



Western Australian Community Profiles 2006 Census

Sudan-born

Population

The Sudan-born are a new and emerging community in Western Australia. The arrival of Sudan-born migrants increased in the early 2000s due to significant intakes through Australia's Humanitarian Program. In 2006, there were 2021 Sudan-born people in Western Australia, five times the number in 2001 (424). In 2006, Sudan-born people represented 0.1% of the total WA population.*

Sudan-born Western Australians are younger compared with the total WA population. The largest cohorts are aged below 15 years (27.9%), 15–24 years (27.3%) and 25–44 years (36%). These are higher proportions compared with the total WA population (20%, 14.2% and 28.5%, respectively). The cohort of Sudan-born people aged 45–64 (7.6%) and 65 or more (1.3%) are significantly smaller compared with the total WA population (25% and 12%, respectively).

Men outnumbered women in all age groups except those aged 65 and over. The estimated sex ratio (number of males per 100 females) of 115 was high compared with the total WA population (99.5).

Family pattern

More than half (52.2%) of Sudan-born Western Australians lived in couple families with children, more than in the total WA population (38.5%). Almost three

times as many Sudan-born people lived in one-parent families compared with the total WA population (28% compared with 10%). Sudan-born women (34.4%) were more likely than men (34.4% compared with 22.4%) to be in one-parent families, reflecting a pattern of gender difference found in the total WA population (12.1% and 7.9%, respectively). In contrast, the proportion of Sudan-born people living in couple families without children was significantly lower than in the total WA population (3% compared with 19.4%).

Geographic distribution

The majority (98.5%) of Sudan-born Western Australians lived in the Perth Statistical Division (SD). Local Government Areas (LGAs) recording higher concentrations of Sudan-born people were Stirling (50%) and Wanneroo (14.3%), Canning (6.6%), Gosnells (6.2%), Swan (5.4%) and Bayswater (5.2%). The only recorded settlement of Sudan-born people outside of Perth was in the South West SD (0.9%).

Religious affiliation

The majority (82.4%) of Sudan-born Western Australians identified Christianity as their religion, significantly higher than for the total WA population (58.7%). A significant proportion (15%) identified Islam as their religion, a much larger proportion compared with the total WA population (1.2%).



Languages

The majority (89.7%) of Sudan-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English at home, mainly Arabic, Dinka or Juba Arabic. Of these people, 62.3% reported speaking English very well or well. Sudan-born women were less likely than Sudan-born men (53.3% compared with 70.1%) to speak English very well or well. A small proportion (5.9%) reported speaking only English at home.

Education

Sudan-born Western Australians were twice as likely to be qualified at advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level than at bachelor degree level or higher (13.2% compared with 6.5%), reflecting a trend found in the total WA adult population (14.3% compared with 24.7%). Between 2001 and 2006, the proportion of Sudan-born adults with a degree level qualification decreased (from 17.8% to 13.2%), while the proportion that did not go to school increased (from 3% to 8%). The proportion of Sudan-born people who had completed Year 12 or equivalent also declined during this period (from 52.3% to 37.5%), with fewer women than men (25.4% compared with 47.6%) educated to this level.

Employment

More than half (56%) of Sudan-born Western Australians were not in the labour force, less than in 2001 (67.3%) but almost twice the rate for the total WA population (30.3%). Sudan-born women were more likely than Sudan-born men (67.7% compared with 46.3%) to fall into this category, a trend also reflected in the total WA population (37.4% and 23.2%, respectively). The proportion of Sudan-born people who were employed increased between 2001 and 2006 (from 19.1% to 31.2%), but was almost half the proportion for the total

WA population (59.1%). The proportion of Sudan-born people who were unemployed decreased for the same period (from 12.5% to 7.5%), but remained higher than for the total WA population (2.3%).

The majority of Sudan-born men were employed as labourers (41%), machinery operators and drivers (15.8%), technicians and trade workers (13.3%), and professionals and managers (9%). The majority of Sudan-born women were employed as labourers (41%) and community and personal workers (26%).

Income

More than one-third (37.3%) of Sudan-born Western Australians earned less than \$250 per week, almost double the proportion for the total WA population (19.2%). The proportion of Sudan-born people earning no income (5%) was similar to the proportion of the total WA population (6.4%). Income levels for Sudan-born people improved between 2001 and 2006, with an increase in the proportion of people earning between \$250 and \$999 per week (from 15.9% to 35.6%), slightly lower than for the total WA population (43.2%). The proportion of Sudan-born people earning \$1000 or more (3.4%) remained significantly lower than the proportion for the total WA population (20%).

