patterns by age group. Additionally, raking is used to match each country's counts of males and females in particular age groups to the U.N.'s estimate of the country's overall age distribution.

When survey or census data on the differential religious composition of age-sex groups was not available, each age-sex group was assigned the same religious composition. Lack of differential religious composition data by age-sex group was most common in countries with very small populations.

### Sources for Age Structure Data

As mentioned above, the data source used for the country's age structure is sometimes different from the source used for the overall religious composition (see Appendix B for a list of religious-composition sources by country).<sup>28</sup> This is the case, for example, when census data with overall religious composition results are available but a detailed breakdown by age and

<sup>27</sup> Most smoothing methods rely on using multiple points on the x-axis that are below and above the current point (in this case, points refer to religious shares within age groups) to produce a new value. For example, the religious affiliation shares of those ages 80-84 and 90-94 were taken into account in order to smooth the affiliation shares of those ages 85-89.

<sup>28</sup> Forthcoming Pew Forum reports will provide country-by-country bibliographic information for sources used to construct age structures.

sex is not released by the census bureau; another source must therefore be used to generate the age structure. Sources are also different when multiple waves of a survey series have to be combined in order to have a sample size large enough to construct reliable age structures.

Age structures were further adjusted in countries where the age structure data source is much older than the source used for the religious composition of the country. In order to harmonize the data on overall religious affiliation with the age structure, the age structure data is aged in five-year projections while holding the religious composition constant.

In a small number of countries, age structures were estimated based in part on ethnicity or citizenship data. For example, all six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries release information on the age distribution of citizens and non-citizens, but only Bahrain further breaks this information down by Muslims and non-Muslims.<sup>29</sup> For this reason, age-distribution estimates for citizens and non-citizens in other GCC countries are modeled on Bahrain, where almost all citizens are Muslim but a substantial share of the non-citizen population is non-Muslim due to the influx of migrant workers.

## Projecting Populations to 2010

For many countries, Pew Forum researchers drew on data collected in or around 2010. In some cases, however, religious affiliation data were collected in or around the years 2000 or 2005. In those cases, researchers used additional data on differential fertility, age structures and migration to project populations forward to 2010. This is the first time that formal demographic projections have been used to standardize multi-national religious population data collected in different years. This is also the first project to collect and incorporate data on the size, sex composition and religious composition of migrant flows in global population projections.

Since people can also move between religious groups within a given country, religious switching was also taken into account for some countries.

Below is a description of the projection approach, as well as the procedures used to estimate differential fertility rates, the flow of religious migrants between countries and patterns of religious switching.

### The Projection Approach

The projections in this report were made by researchers in the Age and Cohort Change Project of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis using an advanced variation of the

<sup>29</sup> The six Gulf Cooperation Council countries are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



standard demographic method of making population projections. The standard approach is called the cohort-component method, and it takes the age and sex structure of a population into account when projecting the population forward in time. This has the advantage of recognizing that an initial baseline population can be relatively “young,” with a high proportion of people in younger age groups (such as Nigeria) or relatively “old,” with a high proportion of older people (such as Japan).

Cohorts are groups of people that had an experience in a particular time. A birth cohort, the type of cohort referenced in this context, comprises people born in a certain period. Birth cohorts can also be described as males or females (or males and females) who have reached a certain age in a particular year. For example, the cohorts of females ages 15-19 in the year 2000 and males ages 15-19 in the year 2000 shared the experience of being born between 1981 and 1985.

Components are the three ways in which populations grow or shrink: new entrants via births, exits via deaths and net changes from migration. Each cohort of the population is projected into the future by adding likely gains – births and people moving into the country (immigrants) – and subtracting likely losses – deaths and people moving out (emigrants) – year-by-year. The very youngest cohorts, those ages 0-4, are created by applying age-specific fertility rates to each female cohort in the childbearing years (ages 15-49).<sup>30</sup>

The cohort-component method has been in existence for more than a century. First suggested by the English economist Edwin Cannan in 1895, then further improved by demographers in the 1930s and '40s, it has been widely adopted since World War II. It is used by the United Nations Population Division, the U.S. Census Bureau, other national statistical offices and numerous academic and research institutions.

