HOUSTON MUSLIM STUDY
SUMMARY REPORT

MAY 20, 2022

NEW AMERICA
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KEY FINDINGS

• Respondents to the Houston Muslim Study overwhelmingly find Houston to be a great place to live and raise a family.

• Respondents have longevity in the area and believe it is a positive environment for Muslims specifically and minority communities in general.

• Women and young adults are more likely than others to say it has gotten harder to be a Muslim in Houston since 2016.

• Religion is very important in the lives of respondents, and they are likely to attend services with some frequency.

• A majority report that something in their appearance identifies them as Muslim.

• Those who responded to the survey are civically engaged, with high numbers reporting active volunteerism and philanthropic behavior.

• Large majorities of respondents express concern about anti-Muslim bias and discrimination. Women are more likely to express these concerns than men.

• Younger respondents to the survey are more likely than older age cohorts to have witnessed or experienced acts of discrimination and more likely to have heard about them from family and friends.

• Older community members are more likely to say that public officials in Houston are engaged with and helpful to the Muslim community.

• Close to half of respondents have been singled out for extra security screenings at the airport.

• Public officials do not get high marks for combating Islamophobia, while religious organizations are viewed more favorably in this area.

• Almost two-thirds of respondents say they have experienced bullying or harassment on social media because of their religion.
DETAILED FINDINGS

Background and Methodology

The purpose of the Houston Muslim Study is to provide an in-depth and policy-relevant study, through a non-security lens, about American Muslims at the local level in Houston, Texas. The study offers fresh insights and helps shape a discussion about American Muslims that is data-driven and moves beyond the generalizations, prejudices, and fear that too often surround public and policy discourses about Muslim communities in America.

In 2018, New America contracted with SSRS in Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, to conduct the Houston Muslim Study. The study sought to interview Muslim residents of Houston to learn more about their experiences living in Houston, their perceptions of quality of life for Muslims in Houston, their levels of civic engagement, and the extent to which they, their families, and their friends face discrimination or other challenges as a result of their faith.

From March 15, 2018, through March 1, 2021, the survey instrument was developed through a series of focus groups, one-on-one interviews, meetings with Muslim community leaders, meetings with larger Muslim community groups in Houston, and input from subject matter experts. The survey was conducted from March 30, 2021, through May 2, 2021, and had a total of 773 respondents.

This is the largest study ever conducted with American Muslims at the local level in the United States.

Demographic Characteristics

The majority of respondents to the 2021 Houston Muslim survey (54%) reside in Harris County with 27% in Fort Bend and 12% in Brazoria County. A combined 6% live in Galveston, Montgomery, and Waller Counties. Of those who responded to the survey, two-thirds are male and one-third female, so the sample is skewed toward men. Thirteen percent of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 29, 48% were 30-49, 27% were 50-64, and 12% were 65 or older.

The sample of respondents is very highly educated, with 86% having a college degree or higher and 51% having a postgraduate degree. Not surprisingly considering this level of education, the sample is also slanted toward a higher income group with more than half (54%) having incomes of $100,000 or more. Sixteen percent have incomes at, or more than, $250,000 per year.

When asked about their race, nearly half (48%) said they consider themselves to be Asian. Nineteen percent reported their race as Arab, 15% said white, 9% Black, 5% mixed race, and 15% some other race. Two percent consider themselves to be Hispanic or Latino.

Survey respondents lean heavily toward the Democratic Party, with 51% saying they are a Democrat, 35% Independent, and 6% Republican. Eighty-three percent of those registered to vote voted for Joe Biden in the 2020 presidential election.

Seventy percent of respondents were born outside of the United States, but 86% are registered to vote, indicating most are currently U.S. citizens.
## Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-49</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Race/Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduate</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College/Vocational</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Graduate</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Graduate</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;$75K</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75K-&lt; $250K</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$250K+</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Political Party</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Not all categories will total to 100% due to nonresponse and multiple response options.*
Professional Status of Houston Muslims

Of the possible professions, the highest percentage of survey respondents (36%) report working in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field. Nine percent report being a physician or surgeon, and 11% report working in some other healthcare-related field. Ten percent report being some type of educator, and 2% are lawyers. Twelve percent of women and 1% of men are stay-at-home parents. Nine percent are business owners or entrepreneurs, and 2% are students.

