



Profile of New York City’s Japanese 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 Japanese American population.¹ 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 Japanese population was among one of the few Asian ethnic groups that saw a decrease in population from 2010 to 2015. Relative to all residents, Japanese in New York City were more likely to be:

- working-age adults,
- better educated,
- limited English proficient,
- higher income, and
- renting.

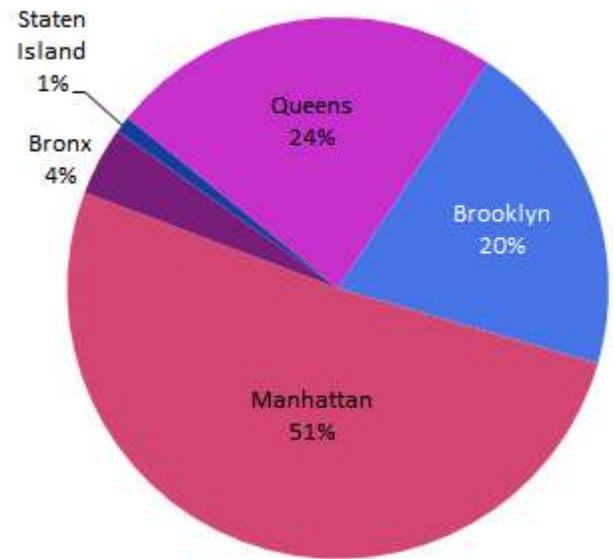


Figure 1: Japanese Population by Borough

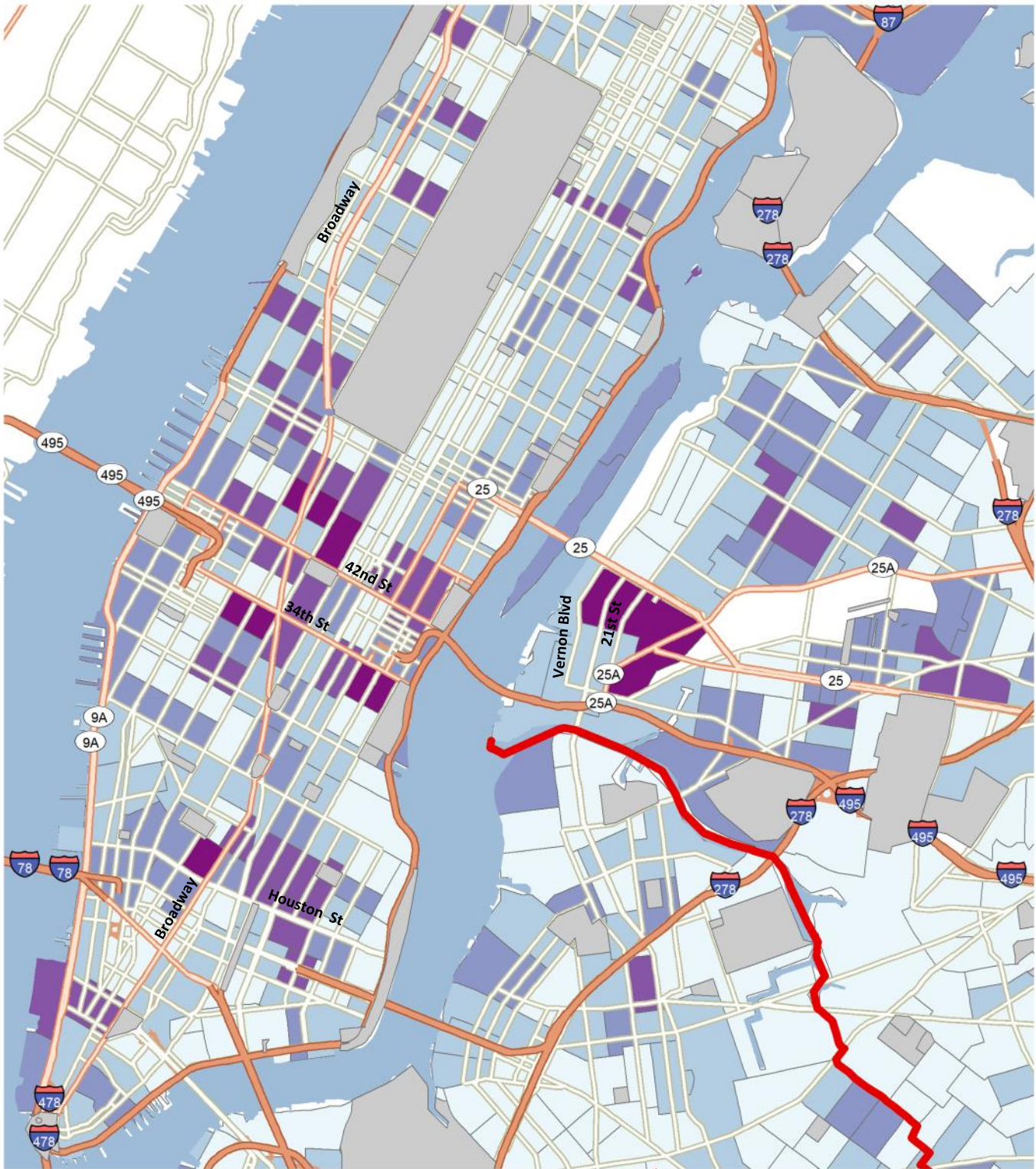
Population

From 2010 to 2015, the Japanese alone or in combination population in New York City decreased by 3 percent from 34,467 to 33,432 – compared with the city’s overall 4 percent increase and the 12.7 percent growth of the total Asian population. The Japanese population alone population decreased by 8.3 percent from 26,791 in 2010 to 24,566 in 2015.

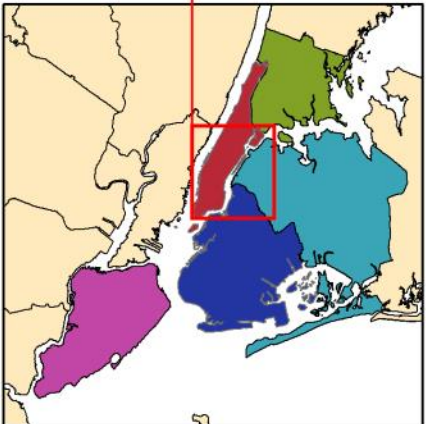
New York City was home to 61 percent of New York State’s Japanese residents. The majority (51 percent) of Japanese New Yorkers lived in Manhattan (Figure 1). The remainder lived mostly in Queens and Brooklyn. The Japanese community is spread throughout the neighborhoods of Manhattan particularly around Midtown and in Long Island City and Astoria in Queens.

In 2015, working-age adults (age 18 to 64) were a larger share of New York City’s Japanese population, comprising 75 percent of the group, compared with 66 percent of all city residents. Children (under 18 years of age) and seniors (age 65 or older) each constituted 19



