ASIAN AMERICANS IN NEW YORK CITY: A DECADE OF DYNAMIC CHANGE 2000-2010
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Asian Americans in New York City: A Decade of Dynamic Change 2000-2010 is a first detailed look at Asian New Yorkers based on the recent data releases from the 2010 Census and the new American Community Survey. The report covers demographic changes that have occurred in the past decade, using the 2000 and 2010 Census population counts to paint a detailed picture of the growth and diversity of the Asian community in the city. The status of Asian children and seniors is reviewed by examining changes in poverty, language access, education and health insurance coverage. In addition, living situations and marital status for Asian seniors is reported. Civic engagement data for Asians is presented on naturalization rates, language access, and voter registration and participation. Finally, data on income, poverty, educational attainment, English ability, employment, industry and occupations employing Asians, Asian-owned businesses, and the impact of the Great Recession on Asian New Yorkers are presented.

Demographic Changes

CITYWIDE

- Between 2000 and 2010, the Asian community in New York City was the fastest growing major race and ethnic group, growing by 30 percent.

- Asian child population grew by 16 percent, the only major race and ethnic group to show an increase. Most of the numeric growth came from Chinese, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Japanese children. All of the net growth in Asian children came from the native-born population.

- The number of Asian seniors grew by 64 percent, far outpacing Hispanic seniors at 42 percent. Most of the numeric growth came from Chinese, Indian, Korean and Filipino seniors.

- Asians are now 13.9 percent of the population in New York City, up from 10.9 percent in 2000.

QUEENS

- Home to 49 percent of all Asians as well as Asian children and seniors in New York City.

- For the first time, more Asians than blacks resided in Queens, making Asians the third largest ethnic group in the borough, behind non-Hispanic whites and Hispanics.

- Five out of seven Asian majority neighborhoods were in Queens.

- Most of the increase in Asian children in the borough occurred in the Chinese and Bangladeshi communities. Queens also saw a major decline in Indian and Korean children.

BROOKLYN

- Home to 25 percent of all Asian New Yorkers, 29 percent of Asian children and 22 percent of Asian seniors.

- More Asian children moved into Brooklyn than non-Hispanic white children, the second fastest growing group. Growth came from the Chinese, Bangladeshi, and Pakistani children. Number of Indian children in borough declined.

Table ES1: Asian Population by Borough

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Borough</th>
<th>2010 Census Population</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>552,867</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>284,489</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>199,722</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>59,085</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
<td>38,756</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Growth in the Asian senior population came mostly from the Chinese community. Three-quarters of Asian seniors were Chinese.

Home to the largest Pakistani and Vietnamese populations in New York City.

**MANHATTAN**

Home to 18 percent of all Asian New Yorkers, 12 percent of Asian children and 20 percent of Asian seniors.

Much of the growth in Asian children in Manhattan came among Koreans, Indians and Japanese. Chinese child population dropped slightly.

Home to the largest Japanese population in New York City.

Home to the largest Japanese senior population in New York City, whose members were most likely to live alone compared with the other Asian groups.

**BRONX**

Home to 5 percent of all Asian New Yorkers, 6 percent of Asian children, and 3 percent of Asian seniors.

Growth in Asian children came from Bangladeshi community, balanced by a drop in the Indian and Korean child populations.

Home to the largest Cambodian population in New York City, but the population shrank by 13 percent.

**ASIAN NEIGHBORHOODS**

- The number of Asian majority Neighborhood Tabulation Areas (NTA) increased from two in 2000, Flushing, Queens, and Chinatown, Manhattan, to seven in 2010, adding Queensboro Hill, East Flushing, Elmhurst-Maspeth, Murray Hill in Queens; and Sunset Park East in Brooklyn.

- Smaller areas with majority Asian populations include portions of:
  - Koreatown, Manhattan
  - Bayside-Oakland Gardens and Jamaica Hills, Queens.

Manhattan’s Chinatown was the only large Asian NTA which saw a decrease in population, losing 15 percent

- All losses came from Asian children (28 percent decrease) and working-age adults (16 percent decrease).

- Asian senior population grew by 4 percent.

**ASIAN GROUPS**

- The ethnic groups with the largest numeric increases in population were Chinese (+126,113), Bangladeshis (+33,519) and Indians (+26,468).

