



The information on ancestry was collected on the “long form” of the census questionnaire, which was sent to approximately one-sixth of all households. Item 10 on the questionnaire asked respondents to identify their ancestry or ethnic origin (see Figure 1).<sup>4</sup> As many as two ancestries were tabulated per respondent; if either response was included in the definition of Arab used here, the person is included in this analysis. Around 19 percent of the U.S. population provided no response to the ancestry question.

Ancestry refers to ethnic origin, descent, “roots,” heritage, or place of birth of the person or of the person’s ancestors. The ancestry question was not intended to measure the degree of attachment to a particular ethnicity, but simply to establish that the respondent had a connection to and self-identified with a particular ethnic group. For example, a response of “Lebanese” might reflect involvement in a Lebanese community or only a memory of Lebanese ancestors several generations removed.

The data in this report are based solely on responses to the Census 2000 ancestry question. Questions that were positioned before the ancestry question where respondents might have indicated an Arab origin (namely race, Hispanic origin, and place of birth) were not considered.

Although religious affiliation can be a component of ethnic identity, neither the ancestry question nor any other question on the decennial census form was designed to collect information about religion. No religious information was tabulated from Census 2000. Religious

<sup>4</sup> The term respondent is used here to refer to all individuals for whom one or more ancestries were reported, whether or not one person answered the question for all household members.

responses were all reclassified as “Other groups.”

This report presents national, regional, state, county, and selected place-level information for the total Arab population, as well as additional detailed information for the three largest Arab groups: Lebanese, Syrian, and Egyptian. Smaller groups are shown only at the national level.

### **The Arab population, which numbered over 1 million in 2000, increased by nearly 40 percent during the 1990s.**

In 2000, 1.2 million people reported an Arab ancestry in the United States, up from 610,000 in 1980 (when data on ancestry were first collected in the decennial census) and 860,000 in 1990. The Arab population increased over the last two decades: 41 percent in the 1980s and 38 percent in the 1990s.<sup>5</sup> Arabs represented 0.42 percent of the U.S. population in 2000, compared with 0.27 percent in 1980.

### **People of Lebanese, Syrian, and Egyptian ancestry accounted for about three-fifths of the Arab population.**

In 2000, more than one-third of those reporting an Arab ancestry were Lebanese (37 percent, see Table 1), including both people who indicated that they were only Lebanese and those who reported being both Lebanese and another ancestry, which might or might not also be Arab.<sup>6</sup> The next largest specific groups were Syrian and Egyptian (12 percent each).

<sup>5</sup> The estimates in this report are based on responses from a sample of the population. As with all surveys, estimates may vary from the actual values because of sampling variation or other factors. All statements made in this report have undergone statistical testing and are significant at the 90-percent confidence level unless otherwise noted.

<sup>6</sup> Hereafter, estimates of specific ancestry groups include people who reported solely that ancestry or who reported it in combination with another one.

Among the nearly half-million people who reported other specific Arab ancestries, the largest proportion was Palestinian (6.1 percent of the total Arab population). The Jordanian, Moroccan, and Iraqi populations were also sizable (3.3 percent, 3.3 percent, and 3.2 percent, respectively).<sup>7</sup> An additional 4.3 percent of the Arab population identified themselves as Yemeni, Kurdish, Algerian, Saudi Arabian, Tunisian, Kuwaiti, Libyan, Berber, or other specific Arab ancestries, each of which accounted for 1 percent or less of the total Arab population.<sup>8</sup>

A substantial portion of the Arab population (20 percent) identified with general Arab ancestries, such as “Arab” or “Arabic” (17 percent), “Middle Eastern” (2.4 percent), or “North African” (0.3 percent). This population was second in size only to the Lebanese ancestry group.

### **During the 1990s, the Egyptian population increased numerically more than any other group.**

The number of people with Egyptian ancestry grew by 64,000, the most of any specific Arab ancestry group (see Table 1), increasing from 79,000 in 1990 to 143,000 in 2000 (growing by 82 percent). The number of people who identified as Lebanese also grew substantially, but by a smaller proportion, from 394,000 to 440,000 over the decade, an increase of 12 percent. Syrians, who numbered 130,000 in 1990, grew to 143,000 in 2000 (or by 10 percent).<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> The proportions of the population who were Jordanian, Moroccan, or Iraqi were not statistically different.

<sup>8</sup> The proportion of the population that was Yemeni was not statistically less than 1 percent.

<sup>9</sup> The growth in the Syrian population from 1990 to 2000 was not statistically different from the growth in the Lebanese population.

