



Profile of New York City’s Korean 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 Korean 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 third largest Asian ethnic group, Korean New Yorkers had, relative to all residents:

- higher education levels,
- lower child poverty rate but higher senior poverty rate,
- more likely to rent,
- lower English skills, especially for seniors,
- and devoted larger portions of their income to housing costs.

Population

New York City was home to 67 percent of New York State’s Korean residents. The Korean population in New York City grew by 11 percent, from 93,011 in 2008 to 103,335 in 2011. Koreans, the third largest Asian group in the city, comprised 9 percent of the Asian population.

Korean New Yorker Statistics at a Glance

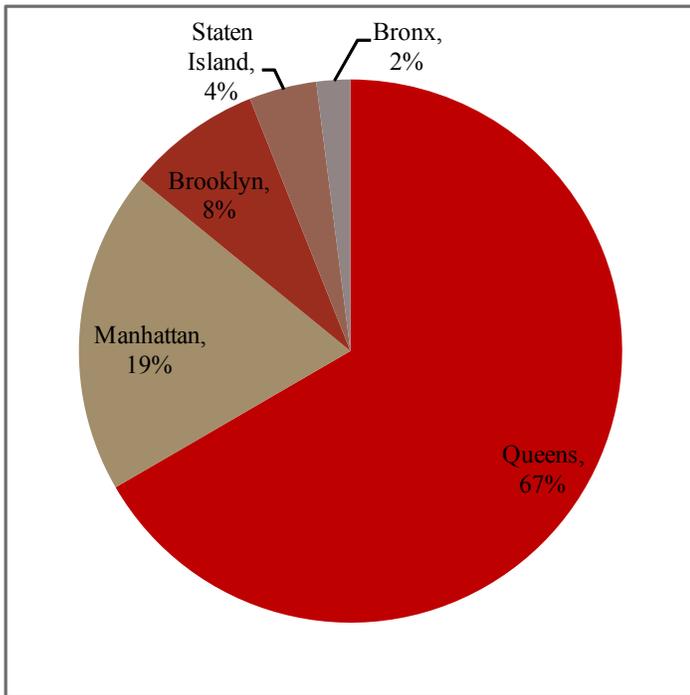
Population	
Alone or in-Combination Population in 2009-2011	103,335
Population in Queens as a Percentage of NYC Pop.	67%
Population in Manhattan	19%
Population in Brooklyn	8%
Population in Staten Island	4%
Population in the Bronx	2%
Alone or in-Combination Population in 2006-2008	93,011
Percent Change from 2008	11%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Foreign-Born Percentage of Total Population	71%
Citizenship Percentage of Foreign-Born	47%
Educational Attainment (Adults 25 and Older)	
Percentage of Adults Without a High School Diploma	9%
Percentage of Adults With a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	53%
Limited English Proficiency (Speaks English “Well,” “Not Well” or “Not at All”)	
Percentage of Total Population	49%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$53,840
Median Family Income	\$55,652
Per Capita Income	\$32,534
Poverty	
Percentage of Total Population Living in Poverty	17.7%
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty	10.4%
Percentage of Elderly Living in Poverty	25.5%

By borough, 67 percent of Korean New Yorkers lived in Queens, 19 percent in Manhattan, 8 percent in Brooklyn, 4 percent in Staten Island, and 2 percent in the Bronx.² The percent of Koreans in the Bronx fell from 4 percent in 2008. Neighborhoods with large Korean populations included Murray Hill, Flushing, Bayside - Bayside Hills, Oakland Gardens, East Flushing, Douglas Manor-Douglaston-Little Neck, Fresh Meadows - Utopia, Auburndale, Hunters Point-Sunnyside-West Maspeth, and Fort Totten-Bay Terrace-Clearview in Queens.³

Koreans in New York City were more likely to be working age adults (age 18 to 64) than the general population. By age group, 75 percent of Koreans were working age adults, compared with 66 percent of general population. Besides, 16 percent of Koreans were children (under 18 years of age) and 9 percent were seniors (age 65 or older), both lower than 22 percent and 12 percent, respectively, for all New Yorkers. The percent of Korean children fell from 19 percent in 2008. The median age of 34.7 years for Koreans was lower than 35.5 years for general population.

More than half of Koreans (56 percent) were female, higher than 52.5 percent of the citywide population. The percent of Korean females rose from 54 percent in 2008.

Figure 1: Korean Population by Borough



Population

Over the same time period, the Korean immigrant population grew by 8 percent from 67,662 to 73,312, compared to 1 percent decline for the citywide immigrant population. The percent of Korean New Yorkers who were immigrants accounted for 71 percent.

One in three (33 percent) Korean 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 Korean immigrants, 47 percent were naturalized citizens, close to that of all New York City immigrants (51 percent).

Education

Koreans in New York City had more schooling than the citywide population. In New York City’s Korean adult population,⁴ 9 percent did not have a high school diploma, much lower than the citywide rate of 21 percent.

At the other end of the spectrum, more than half (53 percent) of Koreans had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with one in three (34 percent) adults in general.

