



Census Profile: New York City's Pakistani American Population

Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center

Introduction

Based on 2000 and 1990 U.S. census data, this profile describes characteristics and trends among New York City's rapidly-growing Pakistani American population.¹ It provides statistics on population size and growth, immigration, citizenship, education, English ability, income, poverty, and housing. Comparisons with New York City's total population offer perspective.²

Pakistani American Statistics at a Glance

Population	
2000 Alone or In-Combination Population in New York City	34,310
Population in Queens (as a Percentage of NYC Pop.)	15,604 (45%)
Population in Brooklyn	14,221 (41%)
Population in the Bronx	1,727 (5%)
Population in Manhattan	1,402 (4%)
Population in Staten Island	1,356 (4%)
1990 Population	13,501
Population Growth from 1990 to 2000	154%
Immigration	
Foreign-Born Population	26,607
Foreign-Born Percentage of Total Population	79%
Educational Attainment (Adults 25 and Older)	
Number of Adults Without a High School Diploma	6,051
Percentage of Adults Without a High School Diploma	32%
Limited English Proficiency (Speaks English "Well," "Not Well," or "Not at All")	
Total number	14,575
Percentage of Total Population	48%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$34,835
Median Family Income	\$34,210
Per Capita Income	\$11,992
Number of Households Earning Less Than \$20,000	2,383
Percentage of Households Earning Less Than \$20,000	27%
Number of Households Earning More Than \$100,000	706
Percentage of Households Earning More Than \$100,000	8%
Poverty	
Number of Individuals Living in Poverty	9,417
Percentage of Total Population Living in Poverty	28%
Number of Children (Under 18) Living in Poverty	3,739
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty	34%
Number of Elderly (Over the Age of 65) Living in Poverty	210
Percentage of Elderly Living in Poverty	25%



Photograph - Corky Lee

Pakistani Independence Day Parade - Lexington Avenue, New York

Among noteworthy features, census data show that New York City's Pakistani population more than doubled from 1990 to 2000. In addition, in 2000, Pakistani New Yorkers had substantially lower English skills, lower incomes, higher poverty rates and larger households than New York City residents overall.

Population

From 1990 to 2000, the Pakistani population in New York City jumped by 154 percent, from 13,501 to 34,310 – far surpassing the city's overall 9 percent increase and 71 percent expansion of the city's total Asian population. Pakistanis experienced the fifth-highest growth rate percentage-wise and the fourth-highest numerical increase (20,809 people) among Asian groups in the city in the last decade.³

The fifth-largest Asian group in New York City in 2000, Pakistanis comprised 4 percent of the city's Asian population – up from 3 percent in 1990, when Pakistanis were the sixth-largest Asian group.

About 65 percent of the Pakistani population in New York State lived in New York City as of the last census. Within New York City, in 2000, the highest percentage (45 percent, or 15,604) of Pakistanis lived in Queens, followed by Brooklyn (with 41 percent, or 14,221); the Bronx (5 percent, or 1,727); Manhattan (4 percent, or 1,402); and Staten Island (4 percent, or 1,356).

By age group, 33 percent (10,958) of the city's Pakistani residents were children (age 17 and younger); 65 percent (21,858) were working-age adults (18 to 64); and 3 percent (843) were senior citizens (65 and older). Children represented a much larger percentage of Pakistani New Yorkers than of city residents overall, of whom 24 percent were children, 64 percent were working-age adults and 12 percent were senior citizens.

Nearly half of all Pakistani Americans experienced Limited English Proficiency.

Immigration and Citizenship

More than three-quarters (79 percent, or 26,607) of New York City's Pakistani population in 2000 was foreign-born, compared with about one-third (36 percent) of all city residents.

The vast majority of Pakistani immigrants in the city came to the United States in the last 20 years, triggering recent population growth. Specifically, 63 percent (16,841) immigrated from 1990 to March 2000; 30 percent (7,974) came to this country from 1980 to 1989; and 7 percent (1,792) arrived before 1980.

Of the city's Pakistani immigrants counted in the 2000 census, 35 percent (9,187) were naturalized citizens, compared with 45 percent of all New York City immigrants. Foreign-born Pakistani New Yorkers obtained citizenship at the same rate as total foreign-born New Yorkers. For both groups, of those who had immigrated in the last 20 years, 31 percent became citizens.

Educational Attainment

Pakistani adults in the city in 2000 were slightly less likely to have high school diplomas than the general New York City adult population. Otherwise, education levels were the same for Pakistanis as for New Yorkers overall.

Of the city's total Pakistani adult population, 32 percent (6,051) had not graduated from high school, exceeding 28 percent of adults city-wide.⁴

On the other hand, 15 percent (2,806) of adult

Pakistani New Yorkers had less than a ninth-grade education and 48 percent (9,043) had post-secondary education, compared with the same percentages of all city adults.

Most school-age Pakistani children in the city (91 percent, or 7,952) were enrolled in the New York City public school system, compared with 79 percent of all school-age children in the city.

English Proficiency

Nearly half of all Pakistanis and two-thirds of elderly Pakistanis in New York City in 2000 experienced Limited English Proficiency (LEP), making the language divide a much greater issue for Pakistanis than for the city's general population.⁵

Forty-eight percent (14,575) of the total Pakistani population spoke English "well," "not well," or "not at all" – double the 24 percent rate for all city residents. In terms of age, the LEP classification applied to 52 percent (11,445) of Pakistani working-age adults and 67 percent (570) of Pakistani senior citizens, compared with 25 percent of working-age adults and 27 percent of senior citizens throughout the city.

Income

By all relevant Census 2000 measurements, Pakistanis in New York City had lower incomes than the general New York City population.