The advanced variant of this approach, multistate cohort component projection, was developed at IIASA by the American geographer Andrei Rogers in the 1970s. The multistate approach permits simultaneous projection of the eight religious groups in this study, taking into account variation by religion in age, sex, childbearing patterns, and propensity and direction of migration. This approach also enables modeling of religious switching as a transition between religious “states.”

The country-by-country source list in Appendix B acknowledges when the religious composition of a country has been projected. Projections have been carried out for all countries with populations greater than 100,000 for which the primary source data used for composition estimates were collected prior to 2008. For countries with populations below 100,000, and in

30 The number of children age 0-4 projected to join a population is also influenced by infant and child mortality rates and migration rates incorporated in the projection model.



larger countries with data collected from 2008 or afterward, the population shares estimated for the year of the primary source have been applied to the country's population as of 2010.

### Estimating Fertility

In many countries, there are substantial differences in the number of children born to women across religions. Furthermore, religious groups often vary in the share of women in their population who are of childbearing age. Differences in childbearing and age-structure patterns combine to produce differences in the rates at which babies are born to adult members across religions.<sup>31</sup>

Fertility data was gathered from censuses and surveys, and fertility rates were estimated via direct and indirect measures. Some censuses and surveys directly measure recent births or the count of children a woman has ever given birth to by the time of the survey. In other cases, fertility data were gathered indirectly, for example, by using data on the age of a mother's children to estimate her past birth patterns. These various sources of fertility data were used to estimate age specific and total fertility rates for religious groups in each country.<sup>32</sup>

In many countries, data on differential fertility is available for the largest religious groups but sufficient detail is not available for all minority religious groups. In Nigeria, for example, more than 98% of women of reproductive age are either Christian or Muslim, and there is sufficient data for estimating fertility for these two groups. For other groups in Nigeria, however, researchers had to base estimates on more limited data. Similarly, there are many countries in which one religious group makes up 95% or more of the women of reproductive age, resulting in a relatively small number of women of other religions providing fertility data.

In some countries, differential fertility data by religion were not available. In these cases, researchers applied prevailing national fertility rates to all religious groups equally.

### Estimating the Size and Religious Composition of Migrant Flows

Accounting for migration in religious-group projections is important because migration can significantly change the religious landscape of countries. For example, the movement of Turkish and North African Muslims to Europe during the past decade has steadily increased the Muslim population in most Western European countries. Similarly, the movements of Hindus from India and Christians from the Philippines to Gulf Cooperation Council countries are making these Muslim-majority countries less Muslim. To accurately estimate the impact of these changes, projections require input data on migrant flows between countries by religion.

31 Results from the analysis of fertility differences by religion will be presented in a future Pew Forum report that will project the future growth of major religious groups. In this report, information on differential fertility is used in projections to the year 2010.

32 The total fertility rate (TFR) is the total number of children an average woman would have in her lifetime if fertility patterns did not change. The TFR is calculated by adding the birth rates among women in each age group in a particular country during a given period; in other words, it is a kind of snapshot of fertility patterns at one place and time.

Data describing the size and religious composition of migrant flows were pieced together in two steps. The first step was to estimate the size of migrant flows for males and females to and from every country in the world since the year 2000. This was carried out using immigrant stock data from the World Bank and the Pew Forum's Global Religion and Migration Database.<sup>33</sup> The plausibility of this data was checked against U.N. net migration estimates and available flow data from countries. Slight adjustments were made to flow estimates where underlying data were less reliable.

The second step was to identify the religious composition of migrants moving from one country to another. Sometimes researchers assumed migrants leaving a country had the religious composition of the country they were leaving. However, in many cases researchers had evidence to challenge this assumption. Specifically, religious minorities in a sending country may be disproportionately likely to migrate to a country in which their religion is in the majority. For example, in the Middle East, Christians are more likely than Muslims to move to the United States. The Pew Forum's Global Religion and Migration Database captures such dynamics for many of the world's large migrant pathways. It was therefore used to improve estimates of the religious breakdown of large migrant flows between a series of key countries.<sup>34</sup>

Researchers have identified general age and sex patterns of cross-national migration. Using empirical data and research-based observations about the age and sex structures of migrant flows, researchers were able to model flows of migrants by five year age-sex cohorts and religion.

### Estimating Religious Switching

In many advanced industrial countries, religious switching is producing substantial changes in the religious landscape. While there is evidence of many different types of religious switching, in many countries one of the profound shifts is a net movement toward being religiously unaffiliated. In a few of the countries that were projected to 2010 for this report (specifically, Austria, Germany and Italy), there was evidence that substantial religious switching was occurring and data were available to model switching in the population projections.

