Census Profile: Asian American Population in the Bronx
Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center

Introduction
Drawing on 2000 and 1990 U.S. census data, this profile summarizes characteristics and patterns among Asian Americans living in the Bronx. It offers statistics on population size and growth, immigration, citizenship status, educational attainment, English ability, income, poverty, and housing. Comparisons with the entire Bronx population are included.

A population increase from 1990 to 2000 is among the themes census data illustrate. Also, compared with Bronx residents overall, in 2000, the borough’s Asian population had higher post-secondary education levels; a lower child-poverty rate; and higher incomes. However, Bronx Asians also had substantially larger households and lower English skills.

Population
From 1990 to 2000, the Asian population in the Bronx rose by 38 percent, from 35,021 to 48,502 – exceeding an 11 percent increase for the borough overall but not coming near 71 percent growth for the city-wide Asian population.

As of the last census, about 6 percent of New York City’s Asian population lived in the Bronx where Asians comprised 4 percent of residents.

The five largest Asian ethnic groups in the Bronx in 2000 were Indians (19,305), Chinese (7,628), Filipinos (5,446), Koreans (4,076) and Vietnamese (3,289).

The highest growth rates among Asian groups in the borough in the last decade were recorded for Bangladeshis (320 percent), Sri Lankans (127 percent), Malaysians (123 percent), Pakistanis (104 percent) and Hmong (100 percent). From 1990 to 2000, Indian and Chinese Bronxites experienced the greatest numerical increases, of 4,047 and 1,107 people, respectively.

By age, 26 percent (12,371) of the Bronx’s Asian residents were children (younger than 17), 68 percent (32,664) were working-age adults (18 to 64), and 6 percent (2,997) were senior citizens (65 and older). This distribution was similar to that for the borough overall: 30 percent children, 60 percent working-age adults and 10 percent seniors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian Group (w/o Taiwanese)</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>% Growth from 1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
<td>11,051</td>
<td>15,258</td>
<td>38.1%</td>
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<td>582</td>
<td>1,691</td>
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Nearly 60 percent of elderly Asian Americans in the Bronx have limited English skills.

Immigration and Citizenship
Almost three-quarters, or 74 percent (35,474), of Bronx Asians in 2000 were foreign-born, compared with 29 percent of all borough residents.

Most Asian immigrants in the Bronx in 2000 had moved to the United States in the last 20 years, contributing to recent population growth. Specifically, 52 percent (18,299) immigrated from 1990 to March 2000; 35 percent (12,506) came to this country from 1980 to 1989; and 13 percent (4,669) arrived before 1980.

Of the Bronx’s Asian immigrants counted in the 2000 census, 41 percent (14,595) were naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 11 percent of all the immigrants in the Bronx. Also, 35 percent of foreign-born Asian Bronxites became citizens within 20 years, surpassing 28 percent of immigrants borough-wide.

Educational Attainment
Education levels for Asians in 2000 were similar to or, particularly at the upper end of the academic spectrum, higher than those for the general Bronx population.

Of the Bronx’s total Asian adult population, 32 percent (9,713) had not graduated from high school, compared with 38 percent of adults borough-wide. Also, 20 percent (5,921) of all adult Asian Bronxites had less than a ninth-grade education, matching the overall borough percentage.

At the high end of the educational scale, 49 percent (14,763) of Asian adults in the Bronx had some form of post-secondary education, compared with 36 percent of all borough adults.

Although the majority of school-age Asian children in the borough (80 percent, or 8,174) were enrolled in the New York City public school system, that percentage was slightly lower than 84 percent for all Bronx children.

English Proficiency
The Bronx’s Asian population had higher rates of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) than residents borough-wide in 2000 – both overall and by age group. The percentage of the total Asian population in the Bronx who spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all” was 39 percent (17,270), compared with 25 percent of all Bronxites. In terms of age, the LEP classification applied to 40 percent (12,953) of Asian working-age adults and 59 percent (1,776) of elderly Asians, compared with 27 percent of working-age adults and 27 percent of senior citizens throughout the borough.

Income
By all Census 2000 income measures, Asians in the Bronx had higher earnings than the general borough population.

Asian median household income of $37,585 and median family income of $38,220 exceeded corresponding overall borough figures of $27,611 and $30,682. Asian per capita income was $15,618, higher than $13,959 borough-wide.

