

Languages and Nationalities ^[1]

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To give you a sense of the diversity of twenty-first century North Carolina, we've provided two lists of languages below.

1. The first is from the U.S. Census of 2000, and it shows the number of people aged 5 and over who spoke various languages at home -- that is, as a first or native language.
2. The second is from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; this table shows the number of students in North Carolina schools who spoke various languages at home in 2005.

Finally, for a historical perspective, we've provided similar data from antebellum North Carolina.

Census data

Languages Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over: North Carolina, 2000

Language	Number of speakers
5 years and over	7513165
Speak only English	6909648
Speak other language	603517
Spanish or Spanish Creole	378942
Other Indo-European languages	119961
French (incl.Patois, Cajun)	33201
French Creole	1441
Italian	6233
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	3171
German	28520
Yipish	467
Other West Germanic languages	2541
Scandinavian languages	2766
Greek	6404
Russian	4109
Polish	2965
Serbo-Croatian	1918
Other Slavic languages	2639
Armenian	117
Persian	2432
Gujarathi	5725
Hindi	4153
Urdu	3208
Other Indic languages	4834
Other Indo-European languages	2117
Asian and Pacific Island languages	78246

Language	Number of speakers
Chinese	15698
Japanese	8317
Korean	11386
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	3361
Miao, Hmong	7493
Thai	2019
Laotian	4599
Vietnamese	13594
Other Asian languages	5178
Tagalog	6521
Other Pacific Island languages	2080
Other languages	26368
Navajo	221
Other Native North American languages	2093
Hungarian	1041
Arabic	10834
Hebrew	1321
African languages	9181
Other and unspecified languages	1677

A historical comparison

For some perspective, compare the list above to this list of countries of origin of people living in North Carolina in 1850. (You may remember it from our look at [antebellum migration](#) [2].)



[3]



[4]

Foreign-born people living in North Carolina and in the United States, by country of origin, 1850

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