

Lebanese Minnesota

This brief is about Lebanese people as a people with a country in the Levant and a Minnesota community that is historic and recent. This is not the Arabic language door. That door is /ci/arabic — a CLAS ten- and fifteen-language line onto many peoples. Do not open it as a synonym for this people-page. This is not Somali. Shared Arabic and shared Islam are not shared culture. Arab Minnesota is not one file.

History and place

Origins and the Founding of a People

Lebanese peoplehood is older than the 1943 independence, older than the 1975–1990 civil war, and older than this department. A Levantine country on the eastern Mediterranean; mountains and coast; Maronite, Orthodox, Sunni, Shi+ö Æ G uze as named streams. This is literacy for the desk. It is not a speech you give the family. Do not found “the Arabs” in a waiver meeting. Do not lecture a Maronite household about the Hijaz.

History for the meeting

What people brought: Levantine Arabic for some, French and English for others, a church or a mosque or neither, kinship, and a memory of a state that broke and a diaspora that is old in the Americas. What they met in Minnesota: an English form, a racial order that has often filed Levantine Christians as White and skipped CI, one “Arabic interpreter,” and often a Somali default because the building already has that page.

What people brought

Do not start with hummus, a cedar, or a Phoenician tourism sentence. Shared language family is not shared culture with Iraq, Egypt, or Somalia.

The Geography of Lebanon and Lebanese Minnesota

Homeland is not one neighborhood in Beirut. Mountains, coast, Bekaa, south — church, mosque, and some speech shift. Confirm the place if they name it. Do not referee in a waiver meeting. Listen.

Homeland

The diaspora is old in the Americas: Brazil, Argentina, the United States. Dearborn and the Detroit metro hold a large Arab American community. Minnesota is not Dearborn. Do not import a Michigan picture onto a Ramsey County lobby.

Minnesota

In Minnesota: Twin Cities 81.0 percent; Greater Minnesota 19.0 percent. There is no Cedar-Riverside of Lebanese Minnesota. Do not assume Minneapolis. Do not assume the person in front of you has been to Lebanon.

Historic Streams and Later Displacement — Not One Poster

If 1975 is Hmong Minnesota and 1991 is Somali Minnesota, Lebanese Minnesota does not get one foundational year that covers the lobby. Late-Ottoman and early-twentieth-century Christian streams built part of U.S. Lebanese life — including families with deep Minnesota roots. Compass foreign-born 8.5 percent (ACS 2019–2023) is the dated share. That is historic. It is not “no immigrant.”

Foundational events

1975–1990 civil war moved some. 2006. Later economic collapse and the 4 August 2020 Beirut port explosion sit in some later rooms. Secondary migration from other states. U.S.-born children in every stream.

Who you meet

The desk in 2026 meets an English-dominant third-generation parish household, an elder who needs Levantine Arabic, and a recent arrival. If you only know “refugee” or only know “Muslim,” you will miss this room. Distrust of government has sources that are not one source: 9/11-era surveillance, Gaza-era harassment, and ordinary ICE for some later arrivals. A DHS badge is not automatically help.

Minnesota and Lebanese History

Minnesota holds a Lebanese community large enough for a Compass profile — about 6,959 (ACS 2019–2023) — and large enough that this department will meet it. Greater Minnesota is 19.0 percent. Do not write this people as a Minneapolis anecdote. There is no Cedar-Riverside of Lebanese Minnesota.

Places

Places, not a blob: Twin Cities; inner-ring suburbs; Greater Minnesota. Named churches — Maronite, Antiochian and other Orthodox, other Catholic and Protestant — and named mosques if this family names them. Partners, not a list to extract from. CECLC is a department door, not the community. Pay the partner this household actually uses.

Partners

Lebanese staff are not unpaid interpreters and not the community. Identity is not a staffing plan. A Heritage Month table is not consultation. You are a guest. It does not make you the expert.

Do not BCC one priest or one imam and call it consultation.

Culture and everyday life

People, place, and perspective

This brief is about Lebanese people as a people with a country in the Levant and a Minnesota community that is historic and recent. This is not the Arabic language door. That door is /ci/arabic — a CLAS ten- and fifteen-language line onto many peoples. Do not open it as a synonym for this people-page. This is not Somali. Shared Arabic and shared Islam are not shared culture. Arab Minnesota is not one file.

