

Key Findings



Research Team



Rebecca Karam
Principal Investigator
& Author



Aisha Arshad
Research Assistant



Kristin Waterbury
Research Assistant



Hazel Gomez
Research Assistant



Hassan Jibril
Data Analyst



Dalia Mogahed
ISPU Director of
Research



Sarrah Buageila
ISPU Project Manager



Stephen McGrath
ISPU Senior
Communications
Manager

Advisory Team

- 📍 **Mustafa Davis** – Photographer, film producer, and digital media consultant, founder of Mustafa Davis Studios™.
- 📍 **Tarek El-Messidi** – Marketing consultant and digital strategist for businesses and nonprofits.
- 📍 **Dr. Sally Howell** – Associate Professor of History, Director, Center for Arab American Studies at the University of Michigan - Dearborn.
- 📍 **Jennifer Maytorena Taylor** – Award winning documentary producer and director of character-based social issue feature films. Assistant Professor, Social Documentation at UC Santa Cruz.
- 📍 **DinarStandard** – A growth strategy research and advisory firm covering: OIC markets, Halal, Ethical, Social entrepreneurship, Islamic finance, and the Muslim market.

MAP participants were photographed by Marisol Dorantes.

Muslims for American Progress

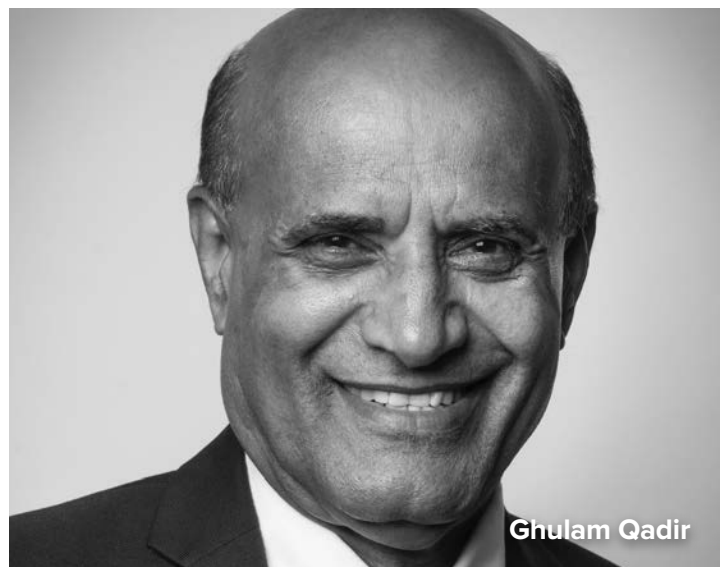
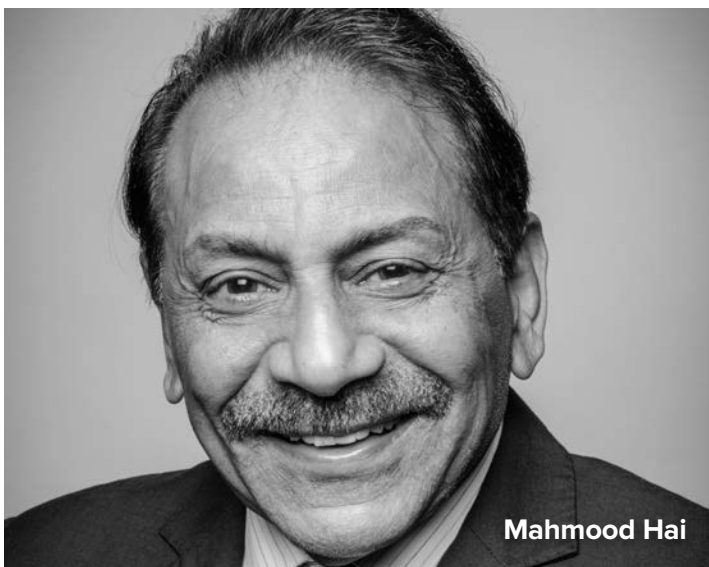
Key Findings

Thomas Jefferson teaches us that *an educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people*. Today, issues surrounding Muslim Americans are central in our political discourse, policy debates, and popular culture. Yet most Americans say they do not know a Muslim and, according to media content analysis, more than 80% of media coverage of Islam and Muslims in the United States is negative. This opens the door for a narrow media image to distort public perceptions of this diverse community. If “an educated citizenry” is vital to the health of our democracy, then providing accurate information on Muslim Americans is a civic duty. Muslims for American Progress (MAP), a project of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), aims to do just that.

