

**U.S. Census 2000: An Overview of National and Regional Trends in
Vietnamese Residential Distribution**

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National Trends

According to U.S. census data released in May 2001, 1,122,528 Vietnamese were counted across the United States in last year's census. This figure is nearly double the 593,213 Vietnamese enumerated across the nation in the 1990 census (Figure A). It should be noted that Vietnamese community leaders widely believe the population was undercounted by 25 to 50% in the 2000 census.

Among the four major regions of the United States, the greatest number of Vietnamese were counted in the Western states - 564,424. The next largest number of Vietnamese resided in the Southern states - 335,679. Just over 100,000 Vietnamese were counted in both the Northeastern and Midwestern states.

Among the 50 states, California easily had the largest Vietnamese population (Figure B). In fact, the 447,032 Vietnamese counted in California represented about 40% of the entire population in the U.S. While this is indicative of a very significant concentration of the Vietnamese origin population in just one state, it actually reflects a decrease from 1990 when about 47% of the total U.S. enumerated Vietnamese population were counted in California. Among other states, Texas also possessed a very substantial Vietnamese population in the 2000 figures. The Texas number of 134,961 represented about 10% of the entire Vietnamese population across the nation. The next largest

Vietnamese populations were observed in Washington State, Virginia, and Massachusetts.

Among the nation's cities, a remarkable 20% of the entire U.S. Vietnamese population (233,573) were enumerated in just one metropolitan area - the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CMSA (Figure C). The next largest number of Vietnamese were observed in the San Francisco-San Jose metropolitan area (146,613). The California cities were followed by the very large Vietnamese populations in two Texas metropolitan areas - Houston (63,924) and Dallas (47,090). The Washington D.C. metropolitan area (43,709), with a sizable concentration of Vietnamese in its Virginia suburbs, possessed the 5th largest Vietnamese population enumerated among American cities.

Regional Distribution

Eastern Region

According to the census enumerations, just over 10% of the nation's Vietnamese lived in the Eastern region of the United States. By far, the largest community of Vietnamese was counted in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area (43,709) (Figure D). Other substantial agglomerations were found in the Boston (31,325) and Philadelphia (24,779) metro areas. In both of these metropolitan areas, the Vietnamese populations more than doubled in size. The next most substantial community was enumerated in the New York City metro (12,040). The enumerated population counted in the New York City area actually represented a significant decrease from 1990. Elsewhere in the East, smaller agglomerations of Vietnamese were observed in the metropolitan areas of Baltimore; Hartford, CT; Harrisburg, PA; Rochester, NY, Springfield, MA, and Lancaster, PA.

Midwestern Region

In 2000, 106,938 persons of Vietnamese origin were enumerated living in the Midwestern region of the U.S. This figure represented just under 10% of the entire Vietnamese population counted across the nation. Among all Midwestern metropolitan areas, the largest Vietnamese populations resided in the Minneapolis-St. Paul and Chicago regions (Figure E). Each of these metro areas possessed slightly under 16,000 enumerated Vietnamese residents. The list of other Midwest cities with notable communities of Vietnamese is perhaps a bit surprising. The third largest Midwestern Vietnamese population was counted in Wichita, Kansas (7,284); followed by Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, MI (5,611); and Saint Louis (5,537). Detroit (5,237); Kansas City (5,140); Lincoln, Nebraska (3,774); Cleveland-Akron (2,625); and Des Moines, Iowa (2,588) round out the list of the largest Midwestern Vietnamese communities according to the census figures. All of these cities saw substantial growth in their Vietnamese populations. In the majority of the cities, the enumerated Vietnamese communities doubled in size. Particularly strong growth was apparent in the populations of the Detroit, Kansas City, Des Moines, and Lincoln metros. The tallied communities in these four cities more than tripled in size over the decade.

Southern Region

According to the census figures, the Southern states possessed 335,679 persons of Vietnamese origin in 2000, or just under 30% of the national total. Within the South, by far the largest Vietnamese enclaves were documented in the Texas metropolitan areas of Houston (63,924) and Dallas-Fort Worth (47,090) (Figure F). The Vietnamese populations in these metro areas increased substantially from 1990 to 2000. The

enumerated Houston population was 32,964 in 1990. In Dallas, the 1990 population was 19,095. The increases in the enumerated population over the decade were 91% and 151% in Houston and Dallas respectively. Other major Vietnamese communities in the South were documented in the New Orleans (14,868); Oklahoma City (9,628); Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (9,318); Austin, TX (8,641); Orlando (7,621) and Charlotte, NC (6,033) metropolitan areas. The Florida, Texas, and North Carolina cities represent areas of particular significant growth in the size of Vietnamese communities. Compared to the enumerated figures in 1990, the Vietnamese populations in the Tampa, Austin and Charlotte metros almost tripled. In Orlando, the enumerated Vietnamese community doubled over the decade.

Western Region

With 564,424 enumerated Vietnamese residents, the Western states held just over 50% of the total Vietnamese population counted across the entire nation. As noted above, the largest Vietnamese communities in the U.S. are situated in the Los Angeles (233,573) and San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose (146,613) extended metropolitan areas (Figure G). The Vietnamese population in the L.A. metro increased just over 60% from 1990 to 2000. In the Bay area, the increase in the enumerated population over the decade exceeded 70%. It should be noted that more than half of the Vietnamese population counted in the Bay Area metro was observed in the City of San Jose (78,842) in 2000.

The Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton metropolitan area was ranked third in the west with 40,001 enumerated Vietnamese residents. It is striking that the rate of Vietnamese population growth in the Seattle-Tacoma area far exceeded that observed in the two largest California metropolitan areas over the 1990-2000 period. In 1990, 14,210 persons

of Vietnamese origin were counted by the census in the Seattle-Tacoma area. The enumerated Vietnamese population increased 181% over the decade.