The input data for the analysis of religious switching in this report is a comparison of reports of religious origins and current religion for adults ages 30-54 in recent general population surveys. By comparing reports of respondents' childhood and current religion, researchers estimated transition rates between all religious groups. These switching rates were calculated

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33 A detailed methodology for estimating global flows can be found at Abel, Guy J. 2012. "Estimating Global Migration Flow Tables Using Place of Birth Data." Vienna Institute of Demography. [http://www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/download/WP2012\\_01.pdf](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/vid/download/WP2012_01.pdf).

34 A detailed methodology for the Pew Forum's Global Religion and Migration Database and sources can be found at <http://www.pewforum.org/faith-on-the-move.aspx>.

separately for males and females. The overall rate of religious change was then applied to cohorts ages 15-29 in population projections. For projection purposes, each person was allowed one switch, which is all that is directly measured in the surveys this method draws upon.

Religious switching results and elaboration of this approach will be described in greater detail in future Pew Forum reports.

## Other Topics

### China

For most countries, estimates for the size of the eight religious groups are based on one or two primary sources. In China, however, they come from several sources because, as described in detail in a previous Pew Forum demographic study, data on religion in China are deficient.<sup>35</sup> The following description summarizes the various sources used to estimate the size of each religious group in China.

*Muslims.* Most Chinese Muslims belong to one of several ethnic groups that are overwhelmingly Muslim. The 2000 Chinese census included a measure on ethnicity. While not all members of these ethnic groups would necessarily identify as Muslim, the census figures provide a reasonable and generally accepted approximation of the size of China's Muslim population.

*Christians.* Because there is some evidence that on public opinion surveys Christians may underreport their religious identity, the Pew Forum reviewed multiple sources to arrive at an approximation of the size of China's Christian population. For details, see Appendix C: Methodology for China, in the Pew Forum's December 2011 report "Global Christianity."

*Hindus and Jews.* Members of these two religious groups are predominantly expatriates and are relatively few in number.<sup>36</sup> The Pew Forum's estimates for Hindus and Jews in China rely primarily on the World Religion Database.

*Buddhists, other world religions, folk religionists and the religiously unaffiliated.* Estimates for these four religious groups are based on an analysis by Pew Forum staff of the 2007 Spiritual Life

<sup>35</sup> For a discussion of data challenges in China, see Appendix C: Methodology for China, in the Pew Forum's 2011 report, "Global Christianity: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Christian Population."

<sup>36</sup> See Leslie, Donald. 1972. "The Survival of the Chinese Jews: The Jewish Community of Kaifeng." Brill.

Study of Chinese Residents.<sup>37</sup> Estimates of the size of the Buddhist population and the number of members of other world religions – the largest being Taoism – come directly from the survey.<sup>38</sup>

*Folk religion.* The 2007 Spiritual Life Study of Chinese Residents did not offer respondents the same opportunity to choose folk religion as a religious category as it did to choose the five religions officially recognized by the Chinese government – Buddhism, Catholicism, Daoism, Islam and Protestantism.<sup>39</sup> Therefore, the estimate of folk religionists needed to be computed by considering the beliefs and practices reported by the survey participants. This study’s estimate of the share of the Chinese population affiliated with folk religion (22%) is based on conservative criteria that focused primarily on worshiping or believing in gods or spirits associated with Chinese folk religion.<sup>40</sup> If a broader range of beliefs and practices, such as fengshui practices, were included in the criteria, the estimate would be higher. Other estimates range from 30% by the World Religion Database to 55% by scholars Fenggang Yang and Anning Hu.<sup>41</sup>

*Religiously unaffiliated.* The unaffiliated are all who do not identify with one of the other religions.

## Differences Between Current Estimates and Previous Pew Forum Estimates

In a small number of countries, estimates of the size of Muslim and Christian populations reported in this study are more than 10 percentage points different from Pew Forum estimates previously published in “The Future of the Global Muslim Population” and “Global Christianity: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World’s Christian Population.”