To fill the widespread gaps in knowledge about Muslim American citizens, including their positive impact on the country, the MAP Project quantifies the contributions of Muslim Americans in the state of Michigan. Michigan’s Muslim community serves as a case study for the rest of the nation, and the findings from this project are in many ways indicative of Muslim contributions across the United States. To our knowledge, this is the **first analysis of its kind** that explores the dynamic ways in which Muslims contribute to wider American society.

Who are American Muslims?

- According to PEW, there are 3.3 million Muslims in the U.S. as of 2015, making up 1% of the U.S. population.
- As of 2015, there are approximately 273,734 Muslims in Michigan, making up 2.75% of the state’s population.
- Muslims are America’s youngest faith group: 80% of Muslims surveyed are between 18 and 49 years old, compared to 33% of Jews, 49% of Catholics, 44% of Protestants, and 58% of the non-affiliated.
- Muslims are the most ethnically diverse faith community: Muslims are the only faith community surveyed with no majority race, with 25% Black, 24% White, 18% Asian, 18% Arab, 7% mixed race, and 5% Hispanic.



American Muslims provide innovative and substantive healthcare

While Muslims only make up **2.75%** of Michigan's population, they are an integral part of the medical community, making up:

- 📍 **15.4%** of all medical doctors
- 📍 **10.6%** of all pharmacists
- 📍 **7.4%** of dentists
- 📍 **6.9%** of podiatrists
- 📍 **6.1%** of osteopaths

These Muslim medical professionals:

- 📍 Provide **1.6 million** appointments to patients per year
- 📍 Indirectly support **39,987** jobs
- 📍 Fill over **15 million** retail drug prescriptions per year

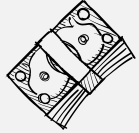
Key Examples:

Laser light therapy: Doctor Mahmood Hai, who practices in Westland and Dearborn, specializes in the treatment of prostate blockages and is a leader in developing the greenlight laser technology, which is an innovative treatment option for men with enlarged prostate glands. This approach is clinically proven to be less painful and invasive for patients than traditional methods. Under Hai's leadership, his team performed the original Food and Drug Administration clinical trials in collaboration with the Mayo Clinic to become the first in the country to use the latest high-powered, 180-watt XPS GreenLight laser. Reflecting on his career, Hai explained that his most important contributions are his "day-to-day work as a physician, to see the pain of my fellows, and to help."

Michigan Patient Bill of Rights: Doctor Ghulam Qadir is a psychiatrist with more than 30 years of experience in metropolitan Detroit. He specializes in addiction and geriatric psychiatry. Qadir has won many professional awards and has served as the Vice Chairman of the Controlled Substances Advisory Commission for the State of Michigan. In the early 2000s, he worked with state representatives to pass the revised Michigan Patient Bill of Rights, which provides a list of guarantees for both those receiving and providing medical care that is displayed in every state licensed medical facility. He has also worked to amend the Michigan Mental Health Code.

American Muslims serve those in need

In 2015, Michigan Muslims donated at least:



\$177 Million

Dollars to charity



1,307,226

Pounds of food



45,300

Articles of clothing



14,400

Gallons of water



6,600

Backpacks



120

Care packages

The average Michigan Muslim household spent **18% more** in charity in 2015 than the average household nationally.

Key Examples:

The M.A.D.E. Institute provides reintegration programming, mentoring, and job services to citizens returning from prison. It was founded by Leon El-Alamin, who was formerly incarcerated. His organization helped in the successful 2014 Genesee County campaign to “ban the box,” or to remove the checkbox on job applications that required applicants to disclose felony convictions. Fair-chance policies such as this have proven successful across the country and are associated with a significant decrease in unemployment for ex-convicts.

