



Asian American Federation

Profile of New York City's Bangladeshi Americans: 2013 Edition

Asian American Federation Census Information Center

Introduction

Using data from the Census Bureau's 2006-2008 and 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS), this profile outlines characteristics and trends in New York City's Bangladeshi American population.¹ It presents data on growth rates, immigration, citizenship status, educational attainment, English ability, poverty, income, and housing. Key variables will be placed in context with New York City's total population.

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

- younger population,
- lower English skills,
- lower incomes,
- higher poverty rates,
- larger household size,
- lived in more crowded housing conditions,
- and devoted larger portions of their income to housing costs.

Bangladeshi New Yorker Statistics at a Glance

Population	
Alone or in-Combination Population in 2009-2011	48,677
Population in Queens as a Percentage of NYC Pop.	60%
Population in Brooklyn	19%
Population in the Bronx	17%
Population in Manhattan	4%
Population in Staten Island	0.4%
Alone or in-Combination Population in 2006-2008	34,237
Percent Change from 2008	42%
Immigration and Citizenship	
Foreign-Born Percentage of Total Population	74%
Citizenship Percentage of Foreign-Born	51%
Educational Attainment (Adults 25 and Older)	
Percentage of Adults Without a High School Diploma	22%
Percentage of Adults With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	36.5%
Limited English Proficiency (Speaks English "Well," "Not Well" or "Not at All")	
Percentage of Total Population	53%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$36,714
Median Family Income	\$36,339
Per Capita Income	\$13,504
Poverty	
Percentage of Total Population Living in Poverty	32.1%
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty	37.5%
Percentage of Elderly Living in Poverty	31.2%

Population

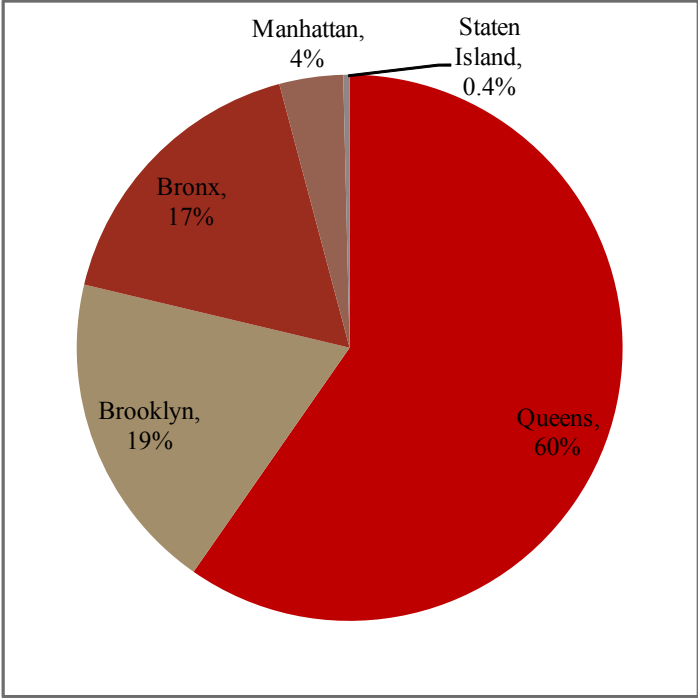
The Bangladeshi alone or in combination population in New York City grew by 42 percent, from 34,237 in 2008 to 48,677 in 2011,² fastest among the seven largest Asian groups in the city. New York City was home to 91 percent of New York State's Bangladeshi residents. Bangladeshis, the fifth largest Asian group in the city, comprised 4.3 percent of the Asian population, up from 3.4 percent in 2008.

By borough, 60 percent of Bangladeshi New Yorkers lived in Queens, 19 percent in Brooklyn, 17 percent in the Bronx, 4 percent in Manhattan, and 0.4 percent in Staten Island.³ An increasing percent of Bangladeshis resided in Queens, up from 49 percent in 2008. Neighborhoods with large Bangladeshi populations included Jamaica, Briarwood - Jamaica Hill, Jackson Heights, Woodside, Elmhurst, Hunters Point-Sunnyside-West Maspeth, and Astoria in Queens; Kensington - Ocean Parkway and Cypress Hills - City Line in Brooklyn; and Parkchester in the Bronx.⁴

The Bangladeshi population in New York City was younger overall than the general population. The median age of 30.3 years for Bangladeshis was lower than the 35.5 years for all races. 30 percent of Bangladeshis were children (under 18 years of age) and 3 percent were seniors (age 65 or older), compared to 22 percent and 12 percent for all New Yorkers, respectively.

Females were less than half (47 percent) of the Bangladeshi community in the city, while citywide females were 52.5 percent. Only 40 percent of Bangladeshi adults (age 35 to 64) were female, significantly lower than 53 percent of the citywide adults in the same age group.

Figure 1: Bangladeshi Population by Borough



Immigration and Citizenship

Over the same time period, the Bangladeshi immigrant population grew from 25,358 to 36,118, an increase of 42 percent, compared to 1 percent decline for the citywide immigrant population. Immigrants accounted for 74 percent of Bangladeshis in the city.

Over half of Bangladeshi immigrants (51 percent) in the city came to live in the United States in 2000 or later, compared to 32 percent of immigrants in general.

Of the city’s Bangladeshi immigrants, 51 percent were naturalized citizens, same as the citywide rate.

Education

Bangladeshis in New York City had similar education levels as the citywide population. In New York City’s Bangladeshi adult population,⁵ 22 percent did not have a high school diploma, close to the citywide rate of 21 percent.

