



Community Information Summary

Sudan-born

Historical Background

The Sudan-born are currently one of the fastest growing groups in Australia. Before 2001 they included a number of skilled migrants. However, since 2001 when the Census recorded 4910 Sudan-born in Australia, more than 98 per cent have arrived under the Humanitarian Programme.

Drought, famine and war have caused large numbers of Sudanese refugees to flee to neighbouring countries. Australia has assisted in resettling some of the worst affected people from the region. The Australian Government has accepted large numbers of migrants from the Sudan and other countries under the Humanitarian Programme in recent years.

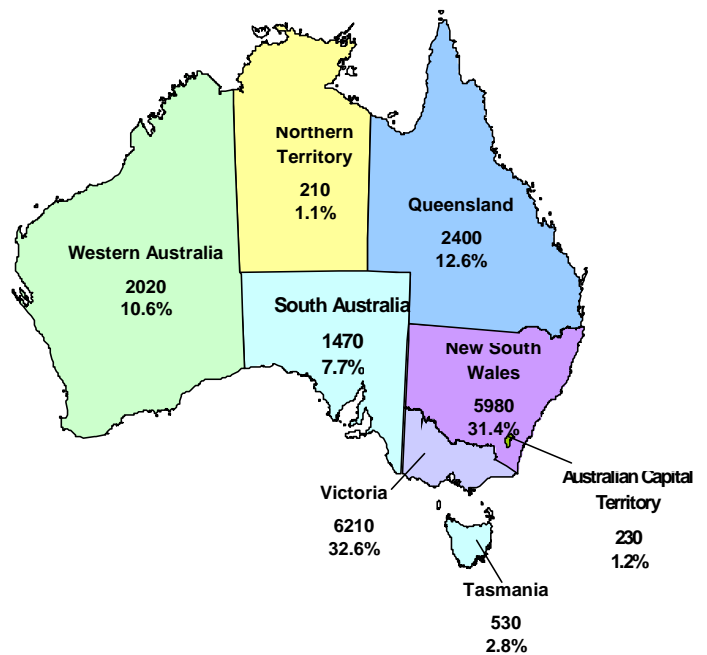
In the last 10 years around 20 000 Sudan-born people have made Australia their new home. Most live in Victoria and New South Wales and, to a lesser extent, Queensland.

The 4910 Sudan-born people in Australia at the 2001 Census made up 0.1 per cent of the overseas-born population.

Today

Geographic Distribution

The latest Census in 2006 recorded 19 050 Sudan-born people in Australia, an increase of 287.7 per cent from the 2001 Census. The 2006 distribution by state and territory showed Victoria had the largest number with 6210 followed by New South Wales (5980), Queensland (2400) and Western Australia (2020).



Age and Sex

The median age of the Sudan-born in 2006 was 24.6 years compared with 46.8 years for all overseas-born and 37.1 years for the total Australian population. The age distribution showed 26.6 per cent were aged 0-14 years, 24.4 per cent were 15-24 years, 36.4 per cent were 25-44 years, 10.2 per cent were 45-64 years and 2.5 per cent were 65 and over.

Of the Sudan-born in Australia, there were 10 320 males (54.2 per cent) and 8730 females (45.8 per cent). The sex ratio was 118.2 males per 100 females.

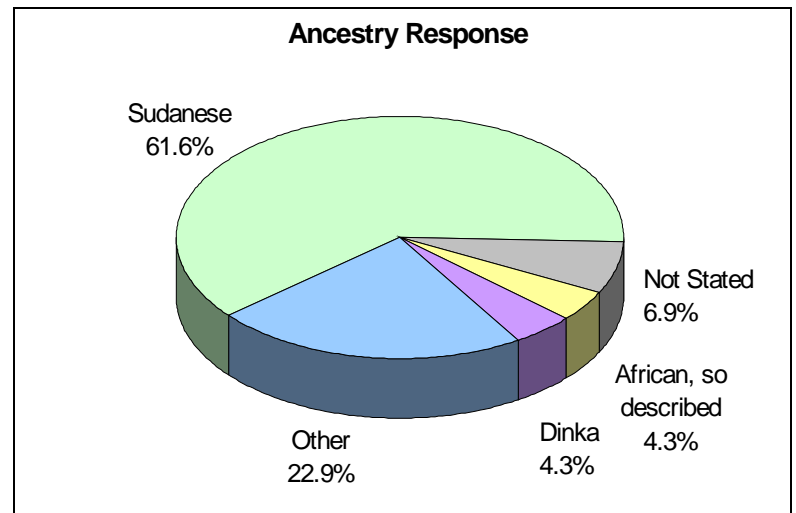


Ancestry

In the 2006 Census, the top three ancestry responses* that Sudan-born people reported were, Sudanese (12 680), Not Stated (1420) and African, so described (890).