Facts on Japanese Population in New York City	
Alone or in-Combination Population	33,432
Percent Change from 2010 to 2015	-3%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Percent of Population Foreign Born	60%
Percent of Foreign Born Who are Citizens	16%
Educational Attainment for Adults Age 25 or Older	
Percent of Adults without High School Diploma	2%
Percent of Adults with a Bachelor’s Degree	70%
Limited English Proficiency	
Percent of Population Age 5 or Older	35%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$70,185
Median Family Income	\$91,552
Per Capita Income	\$47,396
Poverty	
Percent of Total Population Living in Poverty	12.6%
Percent of Children Living in Poverty	13.4%
Percent of Seniors Living in Poverty	14.2%








Japanese Population in Manhattan Borough and Long Island City and Astoria, Queens Borough



Legend

-  Landmarks
-  Brooklyn-Queens Border

Japanese Population As Percent of Total Population

-  0% - 0.4%
-  0.5% - 1.3%
-  1.4% - 2.7%
-  2.8% - 5.6%
-  5.7% - 12.7%

and 6 percent of the city’s Japanese population, compared with 21 percent and 13 percent, respectively, of the citywide population in those age groups.

Immigration and Citizenship

About 60 percent of New York City’s Japanese in 2015 were foreign-born, compared to 37 percent of all city residents. Japanese immigrants in New York City were more likely to be recent arrivals with 13 percent arriving in 2010 or later, greater than 10 percent rate for all city immigrants. Of all the city’s foreign-born Japanese residents, 16 percent were naturalized citizens, much lower than the 53 percent of all foreign-born New Yorkers who became citizens.

Education

Japanese New Yorkers in 2015 had more schooling than the city’s general population. Of the city’s 25,021 Japanese adults, 2 percent had not graduated from high school, significantly less than the 20 percent of all adults.² Also, 1 percent of Japanese adults in New York City had less than a ninth-grade education – a tenth of the 10 percent rate for all adult New Yorkers.

At the high end of the educational spectrum, 88 percent of Japanese adults in New York City had some sort of post-secondary education, greater than the half (56 percent) of all city adults. Almost three fourths (70 percent) of Japanese adults in New York City had a

bachelor’s degree or higher, greater than the one-third (36 percent) of all city adults.

English Proficiency

New York City’s Japanese residents had a higher incidence of limited English proficiency (LEP) than New Yorkers as a whole in 2015.³ More than a third (35 percent) of the city’s Japanese population spoke English well, not well, or not at all – more than the 23 percent rate for New Yorkers overall (Figure 2). Japanese children and seniors in particular had LEP rates higher than their age-group peers in the general population.

Income

Japanese New Yorkers had higher incomes compared to New York City residents overall for all income gauges.⁴ The median income for Japanese household was \$70,185, more than the \$53,373 median for the entire city population. Median income was \$91,552 for Japanese families, much higher than the city’s median family income of \$59,285. Additionally, Japanese per capita income was \$47,396 – more than the per capita income of \$33,078 citywide.

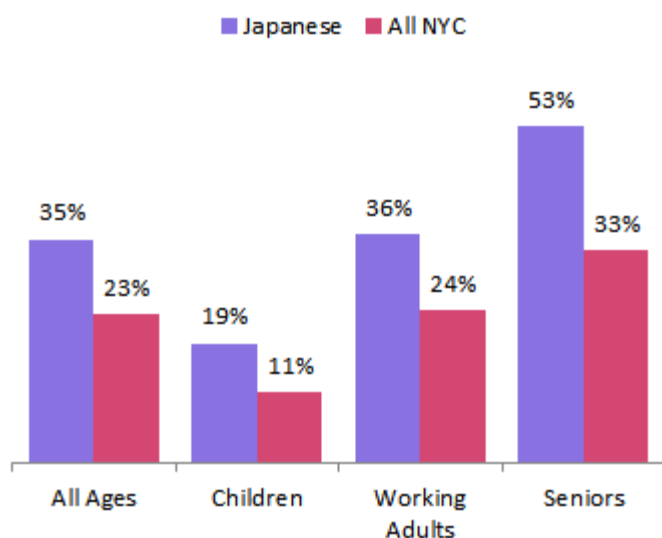
Poverty

The poverty rates for Japanese residents in relation to all New Yorkers were lower overall.⁵ Among all Japanese in the city, 12.6 percent lived below the poverty line, compared with the general New York City poverty rate of 20.6 percent. Among children, 8.8 percent of Japanese in New York City experienced poverty, compared with 29.5 percent of all city children. For adults, 13.4 percent of working-age Japanese adults and 14.2 percent of elderly Japanese in the city lived in poverty, lower than 18.1 percent and 18.8 percent, respectively, for residents citywide in those age groups.

Health Insurance Coverage

Japanese New Yorkers were slightly more likely to be without health insurance coverage, with only 13.3 percent uninsured, compared with 12.4 percent for the general population. Among children, only 3.4 percent of Japanese were uninsured, compared to 3.6 percent of

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency Rates



all children. Japanese relied much more on private insurance options than the general population, with 76.8 percent of Japanese having private insurance coverage compared to only 55.0 percent of all New Yorkers.

Housing

Japanese New Yorkers in 2015 had a smaller average household size than households in general (2.34 people versus 2.65 people). Japanese households were less likely to be overcrowded than households in general, with 8 percent of Japanese households versus 9 percent of households in general having more than one occupant per room.

Japanese households were less likely to own their homes compared to New York City households in general. Less than one in four (23 percent) Japanese households owned their homes, compared with 32 percent households in the city overall.

Endnotes

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

² For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.

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

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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. "Japanese 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 "Japanese Alone or in Any Combination" numbers where possible. "Alone or in Any Combination" corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Japanese, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Japanese and another racial group (e.g., Japanese and black), that individual, while excluded from the "Japanese 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."

For more information regarding this profile, please contact the Asian American Federation Census Information Center at (212) 344-5878 x219 or howard.shih@aafederation.org, or visit www.aafny.org/cic/.

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