Zaman International of Inkster, Michigan was founded by Najah Bazzy, a registered nurse, in 1996 (the organization was incorporated as a nonprofit in 2004). Zaman provides basic services to thousands of families in need, having collected over **60,000** donations of food, clothing, and furniture in the last 5 years. In addition, the organization also provides many unique services. For example, since 2005, Zaman has offered “Plots for Tots,” an infant burial program for families of all faiths without the resources to give their children proper burials, and the organization has purchased over **200** plots toward this end. To date, Zaman has provided essential services to over **1.3 million** people in need with help from over **5,000** volunteers and **300** community partners.

American Muslims add 5.5 billion dollars to the Michigan economy

In 2015, Muslim household consumer spending totaled

\$5,526,946,500.00

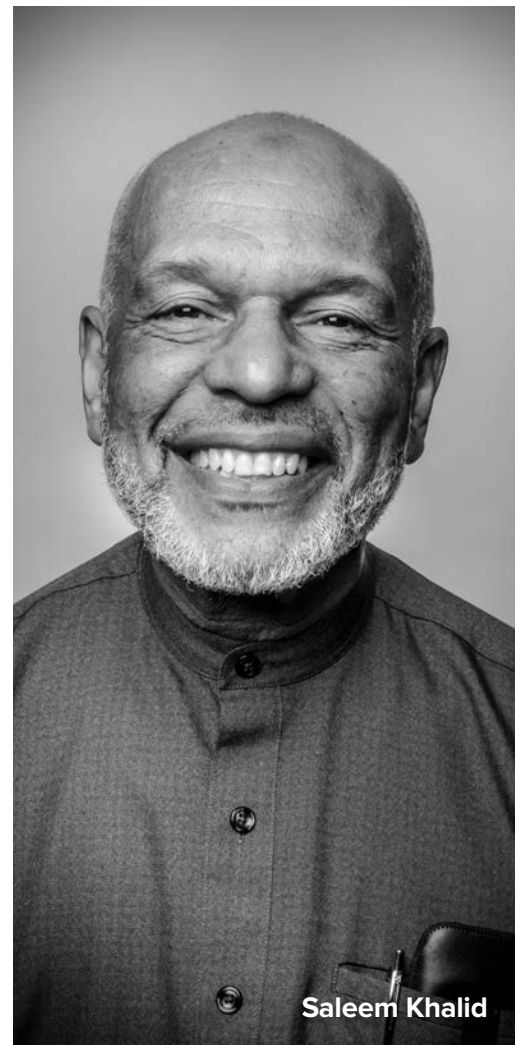
Compared to the nation generally, in 2015, Michigan Muslim households spent:

- 📍 **20%** more in total consumer spending
- 📍 **4 times** more on education
- 📍 **2 times** more on apparel and services

Key Examples:

Saleem Khalid is committed to addressing structural inequality wherever he can, seeking economic justice for all. He began his professional career with Standard Federal Savings, now known as Bank of America, where he became the bank's first Muslim and African American vice president. Khalid's storied career in Detroit's banking and financial sector has allowed him to recognize long-standing discriminatory lending practices against people of color in the city. As the Executive Director for the Detroit Alliance for Fair Banking, a coalition of community, religious, and political organizations formed to monitor financial institution compliance, Khalid oversaw a \$4.2 billion community action plan that provided Detroiters unprecedented access to credit, employment, supplier, professional, and other opportunities. Using his experience and expertise to address such inequalities, he worked with the National Bank of Detroit and other banks to make housing loans available to those in underserved communities.

Eric Sabree currently serves as the Treasurer of Wayne County and has had a distinguished career in public service in the Detroit area. As Treasurer, Sabree oversees the county's foreclosure activities; Wayne County has the largest number of tax foreclosures in the United States, more than **90%** of which are in the city of Detroit. Despite the chronic financial troubles facing constituents, Sabree has championed a preventive approach to the foreclosure crisis that focuses on education and intervention before constituents are in danger of losing their homes. Since implementing this new course of action, tax foreclosures declined **36%**, from 28,000 in 2015 to 18,000 in 2016. Sabree's responsibilities entail much more than foreclosures. His office manages the funds and investments in the county, the largest in Michigan.



