



Profile of New York City’s Nepalese 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 Nepalese 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 Nepalese population was among the fastest growing Asian ethnic groups. Relative to all residents, Nepalese in New York City were more likely to be:

- working-age adults,
- less educated,
- limited English proficient,
- lower income, and
- renters and live in overcrowded housing.

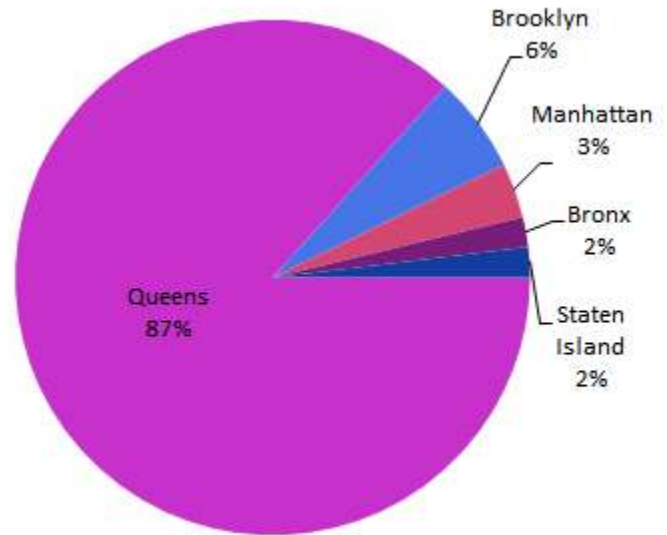


Figure 1: Nepalese Population by Borough

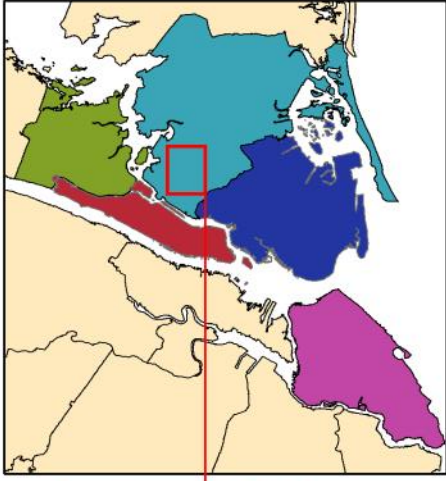
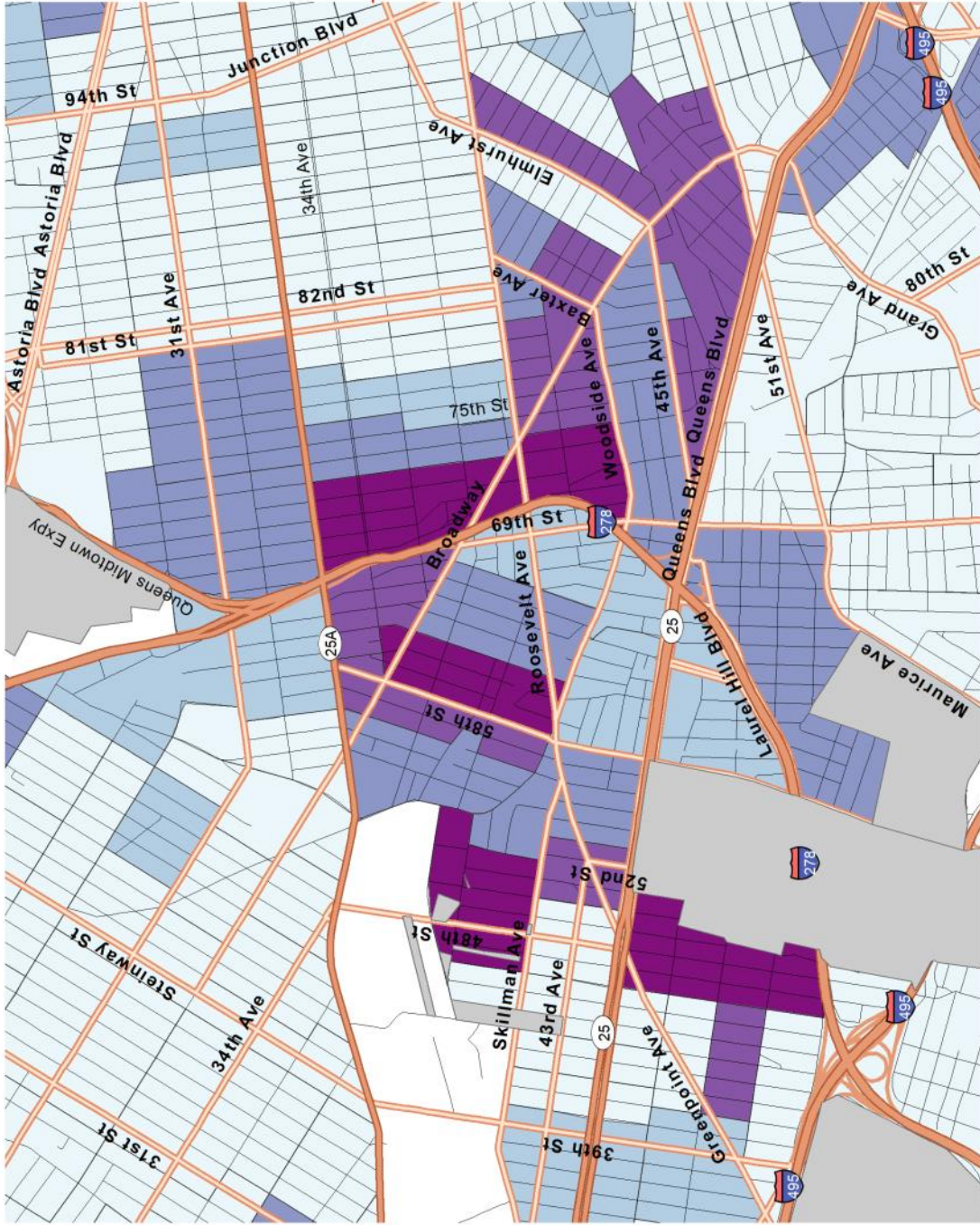
Population

From 2010 to 2015, the Nepalese alone or in combination population in New York City doubled from 3,364 to 6,744 – a growth rate much higher than the city’s overall 4 percent increase and the 13 percent growth of the total Asian population. The Nepalese alone population increased by 103 percent from 3,156 in 2010 to 6,392 in 2015.

New York City was home to 67 percent of New York State’s Nepalese residents. The large majority (87 percent) of Nepalese New Yorkers lived in Queens (Figure 1). The share of Nepalese in Queens increased by 6 percentage points from 2010 to 2015. The Nepalese community was largely concentrated in the Elmhurst, Jackson Height, Sunnyside and Woodside neighborhoods of Queens (see map).

In 2015, working-age adults (age 18 to 64) were a larger share of New York City’s Nepalese population,

Facts on Nepalese Population in New York City	
Alone or in-Combination Population	6,744
Percent Change from 2010 to 2015	100%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Percent of Population Foreign Born	87%
Percent of Foreign Born Who are Citizens	26%
Educational Attainment for Adults Age 25 or Older	
Percent of Adults without High School Diploma	27%
Percent of Adults with a Bachelor’s Degree	32%
Limited English Proficiency	
Percent of Population Age 5 or Older	51%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$49,203
Median Family Income	\$43,158
Per Capita Income	\$17,913
Poverty	
Percent of Total Population Living in Poverty	18.5%
Percent of Children Living in Poverty	19.4%
Percent of Seniors Living in Poverty	Not Available

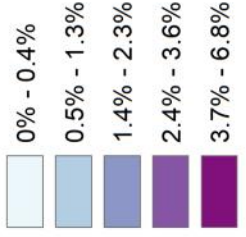


Legend

Landmarks

Nepalese Population

As Percent of Total Population



Nepalese Population in Sunnyside, Woodside and Elmhurst, Queens Borough

comprising 78 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 20 and 1 percent of the city’s Nepalese population, compared with 21 percent and 13 percent, respectively, of the citywide population in those age groups.

The extremely low numbers of Nepalese seniors in the survey resulted in data too unreliable to report for that population for the remaining sections of this brief.

Immigration and Citizenship

About 87 percent of New York City’s Nepalese in 2015 were foreign-born, compared to 37 percent of all city residents. Nepalese immigrants in New York City were much more likely to be recent arrivals with 28 percent arriving in 2010 or later, much higher than the 10 percent rate for all immigrant New Yorkers. Of all the city’s foreign-born Nepalese residents, 26 percent were naturalized citizens, lower than the 53 percent of all foreign-born New Yorkers.

Education

Nepalese in 2015 had less schooling than the city’s general population. Of the city’s 4,506 Nepalese adults, 27 percent had not graduated from high school, comparatively higher than 20 percent of adults citywide.² Also, 15 percent of Nepalese 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, half (51 percent) of Nepalese adults in New York City had some sort of post-secondary education, compared with 56 percent of all city adults. Less than one third (32 percent) of Nepalese adults in New York City had a bachelor’s degree or higher, lower than 36 percent of all city adults.

English Proficiency

New York City’s Nepalese residents had a higher incidence of limited English proficiency (LEP) than New Yorkers as a whole in 2015.³ Half (51 percent) of the city’s total Nepalese population spoke English well, not well or not at all –double the 23 percent rate for New Yorkers overall (Figure 2). Nepalese working-age adults in particular had LEP rates which were twice their age-group peers in the general population.

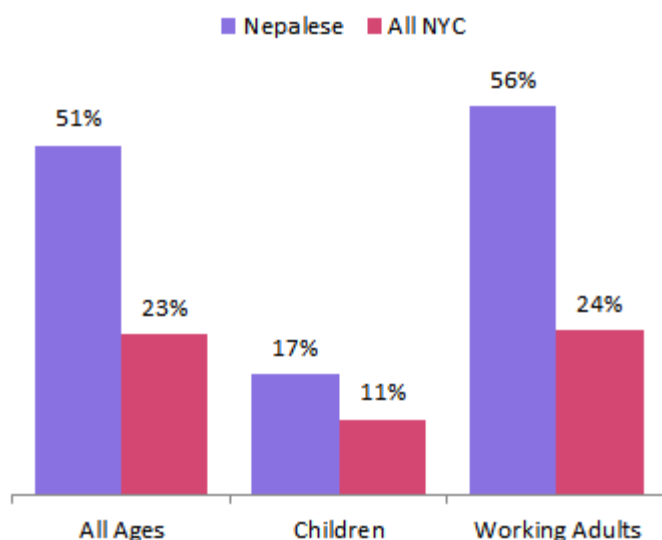
Income

Nepalese New Yorkers had lower incomes compared to New York City residents overall for all income gauges.⁴ The median income for Nepalese households was \$49,203, less than the \$53,373 median for all city households. Median family income was \$43,158 for Nepalese and \$59,285 for all families citywide. Additionally, Nepalese per capita income was \$17,913 – significantly less than \$33,078 citywide.

Poverty

The poverty rates for Nepalese residents were similar to that of city residents overall.⁵ Among all Nepalese in the city, 18.5 percent lived below the poverty line, compared with the general New York City poverty rate of 20.6 percent. Among children, 19.4 percent of Nepalese in New York City experienced poverty, compared with 29.5 percent of all city children. Among working-age adults, 18.6 percent of Nepalese in the city lived in poverty, about the same as the 18.1 percent poverty rate for all working-age adults.

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency Rates



Health Insurance Coverage

Nepalese New Yorkers were more likely to be uninsured, with 30 percent of Nepalese not covered by health insurance, compared with 12.4 percent of the general population. Among children, 6.9 percent of Nepalese children were uninsured, compared to 3.6 percent of all children. Nepalese relied much less on private insurance options than the general population, with only 33.3 percent of Nepalese having private insurance coverage compared to 55.0 percent of all New Yorkers.

Housing

Nepalese New Yorkers in 2015 had a larger average household size than households in general (3.81 people versus 2.65 people). Nepalese households were much more likely to be overcrowded than households in general, with 36 percent of Nepalese households and 9 percent of households in general having more than one occupant per room.

Nepalese households had lower rates of owning homes compared to New York City households in general. Less than one in four (22 percent) of households owned their homes, compared with 32 percent of 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 Nepalese 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.htm>

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