



Asian American Federation

2012 New York State Senate Districts and Asian Communities

Asian American Federation Census Information Center

Introduction

The Asian American Federation presents this briefing paper on the Asian populations in each of the 26 Senate Districts that cover New York City.¹ Using 2010 Census and American Community Survey data, this paper covers the total Asian population as well as the Asian ethnic groups that reside in the Senate Districts that were created through the 2012 districting process. We will also identify the Asian languages most commonly spoken in each district.² Our goal is to help state senators engage and serve their Asian American constituents.

Overall Asian Population

Table 1 summarizes the Asian population data by Senate Districts that cover New York City. Almost half of all 26 districts had over 40,000 Asian residents. Moreover, five districts had at least 20 percent of population who were Asian.

For the first time, NYS has a State Senate district where the majority of residents were Asian: Senate District 16 centered in Flushing, Elmhurst, and along Long Island Expressway. District 11 in Northeast Queens had the second largest Asian population, with over one in three residents who were Asian. Other districts with large Asian populations were District 26 encompassing Lower Manhattan and along East River in Brooklyn; District 22 around Bensonhurst and Marine Park, Brooklyn; District 12 covering Astoria, Long Island City and Sunnyside, Queens; and District 17 covering Borough Park, Kensington, and Midwood in Brooklyn.

Highlights for Asian Groups

The overall Asian population numbers disguise the diversity and disparate residential patterns that underlie the Asian community. **Table 2** presents the Asian ethnic group population for each Senate District covering the city. This section will highlight which

Senate Districts have the most population for each of the larger Asian groups.

Bangladeshis were the fastest growing Asian group with more than 10,000 city residents. District 12 in Queens had over 10,000 Bangladeshi residents, followed by District 14 and 13 in Queens. The top five districts with over 5,000 Bangladeshis were all in Queens. Outside Queens, District 21 in Brooklyn, District 32 in the Bronx, and District 17 in Brooklyn had over 3,000 Bangladeshis. At least 1,000 Bangladeshis resided in 15 out of 26 districts.

Chinese³ remained the largest Asian group in the city, making up about 44 percent of all Asians. District 16 in Queens had close to 100,000 Chinese residents, followed by District 22 in Brooklyn and District 26 across Manhattan and Brooklyn with over 50,000 Chinese. Half of all districts had over 10,000 Chinese and all districts had over 1,000 Chinese.

Filipinos were the fourth largest Asian group in the city. The largest Filipino populations all resided in Queens. District 16 had close to 10,000 Filipino residents, followed by District 12, 11 and 14 with over 6,000 Filipinos. At least 1,000 Filipinos resided in 24 out of 26 Senate Districts.

Indians, the second largest Asian group, were more evenly distributed across the city than the Chinese population. While District 10 had the largest Indian community, with more than 30,000 residents, no Senate District had less than 2,000 Indian residents. Other districts with large Indian populations included District 14 and 11 with more than 20,000. The top seven districts with the largest Indian populations were all in Queens. Outside Queens, District 27 and 28 in Manhattan had over 8,000 Indians, and District 21 and 17 in Brooklyn had over 6,000 Indians.

The districts with the most **Japanese** were concentrated in Manhattan. District 27 had over 5,000 Japanese residents, followed closely by District 28. District 12 in Queens ranked the third largest with 3,232 Japanese. At least 1,000 Japanese resided in 11 out of 26 districts.

Koreans were the third largest Asian group in the city. District 11 and 16 in Queens were the only ones with over 20,000 Korean residents. District 27 in Manhattan ranked the third largest with 7,987 Koreans. At least 1,000 Koreans resided in 17 out of 26 Senate Districts.

Pakistanis were largely split between Brooklyn and Queens. The district with the most Pakistani residents was District 17 in Brooklyn, followed by District 23 across Staten Island and Brooklyn. The top six districts with over 3,000 Pakistanis were split between Brooklyn and Queens. At least 1,000 Pakistanis resided in 14 out of 26 districts.

A few districts had concentrations of more than 1,000 residents for several of the smaller Asian groups in the city. The number of **Indonesians** reached 1,000 in District 16 in Queens. **Nepalese** residents reached the 1,000 resident threshold within District 12, 16 and 13 in Queens. More than 1,000 **Taiwanese** residents lived in District 16 and 11 in Queens and District 27 in Manhattan. District 16 and 12 in Queens also had more than 1,000 **Thai** residents. Districts 34 and 33 in the Bronx and District 22 in Brooklyn and District 16 in Queens had more than 1,000 **Vietnamese** residents.

