

California

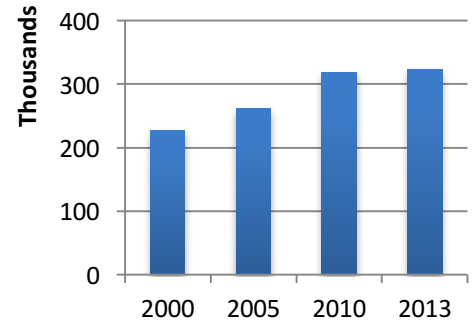


State's Rank by Arab American Population: **1**
AAI Estimated Arab American Population: **817,455***

Growth Trends

The population in California who identified as having Arabic-speaking ancestry on U.S. Census surveys grew by more than 42% between 2000 and 2013. The number of Californians who claim an Arab ancestry has more than doubled since the Census first measured ethnic origins in 1980 and is among the fastest growing Arab populations in the country. The Census Bureau estimates that the statewide Arab American population is close to 324,609*.

Arab American Population Growth



Immigration

The largest number of new Arab immigrants to California came from Iraq, Egypt, and Syria.

Recent Immigrants by Country of Origin (2009-2013)

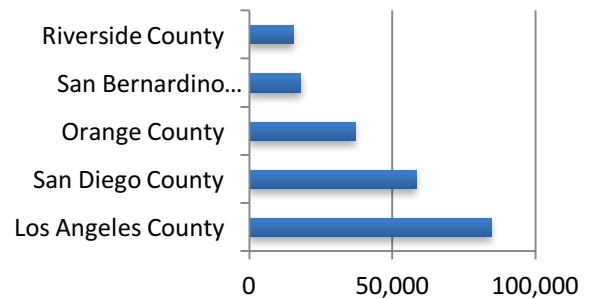
Iraq	18,654
Egypt	6,853
Syria	3,854
Jordan	2,935
Lebanon	2,921

How do Arab Americans Identify Themselves?

Primary Ethnic Identification is derived from responses to the ancestry question on the American Community Survey. 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 that are not aggregated as Arab in Census reports. In California, according to the Census Bureau, the largest components of the Arab American community in the state have Lebanese or Egyptian roots. Since 2005, significant increases appear in the number of Californians who are of Iraqi or Chaldean descent.

Arab American Population by County, 2013



Where do Californian Arab Americans Live?

Arab Americans in California reside in 56 of the 58 counties in the state.

**Research by AAI and Zogby International suggest that the number above is likely significantly lower than the actual number of Arab Americans in the state. The American Community Survey identifies only a portion of the Arab population through a question on "ancestry." Reasons for the undercount include the placement of and limit 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 recent immigrants.*

Sources: American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (2013), American Community Survey 5-Year estimates (2010), 2000 US Census—U.S. Census Bureau; Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2009-2013—Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security