Table 1.  
**Arab Population by Ancestry: 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

Subject	1990		2000		Change, 1990 to 2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total population .....</b>	<b>248,709,873</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>32,712,033</b>	<b>13.2</b>
<b>TOTAL ARAB POPULATION AND ANCESTRY<sup>1</sup></b>						
<b>Total Arab population .....</b>	<b>860,354</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>1,189,731</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>329,377</b>	<b>38.3</b>
Lebanese .....	394,180	45.82	440,279	37.01	46,099	11.7
Syrian.....	129,606	15.06	142,897	12.01	13,291	10.3
Egyptian .....	78,574	9.13	142,832	12.01	64,258	81.8
All other Arab reports .....	268,378	31.19	476,863	40.08	208,485	77.7
Specific Arab ancestry .....	132,066	15.35	239,424	20.12	107,358	81.3
Palestinian .....	48,019	5.58	72,112	6.06	24,093	50.2
Jordanian .....	20,656	2.40	39,734	3.34	19,078	92.4
Moroccan .....	19,089	2.22	38,923	3.27	19,834	103.9
Iraqi .....	23,212	2.70	37,714	3.17	14,502	62.5
Yemeni.....	4,093	0.48	11,683	0.98	7,590	185.4
Kurdish .....	2,181	0.25	9,423	0.79	7,242	332.0
Algerian .....	3,215	0.37	8,752	0.74	5,537	172.2
Saudi Arabian.....	4,486	0.52	7,419	0.62	2,933	65.4
Tunisian.....	2,376	0.28	4,735	0.40	2,359	99.3
Kuwaiti.....	1,306	0.15	3,162	0.27	1,856	142.1
Libyan .....	2,172	0.25	2,979	0.25	807	37.2
Berber .....	530	0.06	1,327	0.11	797	150.4
Other specific Arab ancestry <sup>2</sup> .....	731	0.08	1,461	0.12	730	99.9
General Arab ancestry .....	136,312	15.84	237,439	19.96	101,127	74.2
Arab or Arabic .....	127,364	14.80	205,822	17.30	78,458	61.6
Middle Eastern.....	7,656	0.89	28,400	2.39	20,744	271.0
North African.....	1,292	0.15	3,217	0.27	1,925	149.0

<sup>1</sup> Because respondents could list up to two ancestries, the total number of ancestries reported will sum to more than the total number of people.

<sup>2</sup> Groups whose population was less than 1,000 in 2000, including Emirati (United Arab Emirates), Omani, Qatari, Bahraini, Alhuceman, Bedouin, and Rio de Oro.

Source: 2000 data from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 4 and Sample Edited Detail File; 1990 data from U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Sample Edited Detail File.

Among the smaller Arab ancestry groups, the Moroccan, Jordanian, and Palestinian populations grew the most numerically over the decade. Proportionally, each of those groups experienced substantial growth as well, increasing by at least half. The number of Moroccans doubled (104 percent increase) to 39,000. People who identified as Jordanian increased 92 percent to 40,000, and the number who reported they were

Palestinian increased by 50 percent to 72,000.<sup>10</sup>

**The Yemeni-ancestry population tripled between 1990 and 2000.**

People with Yemeni ancestry increased from 4,000 in 1990 to 12,000 in 2000. In addition, the Kurdish and Algerian populations also experienced a high growth rate over the decade, from 2,000 and 3,000 respectively in 1990 to 9,000 each in 2000.

<sup>10</sup> The growth in the Moroccan population from 1990 to 2000 was not statistically different from the growth in the Jordanian population.

**The number of people who responded as “Arab” or “Middle Eastern” to the ancestry question increased over the decade.**

Between 1990 and 2000, an increasing share of the Arab population identified themselves by a general term such as Arab or Middle Eastern and gave no other specific Arab ancestry. The population who identified as “Arab” or “Arabic” increased by 62 percent, reaching 206,000 in 2000. The number of people who reported being “Middle Eastern” was much smaller, but quadrupled to 28,000.

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## THE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PEOPLE OF ARAB ANCESTRY

### People of Arab ancestry were fairly evenly distributed among the four regions of the United States.

In 2000, 27 percent of the Arab population lived in the Northeast, while 26 percent lived in the South, 24 percent in the Midwest, and 22 percent in the West (see Table 2).<sup>11</sup> Arabs accounted for 0.6 percent of the total population in the Northeast but for only 0.3 percent of the total population in the South.

### About half of the Arab population was concentrated in only five states.

In 2000, 576,000 Arabs (or 48 percent of the Arab population) lived in just five states: California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York. These states contained 31 percent of the total U.S. population. People reporting an Arab ancestry also numbered over 40,000 in five other states (Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas).<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> The Northeast region includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South region includes the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia, a state equivalent. The West region includes the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

<sup>12</sup> Although the estimated size of the Arab population in Virginia was more than 40,000, it was not statistically larger than 40,000.

