

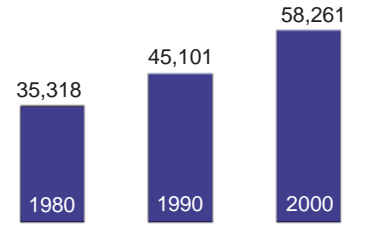


State's Rank by Arab American Population: **8**
 Estimated Arab American Population: **185,000***

Ohio ranks ninth among the states with Arab American concentrations. Arabic-speaking immigrants have been settling in Ohio's major cities for over a century. More than one half of the state's Arab community claim Lebanese and Syrian descent. A sizable number of second wave Arab immigrants have settled in Cleveland and Columbus in recent years. Civic activism and business acumen among Ohio's Arab Americans have resulted in more visibility for the community.

Growth Trends

The population who identified an Arabic-speaking ancestry in the U.S. Census **grew by 30% between 1990 and 2000**. The Arab ancestry population increased by some 40% since the Census first measured ethnic origin in 1980. It is estimated that the statewide population, adjusting for underreporting*, is close to 185,000.

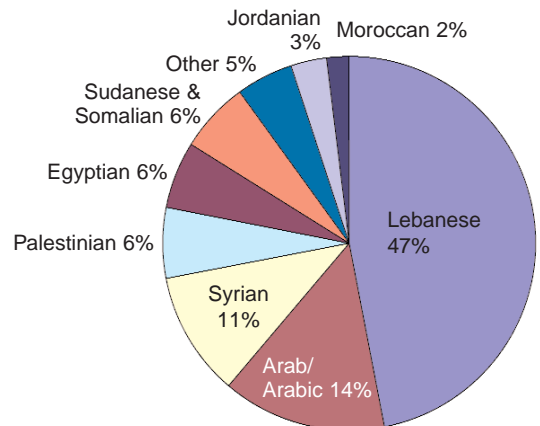


Source: 1980, 1990, and 2000 U.S. Census

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.

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 Ohio, according to the 2000 census, roughly one out of two Arab Americans in the state have roots in Lebanon and Syria, a legacy of the first major wave of Arab immigration in the early 1900s. Palestinian and Egyptian identity showed growth since the last Census and about one in seven ancestry respondents chose the generic identity of "Arab/Arabic."



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Immigration

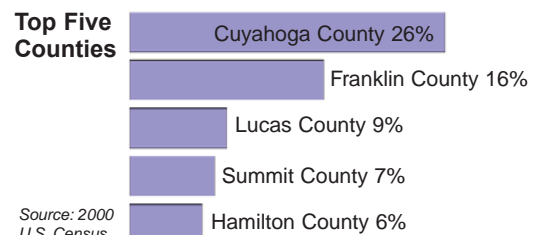
Based on a sample year of 1997, **new Arab immigrants to Ohio** came from Jordan (predominantly Palestinians with Jordanian passports), Lebanon and Egypt. Immigrants from the Gulf region originate from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. The Maghreb region includes Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia.

Immigrants by country:	By region:
Jordan 192	Gulf 102
Lebanon 120	Maghreb 74
Egypt 98	
Iraq 74	
Syria 69	

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

Where Do Ohio's Arab Americans Live?

Arab Americans in Ohio reside in **86 of the 88 counties** in the state. More than one third of those who identify an Arab ancestry live in metropolitan Cleveland, with other clusters in Toledo, Columbus and Akron.



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.