Differences reflect the availability of more recent or higher-quality data on religious affiliation. In Brunei, the Czech Republic and Kazakhstan, for example, newer census data became available. In the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, such as Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar, Pew

37 The 2007 Spiritual Life Study of Chinese Residents (data archived at the Association of Religion Data Archives, <http://www.thearda.com/Archive/Files/Descriptions/SPRTCHNA.asp>) was a multi-stage random survey of mainland China administered in three municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai and Chongqing), six provincial capitals (Guangzhou, Nanjing, Wuhan, Hefei, Xi’an and Chengdu), 11 regional cities, 16 small towns and 20 administrative villages. No major cities in the west, the far northeast or on the south-central coast were surveyed. The study was conducted with face-to-face interviews of 7,021 Chinese adults ages 16 and older and had an American Association of Public Opinion Researchers response rate of 28.1%.

38 The 2010 Chinese General Social Survey conducted by Renmin University reportedly included a battery of questions on religion. The data for that survey were not publically available at the time of this analysis.

39 Scholars inside and outside of China clearly recognize Chinese folk religion as an important category. For instance, the authors of the “Blue Book of Religions” (2010), a publication of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, argue that folk beliefs constitute a part of Chinese religious culture that should be held in the same regard as the five officially recognized religions – Buddhism, Catholicism, Daoism, Islam and Protestantism. See Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. 2010. “Blue Book on Religions.” Pages 170-171 and 175. The Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the highest academic research organization in the fields of philosophy and social sciences, is directly under the State Council of the People’s Republic of China – the highest executive organ of state power as well as the highest organ of state administration. For a fuller discussion of Chinese folk religions, see Yang, Fenggang and Hu, Anning. 2012. “Mapping Chinese Folk Religion in Mainland China and Taiwan.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, volume 51, number 3, pages 505-521; Wong, Wai Yip. 2007. “Defining Chinese Folk Religion: A Methodological Interpretation.” *Asian Philosophy*, volume 21; Li, Y. Y. 1998. “Zong Jiao Yu Shen Hua Lun Ji [A Treatise on Religion and Myth].” New Century Publishing; and Feng, Z. Z. and Li, F. H. 1994. “History of Chinese Folk Religion.” Wenchin.

40 Respondents from the 2007 Spiritual Life Study of Chinese Residents survey were classified as a folk religionist if they did not identify with one of the other religious groups and they did report that they worshiped gods or spirits at conventional religious sites, at home or in the workplace; or if they attended formal temple services or prayed or burned incense in temples; or if they believed in the existence of gods or spirits, evil forces or demons, heaven, hell, the afterlife or reincarnation.

41 Yang, Fenggang and Hu, Anning. 2012. “Mapping Chinese Folk Religion in Mainland China and Taiwan.” *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, volume 51, number 3, pages 505-521.

Forum researchers adjusted earlier estimates to reflect the religious affiliation of large migrant populations. Data on the size and religious affiliation of migrant populations were gathered as part of a Forum project on international migration.<sup>42</sup>

While the Pew Forum's 2011 report "The Future of the Global Muslim Population" found that India had the third-largest Muslim population, after Indonesia and Pakistan, this report finds that India has the second-largest Muslim population. That report used country population For more information, see the Pew Forum's March 2012 report "Faith on the Move: The Religious Affiliation of International Migrants." estimates from the 2008 revision of the United Nation's World Population Prospects, which estimated Pakistan's total 2010 population to be 184.8 million. This report relies on the 2010 revision of World Population Prospects data, in which Pakistan's total 2010 population is estimated to be 173.6 million. In addition to lowering its estimate for Pakistan, the U.N. Population Division also raised its estimate of India's total population between the 2008 and 2010 World Population Prospects. Meanwhile, the current round of Pakistan's population census has experienced many delays. Preliminary population estimates from Pakistan's 2011 housing census suggest the population could be substantially greater than estimated in the 2010 World Population Prospects data (197.4 million, according to a report in the Times of India: [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-03-29/pakistan/31253998\\_1\\_population-gilgit-baltistan-balochistan](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-03-29/pakistan/31253998_1_population-gilgit-baltistan-balochistan)). The reliability of the preliminary estimates has been publicly contested, but if the preliminary estimates are correct, then Pakistan's Muslim population may exceed India's Muslim population.<sup>43</sup>

In the Pew Forum's 2011 report "Global Christianity," the Americas was identified as the region with the largest Christian population. However, as described in the region note below, this report divides the Americas into two regions. While the combined regions would still have the largest Christian population in the world, with the six regions used in this report, Europe becomes the region with the largest Christian population.