### Over the last decade, the Arab population increased in almost every state.

From 1990 to 2000, the number of people with Arab ancestry increased in most states.<sup>13</sup> The Arab population in California increased by 48,000, more than in any other state. The Arab population increased by 39,000 in Michigan and by 28,000 in Florida.

### The Arab population grew by about half in several states.

The Arab population doubled in Tennessee (102 percent increase) since 1990.<sup>14</sup> However, the number of people who identified as Arab in that state was relatively small, increasing from 6,000 in 1990 to 13,000 in 2000. The Arab population also increased by over 50 percent in North Carolina, Washington, Colorado, and Virginia.<sup>15</sup> The Arab populations in Florida and Michigan experienced high growth rates as well as large numerical increases. The Arab population in Florida grew by 57 percent, from 49,000 to 77,000 between 1990 and 2000; the Arab population in Michigan grew by 51 percent, from 77,000 in 1990 to 115,000 in 2000.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> The Arab population did not change statistically in the following states: Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

<sup>14</sup> The growth rate of the Arab population in Tennessee was not statistically different from the corresponding growth rates in Alaska, Idaho, Nevada, North Carolina, and Utah.

<sup>15</sup> Although the estimated increases in the Arab populations in Alaska, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, Nevada, and Utah were more than 50 percent, the increases were not statistically different from 50 percent.

<sup>16</sup> There was no statistical difference between the growth rates of the Arab populations in Florida and Michigan.

### The proportion of the population that was Arab was highest in Michigan.

Arabs accounted for 1.2 percent of the total population in Michigan in 2000. Arabs comprised nearly 1 percent of the state populations in New Jersey and Massachusetts, which were 0.9 percent and 0.8 percent Arab, respectively.

Arabs represented a higher proportion of the population in 2000 than they did in 1990 in a large majority of states. The proportion of the population that was Arab grew from 0.8 percent in 1990 to 1.2 percent in 2000 in Michigan, and from 0.6 percent to 0.9 percent in New Jersey.<sup>17</sup>

### The counties with the highest proportion of people who were Arab were in the Northeast and the Midwest.

The proportion of people who identified with an Arab ancestry by county is shown in Figure 2. The counties with the highest proportions of Arabs in 2000 were in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan, and California. The proportion of the population that was Arab in Wayne County, Michigan, was 2.7 percent.<sup>18</sup> In addition, at least 1.2 percent of the population was Arab in Macomb, Oakland, and Washtenaw Counties, Michigan; Bergen, Hudson, Middlesex, and Passaic Counties, New Jersey; Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria Counties, Virginia; Norfolk County, Massachusetts; Kings, Richmond,

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<sup>17</sup> The increase in the proportion of Arabs in Michigan was not statistically different from the increase in the proportion of Arabs in New Jersey.

<sup>18</sup> The proportion of the Arab population in Wayne County, Michigan was not statistically different from Passaic and Hudson Counties in New Jersey; Oakland and Macomb Counties, Michigan; Lehigh County, Pennsylvania; Fairfax, Arlington, and Alexandria Counties in Virginia.

**Table 2.**  
**Arab Population by Ancestry for the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico:**  
**1990 and 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

