



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

- better educated,
- limited English proficient,
- lower income,
- living in poverty, especially elderly, and
- homeowners.

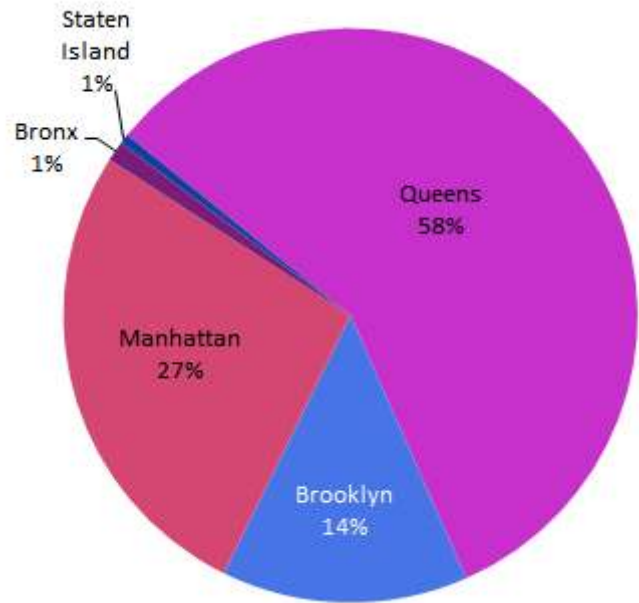


Figure 1: Taiwanese Population by Borough

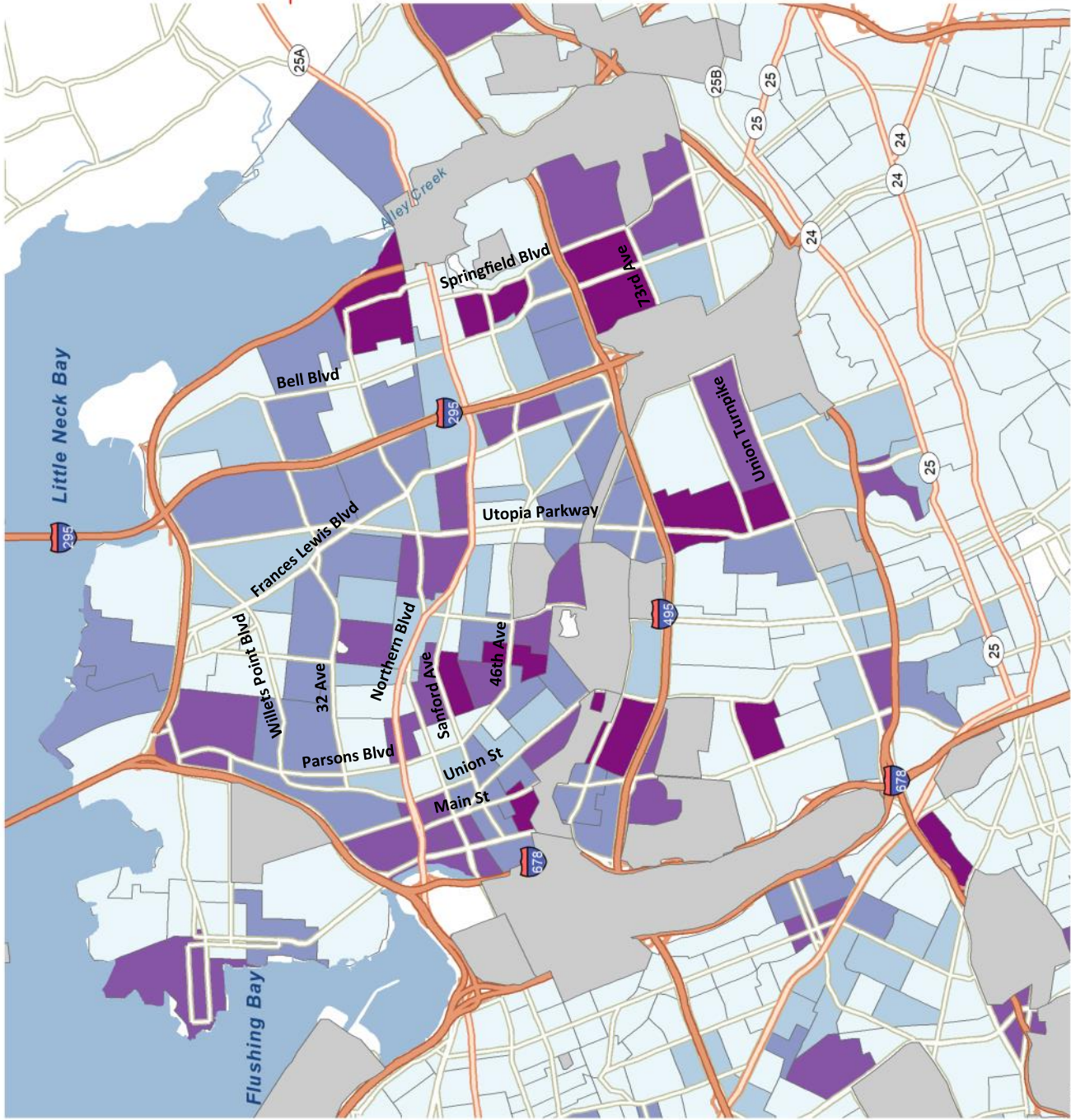
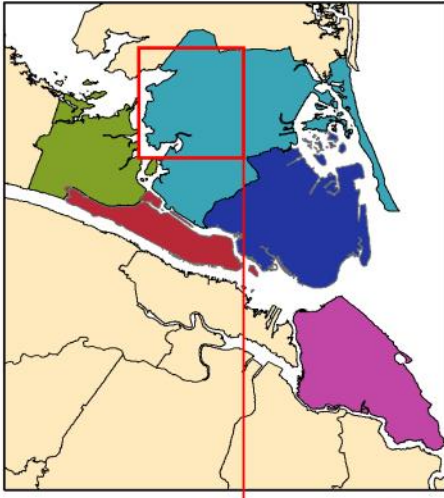
Population

