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 Indian 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 second largest Asian ethnic group in New York City, Indians had, relative to all residents:

- higher median household and median family incomes,
- lower poverty rates,
- higher homeownership rate,
- and lived in more crowded housing conditions.

Population

New York City was home to 64 percent of New York State’s Indian residents. The Indian population in New York City dropped by 5.6 percent, from 243,341 in 2008 to 229,663 in 2011. Indians, the second largest Asian group in the city, comprised 20.5 percent of the Asian population.

By borough, 65 percent of Indian New Yorkers lived in Queens, 12 percent in Manhattan, 12 percent in Brooklyn, 6.5 percent in the Bronx, and 5 percent in Staten Island.² The percent of Indians rose from 10.5 percent in 2008 in Manhattan, and increased from 3 percent in 2008 in Staten Island. Neighborhoods with large Indian populations included South Ozone Park, Richmond Hill, Jackson Heights, Jamaica, Bellerose, Queens Village, Glen Oaks-Floral Park-New Hyde Park, Briarwood - Jamaica Hill, Elmhurst, and Flushing in Queens.³

Indians in New York City were more likely to be working age adults (age 18 to 64) than the general population. By age group, 71 percent of Indians were working age adults (age 18 to 64), higher than the citywide rate of 66 percent. The percent of Indian children (under 18 years of age) fell from 27 percent in 2008 to 22 percent, and became same with the citywide rate. The percent of Indian seniors grew from 6 percent to 7 percent over the same period, but still lower than 12 percent of the general population. The median age of 33.2 years for Indians was lower than 35.5 years for population in general.

Less than half of Indians (49 percent) were females, up from 47 percent in 2008, while the citywide
females were higher at 52.5 percent. The female share of 48.5 percent for Indian adults (age 18 to 64), 48 percent for Indian adults (age 35 to 64), and 49 percent for Indian seniors (age 65 or older), were lower than 51.5 percent, 53 percent, and 60 percent, respectively, for citywide adults in those age groups.

At the other end of the spectrum, 45 percent of Indians had a bachelor’s degree or higher, higher than 34 percent for the city overall. This rate for Indians grew from 42 percent in 2008.

**English Proficiency**

New York City’s Indian population had similar overall limited English proficiency (LEP) rate with the general population. According to the ACS, the percent of Indians who spoke English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all” dropped from 28 percent in 2008 to 24.5 percent in 2011, close to the citywide LEP incidence of 23 percent. 8 percent of Indian children, 26 percent of Indian adults (age 18 to 64), and 44 percent of Indian seniors had English limitations, compared with 11 percent, 24 percent, and 33 percent, respectively, of all New Yorkers in those age groups.

**Poverty**

The poverty rates for Indians were lower in relation to all New Yorkers. Overall, 17 percent of Indians lived below the poverty line, lower than the citywide rate of 20.1 percent. Among children, 22.7 percent of Indians lived in poverty – a lower rate than 29.1 percent for all children. The 15.1 percent poverty rate for Indian adults (age 18 to 64) was also lower than the 17.5 percent for citywide adults. Indian seniors and all elderly New Yorkers shared similar poverty rates of 17.9 percent and 18.2 percent respectively.

**Income**

Indians in New York City had higher median household and median family incomes than the general population. Indian median household income of $62,775 was higher than the citywide figure of $50,331. Median family income for Indians of $62,911 was above the citywide median family income of $55,434. Indian per capita income of $29,540 was close to the citywide figure of $30,717.

**Housing**

Compared with the average New York City household size (2.63 people), Indians had larger households (averaging 3.22 people). Indian households were more likely to live in crowded conditions. While 9 percent of households in general had more than one occupant per room, 14 percent of Indian households had more than one occupant per room. The rate for Indian households fell from 17 percent in 2008.

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**Immigration and Citizenship**

Over the same time period, the Indian immigrant population dropped by 8 percent from 175,045 to 161,051, compared to 1 percent decline for the citywide immigrant population. The percent of Indian New Yorkers who were immigrants was 70 percent.

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

Of the city’s Indian immigrants, 56 percent were naturalized citizens, slightly higher than that of all New York City immigrants (51 percent).

**Education**

Indians in New York City had about the same levels of education as the citywide population. In New York City’s Indian adult population, the percent of adults without a high school diploma fell from 21 percent in 2008 to 19 percent in 2011, similar to the citywide rate of 21 percent.
Indian households had higher homeownership rate than the general population. 41.5 percent of Indian households owned a house, compared with 32 percent for the city overall.

One in seven Indian households had crowded conditions.

Indian homeowners in New York City were more likely to devote a large share of their income to housing expenses than households in general. Among homeowners, 62 percent of Indian households paid thirty percent or more of their household income to owner costs, compared with 51 percent of all households that owned.10 For renters, 52 percent of Indian households spent more than thirty percent of their household income on rent and utilities, close to 53 percent of all households that rented.

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 Asian Indian Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted.
2 Data based on Asian Indian Alone.
3 Data from Census 2010, and for Asian Indian Alone or in Any Combination and neighborhood definitions from the New York City Department of City Planning Neighborhood Tabulation Areas.
4 For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.
5 “Limited English Proficiency” refers to individuals who reported speaking English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”.
6 Data from 2000-2011 ACS 3-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and for Asian Indian Alone only.
7 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 household, 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.
8 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.
9 The commonly accepted definition of crowded housing is more than one occupant per room.
10 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. “Asian Indian 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 “Asian Indian Alone or in Any Combination” numbers where possible. “Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Asian Indian, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Asian Indian and another racial group (e.g., Asian Indian and black), that individual, while excluded from the “Asian Indian 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.

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.aafed.org.

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Asian American Federation
120 Wall Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10005
Tel.: (212) 344-5878 | Fax: (212) 344-5636
E-mail: info@aafederation.org
Indian Population in South Ozone Park, Richmond Hill & Jamaica

Legend
Indian Population
- 0 - 99
- 100 - 299
- 300 - 499
- 500 - 999
- 1,000 - 2,406

Produced by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center
Sources: Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau

Indian Population in Bellerose, Queens Village, Glen Oaks, Floral Park & New Hyde Park

Legend
Indian Population
- 0 - 99
- 100 - 299
- 300 - 499
- 500 - 999
- 1,000 - 2,406

Produced by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center
Sources: Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau
Indian Population in Jackson Heights, Elmhurst & Flushing

Legend
Indian Population
- 0 - 99
- 100 - 299
- 300 - 499
- 500 - 999
- 1,000 - 2,406

Produced by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center
Sources: Census 2010, U.S. Census Bureau