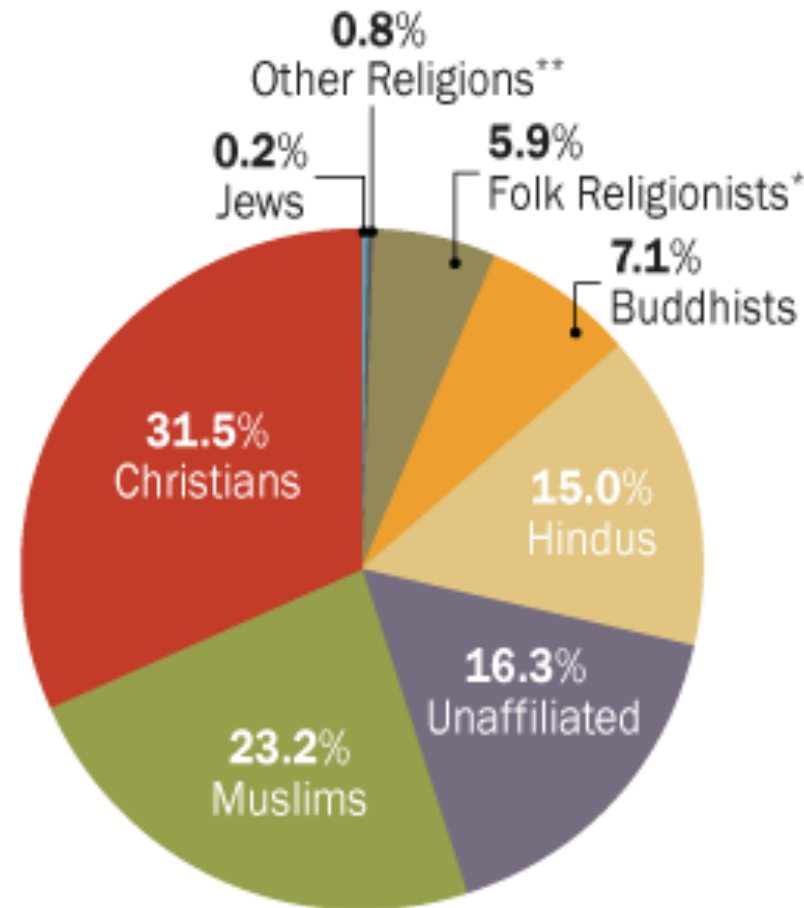


**Population worldwide**

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## 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.

Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life •  
Global Religious Landscape, December 2012

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**Jerusalem**

## **Islam**

Mecca and Medina are the two most important places in Islam, with Muhammad declaring Mecca the holy city of Islam. Today, millions of Muslims visit Mecca every year to pray and worship.

Jerusalem is also a very important city in Islam. They believe that Muhammad ascended into heaven at the spot where Dome of the Rock is built. Dome of the Rock is also on a hill, Mount Moriah, and Muslims believe this is where Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son, Issac. (see the holy texts station if you want to read the story of Abraham and Issac.)

## **Judaism**

Jewish people see Jerusalem as the homeland of the Jews. In the Old Testament, Jerusalem is mentioned over a hundred times in various stories.

In Judaism, the most important spot in Jerusalem is the Western Wall. It is also on Mount Moriah, and they too believe that Abraham brought Issac, and millions of Jewish people travel there to visit and pray. Thousands of years ago, a temple was built around the stone that people believe Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Issac on. The Western Wall is believed to be the ruins of that ancient holy temple.

## **Christianity**

Jerusalem is an extremely important city in Christianity. Not only is it the scene of many important events and people in the Old Testament, it is most importantly the place where Jesus was crucified.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is believed to be at the spot where Jesus' tomb was located. Outside the church is the path where Christians believe Jesus carried the cross.