



# Profile of New York City’s Indian 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 Indian 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.

As the second largest Asian ethnic group in New York City, the Indian population has only grown slightly during the first half of this decade. Relative to all residents, Indians in New York City were more likely to be:

- working-age adults,
- more educated,
- higher income, and
- living in overcrowded housing.

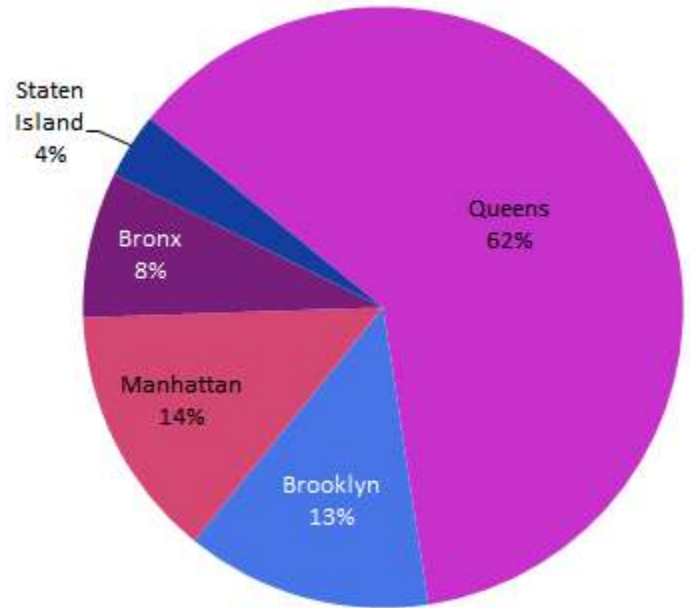


Figure 1: Indian Population by Borough

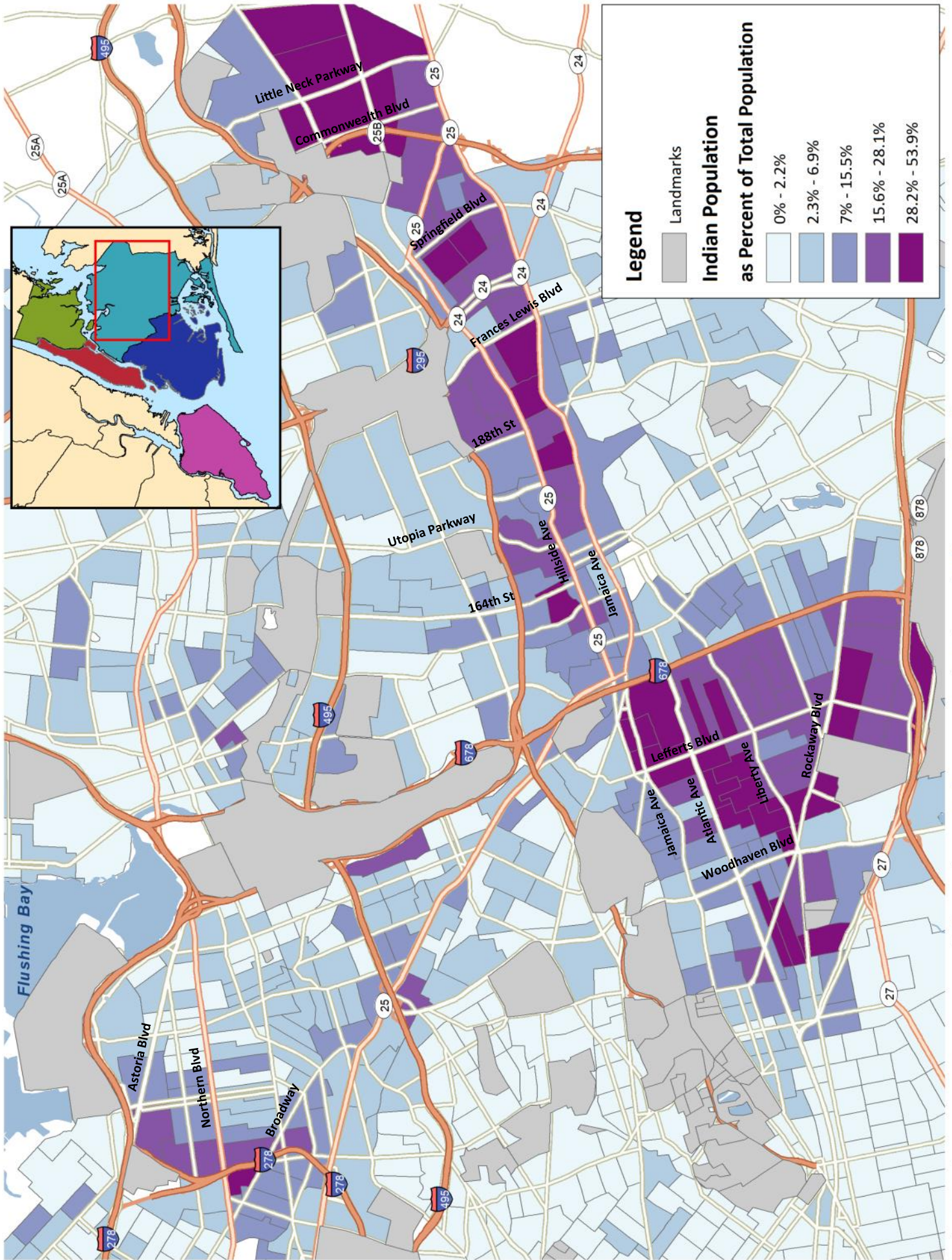
## Population

From 2010 to 2015, the Indian alone or in combination population in New York City was relatively stable, only growing 0.2 percent from 242,488 to 242,987, slower than the city’s overall 4 percent increase and the 13 percent growth of the total Asian population. The Indian alone population decreased by 1.8 percent from 221,487 in 2010 to 217,587 in 2015.

New York City was home to 62 percent of New York State’s Indian residents. The majority (62 percent) of Indian New Yorkers lived in Queens (Figure 1). The remainder lived mostly in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The largest concentration of the Indian population in the city is in eastern Queens in the neighborhoods of Jackson Heights, Ozone Park, Richmond Hill, Jamaica and Bellerose (see map).

In 2015, working-age adults (age 18 to 64) were a greater proportion of New York City’s Indian population,

Facts on Indian Population in New York City	
Alone or in-Combination Population	242,987
Percent Change from 2010 to 2015	0.2%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Percent of Population Foreign Born	69%
Percent of Foreign Born Who are Citizens	60%
Educational Attainment for Adults Age 25 or Older	
Percent of Adults without High School Diploma	20%
Percent of Adults with a Bachelor’s Degree	45%
Limited English Proficiency	
Percent of Population Age 5 or Older	24%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$69,928
Median Family Income	\$68,023
Per Capita Income	\$34,096
Poverty	
Percent of Total Population Living in Poverty	16.6%
Percent of Children Living in Poverty	22.3%
Percent of Seniors Living in Poverty	16.2%



Indian Population in eastern Queens including Jackson Heights, Ozone Park, Richmond Hill, Jamaica and Bellerose.

comprising 70 percent, compared with 66 percent of all city residents. Children (under 18 years of age) and seniors (age 65 or older) each constituted 22 and 8 percent of the city’s Indian population, compared with 21 percent and 13 percent, respectively, of the citywide population in those age groups.