From 2010 to 2015, the Taiwanese alone or in combination population in New York City increased by 70 percent from 6,414 to 10,847 – significantly greater than the city’s overall 4 percent increase and the 13 percent growth of the total Asian population. The Taiwanese alone population increased by 50 percent from 6,206 in 2010 to 9,303 in 2015.

New York City was home to 69 percent of New York State’s Taiwanese residents. The majority (58 percent) of Taiwanese New Yorkers lived in Queens (Figure 1). The remainder lived mostly in Manhattan and Brooklyn. Neighborhoods with large Taiwanese populations include Bayside, Flushing and Murray Hill in Queens.

In 2015, working-age adults (age 18 to 64) were a larger share of New York City’s Taiwanese population, comprising 75 percent of the group, compared with 66 percent of all city residents. Children (under 18 years of

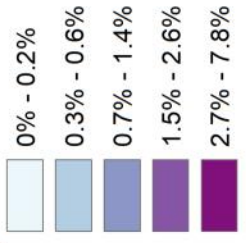
Facts on Taiwanese Population in New York City	
Alone or in-Combination Population	10,847
Percent Change from 2010 to 2015	70%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Percent of Population Foreign Born	68%
Percent of Foreign Born Who are Citizens	62%
Educational Attainment for Adults Age 25 or Older	
Percent of Adults without High School Diploma	9%
Percent of Adults with a Bachelor’s Degree	69%
Limited English Proficiency	
Percent of Population Age 5 or Older	45%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$50,577
Median Family Income	\$50,889
Per Capita Income	\$26,828
Poverty	
Percent of Total Population Living in Poverty	21.1%
Percent of Children Living in Poverty	23.3%
Percent of Seniors Living in Poverty	28.6%



Legend

Landmarks

**Taiwanese Population
As Percent of Total Population**



Taiwanese Population around Flushing, Queens Borough

age) and seniors (age 65 or older) each constituted 13 and 12 percent of the city’s Taiwanese population, compared with 21 percent and 8 percent, respectively, of the citywide population in those age groups.

Immigration and Citizenship

About 68 percent of New York City’s Taiwanese in 2015 were foreign-born, compared to 37 percent of all city residents. Taiwanese immigrants in New York City were more likely to be recent arrivals with 13 percent arriving in 2010 or later, more than the 10 percent for all immigrant New Yorkers. Of all the city’s foreign-born Taiwanese residents, 62 percent were naturalized citizens, greater than the 53 percent of all foreign-born New Yorkers.