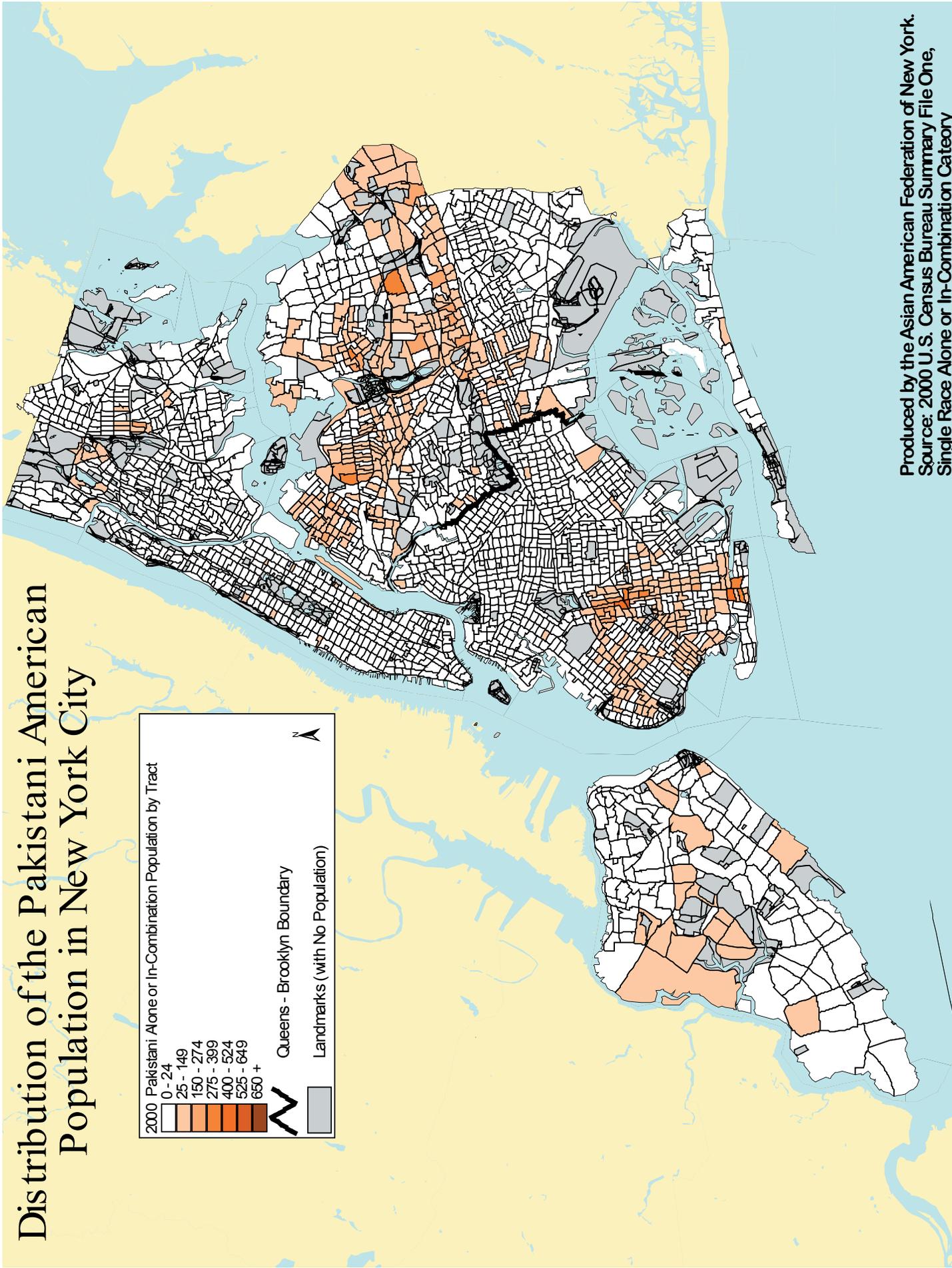
Pakistani per capita income was \$11,992 – only slightly more than half of \$22,402 city-wide. In addition, Pakistani median household income of \$34,835 and median family income of \$34,210 were below corresponding overall city figures of \$38,293 and \$41,887.⁶

Poverty

As of the 2000 census, poverty rates for Pakistanis in relation to the total New York City population were higher overall, as well as for children and senior citizens.⁷

Among all Pakistanis in the city, 28 percent (9,417) lived below the poverty line, surpassing the general New York City poverty rate of 21 percent. By age category, 34 percent (3,739) of the city's Pakistani children lived in poverty, compared with 30 percent of all city children. Also, 25 percent (210) of elderly

Distribution of the Pakistani 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

Pakistanis lived in poverty, compared with 18 percent of all elderly New Yorkers.

Ninety-one percent (3,372) of Pakistani children below the poverty line lived in two-parent families, compared with 34 percent of all city children in poverty.

Housing

New York City's Pakistani residents in 2000 tended to have much larger households (averaging 4.09 people) than the general city population (2.59). Higher occupancy of Pakistani homes also suggests the necessity-based existence of multiple rent-payers in a housing unit – a factor that could inflate household income artificially and signify overcrowding. Pakistanis in New York City were more likely to live in rented homes in 2000 than residents city-wide. According to the census, 83 percent of Pakistanis rented and 17 percent owned their homes, compared with 70 percent renters and 30 percent homeowners in 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 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 When compared with the “Pakistani Alone” category for the 1990 census, the Pakistani population increased by 79 percent (10,598).

⁴ For education tabulations, adults were defined as individuals age 25 and older.

⁵ Limited English Proficiency in this profile refers to individuals who spoke English “well,” “not well” or “not at all.”

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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.*, Pakistani 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 Northeast 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/.

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