

Languages Spoken at Home, Kentucky 2015

Subject	Kentucky					
	Total	Percent	Percent of specified language speakers			
			Speak English only or speak English "very well"	Percent speak English only or speak English "very well"	Speak English less than "very well"	Percent speak English less than "very well"
	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
Population 5 years and over	4,120,902	(X)	4,033,743	97.9%	87,159	2.1%
Speak only English	3,910,830	94.9%	(X)	(X)	(X)	(X)
Speak a language other than English	210,072	5.1%	122,913	58.5%	87,159	41.5%
SPEAK A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH						
Spanish	105,529	2.6%	57,828	54.8%	47,701	45.2%
5 to 17 years old	25,263	0.6%	19,195	76.0%	6,068	24.0%
18 to 64 years old	76,305	1.9%	36,388	47.7%	39,917	52.3%
65 years old and over	3,961	0.1%	2,245	56.7%	1,716	43.3%
Other Indo-European languages*	53,015	1.3%	37,371	70.5%	15,644	29.5%
5 to 17 years old	10,119	0.2%	7,230	71.4%	2,889	28.6%
18 to 64 years old	37,172	0.9%	26,517	71.3%	10,655	28.7%
65 years old and over	5,724	0.1%	3,624	63.3%	2,100	36.7%
Asian and Pacific Island languages*	33,965	0.8%	17,787	52.4%	16,178	47.6%
5 to 17 years old	5,633	0.1%	4,063	72.1%	1,570	27.9%
18 to 64 years old	25,639	0.6%	12,815	50.0%	12,824	50.0%
65 years old and over	2,693	0.1%	909	33.8%	1,784	66.2%
Other languages*	17,563	0.4%	9,927	56.5%	7,636	43.5%
5 to 17 years old	4,185	0.1%	2,417	57.8%	1,768	42.2%
18 to 64 years old	12,820	0.3%	7,213	56.3%	5,607	43.7%

65 years old and over	558	0.0%	297	53.2%	261	46.8%
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

*Other Indo-European languages include West Germanic languages - French, German, Italian, etc., Slavic languages – Greek, Russian, etc., Indic languages – Persian, Hindi, etc. and other languages

Asian and Pacific Island languages include Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and other languages

Other languages include - Navajo, Other Native American languages, Hungarian, Arabic, Hebrew, African languages, and all other languages

Three questions on languages spoken at home are included in the national American Community Survey:

- a. Does this person speak a language other than English at home?
 - Yes
 - No
- b. What is this language? (For example: Korean, Italian, Spanish, Vietnamese)
- c. How well does this person speak English?
 - Very well
 - Well
 - Not well
 - Not at all

Of the Kentucky population five years old and over, 94.9% speak only English, while 5.1%, or 210,072, of this population speaks a language other than English at home. Of the 210,072, 41.5% speak English less than “very well.”

The most common language spoken in Kentucky other than English is Spanish, with 2.6% of Kentucky residents speaking Spanish at home. Among this group, 45.2% speak English less than “very well.” 24% of those 5 to 17 speak English less than “very well”, compared to 52.3% of those 18 to 64 years of age.

1.3% of Kentucky residents speak Indo-European languages at home. Over one-third of Indo-European language speakers 65 and over speak English less than “very well”, compared to 28.6% of those 5 to 17.

Of the 33,965 Kentucky residents that speak Asian and Pacific Island languages at home, 47.6% speak English less than “very well”. Less than one-third of those 5 to 17 speak English less than “very well” compared to half of those 18-34 and almost two-thirds of those 65 and over.

While just 0.4% of the Kentucky population speaks a language categorized as “other” at home, 43.5% of this group speaks English less than well.

This information can be valuable in meeting the language and literacy needs of all Kentucky residents, including those who speak a language other than English. Public health and healthcare professionals should ensure communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate, using the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Services in Health and Healthcare as a guide. Trainings on cultural competency, health literacy, and

effective communication are also useful resources to ensure all Kentuckians receive high quality, respectful, and responsive

services.