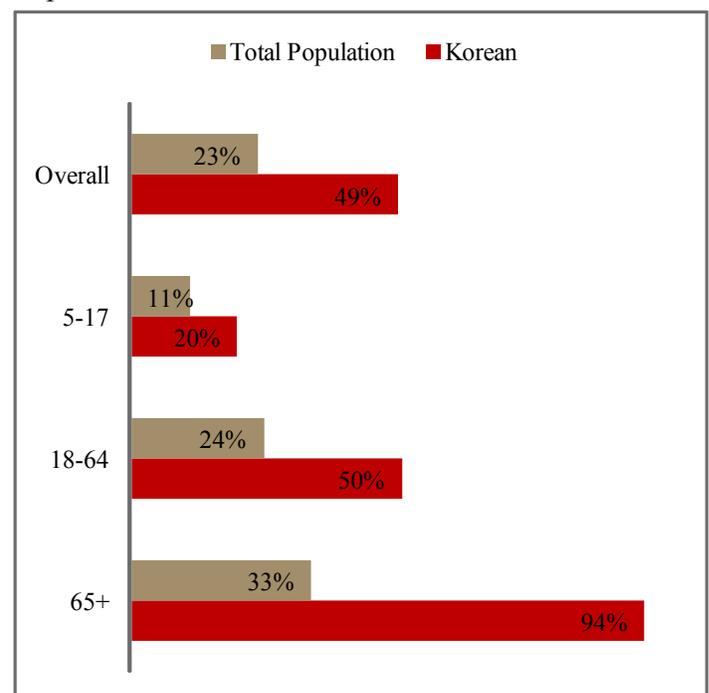
English Proficiency

Koreans were more likely to have limited English proficiency (LEP) than the general population.⁵ According to the ACS, about half (49 percent) of Korean spoke English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”, much higher than the citywide LEP incidence of 23 percent. The LEP rate for Koreans fell from 54.5 percent in 2008. Over nine in ten (94 percent) Korean seniors had limited English proficiency, compared with one in three (33 percent) seniors in general. Besides, 20 percent of Korean children and half of Korean adults (age 18 to 64) had English limitations, compared with 11 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all New Yorkers in those age groups.⁶

Poverty

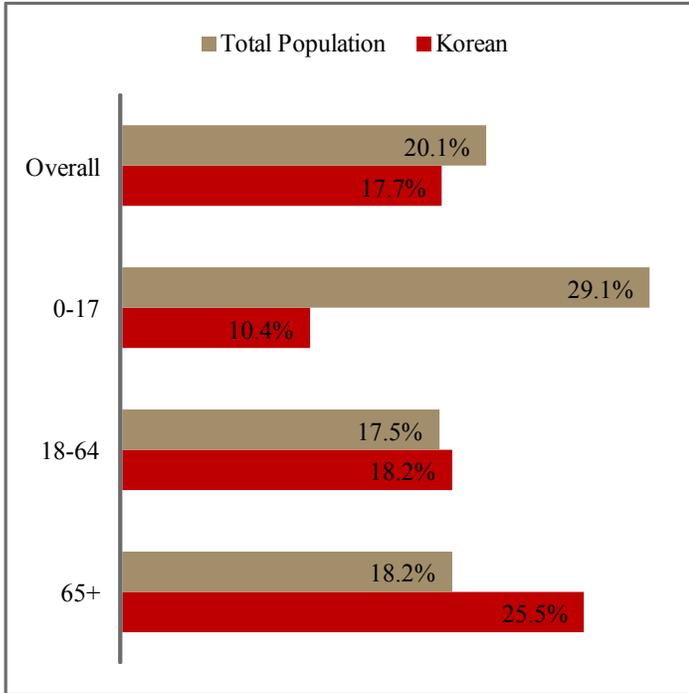
Koreans had similar overall poverty rate with all New Yorkers.⁷ Overall, 17.7 percent of Koreans lived below the poverty line, close to the citywide rate of 20.1 percent.⁸ The overall poverty rate for Koreans rose from 14.1 percent in 2008. The 10.4 percent poverty rate of Korean children was lower than 29.1 percent for all children, while the 25.2 percent poverty

Figure 2: Limited English Proficiency of Total Population and Koreans



rate of Korean seniors was higher than 18.2 of all elderly New Yorkers. The poverty rate for adults (age 18 to 64) rose from 12.5 percent in 2008 to 18.2 percent in 2011, and was close to 17.5 percent of all working age adults.

Figure 3: Poverty Rates of Total Population and Koreans



Income

Koreans in New York City had similar levels of incomes as the general population.⁹ Korean median household income of \$53,840 was slightly higher than the citywide figure of \$50,331. Median family income for Koreans of \$55,652 was close to the citywide median family income of \$55,434. Korean per capita income of \$32,534 was similar to the citywide per capita income of \$30,717.

Housing

Compared with the average New York City household size (2.63 people), Korean had similar households (averaging 2.57 people). Korean households were less likely to live in crowded conditions than households in general. While 9 percent of households in general had more than one occupant per room, only 7 percent of Korean households had more than one occupant per room.¹⁰

A higher percentage of Korean households rented in New York City, compared to households overall.

Almost three in four (74 percent) Korean households rented, compared with 68 percent for the city overall.

Korean households in New York City were more likely to devote a large share of their income to housing expenses than households in general. Among homeowners, 61 percent of Korean 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, 59 percent of Korean households spent more than thirty percent of their household income on rent and utilities, compared with 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 Korean Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted.

² Data based on Korean Alone.

³ Data from Census 2010, and for Korean 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 2009-2011 ACS 3-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and for Korean 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 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>.

⁸ Statistical tests comparing the overall poverty rates for Koreans 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 overall poverty rates between Koreans and New York City as a whole.

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. “Korean Alone” corresponds to the respondents who reported only Korean 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 “Korean Alone or in Any Combination” numbers where possible. “Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Korean, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a

respondent selected Korean and another racial group (e.g., Korean and black), that individual, while excluded from the “Korean Alone” count, was tallied in the “Alone or in Any Combination” count for Korean 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/.

Funding support for this profile has been provided generously by Wallace H. Coulter Foundation.

© 2013 Asian American Federation
 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