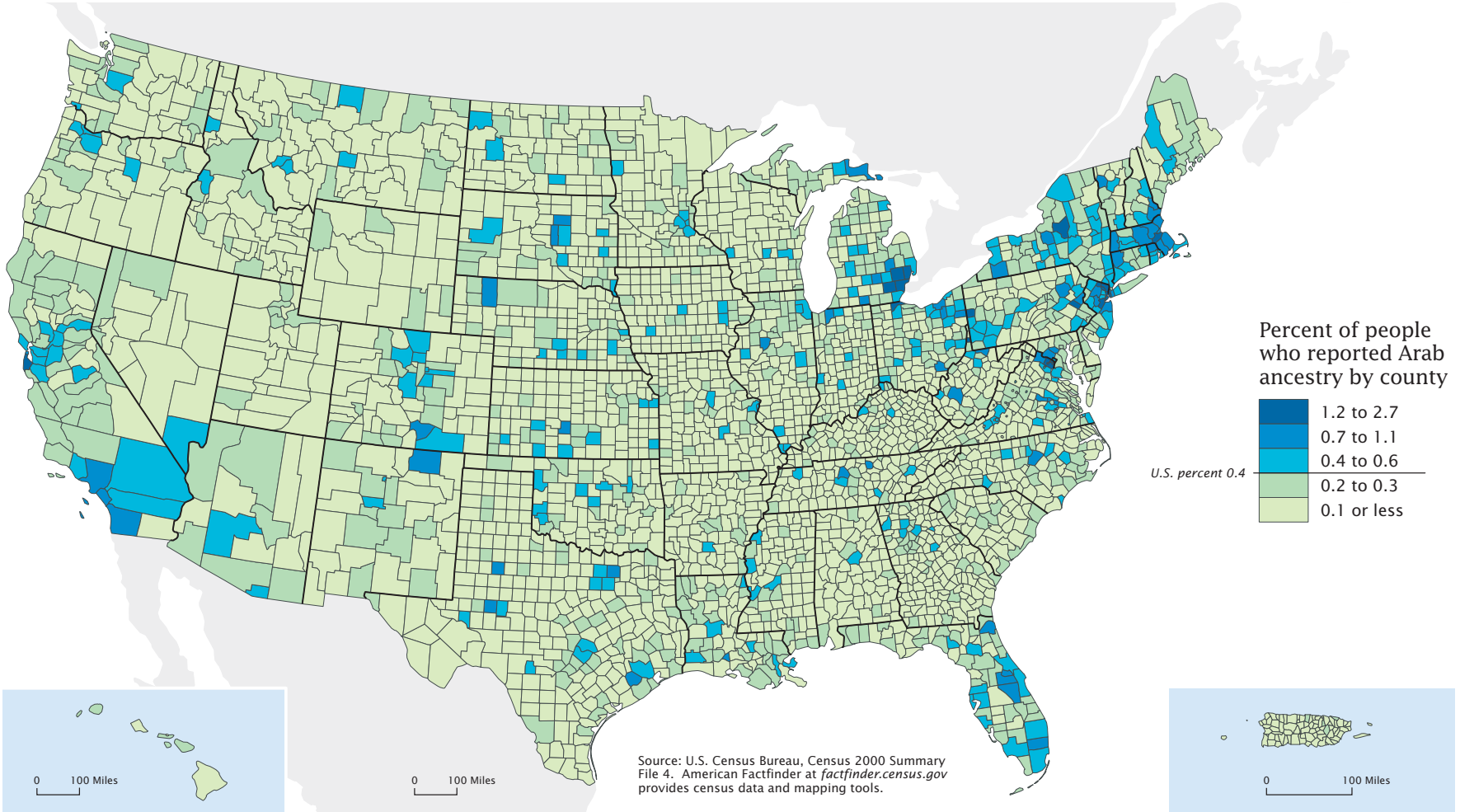
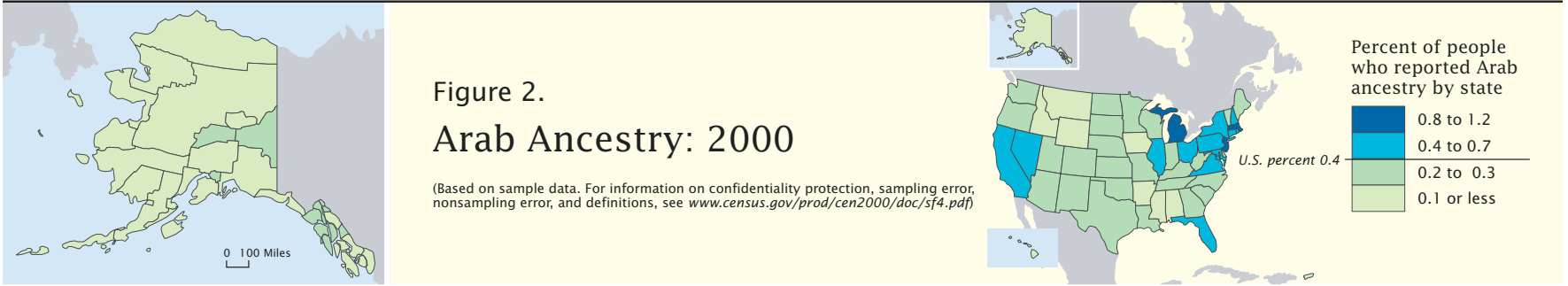
Area	1990			2000					
	Total population	Arab population <sup>1</sup>		Total population	Arab population <sup>1</sup>		Selected Arab groups <sup>2</sup>		
		Number	Percent		Number	Percent	Lebanese	Syrian	Egyptian
<b>United States . . . . .</b>	<b>248,709,873</b>	<b>860,354</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>281,421,906</b>	<b>1,189,731</b>	<b>0.42</b>	<b>440,279</b>	<b>142,897</b>	<b>142,832</b>
<b>Region</b>									
Northeast . . . . .	50,809,229	254,411	0.50	53,594,378	327,090	0.61	115,809	57,075	59,184
Midwest . . . . .	59,668,632	203,549	0.34	64,392,776	286,537	0.44	120,172	27,448	16,756
South . . . . .	85,445,930	211,103	0.25	100,236,820	309,924	0.31	121,534	30,825	29,849
West . . . . .	52,786,082	191,291	0.36	63,197,932	266,180	0.42	82,764	27,549	37,043
<b>State</b>									
Alabama . . . . .	4,040,587	5,839	0.14	4,447,100	6,634	0.15	3,769	444	361
Alaska . . . . .	550,043	541	0.10	626,932	817	0.13	329	178	77
Arizona . . . . .	3,665,228	11,796	0.32	5,130,632	17,111	0.33	6,388	1,849	1,253
Arkansas . . . . .	2,350,725	1,854	0.08	2,673,400	2,397	0.09	969	403	214
California . . . . .	29,760,021	142,805	0.48	33,871,648	190,890	0.56	53,286	19,553	30,959
Colorado . . . . .	3,294,394	7,541	0.23	4,301,261	12,421	0.29	4,886	1,120	939
Connecticut . . . . .	3,287,116	12,783	0.39	3,405,565	14,671	0.43	8,131	1,730	1,365
Delaware . . . . .	666,168	1,443	0.22	783,600	1,766	0.23	468	156	448
District of Columbia . . . . .	606,900	2,741	0.45	572,059	3,082	0.54	747	109	526
Florida . . . . .	12,937,926	49,206	0.38	15,982,378	77,461	0.48	30,115	9,925	6,759
Georgia . . . . .	6,478,216	10,357	0.16	8,186,453	17,110	0.21	7,823	1,549	1,731
Hawaii . . . . .	1,108,229	1,149	0.10	1,211,537	1,622	0.13	651	115	159
Idaho . . . . .	1,006,749	730	0.07	1,293,953	1,446	0.11	703	124	65
Illinois . . . . .	11,430,602	34,747	0.30	12,419,293	52,191	0.42	10,542	4,295	3,794
Indiana . . . . .	5,544,159	8,368	0.15	6,080,485	11,594	0.19	4,090	1,965	1,338
Iowa . . . . .	2,776,755	3,965	0.14	2,926,324	4,365	0.15	2,057	590	319
Kansas . . . . .	2,477,574	4,846	0.20	2,688,418	6,722	0.25	2,984	730	438
Kentucky . . . . .	3,685,296	5,091	0.14	4,041,769	7,137	0.18	3,431	712	307
Louisiana . . . . .	4,219,973	10,780	0.26	4,468,976	13,445	0.30	6,561	1,821	608
Maine . . . . .	1,227,928	3,365	0.27	1,274,923	2,990	0.23	1,959	487	166
Maryland . . . . .	4,781,468	15,683	0.33	5,296,486	20,224	0.38	6,608	2,201	3,246