Saleem Khalid

American Muslims educate the next generation

In the state of Michigan:

- 📍 **1,107** licensed K-12 teachers are Muslim, making up **1.22%** of the K-12 teachers who obtained licenses 2010-2015.
- 📍 The number of licensed Muslim educators grew **127%** in the last 5 years.
- 📍 Muslim K-12 teachers educate approximately **29,889** students per year.
- 📍 Muslim households spend nearly **4 times more** on education than the average American household.

Key Examples:

Zaynab Salman is a social studies teacher at Canton High School where she estimates that she has taught more than 1,000 students during her career. Salman comes from a family of educators and is passionate about getting her students to connect with social history: “Teaching history is not just understanding names and dates and people. It’s also realizing it has a point of connectivity, that this actually has an influence in my life.”

Luay Shalabi has held the position of principal at Ann Arbor’s GEE’s Central Academy since 1997. Because the student body of Central Academy is incredibly diverse, one of the core foci of this school is prioritizing the needs of English language learners. He has received several distinguished awards over the years toward this end. In 2011, he received the Michigan Citizen of the Year Award from The Michigan Council for Social Studies in recognition of his work to increase tolerance and diversity, and in 2015, he received the Top Administrator of the Year Award by the Michigan Association of Public School Academies. U.S. News and World Report ranked Central Academy among the top 10% of all high schools nationwide in 2008 and again in 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2016.



Zaynab Salman



Luay Shalabi

American Muslims represent and invest in their communities

In the state of Michigan:

- 📍 At least **35 public office** positions are currently held by Muslims.
- 📍 Muslims serve in both state and local offices, some representing the entire state (**9.9 million residents**).
- 📍 Muslims serve in **11 different municipalities**.
- 📍 There are **701** Muslim lawyers registered with the state bar, making up **2%** of the state's lawyers.

Michigan is home to many civic firsts:

- 📍 Adam Shakoor, first Muslim judge
- 📍 Rashida Tlaib, first Muslim to serve in the Michigan State House of Representatives
- 📍 Al Haidous, first Muslim mayor in the United States (Wayne, MI)
- 📍 Fadwa Hammoud, youngest prosecutor in the state
- 📍 Hamtramck, MI, first Muslim-majority city council

Key Examples:

Al Haidous became the first Muslim mayor in the United States in 2001, when he was elected to serve the City of Wayne, a position he held for 14 years. The national recession of 2007–2009, which hit southeastern Michigan especially hard, took place during his tenure as mayor, and roughly half the private-sector, full-time jobs in the city were eliminated in that period. Despite the nation's financial troubles, he and the council managed to safeguard essential services and balance the budget. He left Wayne debt-free when he moved on to serve as a Wayne County commissioner in 2014.

Patronicity, founded in 2013 by Ebrahim Varachia and Chris Baluvelt, is a crowdfunding platform for Michigan-based public works and community-based organizations that democratizes access to public capital by allowing projects to raise money and receive public matching money. Patronicity works in collaboration with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Since Patronicity's founding, Varachia and Blauvelt have raised more than \$6 million toward 103 public projects such as public parks and community spaces in Michigan. Patronicity has been implemented in Massachusetts and Indiana.

American Muslim women excel in STEM fields

Women are vastly underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) careers, holding only **24%** of all STEM jobs in the nation. Muslim women, however, are leading the way to increasing gender parity in the field and spurring new developments in their respective areas of expertise.

Key Examples:

Jacqueline El-Sayed embodies renaissance qualities in all that she does, making positive contributions across the entire state of Michigan through idealism and professionalism. El-Sayed is currently the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Marygrove College. She has also served as an influential faculty member of Kettering University for nearly two decades, rising to the position of associate provost. Beyond the academy, El-Sayed has served as a chair on both the Michigan Truck Safety Commission and the Michigan Motorcycle Safety Advisory Committee and played an instrumental role in the passage of the 2008 State Highway Safety Plan. She reflected on her role, explaining, “I was idealistic, I was saving lives through traffic safety.” She has also been twice elected as trustee of the Bloomfield Hills Board of Education, where she helped create the Diversity, Academic Equity and Race Relations task force to increase diversity in staff hiring and build a more culturally competent school district—a model for districts across the state. Other honorable positions held by El-Sayed include national chair of the Council of Fellows Professional Development Committee for the American Council on Education, national co-chair of the Undergraduate Experience Committee for the American Society of Engineering Education (ASEE), national treasurer for the Women in Engineering Division of ASEE, and on the Advancement Committee at the Society of College and University Planners. Her distinguished career trajectory makes El-Sayed one of Michigan’s finest residents, bettering the lives of all in the state.