Of those who are employed in some sort of health care profession, including doctors, 64% say they treated COVID-19 patients during the pandemic. In the 12 months prior to the pandemic, physicians and surgeons report seeing an average of 1,178 patients. Respondents who said they were entrepreneurs reported employing an average of 32.7 people in their companies.
Importance of Religion

Almost all the survey respondents said that religion was either very or somewhat important in their lives (98%). Again, this is somewhat of a reflection of the survey sources that included religious organizations. Over eighty percent (83%) said they were going to a house of worship or religious center for prayer or other religious activities at least once a week prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, indicating that religion is not only important but actively practiced among respondents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance of Religion in Respondents’ Lives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base=Total Respondents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very/Somewhat important (Net)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too important</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

98% 93% 6% 1%

There was a significant difference between men and women in the proportion that reported religious attendance at that level, with 93% of men and 62% of women saying they attended at least once per week. A significant majority (63%) of female respondents reported that they wear a head covering or hijab when in public. Older respondents were also somewhat more likely than younger ones to report frequent religious attendance.
Almost half of male respondents and almost three-fourths of female respondents say that there is something in their appearance that would identify them as Muslim. Considering the high proportion of women who say they wear a head covering or hijab, it is not surprising that women far outweigh men in saying this. The youngest cohort of respondents are about as likely as women to say that they feel they can be identified as Muslim through appearance. The proportion who say this declines with age.
Another indicator of the significance of religion in the lives of respondents is the percentage of their friends who they say are also Muslim. Almost all respondents said that at least some of their friends are Muslim (97%), and almost a fifth said that all their friends shared their religious affiliation.

**Feelings About Houston**

Half of all survey respondents have lived in Houston for at least 20 years, demonstrating that the Muslim community has longevity in the area. Even nearly half (49%) of those not born in the U.S. have resided in Houston for 20 years or more. Responses to questions about what it is like to live in Houston give a strong indication of why we see loyalty to the city and local area. Ninety-five percent of respondents report that it is very or somewhat accurate to say that Houston is a great city to live in and raise a family. The same proportion say that Houston is an accepting and welcoming community to most minorities, and 94% percent say that Houston is specifically accepting and welcoming to Muslims.

Respondents also believe that Muslims and other minorities are an important part of the fabric of Houston. Over 85% believe that minority communities contribute to the overall local economy and society. Women (90%) are more likely to say this than men (84%). Four-fifths say that Muslims specifically among minority communities contribute to the overall economy and society of Houston. Here again, more women say this, but the difference is not statistically significant.

Females and those age 18-29 were more likely than males and older respondents to say it has become more difficult to be a Muslim in Houston since 2016 (Females 34%, Age 18-29, 36%). Across all respondents, just over a fourth (26%) said this was the case.
Black Muslims were more likely than those of another race to say it has become easier (22%) to be a Muslim in Houston since 2016. Six-in-ten (60%) of respondents overall noted that there has been no change in how difficult it is to be a Muslim in Houston since 2016.

Civic Engagement

Appreciation of the community is also reflected in high levels of civic engagement among survey respondents. Four-fifths of respondents reported devoting at least some time to volunteering to support civic, social, and/or religious organizations in Houston in the 12 months prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Almost two-fifths said they devoted three or more hours to volunteering. Women (46%) were more likely than men (35%) to fall on the higher end of hours spent doing volunteer work.

Survey respondents are largely generous with their time and money. Just over a third of respondents donated money to a national or local campaign in both 2016 and 2020. Sixteen percent volunteered with a local or national campaign in 2016 and 17% volunteered in 2020.

The majority of survey respondents worked in their communities to provide assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. Sixty-seven percent personally gave money to support victims of the hurricane and more than half (54%) personally volunteered their time to help those who suffered from its effects.
In the 12 months prior to COVID-19, 86% of respondents donated to some local charitable cause, while 43% donated to a Texas-wide charity. Almost two-thirds (62%) donated to national charitable causes and almost three-fourths (74%) donated to an international charitable cause during that time period. During the period of the pandemic, 81% donated to a local charity, 41% to a Texas-wide charitable cause, 57% to a national charity, and 69% to one on the international level. There is clearly widespread philanthropic behavior in the Houston Muslim community of respondents.
Communication With Elected Officials

Over a fourth of respondents say they have spoken with a national, state, or local public official or member of their staffs in the past year to express their views or concerns. However, the degree to which this is the case varies somewhat by type of official. Only 3% say they have spoken with the governor of Texas or a member of his staff. Nine percent have spoken with a U.S. senator or senate staff member, and 17% with a congressperson or congressional staffer. Eleven percent have spoken with a member of the Texas State Senate or Texas State House, or their staff, and 14% with the mayor or a member of his staff.
Older respondents were more likely than younger ones to say that Houston’s locally elected and appointed officials regularly meet with and are helpful to the Muslim community on a broad range of issues. About half of the youngest cohort said it was at least somewhat accurate to say that Houston’s officials engaged in such meetings, while more than three-fourths of adults 65+ found this to be either somewhat or very accurate. In general, this may reflect the tendency for public officials to spend more time with older people who are more likely to consider it a civic duty to vote in all levels of elections.
**Military Service**

Twelve percent of respondents say they or someone in their family has served in the U.S. Armed Services. In the U.S. as a whole, about 7% have served personally, so this seems fairly consistent with the overall U.S. population.¹

![Percent of Respondents who Served in the U.S. Armed Forces](chart.png)

**Discrimination**

Although most respondents report that Houston is a good place to live with high levels of tolerance, there is still widespread concern about the potential for anti-Muslim sentiment to become more pervasive.