Five Senate Districts in Queens had at least seven Asian groups reaching a population threshold of 1,000 residents, which presents an outreach challenge. District 16 had twelve different Asian groups reaching the threshold: Bangladeshi, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Nepalese, Pakistani, Taiwanese, Thai, and Vietnamese. District 12 had nine Asian groups with over 1,000 residents. The three other districts with seven Asian groups were Districts 11, 13 and 34.

Languages Spoken

The Census Bureau reports fourteen different Asian language categories in the American Community Survey detailed tables. Of these, ten of these language categories were widely represented in the city by

more than 10,000 speakers each. **Table 3** presents the top five languages other than English spoken as well as any additional Asian language categories that had more than 1,000 speakers for each district. The diversity of languages spoken in the city points to a major challenge faced by those who wish to reach out to the Asian community.

Chinese was the most common Asian language spoken in the city. However, the variety of dialects spoken in the city and the usage of traditional and simplified scripts presents further challenges when reaching out to the Chinese-speaking population. District 16 in Queens had the largest Chinese-speaking population with 75,565 speakers, followed by District 26 across Manhattan and Brooklyn with 52,452, and District 22 in Brooklyn with 51,381. Among all the languages spoken other than English, Chinese was the most spoken language group district-wide in District 16 in Queens, District 26 across Manhattan and Brooklyn, and District 22 in Brooklyn. Among Asian languages, Chinese was most commonly spoken in 20 out of 26 Senate Districts. At least 1,000 Chinese speakers resided in 24 out of 26 districts.

The languages of South Asia together were the second largest group of Asian languages in the city. The Census Bureau reports several of the languages separately.

- **Urdu** was the fifth largest Asian language group in the city, spoken mostly by Pakistanis and Indians. District 17 in Brooklyn had the most Urdu speakers with 5,986, followed closely by District 16 in Queens with 4,173. Half of all districts had at least 1,000 Urdu speakers.
- **Hindi**, mostly spoken by Indians in the city, was the seventh largest Asian language group. District 16 in Queens had the most Hindi speakers with 5,891, followed by District 11 with 3,347 and District 13 with 3,129. The top nine districts with over 1,000 Hindi speakers were all in Queens, except for District 28 and 27 in Manhattan.
- **Gujarati**, mostly spoken by Indians in the city, was the tenth largest Asian language group. District 11, 16 and 14 in Queens were the only ones with over 1,000 Gujarati speakers.

- **Other Indic languages**, the second most common Asian language category in the city, were represented mainly by Bengali (mostly spoken by Indians and Bangladeshis), Punjabi (mostly spoken by Indians and Pakistanis), and Nepali. District 12, 13, 14 and 16 in Queens had over 10,000 speakers. Other Indic languages were the largest Asian language group in 6 out of 26 Senate Districts. The top six districts were all in Queens, followed by District 17 and 21 in Brooklyn and District 32 in the Bronx. At least 1,000 speakers resided in 21 out of 26 districts.
- Some other South Asian languages were grouped in the other Asian languages category described below.

Korean was the third most common Asian language in the city. District 11 and 16 in Queens had over 20,000 Korean speakers. Half of all districts had at least 1,000 Korean speakers.

Tagalog was the fourth largest Asian language group in the city. District 16 in Queens had the largest number of Tagalog speakers of 6,802, followed by District 12 with 6,256. The top six districts with over 2,500 Tagalog speakers were all in Queens. Half of all districts had at least 1,000 Tagalog speakers.

Japanese was the eighth largest Asian language group in the city. District 28 in Manhattan had the largest Japanese-speaking population with 3,804, followed by District 27 with 3,708. Outside Manhattan, District 12 in Queens had 2,792 Japanese speakers. The top seven districts with more than 1,000 Japanese speakers were mostly in Manhattan, except for District 12 and 16 in Queens.

Vietnamese was the ninth largest Asian language group in the city. District 34 and 33 in the Bronx were the only ones with over 1,000 Vietnamese speakers.