Massachusetts . . . . .	6,016,425	44,773	0.74	6,349,097	52,756	0.83	32,072	7,123	3,238
Michigan . . . . .	9,295,297	76,504	0.82	9,938,444	115,284	1.16	54,363	8,876	3,310
Minnesota . . . . .	4,375,099	9,732	0.22	4,919,479	13,795	0.28	6,806	923	2,269
Mississippi . . . . .	2,573,216	4,063	0.16	2,844,658	4,185	0.15	2,785	329	237
Missouri . . . . .	5,117,073	9,079	0.18	5,595,211	12,626	0.23	5,381	1,348	687
Montana . . . . .	799,065	1,155	0.14	902,195	1,153	0.13	699	239	21
Nebraska . . . . .	1,578,385	3,072	0.19	1,711,263	4,657	0.27	2,141	782	328
Nevada . . . . .	1,201,833	4,176	0.35	1,998,257	7,188	0.36	2,897	997	772
New Hampshire . . . . .	1,109,252	4,953	0.45	1,235,786	6,767	0.55	4,706	801	454
New Jersey . . . . .	7,730,188	46,381	0.60	8,414,350	71,770	0.85	13,353	12,624	25,170
New Mexico . . . . .	1,515,069	3,464	0.23	1,819,046	4,271	0.23	2,373	206	206
New York . . . . .	17,990,455	94,319	0.52	18,976,457	120,370	0.63	31,083	17,685	23,661
North Carolina . . . . .	6,628,637	10,551	0.16	8,049,313	19,405	0.24	6,998	1,584	2,076
North Dakota . . . . .	638,800	975	0.15	642,200	1,042	0.16	546	199	40
Ohio . . . . .	10,847,115	44,405	0.41	11,353,140	54,014	0.48	27,361	6,519	3,210
Oklahoma . . . . .	3,145,585	6,859	0.22	3,450,654	8,090	0.23	4,408	608	331
Oregon . . . . .	2,842,321	6,164	0.22	3,421,399	9,316	0.27	3,148	1,657	850
Pennsylvania . . . . .	11,881,643	39,842	0.34	12,281,054	48,678	0.40	19,889	13,392	4,718
Rhode Island . . . . .	1,003,464	6,342	0.63	1,048,319	7,012	0.67	3,016	3,089	338
South Carolina . . . . .	3,486,703	5,702	0.16	4,012,012	6,423	0.16	3,573	594	547
South Dakota . . . . .	696,004	1,237	0.18	754,844	1,405	0.19	730	294	85
Tennessee . . . . .	4,877,185	6,381	0.13	5,689,283	12,882	0.23	3,194	773	1,569
Texas . . . . .	16,986,510	44,256	0.26	20,851,820	63,046	0.30	23,652	5,866	5,132
Utah . . . . .	1,722,850	2,703	0.16	2,233,169	4,569	0.20	1,995	238	280
Vermont . . . . .	562,758	1,653	0.29	608,827	2,076	0.34	1,600	144	74
Virginia . . . . .	6,187,358	24,795	0.40	7,078,515	41,230	0.58	12,870	2,909	5,586
Washington . . . . .	4,866,692	8,811	0.18	5,894,121	15,016	0.25	5,226	1,261	1,407
West Virginia . . . . .	1,793,477	5,502	0.31	1,808,344	5,407	0.30	3,563	842	171
Wisconsin . . . . .	4,891,769	6,619	0.14	5,363,675	8,842	0.16	3,171	927	938
Wyoming . . . . .	453,588	256	0.06	493,782	360	0.07	183	12	55
<b>Puerto Rico . . . . .</b>	<b>3,522,037</b>	<b>(NA)</b>	<b>(NA)</b>	<b>3,808,610</b>	<b>2,633</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>56</b>

