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45% Say Muslim Americans Face 'A Lot' of Discrimination

After Boston, Little Change in Views of Islam and Violence

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
THE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE
PEOPLE & THE PRESS**

Michael Dimock

Director

Carroll Doherty

Associate Director

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-4372

Fax (202) 419-4399

www.people-press.org

45% say Muslim Americans Face ‘A Lot’ of Discrimination

After Boston, Little Change in Views of Islam and Violence

The public’s views of whether Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence have changed little in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings.

Currently, 42% say Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers, while 46% say Islam does not encourage violence more than other religions.

These are similar to opinions about Islam and violence for most of the past decade. But in March 2002, six months after the 9/11 attacks, just 25% said Islam was more likely to encourage violence while 51% disagreed.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted May 1-5 among 1,504 adults, finds that finds sizable demographic and religious differences in attitudes toward Islam and violence. And the partisan gap is as large as ever: 62% of Republicans say that Islam encourages violence more than other religions, compared with 39% of independents and just 29% of Democrats.

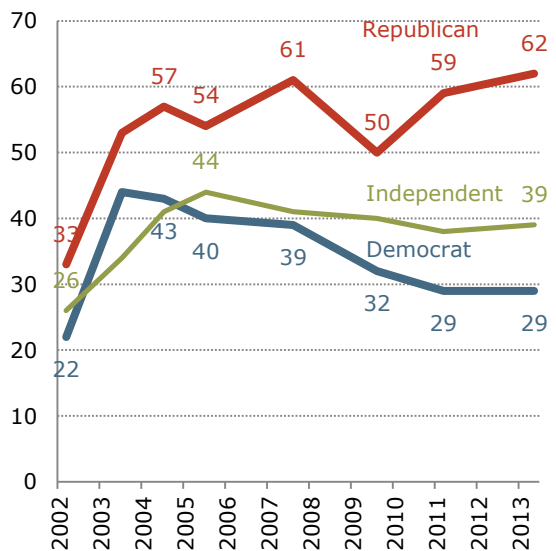
Public Remains Divided over Whether Islam Encourages Violence More than Other Religions

	Mar 2002	July 2003	Aug 2007	Aug 2009	Mar 2011	May 2013
<i>The Islamic religion ...</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%
Is more likely than others to encourage violence among its believers	25	44	45	38	40	42
Doesn't encourage violence more than other religions	51	41	39	45	42	46
Other/Don't know	<u>24</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>13</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Most Republicans Say Islam is More Likely to Encourage Violence

Percent saying the Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence among its believers



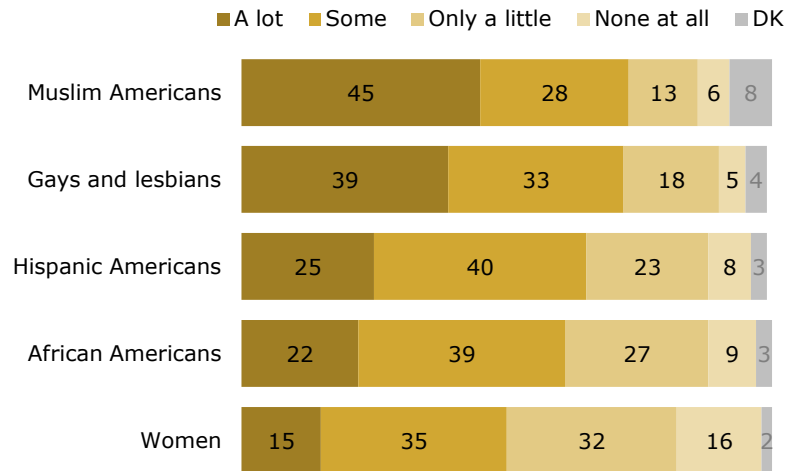
PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013.

The survey also finds that Muslim Americans are seen as facing more discrimination than some other groups in society, including gays and lesbians, Hispanic Americans, African Americans and women.

Overall, 45% say that Muslim Americans face a lot of discrimination, and 28% say they are subject to some discrimination. Only about one-in-five say that Muslim Americans face only a little (13%) or no discrimination (6%).

About four-in-ten (39%) say that gays and lesbians face a lot of discrimination. Smaller percentages say that Hispanic Americans (25%), African Americans (22%) and women (15%) face a lot of discrimination.

How Much Discrimination Is There Against ...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Opinions about Islam and Violence

Most young people continue to reject the idea that Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers. Six-in-ten (60%) of those younger than 30 say Islam does not encourage violence more than other religions, as do 54% of those 30 to 49. By contrast, about half of those 50 to 64 (51%) and 65 and older (53%) say that Islam is more likely to encourage violence.

There also are gender differences in these opinions: By 48% to 39%, men say Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence; women, by 52% to 35%, disagree.

The wide partisan differences in these opinions are even starker among ideological groups: Fully 69% of conservative Republicans say Islam encourages violence more than other religions. About the same percentage of liberal Democrats (71%) say that Islam is no more likely than other religions to encourage violence.

Among religious groups, most white evangelical Protestants (63%) say that Islam is more likely than other religions to encourage violence. White Catholics are divided (43% more likely, 43% not more likely).

By 53% to 40%, white mainline Protestants say Islam does not encourage violence more than other religions. The balance of opinion is similar among the religiously unaffiliated (54% to 35%).

Most Young People Reject Link Between Islam and Violence

<i>Is Islam more likely than other religions to encourage violence among its believers?</i>	More likely %	Not more likely %
Total	42	46
Men	48	39
Women	35	52
White	45	44
Black	34	55
Hispanic	33	46
18-29	31	60
30-49	35	54
50-64	51	37
65+	53	29
College grad+	35	58
Some college	43	46
High school or less	45	37
Conservative Republican	69	25
Mod/Lib Republican	46	44
Independent	39	49
Cons/Mod Democrat	36	47
Liberal Democrat	20	71
Protestant	48	41
White evangelical	63	25
White mainline	40	53
Catholic	40	42
White Catholic	43	43
Unaffiliated	35	54

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures read across, percent volunteering no opinion or other views not shown.