Citywide, there were less than 5,000 speakers of **Khmer, Hmong, Thai, and Laotian**, which were the remaining Asian languages that were reported separately by the Census Bureau. Many New York residents spoke an Asian language beyond the Asian languages reported separately. These residents were grouped into the category of **other Asian languages**. For the city, this category included primarily Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu which are mostly

spoken by Indians and Sri Lankans and was the sixth largest Asian language group. District 11, 12 and 16 in Queens had over 4,000 speakers. Outside Queens, District 24 in Staten Island and District 17 in Brooklyn also had over 2,000 speakers. At least 1,000 speakers of other Asian languages resided in 14 out of 26 districts.

Footnotes

¹ Because the Census Bureau now can collect multiple responses to the race and ethnic categories, we now have detail race and ethnic data on those who self-identify as multiracial. We chose to define Asian as any person who identifies in whole or in part as Asian American. Likewise for each of the Asian ethnic groups, we chose to define membership based on the same criteria. As a consequence, it is not possible to add together different race and ethnic categories and get an accurate total because multiracial individuals are counted in multiple categories. For example, someone who identifies as Chinese and Indian would be counted in each of those categories and be double counted in a sum of the Chinese and Indian populations.

² Data source used in this brief were the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates for language spoken data and 2010 Census for population totals.

³ Chinese population in this report excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

About This Briefing Paper

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

For more information regarding this paper, please contact the Asian American Federation Census Information Center at (212) 344-5878 x219 or howard.shih@aafederation.org, or visit www.aafederation.org/cic/.

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Table 1: Asian Population in 2012 New York State Senate Districts

NYS Senate	Borough	Current Senate Member	Total Population	Asian	Percent Asian
10	Queens	James Sanders Jr.	318,047	47,681	15%
11	Queens	Tony Avella	318,908	111,646	35%
12	Queens	Michael N. Gianaris	319,097	67,767	21%
13	Queens	Jose R. Peralta	318,655	55,881	18%
14	Queens	Malcom A. Smith	318,294	52,531	17%
15	Queens	Joseph P Addabbo Jr.	318,818	41,246	13%
16	Queens	Toby Ann Stavisky	318,903	176,115	55%
17	Brooklyn	Simcha Felder	317,801	60,762	19%
18	Brooklyn	Martin Malave Dilan	316,242	19,884	6%
19	Brooklyn	John L. Sampson	316,700	23,748	7%
20	Brooklyn	Eric Adams	316,594	32,412	10%
21	Brooklyn	Kevin S. Parker	317,171	23,347	7%
22	Brooklyn	Martin J. Golden	317,799	75,344	24%
23	Staten Island&Brooklyn	Diane J. Savino	317,108	40,944	13%
24	Staten Island	Andrew J. Lanza	318,723	25,156	8%
25	Brooklyn	Velmanette Montgomery	315,939	14,965	5%
26	Manhattan&Brooklyn	Daniel Squadron	317,468	75,610	24%
27	Manhattan	Brad M. Hoylman	317,748	47,279	15%
28	Manhattan	Liz Krueger	317,856	35,358	11%
29	Manhattan&Bronx	Jose M. Serrano	316,554	15,610	5%
30	Manhattan	Bill Perkins	315,897	18,216	6%
31	Manhattan	Adriano Espaillat	317,063	17,736	6%
32	Bronx	Rubén Díaz, Sr.	316,320	11,488	4%
33	Bronx	J. Gustavo Rivera	316,581	11,108	4%
34	Bronx&Westchester	Jeffrey D. Klein	317,557	22,958	7%
36	Bronx&Westchester	Ruth Hassell-Thompson	316,978	12,658	4%

