

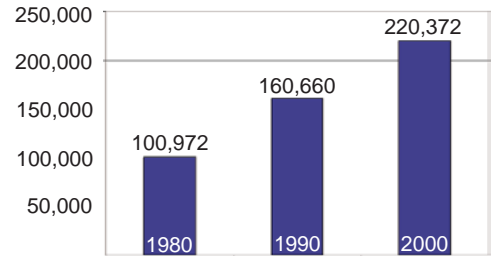


State's Rank by Arab American Population: **1**
 Estimated Arab American Population: **715,000***

- ♦ California has the largest number of Arab Americans of any state.
- ♦ The southern California Arab community in Los Angeles and Orange Counties constitutes the largest cluster in the state, which is growing rapidly and becoming a major political, cultural and business center.
- ♦ More new immigrants from the Arab world select California as their destination than any other state.

Growth Trends

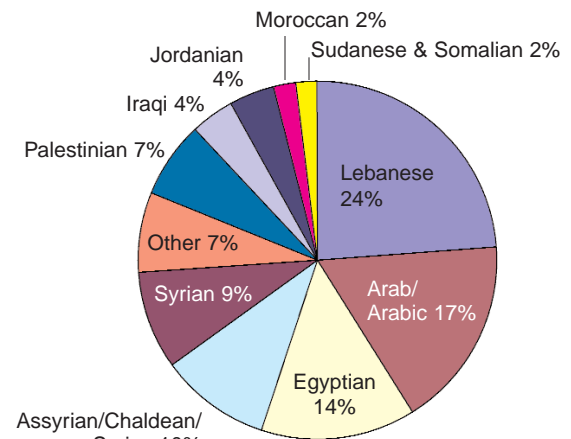
The population who identified an Arabic speaking ancestry in the U.S. Census **grew by more than 34% between 1990 and 2000**. California's Arab American community has shown significant increases in growth over the past two decades more than doubling its size since the 1980 Census. The state's Arab/Chaldean ancestry population grew by an average of more than 57,000 in each decade. It is estimated that the statewide population, adjusting for underreporting,* is close to 715,000.



Source: 1980, 1990, and 2000 U.S. Census

How Do Arab Americans Identify Themselves?

Primary ethnic identification is derived from responses to the ancestry question on the long (sample) form of the 2000 U.S. Census. Census data on "Arabs" include the responses Lebanese, Syrian, Egyptian, Iraqi, Jordanian, Palestinian, Moroccan, Arab or Arabic, and the following countries collapsed as "Other Arab": Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Kuwait, Libya, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

We also include Arabic-speaking persons who identify as Assyrian/Chaldean, Somali or Sudanese, identities which are not aggregated as Arab in Census reports. In California, persons of Lebanese ancestry comprise about one fourth of the total Arab American population. A significant increase since 1990 was seen among the Assyrian/Chaldean population, predominantly in the San Diego area. Palestinians are among the largest subgroups in the San Francisco Bay area.

Immigration

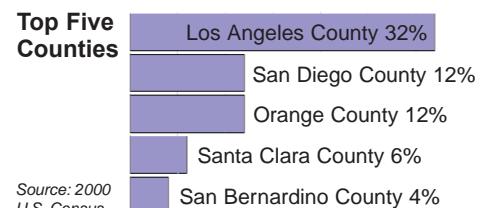
Based on a sample year of 1997, the largest number of **Arab immigrants to California** came from Lebanon, Egypt, and Iraq. Immigrants from the Gulf region originate from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Maghreb region includes Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Immigrants by country:	By region:
Lebanon 782	Gulf 1186
Egypt 777	Maghreb 581
Iraq 733	
Jordan 648	
Syria 537	

Source: California Immigrants Admitted by Country of Birth and State of Residence, INS 1997

Where Do California's Arab Americans Live?

The Arab American community is represented in **56 out of all 58 counties** in California, with significant clusters in the greater Los Angeles area, San Diego and the seven northern counties around the San Francisco Bay.



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

*AAI reports estimates by Zogby International whose research projects population figures at least three times that of census data. The decennial Census identifies only a portion of the Arab population through a question on "ancestry" on the census long form. Reasons for the undercount include the placement of and limits of the ancestry question (as distinct from race and ethnicity); the effect of the sample methodology on small, unevenly distributed ethnic groups; high levels of out-marriage among the third and fourth generations; and distrust/misunderstanding of government surveys among more recent immigrants.