## A Note on Regions

This report groups 232 countries and territories into six major regions: Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and sub-Saharan Africa. Some previous Pew Forum reports including "Global Christianity: A Report on the Size and Distribution of the World's Christian Population" and "The Future of the Global Muslim Population" grouped the world into five regions, with an Americas region that included both North America and Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>42</sup> For more information, see the Pew Forum's March 2012 report "Faith on the Move: The Religious Affiliation of International Migrants."

<sup>43</sup> See Rana, Shahbaz. Jan. 11, 2012. "2011 Housing Census results: Over-counting in Sindh, undercounting in Punjab." The Express Tribune. <http://tribune.com.pk/story/319617/2011-housing-census-results-over-counting-in-sindh-undercounting-in-punjab/>.

The 60 countries and territories in the Asia and the Pacific region are: Afghanistan, American Samoa, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Cyprus, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, North Korea, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Wallis and Futuna.

The 50 countries and territories in Europe are: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Channel Islands, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and Vatican City.

The 46 countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean are: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The 20 countries and territories of the Middle East and North Africa are: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, the Palestinian territories, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Western Sahara and Yemen.

The five countries and territories of North America are: Bermuda, Canada, Greenland, St. Pierre and Miquelon and the United States.

The 51 countries and territories of sub-Saharan Africa are: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Reunion, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, St. Helena, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## A Note on Country and Territory Designation

The word “country” in this report refers to all countries recognized as such by the United Nations. The word “territory” in this report does not have a technical definition, but rather is a general term for distinct geographical entities not recognized as countries by the United Nations but that have separate population estimates reported by the United Nations. Territories in this report including such entities as Hong Kong and Macau (special administrative regions of China), Greenland (an autonomous constituent country within the Kingdom of Denmark) and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (an unincorporated territory of the United States).

## A Note on Rounding

In this report, estimates of 9,999 persons or less are identified as “<10,000.” All other count estimates in tables are rounded to the nearest 10,000. In the narrative of the report, many estimates are rounded to the nearest million or percentage point.



## Appendix B: Data Sources by Country

The list of general sources provides bibliographical information for sources used to inform estimates of the size of religious populations. Most data were acquired directly from the organizations that collected them, but in some cases data were obtained from data archives. The list of archives from which the Pew Forum obtained data appears after the general sources. The subsequent list of sources by country provides abbreviated bibliographical information identifying the primary sources used as the basis for estimating the size of each of the eight religious traditions. In some cases, sources used to estimate the age structure of religious groups were different from the sources used for a country's religious composition.

Since small religious groups are not always measured on censuses and surveys, researchers frequently consulted the World Religion Database estimates for 2010, along with other sources, to identify the presence and approximate size of small religious populations. For details on procedures researchers used to estimate the religious landscape of each country, including age structures, see the Methodology. The Methodology also describes how researchers used population projections to estimate the religious composition of many countries for which the primary data available was old (from 2007 and earlier).

Customized census data tabulations were provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics Canada, Korea Statistics Promotion Institute (KSPI), Statistics New Zealand, Singapore Department of Statistics, Sri Lanka Department of Census and Statistics, and Office for National Statistics (United Kingdom).

Estimates of the religious composition of European nations were made in collaboration with researchers at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA); all other estimates were made by the Pew Forum.

### General Sources

Afrobarometer. Led by the Centre for Democratic Development, the Institute for Democracy in South Africa and the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy, 1999-2009. <http://www.afrobarometer.org/>.

AmericasBarometer. Administered by the Latin American Public Opinion Project at Vanderbilt University, 2004-2010. <http://www.lapopsurveys.org/>.

Annuario Pontificio. Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2010.

AsiaBarometer Project. Inoguchi, Takashi, et al. AsiaBarometer Survey Data 2005. <http://www.asiabarometer.org/>

Asian Barometer. The Institute for the Advanced Studies of Humanities and Social Sciences, National Taiwan University, 2001-2008. <http://www.asianbarometer.org/>.

Demographic and Health Surveys. MEASURE DHS. Administered by Macro International, 1995-2010, <http://www.measuredhs.com/>.



European Social Survey. Led by Centre for Comparative Social Surveys, City University, 2002, 2004, 2008. <http://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>.