Table 2: Asian Ethnic Group Population in 2012 New York State Senate Districts

NYS Senate	Bangladeshi	Bhutanese	Burmese	Cambodian	Chinese	Filipino	Hmong	Indian	Indonesian	Japanese
10	1,371	0	13	11	2,110	1,816	2	37,838	66	152
11	5,033	2	229	46	40,188	6,577	1	23,230	138	597
12	10,458	129	535	54	15,600	7,976	7	13,981	610	3,232
13	6,353	34	464	44	21,408	4,811	1	12,799	588	776
14	7,558	4	45	25	6,869	6,357	1	24,160	115	527
15	2,304	5	126	29	17,265	4,535	1	9,622	412	866
16	5,039	76	932	96	97,364	9,802	17	19,442	1,462	1,644
17	3,117	1	245	117	39,650	871	7	6,046	70	270
18	1,152	0	56	22	8,406	1,461	7	4,750	75	1,164
19	2,095	4	141	80	12,435	1,322	0	4,155	32	143
20	256	2	112	86	25,722	1,004	5	2,339	55	749
21	4,030	1	56	143	6,146	1,105	2	6,263	123	1,047
22	443	0	427	162	60,854	1,665	0	3,163	104	377
23	552	0	226	181	22,776	3,106	8	4,707	43	258
24	126	0	74	45	8,844	4,038	0	5,304	22	246
25	958	0	33	32	5,156	1,131	1	3,432	56	1,314
26	450	1	97	43	58,532	2,037	4	4,989	137	2,567
27	461	1	59	61	15,870	4,029	9	8,903	274	5,314
28	147	6	73	43	10,583	3,444	1	8,394	134	4,400
29	857	12	41	40	4,752	1,443	0	3,424	64	1,589
30	533	4	39	31	6,691	1,623	4	3,233	75	1,774
31	265	2	30	28	5,702	1,757	2	3,429	54	1,812
32	3,288	0	9	75	1,407	643	1	4,677	14	175
33	1,114	37	9	397	1,110	1,523	2	3,678	14	153
34	2,152	0	41	440	4,335	2,998	0	5,956	55	554
36	1,474	67	29	281	1,197	1,424	0	5,761	24	180

Table 2: Asian Ethnic Group Population in 2012 New York State Senate Districts

NYS Senate	Korean	Laotian	Malaysian	Nepalese	Pakistani	Sri Lankan	Taiwanese	Thai	Vietnamese
10	213	7	17	17	1,238	124	30	69	123
11	27,065	20	200	44	3,611	419	2,521	310	679
12	7,165	41	111	2,709	2,192	134	551	1,033	949
13	2,144	29	196	1,025	2,935	98	437	842	539
14	1,151	23	41	114	3,087	407	355	191	169
15	1,861	40	67	137	1,537	121	598	219	643
16	26,531	48	989	1,277	3,466	248	4,471	1,457	1,222
17	599	16	163	42	7,350	16	82	83	747
18	1,074	18	23	94	336	36	181	148	454
19	569	7	26	6	1,623	52	52	41	531
20	591	13	120	24	346	20	103	79	416
21	913	26	38	173	2,176	60	123	166	407
22	1,508	9	207	18	3,561	20	163	95	1,424
23	858	17	103	19	5,181	990	84	81	826
24	3,009	10	50	26	1,626	796	155	123	342
25	1,480	29	61	23	302	34	199	130	304
26	3,889	32	446	20	411	68	603	289	831
27	7,987	35	109	66	743	182	1,119	670	823
28	4,919	33	100	58	718	149	717	325	531
29	1,622	37	38	55	448	47	235	128	306
30	2,172	31	52	35	408	64	420	206	355
31	2,455	19	38	50	409	75	353	170	299
32	193	15	2	23	256	38	9	48	140
33	387	60	4	38	374	41	13	136	1,462
34	2,074	48	14	79	1,378	90	107	159	1,610
36	565	12	6	23	699	63	17	133	262

Table 3: Languages Spoken in 2012 New York State Senate Districts

NYS Senate	5 Largest Language Groups	Additional Asian Language Groups with more than 1,000 speakers
10	Spanish (48,161) Other Indic Languages (9,831) French Creole (8,053) African Languages (3,378) Chinese (2,461)	Hindi (1,823) Tagalog (1,665) Urdu (1,083)
11	Spanish (37,648) Chinese (36,826) Korean (23,293) Greek (12,297) Other Indic Languages (8,774)	Tagalog (5,131) Other Asian Languages (4,609) Urdu (3,696) Hindi (3,347) Gujarati (1,790)
12	Spanish (98,897) Other Indic Languages (15,200) Chinese (11,715) Greek (9,991) Tagalog (6,256)	Korean (5,942) Other Asian Languages (4,242) Japanese (2,792) Hindi (2,228) Urdu (2,099)
13	Spanish (156,176) Chinese (18,899) Other Indic Languages (13,584) Greek (4,979) Tagalog (4,200)	Urdu (3,421) Hindi (3,129) Other Asian Languages (2,827) Korean (1,829)
14	Spanish (44,832) French Creole (15,911) Other Indic Languages (10,245) Chinese (6,372) Tagalog (5,233)	Urdu (3,123) Hindi (2,019) Other Asian Languages (1,680) Gujarati (1,172) Korean (1,053)
15	Spanish (58,133) Chinese (14,732) Polish (12,810) Italian (11,491) Russian (6,933)	Other Indic Languages (3,388) Tagalog (2,636) Urdu (1,667) Korean (1,452) Hindi (1,432)
16	Chinese (75,565) Spanish (49,550) Korean (22,763) Russian (15,652) Other Indic Languages (10,031)	Tagalog (6,802) Hindi (5,891) Urdu (4,173) Other Asian Languages (4,107) Japanese (1,683) Gujarati (1,676)
17	Yiddish (37,480) Chinese (34,943) Russian (34,117) Spanish (31,871) Hebrew (11,596)	Urdu (5,986) Other Indic Languages (5,440) Other Asian Languages (2,378)
18	Spanish (142,346) Chinese (6,790) Yiddish (5,760) Polish (3,696) Other Indic Languages (2,441)	