Views of Discrimination against Muslim Americans, Other Groups

There are sizable partisan differences in views of discrimination against Muslim Americans and other groups included in the survey. Nearly twice as many Democrats (57%) as Republicans (29%) say Muslim Americans face a lot of discrimination. About half of independents (47%) say the same.

Democrats also are more likely than Republicans to see a lot of discrimination against Hispanics (by 23 points), African Americans (22 points), gays and lesbians (19 points) and women (11 points).

Age also is a factor in these opinions: About half of those under 30 (51%) and 30-49 (49%) say there is a lot of discrimination against Muslim Americans. That compares with 42% of those 50-64 and just 35% of those 65 and older.

Perceptions of Discrimination Vary Widely by Partisanship, Age, Race

% saying each group faces "a lot" of discrimination

	Muslims	Gays	Hispanics	Blacks	Women
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	45	39	25	22	15
Republican	29	28	12	10	9
Democrat	57	47	35	32	20
Independent	47	39	25	21	14
Rep-Dem diff	-28	-19	-23	-22	-11
18-29	51	52	29	25	14
30-49	49	42	28	22	17
50-64	42	34	25	22	14
65+	35	28	14	15	17
Young-old diff	+16	+24	+15	+10	-3
White	45	35	20	16	11
Black	47	56	43	46	32
Hispanic	47	48	38	25	22
White-black diff	-2	-21	-23	-30	-21

PEW RESEARCH CENTER May 1-5, 2013. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

There also are substantial differences between the youngest and oldest age groups in perceptions of discrimination against gays and lesbians: 51% of those younger than 30 think there is a lot of discrimination against gays and lesbians, compared with 28% of those 65 and older.

Notably, blacks, whites and Hispanics are all about equally likely to say there is a great deal of discrimination against Muslim Americans (47% of blacks and Hispanics and 45% of whites). When it comes to perceptions of discrimination against blacks and Hispanics, however, the differences are much greater. Nearly half of blacks (46%) say there is a lot of discrimination against African Americans, compared with a quarter of Hispanics (25%) and 16% of whites.

About four-in-ten blacks (43%) and Hispanics (38%) say there is a lot of discrimination against Hispanic Americans, compared with 20% of whites.

Notably, blacks are about as likely to say there is a lot of discrimination against Muslim Americans (47%) and Hispanic Americans (43%) as against African Americans (46%). Far more whites see a lot of discrimination against Muslim Americans than either Hispanic Americans (20%) or African Americans (16%).

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted May 1-5, 2013 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (751 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 753 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 401 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Republicans	399	5.7 percentage points
Democrats	489	5.2 percentage points
Independents	529	5.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MAY 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
May 1-5, 2013
N=1,504

QUESTIONS 1-5 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS-6-8

ASK ALL:

On a different subject...

Q.9 Please tell me how much discrimination there is against each of these groups in our society today. How about...**[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Would you say there is a lot of discrimination, some, only a little, or none at all? And how much discrimination is there against **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**, **[IF NECESSARY: a lot, some, only a little, or none at all]**?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>Some</u>	<u>Only a little</u>	<u>None at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. African Americans					
May 1-5, 2013	22	39	27	9	3
Oct 28–Nov 30, 2009 (SDT)	18	51	21	6	3
April 2001 ¹	25	49	16	7	3
b. Hispanic Americans					
May 1-5, 2013	25	40	23	8	3
Oct 28–Nov 30, 2009 (SDT)	23	47	19	6	5
April 2001	19	47	23	8	3
c. Gays and lesbians					
May 1-5, 2013	39	33	18	5	4
Oct 28–Nov 30, 2009 (SDT)	45	33	12	5	6
d. Women					
May 1-5, 2013	15	35	32	16	2
Oct 28–Nov 30, 2009	13	43	29	12	2
April 2001	14	46	27	13	1
e. Muslim Americans					
May 1-5, 2013	45	28	13	6	8

NO QUESTIONS 10-13, 15-16

QUESTIONS 14, 17a, 17b HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

¹ The April 2001 figures for Q.9 a, b and d are from a *Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard University* survey.

ASK ALL:

Q.17 Here are some pairs of statements. Please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is...
[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]

	The Islamic religion is more likely than others to encourage violence among <u>its believers</u>	The Islamic religion does not encourage violence <u>more than others</u>	(VOL.) Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
c. May 1-5, 2013	42	46	13
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	40	42	18
Aug 19-22, 2010	35	42	24
Aug 11-17, 2009	38	45	16
August, 2007	45	39	16
July, 2005	36	47	17
July, 2004	46	37	17
Mid-July, 2003	44	41	15
March, 2002	25	51	24

QUESTIONS 18-19, 25-27, 29-30, 36-38, 40-42, 46-53, 56-63, 69-72, 75, 78-80, 84 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 21-24, 28, 31-35, 39, 43-45, 54-55, 64-68, 73-74, 76-77, 81-83

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

			(VOL.) (VOL.)		(VOL.)		Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb.13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Yearly Totals								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=600]:

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

May 1-5		Mar 13-17	Feb 13-18	Jan 9-13
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>
28	Agree	43	36	35
8	Disagree	7	9	10
61	No opinion either way	47	52	51
2	Haven't heard of (VOL.)	1	1	2
1	Refused (VOL.)	1	3	2

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(SDT) Pew Research Center's Social and Demographic Trends project