Just over 80% said they were at least somewhat concerned about anti-Muslim sentiment spreading in non-Muslim communities in Houston, with 43% extremely concerned. Women (87%) were more likely to be concerned than men (81%).

![Level of concern about anti-Muslim Sentiment Spreading in Non-Muslim Communities in Houston](chart.png)

Particular concern is expressed about children becoming the targets of acts of hate while in school. Almost all female respondents (93%) and most males (86%) are at least somewhat concerned about Muslim children getting bullied in schools.

The vast majority (87%) are also at least somewhat concerned about harassment of women and girls in public places.

Three-fourths of respondents (77%) are at least somewhat concerned about Muslims facing bias in the workplace. Eighty-one percent are concerned about discrimination Houston Muslims might face when encountering law enforcement. Three-fourths worry about Muslims dealing with courts and judges, while over half are apprehensive about Houston Muslims facing bias when interacting with health care professionals. Eighty-three percent are concerned about threats or violence toward Muslims in public places and 72% worry about local efforts through zoning or ordinances that are intended to prevent Mosques or other Islamic centers from being built. Overall, anxiety about the various types of discrimination that could be faced by Muslims in Houston is pervasive and spans all demographic groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Concern About Bias Incidents Occurring in Houston</th>
<th>Extremely/Somewhat Summary</th>
<th>Not too/Not at all Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Muslim children being bullied in schools</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment of Muslim women and girls in public places</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination or bias against Muslims in the workplace</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination or bias against Muslims when interacting with law enforcement</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination or bias against Muslims when interacting with courts and judges</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination or bias against Muslims when interacting with health care professionals</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threats or violence against Muslims in public places</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning, local ordinances, or other local efforts intended to stop mosques or Islamic centers from being built</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the exception of zoning or local ordinances pertaining to mosques or Islamic centers, women are more worried than men about all other types of discrimination or bias asked about in the survey. The youngest survey respondents are more concerned about workplace discrimination than any other age group (87% of 18–29-year-olds. Seventy-seven percent of both 30-49- and 50–64-year-olds, and 74% of those 65+).
Respondents were asked how concerned they were that an attack like the mass shootings that occurred during Friday prayer at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, could happen in Houston. Over 80% expressed that they had some concern that this might occur. Almost half said they were extremely concerned. We see again that even though respondents are happy with Houston and believe it to be generally a tolerant city, there is prevalent uneasiness about the potential for acts of threats or violence to be perpetrated against the Muslim community.
Younger Respondents and Women More Likely to Experience or Witness Acts of Discrimination

Younger respondents are more likely to report personally experiencing or witnessing discrimination or acts of hate against Muslims, as well as to say they have heard about such incidents from friends or family. Fifty-nine percent of 18–29 year-olds say people have acted suspicious of them because they are a Muslim. This is significantly higher than other age groups. Forty-one percent of 30–49 year-olds say this and 28% of 50–64 year-olds and those 65+. Women are also more likely to have had this experience than men (46% vs. 34%).

Respondents in the youngest age group are more likely to report experiencing all negative expressions of anti-Muslim discrimination that were asked about on the survey including: being called offensive names (45% of 18-29), being singled out by law enforcement (19%), being physically threatened or attacked (16%), seeing anti-Muslim graffiti (17%), and being singled out for extra security screening at the airport (58%). Women are also much more likely than men to experience extra security screening at the airport (53% vs. 39%). Notably, those who were born in the United States were more likely to report being singled out for airport screenings than those born in another country (53% vs. 39%).
People have acted as if they are suspicious of me because I am a Muslim
Someone has expressed support for me because I am a Muslim
I have been called offensive names because I am a Muslim
I have been singled out by law enforcement officers because I am a Muslim
I have been physically threatened or attacked because I am a Muslim
I have seen anti-Muslim graffiti in my local community
I have been singled out for secondary security screenings at Houston airports because I am a Muslim
I have experienced some other type of anti-Muslim incident

Percent Personally Experiencing Anti-Muslim Bias
Base=Total Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People have acted as if they are suspicious of me because I am a Muslim</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone has expressed support for me because I am a Muslim</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been called offensive names because I am a Muslim</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been singled out by law enforcement officers because I am a Muslim</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been physically threatened or attacked because I am a Muslim</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have seen anti-Muslim graffiti in my local community</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been singled out for secondary security screenings at Houston airports because I am a Muslim</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have experienced some other type of anti-Muslim incident</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Personally Experienced Acts of Anti-Muslim Bias by Age
Base=Total Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>People have acted as if they are suspicious of me because I am a Muslim</th>
<th>Someone has expressed support for me because I am a Muslim</th>
<th>I have been called offensive names because I am a Muslim</th>
<th>I have been singled out by law enforcement officers because I am a Muslim</th>
<th>I have been physically threatened or attacked because I am a Muslim</th>
<th>I have seen anti-Muslim graffiti in my local community</th>
<th>I have been singled out for secondary security screenings at Houston airports because I am a Muslim</th>
<th>I have experienced some other type of anti-Muslim incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-10</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-20</td>
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<td>21-30</td>
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<td>31-40</td>
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<td>41-50</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>51-60</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>61-70</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>71-80</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Looking at the total sample of respondents, 38% say someone has behaved suspiciously towards them because they are Muslim, 22% say they have been called an offensive name, 11% say they have been singled out by law enforcement, 7% say they have been threatened or attacked, 12% have witnessed anti-Muslim graffiti, 43% have been singled out for extra security screening, and 33% have experienced some other form of discrimination.