NA Not available; the ancestry question was not asked in Puerto Rico during the 1990 census.

<sup>1</sup> Respondents who reported either one or two Arab ancestries were tabulated exactly once to calculate the Arab population by region and state.

<sup>2</sup> For selected Arab groups, the columns reflect the designated Arab ancestry regardless of whether or not another Arab ancestry was also reported; that is, someone who reported Lebanese and Syrian would be tabulated in each column. Hence, it is not appropriate to sum the columns.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4 (SF4), 1990 Census Sample Edited Detail File.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4. American Factfinder at [factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov) provides census data and mapping tools.

Table 3.  
**Arab Population in Selected Places: 2000**

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf))

Place	Total population	Arab population			
		Number	90-percent confidence interval	Percent Arab	90-percent confidence interval
<b>Ten Largest Places</b>					
New York, NY.....	8,008,278	69,985	68,241 - 71,729	0.87	0.85 - 0.90
Los Angeles, CA.....	3,694,834	25,673	24,557 - 26,789	0.69	0.66 - 0.73
Chicago, IL.....	2,895,964	14,777	14,108 - 15,446	0.51	0.49 - 0.53
Houston, TX.....	1,954,848	11,128	10,393 - 11,863	0.57	0.53 - 0.61
Philadelphia, PA.....	1,517,550	5,227	4,829 - 5,625	0.34	0.32 - 0.37
Phoenix, AZ.....	1,320,994	5,098	4,600 - 5,596	0.39	0.35 - 0.42
San Diego, CA.....	1,223,341	7,357	6,759 - 7,955	0.60	0.55 - 0.65
Dallas, TX.....	1,188,204	4,077	3,632 - 4,522	0.34	0.31 - 0.38
San Antonio, TX.....	1,144,554	3,748	3,321 - 4,175	0.33	0.29 - 0.36
Detroit, MI.....	951,270	8,287	7,787 - 8,787	0.87	0.82 - 0.92
<b>Ten Places With Largest Arab Population</b>					
New York, NY.....	8,008,278	69,985	68,241 - 71,729	0.87	0.85 - 0.90
Dearborn, MI.....	97,775	29,181	28,392 - 29,970	29.85	29.04 - 30.65
Los Angeles, CA.....	3,694,834	25,673	24,557 - 26,789	0.69	0.66 - 0.73
Chicago, IL.....	2,895,964	14,777	14,108 - 15,446	0.51	0.49 - 0.53
Houston, TX.....	1,954,848	11,128	10,393 - 11,863	0.57	0.53 - 0.61
Detroit, MI.....	951,270	8,287	7,787 - 8,787	0.87	0.82 - 0.92
San Diego, CA.....	1,223,341	7,357	6,759 - 7,955	0.60	0.55 - 0.65
Jersey City, NJ.....	240,055	6,755	6,219 - 7,291	2.81	2.59 - 3.04
Boston, MA.....	589,141	5,845	5,341 - 6,349	0.99	0.91 - 1.08
Jacksonville, FL.....	735,503	5,751	5,251 - 6,251	0.78	0.71 - 0.85
<b>Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With Highest Percent Arab</b>					
Sterling Heights, MI.....	124,471	4,598	4,157 - 5,039	3.69	3.34 - 4.05
Jersey City, NJ.....	240,055	6,755	6,219 - 7,291	2.81	2.59 - 3.04
Warren, MI.....	138,276	3,470	3,149 - 3,791	2.51	2.28 - 2.74
Allentown, PA.....	106,632	2,613	2,279 - 2,947	2.45	2.14 - 2.76
Burbank, CA.....	100,316	2,395	2,057 - 2,733	2.39	2.05 - 2.72
Glendale, CA.....	195,047	4,028	3,589 - 4,467	2.07	1.84 - 2.29
Livonia, MI.....	100,545	1,953	1,712 - 2,194	1.94	1.70 - 2.18
Arlington, VA.....	189,453	3,352	2,972 - 3,732	1.77	1.57 - 1.97
Paterson, NJ.....	149,222	2,634	2,297 - 2,971	1.77	1.54 - 1.99
Daly City, CA.....	103,549	1,752	1,462 - 2,042	1.69	1.41 - 1.97