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**Table E52: Population by Asian Group for New York City**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian Group</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Numeric Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chinese, except Taiwanese</td>
<td>374,321</td>
<td>500,434</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>126,113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>206,228</td>
<td>232,696</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>26,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>90,208</td>
<td>102,820</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12,612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>62,058</td>
<td>78,030</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>15,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>28,269</td>
<td>61,788</td>
<td>119%</td>
<td>33,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>34,310</td>
<td>46,369</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>12,059</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>26,419</td>
<td>31,742</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5,323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>13,010</td>
<td>16,378</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>3,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwanese</td>
<td>5,488</td>
<td>13,682</td>
<td>149%</td>
<td>8,194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>5,002</td>
<td>7,244</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>2,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>3,017</td>
<td>4,791</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>1,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan</td>
<td>2,640</td>
<td>4,369</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>1,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysian</td>
<td>2,287</td>
<td>3,220</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodian</td>
<td>2,296</td>
<td>2,591</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laotian</td>
<td>316</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>110%</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hmong</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>219%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Asian groups (2000) 3,921

Nepalese (2010) 6,187
Burmese (2010) 4,132
Bhutanese (2010) 388
Other Asian groups (2010) 945
Children

- Asian children were distributed exactly the same as all children in New York City across preschool, elementary, middle and high school age groups.
- Asian children had higher poverty rates than non-Hispanic white children, at 22 percent and 16 percent respectively.
  - Bangladeshi children saw highest poverty rates among Asian groups, going up 7 percentage points to 42 percent poverty rate.
  - Child poverty rates fell for Vietnamese and Chinese, down 11 percentage points and 5 percentage points respectively.
  - Poverty rates for Filipino children, while low, went up 4 percentage points.
- While Chinese remained the spoken Asian language group with the largest number of limited English proficient (LEP) speakers among children, Nepali and Japanese speaking children with LEP both went up by several hundred individuals.
- Across all income levels, Asian children were much more likely than non-Hispanic white children to attend public school by wide margin.
- Chinese children were more likely to drop out than non-Hispanic white children.

  Status dropout rates (persons age 16 to 24 years not enrolled in school and did not graduate high school) for Chinese were 22 percent, compared with 16 percent for non-Hispanic white.

  Asian children were slightly less likely to have health insurance than the other major race and ethnic groups, with 6 percent of Asian children not covered versus 3 to 5 percent for the other groups.

  Korean children were twice as likely not to have health insurance, with 10 percent not covered.

Seniors

- Asian seniors were tied for the youngest median age along with Hispanic seniors, but saw the biggest jump in median age last decade, indicating a aging elderly population.
- Asian seniors were more likely to be living in family households than the other major race and ethnic groups.
  - Vietnamese were the only Asian group who had less than half of their seniors living in a married-couple household.
  - More than one in three Japanese seniors lived alone, a rate nearly as high as non-Hispanic white seniors.
  - Filipinos and Vietnamese seniors were as likely as black and Hispanic seniors to be living in a single head of household family.
- Majority of Asian seniors were married.
  - Only among Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Vietnamese were less than half of seniors married.
- The poverty rate of Asian seniors and non-Hispanic white seniors increased 1 percentage point, while other groups saw declines in poverty rate.
  - Bangladeshi seniors had the highest poverty rate of 34 percent, but had the largest drop in poverty rate since 2000 among the Asian groups.
  - Chinese senior had the largest increase in senior poverty rates among the Asian groups.
  - Japanese and Filipino were the only groups with senior poverty rates lower than 10 percent.
- Asians were less likely to receive Social Security benefits than the other major race and ethnic groups.
  - Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani seniors were far less likely to receive Social Security than other Asian groups.
  - Only Japanese seniors received Social Security at the same rates as non-Hispanic whites.
As expected, the percent of seniors receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) were higher in groups with high poverty rates.

- Pakistani seniors received SSI at a similar rate as non-Hispanic whites, despite their much higher poverty rate.
- For the Asian languages spoken by seniors, the majority of speakers had LEP.
  - Over 90 percent of Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese speaking seniors had LEP.
  - Only Tagalog and Hindi speakers had LEP rates below 50 percent.
- Asian seniors were more than twice as likely to have no health insurance coverage as the other major race and ethnic groups.
  - One in three Bangladeshi seniors had no health insurance.
  - Pakistani seniors made up for lack of access to Medicare through private insurance, with 13 percent of Pakistani seniors having private coverage.

