

# Tunisian Arab



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 11,000,000

Tunisia: 10,200,000

France: 350,000

Libya: 160,000

Netherlands: 60,000

**Religion:** Sunni Islam

**Believers:** 0.0027%

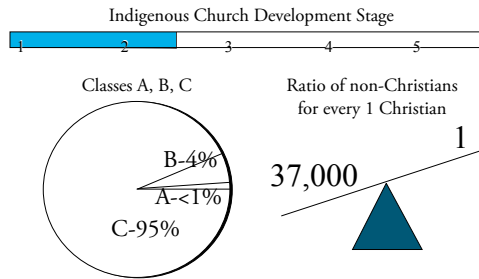
**Scriptures:** Portions

**Ministry Tools:** JRG

**C Status:** 2

**M Status:** 2

**MS Subgroups:** 15+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

**Identity:** The Tunisian Arabs trace their history to the 7th century Arab conquest of North Africa. The Berber, Phoenician, and African population was gradually Arabized into a common melting pot. Added to the mix were Muslim refugees from Sicily and Spain in the 11th and 13th centuries, followed by Turkish colonization between the 16th and 19th centuries. All of these influences have contributed to the making of the Tunisian ethnicity.

**Lifestyle:** Tunisia is rapidly urbanizing (63% of the population) and transforming its economy into an industrial power. Significant foreign investment in the manufacturing sector is taking place, which is gradually increasing the standard of living. About one-fifth of the population is engaged in agriculture, growing citrus fruits, olives, grapes, figs and various cereals.

**Customs:** Futbol is the most popular national sport, and Tunisia has

fielded many competitive world-class teams. It is also a family affair. Girls are not excluded, and are encouraged to participate even at a young age. Love of the sport has produced a high demand for satellite dishes which have become ubiquitous throughout the country.

**Religion:** Sunni Islam is the religion of the majority and though it is technically the state religion, Tunisia is one of the more progressively liberal, and in practice, secular Arab countries. Radical Muslim groups have been brutally suppressed. It is now against the law for women to wear the *hijab* (head covering) in government buildings. Those who refuse to comply can be jailed. In general, the government's position reflects the mood of the country which borders on apathy and indifference towards Islam, and greater interest in Western culture, ideologies and pursuits.

**Christian Outreach:** The last decade has seen an increased openness, especially

among young people to the gospel message. About 25 underground fellowships are now meeting regularly, and the new believers have a passion for evangelism. In the past it was common for new believers to emigrate, but in recent years the rapid growth of the Church has allowed for a strong community to begin flourishing.

## How to Pray:

☞ Only about half of the known believers are being regularly disciplined. Pray that every follower of Christ, including an unknown number of secret believers, would have a meaningful connection to the body of Christ.

☞ Almost all known believers are in the North of the country. Pray for spiritual breakthrough and an established witness in the South, especially among the difficult to reach nomadic Bedouins (1 million plus).

☞ Tunisian Arabic is an important part of the Tunisian culture and identity, yet there is no Bible in their language. Pray for its rapid completion and distribution!

☞ Around 500,000 Tunisian Arabs live in Europe. Pray for a fruitful harvest among the handful of mission agencies and churches seeking to

**Every year 100,000 Tunisian Arabs die without Christ.**