



FAST FACTS ABOUT AFRICA AND AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS IN PHILADELPHIA

There are an estimated 40,000-55,000 African immigrants living in the Greater Philadelphia area. (These figures are based on community leader estimates).

There are immigrants in Philadelphia from almost every African country. The largest communities are from Nigeria, Liberia, Ethiopia, and Ghana.

African immigrants in Philadelphia speak many different languages. Some, like Amharic in Ethiopia and Wolof in Senegal, are spoken by a majority of the community as first or second language. Other languages are spoken by just a small ethnic group. In communities with great linguistic diversity, English or French, the official language of the home country, may be the preferred language of communication.

Immigrants from Africa have the highest educational levels among all immigrants to the United States. They have on average over 3 years of college, and over half are college graduates.

Philadelphia is the resettlement site for many African refugees. The largest numbers are from Ethiopia, Sudan, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

The majority of African immigrants in the Philadelphia area come from large cities in Africa. Some of these cities have much larger populations than Philadelphia. There are 12 cities south of the Sahara desert with populations over 2 million. New York, Los Angeles and Chicago are the only cities over 2 million in the United States. (the population of Philadelphia is 1.5 million).

There are over 40 African community associations in the Philadelphia area representing 15 countries of origin.

There are 11 African churches and 3 African mosques in the Philadelphia area

Africa is not a country – it is a continent and is home to 53 nation states, including North Africa and the island nations off the east and west coasts of the continent.

Nigeria has the largest population of all African countries, which accounts for one quarter of Sub-Saharan Africa's population.

The continent of Africa is larger than the U.S., Europe, and China combined.

Most of Africa is covered by grassland. One-third is covered by desert and only a very small part is jungle.

The nation of Liberia was created by freed American slaves who started returning to the "Grain Coast" in the 1820s, and who proclaimed independence in 1847. Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is named after American president James Monroe.

Over 1,000 languages are spoken in Africa. The most widely spoken language is Swahili with over 30 million speakers.