

ICELAND COMMUNITY IN NORTH TEXAS

QUICK OBSERVATIONS

Country/region of origin	Iceland
Population (community leaders)	60
Population (Census 2000)	
Main reasons for migration	Came to study and stayed
Years in this region	20-40 years
Primary areas of residence	Wylie, Richardson, Ft. Worth, Garland, Irving
General level of education	
Employment	Restaurant, clerical
Principal religions	Lutheran
Languages	Icelandic
Media (newspaper or radio)	None
Community newsletter	None
Cultural organizations	1

The smallest of all communities responding to this survey, the local immigrant population from Iceland is estimated at sixty people, which, surprisingly, comprises the Icelandic Association of North Texas. 80% are women who came to study a generation ago and stayed in this country. They are all from the southern part of Iceland (not surprisingly, since Iceland's highland interior is uninhabited). Most Icelandic Americans living in this region are Lutheran highly educated; tend to work in office positions, restaurants, health care and industry. Knowledge of English is nearly universal in Iceland, and because the basic value system is similar to that in the U.s. in its emphasis of freedom and individualism, acculturation is relatively easy.

OTHER SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Age distribution	Primarily middle aged (34-60)
Percentage of men and women	20% men, 80% women
Ties to country of origin	Members of nuclear family remain, phone relatives weekly
Frequency of travel to country of origin	Travel once a year
Estimate of undocumented	Less than 5%

Material Source: DFW International
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HOW DO YOU OPEN THE DOOR TO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT FAITH?

Share your everyday relationship with God...answered prayers, Scriptures that comfort
 Ask about how needs are met through their faith...loneliness, courage, direction
 Offer to pray for their needs
 Give books/videos that tell a faith story
 Discover their interests and find Christians in that field to share their story
 Look for Bible stories or principles that teach a value they respect.