



# Profile of New York City’s Bangladeshi Americans

## Introduction

Using data from 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables and the 2010 U.S. census, this profile outlines characteristics and trends among New York City’s Bangladeshi American population.<sup>1</sup> It presents statistics on population size and changes, immigration, citizenship status, educational attainment, English ability, income, poverty, health insurance and housing. Comparisons with New York City’s general population are provided for context.

New York City’s Bangladeshi population was among the fastest growing Asian ethnic groups. Relative to all resident, Bangladeshis were more likely to be:

- children and working-age adults,
- limited English proficient,
- living in poverty, and
- living in overcrowded housing.

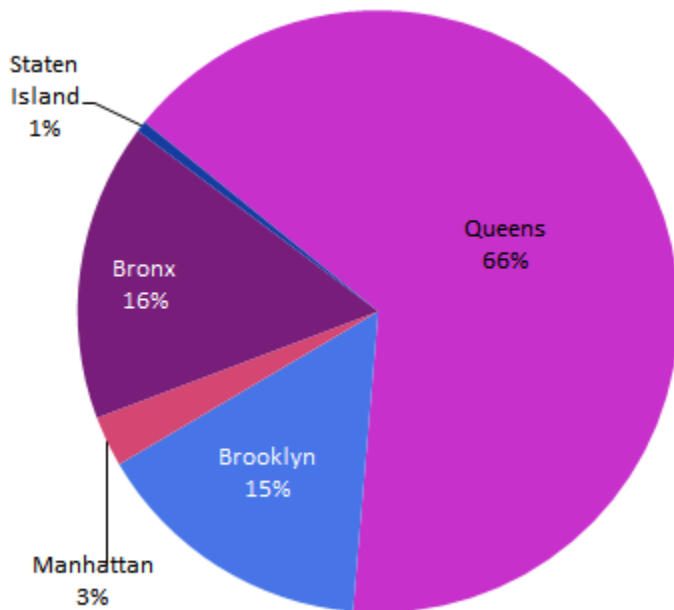


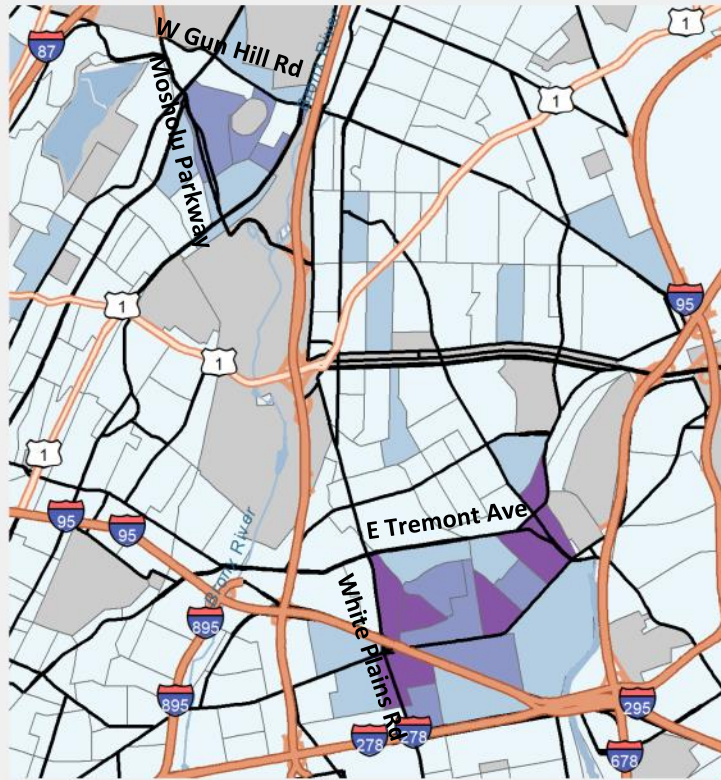
Figure 1: Bangladeshi Population by Borough