Who this is

A full mosaic is not a stereotype. A stereotype is when this page becomes the person in the lobby. Paternalism is one “Arabic interpreter” written for an English-dominant Maronite household, a mosque default, a Somali default because Arabic is on a card, and a 1975 speech you give a third-generation family.

Who this is not

Minnesota Compass (ACS 2019–2023) puts Lebanese ancestry near 6,959. About 81.0 percent Twin Cities, about 19.0 percent Greater Minnesota. About 20.3 percent age 17 or younger; about 16.4 percent 65+. About 8.5 percent foreign-born — which means a large historic, U.S.-born share. Language other than English (age 5+) 11.8 percent. English less than “very well” is suppressed on that profile. Do not invent a LEP rate. High school or higher 97.9 percent; bachelor’s or higher 50.5 percent. Poverty 12.0 percent. Date the number you use. A rate is not the person.

Christian and Muslim Lebanese both live here. Maronite, Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant; Sunni and Shi’ite à Druze: no dated Minnesota count — do not invent one. If this family is Druze, defer. Do not assume mosque. Do not assume hijab.

How to read this

Always defer to the person in front of you. This page is a hypothesis you still test on this family.

Family

Who is in the household varies by stream, class, and generation. Compass average household size about 2.14 (ACS 2019–2023) — often smaller, older, more English-dominant than neighboring Arabic-speaking streams. Do not copy it onto a recently arrived household, and do not copy a Sudanese or Iraqi waiver household onto this page.

Who is in the household

Ask who should be in the room. A nuclear English form already has a who. Elders and adult children may sit in the same week.

Who speaks

Do not invent a last name because the database wants one. Do not treat unmatched last names as fraud by default. Women’s labor and men’s labor both live here. Gender norms are this family’s, not “Arab.” Ask.

Minnesota law still stands. Domestic violence is not culture. You follow mandated reporting. Do not use a child as interpreter.

Lebanese — not an Arab module, not Somali

To be Lebanese in Minnesota is to be a people with a country, often filed White, sometimes filed “Arab,” sometimes filed “Muslim” by a building that did not ask. Christian and Muslim both live here. For some, Arabic is the language of the grandmother and the church. For some, it is the language of the Qur’ān à the kitchen. For some U.S.-born adults it is a class they do not speak. Compass LOTE 11.8 percent is dated. It is not “no language gate.”

In this state

Do not fold this household into Somali Minnesota because both might be Muslim. Do not fold it into /ci/arabic as if a language list were a people. Do not fold it into “MENA” as a file.

Race in the U.S. file has often marked Levantine Christians White. That skip is the gate when the elder needs Levantine. Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism still hit Christian Lebanese when the mash is “Arab.”

This guide is a working orientation. Individual variation always supersedes group generalization. Always defer to this family.

Core Concepts

Not the Arabic language door as a people. Open /ci/arabic for a language request. Open this for a Lebanese household.

Christian and Muslim both

Do not assume the mosque. Do not assume the priest. Do not assume hijab.

Confirm whether Arabic is home language

Levantine if it is. Maghrebi, Egyptian, or MSA can still be a closed door. English-dominant historic share is real. Ask.

Historic versus later stream

Compass foreign-born 8.5 percent. A third-generation parish household and a 2020 arrival do not share a Tuesday.

Hospitality as hypothesis

A yes that is courtesy is not a signature. Ask whether they agree.

Do not collect political speech as a risk score.

Religion — not the people

Islam is not Lebanese. Lebanese is not Islam. Maronite, Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant, Sunni, Shi+ö Â æB none all live in this state. Druze: no dated Minnesota count. Do not invent a community. If this family names Druze, listen. Defer.

Streams

Do not assume Muslim. Do not assume hijab. Do not rank covering as piety or oppression. Do not make a priest or an imam the case plan unless this family asked.

Practice

The parish and the mosque are centers of ritual, mutual aid, and information. They are not “the community.” Do not BCC one clergy and call it consultation.

Ramadan, Eid, Christmas, Easter, Maronite and Orthodox calendars — ask. A calendar click is not engagement.

Greetings

Follow this room. As-sal ðu +ö Æ ykum is ordinary in many Muslim rooms; the reply is wa-+ö Æ ykumu s-sal Òà It is not default in a Maronite or Orthodox room. Mar %aban, ahlan, and English hello are ordinary. Say the name.

