Introduction
Based on 2000 and 1990 U.S. census information, this profile outlines traits and patterns regarding Staten Island’s rapidly-growing Asian population. It presents statistics on population size and growth, immigration, citizenship status, educational attainment, English ability, income, poverty, and housing. Comparisons with Staten Island’s total population add context.

Staten Island’s Asian population increased markedly from 1990 to 2000. In 2000, compared with borough residents overall, the Asian population had higher median household and median family incomes, as well as greater educational attainment beyond high school. However, Asians also had lower per capita income and less command of English.

Population
From 1990 to 2000, the Asian population in Staten Island grew by 65 percent, from 16,856 to 27,740 –

### Staten Island Asian American Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian Group</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>% Growth from 1990</th>
<th>% Growth from 1990</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
<td>3,902</td>
<td>6,493</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
<td>7,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>185.0%</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodian</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese (w/o Taiwanese)</td>
<td>4,966</td>
<td>7,394</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>7,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>3,516</td>
<td>4,590</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>5,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hmong</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-20.0%</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>2,931</td>
<td>3,440</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>3,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laotian</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysian</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>228.6%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>157.0%</td>
<td>1,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>241.5%</td>
<td>944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwanese</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>-30.9%</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>149.5%</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>110.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>16,856</td>
<td>25,071</td>
<td>48.7%</td>
<td>27,740</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Immigration and Citizenship
Slightly more than two-thirds, or 68 percent (18,258), of Asian Staten Islanders in 2000 were immigrants, compared with 16 percent of the entire borough population.

Most Asian immigrants in Staten Island in 2000 had moved to the United States in the last 20 years, triggering recent population growth. Specifically, 34 percent (6,256) of foreign-born Asian Staten Islanders immigrated from 1990 to March 2000; 36 percent (6,569) came to this country from 1980 to 1989; and 30 percent (5,433) arrived before 1980.

Of Staten Island’s Asian immigrants as of the 2000 census, 58 percent (10,556) were naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with 55 percent of all borough immigrants. In addition, 46 percent of foreign-born Asian Staten Islanders became citizens within 20 years, exceeding 38 percent of all immigrants in the borough.

English Proficiency
In 2000, Staten Island’s Asian population had higher degrees of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) – both overall and by age group. More than one-third, or 37 percent (9,432), of all Asian Staten Islanders spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all,” compared with 10 percent of the entire borough population. By age, limited English skills were attributed to 42 percent (7,532) of Asian working-age adults and 63 percent (1,233) of elderly Asians – rates significantly higher than 11 percent and 12 percent, respectively, throughout the borough.

Income
2000 census information demonstrates two opposite income trends for Asian Staten Island residents. On the one hand, Asian median household income of $61,212 and median family income of $65,461 were higher than corresponding borough-wide figures of $55,039 and $64,333. On the other hand, Asian per capita income, at $22,851, was lower than $23,905 for the borough overall.

Poverty
Poverty for Asians in relation to the total Staten Island population as of the 2000 census was slightly less common overall and for children but occurred a bit more frequently among elderly residents.

Of all Asian Staten Islanders, 8 percent (2,260) lived below the poverty line, compared with a borough-wide poverty rate of 10 percent. Ten percent (713) of Staten Island’s Asian children lived in poverty, compared with 13 percent of all borough children. (Three-fourths, or 523, of Asian children in poverty lived in two-parent families, compared with 37 percent of all borough children in poverty.)

However, among elderly Staten Island residents, poverty rates were 13 percent (233) for Asians and 10 percent borough-wide.

Housing
With an average of 3.41 people, Asian Staten Islanders’ households in 2000 on the whole were considerably larger than those of the general borough population, which averaged 2.78 people. The household-size difference is a factor behind Asians’ higher-than-average household income but lower-
Distribution of the Asian American Population in Staten Island

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.
than-average per capita income in comparison with borough-wide statistics. Higher occupancy of Asian homes also suggests necessary sharing of housing units by multiple rent-payers, which could boost household income falsely and indicate overcrowding.

More Asian seniors lived in poverty than all seniors in Staten Island.

The majority of Asians in Staten Island owned their own homes in 2000, unlike Asians in other boroughs. Asians in Staten Island in 2000 had a 64 percent-36 percent ratio of homeowners to renters—the same as for the overall borough population.

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 When compared with the “Asian Alone” category for the 1990 census, the Asian population in Staten Island increased by 49 percent, from 16,856 to 25,071.
4 In 2000, Chinese population numbers did not include the Taiwanese population.
5 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.
6 Based on “Asian Alone” categories, the five largest Asian groups in Staten Island in 2000 were Chinese (7,394), Indians (6,493), Koreans (4,590), Filipinos (3,440) and Pakistanis (992).
7 For education tabulations, adults were defined as individuals age 25 and older.
8 Limited English Proficiency in this profile refers to individuals speaking English “well,” “not well” or “not at all.”
9 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.
10 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, please see http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld/thresh99.html.

Technical Note
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.

“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.

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

Data citations from this profile should include the following acknowledgment: “Data derived from analysis by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center.”

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Asian American Federation of New York
120 Wall Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10005
Tel.: (212) 344-5878 | Fax: (212) 344-5636
E-mail: info@aafny.org | Website: www.aafny.org