## Population

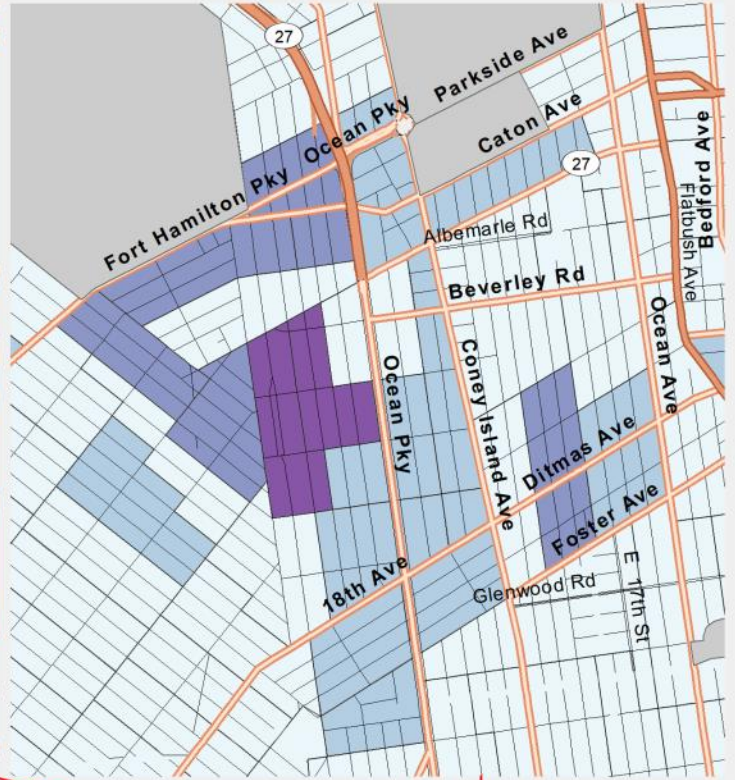
From 2010 to 2015, the Bangladeshi alone or in combination population in New York City increased by 88 percent from 35,275 to 66,197—growing faster than the city’s overall 4 percent increase and the 13 percent growth of the total Asian population. The Bangladeshi alone (those that identified as Bangladeshi only) population increased by 60 percent from 38,639 in 2010 to 61,927 in 2015.

New York City was home to 90 percent of New York State’s Bangladeshi residents. The majority (66 percent) of Bangladeshi New Yorkers lived in Queens (Figure 1). The remainder lived mostly in the Bronx and Brooklyn. The share of Bangladeshis in Queens increased by 10 percentage points during the last decade, while the share of Bangladeshis in Brooklyn fell by 7 percentage points. Bangladeshis were spread throughout the city in neighborhoods such as Norwood and Parkchester in the Bronx; Kensington and Midwood in Brooklyn; Astoria,

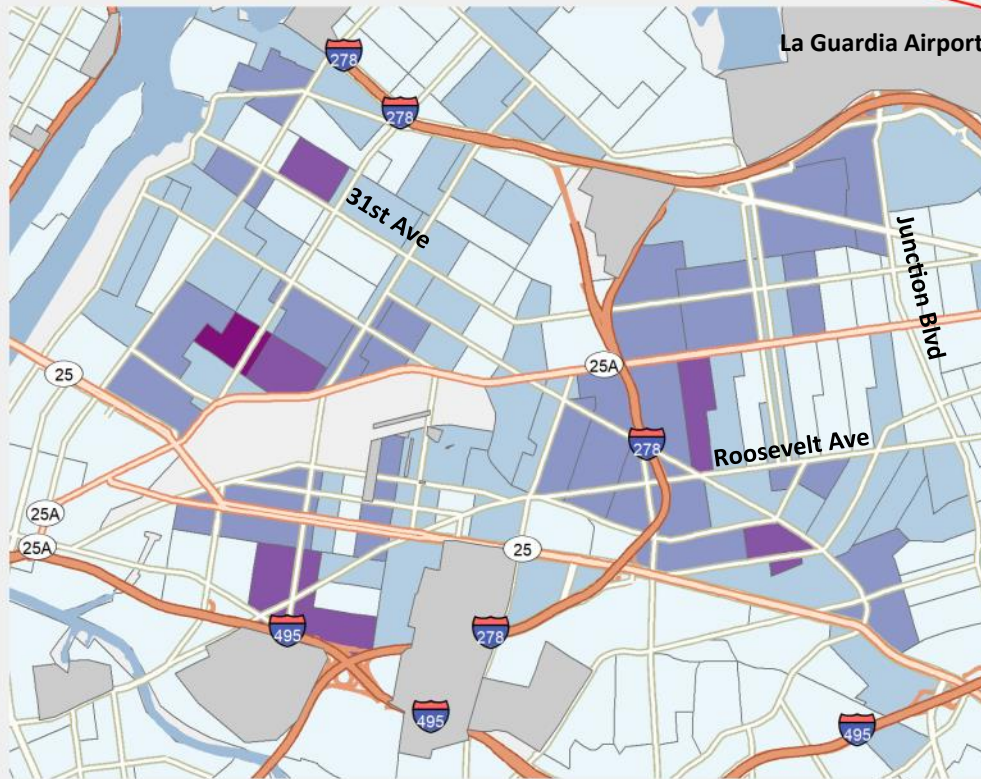
Facts on the Bangladeshi Population in New York City	
Alone or in-Combination Population	66,197
Percent Change from 2010 to 2015	88%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Percent of Population Foreign Born	74%
Percent of Foreign Born Who are Citizens	53%
Educational Attainment for Adults Age 25 or Older	
Percent of Adults without High School Diploma	21%
Percent of Adults with a Bachelor’s Degree	37%
Limited English Proficiency	
Percent of Population Age 5 or Older	53%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$58,502
Median Family Income	\$38,868
Per Capita Income	\$14,491
Poverty	
Percent of Total Population Living in Poverty	28.2%
Percent of Children Living in Poverty	35.1%
Percent of Seniors Living in Poverty	31.8%