In the 2006 Census, Australians reported more than 250 different Ancestries. From the total ancestry responses*, 0.1 per cent responded as having a Sudanese ancestry.

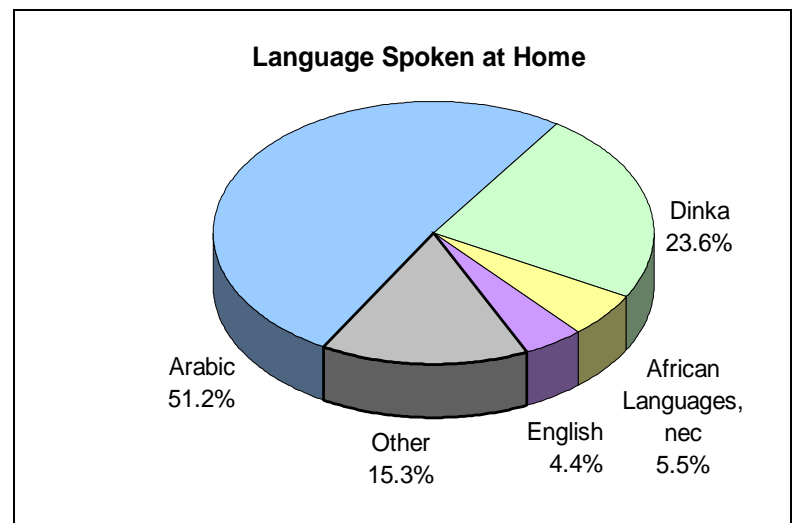
*At the 2006 Census up to two responses per person were allowed for the Ancestry question; therefore providing the total responses and not persons count.



Language

The main languages spoken at home by Sudan-born people in Australia were Arabic (51.2 per cent), Dinka (23.6 per cent) and African Languages, nec (5.5 per cent).

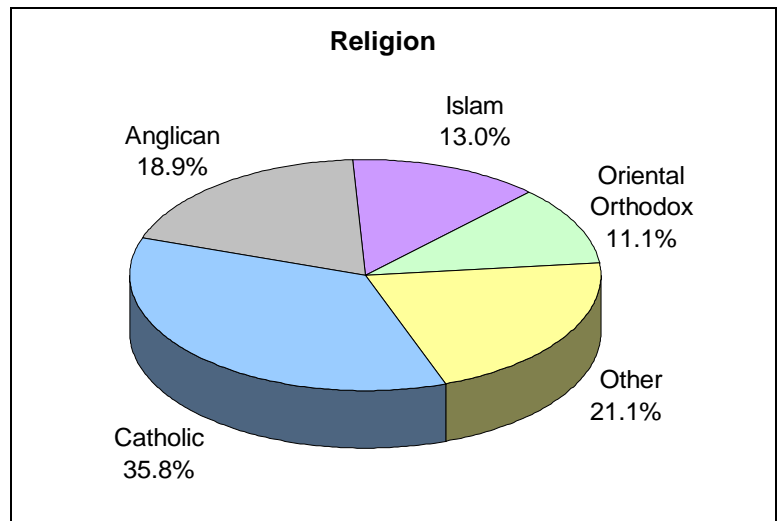
Of the 18 040 Sudan-born who spoke a language other than English at home, 67.0 per cent spoke English very well or well and 30.3 per cent spoke English not well or not at all.



Religion

At the 2006 Census the major religious affiliations amongst Sudan-born were Catholic (6830 persons), Anglican (3590 persons) and Islam (2480 persons).

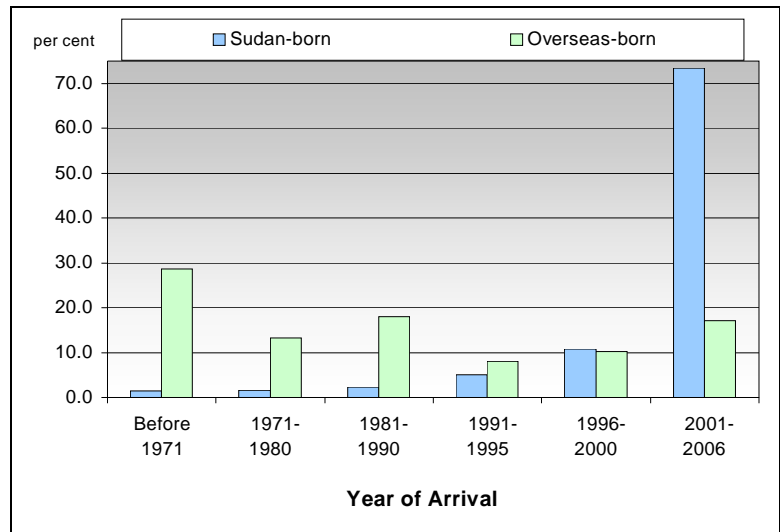
Of the Sudan-born, 0.4 per cent stated 'No Religion', this was lower than that of the total Australian population (18.7 per cent). 2.5 per cent of the Sudan-born did not state a religion.



