

Foreign Languages in America

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Quick Facts

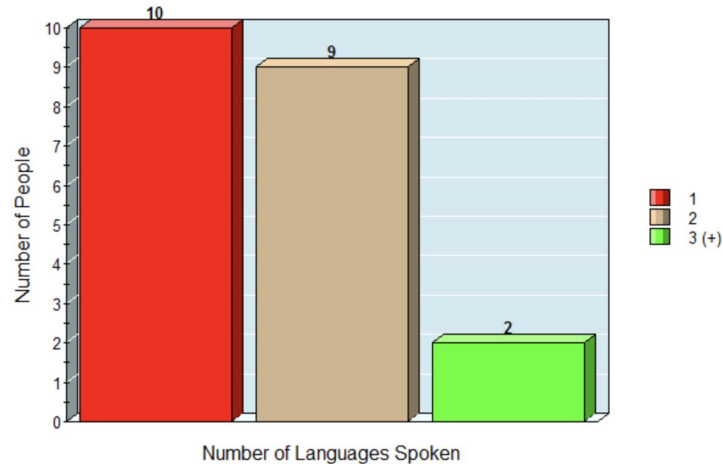
- In American, 78% of the population speaks only English at home
- In Europe, students must study multiple languages at school before becoming a teen (Pew Research Center)
- Senta Goertler, a second language studies professor at Michigan State said she hears more than 5 foreign languages spoken by students on campus
- The Navajo Language, the most widely spoken Native American language, only has around 170,000 speakers; the preservation of Native American languages in America is a major issue



Data Collection

- The data I collected was in regards to foreign languages in America. I used the question feature on my instagram and asked my followers “How many languages do you speak fluently?”. After I collected a sufficient amount of responses, I put the data into a bar graph

Number of Foreign Languages Spoken by Various Americans





Data on a Larger Scale

- Though my data was pulled from a fairly small group, it represents the data collected on a larger scale fairly accurately
- The U.S. Census Bureau data for 2018 shows that 67.3 Million U.S. residents spoke a language other than English at home
- The reason that the numbers in my data being so high for people who can speak 2 languages fluently, is that younger Americans, aged 18-29, are more likely than other groups to be bilingual
- The majority of Americans who speak another language speak either Spanish, French, or German (Spanish 55%, French 17%, German 10%)



Overall Reflection

- While a larger set of data in this case would be more reflective of different age groups and cultures, the data I have collected is reflective of college students and a younger demographic
- This project has opened my eyes to how technology has given people endless options to work with and use for collecting data, due to the innovation of technology and its convenience



Sources

<https://news.irn.msu.edu/2017/05/growing-number-of-americans-speak-more-than-1-language/>

<https://cis.org/Report/673-Million-United-States-Spoke-Foreign-Language-Home-2018>