Respondents on the whole also do not believe that other religious minorities are subjected to the same levels of scrutiny at airports as are Muslims, although more than a third say they don’t know whether they are or are not as heavily scrutinized.

However, it is also the case that the youngest group (71%) is far more likely than older respondents to the survey to say that someone has expressed support for them because they are a Muslim (30-49, 42%; 50-64, 31%; and 65+, 29%). The lowest income group, those earning less than $75,000 per year, are also the most likely to report having received support because of their faith. This was true of 47% of this group, 41% of those earning between $75,000 and just under $250,000, and 36% of those earning $250,000 or more.

The generational pattern extends to reports of discrimination by family members and friends. Overall, 47% say a family member has reported that people acted suspicious of them, but this is true of 68% of 18–29 year-olds. Across all age groups, just over a third (36%) said a family member was called offensive names, but more than half (57%) of 18–29 year-olds said this.
Regarding interactions with police, less than a fourth (22%) of total respondents said that a family member had been singled out by police, while 35% of the youngest group said this. There were no other significant differences across demographic groups on this measure.

The youngest respondents were also more likely to say that a family member had been physically threatened or attacked (26%) than was the group overall (17%). We see a similar split when asking respondents if a family member had seen anti-Muslim graffiti in their local communities (17% overall vs. 24% among the youngest respondents).

A family member being singled out for security screenings is far more prevalent than other acts of discrimination, with just over half of the overall respondent group reporting this and 74% of the youngest groups saying they are aware of this happening to a family member. Here again, 62% of those who say they were born in the United States reported this happening to a family member, but this was true for only 48% of those born outside of the U.S.

When asked about friends, just over half (52%) said a friend reported being singled out for extra airport screening, with 71% of the youngest group saying this.
Forty-three percent of respondents also said a friend was called offensive names, with 67% of 18–29 year-olds saying this. Nearly a third (30%) said a friend was singled out by law enforcement vs. 45% of younger respondents. Twenty-nine percent overall had a friend who was physically threatened or attacked compared with 49% of the youngest respondents. Just over a fourth had a friend who witnessed graffiti, with 37% of younger respondents saying a friend saw graffiti. Finally, 42% say a friend had encountered some other anti-Muslim incident, with 67% of the youngest group hearing about their friends having some other experience of this kind.²


² Although precise proportions of the population may differ, these findings are consistent with national research reported by the Pew Research Center interviewing Muslims, indicating that women and younger people have fundamentally different experiences of the situation of Muslims in America than men and older people. See https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/08/07/in-many-ways-muslim-men-and-women-see-life-in-america-differently/ (August 7, 2017).
Houston Community Leaders Combatting Islamophobia

There appears to be some dissatisfaction among respondents with the way Islamophobia is being addressed by public officials and those in positions of authority in the city. A majority (53%) feel that the police and sheriff are not doing enough to combat Islamophobia in Houston. Eighty-five percent of the youngest group say this. The mayor, mosques, and other faith-based community groups get the most credit for taking on this challenge. Of public officials and institutions, the highest percent of respondents say the mayor’s office is doing enough to address Islamophobia or other anti-Muslim sentiments (38%). Mosques do better with 64% saying they are doing enough, and other faith-based organizations receive moderate approval with 40% of respondents saying they are doing enough.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Who Say Institution is Doing Enough to Combat Islamophobia</th>
<th>Base=Total Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other local faith-based communities</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local mosques</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local universities</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philanthropic organizations</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County courts</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City council</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayor’s office</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police and sheriff departments</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bullying and Anti-Muslim Content on Social Media

The survey asked respondents whether they had experienced bullying or harassment as a result of their religion on a number of social media platforms including YouTube; Facebook; Instagram; Twitter; Pinterest; Snapchat; TikTok; WhatsApp; Clubhouse, or any others. Almost two-thirds (63%) have personally experienced this type of harmful behavior on one or more social media outlets as a result of being a Muslim. About one third (32%) said they had seen hateful content about Muslims on one or more of these social media platforms.

