



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census

## Liberia-born

### Introduction

**This profile provides a range of information on Western Australians who were born in Liberia. Using data from the 2011 Census of Population and Housing, it details:**

- key social and economic characteristics of the community including population size, age and gender profile, education, income and workforce participation
- migration history and cultural backgrounds including ancestry, language and religious affiliation
- family and wellbeing including marital status, family composition, living arrangements and disability.

The purpose of this profile is to assist all Western Australians to understand the State's cultural diversity and the way it has changed over time. The information can be used for a variety of purposes including policy, program and service development, research and for general interest.

### Liberia-born community in Western Australia

The Liberia-born can be classified as a new and emerging community. A new and emerging community is one that is small in number, of which most members arrived in Western Australia (WA) after 1991, and mainly as humanitarian entrants. A small number (14) of Liberia-born people arrived in WA before 1991, however, most (91%) arrived in WA as humanitarian entrants after 2001.

#### **LIBERIA-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE**

- There were 495 Liberia-born people in WA in 2011, almost double the number in 2006 (263).
- There were 324 Western Australians with Liberian ancestry.
- Most (89%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- Almost two-thirds (60%) were Australian citizens.
- There were more women (262) than men (233) with a sex ratio of 89 men for every 100 women.
- More than one-third (42%) of the Liberia-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years. The smallest group was older people aged 65 years and over (less than 1%).
- One-third (35%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- The main languages spoken at home by the Liberia-born were Loma (Lorma) (5%) and Dan (Gio-Dan) (5%).

- ▣ Most (99%) of the Liberia-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ More than half (52%) of the Liberia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education, and more than one-third had a technical qualification (36%).
- ▣ More than half (55%) of the Liberia-born were employed, and more than one-quarter (27%) were not in the labour force.
- ▣ The Liberia-born were employed mainly as community and personal service workers (41%), labourers (25%), and machinery operators and drivers (12%).
- ▣ Half (50%) were middle income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999.
- ▣ Almost three-quarters (71%) of the Liberia-born lived in rental accommodation.
- ▣ More than one-third (39%) of the Liberia-born aged 25 years and over were married, and 40 per cent lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ No Liberia-born older person aged 65 years and over required assistance with everyday living.

## Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

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In 2011, there were 495 Liberia-born Western Australians, representing less than one per cent (0.02%) of the State's total population. This number was larger than in 2006 (263). Almost two-thirds (60%) were Australian citizens.

### ARRIVAL

Most (89%) of the Liberia-born arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population of which 28 per cent arrived during the same period.

### AGE AND GENDER

The Liberia-born population is composed of larger proportions of young people and young adults, and smaller proportions of children, adults and older people than the total WA population. In 2011, more than one-third (42%) of the Liberia-born were young adults aged between 25 and 44 years, and almost one-third (31%) were young people aged between 15 and 24 years. These proportions were almost unchanged since 2006 (38% and 31%, respectively) but larger compared with the total WA population (29% and 14%, respectively).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of children aged between 0 and 14 years decreased (from 20% to 11%) and was smaller compared with the total WA population (20%). The proportion of Liberia-born adults aged between 45 and 64 years increased (from 11% to 15%) but was smaller compared with the total WA population (25%).

There was no change in the proportion of older people aged 65 and over (less than 1%), and this was smaller compared with the total WA population (12%).

In 2011, there were more Liberia-born women than men.



Age and gender profile	Liberia-born			2006	WA population 2011		
	2011				Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	7.7	14.1	11.1	19.8	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	29.2	32.1	30.7	31.2	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	50.6	35.1	42.4	38.0	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	12.4	17.6	15.1	11.0	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.0	11.3	13.2	12.3
All (number)	233	262	495	263	1,126,177	1,112,994	2,239,171
Sex ratio			88.9	83.8			101.2

The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was approximately 89. This was higher than in 2006 (84), but lower compared with the total WA population (101).

### ANCESTRY

People born in Liberia, who have one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Liberian ancestors, may identify that they have Liberian ancestry. In 2011, more than one-third (42%) of the

Liberia-born identified that they had Liberian ancestry. Liberia-born Western Australians also reported that they had English (15%), Mandinka (1%) and Krahn (1%) ancestries. Most (94%) had one or both parents born overseas.

Small numbers of the WA population (324) and the Australia-born (44) identified that they had Liberian ancestry.

Ancestry	Liberia-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Liberian	41.8	41.4	0.01	0.0*
English	14.7	22.4	37.9	41.4
Mandinka	1.2	NA	0.0*	0.0
Krahn	1.2	NA	0.0*	0.0*
Gio	0.6	NA	0.0*	0.0*
One or both parents born overseas	93.9	50.9	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0.0	N/A	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.4	0.7	51.3	75.3

\* Listed as zero due to the small percentage.

