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 Pakistani 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 one of the fastest growing Asian ethnic groups in New York City, Pakistanis had, relative to all residents:

- younger population,
- lower English skills,
- higher overall poverty rate,
- larger household size,
- lived in more crowded housing conditions,
- more likely to rent,
- and devoted larger portions of their income to housing costs.

Population
New York City was home to 61 percent of New York State’s Pakistani residents. The Pakistani population in New York City grew by 38 percent, from 32,869 in 2008 to 45,335 in 2011. Pakistanis, the sixth largest Asian group in the city, comprised 4 percent of the Asian population.

By borough, 45 percent of Pakistani New Yorkers lived in Queens, 37 percent in Brooklyn, 6 percent in the Bronx, 6 percent in Staten Island, and 5 percent in Manhattan.\(^2\) Neighborhoods with large Pakistani populations included Flatbush, Brighton Beach, Midwood, Kensington - Ocean Parkway, and Bensonhurst West in Brooklyn; and Jackson Heights, Briarwood - Jamaica Hill, Bellerose, Flushing, and Fresh Meadows - Utopia in Queens.\(^3\)

Pakistanis in New York City were younger overall than the general population. The median age of Pakistanis was only 28.9 years, much lower than 35.5 years for general population. Almost one in three (33 percent) Pakistanis was children, compared with 22 percent of all New Yorkers. Only 4 percent of Pakistanis were seniors (age 65 or older), much lower than the 12 percent of all New Yorkers.

The percent of Pakistani females rose from 43 percent in 2008 to 47 percent in 2011, but still lower than the citywide rate of 52.5 percent. Also, 43 percent of Pakistanis (age 35 to 64) were female, much lower than the 53 percent of the general population.
English Proficiency

Pakistanis had higher rates of limited English proficiency (LEP) than the general population.\(^6\) According to the ACS, 40 percent of Pakistanis spoke English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”, higher than the citywide LEP incidence of 23 percent. By age group, 71 percent of Pakistani seniors had limited English proficiency, compared with one in three (33 percent) seniors in general. In addition, 18 percent of Pakistani children and 44 percent of Pakistani adults (age 18 to 64) had English limitations, compared with 11 percent and 24 percent, respectively, of all New Yorkers in those age groups.\(^7\)

Poverty

The overall poverty rate for Pakistanis was higher than that of general population.\(^8\) Overall, one in four (25.2 percent) Pakistanis lived below the poverty line, slightly higher than the citywide rate of 20.1 percent. The 32.7 percent child poverty rate and 12.4 percent senior poverty rate for Pakistanis were close to 29.1 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively, for all New Yorkers.\(^9\) 22.1 percent of Pakistani adults (age 18 to 64) lived below the poverty, higher than the 17.5 percent of population in general.

Immigration and Citizenship

Over the same time period, the Pakistani immigrant population grew by 38 percent from 22,662 to 31,245, compared to 1 percent decline for the citywide immigrant population. Therefore, the percent of Pakistani New Yorkers who were immigrants accounted for 69 percent.

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

Of the city’s Pakistani immigrants, 54 percent were naturalized citizens, close to that of all New York City immigrants (51 percent).

Education

Pakistanis in New York City had similar education levels as the citywide population. In New York City’s Pakistani adult population,\(^4\) one in four (25 percent) did not have a high school diploma, slightly higher than the citywide rate of 21 percent.

At the other end of the spectrum, 37 percent of Pakistani had a bachelor’s degree or higher, close to 34 percent for the city overall.\(^5\)
Income

Pakistanis in New York City had similar median household income, but lower median family and per capita incomes than the general population.\(^1\) Pakistani median household income of $49,000 was close to the citywide figure of $50,331. Median family income for Pakistanis of $45,808 was below the citywide median family income of $55,434. Pakistani per capita income of $20,310 was lower than the citywide per capita income of $30,717.

Housing

Compared with the average New York City household size (2.63 people), Pakistani had larger households (averaging 4.11 people). Pakistani households were more likely to live in crowded conditions. While 9 percent of households in general had more than one occupant per room, 35 percent of Pakistani households had more than one occupant per room.\(^11\)

Over one in three Pakistani households had crowded conditions.

A higher percentage of Pakistani households rented in New York City, compared to households overall. 76 percent of Pakistani households rented, compared with 68 percent for the city overall.

Pakistani 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, 70 percent of Pakistani households paid thirty percent or more of their household income to owner costs, compared with 51 percent of all households that owned.\(^12\) For renters, 60 percent of Pakistani 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 Pakistani Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted.
2 Data based on Pakistani Alone.
3 Data from Census 2010, and for Pakistani 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 Statistical tests comparing the percentages with a bachelor’s degree or higher for Pakistanis 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 with a bachelor’s degree or higher between Pakistanis and New York City as a whole.
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 Pakistani 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 Statistical tests comparing the child and senior poverty rates for Pakistanis 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 child and senior poverty rates between Pakistanis and New York City as a whole.
10 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.
11 The commonly accepted definition of crowded housing is more than one occupant per room.
12 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 included results for single-race as well as multiple-race responses. “Pakistani Alone” corresponds to the respondents who reported only Pakistani 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 “Pakistani Alone or in Any Combination” numbers where possible. “Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included Pakistani, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected Pakistani and another racial group (e.g., Pakistani and black), that individual, while excluded from the “Pakistani Alone” count, was tallied in the “Alone or in Any Combination” count for Pakistani 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.

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