Of the social media platforms, the highest proportion of respondents reported facing bullying on YouTube and Facebook (46% for each). These are also among the most used in general. Although the percent who witnessed hate content is much lower overall, Facebook and YouTube also rate highest in this area.
CONCLUSIONS

Although respondents to the Houston Muslim Study clearly feel strong ties to the Houston community and their faith community, as well as value the diversity and tolerance they find in their hometown, there is no shortage of anxiety about the potential for intolerance and discrimination. With high incomes and education levels, survey respondents are not, overall, from among the marginalized strata of society, but many still fear that interactions with law enforcement and health care professionals could be tinged with bias.

There is a clear indication that Muslim women and children are seen to be particularly vulnerable to anti-Muslim behaviors by others, and there is certainly a strong message that younger Muslim adults in Houston are more likely to acknowledge and possibly experience acts of discrimination and hate of various kinds. They are also more likely to know other people who have had these experiences in their family and among their friends.

The social media environment appears to be fraught with potential exposure to bullying and hateful content because of respondents’ faith. Perhaps this is unsurprising considering the amount of overtly offensive communication that can regularly be found on social media, but achieving a deeper understanding of the pervasiveness of bullying and harassment seems to be a worthy goal.

Overall, while Houston is generally considered a safe and healthy place for the Muslim community, public officials and leaders clearly need to work harder to combat Islamophobia and reassure Houston Muslims that they are not threatened by potential acts of bias, discrimination, and violence as they continue to actively contribute to the life of the city with high levels of civic engagement and longstanding membership in the community.
Welcome and thank you for taking part in this research project. The purpose of the survey is to gain an understanding of the impact and contributions made by Muslims as well as some of the challenges they face at the local level.

The survey should take you about 10 minutes to complete. Your responses to this survey are completely confidential and your participation is anonymous. Any information you provide will be held in the strictest confidence.

If necessary, you have the option to pause the survey and finish it later by clicking “Finish Later.” To resume taking the survey, please click the link from your invitation and that will take you to the page where you left off.

Thank you for your help with this important study.

MUSL1. In which of the following Houston counties do you live? If you live in another county in the Houston area, please select Other.

01 Austin County
02 Brazoria County
03 Chambers County
04 Fort Bend County
05 Galveston County
06 Harris County
07 Liberty County
08 Montgomery County
09 Waller County
97 Other
98 I do not live in the Houston area
99 Web Blank
BASE: ALL
MUSL2. What is your current zip code?
99 Web Blank
Type in your five-digit zip code: ______________ (ALLOW 5 DIGITS)
99999 Web Blank

BASE: MUSL1=01-09 OR VALID ZIP CODE IN MUSL2
MUSL3. What is your present religion, if any?
01 Muslim/Islamic
02 Baptist
03 Catholic/Roman Catholic
04 Evangelical
05 Jewish/Judaism
06 Lutheran
07 Atheist
08 Agnostic
97 Other (Specify)
99 Web Blank

BASE: MUSL1=01-09 OR VALID ZIP CODE IN MUSL2 AND MUSL3=01
MUSL4. How important is religion in your life?
  1 Very important
  2 Somewhat important
  3 Not too important
  4 Not at all important
  9 Web Blank

QUALIFY: IF MUSL1=01-09 OR VALID ZIP CODE IN MUSL2 AND MUSL3=01, ELSE TERMINATE AND SHOW Thank you for your time. Those are all the questions we have.

BASE: ALL
MUSL5. On average, in the 12 months prior to COVID-19, how often did you go to a house of worship or religious center for prayer or other religious activities?
  1 Every day
  2 Two or more times a week
  3 Once a week
  4 Once a month
  5 Once a year
  6 Only on religious holidays or special events during the year
  7 Only once every few years
  8 Never
  9 Web Blank
**BASE: ALL**

MUSL6. Were you born in the United States?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL7. How many years have you lived in the greater Houston area?

___________Number # of Years (1-97)

LL. Less than one year
99. Web Blank

**BASE: IF MUSL7=99 Web Blank**

MUSL7a. How many years have you lived in the greater Houston area?

1. Less than one year
2. 1-5 years
3. 6-9 years
4. 10-14 years
5. 15-19 years
6. 20+ years
9. Web Blank

PN: SHOW MUSL8-MUSL10 AS GRID ON NON MOBILE. USE THIS VERBIAGE FOR GRID In your opinion, how accurate are the following statements? (PN: ANSWER CHOICES COLUMNS AND STATEMENTS AS ROWS.)

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL8. In your opinion, how accurate is the following statement?

Houston is a great city to live in and raise a family.