Note: Because of sampling error, the estimates in this table may not be statistically different from one another or from rates for other geographic areas not listed in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 4.

and Oneida Counties, New York; Lehigh and Lawrence Counties, Pennsylvania; Ohio County, West Virginia; Lucas County, Ohio; and San Mateo County, California.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> The 90-percent confidence interval fell below 1.2 percent for all counties except for Wayne and Macomb Counties, Michigan; Passaic and Hudson Counties, New Jersey; and Fairfax County, Virginia.

Elsewhere in the country, the proportion of Arabs at the county level was more dispersed. The Arab population represented between 0.7 and 1.1 percent of the population in one or more counties in many states across the nation. However, more than half the counties in the United States had a low percentage of people who reported an Arab ancestry (0.1 or less).

**The largest number of Arabs lived in New York City.**

In 2000, 70,000 people of Arab ancestry lived in New York, making it the city with the largest number of Arabs (see Table 3). Six of the ten largest cities in the United States were also among the ten places with the largest Arab populations (New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Houston, Detroit, and

San Diego). Although these cities were among those with the largest number of Arabs, their proportions Arab were relatively low (less than 1 percent).

### **Arabs were 30 percent of the population in Dearborn, Michigan.**

Among places with 100,000 or more population, the highest proportion of Arabs lived in Sterling Heights, Michigan (3.7 percent).<sup>20</sup> Additionally, relatively high percentages of Arabs also lived in Warren and Livonia, Michigan. However, Dearborn, Michigan, which fell just below the 100,000 population threshold, had an Arab population of 30 percent, by far the largest proportion among places of similar size. California, (with Burbank, Glendale, and Daly City), and New Jersey, (with Jersey City and Paterson), also had more than one city of 100,000 or more population among the places with the highest proportion Arab.

## **ADDITIONAL FINDINGS ON THE ARAB POPULATION**

### **Where are the Lebanese, Syrians, and Egyptians concentrated?**

The largest specific Arab ancestries reported in Census 2000 were Lebanese, Syrian, and Egyptian. People reporting Lebanese ancestry lived predominately in Michigan, California, Massachusetts, and New York.<sup>21</sup> The largest groups with Syrian ancestry were in California,

<sup>20</sup> Census 2000 showed 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They included 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places that were not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by state, see [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6.html).

<sup>21</sup> The size of the Lebanese population in Michigan was not statistically different from that of the Lebanese population in California, nor was there a statistical difference between the Lebanese populations in Massachusetts and New York.

New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.<sup>22</sup> Those with Egyptian ancestry lived predominately in California, New Jersey, New York, and Florida.<sup>23</sup>

### **People of Arab ancestry also report other non-Arab ancestries, races, and Hispanic origins.**

The Arab population in the United States is composed of people with many different ethnic backgrounds. More than one-quarter of the Arab population (29 percent) reported two ancestries: 28 percent reported one Arab and one non-Arab ancestry and 1.1 percent reported two Arab ancestries. Among Arabs who also reported a non-Arab ancestry, 14.7 percent reported Irish, 13.6 percent reported Italian, and 13.5 percent reported German.<sup>24</sup> Among the 13,000 people who reported two Arab ancestries, one-half reported Lebanese and Syrian.

