



# Western Australian Community Profiles 2011 Census Sudan-born

## Introduction

**This profile provides a range of information on Western Australians who were born in Sudan. 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.

## Sudan-born community in Western Australia

The Sudan-born are a new and emerging community in Western Australia (WA). New and emerging communities are those that have relatively small populations, of which the majority arrived after 1991. Migration from Sudan to WA began in the 1960s, however, the majority (81%) of the Sudan-born arrived after 2001, mainly under Australia's Humanitarian Program. The Sudan-born was one of WA's fastest growing communities, increasing by 544% between 2001 and 2011.

### SUDAN-BORN COMMUNITY AT A GLANCE

- There were 2721 Sudan-born in WA, 35% more than in 2006 (2020).
- There were 2500 Western Australians who identified as having Sudanese ancestry and 684 with South Sudanese ancestry.
- More than three-quarters (81%) arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010.
- More than two-thirds (70%) were Australian citizens.
- There were more men (1402) than women (1319) with a sex ratio of 106 men for every 100 women.
- Almost half (43%) were aged between 25 and 44 years and more than one-quarter (28%) were aged between 15 and 24 years. One per cent were aged over 65 years.

- ▣ The median age of the Sudan-born was 26 years.
- ▣ Three-quarters (75%) spoke English well and spoke a language other than English (LOTE) at home.
- ▣ The main languages spoken by the Sudan-born were Arabic (47%) and Dinka (19%).
- ▣ Most (99%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area.
- ▣ Almost half (48%) of the Sudan-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education and almost one-quarter (21%) had a technical qualification.
- ▣ Similar proportions of people were employed (41%) and not in the labour force (44%).
- ▣ The Sudan-born were mainly employed as labourers (33%) and community and personal service workers (23%).
- ▣ More than two-thirds (70%) were medium or low income earners with a weekly income between \$300 and \$999 (37%), or less than \$300 (31%). Twelve per cent had no weekly income.
- ▣ More than two-thirds (69%) lived in rental accommodation and almost one-quarter (23%) owned their home.
- ▣ Almost two-thirds (59%) of the Sudan-born aged 25 years and over were married and more than half (54%) lived in couple families with children.
- ▣ One-third (36%) of the Sudan-born aged over 65 years required assistance with everyday living.

## Migration, culture, ancestry, language and religion

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In 2011, there were 2721 Sudan-born Western Australians, representing 0.1% of the State's total population. This was an increase of 35% (from 2006) since 2006. More than two-thirds (70%) were Australian citizens.

### ARRIVAL

Most (81%) of the Sudan-born arrived in WA between 2001 and 2010, migrating largely under Australia's Humanitarian Program. This compares with the State's total overseas-born population, of which more than one-quarter (28%) arrived during the same period.

### AGE AND GENDER

The Sudan-born population is composed of a larger proportion of young people and young adults, and a smaller proportion of older people, compared with the total WA population. In 2011, nearly half (43%) of the Sudan-born were aged between 25 and 44 years and more than one-quarter (28%) were aged between 15 and 24 years. Both proportions were larger than in 2001 (35% and 21%, respectively) and compared with the total WA population (29% and 14%, respectively).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of the Sudan-born aged over 65 years (from 5% to 1%) while the proportion aged between 45 and 64 years was unchanged (11%). Both proportions were smaller compared with the total WA population (25% and 12%, respectively).

The median age for the Sudan-born was 26 years, compared with 36 years for the total WA population.



Age and gender profile	Sudan-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
Age group	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
0–14 years	17.4	17.7	17.5	28.1	28.5	20.1	19.2	19.7
15–24 years	27.1	28.5	27.8	27.5	21.0	14.1	13.3	13.7
25–44 years	42.4	44.0	43.2	35.8	34.9	29.4	28.9	29.1
45–64 years	12.5	8.5	10.6	7.5	10.7	25.1	25.3	25.2
65+ years	0.6	1.3	0.9	1.1	5.0	11.3	13.2	12.3
<b>All (number)</b>	1402	1319	2721	2020	424	1126177	1112994	2239171
<b>Sex ratio</b>	106.3			115.1	NA	101.2		

In 2011, there were more Sudan-born men (1402) than women (1319). The sex ratio (number of men per 100 women) was estimated at 106. This was lower than in 2006 (115) but higher compared with the total WA population (101).