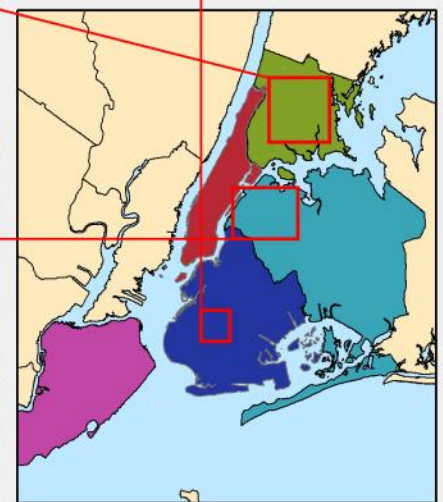
Norwood and Parkchester, Bronx Borough









Kensington and Midwood, Brooklyn Borough



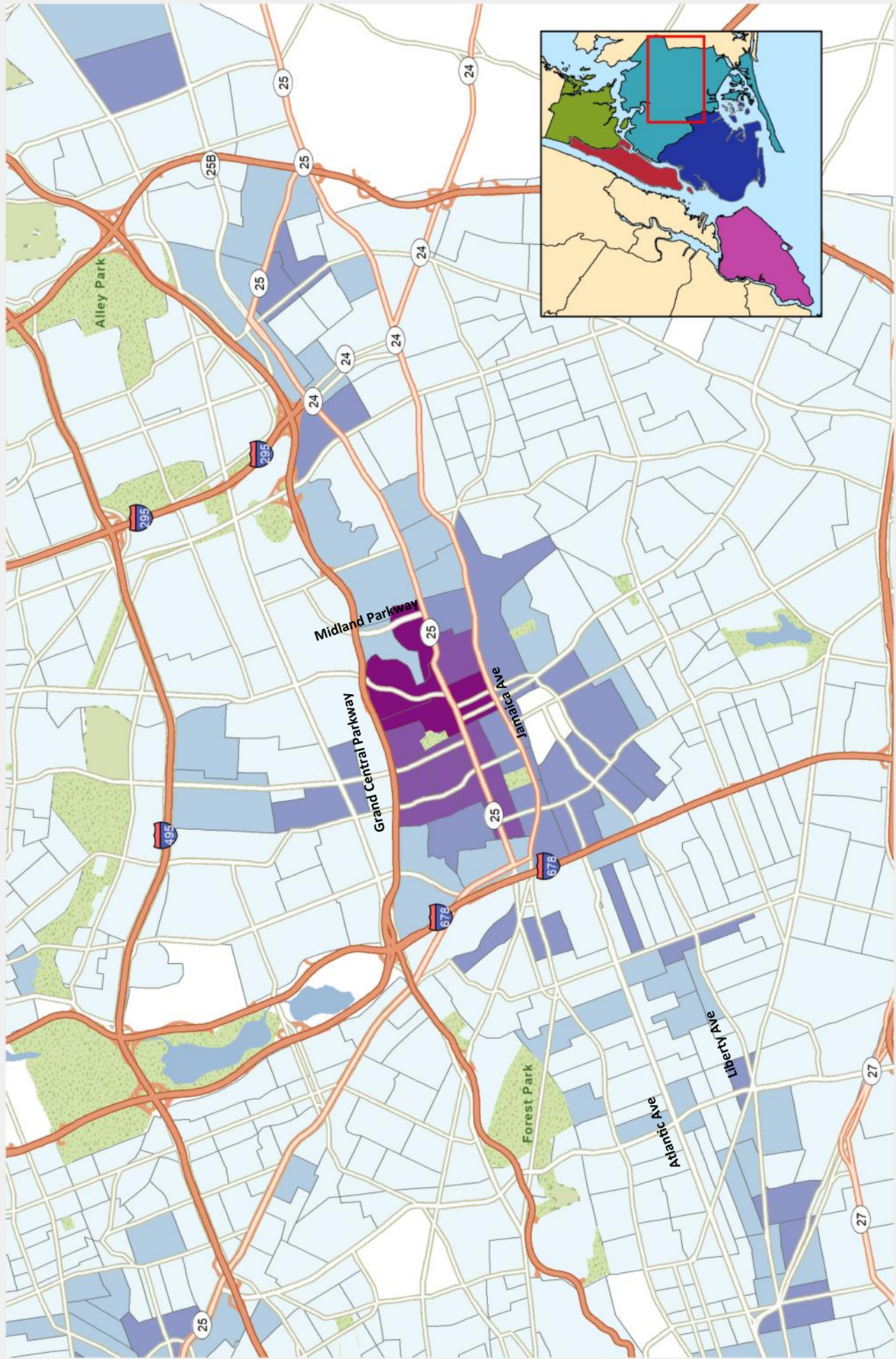
Astoria, Sunnyside and Jackson Heights, Queens Borough