Titles

Elders first. Handshake is common in many rooms, including many Christian professional rooms. A hard handshake you assume is universal is already a closed door for some women and some elders. If a hand is not offered, nod. Do not force it.

This room

Do not import the Black nod onto this page. Do not import Somali greeting rules as if Lebanese were Somali.

Physical contact: ask the room. Cross-gender touch is not a default in some families. It is ordinary in others.

Naming Conventions

Naming patterns vary. Some families use given name + father's name + family name. Some three-part names look like Somali names and are not. Some Lebanese Christian streams use French or English given names and a family surname the database can already see. Some people have Westernized on U.S. forms. Ask.

How to file

Do not invent a last name because the screen requires one. That invented name becomes a gate.

Pronounce it. Ask. Do not joke about long names. Do not assume three Somali names. Do not assume a hyphen.

Women may or may not take a husband's family name in U.S. records. Ask how to file. Do not "correct" a mother and child who do not share a last name as a fraud signal until you have a reason.

Dates of Significance

Ask this family. Christmas and Easter — Western, Maronite, Orthodox — in Christian rooms. Muslim lunar dates — Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha — in Muslim rooms. Independence 22 November. 1975 is literacy, not a holiday. 4 August 2020 is memory for some later rooms.

Calendar

11 September 2001 is structure in this country, not a holiday and not a personality. Gaza-era harassment is current structure. Neither is a calendar click that makes you engaged.

Do not put "Arab holiday" or "Muslim holiday" on a case note without asking. A calendar click is literacy. It is not community engagement.

Etiquette

Hospitality is a virtue in many rooms. Accept a little tea if offered. You still keep medical and legal time.

In the home

Shoes off in some homes. Right hand for food in some Muslim rooms. Do not import a rule you learned on the Somali page as automatic.

Time

Do not assume a woman will or will not cover. Do not photograph a family and call it rapport. Do not enter a prayer space as a tour.

On-time for appointments. Multi-household logistics are real. Courtesy-yes then no-show happens when the plan was never agreed. Ask whether they agree. Confirm in the language they use.

Language and Communication

Levantine Arabic if Arabic is the home language. Confirm whether it is. Compass: among those 5 and older, about 11.8 percent speak a language other than English. English less than “very well” is suppressed on the Compass Lebanese profile. Do not invent a LEP rate. A large historic share is English-dominant. The elder who is not still needs the line.

Language

An interpreter labeled Arabic who speaks Maghrebi, or who tests the elder in fu c % Â 6 â 7F—ÆÂ &R 6Æ÷6VB Fö÷ . Confirm dialect. Do not open Somali Minnesota by default because Arabic is on a card. On a Somali household, Arabic may be recitation — that is the other door.

A short English yes may be exhaustion or courtesy. Do not take a smile as consent. Do not make a coworker the interpreter. The child is not the interpreter.

LGBTQ

Queer and trans Lebanese Minnesotans exist. Conservative church, mosque, and family climates can mean silence or exile. Some people live a public English life and a private home life. You use the name they use. You do not out them to an elder as cultural humility.

This person

Minnesota’s Human Rights Act still applies. So does the duty not to treat a whole people as a family-values exhibit.

Do not use this chapter to raid a household. Do not pretend the tension is not there.

Hair, Dress, and Body

Hijab, niqab, and modest dress are ordinary for some Muslim women and not for others. Christian Lebanese dress is Minnesota dress plus, for some, church clothes. Do not assume covering. Do not rank covering as piety or oppression. Second generation looks like Minnesota. Do not ask whether they “still dress Lebanese.”

Dress

This is not the CROWN Act chapter. Do not mash.

Do not touch. Do not police covering. Do not assume a covered woman cannot speak for herself — ask her, with a gender-matched interpreter if she wants one.

Music

Lebanese musical life is not one playlist. Levantine pop, dabke, Fairuz as public memory in some rooms, Maronite and Orthodox hymnody, and religious caution about some music in some families all exist.

Variation

A playlist is not engagement. Do not request a dabke as icebreaker in a waiver meeting.

A liturgy is not staff entertainment.

Sports

Soccer is a common public sport in many streams. Basketball shows up in the second generation. Do not assume the kid plays. Do not make sport the only excellence you can see.

Not the whole person

Sport clubs are social infrastructure. They are not language access and not a case plan.

World Cup loyalties are not a risk score.