### ANCESTRY

People born in the Sudan, with one or both parents born there, or who were born elsewhere but have Sudanese ancestors, may identify that they have

Sudanese ancestry. In 2011, more than half (53%) of the Sudan-born identified that they had Sudanese ancestry. The Sudan-born also identified as having Ethiopian (5%), South Sudanese (4%), Eritrean (4%) and English (3%) ancestries.

In 2011, small numbers of the WA (2500) and Australia-born (492) populations identified as having Sudanese ancestry.

Ancestry	Sudan-born		WA population 2011	Australia-born 2011
	2011	2006		
Self-identified ancestry	Total %	Total %	Total %	Total %
Sudanese	53.4	46.0	0.1	0*
Ethiopian	5.0	4.4	0.1	0*
South Sudanese	4.0	6.6	0*	0*
Eritrean	4.3	2.7	0*	0*
English	3.44	2.9	37.9	41.3
One or both parents born overseas	64.7	95.2	56.2	35.2
Both parents born in Australia	0	NA	43.8	64.8
One parent born in Australia	0.7	1.6	51.3	75.3

\* The proportions are listed as zero because of the small numbers identifying with these ancestries. In 2011, 1305, 706 and 684 Western Australian, and 284, 207 and 153 Australia-born identified as having Ethiopian, South Sudanese and Eritrean ancestries, respectively.

Language	Sudan-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female %	Total %
English proficiency	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
English only	7.0	5.0	6.4	5.8	8.0	78.8	79.8	79.3
Other language and English; very well or well	80.4	68.5	74.6	62.2	73.1	12.4	12.7	12.5
Other language and English; not well or not at all	8.3	22.9	15.4	27.7	17.5	1.8	2.4	2.1
<b>Main language spoken at home other than English (top two responses)*</b>								
Arabic	46.0	48.1	47.0	42.5	67.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Dinka	20.2	18.1	19.2	21.6	NA	0.1	0.1	0.1

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

## LANGUAGES

In 2011, most (90%) Sudan-born Western Australians reported speaking a language other than English (LOTE) at home, mainly Arabic (47%) and Dinka (19%). The proportion of LOTE speakers had remained stable since 2001, although the proportion of Arabic speakers decreased (from 68%).

Three-quarters (75%) of the Sudan-born reported speaking a LOTE and speaking English well or very well, a larger proportion than in 2006 (62%). For the same period, the proportion that spoke English only at home (6%) remained unchanged.

A larger proportion of men (80%) reported a high level of English proficiency than women (69%) while the proportion of women (23%) who reported lower levels of English proficiency was almost three-times larger than the proportion of men (8%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was a decrease in the proportion of the Sudan-born who reported speaking a LOTE and English not well or not at all (from 28% to 15%).

## RELIGION

In 2011, more than three-quarters (80%) of the Sudan-born reported an affiliation with Christianity, a larger proportion than in 2001 (75%). The proportions that identified with Islam (16%) or as having no religion (1%) had remained relatively unchanged since 2001.

This trend was different compared with the general trend for the total WA population of decreasing identification with Christianity and increasing identification with non-Christian religions, or as having no religion.



## Geographic distribution

Between 2001 and 2011, the settlement pattern for Sudan-born Western Australians was stable. Almost all (99%) of the Sudan-born lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and one per cent lived in non-metropolitan areas. Compared with the Sudan-born, a smaller proportion of the total WA population (77%) lived in the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area and a larger proportion (22%) lived in non-metropolitan areas.

Within the Greater Perth Metropolitan Area, the Sudan-born lived mainly in the Local Government Areas of Stirling (20%), Gosnells (17%) and Canning (15%).

## Education

In 2011, almost half (48%) of the Sudan-born aged 15 years and over had completed Year 12 or an equivalent level of education. This was larger than in 2006 (37%), but comparable to the proportion of the total WA population (48%). A larger proportion of men (56%) had completed this level of education than women (39%).

Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion of the Sudan-born with qualifications at advanced diploma, diploma and certificate level more than doubled (from 8% to 21%). By contrast, the proportion of people with degree or tertiary level qualifications more than halved (from 18% to 8%). A larger proportion of Western Australians held post-school qualifications than the Sudan-born (45% and 28%, respectively). Larger proportions of Sudan-born men had a degree (11%) or a technical qualification (23%) than women (5% and 20%, respectively).

The proportion (8%) of Sudan-born Western Australians who reported that they had not attended school was larger compared with all Western Australians (0.6%). A larger proportion of women (12%) had not attended school than men (4%).

Educational attainment	Sudan-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male %	Female%	Total%
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female%	Total%
Degree/tertiary level	10.5	5.2	7.9	6.5	17.8	15.9	19.2	17.5
Advanced diploma/diploma/certificate	22.8	19.9	21.4	13.6	8.2	32.8	22.4	27.6
Completed Year 12/equivalent	55.9	38.9	47.7	37.3	52.3	46.2	49.4	47.8
Did not attend school	4.0	12.2	7.9	7.9	3.0	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, half (51%) of Sudan-born Western Australians were in the labour force. This was a larger proportion than in 2001 (32%), but was smaller compared with the total WA population (64%).

Between 2001 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Sudan-born who were employed (from 19% to 41%), and decreases in the proportions of those not in the labour force (from 67% to 44%) and the rate of unemployment (from 13% to 10%). Larger proportions of the Sudan-born were unemployed or not in the labour force than all Western Australians (3% and 29%, respectively), while the proportion employed was smaller than the proportion of the total WA population (61%).

A larger proportion of Sudan-born men (52%) than women (30%) were employed. A larger proportion of women (55%) than men (34%) were not in the labour force. These gender-based trends reflect those for the total WA population of which a larger proportion of men (67%) than women (55%) were employed, while a larger proportion of women (36%) than men (23%) were not in the labour force.

### OCCUPATION

The Sudan-born were mainly employed as labourers (33%),<sup>1</sup> community and personal service workers (23%) and machinery operators and drivers (10%). Smaller proportions of the total WA population were employed as labourers (10%) and community and personal service workers (9%).

Sudan-born men were mainly employed as labourers (31%), machinery operators and drivers (19%) and technicians and trade workers (14%). Sudan-born women were mainly employed as labourers (34%) and community and personal service workers (35%).

### BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

In 2011, 4% of the Sudan-born were small or medium business owners. This proportion had remained stable since 2006, but was almost four times smaller compared with the total WA population (15%).

Almost equal proportions of businesses owned by the Sudan-born employed between one and 19 people (51%) or were self-managed (49%).

Labour force	Sudan-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	2001	Male%	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male%	Female %	Total %
Employed	51.9	30.2	41.4	31.0	19.1	66.7	55.3	61.0
Unemployed	10.5	9.3	9.9	7.7	12.5	3.2	2.9	3.0
Not in the labour force	34.0	55.4	44.3	56.5	67.3	22.7	36.1	29.4

<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 miscellaneous category such as handypersons, recycling and rubbish collectors and vending machine attendants.



Weekly income	Sudan-born					WA population 2011		
	2011			2006*	2001**	Male %	Female %	Total %
Population (15+ years)	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %	Total %	Male %	Female %	Total %
None	9.2	15.3	12.1	5.1	4.3	5.6	9.8	7.7
< \$300	28.3	34.4	31.0	37.4	60.8	11.7	19.8	15.7
\$300–\$999	38.5	35.6	37.1	35.8	18.6	29.3	41.9	35.6
\$1000 or more	11.1	2.5	7.3	2.7	4.0	43.0	20.2	31.6

Note: \*Unlike 2011 and 2001, 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

More than two-thirds (68%) of Sudan-born Western Australians were medium or low income earners. More than one-third (37%) of the Sudan-born earned a weekly income of between \$300 and \$999—a larger proportion than in 2001 (19%), but comparable to all Western Australians (36%). Between 2001 and 2011, the proportion earning less than \$300 per week almost halved (from 61% to 31%), but was twice as large as the proportion of the total WA population (16%).

