Profile of Bangladeshis in City Line Neighborhood

Asian American Federation Census Information Center

Introduction

This profile highlights the rapidly growing community of South Asians, predominantly Bangladeshis, in an area straddling Brooklyn and Queens. The neighborhood stretches along Liberty Avenue from City Line Park in East New York, Brooklyn, to about Woodhaven Boulevard in Ozone Park, Queens. This profile relies on data from the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (ACS PUMS).[1] The smallest level of geography included in the ACS PUMS are New York City Community Districts. Therefore, we defined our geographic area for study to include Brooklyn Community District 5 and Queens Community Districts 9 and 10 (the "study area"). The Bangladeshi residents in those three community districts primarily resided in the area around Liberty Avenue (Map 1).

Key Findings:
• Since 2000, the Bangladeshi and Indian populations doubled in the study area, largely due to immigration.
• As a consequence, language barriers were high for these populations, with half of Bangladeshis identified as limited English proficient.
• While Bangladeshis were more likely to have Associate's degrees or higher, Bangladeshi median household income was lower than that of all households and Bangladeshis had a higher poverty rate than the general population.
• About half of Bangladeshis lived in overcrowded housing.
• While Bangladeshi households were slightly more likely to own their home compared with households in general, 3 in 4 Bangladeshi households were housing-cost burdened (they spent more than 30 percent of household income on housing).

Population in 2014	
Total Population	53,889
Growth in Total Population from 2000-2014	7%
Bangladeshi Population	1,095
Growth in Bangladeshi Population from 2000-2014	114%
Indian Population	7,387
Growth in Indian Population from 2000-2014	153%
Asian Population	11,068
Growth in Asian Population from 2000-2014	105%

Population

Before we discuss the findings for the larger study area defined above, population data is available for a smaller area between City Line Park and Woodhaven Boulevard where a concentration of Bangladeshi residents live (see Map 1).[2] In this area, Bangladeshi community grew from 511 in 2000 to **1,095 in 2014**, more than doubling in size. In the meantime, those that identified

as "Asian Indian" also grew by 153 percent in the area. We included data on Indians because some who identify their race as "Asian Indian" also claim Bangladesh as a place of birth or ancestry. These two groups were also an increasing share of the neighborhood, growing from a combined 7 percent in 2000 to 16 percent in 2014.

Immigration

South Asian and Asian residents in the larger study area were more likely to be immigrants than the general population. While immigrants made up less than half (43 percent) of the total population in the study area, **70 percent** of Bangladeshis and 73 percent of each of Indians and Asians were immigrants. In addition, the majority of Bangladeshi immigrants arrived in 2000 or later.

Decade of Entry for Immigrants	Before 1980	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000 or Later
Total Population	17%	22%	28%	33%
Bangladeshi	0%	13%	29%	57%
Indian	5%	22%	34%	40%
Asian	7%	22%	33%	38%

Language

Language barriers remained a major issue for the community, with **50 percent** of Bangladeshis having limited English proficiency (LEP).[3] Indians had a lower LEP rate of 20 percent and Asians overall had a LEP rate of 29 percent. Bengali was the primary language spoken by Bangladeshis, and Punjabi and Bengali were the most spoken languages among Indians in the neighborhood.

Educational Attainment

Bangladeshi, Indian, and Asian adults (ages 25 or older) were more likely to have completed some post-secondary degree than the general population. At the same time, Indian adults were more likely to have not completed high school than adults in general and Bangladeshi adults.

Educational Attainment for Adults	No HS Diploma	HS Diploma	Some College	Associate Degree or Higher
Total Population	23%	35%	15%	27%
Bangladeshi	23%	20%	12%	44%
Indian	31%	30%	10%	29%
Asian	29%	26%	11%	34%

Income and Poverty

Despite having higher educational attainment than the general population, Bangladeshi households had lower median incomes compared to Indian, Asian, and all households. The median income for all households in the study area was $49,466. Bangladeshi median household income was lowest at **$41,985**, whereas Indian median household income was $50,202 and Asian median household income was $58,791.

Bangladeshis also saw higher poverty rates than the general population.[5] While the poverty rate was 21 percent for the whole study area, **28 percent** of Bangladeshis and 20 percent of Indians were living in poverty. The poverty rate for all Asians was also 20 percent.

