

# Methodology

For purposes of this analysis, groups that constitute less than 50% of a country's population are considered religious minorities. This includes subgroups within major religious traditions, such as Roman Catholics and Orthodox Christians and Sunni and Shia Muslims. Including subgroups within religious traditions is important for the study of refugees because many origin countries for refugees are embroiled in intra-religious conflicts and hostilities. When no religious group makes up more than 50% of the population – which is the case in countries with several large religious groups – smaller religious groups are considered religious minorities. For example, if a country's population included three religious groups that each make up about 30% of the population, the groups that make up the remaining 10% would be considered religious minorities.

Demographic estimates come from the U.S. State Department's [International Religious Freedom Reports](#), with the exception of Eritrea. Data for Eritrea come from [Pew Research Center demographic estimates](#).

The following is the categorization used for the religions included in the State Department's Refugee Processing Center data. Unspecified major religions were included with the majority subgroup in the country. For example, if Sunni Islam was the majority religion, Muslim (unspecified) was also included in the count of majority religion refugees. This provides the most conservative estimate of religious minority refugees in the country.

### Major religious groups and their subgroups

#### Christian

##### *Catholic*

Chaldean Christian

Uniate

##### *Protestant*

Baptist

Evangelical Christian

Lutheran

Mennonite

Methodist

Pentecostal

Seventh-day Adventist

##### *Jehovah's Witness*

##### *Orthodox*

Orthodox

Russian Orthodox

Greek Orthodox

Ukrainian Orthodox

Old Believer

Coptic

#### Muslim

*Sunni*

*Shiite*

*Ismaili*

#### Hindu

#### Other religion

*Zoroastrian*

*Yazidi*

*Kirat*

*Animist*

*Sabeans-Mandean*

*Kaaka'i*

*Baha'i*

#### Buddhist

#### Jewish

#### Unaffiliated

*No religion*

*Atheist*

#### Unknown