European Values Study. Administered by the European Values Study Foundation at Tilburg University, 1981-2008. <http://www.europeanvaluesstudy.eu/>.

Gallup World Poll. Administered by Gallup, Inc., 2006. <http://www.gallup.com/consulting/worldpoll/>.

Generations and Gender Programme: Survey Instruments. United Nations, 2003-2007.

International Social Survey Programme. ISSP Research Group, Religion III (ISSP 2008), GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA4950 Data file Version 2.2.0, doi:10.4232/1.11334, 2008.

Latinobarometro. Administered by the Latinobarómetro Corporation, 1996-2009. <http://www.latinobarometro.org/latino/latinobarometro.jsp>.

Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey. United Nations Children's Fund, 2005-2006. <http://www.childinfo.org/mics.html>.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life. Tolerance and Tension: Islam and Christianity in Sub-Saharan Africa, survey conducted 2008-2009, report published 2010. <http://pewforum.org/Datasets/Dataset-Download.aspx>.

Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project. <http://pewglobal.org/datasets/>.

United Nations Demographic Yearbook. Special Census Topics Volume 2 - Social characteristics, Table 6: Population by religion, sex, urban/rural residence and percentage: each census, 1985-2004, United Nations Statistics Division, 2006. <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/popchar2.htm>.

World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. United Nations Population Division. <http://esa.un.org/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm>.

World Religion Database: International Religious Demographic Statistics and Sources. Todd M. Johnson and Brian J. Grim, editors, Brill. Estimates for 2010, accessed in 2011. <http://www.worldreligiondatabase.org>.

World Values Survey. Values Survey Database, World Values Survey Association, 1999-2006. <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>.

## Data Archives

Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA). Pennsylvania State University. <http://www.thearda.com/>.

Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS). <http://www.esds.ac.uk/>.

Integrated Public Use Microdata Series International (IPUMS). Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, 2010. <https://international.ipums.org/international/>.

ZACAT Data Archive for the Social Sciences. GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences. <http://zocat.gesis.org/>

## Sources by Country

Afghanistan: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Albania: Estimates based on 2008-2009 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Algeria: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

American Samoa: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Andorra: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database and 2005 World Values Survey.

Angola: Estimates based on 2011 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Anguilla: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Antigua and Barbuda: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Argentina: Estimates based on 2008 Latinobarometro, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Armenia: Estimates based on 2000 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Aruba: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Australia: Estimates based on 2011 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underreporting of religious affiliation for infants.

Austria: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010, accounting for religious switching based on 2008 International Social Survey Programme survey.

Azerbaijan: Estimates based on 2006 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Bahamas: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Bahrain: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented migrant populations.

Bangladesh: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Barbados: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Belarus: Estimates based on 2008 European Values Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Belgium: Estimates based on 2008 European Values Survey and 2010 Annuario Pontificio, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Belize: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted for missing data, and to account for underrepresented religious groups and underreporting of religious affiliation for infants; projected to 2010.

Benin: Estimates based on 2006 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Bermuda: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Bhutan: Estimates based on 2005 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Bolivia: Estimates based on 2010 AmericasBarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Estimates based on 2006 Gallup World Poll, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Botswana: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Brazil: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and underreporting of religious affiliation for infants.

British Virgin Islands: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Brunei: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Bulgaria: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Burkina Faso: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Burma (Myanmar): Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Burundi: Estimates based on 2008 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Cambodia: Estimates based on 2008 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Cameroon: Estimates based on 2004 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Canada: Estimates based on 2009 Statistics Canada General Social Survey, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Cape Verde: Estimates based on 2008 Afrobarometer, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Cayman Islands: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Central African Republic: Estimates based on 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Chad: Estimates based on 2004 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Channel Islands: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Chile: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

China: Estimates based on analysis by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life of multiple sources, including the Chinese Census, public opinion surveys, church membership reports and estimates from the Chinese government, projected to 2010; see the Methodology for details.

Colombia: Estimates based on 2008 AmericasBarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Comoros: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Cook Islands: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Costa Rica: Estimates based on 2008 Latinobarometro, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Croatia: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Cuba: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Cyprus: Estimates based on weighted average of 2008 European Values Study in Cyprus and 2008 European Values Study in Northern Cyprus, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Czech Republic: Estimates based on 2011 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Estimates based on 2007 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Denmark: Estimates based on Centre for Contemporary Religion's "Religion in Denmark 2010" report, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations.

