

Appendix K: Muslim Estimate

The first phase of the Mosque Survey was a count, conducted from June to November 2019, of all U.S. mosques. This count started with the 2010 mosque database, then conducted an internet search to verify the existence of mosques previously counted as well as to identify new ones. This internet search depended primarily on the databases found on the websites of Muslim Guide and Salatomatic. We verified mosques through their websites, Google Map searches, and phone calls. The internet search resulted in an initial count of 2,948 mosques. We then sent a first-class letter with address correction requested to all mosques on our list. The first-class mailing included a short questionnaire to solicit basic information about mosques. Recipients could complete the questionnaire in different ways, including online. From the 2,948 questionnaires we sent, we received 164 responses, a 5.5 percent response rate. We checked returned mail with general Internet searches as well as a Google Maps search specifically. Ultimately, we identified 2,771 mosques.

The second phase of the Mosque Survey was a comprehensive telephone interview survey of a mosque leader, for which we drew a random sampling of mosques. To achieve our goal of having a margin of error of no more than 5 percent for survey results, we needed to complete 337 questionnaires. We stratified our sample of mosques by state, such that each state had a set number of mosques for which the questionnaire had to be completed. The Mosque Survey randomly sampled 700 mosques, of which 470 completed the questionnaires, fulfilling the target for each state. The work of completing the questionnaires started in November 2019 and ended in October 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic made the task of finding a mosque leader more difficult and delayed completion of the survey.

For the Mosque Survey, we defined mosques as a Muslim organization that organizes Jum’ah prayer, conducts other Islamic activities, and controls the space in which activities are held. This definition would include “musallas,” which have an organization that does more than just conduct Jum’ah prayers. This definition excludes those places, such as a hospital or airport, where only Jum’ah prayer is held with no other Islamic activities. Some Shi’ite religious organizations do not hold Jum’ah prayer due to the absence of a resident scholar or because they consider themselves an Imambargah or Hussainiya. We classified such Shi’ite organizations as mosques. The Mosque Survey did not include Muslim organizations, such as the Nation of Islam, Moorish Science Temple, Ismailis, and Ahmadiyah, outside the American Muslim community mainstream.

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