Language	Liberia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	51.1	59.9	55.7	57.0	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	41.6	29.8	35.3	31.9	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	3.0	8.4	5.8	7.6	1.8	2.4	2.1
<b>Main languages other than English spoken at home (top two responses)*</b>							
Loma (Lorma)	6.4	3.0	4.6	N/A	0.0**	0.0**	0.0**
Dan (Gio-Dan)	4.7	4.6	4.6	N/A	0.0**	0.0**	0.0**

\* The first three columns show the top two responses for the Liberia-born. Data for the WA population are not the top responses and are presented for comparative purposes.

\*\* Listed as zero due to the small percentage.

## LANGUAGES

In 2011, more than one-third (41%) of Liberia-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Loma (Lorma) (5%) and Dan (Gio-Dan) (5%).

In 2011, more than one-third (35%) of the Liberia-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English very well or well, almost unchanged since 2006 (32%).

More than half (56%) spoke English only at home, this was unchanged since 2006 (57%). A larger proportion of men (42%) than women (30%) spoke a LOTE and English very well or well.

A small proportion (6%) of the Liberia-born reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all.

## RELIGION

The religious affiliation of Liberia-born Western Australians was unchanged between 2006 and 2011. More than three-quarters (77%) of the Liberia-born identified with Christianity. A smaller proportion identified with Islam (16%). This contrasts with the general trend for the total WA population in which identification with Christianity had decreased and identification with non-Christian religions or not identifying with any religion had increased.



## Geographic distribution

Between 2006 and 2011, the settlement pattern for the Liberia-born remained stable. In 2011, most (99%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and less than one per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the Liberia-born, a smaller proportion of the total Western Australian population lived in the Greater Metropolitan Perth Area (77%) and a larger proportion lived in non-metropolitan areas (22%).

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the Liberia-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Stirling (30%), Wanneroo (15%) and Gosnells (12%).

## Education

In 2011, more than half (52%) of the Liberia-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was a larger proportion than in 2006 (45%), and was comparable to the total WA population (48%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Liberia-born with qualifications at advanced diploma, diploma, or certificate level (from 24% to 36%), while the proportion with degree and tertiary level qualifications was unchanged (6%). The proportion of the Liberia-born with post-school qualifications (41%) was comparable to the total WA population (45%).

A larger proportion of Liberia-born men (7%) than women (2%) held qualifications at degree/tertiary level, however, a larger proportion of women (40%) than men (33%) had an advanced diploma, diploma or certificate level qualification.

A small proportion (6%) of the Liberia-born reported that they had not attended school, compared with 0.6 per cent of the total WA population.

Educational attainment	Liberia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Degree/tertiary level	7.0	2.2	4.8	6.2	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	32.6	40.0	36.4	23.7	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	63.3	40.4	51.6	45.0	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	1.9	10.7	6.4	9.5	0.5	0.7	0.6

## Labour force

### PARTICIPATION

The labour force participation rate is the proportion of the total population, aged 15 years and over, who are employed, or unemployed and able to work. In 2011, two-thirds (66%) of Liberia-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This rate was higher than in 2006 (51%), but comparable to the total WA population (64%).

In 2011, more than half (55%) of the Liberia-born were employed, a larger proportion than in 2006 (43%). The proportion not in the labour force decreased (from 44% to 27%). The proportions of people employed and not in the labour force were comparable to the total WA population (61% and 29%, respectively).

The rate of unemployment for the Liberia-born (11%) was higher compared with the total State population (3%).

Labour force	Liberia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
Employed	61.4	48.0	54.8	42.7	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	13.0	9.7	11.3	8.5	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	18.1	35.1	26.6	44.0	22.7	36.1	29.4

A larger proportion of Liberia-born men (61%) than women (48%) were employed. A larger proportion of women than men were not in the labour force (35% and 18%, respectively). These gender-based trends reflect those for the total Western Australian population of which two-thirds (67%) of men and more than half (55%) of women were employed, while more than one-third of women (36%) and less than a quarter of men (23%) were not in the labour force.

### OCCUPATION

The Liberia-born were mainly employed as community and personal service workers (41%), labourers<sup>1</sup> (25%), and machinery operators and drivers (12%).

Liberia-born men were mainly employed as labourers (33%), machinery operators and drivers (21%), and community and personal service workers (21%). Liberia-born women were mainly employed as community and personal service workers (66%), and labourers (14%).

### BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, a small proportion (less than 1%) of the Liberia-born were small or medium business owners, similar to 2006 (2%) but smaller compared with the proportion of the total WA population (15%).