(PN: SHOW ON MOBILE ONLY) Is this statement…

1. Very accurate
2. Somewhat accurate
3. Not too accurate
4. Not accurate at all
9. Web Blank
BASE: ALL

MUSL9. In your opinion, how accurate is the following statement?
Houston is an accepting and welcoming city to most minority communities.
(PN: SHOW ON MOBILE ONLY) Is this statement…
1  Very accurate
2  Somewhat accurate
3  Not too accurate
4  Not accurate at all
9  Web Blank

BASE: ALL

MUSL10. In your opinion, how accurate is the following statement?
Houston is an accepting and welcoming city to Muslims.
(PN: SHOW ON MOBILE ONLY) Is this statement…
1  Very accurate
2  Somewhat accurate
3  Not too accurate
4  Not accurate at all
9  Web Blank

BASE: ALL

MUSL11. How many of your close friends are Muslims? Would you say…
1  All of them
2  Most of them
3  Some of them
4  Hardly any of them
5  None of them
9  Web Blank

BASE: ALL

MUSL12. Have you or someone in your immediate family served in the U.S. armed services?
1  Yes
2  No
9  Web Blank
MUSL13. In your opinion, how much do you think minority communities in Houston contribute to the local economy and society?
1 Contribute significantly
2 Contribute somewhat
3 Do not contribute at all
9 Web Blank

MUSL14. In your opinion, how much do you think Muslims in Houston contribute to the local economy and society?
1 Contribute significantly
2 Contribute somewhat
3 Do not contribute at all
9 Web Blank

MUSL15. What best describes your profession?
1 Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields
2 First responder (for example: firefighter, police, EMT)
3 Physician or surgeon
4 Health-care professional (other than a physician or surgeon)
5 Lawyer
6 Architect or construction related work
7 Accountant or financial professional
8 Educator (for example: an administrator in a school, community college, college, university, and/or academic institution; a K-12 teacher; university instructor; or professor)
9 Stay home parent
10 Business owner or entrepreneur
97 Other (Specify)
99 Web Blank

MUSL15.3. Have you had to treat or test COVID-19 patients?
1 Yes
2 No
9 Web Blank
BASE: MUSL15=3

MUSL15.4. What’s your best estimate of the number of unique patients you saw or treated in the 12 months prior to COVID-19?

_________ (range 0-10000)

BASE: MUSL15=10

MUSL15.10. How many people do you employ?

_________ (range 0-10000)

BASE: ALL

MUSL16. In the 12 months prior to COVID-19, how many hours a month on average did you volunteer to support civic, social, and/or religious organizations in Houston?

1 None
2 Less than 1 hour
3 1 hour to less than 2 hours
4 2 hours to less than 3 hours
5 3 or more hours
9 Web Blank

BASE: ALL

MUSL17. In your opinion, how accurate is the following statement?

Houston’s locally elected and appointed officials regularly meet with and are helpful to the Muslim community on a broad range of issues.

Is this statement…

1 Very accurate
2 Somewhat accurate
3 Not too accurate
4 Not accurate at all
9 Web Blank
MUSL18. In the 2016 election cycle, did you personally give money to support a U.S. political campaign?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

   a. I gave money to a U.S. presidential campaign
   b. I gave money to a U.S. senate or congressional campaign
   d. I gave money to a local campaign

MUSL18. In the 2020 election cycle, did you personally give money to support a U.S. political campaign?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

   a. I gave money to a U.S. presidential campaign
   b. I gave money to a U.S. senate or congressional campaign
   d. I gave money to a local campaign

MUSL19. In the 2016 election cycle, did you personally volunteer your time to support a U.S. political campaign?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

   a. I volunteered with a U.S. presidential campaign
   b. I volunteered with a U.S. senate or congressional campaign
   d. I volunteered with a local campaign
MUSL19.1. In the 2020 election cycle, did you personally volunteer your time to support a U.S. political campaign?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

a. I volunteered with a U.S. presidential campaign
b. I volunteered with a U.S. senate or congressional campaign
d. I volunteered with a local campaign

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL20. Did you personally give money to help victims of Hurricane Harvey?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL21. Did you personally volunteer your time to help victims of Hurricane Harvey?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank
MUSL22. Thinking both about the 12 months prior to COVID-19 and then again about March 2020 through now, did you donate to any of the following causes?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

Donated in the 12 months prior to COVID-19
- a. Local charitable causes
- b. Texas-wide charitable causes
- c. National charitable causes
- d. International charitable causes

Donated March 2020 through now
- e. Local charitable causes
- f. Texas-wide charitable causes
- g. National charitable causes
- h. International charitable causes

MUSL23. Please indicate which, if any, of the following you have done in the past year to express your views or concerns?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

- a. I have met with or spoken with my governor or his staff
- b. I have met with or spoken with my U.S. senators or their staff
- c. I have met with or spoken with my U.S. congressperson or his/her staff
- d. I have met with or spoken with my Texas state senator, Texas state representative, or their staff
- e. I have met with or spoken with my mayor or his/her staff

MUSL24. Since 2016, has it become more difficult to be a Muslim in Houston, easier, or it has not changed very much?

1. It has become more difficult
2. It has become easier
3. It hasn’t changed very much
9. Web Blank
BASE: ALL

MUSL25. How concerned are you about anti-Muslim sentiment spreading within non-Muslim communities in Houston?

