

FACT SHEET

Sikh Americans

- Sikhism originated in South Asia over 500 years ago.
- Sikhism is a revealed religion; distinct from Hinduism or Islam.
- Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world with over 25 million adherents.
- Sikhs began immigrating to the United States in the 1890s.
- Sikhs served in the US Military and alongside U.S. allies in World Wars I and II.
- The number of Sikh Americans currently numbers approximately 750,000.
- There are at least 300-350 Sikh *Gurdwaras* (Houses of Worship) around the U.S.
- The first Gurdwara was built in 1912 in Stockton, California.
- Sikh American population centers can be found in:
 - San Francisco Bay Area
 - Southern California
 - New York-New Jersey
 - Washington D.C. National Capital Area
 - Chicago
 - Houston
- 99 percent of people wearing turbans in the United States are Sikhs.
- The first Asian American elected to the US Congress was a Sikh American—Dalip Singh Saund was elected to the US Congress in 1956 from the 29th California District, which then comprised of Riverside and Imperial counties.