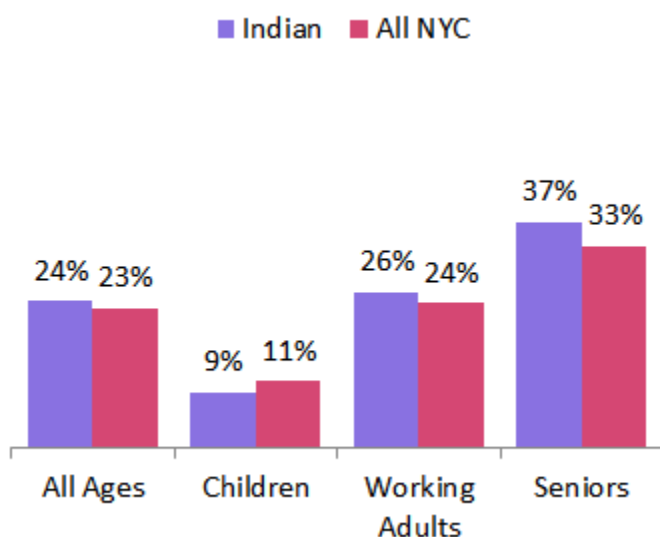
### Immigration and Citizenship

About 69 percent of New York City’s Indians in 2015 were foreign-born, compared to 37 percent of all city residents. Indian immigrants were about as likely as immigrants in general to be recent arrivals, with 12 percent of Indian immigrants in New York City coming to the United States in 2010 or later, slightly more than 10 percent of the city’s overall immigrant population. Of all the city’s foreign-born Indian residents, 60 percent were naturalized citizens, greater than the city’s 53 percent of all foreign-born New Yorkers.

### Education

Indian adults in 2015 had more schooling overall than the city’s total adult population.<sup>2</sup> Of the city’s 166,140 Indian adults, 20 percent had not graduated from high school, equal to the 20 percent of adults citywide. Also, 11 percent of Indian adults in New York City had less than a ninth-grade education – similar to the 10 percent rate for all adult New Yorkers.

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency Rates



At the other end of the educational spectrum, 60 percent of Indian adults in New York City had some sort of post-secondary education experience, greater than half (56 percent) of all city adults. About half (45 percent) of Indian adults in New York City had a bachelor’s degree or higher, greater than one third (36 percent) of all city adults.

### English Proficiency

New York City’s Indian residents had a similar incidence of limited English proficiency (LEP) than New Yorkers as a whole in 2015.<sup>3</sup> Nearly a quarter (24 percent) of the city’s Indian population age 5 years and older spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all” – identical to the 24 percent rate for New Yorkers overall (Figure 2). Indian children age 5 years and older and seniors had LEP rates which were similar to their age-group peers in the general population.

### Income

Indian New Yorkers had higher incomes compared to New York City residents overall for all income gauges for 2015.<sup>4</sup> The Indian median household income was \$69,928, greater than the \$53,373 median for the entire city population. Median family income was \$68,023 for Indians, higher than the city’s median family income of \$59,285. Additionally, Indian per capita income was \$34,096 – slightly above the per capita income of \$33,078 citywide.

### Poverty

The poverty rates for Indian residents in relation to the total New York City population were lower overall in 2015.<sup>5</sup> Among all Indians in the city, 16.6 percent lived below the poverty line, compared with the general New York City poverty rate of 20.6 percent. Among children, 22.3 percent of Indians in New York City experienced poverty, compared with 29.5 percent of all city children. For working-age adults from 18 to 64 years old, 14.9 percent of Indians adults and 18.1 percent of all adults lived in poverty. Indian seniors were slightly less likely to live in poverty with a 16.2 percent poverty rate

compared to an overall senior poverty rate of 18.8 percent.

## Health Insurance Coverage

Indians were just as likely as the general population to be without health insurance coverage, with 12.8 percent of Indian not covered, compared with 12.4 percent for the general population. Among children, only 4.5 percent of Indian children were not covered, compared to 3.6 percent of all children.

## Housing

Indian New Yorkers in 2015 had a larger average household size than households in general (3.28 people versus 2.65 people). Indian households were more likely to be overcrowded than households in general, with 15 percent of Indian households versus 9 percent of households in general having more than one occupant per room.

Indian households had higher rates of owning homes compared to New York City households in general, with 42 percent of Indian households owning their homes, compared with 32 percent homeowners in the city overall.

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Data sources used in this brief were 2011-2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, and are for the Asian Indian 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. “Asian Indian Alone” corresponds to the respondents who reported only Asian Indian 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 “Asian Indian Alone or in Any Combination” numbers where possible. “Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Asian Indian, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Asian Indian and another racial group (e.g., Asian Indian and black), that individual, while excluded from the “Asian Indian Alone” count, was tallied in the “Alone or in Any Combination” count for Asian Indian 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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