



Census Profile: New York City's Japanese American Population

Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center

Introduction

This profile describes characteristics and trends among New York City's Japanese American population as reflected in 2000 and 1990 U.S. census data.¹ It presents census information on population size and growth, geographic and age distribution, immigration, citizenship, education, English ability, income, poverty, and housing. Comparisons with the city's total population provide perspective.²

Japanese American Statistics at a Glance

Population	
2000 Alone or In-Combination Population in New York City	26,419
Queens (as a Percentage of NYC Population)	5,957 (23%)
Manhattan	16,116 (61%)
Brooklyn	3,066 (12%)
Bronx	873 (3%)
Staten Island	407 (2%)
1990 Population in New York City	16,828
Population Growth from 1990 to 2000	57%
Immigration	
Foreign-Born Population	19,014
Foreign-Born Percentage of Total Population	73%
Educational Attainment (Adults 25 and Older)	
Number of Adults Without a High School Diploma	911
Percentage of Adults Without a High School Diploma	5%
Limited English Proficiency (Speaks English "Well," "Not Well" or "Not at All")	
Total Number	10,827
Percentage of Total Population	44%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$40,773
Median Family Income	\$64,531
Per Capita Income	\$37,254
Number of Households Earning Less Than \$20,000	3,817
Percentage of Households Earning Less Than \$20,000	29%
Number of Households Earning More Than \$100,000	2,623
Percentage of Households Earning More Than \$100,000	20%
Poverty	
Number of Individuals Living in Poverty	5,676
Percentage of Total Population Living in Poverty	22%
Number of Children (17 and Younger) Living in Poverty	339
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty	12%
Number of Elderly (65 and Older) Living in Poverty	94
Percentage of Elderly Living in Poverty	8%



Saint Mark's Place in Manhattan

According to census data, compared with New York City residents overall, in 2000, Japanese New Yorkers had more education, higher incomes, and lower child and elderly poverty rates. Yet New York City's predominantly-immigrant Japanese population had less command of English than the overall city population, and Japanese immigrants were less likely to be U.S. citizens than foreign-born city residents as a whole. In addition, census information shows that New York City's Japanese population increased by more than one-half from 1990 to 2000. Also notable, Japanese women significantly outnumbered Japanese men in New York City, while the city's overall Asian American population was split evenly between genders.

Population

In 2000, the New York metropolitan area had the fourth-largest Japanese American population among metropolitan regions in the United States.³

More than half (58 percent) of the Japanese population in New York State lived in New York City.

The seventh-largest Asian American group in New York City in 2000, Japanese constituted 3 percent of the city's Asian population – the same percentage as in 1990, when Japanese held the same position among Asian groups in the city.

From 1990 to 2000, the Japanese population in New York City grew from 16,828 to 26,419, or by 57 percent – exceeding 9 percent for the city overall but not matching 71 percent for the city's total Asian population. The addition

of 9,591 Japanese New Yorkers represented the seventh-largest numerical increase among Asian groups in the city in the last decade.⁴

In 2000, the majority (61 percent, or 16,116) of Japanese residents of New York City lived in Manhattan, followed by Queens (23 percent, or 5,957); Brooklyn (12 percent, or 3,066); the Bronx (3 percent, or 873); and Staten Island (2 percent, or 407). The population concentration in Manhattan diverged from the pattern of a Queens hub for Asian American New Yorkers overall and many other major Asian groups.

About 44 percent of Japanese New Yorkers had limited English proficiency in 2000.

By age, 11 percent (2,828) of the city's Japanese residents were children (age 17 and younger); 85 percent (22,128) were working-age adults (18 to 64); and 4 percent (1,168) were senior citizens (65 and older). This distribution differed greatly from 24 percent children, 64 percent working-age adults and 12 percent elderly for the city as a whole.

For the total Japanese population in New York City, the female/male ratio was 58 percent/42 percent, while the city's overall Asian population was about 50 percent female and 50 percent male.

Immigration and Citizenship

The majority of Japanese Americans in New York City in 2000 were recent immigrants, and they had substantially lower naturalization rates than the city's overall immigrant population.

Almost three-quarters (73 percent, or 19,014) of New York City's Japanese population in 2000 was foreign-born, compared with about one-third (36 percent) of all city residents. Most Japanese immigrants came to the United States in the last 20 years. Specifically, 63 percent (11,949) immigrated from 1990 to March 2000; 19 percent (3,641) came to this country from 1980 to 1989; and 18 percent (3,424) arrived before 1980.

Of the city's Japanese immigrants counted in the 2000 census, 10 percent (1,960) were naturalized citizens, compared with 45 percent of all New York City immigrants. Japanese immigrants in the city also obtained citizenship more slowly than foreign-born New Yorkers as a whole. Five percent of foreign-born Japanese New Yorkers became citizens within 20 years, in contrast with 49 percent of immigrants city-wide.