**Legend**

-  Landmarks
- Bangladeshi Population**
- Percent of Total Population**
-  0% - 1.5%
-  1.6% - 5.2%
-  5.3% - 11.2%
-  11.3% - 23.2%
-  23.3% - 43.1%





City Line and Jamaica, Queens Borough

Sunnyside, Jackson Heights, City Line and Jamaica in Queens (see maps).

In 2015, the Bangladeshi population was skewed much younger than the general population in New York City. Children (under 18 years of age) constituted 30 percent of the Bangladeshi population and only 21 percent of the general population. Working-age adults (age 18 to 64) were 67 percent in New York City’s Bangladeshi population, compared with 66 percent of all city residents. Seniors (age 65 or older) were only 4 percent of the city’s Bangladeshi population, compared to 13 percent of the citywide population.

### Immigration and Citizenship

About 74 percent of New York City’s Bangladeshis in 2015 were foreign-born, compared to 37 percent of all city residents. About one in five (19 percent) of Bangladeshi immigrants in New York City came to the United States in 2010 or later, almost double the city’s 10 percent rate. Of all the city’s foreign-born Bangladeshi residents, 53 percent were naturalized citizens, equal to the 53 percent of all foreign-born New Yorkers.

### Education

Bangladeshis in 2015 had similar education levels as the city’s general population. Of the city’s 39,856

Bangladeshi adults, 21 percent had not graduated from high school, similar to 20 percent of adults citywide.<sup>2</sup> Also, 12 percent of Bangladeshi adults in New York City had less than a ninth-grade education – greater than the 10 percent rate for all adult New Yorkers.

At the high end of the educational spectrum, slightly more than half (56 percent) of Bangladeshi adults in New York City had some sort of post-secondary education, the same as 56 percent of all city adults. More than a third (37 percent) of Bangladeshi adults in New York City had a bachelor’s degree or higher, similar to one third (36 percent) of all city adults.

### English Proficiency

New York City’s Bangladeshi residents had a higher incidence of limited English proficiency (LEP) than New Yorkers as a whole in 2015.<sup>3</sup> More than half (53 percent) of the city’s total Bangladeshi population spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all” – almost double the 23 percent rate for New Yorkers overall (Figure 2). One in five Bangladeshi children and more than eight in ten Bangladeshi seniors were LEP.