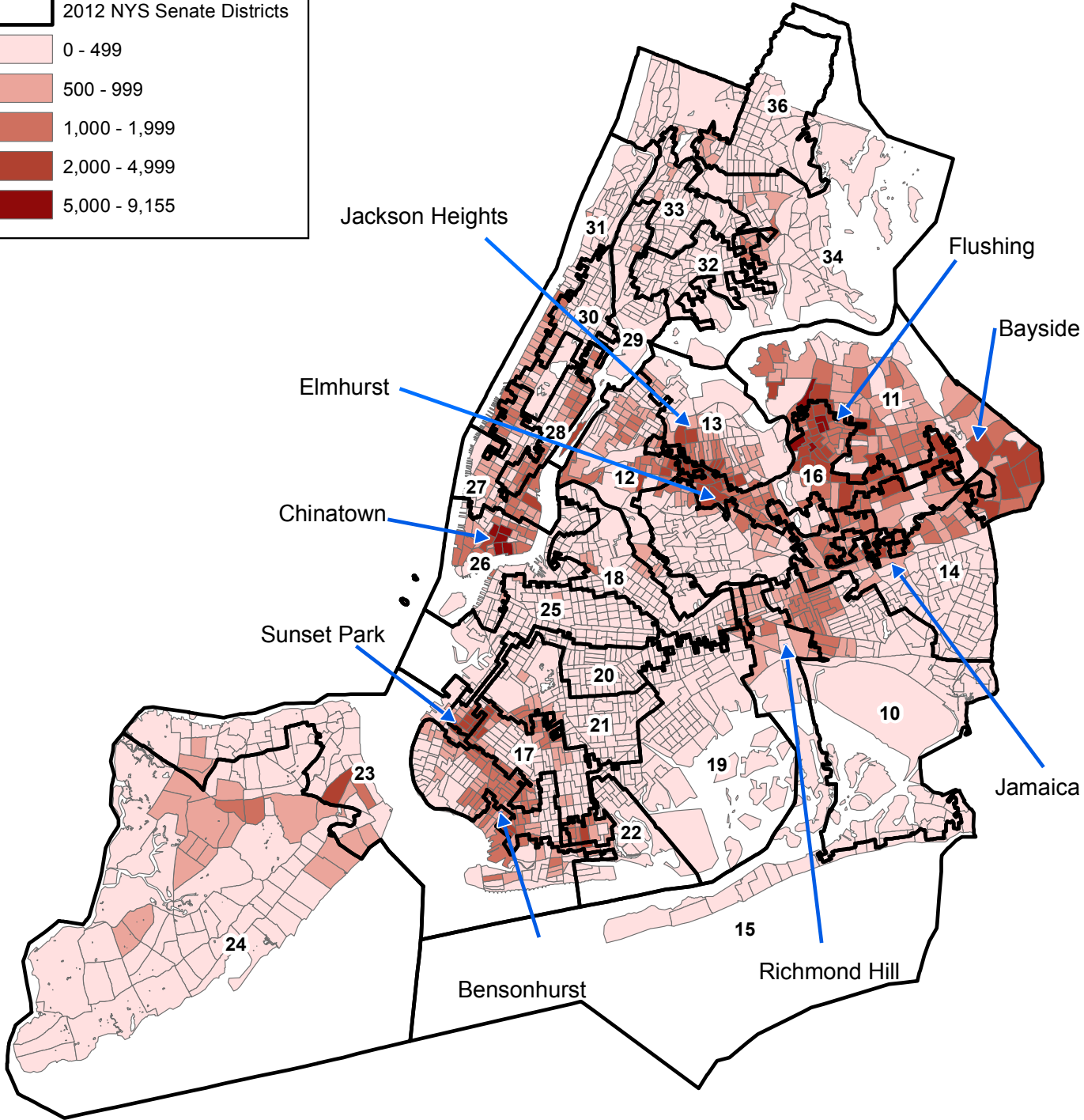
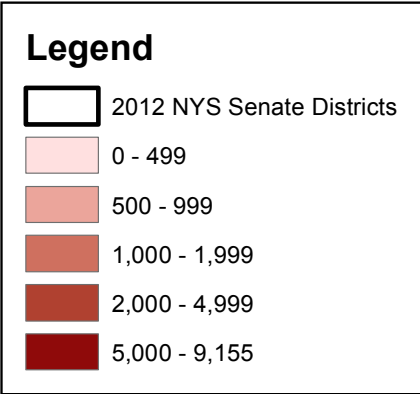
Table 3: Languages Spoken in 2012 New York State Senate Districts

