

Limited English Proficient Population in Region 1-B

January 2016

The Five-Year American Community Survey 2009-2014 indicates that 5.7% (23,251) of older adults aged 65+ in Region 1-B are Limited English Proficient (LEP). Limited English Proficiency is defined as speaking English less than very well, as reported by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Ninety percent of Limited English Proficient Older Adults in Region 1-B live in Macomb and Oakland Counties. Macomb County has the highest prevalence of Limited English Proficient older adults, with 8.5% of the older adult population speaking English less than very well, followed by Oakland County (5.9%). The three smallest counties in the region, St. Clair, Monroe, and Livingston have the lowest percentages of Limited English Proficient older adults.

Region 1-B has a larger Limited English Proficient population than other areas of the state. Statewide 3.2% (46,244) of Michigan older adults are Limited English Proficient; half of the state's entire LEP older adult population lives in Region 1-B. In Wayne County 4.8% (11,230) of older adults 65+ are Limited English Proficient.

Table 1: Limited English Speaking Population in Southeast Michigan by County

County	Total 65+ Population	65+ Speaks Only English	% 65+ Speaks Only English	65+ LEP Population	% 65+ Population that is LEP
Livingston	24,555	23,704	96.5%	225	0.9%
Macomb	126,759	10,8579	85.7%	10,775	8.5%
Monroe	21,894	21,267	97.1%	212	1.0%
Oakland	172,676	151,906	88.0%	10,231	5.9%
St. Clair	25,126	24,257	96.5%	174	0.7%
Washtenaw	38,878	35,042	90.1%	1,634	4.2%
1-B TOTAL	409,888	364,755	89.0%	23,251	5.7%
Wayne	236,218	214,592	90.8%	11,230	4.8%
SE MI TOTAL	646,106	579,347	89.7%	34,481	5.3%

Languages Spoken by Limited English Proficient Older Adults

The majority (51%) of Limited English Proficient Older Adults in Region 1-B speak an Indo-European* language, while 27% speak “other languages” such as Arabic or Amharic. In Michigan, the most common languages other than English spoken by people of all ages are Spanish, Arabic, German, Chinese and French. There is a significant difference in the percentage of LEP Spanish speaking older adults in Wayne County, where 16% of LEP older adults speak Spanish, and Region 1-B, where 5% of LEP older adults speak Spanish.

Figure 1: Limited English Proficient Older Adults by Language Spoken in Region 1-B

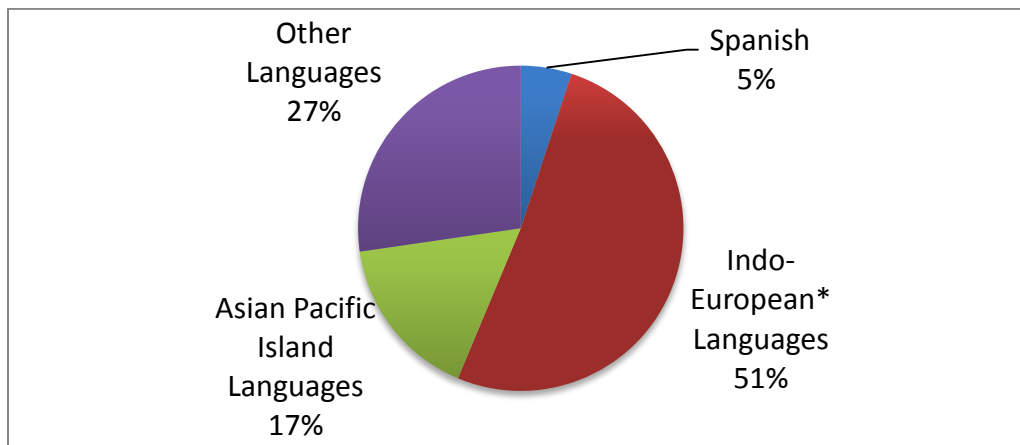


Table 2: Language Spoken by Limited English Proficient Older Adults 65+ by County