1 Extremely concerned
2 Somewhat concerned
3 Not too concerned
4 Not at all concerned
9 Web Blank

BASE: ALL

PN: SHOW AS GRID ON DESKTOP, SHOW ON INDIVIDUAL SCREENS IF MOBILE. ROTATE a-h. PN: CREATE ROTATION VARIABLE

MUSL26. How concerned are you that the following incidents are happening or could happen in Houston?

(MOBILE: Show statement: Are you…)

1 Extremely concerned
2 Somewhat concerned
3 Not too concerned
4 Not at all concerned
9 Web Blank

a. Muslim children being bullied in schools
b. Harassment of Muslim women and girls in public places
c. Discrimination or bias against Muslims in the workplace
d. Discrimination or bias against Muslims when interacting with law enforcement
e. Discrimination or bias against Muslims when interacting with courts and judges
f. Discrimination or bias against Muslims when interacting with health care professionals
g. Threats or violence against Muslims in public places
h. Zoning, local ordinances, or other local efforts intended to stop mosques or Islamic centers from being built

PN: SHOW AS GRID ON DESKTOP AND MOBILE; ROTATE a-g, show item h last PN: CREATE ROTATION VARIABLE

BASE: ALL

MUSL27. Have you personally experienced any of the following things in Houston since 2016?

1 Yes
2 No
9 Web Blank

a. People have acted as if they are suspicious of me because I am a Muslim
b. Someone has expressed support for me because I am a Muslim
c. I have been called offensive names because I am a Muslim
d. I have been singled out by law enforcement officers because I am a Muslim
e. I have been physically threatened or attacked because I am a Muslim
f. I have seen anti-Muslim graffiti in my local community
g. I have been singled out for secondary security screenings at Houston airports because I am a Muslim
h. I have experienced some other type of anti-Muslim incident

PN: SHOW AS DROP DOWN IF MUSL27G=1

BASE: IF MUSL27G=1

MUSL27G1. How often do you receive secondary security screenings at Houston airports?

1  Every time I travel
2  Nearly every time I travel
3  Often when I travel
4  Sometimes when I travel
5  Once in a while when I travel
9  Web Blank

BASE: ALL

MUSL27G2. Do you believe other religious minorities are receiving secondary security screenings at Houston airports?

1  Every time they travel
2  Nearly every time they travel
3  Often when they travel
4  Sometimes when they travel
5  Once in a while when they travel
6  Never
7  Do not know
8  Web Blank

PN: SHOW AS GRID ON DESKTOP AND MOBILE; ROTATE a-g, ALWAYS SHOW ITEM h LAST PN: CREATE ROTATION VARIABLE

BASE: ALL

MUSL28: Outside of your own personal experiences, have any of your Muslim family members told you that they experienced any of the following things in Houston since 2016?

1  Yes
2  No
9  Web Blank

a. People acted as if they were suspicious of a family member because he/she is a Muslim
b. Someone expressed support for a family member because he/she is a Muslim
c. A family member was called offensive names because he/she is a Muslim
d. A family member was singled out by law enforcement officers because he/she is a Muslim
e. A family member was physically threatened or attacked because he/she is a Muslim
f. A family member saw anti-Muslim graffiti in his/her local community
g. A family member has been singled out for secondary security screenings at Houston airports because he/she is a Muslim
h. A family member has experienced some other type of anti-Muslim incident
MUSL28.1. Outside of your own personal experiences and outside the experiences of your Muslim family members, have any of your Muslim friends told you that they experienced any of the following things in Houston since 2016?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

- People acted as if they were suspicious of a friend because he/she is a Muslim
- Someone expressed support for a friend because he/she is a Muslim
- A friend was called offensive names because he/she is a Muslim
- A friend was singled out by law enforcement officers because he/she is a Muslim
- A friend was physically threatened or attacked because he/she is a Muslim
- A friend saw anti-Muslim graffiti in his/her local community
- A friend has been singled out for secondary security screenings at Houston airports because he/she is a Muslim
- A friend has experienced some other type of anti-Muslim incident

MUSL29. On March 15, 2019, two consecutive mass shootings occurred during Friday prayer at mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, killing 51 people and injuring 40 others. How concerned are you of a similar attack happening in Houston?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not too concerned
4. Not concerned at all
9. Web Blank
MUSL30. Based on just your impression, are the following local institutions or groups doing enough to help address Islamophobia and anti-Muslim incidents in Houston?

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web Blank

a. Police and sheriff departments
b. Mayor’s office
c. City council
d. County courts
e. Philanthropic organizations (e.g., Arnold Ventures, Greater Houston Community Foundation, Houston Endowment, etc.)
f. Local universities
g. Local mosques
h. Other local faith-based communities
BASE: ALL
PN: SHOW AS GRID ON DESKTOP. SHOW BULLYING HARASSMENT OF MUSLIMS AND HATEFUL CONTENT ABOUT MUSLIMS ON SEPARATE SCREENS; SHOW INDIVIDUALLY ON MOBILE.

