

## Population Growth and Demographic Shifts (2010-2020)

From 2010 to 2020, Lebanon's total population grew by over 3,000 people, from 15,518 in 2010 to 18,587 in 2020. While the town remains predominantly white, with the white alone population increasing from 14,150 to 16,421, there have been notable changes in the representation of other racial and ethnic groups.

#### **Black or African American Population**

The Black or African American community in Lebanon, though small, more than doubled in size over the decade, growing from 71 individuals in 2010 to 162 in 2020. This increase, while modest in absolute numbers, indicates a trend toward greater racial diversity.

## **Native American and Alaska Native Population**

Interestingly, the number of people identifying as American Indian and Alaska Native alone decreased from 223 in 2010 to 68 in 2020. This decline could suggest changes in self-identification, migration patterns, or economic factors influencing residency.

#### **Asian Population**

The Asian population in Lebanon saw a slight decrease, from 170 in 2010 to 146 in 2020. This small decline is notable in the context of overall population growth, suggesting that the town has not seen a significant influx of Asian residents despite overall diversification.

# **Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Community**

The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population also saw a decrease, from 16 individuals in 2010 to 8 in 2020. This highlights the challenges smaller communities may face in maintaining or growing their presence in a predominantly white town.

#### **Some Other Race and Multiracial Populations**

The category of "Some Other Race" remained relatively stable, with 320 individuals in 2010 and 323 in 2020. However, the most significant change was observed in the population identifying as "Two or More Races," which increased dramatically from 568 in 2010 to 1,459 in 2020. This growth signifies a rising recognition and acceptance of mixed heritage identities, reflecting a more nuanced understanding of racial and ethnic diversity.

# **Conclusion: A Community in Transition**

Lebanon's demographic changes over the past decade paint a picture of a community slowly becoming more diverse, with significant growth in the multiracial population and a doubling of the Black or African American community. While the majority of the population remains white, these shifts suggest a community in transition, moving toward a more inclusive and diverse future.

As Lebanon continues to grow, the evolving demographics will shape the cultural, social, and economic landscape of the town, presenting opportunities for greater community cohesion and representation for historically underrepresented groups.

<u>Weaving Fala</u> is a grassroots nonprofit organization established to embrace Lebanon's growing diversity and advance towards our goals to live in a welcoming and equitable town through community building, education, youth programs, cultural events and outreach.