Djibouti: Estimates based on 2008-2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Dominica: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Dominican Republic: Estimates based on 2008 AmericasBarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Ecuador: Estimates based on 2008 AmericasBarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Egypt: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

El Salvador: Estimates based on 2010 AmericasBarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Equatorial Guinea: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Eritrea: Estimates based on 2002 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Estonia: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups, and projected to 2010.

Ethiopia: Estimates based on 2007 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Faeroe Islands: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Falkland Islands (Malvinas): Estimates based on 2006 Census.

Federated States of Micronesia: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Fiji: Estimates based on 2007 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Finland: Estimates based on 2009 Statistics Finland report, "Population Structure 2009, Annual Review," adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations.

France: Estimates based on analysis by Anne Goujon (IIASA) of 2005 Generations and Gender Survey, 2008-2009 Trajectories and Origins Survey conducted by Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques and the Institut National d'études Démographiques, and multiple surveys between 2007 and 2009 by the French Institute of Public Opinion, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations.

French Guiana: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

French Polynesia: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Gabon: Estimates based on 2000 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Gambia: Estimates based on 2004 Intermedia survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Georgia: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Germany: Estimates based on 2005 Generations and Gender Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010, accounting for religious switching based on 2008 International Social Survey Programme survey.

Ghana: Estimates based on 2008 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Gibraltar: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Greece: Estimates based on 2002 and 2004 European Social Surveys, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations; projected to 2010.

Greenland: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Grenada: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Guadeloupe: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Guam: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Guatemala: Estimates based on 2010 AmericasBarometer, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Guinea: Estimates based on 2005 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Guinea Bissau: Estimates based on 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Guyana: Estimates based on 2009 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Haiti: Estimates based on 2003 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Honduras: Estimates based on 2010 AmericasBarometer, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Hong Kong: Estimates based on 2001 Asian Barometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Hungary: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Iceland: Estimates based on 2010 Ministry of Interior National Register of Persons, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

India: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Indonesia: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Iran: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Iraq: Estimates based on 2006 World Values Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Ireland: Estimates based on 2011 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Isle of Man: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Israel: Estimates based on 2009 Central Bureau of Statistics Statistical Abstract of Israel, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Italy: Estimates based on 2005 World Values Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations; projected to 2010, accounting for religious switching based on 2008 International Social Survey Programme survey.

Ivory Coast: Estimates based on 2005 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Jamaica: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Japan: Estimates based on 2007 Asian Barometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Jordan: Estimates based on average of 1997 and 2002 Demographic and Health Surveys, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Kazakhstan: Estimates based on 2009 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Kenya: Estimates based on 2009 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Kiribati: Estimates based on 2005 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Kosovo: Estimates based on 2000 World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations; projected to 2010.

Kuwait: Estimates based on analysis by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life of the 2010 U.S. State Department International Religious Freedom report.

Kyrgyzstan: Estimates based on 2005 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Laos: Estimates based on 2005 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Latvia: Estimates based on 2009 Ministry of Justice report on Latvian religious organizations, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Lebanon: Estimates based on 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Lesotho: Estimates based on 2004 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Liberia: Estimates based on 2008 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Libya: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Liechtenstein: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Lithuania: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Luxembourg: Estimates based on 2008 European Values Study, adjusted for missing data.

Macau: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Madagascar: Estimates based on 2008 Afrobarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Malawi: Estimates based on 2008 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Malaysia: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Maldives: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Mali: Estimates based on 2006 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Malta: Estimates based on 2008 European Values Study, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Marshall Islands: Estimates based on 1999 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Martinique: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Mauritania: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Mauritius: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Mayotte: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Mexico: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted for missing data, and to account for underrepresented religious groups and underreporting of religious affiliation for infants.

Moldova: Estimates based on 2004 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Monaco: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Mongolia: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Montenegro: Estimates based on 2003 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Montserrat: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Morocco: Estimates based on 2007 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Mozambique: Estimates based on 2007 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Namibia: Estimates based on 2006-2007 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Nauru: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Nepal: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Netherlands: Estimates based on 2003 Generations and Gender Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations; projected to 2010.

Netherlands Antilles: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

New Caledonia: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

New Zealand: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted to account for underreporting of religious affiliation for infants and underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations; projected to 2010.

