

Massachusetts

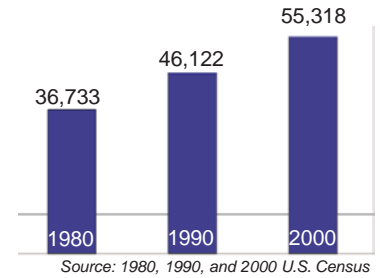


State's Rank by Arab American Population: **9**
 Estimated Arab American Population: **175,000***

Massachusetts is ranked 9th among states with significant Arab American populations. Attracting the first wave of Syrian and Lebanese immigrants by its mills and factories, the state boasts a well-established, mostly U.S.-born Arab American community with some pockets of foreign-born in the Boston area.

Growth Trends

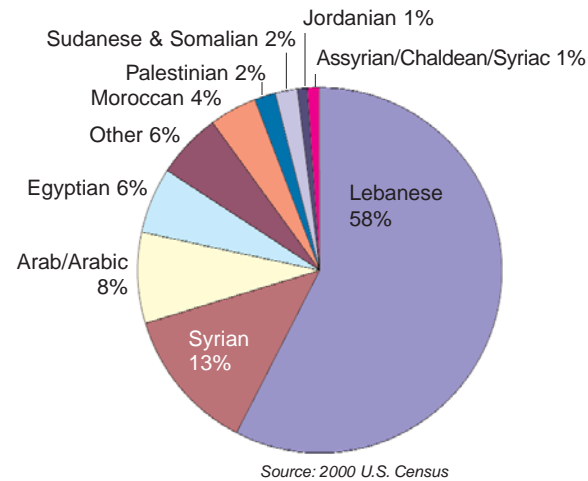
The population who identified an Arabic-speaking ancestry in the U.S. Census **grew by some 20% between 1990 and 2000**. Massachusetts' identifiable Arab American community increased by about 40% during the two decades since the Census of 1980. It is estimated that the statewide population, adjusting for underreporting*, is close to 175,000.



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.

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 Massachusetts, according to the 2000 Census, those of Lebanese and Syrian descent account for the largest percentage of the state's Arab ancestry population. Among the emerging subgroups identified in the census are communities from Egypt and Morocco.



Immigration

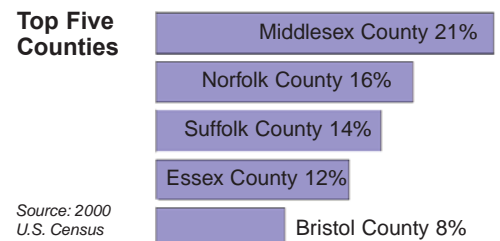
Based on a sample year of 1997, the **largest number of new Arab immigrants to Massachusetts** came from Lebanon, Egypt, and Syria. Once a popular destination for immigrants from the first wave, the state has one of the lower rates for new arrivals. Immigrants from the Gulf region originate from Bahrain, 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 205	Maghreb 51
Egypt 112	Gulf 47
Syria 76	
Jordan 51	
Iraq 32	

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

Where Do Massachusetts Arab Americans Live?

Arab Americans can be found in **all 14 counties in Massachusetts**. While a slightly larger concentration can be found in Middlesex County, the Arab community is more evenly distributed around the state than in most other U.S. regions.



*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.