In Census 2000, the vast majority of Arabs reported their race as White and no other race (80 percent), or as Two or more races (17 percent).<sup>25</sup> Small proportions

<sup>22</sup> The size of the Syrian population in California was not statistically different from that of the Syrian population in New York. Additionally, there was no statistical difference in size between the Syrian populations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

<sup>23</sup> There was no statistical difference between the size of the Egyptian populations in New Jersey and New York.

<sup>24</sup> Italian was not statistically different from German as another non-Arab ancestry reported by Arabs.

<sup>25</sup> Census 2000 allowed respondents to choose more than one race. In this report, a "single race" category refers to people who indicated exactly one racial identity among the six primary categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race. The "single race" or "alone" category is used for all of the racial groups in this brief except for the Two or more races category. The use of the alone population in this section does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. In general, either the alone population or the alone or in combination population can be used, depending on the purpose of the analysis. The Census Bureau uses both approaches.

reported a single race of Black (1.1 percent), Asian (0.7 percent), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.07 percent), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.03 percent), or Some other race (1.0 percent). In addition, 3.2 percent of the Arab population reported as Hispanic (of any race).

## **ABOUT CENSUS 2000**

### **Why Census 2000 asked about ancestry.**

Ancestry data are required to enforce provisions under the Civil Rights Act that prohibit discrimination based upon race, sex, religion, and national origin. More generally, these data are needed to measure the social and economic characteristics of ethnic groups and to tailor services to accommodate cultural differences.

Data about ancestry assist states and local agencies to develop health care and other services tailored to meet the language and cultural diversity of various groups.

Under the Public Health Service Act, ancestry is one of the factors used to identify segments of the population who may not be receiving medical services.

### **Accuracy of the Estimates**

The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form. Nationally, approximately 1 out of every 6 housing units was included in this sample. As a result, the sample estimates may differ somewhat from the 100-percent figures that would have been obtained if all housing units, people within those housing units, and people living in group quarters had been enumerated using the same questionnaires, instructions, enumerators, and so forth. The sample

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estimates also differ from the values that would have been obtained from different samples of housing units, and hence of people living in those housing units, and people living in group quarters. The deviation of a sample estimate from the average of all possible samples is called the sampling error.

In addition to the variability that arises from the sampling procedures, both sample data and 100-percent data are subject to nonsampling error. Nonsampling error may be introduced during any of the various complex operations used to collect and process data. Such errors may include: not enumerating every household or every person in the population, failing to obtain all required information from the respondents, obtaining incorrect or inconsistent information, and recording information incorrectly. In addition, errors can occur during the field review of the enumerators' work, during clerical handling of the census questionnaires, or during the electronic processing of the questionnaires.

While it is impossible to completely eliminate error from an operation as large and complex as the decennial census, the Census Bureau attempts to control the sources of such error during the data collection and processing operations. The primary sources of error and the programs instituted to control error in Census 2000 are described in detail in *Summary File 3 Technical Documentation* under Chapter 8, "Accuracy of the Data,"

located at [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf).

Nonsampling error may affect the data in two ways: (1) errors that are introduced randomly will increase the variability of the data and, therefore, should be reflected in the standard errors; and (2) errors that tend to be consistent in one direction will bias both sample and 100-percent data in that direction. For example, if respondents consistently tend to underreport their incomes, then the resulting estimates of households or families by income category will tend to be understated for the higher income categories and overstated for the lower income categories. Such biases are not reflected in the standard errors.

All statements in this Census 2000 Brief have undergone statistical testing and all comparisons are significant at the 90-percent confidence level, unless otherwise noted. The estimates in tables, maps, and other figures may vary from actual values due to sampling and nonsampling errors. As a result, estimates in one category used to summarize statistics in the maps and figures may not be significantly different from estimates assigned to a different category. Further information on the accuracy of the data is located at [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf). For further information on the computation and use of standard errors, contact the Decennial Statistical Studies Division at 301-763-4242.

## For More Information

The Census 2000 Summary File 3 and Summary File 4 data are available from the American Factfinder on the Internet ([factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov)). They were released on a state-by-state basis during 2002. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, also see [www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf) or contact the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief series, located on the Census Bureau's Web site at [www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html). This series presents information on race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and social, economic, and housing characteristics, such as ancestry, income, and housing costs.

For additional information on the Arab population, including reports and survey data, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at [www.census.gov/population/www/ancestry.html](http://www.census.gov/population/www/ancestry.html). To find information about the availability of data products, including reports, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, call the Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636), or e-mail [webmaster@census.gov](mailto:webmaster@census.gov).