Literature

Arabic is one of the world's major literary languages. French and English letters sit in Lebanese streams as well. This is not a people without letters. Poetry is prestige in some rooms. The Qur+æ â —2 &V6—F F—öâ æB scripture in Muslim rooms — not a literacy test you give a dialect-speaking elder in the lobby.

Literacy in the lobby

MSA and dialect are not the same skill. A person who does not read fu c % —2 æ÷B W'6öâ v—F†÷WB ÆWGFW'0. U.S.-born adult who does not read Arabic is still this people-page.

You do not need to quote a poet. You need the language this person reads.

Art

Calligraphy in some rooms, church iconography in Christian streams, Levantine visual work, contemporary diaspora artists. Guest, not researcher.

Guest

A museum visit is optional professional development. It is not consultation.

Do not put a camel or a keffiyeh on a Heritage Month table and call it this people. Do not mash with a Somali table because both might be Muslim.

War, the State, and the Arab-Module Trap

1975–1990 civil war, 2006, 2019–present economic collapse, 4 August 2020 port explosion, 11 September 2001 and what the United States did in its name, Gaza-era harassment, enforcement against some later arrivals — that is the political stack. Anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia are structure. They hit Christian Lebanese when the mash is “Arab.” They are not a personality.

The badge

Do not collect political speech as a risk score. A flag, a protest, a sermon, an opinion about Gaza or Hezbollah is not a safety note.

A DHS badge is not automatically help. Do not use a war as a personality. Do not ask a person to narrate bombing for your professional development. Do not assume every Lebanese is last year’s arrival. Compass foreign-born 8.5 percent is the dated historic share.

Adjacent Peoples — Do Not Mash

Not the Arabic language door as a people. Open /ci/arabic for a language request onto Lebanese, Iraqi, Syrian, Palestinian, Egyptian, Sudanese, Yemeni, Gulf, Maghrebi households. Open this for a Lebanese household.

Adjacent doors

Not Somali. Not Persian / Farsi. Not Turkish. Not Oromo. Shared Islam is not shared culture. Shared Arabic is not shared culture. Not Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian, or Egyptian as a synonym.

Compass Lebanese is one stream of what people call Arab Minnesota, not the whole. Some households are mixed. Ask this household. Never one Arab module. Never one Muslim module. Never a Somali default because Arabic is on the card.

Counts, Dated

Minnesota Compass, ACS 2019–2023, Lebanese cultural community: about 6,959; Twin Cities 81.0%; Greater Minnesota 19.0%; age 17 or younger 20.3%; 65+ 16.4%; foreign-born 8.5%; language other than English (age 5+) 11.8%; English less than “very well” suppressed on that profile — do not invent a LEP rate; high school or higher (25+) 97.9%; bachelor’s or higher 50.5%; median household income about \$73,000 (2022 dollars, averaged); poverty 12.0%; owner-occupied 74.5%; average household size 2.14.

Counts

Date Compass. Do not invent an “Arab Minnesota” total. Do not add this profile to Iraqi or Syrian guesses. Counts disagree across ACS vintages and definitions (ancestry vs. birthplace vs. language). Date the number you cite.

What the count is not

Foreign-born 8.5 percent is not “no immigrant.” LOTE 11.8 percent is not “no language gate.” A rate is not the person. Lebanese numbers are not Iraqi, Syrian, Palestinian, or Somali numbers.

Doors and Sources

Minnesota Compass Lebanese profile (ACS 2019–2023). Adjacent, not this page: /ci/arabic — the language door. CLAS ten-language block and fifteen-language interpreter cards include Arabic. Confirm whether Arabic is the home language. Confirm Levantine.

Public doors

Maronite, Orthodox, and other parishes families name. Mosques families name. CECLC is a door, not the whole. An eList is not how every stream was reached. Pay partners. Report back.

Learn on your own time

Learn on your own time. Do not make a Lebanese colleague your unpaid tutor. Book a qualified interpreter when they need one. The child is not the interpreter. Do not open Somali Minnesota by default.

Services, opportunity, and participation

Education

Compass (ACS 2019–2023): among Lebanese Minnesotans 25 and older, about 97.9 percent high school or higher; about 50.5 percent bachelor's or higher. Date Compass. About 8.5 percent of the community is foreign-born. High attainment and a large U.S.-born share are not “no language gate” for the household that needs Levantine Arabic.

School and language

A parent who speaks fluent Arabic and limited English is not illiterate. Literacy in Modern Standard Arabic is not guaranteed for every dialect speaker. The English-only IEP is the gate when Arabic is home.