At the other end of the spectrum, 36.5 percent of

Bangladeshis had a bachelor’s degree or higher, close to the 34 percent for the city overall.

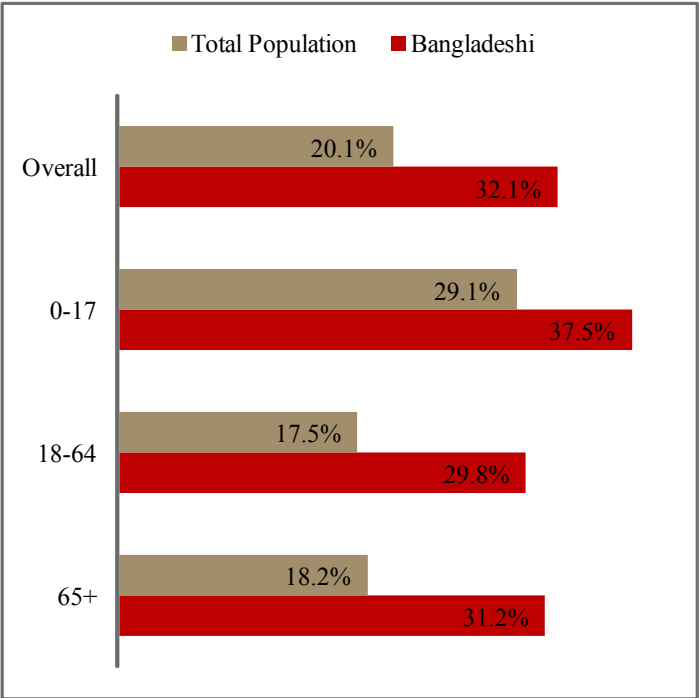
English Proficiency

New York City’s Bangladeshi population had much higher rates of limited English proficiency (LEP) than the general population.⁶ According to the ACS, over half (53 percent) of Bangladeshis spoke English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”, compared with the citywide LEP incidence of 23 percent. Over half (61 percent) of Bangladeshi adults (age 18 to 64) and 86 percent of elderly Bangladeshis had English limitations, compared with 24 percent of all working adults and 33 percent of all seniors citywide. The child LEP rates were 22 percent for Bangladeshi children and 11 percent for all children.⁷

Poverty

Bangladeshis were among the poorest Asian ethnic groups in the city.⁸ Overall, almost one in three Bangladeshis (32.1 percent) lived below the poverty line, higher than the citywide rate of 20.1 percent. 37.5 percent of Bangladeshi children and 29.8 percent of Bangladeshi adults (age 18 to 64) lived in poverty, higher than 29.1 percent for all children and 17.5 percent for all working adults. The 31.2 percent poverty rate for Bangladeshi seniors was close to the 18.2 percent for all elderly New Yorkers, taking the margin of error into account.⁹

Figure 2: Poverty Rates of Total Population and Bangladeshis



Income

Bangladeshis in New York City had much lower incomes than the general population.¹⁰ Bangladeshi median household income of \$36,714 was less than the citywide figure of \$50,331. Median family income for Bangladeshis of \$36,339 was below the \$55,434 median income for families in general. Bangladeshi per capita income of \$13,504 was lower than the citywide per capita income of \$30,717.

Housing

Compared with the average New York City household size (2.63 people), Bangladeshis had much larger households (averaging 4.3 people). Bangladeshi households were more likely to live in crowded conditions. While 9 percent of households in general had more than one occupant per room, almost two in five (39 percent) Bangladeshi households had more than one occupant per room.¹¹

**Almost two in five
Bangladeshi households had
crowded conditions.**

Bangladeshi households were more likely to rent than the citywide households (72 percent versus 68 percent).

Bangladeshi households in New York City also were more likely to devote a large share of their income to housing expenses than households in general. Among homeowners, 76 percent of Bangladeshi households paid thirty percent or more of their household income to owner costs, compared with 51 percent of all households that owned.¹² For renters, 68 percent of Bangladeshi households spent more than thirty percent of their household income on rent and utilities, compared with 53 percent of all households that rented.

Footnotes

¹ Data source used in this brief were the 2006-2008 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates and the 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates and are for the Bangladeshi Alone or in Any Combination category, unless otherwise noted.

² This profile will mostly use Bangladeshi Alone or in Combination data instead of the Bangladeshi Alone data, because the two sets of data were consistent aside from the population totals.

³ Data for Bangladeshi Alone only.

⁴ Data from Census 2010, and for Bangladeshi Alone or in Any Combination and neighborhood definitions from the New York City Department of City Planning Neighborhood Tabulation Areas.

⁵ For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.

⁶ “Limited English Proficiency” refers to individuals who reported speaking English “well”, “not well”, or “not at all”.

⁷ Data from 2009-2011 ACS 3-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS), and for Bangladeshi Alone only.

⁸ 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>.

⁹ Statistical tests comparing the ACS 2009-2011 poverty rates with the ACS 2006-2008 poverty rates, as well as the poverty rates for Bangladeshi seniors compared to all elderly New Yorkers, show no statistically significant difference between the two data sets. In short, the ACS data cannot show whether poverty rates have changed since 2008 in the Bangladeshi community in New York City, nor can it show a difference in poverty rates between Bangladeshi seniors and all elderly New Yorkers.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ The commonly accepted definition of crowded housing is more than one occupant per room.

¹² Selected monthly owner costs are the sum of payments for mortgages, deeds of trust, contracts to purchase, or similar debts on the property; real estate taxes; fire, hazard, and flood insurance on the property; utilities; and fuels. It also includes, where appropriate, the monthly condominium fee for condominiums and mobile home costs.

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