Afghan Immigrants Living in the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Metropolitan Areas

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

- **17,700**: Estimated number of Afghan immigrants* living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas (1% of the area’s immigrant population).

  Among them:
  - **48%** Male and **52%** Female
  - **8 years**: Median years in the U.S.
  - **34**: Median age
  - **47%** Eligible to vote (naturalized U.S. citizens age 18+)

---

Figure 1. Afghan Immigrant Population in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas


---

**Figure 2. Citizenship Status**

Foreign-Born Individuals in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Naturalized citizen</th>
<th>Not a citizen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign born from Afghanistan</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Foreign Born</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Figure 3. English Proficiency**

Foreign-Born Individuals, age 5+, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Not proficient in English</th>
<th>Proficient in English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign born from Afghanistan</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Foreign Born</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---


*Please note that the terms “immigrant” and “foreign born” are used interchangeably throughout this fact sheet. Foreign born refers to individuals who are not a U.S. citizen at birth or who were born outside the U.S., Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and whose parents are not U.S. citizens. The foreign born may include naturalized U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, temporary residents, refugees and asylees, and others. Additionally, native born includes those who are U.S. citizens at birth, those born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or other U.S. territories, and those born abroad to a parent who is a U.S. citizen.
26% of the Afghan immigrants in the DC and Baltimore metro areas are living below the poverty line compared to 10% of all other foreign born and 8% of native-born U.S. citizens.

82% of foreign born from Afghanistan living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas have health insurance coverage compared to 81% of all other foreign born and 96% of native-born U.S. citizens.
Afghan Immigrants Living in the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Metropolitan Areas

Employment and Occupation

Figure 7. Top Five Occupational Groups

Individuals who are employed full-time, age 16-65, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Five Occupational Groups</th>
<th>Foreign Born from Afghanistan</th>
<th>Top Five Occupational Groups</th>
<th>All Other Foreign Born</th>
<th>Top Five Occupational Groups</th>
<th>Native Born U.S. Citizens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>Management, Business, and Financial</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and Related</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Management, Business, and Financial</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management, Business, and Financial</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Computer, Engineering, and Science</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office and Administrative Support</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Construction and Extraction</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>Office and Administrative Support</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Material Moving</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts, and Media</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>Computer, Engineering, and Science</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Other Occupational Groups</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>8 Other Occupational Groups</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>8 Other Occupational Groups</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Population</td>
<td>8,230</td>
<td>Estimated Population</td>
<td>1,089,645</td>
<td>Estimated Population</td>
<td>3,385,965</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8% of the foreign born from Afghanistan in the labor force living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas are unemployed compared to 4% of all other foreign born and 5% of native-born U.S. citizens.

Figure 8. Employment in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Occupations

Individuals who are employed full-time, age 16-65, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

- Foreign Born from Afghanistan
- All Other Foreign Born
- Native-Born U.S. Citizens
Afghan Immigrants Living in the Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD Metropolitan Areas

Self-Employment

Figure 9. Self-Employment
Individuals who are employed, age 16-65, in the DC and Baltimore Metro Areas

- Foreign born from Afghanistan: 10% (Self-employed, not incorporated), 9% (Self-employed, incorporated), 87% (Works for wages or salary)
- All Other Foreign Born: 6% (Self-employed, not incorporated), 4% (Self-employed, incorporated), 90% (Works for wages or salary)
- Native Born U.S. Citizens: 4% (Self-employed, not incorporated), 3% (Self-employed, incorporated), 93% (Works for wages or salary)

Figure 10. Afghan Immigrant Population in the United States, 1980-2019

- $32,000:* Median personal income of Afghan immigrants who are self-employed and living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas
- $40,000:* Median personal income of all other foreign born who are self-employed and living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas
- $62,000:* Median personal income of native-born U.S. citizens who are self-employed and living in the DC and Baltimore metro areas

*Please note that these numbers are generated based on individuals who are employed full time.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. United States, 1850-2018. ipums.org extracts