In 2000, other large Vietnamese agglomerations in the West were observed in the San Diego (33,504) and Sacramento-Yolo (18,170) metros. Rounding out the list of the ten largest Vietnamese communities in the West were Portland (17,799); Denver-Boulder-Greeley (13,885); Phoenix (10,176); Honolulu (7,392); and Stockton-Lodi, CA (6,032).

A. VIETNAMESE POPULATION BY U.S. REGION

U.S. CENSUS 2000

Total Enumerated Vietnamese Population in the U.S. - 1,122,528 (593,213 - 1990)

Western States - 564,424

Southern States - 335,679

Northeastern States - 115,487

Midwestern States - 106,938

B. VIETNAMESE POPULATION IN U.S. STATES

U.S. Census 2000

1990 Figures in Parentheses

1. California - 447,032 (276,759)
2. Texas - 134,961 (66,329)
3. Washington - 46,149 (18,246)
4. Virginia - 37,309 (21,729)
5. Massachusetts - 33,962 (14,653)
6. Florida - 33,190 (15,221)
7. Pennsylvania - 30,037 (14,961)
8. Georgia - 29,016 (6,990)
9. Louisiana - 24,358 (16,545)
10. New York - 23,818 (15,943)
11. Illinois - 19,101 (9,329)
12. Oregon - 18,890 (8,375)
13. Minnesota - 18,824 (9,543)

C. VIETNAMESE POPULATION IN U.S. METROPOLITAN AREAS

U.S. CENSUS 2000

1990 Figures in Parentheses

1. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CA CMSA - 233,573 (145,464)
2. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA CMSA - 146,613 (84,981)
3. Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX CMSA - 63,924 (32,964)
4. Dallas-Fort Worth, TX CMSA - 47,090 (19,095)
5. Washington D.C./VA/MD/WV PMSA - 43,709 (23,484)
6. Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton CMSA - 40,001 (14,210)
7. San Diego, CA MSA - 33,504 (20,561)
8. Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA CMSA - 31,325 (11,117)
9. Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA/NJ/DE/MD CMSA -24,779 (9,894)
10. Atlanta, GA MSA - 23,996 (5,043)
11. Sacramento-Yolo, CA MSA - 18,170 (10,767)
12. Portland-Salem, OR CMSA - 17,799 (7,599)
13. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN MSA - 15,905 (8,107)
14. Chicago, IL PMSA - 15,894 (7,259)

D. VIETNAMESE POPULATIONS IN EASTERN METROPOLITAN AREAS

U.S. CENSUS 2000

1990 Figures in Parentheses

1. Washington D.C./VA/MD/WV/ PMSA - 43,709 (23,484)
2. Boston-Worcester-Lawrence MA CMSA - 31,325 (11,117)
3. Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA/NJ/DE/MD CMSA - 24,779 (9,894)
4. New York City, NY PMSA - 12,040 (15,766)
5. Baltimore, MD PMSA - 3,616 (1,656)
6. Hartford, CT MSA - 3,590 (1,985)
7. Harrisburg-Lebanon-Carlisle PA MSA - 2,649 (1,921)
8. Rochester, NY MSA - 2,603 (1,790)
9. Springfield, MA MSA - 2,220 (768)
10. Lancaster, PA MSA - 2,178 (1,644)

E. VIETNAMESE POPULATIONS IN MIDWESTERN METROPOLITAN AREAS

U.S. CENSUS 2000

1990 Figures in Parentheses

1. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN MSA - 15,905 (8,107)
2. Chicago, IL PMSA - 15,894 (7,259)
3. Wichita, KS MSA - 7,284 (3,369)
4. Grand Rapids-Muskegon-Holland, MI, MSA - 5,611 (1,986)
5. Saint Louis, MO-IL, MSA - 5,537 (2,169)
6. Detroit-Flint-Ann Arbor, MI CMSA - 5,237 (1,728)
7. Kansas City, MO-KS, MSA - 5,140 (1,761)
8. Lincoln, NE MSA - 3,774 (653)
9. Cleveland-Akron, OH CMSA 2,625 (1,136)
10. Des Moines, IA MSA - 2,588 (813)

F. VIETNAMESE POPULATIONS IN SOUTHERN METROPOLITAN AREAS

U.S. CENSUS 2000

1990 Figures in Parentheses

1. Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX CMSA - 63,924 (32,964)
2. Dallas-Fort Worth, TX CMSA - 47,090 (19,095)
3. Atlanta, GA MSA - 23,996 (5,043)
4. New Orleans, LA MSA - 14,868 (10,842)
5. Oklahoma City, OK MSA - 9,628 (4,973)
6. Tampa-St.Petersburg-Clearwater, FL MSA - 9,318 (3,600)
7. Austin-San Marcos, TX MSA - 8,641 (2,875)
8. Orlando, FL MSA - 7,621 (3,167)
9. Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, NC MSA - 6,033 (2,015)
10. Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX MSA - 4,597 (3,890)

G. VIETNAMESE POPULATIONS IN WESTERN METROPOLITAN AREAS

U.S. CENSUS 2000

1990 Figures in Parentheses

1. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA CMSA - 233,573 (145,464)
2. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA CMSA - 146,613 (84,981)
3. Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton CMSA - 40,001 (14,210)
4. San Diego, CA MSA - 33,504 (20,561)
5. Sacramento-Yolo, CA MSA - 18,170 (10,767)
6. Portland-Salem, OR MSA - 17,799 (7,599)
7. Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO MSA - 13,885 (6,234)
8. Phoenix, AZ MSA - 10,176 (3,214)
9. Honolulu, HI MSA - 7,392 (5,283)
10. Stockton-Lodi, CA MSA - 6,032 (6,834)