



Arab American Demographics Ohio



Major communities: Cleveland, Toledo, Columbus, Cincinnati

Over three-fourths of Ohio's Arab Americans are Lebanese and Syrian- and more tend to be listed as multiple ancestry than single ancestry. These groups are mainstays in cities like Toledo, Akron and Cleveland. A significant number of second wave Arab Americans have settled in Cleveland in recent years.

TABLE 1: ARAB POPULATION IN OHIO

STATE	1980 CENSUS	1990 CENSUS	U.S. RANK ARAB POP.	GROWTH: 1980-1990	% + OR -	GROWTH RANK	EST. POP.*
OH	35,318	45,101	9TH	9,738	27.2	29TH	135,300

Source: ZOGBY GROUP, 1995

TABLE 2: SAMPLE ANNUAL IMMIGRATION FROM ARAB COUNTRIES (1997)

Total	Gulf	Maghreb	Egypt	Iraq	Lebanon	Syria	Jordan
729	102	74	98	74	120	69	192

Source: OHIO IMMIGRANTS ADMITTED BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH AND STATE OF RESIDENCE, INS 1997

TABLE 3: % OF POPULATION BY ARAB ANCESTRY/IDENTIFICATION

Arab	Egyptian	Iraqi	Jordanian	Lebanese	Palestinian	Syrian	Other
12%	4%	.5%	2%	60%	6%	14%	1.5%

Source: 1990 CENSUS

A Note on Methodology*

The above profile of Arab American demographics was compiled by the Zogby Group in Utica, N.Y. (mail@zogby.com) and is based on data from the ancestry question in the U.S. Census (1990), the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and best on-the-ground estimates compiled after years of visiting, working in, interviewing leaders in, and observations of over 100 Arab American communities.

The significant discrepancy between community estimates and census figures relates to several factors. Census data on the Arab population are derived from a question on ancestry asked only of a sample of the total population, a methodology that negatively impacts smaller groups. The undercount is also higher in urban areas where many clusters of Arab Americans reside, and among immigrants who are more distrustful of government surveys and/or have a language barrier. Some persons of Arab descent are hesitant to identify their ethnicity due to perceived negative stereotypes and prejudice. Finally, the multiple ancestries common among 4th and 5th generation Arab Americans also contribute to the non-response to this question that only tabulates up to two ancestry groups per respondent.