County	Spanish	Indo-European Languages	Asian Pacific Island Languages	Other Languages
Livingston	38	171	0	16
Macomb	276	6,617	1,046	2,836
Monroe	47	101	10	54
Oakland	702	4,271	1,980	3,278
St. Clair	23	99	52	0
Washtenaw	90	657	723	164
1-B TOTAL	1,176	11,916	3,811	6,348
Wayne	1,799	4,625	1,388	3,418
SE MI TOTAL	2,975	16,541	5,199	9,766

Source: Five-Year American Community Survey 2019-2014; Table B16004

*The Indo-European category of Languages includes languages from India, Europe and some Middle Eastern regions such as Iran.

To learn more about the needs of LEP older adults, view this Justice in Aging Fact Sheet:

<http://www.justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/LEP-10-Things-You-Should-Know.pdf>

Table 3: Language Spoken at Home by People Ages 5+ who have Limited English Proficiency

		Livingston	Macomb	Monroe	Oakland	St. Clair	Washtenaw	Region 1-B Total	Wayne	SE Michigan Total
1	Arabic	39	8,645	189	8,138	118	1,005	18,134	27,032	45,166
2	Spanish	736	3,574	691	9,150	731	2,656	17,538	23,377	40,915
3	Chinese	19	1,372	11	5,068	10	3,502	9,982	2,535	12,517
4	Other Indo-European	36	5,069	35	3,255	26	440	8,861	2,917	11,778
5	Other	6	7,434	2	3,879	-	49	11,370	222	11,592
6	Other Indic	26	2,014	-	1,062	7	309	3,418	6,188	9,606
7	Polish	22	2,522	106	960	46	73	3,729	1,707	5,436
8	Korean	64	476	25	2,134	-	1,664	4,363	840	5,203
9	Italian	57	2,886	82	649	23	65	3,762	1,335	5,097
10	Japanese	40	178	14	2,859	46	959	4,096	450	4,546
11	Other Slavic	31	2,022	-	1,075	21	34	3,183	1,038	4,221
12	Russian	76	383	-	2,925	23	201	3,608	482	4,090
13	Vietnamese	-	1,735	-	697	42	78	2,552	1,159	3,711
14	Other Asian	16	509	23	2,001	-	348	2,897	693	3,590
15	Serbo-Croatian	6	2,069	-	379	58	82	2,594	929	3,523
16	Tagalog	21	1,177	30	865	40	152	2,285	883	3,168
17	Gujarati	-	711	-	1,012	7	97	1,827	1,202	3,029
18	Urdu	-	434	-	755	80	165	1,434	1,384	2,818
19	French	37	436	80	915	11	335	1,814	960	2,774
20	Hindi	-	480	-	1,228	-	294	2,002	627	2,629
21	German	146	577	32	883	49	269	1,956	520	2,476
22	African	-	67	22	435	28	392	944	1,390	2,334
23	Greek	27	619	11	468	10	91	1,226	672	1,898
24	Hmong	-	461	-	369	-	39	869	203	1,072
25	Portuguese	-	15	-	284	26	174	499	143	642
26	Persian	8	-	-	242	-	124	374	248	622
27	Other API	13	189	7	149	-	93	451	65	516
28	Armenian	-	150	-	214	-	8	372	137	509
29	Thai	10	43	-	198	20	53	324	42	366
30	Hungarian	-	20	-	48	-	-	68	276	344
31	Hebrew	4	-	-	224	-	44	272	30	302
32	Laotian	-	55	-	15	-	110	180	73	253
33	Other West Germanic	1	106	7	33	-	14	161	49	210
34	Cambodian	-	54	-	63	-	25	142	2	144
35	Scandinav.	-	-	-	8	14	22	44	31	75
36	French Creole	-	16	-	14	-	14	44	28	72
37	Yiddish	-	-	-	22	-	-	22	10	32
38	Native American	-	4	-	9	5	-	18	9	27

Source: Five-Year American Community Survey 2019-2014; Table B16001. Data is not available for 65+ alone.