



Profile of New York City’s Filipino Americans: 2013 Edition

Asian American Federation Census Information Center

Introduction

Using data from the Census Bureau’s 2006-2008 and 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS), this profile outlines characteristics and trends in New York City’s Filipino American population.¹ It presents data on growth rates, immigration, citizenship status, educational attainment, English ability, poverty, income, and housing. Key variables will be placed in context with New York City’s total population.

As the fourth largest Asian ethnic group in New York City, Filipinos had, relative to all residents:

- higher education levels,
- better English skills,
- higher incomes,
- and lower poverty rates.

Population

New York City was home to 61 percent of New York State’s Filipino residents. The Filipino population in New York City grew by 6.6 percent, from 77,191 in 2008 to 82,313 in 2011. Filipinos, the fourth largest Asian group in the city, comprised 7 percent of the Asian population.

By borough, 56 percent of Filipino New Yorkers lived in Queens, 15 percent in Manhattan, 13 percent in Brooklyn, 8 percent in the Bronx, and 8 percent in Staten Island.² Neighborhoods with large Filipino populations included Elmhurst, Woodside, Briarwood - Jamaica Hill, Elmhurst - Maspeth, Queens Village, Jamaica Estates - Holliswood, Jamaica, Pomonok-Flushing Heights-Hillcrest, Jackson Heights, and Bellerose in Queens.³

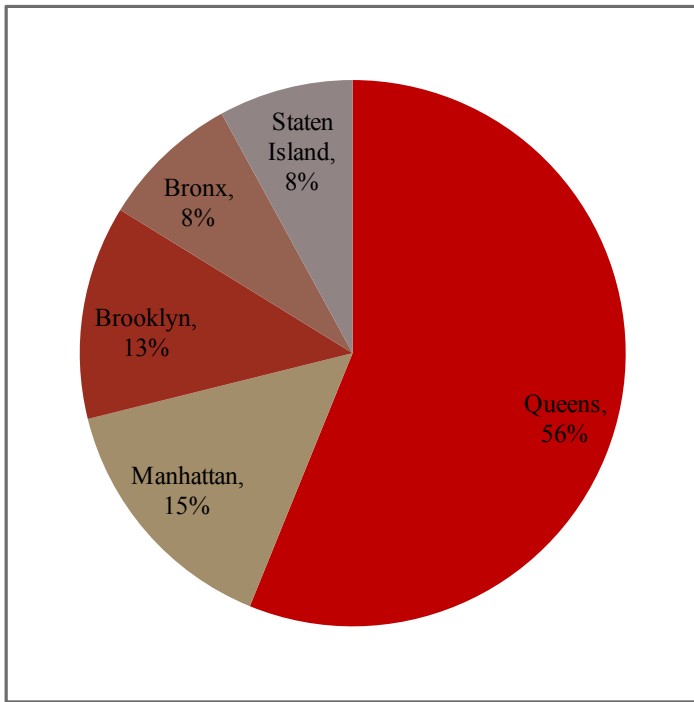
Filipinos in New York City had a similar age distribution with the general population. Children (under 18 years of age) were 18 percent of Filipinos, slightly lower than the 22 percent citywide. Working age adults (age 18 to 64) were 70 percent of Filipinos and 11.5 percent were seniors (age 65 or older), close to 66 percent and 12 percent, respectively, for all New Yorkers.⁴ The median age of Filipinos dropped from 38.6 years in 2008 to 37.2 years in 2011, and was still higher than the 35.5 years for general population.

Over half of Filipinos (58 percent) were female, up from 56 percent in 2008. The citywide female share was lower at 52.5 percent.