Arrival

Compared to 67.9 per cent of the total overseas-born population, 10.3 per cent of the Sudan-born people in Australia arrived in Australia prior to 1996.

Among the total Sudan-born in Australia at the 2006 Census, 10.8 per cent arrived between 1996 and 2000 and 73.4 per cent arrived during 2001 and 2006.



Citizenship

At the 2006 Census, the estimated rate of Australian Citizenship for the Sudan-born in Australia was 70.9 per cent. The estimated rate for all overseas-born was 75.6 per cent. This rate includes adjustments for people not meeting the residential requirement for citizenship, temporary entrants to Australia and underenumeration at the Census.

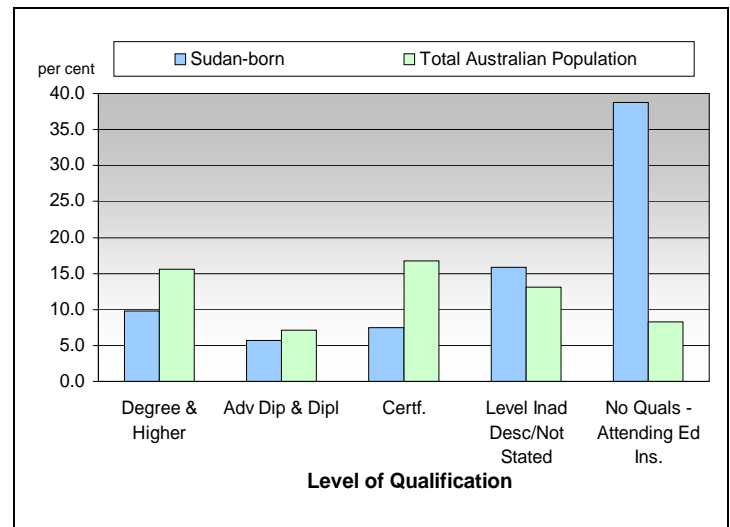
Median Income

At the time of the 2006 Census, the median individual weekly income for the Sudan-born in Australia aged 15 years and over was \$231, compared with \$431 for all overseas-born and \$488 for all Australia-born. The total Australian population had a median individual weekly income of \$466.

Qualifications

At the 2006 Census, 38.8 per cent of the Sudan-born aged 15 years and over had some form of higher non school qualifications compared to 52.5 per cent of the Australian population. Among the Sudan-born, 15.5 per cent had Diploma level or higher* qualifications and 7.5 per cent had Certificate level qualifications. From the Sudan-born, 8160 had no higher non school qualification, of which 66.4 per cent were still attending an educational institution.

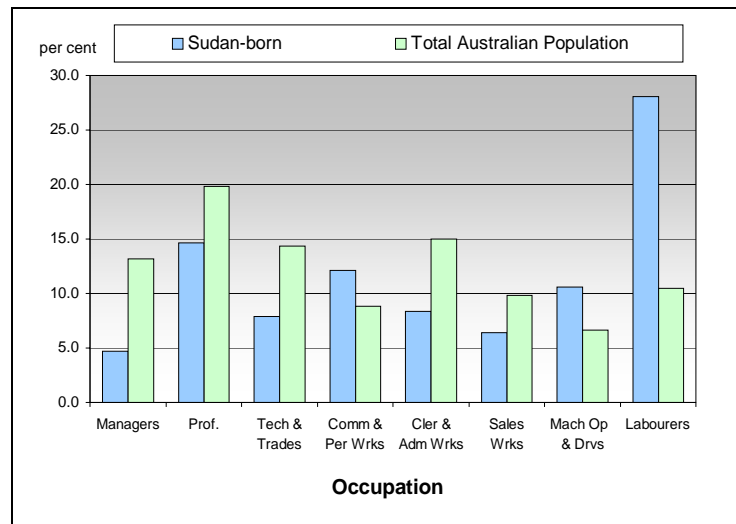
* Diploma level or higher qualification includes Degree level or higher, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level.



Employment

Among Sudan-born people aged 15 years and over, the participation rate in the labour force was 40.3 per cent and the unemployment rate was 28.5 per cent. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 64.6 and 5.2 per cent respectively.

Of the 3850 Sudan-born who were employed, 17.9 per cent were employed in a Skill Level 1 occupation, 6.2 per cent in Skill Level 2 and 7.3 per cent in Skill Level 3. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 28.7, 10.7 and 15.1 per cent respectively.



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All data used in this summary is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census of Population and Housing. Sources for the Historical Background available at <http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/comm-summ/source.htm>

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