Jacqueline El-Sayed

Fattum Mutahr is an award-winning industrial and systems engineer who has devoted a significant part of her career to encouraging young people to pursue careers in STEM. This includes working with students in First Robotics, a global robotics competition, and participating in a World in Motion—a program that enables her to make visits to four classrooms throughout the school year to teach students about engineering. Mutahr also founded a youth program called Reality Check that has served 300 students in grades K–12 with the goal of promoting educational success in urban centers.



Fattum Mutahr

Lisa Gandy is an assistant professor of Computer Science at Central Michigan University (CMU). She specializes in natural language processing and teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Gandy is remarkable not only because she is the only woman in the department, but also because she has assisted in developing a camp aimed at encouraging young girls (ages 11–14) from rural areas to pursue an education in STEM fields and serves as an advisor in CMU’s Women in Technology Club.



Lisa Gandy

Fatima Kebe is an industrial engineer at Ford’s transmission manufacturing operations division. She has been recognized as one of Ford’s Thirty Under 30, an initiative that connects Ford employees with nonprofit organizations to build future generations of community-minded workers, and Kebe is working to improve the organization of the Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries. Kebe has also created several programs aimed at facilitating youth leadership and professionalization among potential leaders from marginalized communities.

Juman Doleh-Alomary is a visionary in every field in which she is involved, rising to leadership positions in professional arenas with few other women. She not only serves as the Information Technology Audit Director at Wayne State University, but also as a board member on the Michigan Underground Storage Tank Authority (appointed by Governor Rick Snyder) representing the public interest, where she helps to manage more than \$40 million in the Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund and assists underground storage tank owners in remediating contamination caused by tank leakages. To help address gender inequalities, especially in business and entrepreneurship, Doleh-Alomary serves on the executive board of the Arab American Women’s Business Council and leads the networking committee for the group. Doleh-Alomary also serves on the executive board of ISACA, a nonprofit, independent association that advocates for professionals involved in information security, assurance, risk management, and governance.

As vice president of the Detroit chapter, she has been asked by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) international women’s task force to work on encouraging women to pursue careers in STEM, specifically within audit and cyber security. She is committed to mentorship and professional development of the next generation adding that “it’s important to give 100% to the things you do and think about how much can you add value in everything else,” advice that embodies all the work she does.



Fatima Kebe



Juman Doleh-Alomary

Methodology

The Muslims for American Progress project team conducted quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis between January and October 2016. Qualitative interviews, lasting 60 minutes, were conducted with 146 individuals from all eight focus areas: Medicine, STEM, Civics & Democracy, Philanthropy & Nonprofit, Education, Economics, Art & Entertainment, and Sports. A surname analysis was conducted on data sets acquired from the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and from the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA). Secondary analysis was conducted on economic and population source material from “The Muslim Green: American Muslim Market Study 2014-15” (DinarStandard and AMCC), the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Aggregate Expenditures Reports, and the Pew Research Center, 2011, “Muslim Americans: No Signs of Growth in Alienation or Support for Extremism” report.

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ISPU conducts objective, solution-seeking research that empowers American Muslims to develop their community and fully contribute to democracy and pluralism in the United States. Since 2002, ISPU has been at the forefront of discovering trends and opportunities that impact the American Muslim community. Our research aims to educate the general public and enable community change agents, the media, and policymakers to make evidence-based decisions. In addition to building in-house capacity, ISPU has assembled leading experts across multiple disciplines, building a solid reputation as a trusted source for information for and about American Muslims.

For more information, please visit: www.ispu.org | info@ispu.org



Washington, DC

1110 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20005
Tel: (202) 768-8749

Michigan

6 Parklane Blvd, Suite 510
Dearborn, MI 48126
Tel: (313) 436-0523

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