

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Data by U.S. Region

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Greatest Number of LEP Speakers in the US by Language (2019)*

1. Spanish (16,258,571)
2. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (1,838,859)
3. Vietnamese (875,369)
4. Korean (571,995)
5. Tagalog (including Filipino) (532,076)
6. Arabic (438,182)
7. Russian (392,583)
8. Haitian (330,168)
9. Portuguese (276,824)
10. French (including Cajun) (251,821)

United States- Languages With Largest Percentage of LEP Speakers (2019)*

1. Vietnamese (56.9%)
2. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (52.0%)
3. Korean (51.0%)
4. Russian (41.2%)
5. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (39.4%)
6. Spanish (38.6%)
7. Portuguese (36.2%)
8. Arabic (35.0%)
9. Haitian (35.0%)
10. Tagalog (including Filipino) (29.6%)

Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, New York, Vermont)

Most common languages with high amounts of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Spanish (5,988,053 total speakers)
2. Chinese (974,856)
3. Portuguese (367,183)
4. Russian (363,688)
5. Haitian (346,112)
6. Arabic (235,374)
7. Korean (215,338)
8. Yiddish (194,786)
9. Polish (186,730)
10. Bengali (146,312)

Languages with the highest rate of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Nepali, Marathi, or Other Indic Languages (55%)
2. Vietnamese (54.4%)
3. Chinese (49%)
4. Bengali (47.4%)
5. Korean (47%)
6. Arabic (42.3%)
7. Yiddish (41.7%)
8. Spanish (40%)
9. Haitian (39.15%)
10. Portuguese (38.7%)

* Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/US> (May 2022)

Mid-Atlantic (Delaware, DC, Maryland, Virginia)

Most common languages with high amounts of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Spanish (1,232,338 total speakers)
2. Chinese (150,014)
3. Vietnamese (85,336)
4. Korean (82,967)
5. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (79,798)
6. French (64,698)
7. Persian (including Farsi, Dari) (47,320)
8. Tagalog (including Filipino)(45,804)
9. Urdu (38,489)
10. Russian (37,199)

Languages with the highest rate of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Vietnamese (52.6%)
2. Spanish (46.4%)
3. Nepali, , Marathi, or Other Indic Languages (43.8%)
4. Haitian (43.7%)
5. Chinese (42.7%)
6. Portuguese (42.7%)
7. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (42.2%)
8. Korean (41.2%)
9. Tagalog (35.9%)
10. Bengali (31.8%)

Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Missouri, Wisconsin)

Most common languages with high amounts of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Spanish (3,581,360 total speakers)
2. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (330,138)
3. Arabic (310,726)
4. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (199,615)
5. Polish (182,951)
6. Vietnamese (127,641)
7. Hmong (112,542)
8. Russian (107,624)
9. Korean (93,588)
10. Gujarati (67,230)

Languages with the highest rate of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Bengali (60.5%)
2. Vietnamese (56%)
3. Nepali, Marathi, or Other Indic Languages (52.6%)
4. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (47.4%)
5. Korean (44.8%)
6. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (44.4%)
7. Swahili or Other Languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa (43.2%)
8. Gujarati (39%)
9. Russian (38.9%)
10. Hmong (37.3%)

South (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, West Virginia)

Most common languages with high amounts of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Spanish (15,525,548 total speakers)
2. Haitian (492,015)
3. Vietnamese (480,790)
4. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (423,600)
5. Arabic (278,221)
6. Portuguese (158,495)
7. Korean (151,925)
8. Gujarati (111,937)
9. Tagalog (including Filipino) (86,439)
10. Russian (84,223)

Languages with the highest rate of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Vietnamese (55.5%)
2. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (48.6%)
3. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (48.1%)
4. Korean (47.3%)
5. Spanish (41.5%)
6. Nepali, Marathi, or Other Indic Languages (41.4%)
7. Russian (40.1%)
8. Arabic (39.1%)
9. Tagalog (including Filipino) (38.1%)
10. Portuguese (37.6%)

West (Idaho, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming)

Most common languages with high amounts of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Spanish (3,297,441)
2. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (1,589,595)
3. Vietnamese (749,004)
4. Korean (492,137)
5. Russian (283,613)
6. Arabic (233,475)
7. Japanese (221,500)
8. Armenian (194,752)
9. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (171,056)
10. Punjabi (163,585)

Languages with the highest rate of LEP speakers in the region:

1. Vietnamese (52.8%)
2. Korean (51.1%)
3. Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (46.2%)
4. Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (44.6%)
5. Armenian (44%)
6. Arabic (42%)
7. Amharic, Somali, or Other Afro-Asiatic Languages (39.2%)
8. Punjabi (38.8%)
9. Ilocano, Samoan, Hawaiian, or Other Austronesian Languages (35.7%)
10. Tagalog (including Filipino) (35.2%)

Urban vs Rural Information

- ❖ In the 2009-13 period, the top five counties with the largest LEP populations were Los Angeles County in California (10 percent of the LEP population), Miami County in Florida (3 percent), Harris County in Texas (3 percent), Cook County in Illinois (3 percent), and Queens County in New York (2 percent). Together, these five counties represented 21 percent of the total LEP population. (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/limited-english-proficient-population-united-states-2013#Distribution%20by%20State>)
- ❖ As of 2011, Approximately 94 percent of LEP individuals resided in metropolitan areas. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/limited-english-proficient-population-united-states-2011#5>
- ❖ US Immigrant Population by Metropolitan Area: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/us-immigrant-population-metropolitan-area?width=1000&height=850&iframe=true>
- ❖ Limited English Proficient Population: Number and Share, by State, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2019 <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/us-immigration-trends>