Introduction
Using data from the 2000 and 2010 U.S. censuses and 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables, this profile outlines characteristics and trends among New York City’s Taiwanese American population.\(^1\) It presents statistics on population size and changes, immigration, citizenship status, educational attainment, English ability, income, poverty, and housing. Comparisons with New York City’s general population are provided for context.

New York City’s Taiwanese population was among the fastest growing Asian ethnic groups. Taiwanese in New York City had, relative to all residents:

- higher percent of working-age adults,
- more education,
- lower English skills,
- higher incomes,
- higher poverty rates for working-age adults and seniors,
- and more likely to own their homes.

Population
From 2000 to 2010, the Taiwanese alone or in combination population in New York City more than doubled in size from 5,488 to 13,682 – significantly exceeding the city’s overall 2 percent increase and the 30 percent growth of the city’s total Asian population. The Taiwanese alone population soared by 172 percent from 4,288 in 2000 to 11,680 in 2010. New York City was home to 73 percent of New York State’s Taiwanese residents.

Part of the reason for the large increase may be due to individuals re-classifying themselves from Chinese in 2000 to Taiwanese in 2010. A broad multimedia outreach campaign during the 2010 Census encouraged many people with roots in Taiwan to self-identify on the Census form as Taiwanese, who may have identified as ethnic Chinese in the past.

The majority (66 percent) of Taiwanese New Yorkers lived in Queens (Figure 1). The remainder lived mostly in Manhattan and Brooklyn. The percent of Taiwanese in Queens dropped by 6 percent during the last decade, while the percent of Taiwanese in Manhattan increased by 5 percent.

In 2010, working-age adults (age 18 to 64) were represented disproportionately in New York City’s Taiwanese population, comprising 79 percent of the group, compared with 66 percent of all city residents. Children (under 18 years of age) and seniors (age 65 or older) each constituted 11 percent of the city’s
Taiwanese population, compared with 22 percent and 12 percent, respectively, of the city-wide population in those age groups.

Figure 1: Taiwanese Population by Borough

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**English Proficiency**

New York City’s Taiwanese residents had a higher incidence of limited English proficiency (LEP) than New Yorkers as a whole in 2010. Nearly half (45 percent) of the city’s total Taiwanese population spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all” – almost double the 23 percent rate for New Yorkers overall (Figure 2). Taiwanese children and seniors in particular had LEP rates which were almost three times higher than their age-group peers in the general population.

**Income**

Taiwanese New Yorkers had higher incomes than New York City residents overall for all income gauges. The Taiwanese median household income was $59,273, compared with $50,285 for the entire city population. Median family income was $75,463 for Taiwanese and $55,177 for city residents as a whole. Additionally, Taiwanese per capita income was $40,422 – more than $30,498 city-wide.

**Poverty**

The poverty rates for Taiwanese residents in relation to the total New York City population were lower,

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**Immigration and Citizenship**

About 68 percent of New York City’s Taiwanese in 2010 were foreign-born, compared to 37 percent of immigrants among all city residents. Over one in four (27 percent) Taiwanese immigrants in New York City came to the United States in 2000 or later, same as the citywide rate. Of all the city’s foreign-born Taiwanese residents, 60 percent were naturalized citizens, exceeding 51 percent of all foreign-born New Yorkers.

**Education**

Taiwanese in 2010 had more schooling than the city’s general population. Of the city’s 5,117 Taiwanese adults, only 7 percent had not graduated from high school, compared with 21 percent of adults city-wide. Also, only 3 percent of Taiwanese adults in New York City had less than a ninth-grade education – less than the 11 percent rate for all adult New Yorkers.

At the high end of the educational spectrum, more than eight in ten (82 percent) Taiwanese adults in New York City had some form of post-secondary education, compared with slightly over half (53 percent) of all city adults. Almost three-quarters (73 percent) of Taiwanese adults in New York City had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with one third (33 percent) of all city adults.
overall and for children, but higher for working age adults and seniors. Among all Taiwanese in the city, 16.9 percent lived below the poverty line, compared with the general New York City poverty rate of 19.1 percent. Only 6.7 percent of Taiwanese children in New York City experienced poverty, compared with 28.1 percent of all city children. However, 17.3 percent of working-age Taiwanese adults and 21.4 percent of elderly Taiwanese in the city lived in poverty, exceeding 16.3 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively, for residents city-wide in those age groups.

Taiwanese adults were more likely to be poor than adults in general.

Housing
Taiwanese New Yorkers in 2010 had slightly a smaller average household size than households in general (2.38 people versus 2.57 people). Taiwanese households were less likely to be overcrowded than households in general, with less than 3 percent of Taiwanese households and 8 percent of households in general having more than one occupant per room.

Taiwanese households were more likely to own their homes than households in general. Over half (51 percent) of Taiwanese in the city owned their homes, compared with 31 percent homeowners in the city overall.

Footnotes
1 Data sources used in this brief were the Summary Files (SF) Two and Four of the 2000 and 2010 U.S. Censuses and 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, and are for the Taiwanese Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted. 2010 Census provided population, household size and housing tenure statistics, and all other measurements in 2010 used 2006-2010 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables.
2 For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.
3 “Limited English Proficiency” refers to individuals who reported speaking English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”.
4 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.
5 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.

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

Legend
Taiwanese Population

- 0 - 49
- 50 - 99
- 100 - 199
- 200 - 267

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