Housing

Finding affordable housing in New York City is a major challenge for all, but the Bangladeshis in the study area had an especially difficult time. Bangladeshi and Indian residents were also more likely to live in overcrowded households.[6] While 20 percent of all residents lived in overcrowded housing, **49 percent** of Bangladeshi and 29 percent of Indian residents lived in overcrowded housing. Over one quarter (28 percent) of Asian residents lived in overcrowded housing.

Bangladeshi and Indian households faced higher housing costs than households in general. While 54 percent of all households in the study area had housing costs that were greater than 30 percent of household income, **75 percent** of Bangladeshi households and 58 percent of Indian households spent more than 30 percent of their household income on housing. For Asian households, 57 percent spent more than 30 percent of their household income on housing.

However, Bangladeshi and Indian households were more likely to own their homes than households in general. For all households in the study area, the homeownership rate was 42 percent, compared to **45 percent** for Bangladeshi households and 56 percent for Indian households. Among all Asian households, 59 percent owned their homes.

Footnotes

[1] Data sources used in this brief were the 2009-2013 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata and the Census 2000.
[2] The neighborhood was defined as Census Tracts 1186, 1188, 1190, 1196, 1200, 1202, 1208 in Kings County; and Census Tracts 36, 42, 44.01, 52, 54, and 58 in Queens County.
[3] "Limited English Proficiency" refers to individuals who reported speaking English "well," "not well," or "not at all."
[4] For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.
[5] The poverty definition used in this profile is the federal poverty threshold as used by the U.S. Census Bureau for their statistical products.
[6] The commonly accepted definition of crowded housing is more than one occupant per room in a housing unit.
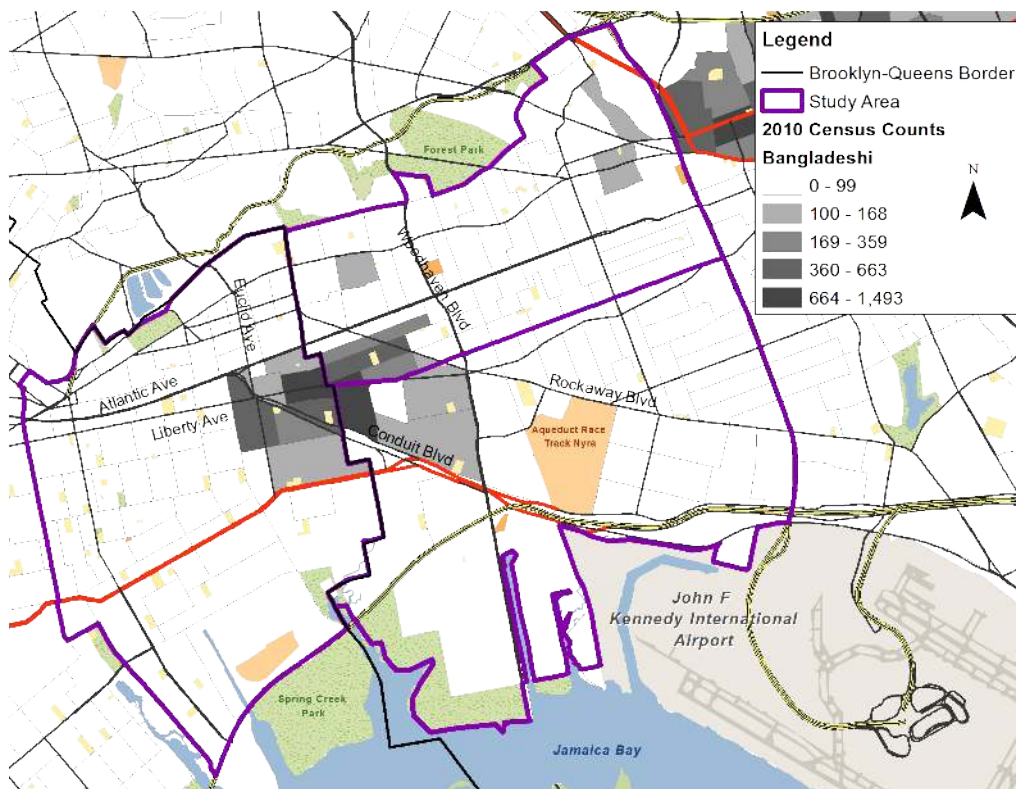
About this Profile

Through this series of demographic profiles, the Asian American Federation Census Information Center seeks 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.

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Map 1: Bangladeshi Population in City Line Neighborhood and Boundaries of Study Area