

Michigan

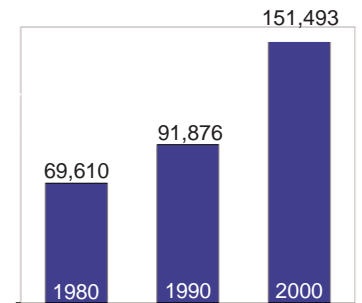


State's Rank by Arab American Population: **2**
 Estimated Arab American Population: **490,000***

- ♦ Michigan is home to the highest concentration of Arab Americans in any U.S. state
- ♦ Arab Americans in Michigan constitute the most visible, organized and politically influential constituency in the country.
- ♦ The greater Detroit area community is known for its diversity, institutional leadership, and cultural outreach.

Growth Trends

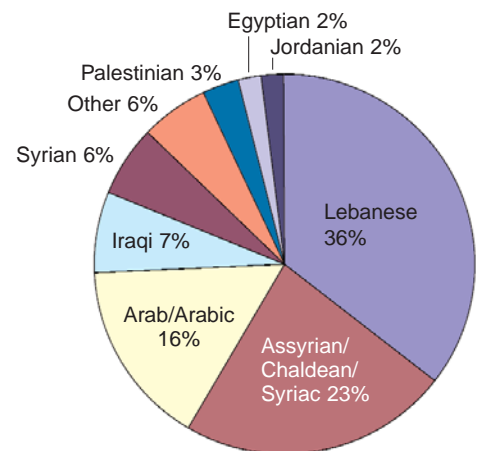
The population who identified an Arabic speaking ancestry in the U.S. Census **grew by more than 65% between 1990 and 2000**. Since ancestry was first tabulated by the Census in 1980, the population who claim an Arab or Chaldean ancestry has more than doubled. It is estimated that the statewide population, adjusting for under-reporting, * is close to 490,000.



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 Michigan, according to the 2000 Census, roughly two thirds of the community identify as having either Lebanese or Iraqi/Chaldean heritage. These groups are well represented in greater Detroit along with sizable numbers of Yemeni and Palestinian Americans. Descendants of the earlier wave of Lebanese and Syrian immigrants also live in Flint.

Immigration

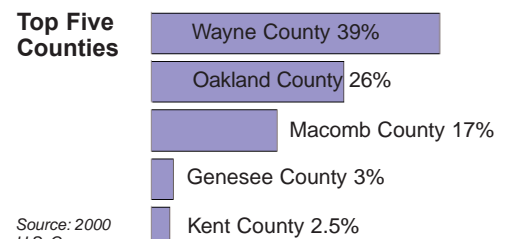
Based on a sample year of 1997, the largest number of **new Arab immigrants to Michigan** came from Iraq, principally after the Gulf war of 1991, as well as from Lebanon and Jordan. Like California, Michigan is a preferred destination for new immigrants to the U.S.

Immigrants by country:	By region:
Iraq 1006	Gulf 577
Lebanon 832	Maghreb 40
Jordan 264	
Syria 173	
Egypt 137	

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

Where Do Michigan's Arab Americans Live?

The Arab American community is represented in **82 out of 83 counties in Michigan**, with more than 80% of the state's population residing in the three Detroit metro counties of Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne. Roughly one third of the city of Dearborn claims some Arab heritage.



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.