Nicaragua: Estimates based on 2005 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Niger: Estimates based on 2006 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.



Nigeria: Estimates based on 2008 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Niue: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

North Korea: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Northern Mariana Islands: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Norway: Estimates based on 2007 Generations and Gender Survey, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented and migrant populations; projected to 2010.

Oman: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Pakistan: Estimates based on 1998 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Palau: Estimates based on 2005 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Palestinian territories: Estimates based on 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Panama: Estimates based on 2009 Latinobarometro, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Papua New Guinea: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Paraguay: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Peru: Estimates based on 2007 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Philippines: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted for missing data, and to account for underrepresented religious groups and underreporting of religious affiliation for infants; projected to 2010.

Poland: Estimates based on analysis by Marcin Stonawski (IIASA) of 2010 Central Statistical Office report on denominations, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Portugal: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Puerto Rico: Estimates based on 2006 Gallup World Poll, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Qatar: Estimates based on citizenship data from 2010 Census and 2012 study "Faith on the Move: The Religious Affiliation of International Migrants" by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Republic of Macedonia: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Republic of the Congo: Estimates based on 2009 AIDS Indicator Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Reunion: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Romania: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Russia: Estimates based on 2004 Generations and Gender Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious and projected to 2010.

Rwanda: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Samoa: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

San Marino: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database, supplemented by statistics from religious organizations.

Sao Tome and Principe: Estimates based on 2008-2009 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Saudi Arabia: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Senegal: Estimates based on 2008-2009 Malaria Indicator Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Serbia: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Seychelles: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Sierra Leone: Estimates based on 2004 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and underreporting of religious affiliation for infants; projected to 2010.

Singapore: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Slovakia: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Slovenia: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Solomon Islands: Estimates based on 1999 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Somalia: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

South Africa: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

South Korea: Estimates based on 2005 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and underreporting of religious affiliation for infants; projected to 2010.

South Sudan: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Spain: Estimates based on 2010 Centro de Investigaciones Sociologicas Barometro Autonomico, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations.

Sri Lanka: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and to estimate religious composition for northern and eastern districts using the 1981 Census; projected to 2010.

St. Helena: Estimates based on 2008 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

St. Kitts and Nevis: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

St. Lucia: Estimates based on 2010 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

St. Pierre and Miquelon: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Sudan: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Suriname: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Swaziland: Estimates based on 2006-2007 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Sweden: Estimates based on multiple waves (2005-2008) of the International Social Survey Programme, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and migrant populations.

Switzerland: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Syria: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Taiwan: Estimates based on 2009 Taiwan Social Change Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Tajikistan: Estimates based on 2005 AsiaBarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Tanzania: Estimates based on 2008-2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Thailand: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Timor-Leste: Estimates based on 2009-2010 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Togo: Estimates based on 2006 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Tokelau: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Tonga: Estimates based on 2006 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Trinidad and Tobago: Estimates based on 2000 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Tunisia: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Turkey: Estimates based on 2009 survey by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Turkmenistan: Estimates based on 2000 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Estimates based on 2001 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Tuvalu: Estimates based on 2002 Census, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Uganda: Estimates based on 2006 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Ukraine: Estimates based on 2007 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

United Arab Emirates: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

United Kingdom: Estimates based on 2010 Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey and 2001 Census for Northern Ireland, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

United States: Estimates based on 2010 combined Pew Research Center surveys for adults and four waves (2004-2010) of the National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey for children (age 0-19), adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Uruguay: Estimates based on 2006 Instituto Nacional de Estadica National Survey of Households, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

U.S. Virgin Islands: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Uzbekistan: Estimates based on 2002 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Vanuatu: Estimates based on 2009 Census, adjusted for missing data and to account for underrepresented religious groups; projected to 2010.

Vatican City: Estimates based on reports from the Pontifical Council of Culture.

Venezuela: Estimates based on 2010 AmericasBarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

Vietnam: Estimates based on 2005 Asian Barometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Wallis and Futuna: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Western Sahara: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Yemen: Estimates based on 2010 World Religion Database.

Zambia: Estimates based on 2007 Demographic and Health Survey, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups and projected to 2010.

Zimbabwe: Estimates based on 2008 Afrobarometer, adjusted to account for underrepresented religious groups.

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