

# District of Columbia



State's Rank by Arab American Population: **42**  
AAI Estimated Arab American Population: **10,821\***

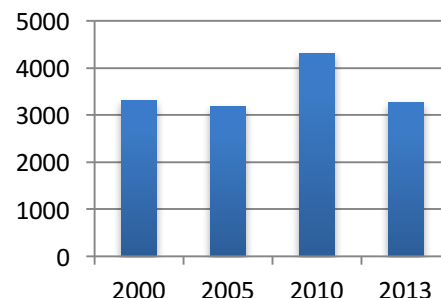
## Growth Trends

The population who identified as having Arabic-speaking ancestry in the U.S. Census decreased by 1% between 2000 and 2013. The number of Washingtonians who claim an Arab ancestry 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 district-wide Arab American population is close to 3,285\*.

## Immigration

The largest number of new Arab immigrants to the District of Columbia came from Morocco, Iraq, and Egypt.

Arab American Population Growth



## 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 which are not aggregated as Arab in Census reports. In the District of Columbia, according to the Census Bureau, the largest component of the Arab American community in the district has Lebanese or Egyptian roots. Since 1990, significant increases appear in the number of Washingtonians who are of Egyptian and Moroccan descent. Roughly 13% of ancestry respondents chose the generic identity of "Arab/Arabic."

Immigrants by Country of Origin (2009-2013)

<b>Morocco</b>	121
<b>Iraq</b>	103
<b>Egypt</b>	76
<b>Sudan</b>	53
<b>Lebanon</b>	41

*\*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, 5-Year Estimates (2013), 2000 US Census—US Census Bureau, Office of Immigration Statistics; Yearbook of Immigration Statistics 2009-2013—Office of Immigration Statistics, Department of Homeland Security