Filipino New Yorker Statistics at a Glance

Population	
Alone or in-Combination Population in 2009-2011	82,313
Population in Queens as a Percentage of NYC Pop.	56%
Population in Manhattan	15%
Population in Brooklyn	13%
Population in the Bronx	8%
Population in Staten Island	8%
Alone or in-Combination Population in 2006-2008	77,191
Percent Change from 2008	6.6%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Foreign-Born Percentage of Total Population	68%
Citizenship Percentage of Foreign-Born	56%
Educational Attainment (Adults 25 and Older)	
Percentage of Adults Without a High School Diploma	5%
Percentage of Adults With a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	68%
Limited English Proficiency (Speaks English “Well,” “Not Well” or “Not at All”)	
Percentage of Total Population	21%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$81,929
Median Family Income	\$92,486
Per Capita Income	\$36,431
Poverty	
Percentage of Total Population Living in Poverty	7.8%
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty	11.4%
Percentage of Elderly Living in Poverty	8.2%

Figure 1: Filipino Population by Borough



Immigration and Citizenship

Over the same time period, the Filipino immigrant population grew by 5 percent from 53,342 to 55,859, compared to 1 percent decline for the citywide immigrant population. The percent of Filipino New Yorkers who were immigrants was 68 percent.

In New York City, 36 percent of Filipino immigrants came to live in the United States in 2000 or later, compared to 32 percent of immigrants in general.

Of the city’s Filipino immigrants, 56 percent were naturalized citizens, close to the 51 percent of all New York City immigrants.

Education

Filipinos in New York City had more schooling than the citywide population. In New York City’s Filipino adult population,⁵ only 5 percent did not have a high school diploma, significantly lower than the citywide rate of 21 percent.

At the other end of the spectrum, the majority (68 percent) of Filipinos had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with 34 percent for the city overall. The rate for Filipinos rose from 62 percent in 2008, while the citywide rate increased from 32.5 percent in 2008.

English Proficiency

The overall limited English proficiency (LEP) rate of Filipinos was just below that of New Yorkers.⁶ According to the ACS, 21 percent of Filipinos spoke English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”, compared with the citywide LEP incidence of 23 percent. By age group, 11 percent of Filipino children, 21 percent of Filipino adults (age 18 to 64), and 38 percent of Filipino seniors had English limitations, compared with 11 percent, 24 percent, and 33 percent, respectively, of all New Yorkers.⁷

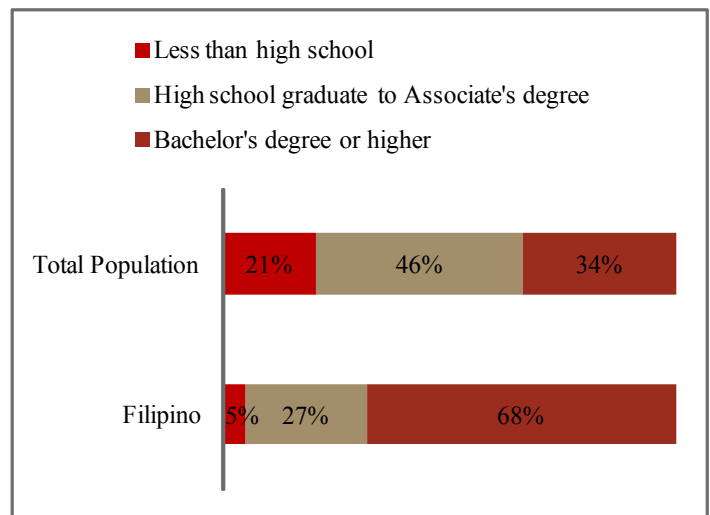
Poverty

The poverty rates for Filipinos were among the lowest for Asian ethnic groups in the city.⁸ The overall poverty rate for Filipinos rose from 4.7 percent in 2008 to 7.8 percent in 2011, and was still much lower than the citywide rate of 20.1 percent. Among children, 11.4 percent of Filipinos lived in poverty – a lower rate than 29.1 percent for all children. However, Filipino children experienced a significant increase of poverty rate from 1.7 percent in 2008. The poverty rates of 6.8 percent for Filipino working age adults (age 18 to 64) and 8.2 percent for Filipino seniors were lower than 17.5 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively, for all New Yorkers in those age groups.