**Civic Engagement**
- Asians represented 11 percent of the citizen voting-age population (CVAP) in New York City, up from 7 percent in 2000.
- Asian CVAP grew by 53 percent, far outpacing the other three largest race and ethnic groups.
- Bangladeshi CVAP more than tripled from 2000.
- Chinese remained the Asian language most spoken by voting-age citizens with limited English proficiency (LEP) at nearly 140,000.
- Korean was the second largest with nearly 23,000 LEP speakers
- Bengali-speaking voting-age citizens more than doubled in size, to over 16,000.
- Asians were less likely to be registered to vote than the other three major race and ethnic groups, with potentially more than 300,000 voting-age citizens yet to be registered. The reasons Asians gave for not registering reveal potential need for voter education.
  - Despite this, Asians have become 8 percent of registered voters in New York City during the 2004-2010 time period, compare to 4 percent during 1994-2000.
  - Asians were more likely to say they were not eligible to vote, do not know how to register or had difficulty understanding English as reasons for not registering.
- Asians were more than twice as likely to cite being too busy as the reason for not voting compared to the other three major race and ethnic groups.

**Economic Status and Contributions**
The ethnic diversity in the Asian community is matched by the economic diversity in our communities. While many Asian New Yorkers match the image of the model minority myth, an equal number struggle at the margins of our society.

**INCOME AND POVERTY**
- Growth in median income for Asian families lagged behind that of black and non-Hispanic white families.
- Non-Hispanic white New Yorkers were more than twice as likely as Asian New Yorkers to earn $200,000 or more.
- Filipinos had the highest median household and family incomes and the lowest poverty rates. However, Filipinos were less likely to earn $200,000 or more than their fellow Asian New Yorkers and median incomes fell by 9 percent from the year 2000.
- Median incomes in Bangladeshi, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, and Pakistani
families dropped after adjusting for inflation.

- One in three Bangladeshis lived in poverty, highest among all groups. Bangladeshis also had the biggest jump in poverty rates among the Asian groups.
- Pakistani and Vietnamese poverty rates were higher than black poverty rates.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

- Asians had the second highest rate of adults with no high school diploma in the city, behind that of Hispanics.
- Asian adults also had the second highest rates of college graduates and postgraduate degree holders, behind that of non-Hispanic whites.

EMPLOYMENT

- Asians continued to have the highest labor force participation rates in the city among the four largest race and ethnic groups.
- Filipinos had the highest labor force participation rates in the city among the top eight Asian groups.
- Bangladeshi and Pakistani women had very low labor force participation rates compared to the other groups. Bangladeshi and Pakistani men had the highest rates.
- Asian workers had the largest jump in unemployment rates going from 6.6 percent in 2000 to 7.7 in the 2006-2010 time period, compared to the other major race and ethnic groups.
- Bangladeshis workers saw the largest jump among Asian groups in unemployment rates going from 5.3 percent in 2000 to 9.7 percent in 2006-2010.
- The four largest Asian groups, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, and Korean, all saw increases in their unemployment rates.
- Women in three largest South Asian groups had the highest unemployment rates among the Asian groups.

INDUSTRIES AND OCCUPATIONS

- The health care and social assistance industry sector employed the most Asian workers as well as the most workers citywide.
- Asian workers were overrepresented in food services, wholesale trade and manufacturing industry sectors and were underrepresented in arts, entertainment, and recreation; public administration; educational services; and construction industry sectors.
- While more than half of non-Hispanic white workers in New York City were employed in the management, professional, and related occupations, only thirty-seven percent of Asian workers were employed in the same fields.
- Asian workers were overrepresented in production, transportation, and material moving occupations and were underrepresented in natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations.
- Asian-owned businesses contributed $38 billion worth of sales, receipts or value of shipments and employed more than 160 thousand paid workers in 2007, the most recent data available.
- A growing number of Asian-owned businesses were from Asian groups outside the six largest Asian categories. Businesses owned by these Asians groups combined to nearly equal the number of Korean-owned businesses in the city. These owners were most likely Bangladeshis and Pakistanis.
- Asian firms were most overrepresented in accommodation and food services; transportation and warehousing; and wholesale trade sectors.
- Asian firms were most underrepresented in arts, entertainment, and recreation; information; and finance and insurance sectors.
Almost one in five Korean and Pakistani working males were self-employed.

Vietnamese self-employment rates went up nearly 5 percentage points, from 10 percent to nearly 15 percent of employed workers.

**Impact of Great Recession on Asian New Yorkers**

Data on unemployment rates, household income and poverty rates seem to suggest that Asian New Yorkers suffered disproportionately to the other major race and ethnic groups.

Unemployment rates edged up higher for Asians than for the other three groups. The result was the estimated number of Asians looking for work went up 56 percent, from 31,263 Asians during 2005-2007 to 48,805 Asians during 2008-2010.

Overall poverty rates for Asians edged up higher compared with other groups.

Asian and black children living with their families showed a statistically significant increase in poverty rates.

Working-age Asians saw the largest increase in poverty rates among the major race and ethnic groups.
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