NYS Senate	5 Largest Language Groups	Additional Asian Language Groups with more than 1,000 speakers
19	Spanish (37,078) French Creole (15,241) Russian (14,173) Chinese (10,120) French (3,297)	Other Indic Languages (1,810) Other Asian Languages (1,322)
20	Spanish (52,928) Chinese (19,791) French Creole (12,641) French (3,425) Yiddish (3,402)	
21	Spanish (35,173) French Creole (27,939) French (6,514) Chinese (4,508) Other Indic Languages (4,272)	Urdu (2,125)
22	Chinese (51,381) Russian (24,081) Spanish (23,667) Italian (15,895) Arabic (10,430)	Urdu (3,850) Other Indic Languages (1,633) Other Asian Languages (1,394)
23	Russian (45,725) Spanish (43,706) Chinese (19,874) Italian (5,201) Urdu (3,923)	Other Indic Languages (2,138) Other Asian Languages (2,133) Tagalog (2,076)
24	Spanish (15,736) Italian (11,805) Russian (11,685) Chinese (6,265) Other Indo-European languages (5,104)	Korean (3,631) Other Asian Languages (2,652) Tagalog (2,068) Urdu (1,184)
25	Spanish (44,112) French (3,949) Chinese (3,606) French Creole (3,160) Yiddish (2,677)	Other Indic Languages (2,377)
26	Chinese (52,452) Spanish (36,994) Yiddish (22,984) Polish (7,884) French (3,768)	Korean (1,660) Japanese (1,533) Other Indic Languages (1,508) Other Asian Languages (1,036)
27	Spanish (29,849) Chinese (10,611) French (7,561) Korean (3,901) Japanese (3,708)	Hindi (1,874) Tagalog (1,682) Other Asian Languages (1,130)

Table 3: Languages Spoken in 2012 New York State Senate Districts

NYS Senate	5 Largest Language Groups	Additional Asian Language Groups with more than 1,000 speakers
28	Spanish (18,232) French (7,566) Chinese (7,068) Japanese (3,804) German (2,791)	Korean (2,305) Hindi (2,024) Tagalog (1,311) Other Asian Languages (1,100)
29	Spanish (136,664) African Languages (6,570) French (5,377) Chinese (3,582) Arabic (1,134)	Other Indic Languages (1,009)
30	Spanish (79,576) French (7,432) African Languages (4,742) Chinese (4,705) French Creole (1,898)	Korean (1,201) Japanese (1,162) Other Indic Languages (1,129)
31	Spanish (167,103) Chinese (3,521) French (2,765) Russian (2,371) Hebrew (1,849)	Korean (1,358) Japanese (1,204)
32	Spanish (148,985) African Languages (7,237) Other Indic Languages (4,197) French (2,282) Chinese (1,599)	
33	Spanish (172,995) French (2,859) African Languages (2,486) Other Indic Languages (1,458) Tagalog (1,308)	Vietnamese (1,130)
34	Spanish (89,862) Italian (9,329) Other Indo-European Languages (6,036) Chinese (3,499) Other Indic Languages (3,297)	Tagalog (1,917) Vietnamese (1,544) Korean (1,503) Urdu (1,098) Other Asian Languages (1,050)
36	Spanish (70,076) African Languages (6,162) French (3,042) Portuguese or Portuguese Creole (2,590) French Creole (2,086)	Other Indic Languages (1,715)

Asian Population in New York City



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