Education

Taiwanese in 2015 had more schooling than the city’s general population. Of the city’s 8,270 Taiwanese adults, 9 percent had not graduated from high school, comparatively lower than 20 percent of adults citywide.² Also, 4 percent of Taiwanese adults in New York City had less than a ninth-grade education – more than half the 10 percent rate for all adult New Yorkers.

At the high end of the educational spectrum, 80 percent of Taiwanese adults in New York City had some sort of post-secondary education, compared with over half (56

percent) of all city adults. More than two thirds (69 percent) of Taiwanese adults in New York City had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to one in three (36 percent) of all city adults.

English Proficiency

New York City’s Taiwanese residents had a higher incidence of limited English proficiency (LEP) than New Yorkers as a whole in 2015.³ Nearly half (45 percent) of the city’s total Taiwanese population spoke English well, not well or not at all – almost double the 23 percent rate for New Yorkers overall (Figure 2). Taiwanese seniors in particular had LEP rates which were almost three times higher than their age-group peers in the general population.

Income

Taiwanese New Yorkers had lower incomes compared to New York City residents overall for all income gauges.⁴ The Taiwanese median household income was \$50,577, less than the \$53,373 median for households citywide. Median family income was \$50,889 for Taiwanese and \$59,285 for all families. Additionally, Taiwanese per capita income was \$26,828 –less than \$33,078 citywide.

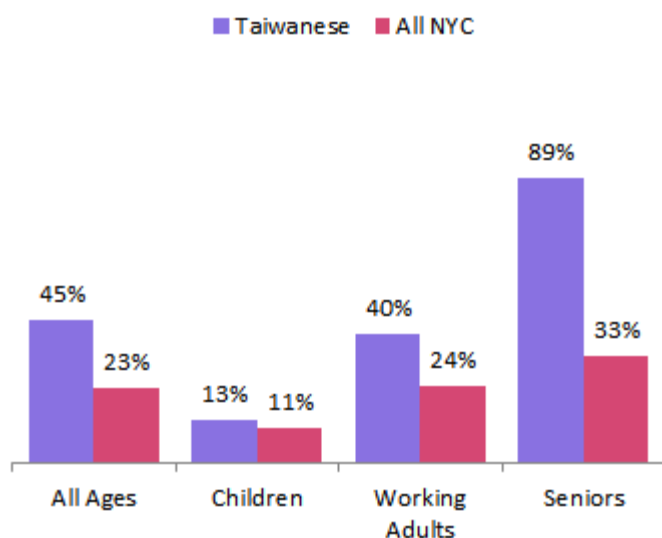
Poverty

The poverty rates for Taiwanese residents in relation to the total New York City population were higher for working-age adults and seniors.⁵ Among all Taiwanese in the city, 21.1 percent lived below the poverty line, compared with the general New York City poverty rate of 20.6 percent. Among children, 23.3 percent of Taiwanese in New York City experienced poverty, compared with 29.5 percent of all city children. For adults, 20.6 percent of working-age Taiwanese adults and 28.6 percent of elderly Taiwanese in the city lived in poverty, greater than 18.1 percent and 18.8 percent, respectively, for residents citywide in those age groups.

Health Insurance Coverage

Taiwanese New Yorkers were about as likely to be uninsured as the general population, with 11.9 percent

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency Rates



of Taiwanese not covered by health insurance, compared with 12.4 percent of the general population. Among children, 0.7 percent of Taiwanese children were uninsured, compared to 3.6 percent of all children. Taiwanese were less likely to have public insurance with only 17.5 percent with public insurance coverage, compared to 40.3 percent of all New Yorkers.

Housing

Taiwanese New Yorkers in 2015 had the same average household size as households in general (2.65 people per household for each group). Taiwanese households were less likely to be overcrowded than households in general, with 5 percent of Taiwanese households and 9 percent of households in general having more than one occupant per room.

Taiwanese households had higher rates of owning homes compared to New York City households in general. More than half (59 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 Taiwanese 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. “Taiwanese 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 “Taiwanese Alone or in Any Combination” numbers where possible. “Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Taiwanese, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Taiwanese and another racial group (e.g., Taiwanese and black), that individual, while excluded from the “Taiwanese 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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