All of the businesses owned by Liberia-born people were self-managed and owned by women.

<sup>1</sup> According to the 2011 Census Dictionary, 'labourers' include cleaners and laundry workers, construction and mining labourers, factory process workers, farm, forestry and garden workers, food preparation assistants and a miscellaneous category such as handypersons, recycling and rubbish collectors and vending machine attendants.



Weekly income	Liberia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	5.1	6.2	5.7	5.7	5.6	9.8	7.7
<\$300	19.0	16.4	17.7	27.0	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–999	47.0	53.3	50.2	46.0	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	11.2	4.8	7.9	5.2	43.0	20.2	31.6

Note: \* Unlike 2011 the threshold for the 2006 Census was less than \$250. The next income bracket was \$250–999.

\*\* For the 2001 Census 'no income' also included negative income.

## INCOME

Half (50%) of the Liberia-born earned a middle income of between \$300 and \$999 per week. This proportion was larger than in 2006 (46%) and compared with all Western Australians (36%).

Between 2006 and 2011, the proportion of Liberia-born Western Australians earning a high income of \$1000 or more per week increased (from 5% to 8%), but was smaller compared with that of the total State population (32%). The proportion of people earning less than \$300 per week decreased (from 27% to 18%), but was comparable to all Western Australians (16%).

A small proportion (6%) of the Liberia-born were without a weekly income, which was unchanged since 2006 (6%) and comparable to the total WA population (8%).

Similar proportions of Liberia-born women and men were

middle income earners (53% and 47%, respectively), low income earners (16% and 19%, respectively) or without an income (6% and 5%, respectively). A larger proportion of men (11%) than women (5%) were high income earners.

## HOUSING

In 2011, 17 per cent of the Liberia-born owned their home compared with almost two-thirds (63%) of all Western Australians.

Among the Liberia-born, 16 per cent lived in a home they were purchasing and less than one per cent lived in a home they fully owned. The comparative figures for the total WA population were 24 per cent and 39 per cent, respectively.

In 2011, the majority (71%) of the Liberia-born were living in rental accommodation, a larger proportion compared with the total WA population (26%).

## Family

### MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, more than one-third (39%) of the Liberia-born aged 25 years and over were married, which was comparable to 2006 (40%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (58%). Similar proportions of men (39%) and women (40%) were married.

Between 2006 and 2011, there was no change in the proportions of the Liberia-born who were divorced or separated (13%), or widowed (7%); these proportions were comparable to the total WA population (14% and 6%, respectively). All of the widowed Liberia-born were women. Almost half (43%) of the Liberia-born had never married, comparable to 2006 (40%) but almost double the proportion of the total WA population (23%).

### FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, more than one-third (40%) of Liberia-born people lived in couple families with children, and six per cent lived in couple families without children. Both had increased since 2006 (26% and 3%, respectively). These proportions were smaller compared with the total WA population (45% and 20%, respectively).

One-third (32%) of the Liberia-born lived in one-parent families, a proportion that was smaller compared with 2006 (51%), but was three times larger than the proportion of all Western Australians (10%). A larger proportion of Liberia-born women (43%) than men (20%) lived in one-parent families.

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Liberia-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	38.8	39.7	39.2	39.5	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0.0	14.9	7.3	6.2	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	8.8	16.3	12.5	14.0	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	53.0	31.9	42.7	40.3	26.3	19.2	22.7

### Family composition (all ages)

Couple family with children	38.2	40.8	40.0	25.8	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	5.6	5.7	5.6	2.6	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	19.7	43.1	32.1	50.6	7.8	12.0	9.9



## **LIVING ARRANGEMENTS**

In 2011, almost one-third (30%) of the Liberia-born lived with a spouse or partner, an increase from 2006 (19%), but lower compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (42%). Equal proportions of Liberia-born men (30%) and women (31%) were living with a spouse.

Between 2006 and 2011, there were decreases in the proportions of the Liberia-born living with other family members (from 51% to 39%) or living alone (from 25% to 20%). The proportion of the Liberia-born not living at home increased (from 5% to 9%). The proportions of all Western Australians living in such arrangements were 35 per cent, 12 per cent and eight per cent, respectively,

## **DISABILITY/SICKNESS**

Disability refers to the level of assistance a person requires in day-to-day activities such as eating, dressing and bathing. In 2011, none of the Liberia-born aged 65 years and over required such assistance, compared with 16 per cent of all Western Australians of the same age. A small proportion (2%) of the Liberia-born aged between 15 and 64 years required such assistance.

In 2011, 13 per cent of the Liberia-born aged 15 years and over were providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member, larger than the proportion of the total WA population (9%).

## **More information**

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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