ROTATE A-G AND H-N AND ROTATE STATEMENTS. SAME ORDER OF A-G AND H-N FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL RESPONDENT.

PN: CREATE ROTATION VARIABLE
MUSL31. In the last twelve months, have you personally experienced bullying or harassment on social media platforms because you are Muslim?

1 Yes
2 No
3 Don’t use this platform
9 Web Blank

Bullying or Harassment of Muslims on

a. YouTube
b. Facebook
c. Instagram
d. Twitter
e. Pinterest
f. Snapchat
g. TikTok
h. WhatsApp
i. Clubhouse
j. Other social media platforms [if yes, drop down box for person to write name(s) of online services]

Please specify the other social media platforms where you have experienced bullying or harassment:

________________________ (Specify)
9 Web Blank
In the last twelve months, have you personally seen hateful content about Muslims on social media platforms?

**Hateful Content about Muslims on**

a. YouTube  
b. Facebook  
c. Instagram  
d. Twitter  
e. Pinterest  
f. Snapchat  
g. TikTok  
h. WhatsApp  
i. Clubhouse  
j. Other social media platforms [if yes, drop down box for person to write name(s) of online services]

Please specify the other social media platforms where you have seen hateful content about Muslims:

__________________ (Specify)

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL32 On a typical day, is there anything distinctive about your appearance, voice, or clothing that people might associate with being Muslim?

1. Yes  
2. No  
8. Not sure  
9. Web Blank

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL33. Are you...?

1. Male  
2. Female  
9. Web Blank

**BASE: IF MUSL33=2 (FEMALE)**

MUSL33a. When you are out in public, how often do you wear a headcover or hijab? Do you wear it ...?

1. All the time  
2. Most of the time  
3. Only some of the time  
4. Never  
9. Web Blank
**BASE: ALL**

MUSL34 Including yourself, how many adults age 18 or older currently live in your household?

____________ (1-10)
99 Web Blank

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL34a What is your age?

_______________(18-97)
99 Web Blank

**BASE: IF MUSL34 IS BLANK**

MUSL35 Which of these categories best describes your age?

1  18-29
2  30-49
3  50-64
4  65 or older
9  Web Blank
**BASE: ALL**

**MUSL36. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?**

1. Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling)
2. High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate)
3. Vocational, business technical, or other training that did not count toward a degree
4. Some college, no degree (includes some community college)
5. Two-year associate degree from a college or university
6. Four-year college or university degree/Bachelor’s degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB)
7. Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree
8. Postgraduate or professional degree, including master’s, doctorate, medical, or law degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, MD, JD)
9. Web blank

**BASE: ALL**

**MUSL37 Are you a homeowner?**

1. Yes
2. No
9. Web blank

**BASE: ALL**

**MUS38. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...?**

1. A Republican
2. A Democrat
3. An independent
4. Other (SPECIFY)
9. Web blank

**BASE: ALL**

**MUSL39. Are you registered to vote?**

1. Yes
2. No

**BASE: IF MUSL39=1**

**MUSL40. In the 2020 presidential election between Donald Trump and Joe Biden did you...?**

1. Vote for Donald Trump
2. Vote for Joe Biden
3. Vote for a third-party candidate
4. Did not vote
9. Web blank
**BASE: MUSL40=1**

MUSL40.1 : How often do you vote?

3  Only in presidential elections
4  Every election (presidential, federal, state, local)
5  Often, but not in every presidential, federal, state, and local election
6  Never
9  Web Blank

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL41 Are you Latino or Hispanic?

1  Yes
2  No
9  Web Blank

**BASE: ALL**

MUSL42. Do you consider yourself White, Black or African American, Arab, Asian, Native American, Pacific Islander, mixed race or some other race?

*Please select all that apply*

1  White
2  Black or African American
3  Arab
4  Asian/Chinese/Japanese
5  Native American/American Indian/Alaska Native
6  Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
7  Mixed race
8  Some other race
9  Web Blank
BASE: **ALL**

MUSL43. In 2019, what was your total annual household income from all sources, and before taxes...?

01 Less than $15,000,
02 at least $15,000 but less than $25,000,
03 at least $25,000 but less than $30,000,
04 at least $30,000 but less than $40,000,
05 at least $40,000 but less than $50,000,
06 at least $50,000 but less than $75,000,
07 at least $75,000 but less than $100,000,
08 at least $100,000 but less than $125,000,
09 at least $125,000 but less than $150,000,
10 at least $150,000 but less than $175,000,
11 at least $175,000 but less than $200,000,
12 at least $200,000 but less than $225,000,
13 at least $225,000 but less than $250,000, or
14 $250,000 or more
99 Web Blank

**BASE: ALL**

This is the end of the survey. Thank you, we greatly appreciate your time and cooperation!