Educational Attainment

Japanese American adults in New York City in 2000 were considerably more educated than the city's general adult population.⁵

Of Japanese adults in the city, 5 percent (911) had not graduated from high school – a much smaller percentage than 28 percent of adults city-wide. Similarly, 2 percent (499) of adult Japanese New Yorkers had less than a ninth-grade education, compared with 15 percent of all city adults.

At the other end of the educational range, 83 percent (16,673) of Japanese adults in New York City had some form of post-secondary education – far surpassing 48 percent of all city adults.

English Proficiency

New York City's Japanese Americans faced higher degrees of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) than their city-wide counterparts.⁶

Of the entire Japanese population in New York City, 44 percent (10,827) spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all” – almost double the 24 percent rate for city residents overall. For working-age adults, the LEP rate was 46 percent (10,147) compared to 25 percent of all working-age adults in the city. The LEP classification also applied to 33 percent (391) of elderly Japanese New Yorkers, compared with 27 percent of senior citizens throughout the city.

Income

By all income facets measured in the 2000 census, Japanese New Yorkers earned more than the general New York City population.

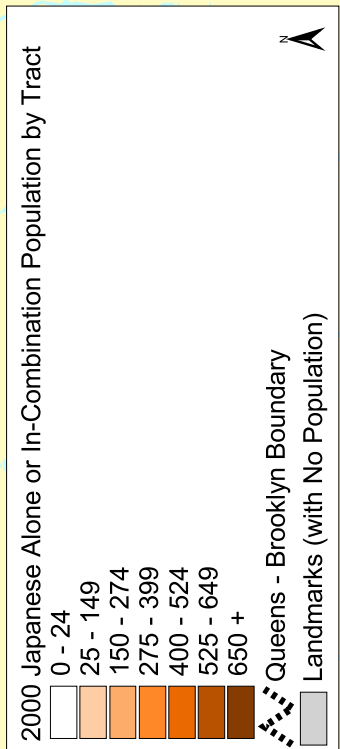
Japanese median household income of \$40,773 and median family income of \$64,531 exceeded corresponding overall city figures of \$38,293 and \$41,887, respectively.⁷ What's more, Japanese per capita income of \$37,254 was about two-thirds greater than \$22,402 city-wide.

A closer look at household income shows that 29 percent (3,817) of Japanese households in New York City earned less than \$20,000 a year, compared with 30 percent of all city households. At the other end of the scale, 20 percent (2,623) of the city's Japanese households earned more than \$100,000, compared with 11 percent of all city households.

Poverty

Poverty rates for New York City's Japanese Americans in relation to the total city population were similar overall but markedly lower for Japanese children and senior citizens, as of the 2000 census.⁸

Distribution of the Japanese American Population in New York City



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

Of all Japanese city residents, 22 percent (5,676) lived below the poverty line, compared with 21 percent of all New Yorkers. However, by age group, 12 percent (339) of New York City's Japanese children lived in poverty, in contrast with 30 percent of all city children, and 8 percent (94) of elderly Japanese New Yorkers experienced poverty, contrasted with 18 percent of all senior citizens in the city.

Seventy percent (238) of the city's Japanese children in poverty lived in two-parent families, compared with 34 percent of all city children below the poverty line.

Housing

Japanese New Yorkers in 2000 tended to have much smaller households (averaging 1.69 people) than the general city population (2.59 people).

In addition, New York City's Japanese Americans were less likely to own homes than city residents as a whole. According to the 2000 census, 18 percent of Japanese in the city owned their homes and 82 percent rented, compared with a 30 percent/70 percent owner/renter ratio for the city overall.

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 data refer to information collected from a 100 percent U.S. population survey while SF Three and Four data represent a sample survey.

² Rates and percentages for each section of this profile are derived from the data universe related to the topic at hand. Therefore, population tallies for one subject will not necessarily correspond with those for another topic.

³ In 2000, the New York metropolitan area had 59,456 Japanese Americans. Larger Japanese populations lived in metropolitan regions for Honolulu (with 230,044 Japanese Americans), Los Angeles (202,498), and San Francisco (106,427).

⁴ When compared with the Japanese Alone category for the 1990 census, the Japanese population increased by 35 percent (5,808).

⁵ For education tabulations, adults were defined as individuals age 25 and older.

⁶ "Limited English Proficiency" in this profile refers to individuals who spoke English "well," "not well" or "not at all."

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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. "Alone" corresponds to the respondents who reported exactly one racial 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 "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., Japanese 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 Asian American 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 collaboratively to meet the critical needs of Asian Americans in the New York metropolitan area, was selected by the U.S. Census Bureau to operate the only CIC in the New York area focused on serving the Asian American community. Established in 2000, the center provides census information, conducts data and policy analysis, and encourages census participation. For more information on the Federation, visit www.aafny.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

For more information regarding this profile, please contact the Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center, at (212) 344-5878, x19 or cic@aafny.org, or visit www.aafny.org/cic/.

Funding support for this profile series has been provided generously by the Citigroup Foundation and the C.J. Huang Foundation.

© 2004 Asian American Federation of New York
9/04

Asian American Federation of New York

120 Wall Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10005
Tel: (212) 344-5878 | Fax: (212) 344-5636