Arab American Demographics
Michigan

Major communities: Detroit, Dearborn, Flint

MICHIGAN 1998 Resident Population: 9,817,242 (est.) **Arab American Population: 321,560 (3.2%)**

In addition to Michigan's substantial first wave community of Lebanese and Syrians, the state also features substantial numbers of other groups. Detroit-Dearborn features the largest and perhaps the most visible Arab American community. This area is home to many different national and religious sects. A large number of Lebanese and Syrians live in other cities like Flint, but Detroit-Dearborn is often regarded as the major Arab American community in both size and influence. Immigration into metropolitan Detroit has been occurring since the late 1800's and increasing since the late 1960's.

TABLE 1: ARAB POPULATION IN MICHIGAN

STATE	1980 CENSUS	1990 CENSUS	U.S. RANK ARAB POP.	GROWTH: 1980-1990	% + OR -	EST. POP.*
MI	69,610	91,876	3RD	22,266	32%	321,560

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

Total	Gulf	Maghreb	Egypt	Iraq	Lebanon	Syria	Jordan
3,021	577	40	137	1,006	832	173	264

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

TABLE 3: % OF POPULATION BY ARAB ANCESTRY/IDENTIFACTION

Arab	Egyptian	Iraqi	Assyrian	Lebanese	Palestinian	Syrian	Other
16%	2%	8%	12%	44%	3%	11%	4%

Source: 1990 CENSUS

ARAB IMMIGRATION (1987-1993)
ENTERING/RESIDING IN STATE

3rd -	***Michigan***	***16,667***

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.