Summary table

Variables	Sudan-born 2006			Sudan-born 2001	Total Western Australian population 2006		
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
AGE GROUP /GENDER							
0–14	26.9	29.1	27.9	28.5	20.6	19.5	20.0
15–24	27.4	27.1	27.3	21.0	14.6	13.8	14.2
25–44	37.0	34.8	36.0	34.9	28.4	28.5	28.5
45–64	7.6	7.6	7.6	10.7	25.4	25.1	25.2
65+	1.1	1.5	1.3	5.0	11.0	13.1	12.0
All (Number)	1083	938	2021	424	990,642	995,607	1,986,249
Sex-ratio			115				99.5
FAMILY TYPE							
Couple family without children	2.8	3.2	3.0	5.4	19.2	19.6	19.4
Couple family with children	49.7	55.0	52.2	62.1	38.7	38.3	38.5
One-parent family	22.4	34.4	28.0	16.5	7.9	12.1	10.0
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY							
Speaks English only	6.6	5.0	5.9	8.0	80.6	81.3	80.9
Speaks other language and English; very well or well	70.1	53.3	62.3	73.1	9.6	9.9	9.8
Speaks other language and English; not well or not at all	18.7	37.5	27.4	17.4	1.5	2.0	1.7
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Degree level	8.6	4.1	6.5	17.8	13.4	15.1	14.3
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	15.3	10.7	13.2	8.2	30.3	19.2	24.7
Completed Year 12 schooling	47.6	25.4	37.5	52.3	40.8	42.9	41.8
Did not attend school	3.4	12.9	7.7	3.0	0.5	0.7	0.6
LABOUR FORCE (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
Employed	39.9	20.9	31.2	19.1	65.5	52.7	59.1
Unemployed	8.6	6.3	7.5	12.5	2.4	2.2	2.3
Not in LF	46.3	67.7	56.1	67.3	23.2	37.4	30.3
WEEKLY INCOME (15 YEARS AND OVER)							
None	3.5	6.8	5.0	4.3	4.6	8.1	6.4
<\$250	37.4	37.3	37.3	60.8	13.8	24.4	19.2
<\$1000	36.9	34.0	35.6	15.9	39.7	46.7	43.2
\$1000 and more	4.5	2.1	3.4	4.0	29.9	10.4	20.0

Note: Totals do not always add up to 100% because of the use of selected indicators.

* The 2006 Census recorded a total WA population of 1,959,095 people.

** For 2001, the cut-off point was \$299.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 and 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

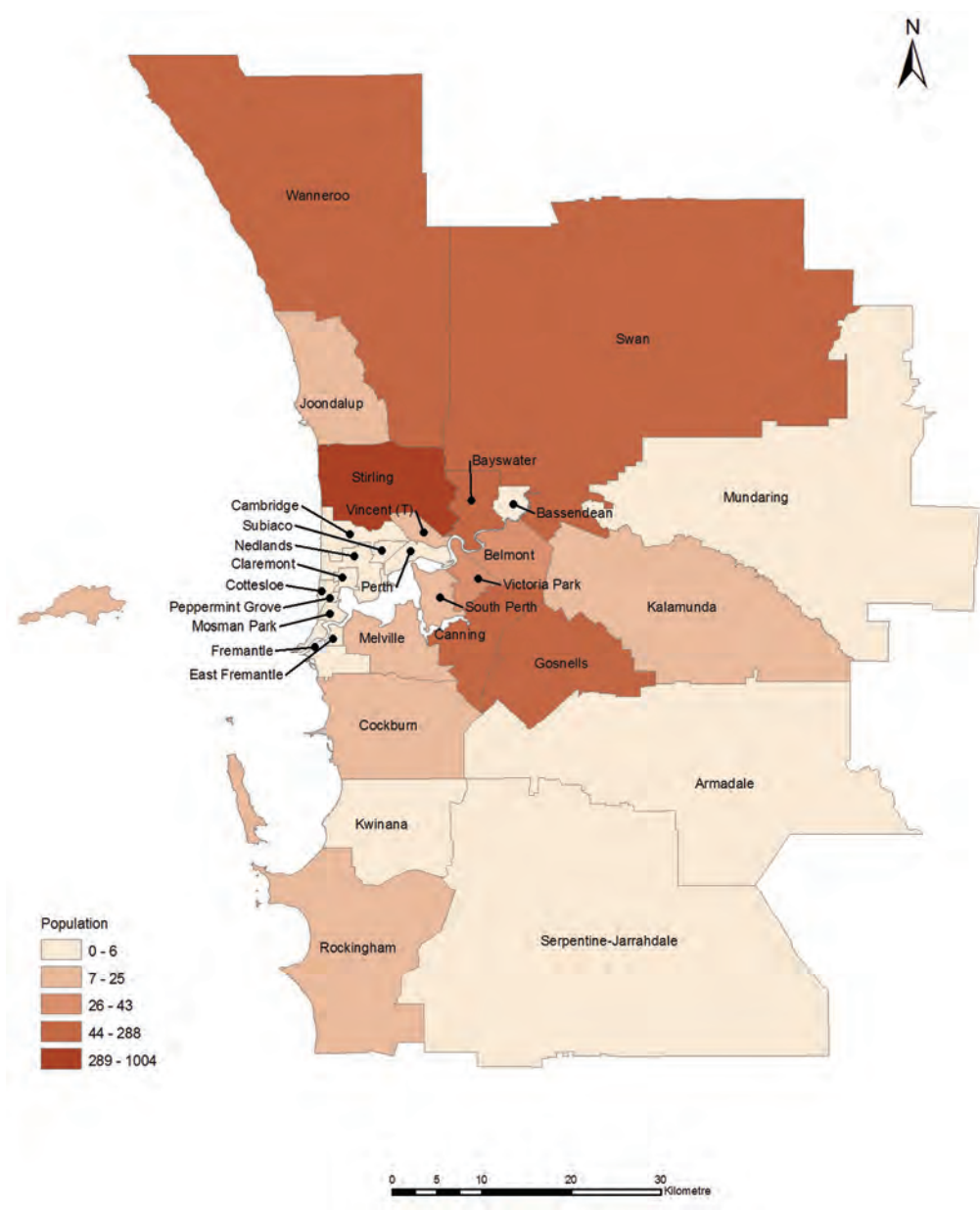


Figure 1: Distribution of Sudan-born people by settlement pattern in the LGAs of the Perth Metropolitan Area (Data Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing).