



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

- more likely to be children,
- less likely to have graduated high school,
- more likely to be limited English proficient,
- lower income,
- more likely to be poor, and
- less likely to own their homes.

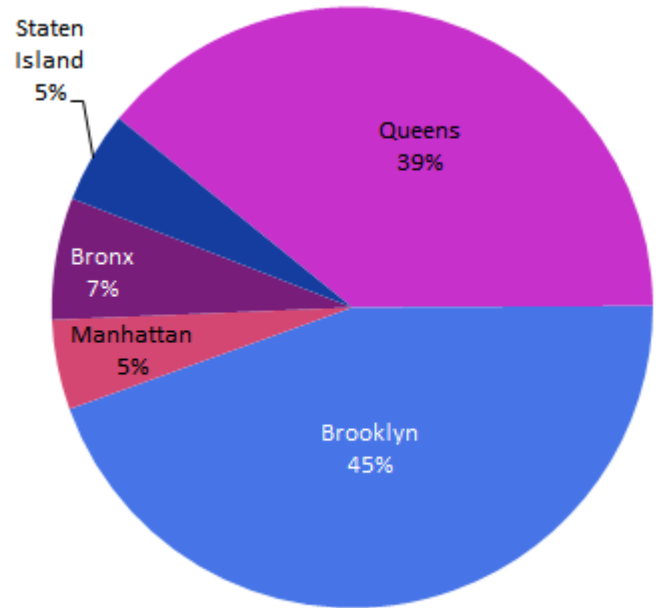


Figure 1: Pakistani Population by Borough

Population

From 2010 to 2015, the Pakistani alone or in combination population in New York City grew by 43 percent from 37,970 to 54,335 – faster than the city’s overall 4 percent increase and the 13 percent growth of the total Asian population. The Pakistani alone population increased by 46 percent from 35,356 in 2010 to 51,453 in 2015.

New York City was home to 65 percent of New York State’s Pakistani residents. The large majority of Pakistani New Yorkers lived in Brooklyn (45 percent) and Queens (39 percent) (Figure 1). The share of Pakistanis in Queens dropped by 4 percentage points from 2010 to 2015, while the share of Pakistanis in Brooklyn increased by 9 percentage points. The largest Pakistani neighborhood in the city was located in the Midwood-Kensington area of Brooklyn (see map), with growing populations in Fresh Meadows, Queens, and Bensonhurst, Brooklyn.

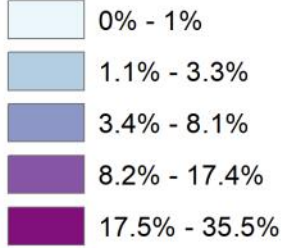
Population	
Alone or in-Combination Population	54,335
Percent Change from 2010 to 2015	43%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Percent of Population Foreign Born	66%
Percent of Foreign Born Who are Citizens	59%
Educational Attainment for Adults Age 25 or Older	
Percent of Adults without High School Diploma	25%
Percent of Adults with a Bachelor’s Degree	37%
Limited English Proficiency	
Percent of Population Age 5 or Older	42%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$48,141
Median Family Income	\$43,783
Per Capita Income	\$19,455
Poverty	
Percent of Total Population Living in Poverty	27.6%
Percent of Children Living in Poverty	37.5%
Percent of Seniors Living in Poverty	28.3%

Legend

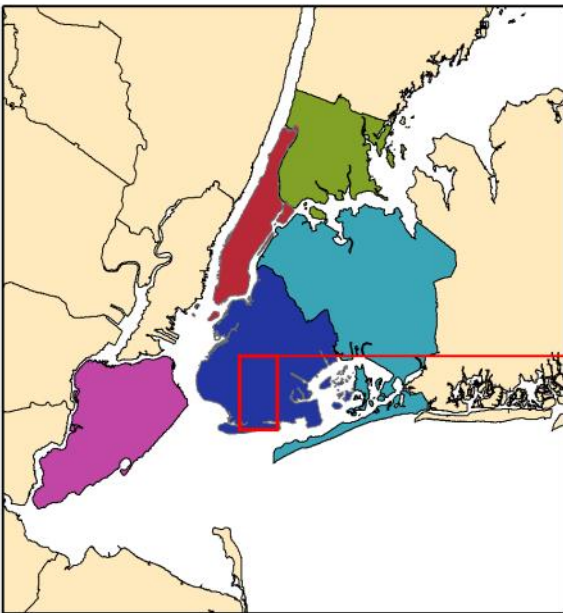
Landmarks

Pakistani Population

As Percent of Total Population



Kensington and Midwood, Brooklyn Borough



In 2015, the Pakistani community had higher share of children and lower share of seniors relative to the citywide population. Working-age adults (age 18 to 64) were 65 percent of New York City’s Pakistani population, compared to 66 percent of all city residents. Children (under 18 years of age) and seniors (age 65 or older) each constituted 31 and 4 percent of the city’s Pakistani population, compared with 21 percent and 13 percent, respectively, of the citywide population in those age groups.

Immigration and Citizenship

About 66 percent of New York City’s Pakistanis in 2015 were foreign-born, compared to 37 percent of all city residents. Among these immigrants, 14 percent came to the United States in 2010 or later, higher than the city’s 10 percent rate for all immigrants. Of all the city’s foreign-born Pakistani residents, 59 percent were naturalized citizens, higher than the 53 percent of all foreign-born New Yorkers.

Education

Educational attainment for Pakistani adults in 2015 was mixed. Of the city’s 31,098 Pakistani adults, 25 percent had not graduated from high school, comparatively higher than 20 percent of adults citywide.² Also, 15 percent of Pakistani adults in New York City had less

than a ninth-grade education – higher than the 10 percent rate for all adult New Yorkers.

At the high end of the educational spectrum, about half (52 percent) of Pakistani adults in New York City had some sort of post-secondary education, compared with well over half (56 percent) of all city adults. More than a third (37 percent) of Pakistani adults in New York City had a bachelor’s degree or higher, slightly higher than one third (36 percent) of all city adults.

English Proficiency

New York City’s Pakistani residents had a higher incidence of limited English proficiency (LEP) than New Yorkers as a whole in 2015.³ About two in five (42 percent) of the city’s total Pakistani population spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all” – higher than the 23 percent rate for New Yorkers overall (Figure 2). One in five Pakistani children and more than three-quarters of Pakistani seniors had LEP.

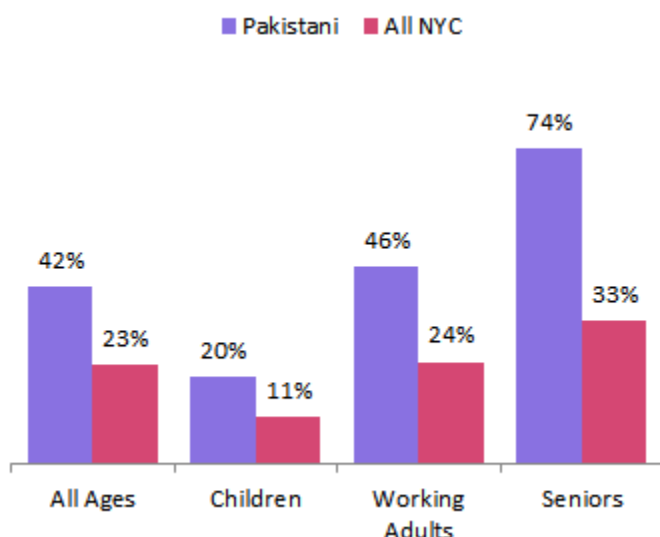
Income

Pakistani New Yorkers had lower incomes compared to New York City residents overall for all income gauges.⁴ The Pakistani median household income was \$48,141, less than the \$53,373 median for the entire city population. Median family income was \$43,783 for Pakistanis and \$59,285 for city residents as a whole. Additionally, Pakistani per capita income was \$19,455 – significantly less than \$33,078 citywide.

Poverty

The poverty rates for Pakistani residents in relation to the total New York City population were higher overall. Among all Pakistanis in the city, 27.6 percent lived below the poverty line, compared with the general New York City poverty rate of 20.6 percent. For children, 37.5 percent of Pakistanis in New York City experienced poverty, compared with 29.5 percent of all city children. With working-age adults, 22.8 percent of Pakistanis lived in poverty compared to 18.1 percent citywide. Pakistani seniors had a much higher poverty rate at 28.3 percent, compared to 18.8 percent seniors citywide.

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency Rates



Health Insurance Coverage

Pakistani New Yorkers were about as likely to be uninsured as the general population, with 11.9 percent of Pakistanis not covered by health insurance, compared with 12.4 percent of the general population. Among children, 2.9 percent of Pakistani children were uninsured, compared to 3.6 percent of all children. Pakistanis relied much more on public insurance options than the general population, with 58.0 percent of Pakistanis having public insurance coverage compared to 40.3 percent of all New Yorkers.

Housing

Pakistani New Yorkers in 2015 had a larger average household size than households in general (5.03 people versus 2.87 people). Pakistani households were more likely to be overcrowded than households in general, with 36 percent of Pakistani households and 9 percent of households in general having more than one occupant per room.

Pakistani households had lower rates of owning homes compared to New York City households in general. Less than a fourth (23 percent) of households owned their homes, compared with 32 percent homeowners 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 Pakistani 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. “Pakistani Alone” corresponds to the respondents who reported only Pakistani 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 “Pakistani Alone or in Any Combination” numbers where possible. “Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Pakistani, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Pakistani and another racial group (e.g., Pakistani and black), that individual, while excluded from the “Pakistani Alone” count, was tallied in the “Alone or in Any Combination” count for Pakistani 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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