The proportion of the Sudan-born earning \$1000 or more per week (7%) was comparable to 2001 (4%), but was four times smaller than the proportion of the total WA population (32%).

In 2011, 12% of the Sudan-born were without a weekly income, an increase from 2001 (4%) and larger compared with the WA figure (8%).

A larger proportion of Sudan-born women (15%) were without an income than men (9%), while a larger proportion of men (11%) were high income earners than women (3%).

## HOUSING

In 2011, almost one-quarter (23%) of the Sudan-born owned their home. This was almost three times smaller compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (63%).

A larger proportion of the Sudan-born were in a home they were purchasing (19%) than in a home they owned (4%). These proportions were smaller compared with the total WA population (24% and 39%, respectively).

More than two-thirds (69%) of the Sudan born lived in rental accommodation compared with one-quarter (26%) of the total WA population.

## Family

### MARITAL STATUS

In 2011, nearly two-thirds (59%) of the Sudan-born aged 25 years and over were married. This was comparable to 2006 (62%) and to the total WA population (58%).

Between 2006 and 2011, there was an increase in the proportion of the Sudan-born who were divorced or separated (from 11% to 15%), while the proportions of people never married (23%) or widowed (4%) were relatively unchanged. All rates were comparable to those for the total WA population (14%, 23% and 6%, respectively).

The proportion of women (20%) divorced or separated was double that of men (9%). By contrast, the proportion of men (31%) never married was more than double the proportion of women (14%). All of the widowed Sudan-born were women.

### FAMILY COMPOSITION

In 2011, more than half (54%) of the Sudan-born lived in couple families with children. This was unchanged since 2006, but larger compared with the proportion of all Western Australians (45%).

A smaller proportion (4%) of the Sudan-born lived in couple families without children. This was also unchanged since 2006, but was smaller compared with the total WA population (20%).

More than one-quarter (27%) of the Sudan-born lived in one-parent families, which was unchanged since 2006 but was larger compared with the proportion of the WA population (10%). The proportion of Sudan-born women who lived in one-parent families (35%) was almost double the proportion of men (19%).

Registered marital status (25+ years)	Sudan-born				WA population 2011		
	2011			2006	Male %	Female %	Total %
	Male %	Female %	Total %	Total %			
Married	59.5	57.7	58.7	62.4	59.0	57.1	58.1
Widowed	0	8.1	3.8	6.0	2.3	8.8	5.6
Divorced/separated	9.3	20.1	14.5	10.9	12.3	14.9	13.6
Never married	30.7	14.0	22.8	20.8	26.3	19.2	22.7
<b>Family composition (all ages)</b>							
Couple family with children	54.1	53.0	53.5	52.9	45.0	44.7	44.8
Couple family without children	3.9	3.8	3.9	2.9	19.4	20.3	19.8
One-parent family	18.8	34.8	26.6	27.9	7.8	12.0	9.9



## LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, almost half (49%) of the Sudan-born lived with other family or non-family members—a smaller proportion than in 2006 (57%), but larger compared with the total WA population (34%). One-third (33%) lived with a spouse or partner, a larger proportion than in 2006 (28%) but smaller compared with the total WA population (42%).

Comparable proportions of the Sudan-born (13%) and all Western Australians (12%) were living alone. The proportion of Sudan-born women (21%) living alone was more than three times larger than for the proportion of men (6%).

## 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, slightly more than one-third (36%) of the Sudan-born aged 65 years and over required such assistance. A larger proportion of older men (63%) required assistance than older women (24%). The proportions were larger compared with older Western Australian men (13%) and women (18%).

Less than 2% of the Sudan born aged less than 65 years required such assistance.

In 2011, 9% of the Sudan-born aged 15 years and over was providing unpaid care and/or assistance to a family member which was the same as the proportion of all Western Australians (9%).

## More information

For more information and assistance, please contact:

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