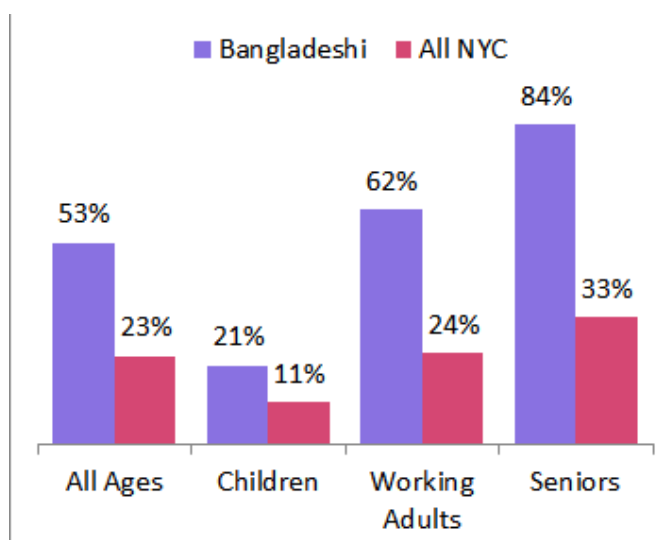
### Income

Bangladeshi New Yorkers had lower family and per capita incomes than New York City residents overall.<sup>4</sup> The Bangladeshi median household income was \$58,502, slightly higher than the \$53,373 median for the all households. However, median family income was \$38,868 for Bangladeshis, compared to the city’s median family income of \$59,285. Additionally, Bangladeshi per capita income was \$14,491 – half of the per capita income of \$33,078 citywide.

### Poverty

Bangladeshi residents had higher poverty rates than all New York City residents. For all Bangladeshis in the city, 28.2 percent lived below the poverty line, compared with a citywide poverty rate of 20.6 percent. Among children, 35.1 percent of Bangladeshis in New York City experienced poverty, higher than the 29.5 percent of all children. For working-age adults, 24.8 percent of

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency Rates



Bangladeshis lived in poverty, compared to 18.1 percent citywide. Bangladeshi seniors had a much higher poverty rate at 31.8 percent, compared to 18.8 percent seniors citywide.

### Health Insurance Coverage

Bangladeshis were slightly less likely to be without health insurance coverage, with only 10.8 percent not covered, compared with 12.4 percent for the general population. Among children, only 2.6 percent of Bangladeshi children were not covered, compared to 3.6 percent of all children. However, Bangladeshis relied much more on public insurance options than the general population, with 62.8 percent of Bangladeshis having public insurance coverage compared to only 40.3 percent of all New Yorkers.

### Housing

Bangladeshi New Yorkers in 2015 had a larger average household size than households in general (4.29 people versus 2.65 people), which is an important factor in the lower family and per capita incomes for Bangladeshis. Bangladeshi households were more likely to be overcrowded than households in general, with 42 percent of Bangladeshi households compared to 9 percent of households in general having more than one occupant per room.

Bangladeshi households were less likely to own their homes compared to New York City households in general. One in four (26 percent) of Bangladeshi households owned their homes, compared with 32 percent of all households in the city.

### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Data sources used in this brief were 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, and are for the Bangladeshi Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted. Statistics from 2010 used 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables.

<sup>2</sup> For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.

<sup>3</sup> "Limited English Proficiency" refers to individuals age 5 years and older who reported speaking English well, not well, or not at all.

<sup>4</sup> Household income refers to the income of all occupants of a housing unit. Family income referred to the earnings of a group of two or more people (one of whom is the

householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together.

<sup>5</sup> Families and individuals were classified as below the poverty line if their total family income or unrelated individual income over the last 12 months was less than the poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder, and number of related children younger than 18 present for the year and month the data was collected. For these thresholds, please see <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>.

### Technical Notes

#### *Race Categories*

Beginning with the Census 2000, the Census Bureau collects data in which respondents were allowed to mark more than one race. For example, 2000 data include results for single-race as well as multiple-race responses. "Bangladeshi Alone" corresponds to the respondents who reported only Bangladeshi and no other race category. "Alone" should be considered the minimum population size in any analysis that uses Census Bureau data.

To be as inclusive as possible, this profile uses "Bangladeshi Alone or in Any Combination" numbers where possible. "Alone or in Any Combination" corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Bangladeshi, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Bangladeshi and another racial group (e.g., Bangladeshi and black), that individual, while excluded from the "Bangladeshi Alone" count, was tallied in the "Alone or in Any Combination" count for Bangladeshi and the other racial group. Hence, some overlap in the "In Any Combination" numbers occurred. "Alone or in Any Combination" should be considered the maximum population size in any analysis that uses Census Bureau data.

### About This Profile

This is one of a series of Asian American population profiles prepared by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center (CIC) to increase understanding of the rapidly-growing and diverse Asian American population in the New York metropolitan area.

Data citations from this profile should include the following acknowledgment: "Data derived from analysis by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center."

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