Income

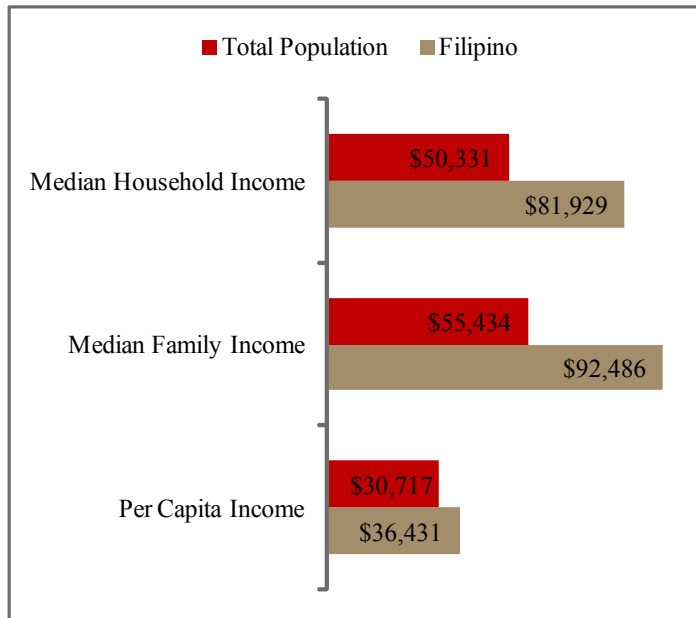
Filipinos in New York City had higher incomes than the general population.⁹ Filipino median household income of \$81,929 was higher than the citywide figure of \$50,331. Median family income for Filipinos of \$92,486 almost doubled the citywide median family

Figure 2: Educational Attainment of Total Population and Filipinos



income of \$55,434. Filipino per capita income of \$36,431 was above citywide per capita income of \$30,717.

Figure 3: Median Household Income, Median Family Income & Per Capita Income of Total Population and Filipinos



Housing

Compared with the average New York City household size (2.63 people), Filipinos had larger households (averaging 2.81 people). 10 percent of Filipino households had more than one occupant per room, close to 9 percent of households in general.¹⁰

The 39 percent homeownership rate for Filipino households was slightly higher than 32 percent for all households.

Filipino households in New York City were less likely to devote a large share of their income to housing expenses than households in general. Among homeowners, 41 percent of Filipino households paid thirty percent or more of their household income to owner costs, compared with 51 percent of all households that owned.¹¹ For renters, 40 percent of Filipino households spent more than thirty percent of their household income on rent and utilities, compared with 53 percent of all households that rented. This rate for Filipinos rose significantly from 32 percent in 2008.

Footnotes

¹ Data source used in this brief were the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates and the 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates and are for the Filipino Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted.

² Data based on Filipino Alone.

³ Data from Census 2010, and for Filipino Alone or in Any Combination and neighborhood definitions from the New York City Department of City Planning Neighborhood Tabulation Areas.

⁴ The small sample sizes for Filipinos in New York City resulted in large margins of error. Statistical tests comparing the percentages of working age adults and seniors for Filipinos with New York City as a whole within the ACS 2009-2011, show no statistically significant difference between the two data sets. In short, the ACS data cannot show a difference in the percentages of working age adults and seniors between Filipinos and all New Yorkers.

⁵ For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.

⁶ “Limited English Proficiency” refers to individuals who reported speaking English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”.

⁷ Data from 2009-2011 ACS 3-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and for Filipino Alone only.

⁸ 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 <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/index.html>.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ The commonly accepted definition of crowded housing is more than one occupant per room.

¹¹ Selected monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs.

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

American Community Survey

As part of the redesign of the decennial census, the Census Bureau implemented the American Community Survey (ACS) as the replacement for the Decennial Census Long Form. Instead of collecting Long Form data (demographic, housing, social, and economic information) once every ten years, the ACS supplies communities new local data every year. In order to obtain sufficiently large number of samples for small populations, the ACS makes use of the concept of period estimates. For Census tracts, five-year period estimates are updated annually starting in 2010. For communities with 20,000 or more people, annual three-year period estimates are released. Populations with 65,000 or more people receive annual single-year estimates.

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. For more on the Federation, visit www.aafederation.org.

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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