Poverty
Poverty rates for Asians in relation to the total Bronx population as of the 2000 census were lower overall and for children but a bit higher for senior citizens.

Among all Asian Bronxites, 22 percent (10,357) lived below the poverty line, compared with an overall borough poverty rate of 31 percent. Furthermore, 29 percent (3,561) of the borough’s Asian children lived in poverty, compared with 42 percent of all borough children. (Some 61 percent, or 2,178, of the borough’s Asian children in poverty lived in two-parent families, compared with 21 percent of all borough children in poverty.) However, 22 percent (660) of Asian senior citizens lived in poverty, slightly exceeding 21 percent for all elderly Bronx residents.

Housing
In 2000, Asian Bronx households had an average of 3.24 people, contrasted with 2.78 for the general borough population.

According to the census, 77 percent of Asian Bronxites rented and 23 percent owned their homes, similar to 80 percent renters and 20 percent homeowners in the borough overall.
Distribution of the Asian American Population in the Bronx

Population in 2000
- 0
- 1 - 99
- 100 - 249
- 250 - 499
- 500 - 999
- 1000 +

Landmarks (With No Population)

Produced by the Asian American Federation of New York.
Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau Summary File One.
"Single Race Alone or in Combination" Category.
Footnotes
1 All numbers are from the Summary Files (SF) One, Two, Three and Four of the
U.S. census. However, SF One and SF Two refer to information collected from
a 100 percent U.S. population survey whereas SF Three and Four data represent
results from a sample survey of 1 in 6 Americans.
2 Rates and percentages for each data section are derived from the data universe
related to the topic at hand. Therefore, population tallies for one particular topic
will not necessarily correspond with those for another topic.
3 The U.S. Census Bureau uses “Asian Indian” to mean people indicating their
race as Asian Indian, Bengalese, Bharat, Dravidian, East Indian or Goanese.
This profile uses “Indian” for this population group, based on the population’s
preference.
4 In 2000, the Chinese population numbers did not include the Taiwanese
population.
5 Based on “Asian Alone” categories, the five largest Asian groups in the Bronx
were Indians (15,258), Chinese (6,521), Filipinos (4,695), Koreans (3,845) and
Vietnamese (3,044).
6 For education tabulations, adults were defined as individuals age 25 and older.
7 Limited English Proficiency in this profile refers to speaking English “well,”
“not well” or “not at all.”
8 Household income refers to the income of all occupants of a housing unit.
Family income refers 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.
9 In the 2000 census, families and individuals were classified as below the poverty
line if their total family income or unrelated individual income was less than the
poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder, and
number of related children younger than 18 present in 1999. For these thresholds,

Technical Notes

Race Categories
The 2000 census was the first decennial census in
which respondents were allowed to mark more than
one race. As a consequence, Census 2000 race
information is far more complicated than such data
from previous censuses. For example, 2000 data
include results for single-race as well as multiple-
race responses. “Asian Alone” corresponds to the
respondents who reported exactly one Asian group and
no other race category. “Alone” should be considered
the minimum population size in any analysis that uses
Census 2000 data. To be as inclusive as possible, this
profile uses “Asian Alone or in Any Combination”
numbers.

“All alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the
responses (not respondents) that included the selected
Asian group, either alone or in any combination with
other Asian groups or other race categories. If a
respondent selected an Asian group and another racial
group (e.g., Korean and black), that individual, while
excluded from the “Asian Alone” count, was tallied
in the “Alone or in Any Combination” count for the
Asian group and the other racial group. Hence, some
overlap in the “In Combination” numbers occurred.
“Alone or in Any Combination” should be considered
the maximum population size in any analysis that uses
Census 2000 data.

About This Profile
This is one of a series of population profiles
prepared by the Asian American Federation of
New York Census Information Center (CIC) to
increase understanding of the rapidly-growing and
diverse Asian American population in the New York
metropolitan area.

The Asian American Federation of New York, a
nonprofit leadership organization that works to
advance the civic voice and quality of life of Asian
Americans in the New York metropolitan area, was
selected by the U.S. Census Bureau to operate the
only Asian American-focused CIC in the Northeast.
Established in 2000, the center provides census
information, conducts data and policy analysis, and
encourages census participation.

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
For more information regarding this profile,
please contact the data manager, Asian American
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at (212) 344-5878, ext. 19 or cic@aafny.org, or visit
www.aafny.org/cic/.

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