The child is not the interpreter. Do not skip the interpreter because Compass LOTE is 11.8 percent. Do not copy this attainment onto an Iraqi or Sudanese parent, and do not copy those pages onto this one.

Other Considerations — unvarnished, not Minnesota Nice

Unvarnished, because Minnesota Nice is how a room that treats everyone the same deletes facts.

Named harms

Islamophobia and anti-Arab racism after 11 September 2001 and after Gaza are structure in this country and in this state. They hit Muslim Lebanese and they hit Christian Lebanese when the mash is “Arab.” They change who opens the door. That is not noncompliance.

Do not collect political speech as a risk score. Do not file a protest, a flag, or an opinion about Gaza or Hezbollah as a safety note. Enforcement climate is real for some later arrivals. Do not collect status you do not need.

Queer and trans Lebanese exist. You use the name. You do not out someone to kin and call it culture.

Do not assume hijab. Do not assume Muslim. Do not skip mandated reporting and call it humility.

Staff who share this community may add facts. They do not get to delete a fact because it is hard to say.

Health

No dated Minnesota-wide Lebanese autism, diabetes, or PTSD rate belongs on this page beyond Compass poverty 12.0 percent (ACS 2019–2023). Do not invent one. War trauma sits in some later streams. It is not a personality and not every household.

Access

Gender match may be requested in maternal and intimate care. Offer it. Believe reported pain. Do not fold this page into Tuskegee or into a generic “stoicism” slide. Do not skip screening because Compass looks English-dominant.

Mental-health stigma exists in some families. So does a fierce wish for services. You can hold both. Confirm the language. Identification is not a community personality.

Work, Markets, and Government

Professional class, small business, public employment, shift work. Compass bachelor's or higher 50.5 percent and owner-occupied 74.5 percent are averages, not this kitchen table. Do not write one hustle onto the page.

Work

Lebanese staff exist inside DHS and counties. They are not unpaid interpreters and not “the community.” Identity is not a staffing plan.

Staff

Relationship may precede a signature. That is not permission to skip a notice. It is a reason the first visit may not be the decision. An English eList comment period is not how every stream was reached.

Health-care and Human-service Encounters

Confirm the language. Confirm whether Arabic is home language or liturgy or not in this house at all. Confirm Levantine if Arabic is the interview. Offer gender match. Ask who should hear. Do not force a handshake.

Language

Believe reported pain. Do not close the file because English was thin. The child is not the interpreter.

The meeting

Do not assume Muslim. Do not assume hijab. Do not open Somali Minnesota because Arabic is on a card. Mandated reporting still exists. So does the duty not to treat a whole people as a risk score.

Enforcement climate for some later arrivals: people skip clinic when a relative can be moved. That is not noncompliance. Do not collect status you do not need.

Connections to human services

Workplace culture and service delivery are both candidates.

Language: Levantine Arabic if Arabic is home. An interpreter labeled Arabic who does not speak this household's variety is a closed door. MSA is not the kitchen. Arabic on a Somali or Oromo Muslim card may be recitation — book the interview language. Compass LOTE 11.8 percent is not “no gate.” Gender match may be requested in maternal and intimate care.

Names: the database that invents a last name, or that assumes three Somali names, is a gate that follows the person.

Hour caps, exception processes, and life-sharing matches without language are not culturally neutral.

Assuming Somali, assuming Muslim, assuming hijab, opening /ci/arabic as this people: those are closed doors that look like cultural competence.

Enforcement climate and post-9/11 and Gaza-era racism: people skip clinic, school, and waiver meetings. That is not noncompliance. Do not collect status you do not need. Do not collect political speech as a risk score.

Notices and comment: an eList and an English PDF is not how every stream was reached. Empty follow-up calls are theater. Greater Minnesota is 19.0 percent.

Workforce: Lebanese staff are not the interpreter pool and not the community. Staff are colleagues, not the curriculum. Do not treat them.

Legislation, funding, rule: you cannot advocate for a channel you will not study. This cultural intelligence exists so the 40% has a household in it — not a paternalistic program designed in a building that treated Lebanese as a Somali default or as an Arabic list.

Continue the connection

- **Equity Analysis Toolkit** — program page </learn/equity-toolkit>
- **Community engagement and connections** — program page </learn/community-connections>
- **Learning and resources** — program page </learn>