

Some Demographic Data: Nigeria's Sharia States

The following table shows, in Column 2, the populations of the twelve Sharia States according to Nigeria's 2006 census. Unfortunately information about religious affiliation was not gathered in the census; in fact the last officially accepted census in which such information was gathered was taken in 1952, when the figures were given by then-province. Percentages of Muslims according to the 1952 census are shown in Column 3. These percentages are probably in most cases too high as applied to the present day. The only other estimates of percentages of Muslims by State that we are aware of are ones made by the World Christian Database in 2002; these percentages, shown in Column 5, are probably in most cases too low. Assuming the truth lies somewhere in between, but having no basis for knowing where, we have simply averaged the 1952 census and 2002 WCD percentages (Column 7) and multiplied the averages times the current populations to get our best guesses of the numbers of Muslims in the Sharia States today (Column 8). Other columns of the table are self-explanatory. Footnotes are on the following page.

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1 State	2 Population per 2006 census ¹	3 % Muslims per 1952 census ²	4 Est. total Muslims using 1952 % (2 * 3)	5 % Muslims per WCD est. 2002 ³	6 Est. total Muslims using WCD % (2 * 5)	7 Average of 1952 and 2002 est. % Muslims ((3+5)/2)	8 Est. total Muslims using average % (2*7)	9 % children under 15 yrs. ⁴	10 Est. total Muslim children under 15 (8 * 9)	11 % female ⁵	12 Est. total female Muslims (8 * 11)	13 Est. total Muslim girls under 15 (10 * 11)
Kano	9,383,682	98%	9,196,008	69%	6,474,741	84%	7,835,374	44%	3,447,565	49.5%	3,878,510	1,706,545
Jigawa	4,348,649		4,261,676	70%	3,044,054	84%	3,652,865		1,607,261		1,808,168	795,594
Katsina	5,792,578	95%	5,502,949	74%	4,286,508	85%	4,894,728		2,153,681		2,422,891	1,066,072
Sokoto	3,696,999	94%	3,475,179	74%	2,735,779	84%	3,105,479		1,366,411		1,537,212	676,373
Zamfara	3,259,846		3,064,255	74%	2,412,286	84%	2,738,271		1,204,839		1,355,444	596,395
Kebbi	3,238,628		3,044,310	73%	2,364,198	84%	2,704,254		1,189,872		1,338,606	588,987
Borno	4,151,193	84%	3,487,002	49%	2,034,085	67%	2,760,543		1,214,639		1,366,469	601,246
Yobe	2,321,591		1,950,136	49%	1,137,580	67%	1,543,858		679,298		764,210	336,252
Bauchi	4,676,465	74%	3,460,584	61%	2,852,644	68%	3,156,614		1,388,910		1,562,524	687,511
Gombe	2,353,879		1,741,870	49%	1,153,401	62%	1,447,636		636,960		716,580	315,295
Kaduna	6,066,562	61%	3,700,603	51%	3,093,947	56%	3,397,275		1,494,801		1,681,651	739,926
Niger	3,950,249	44%	1,738,110	52%	2,054,129	48%	1,896,120		834,293		938,579	412,975
Totals	53,240,321		44,622,682		33,643,352		39,133,017		17,218,530		19,370,844	8,523,171

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Notes to the demographic data:

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Nigeria, citing the preliminary results of the 2006 Nigerian census, accessed 28 June 2007.
2. J. Paden, *Religion and Political Culture in Kano* (Berkeley: University Press, 1973), 44, summarizing data from the 1952 census, given by then-province; some of the provinces have subsequently been divided into separate states as indicated in the table.
3. World Christian Database (WCD), <http://www.worldchristiandatabase.org/>, with details by Nigerian state, estimated as of 2002, kindly supplied in April 2006 by Dr. Todd Johnson of the Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. WCD's procedure appears to be to estimate the number of Christians by state based on data supplied to it by Christian organisations; to compute from the estimated numbers of Christians, estimated percentages of Christians, based on population figures obtained from other sources; to estimate the percentage of adherents to "ethnoreligion & other" – i.e. non-Christians/non-Muslims – put at a uniform 11% for all Nigerian states in the data we received; and then to compute the percentage of Muslims as the remainder. There are obviously many pitfalls here, but for many reasons it is not easy to do better. In this table we have shown WCD's estimated percentages of Muslims by Sharia State except in one case: WCD's estimated percentage of Muslims for Bauchi State is given as 31%. This is clearly in error; we have changed the number to 61% which is probably still too low but is closer to the truth.
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Demographics_of_Nigeria. The percentage is for all of Nigeria, undifferentiated by state or region.
5. *Ibid.* Again the percentage is for all of Nigeria, undifferentiated by state or region.