



Demographic Profile of Flatbush, Kensington, and Midwood

Asian American Federation Census Information Center

Introduction

This profile highlights the rapidly growing community of South Asians, predominantly Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, in the Flatbush, Kensington, and Midwood neighborhoods of Brooklyn.¹ We defined our geographic area for study to be Community Districts 12 and 14 in Brooklyn (the “study area”), which encompass the large Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities along Coney Island Avenue.

Key Findings:

- Since 2000, the Bangladeshi and Pakistani populations almost doubled in the study area, largely due to immigration. As a consequence, language barriers are high for these populations.
- While Bangladeshis and Pakistanis have similar rates of college completion as the rest of the study area, they are also more likely to not have completed high school.
- Their children are completely dependent on the public school system.
- Bangladeshi and Pakistani households are low-income and more likely to live in poverty than their neighbors.
- Finding sufficient space and affordable housing is a bigger challenge for Bangladeshi and Pakistani households than for their neighbors.

Population in 2013	
Total Population	319,566
Decline in Total Population from 2000-2013	-10%
Bangladeshi Population	4,588
Growth in Bangladeshi Population from 2000-2013	100%
Pakistani Population	7,473
Growth in Pakistani Population from 2000-2013	73%
Asian Population	37,954
Decline in Asian Population from 2000-2013	-3%

Population

From 2000 to 2013, Bangladeshi and Pakistani populations nearly doubled in size in the study area. In the meantime, Asian and total populations declined. Bangladeshis and Pakistanis are now 4 percent of

residents. These two groups are also an increasing share of the Asian population, growing from 17 percent in 2000 to 32 percent in 2013.

Immigration

Both South Asian and Asian residents in the study area were more likely to be immigrants than the general population. While immigrants made up less than half (39 percent) of the total population in the study area, 70 percent of Bangladeshis, 68 percent of Pakistanis, and 72 percent of Asians were immigrants. In addition, the majority of Bangladeshi and Pakistani immigrants arrived in 2000 or later.

Decade of Entry for Immigrants	Before 1980	1980-1989	1990-1999	2000 or Later
Total Population	19%	17%	28%	36%
Bangladeshi	0%	8%	31%	61%
Pakistani	1%	16%	28%	54%
Asian	6%	20%	29%	45%

Language

Language barriers are a major issue for the community, with 62 percent of Bangladeshis and 61 percent of Pakistanis having limited English proficiency (LEP).² These rates were comparable to that of the Asian population in general (62 percent), but were much higher than that of the total population in the study area (31 percent). Bengali is the primary language spoken by Bangladeshis, and Urdu is the primary language among Pakistanis.

Education

Bangladeshi, Pakistani, and Asian adults (age 25 or older) were more likely to have dropped out of high school than the general population. At the same time, Bangladeshi and Pakistani adults were just as likely to have earned an Associate’s degree or higher.³

Educational Attainment for Adults	No HS Diploma	HS Diploma	Some College	College Degree
Total Population	21%	29%	15%	35%
Bangladeshi Population	39%	19%	6%	36%
Pakistani Population	26%	31%	6%	37%
Asian Population	38%	22%	7%	33%

Asian children in grade school were more likely to enroll in public schools compared to the general child population. For all children in the study area, only 45 percent were enrolled in public schools, compared to 97 percent of all Asian children, 98 percent of Bangladeshi children, and 99 percent of Pakistani children.

Income and Poverty

Economic prosperity remains elusive for most of the Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities in the study area. Bangladeshi and Pakistani households had much lower median household incomes than households in general. The median income for all households in the study area was \$41,339. Bangladeshi median household income was lowest at \$26,027. Pakistani median household income was next lowest at \$31,638. Asian median household income was \$36,905.

Both Bangladeshi and Pakistani households saw higher poverty rates than the general population. While the poverty rate was 27 percent for the whole study area, 47 percent of Bangladeshi households and 35 percent of Pakistani households were living in poverty. The poverty rate for all Asian households was 31 percent.⁴

Housing

Finding affordable housing in New York City is a major challenge for all, but the Bangladeshis and Pakistanis in the study area have an especially difficult time. Bangladeshi and Pakistani households were less likely to own their homes than households in general. For all households in the study area, the homeownership rate was 27 percent, compared to 19 percent for Bangladeshi households and 9 percent for Pakistani households. Among all Asian households, 28 percent owned their homes.

Bangladeshi and Pakistani residents were also more likely to live in overcrowded households. While 31 percent of all residents lived in overcrowded housing,

64 percent of Bangladeshi and 60 percent of Pakistani residents lived in overcrowded housing. Almost half (46 percent) of Asian residents lived in overcrowded housing.⁵

Bangladeshi and Pakistani households faced higher housing costs than households in general. While 57 percent of all households in the study area had housing costs that were greater than 30 percent of household income, 83 percent of Bangladeshi households and 68 percent of Pakistani households spent more than 30 percent of their household income on housing. For Asian households, 62 percent spent more than 30 percent of their household income on housing.

Footnotes

¹ Data sources used in this brief were the 2009-2013 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata and the Census 2000.

² “Limited English Proficiency” refers to individuals who reported speaking English “well,” “not well,” or “not at all.”

³ For educational attainment, adults were defined as people age 25 or older.

⁴ The poverty definition used in this profile is the federal poverty threshold as used by the U.S. Census Bureau for their statistical products.

⁵ The commonly accepted definition of crowded housing is more than one occupant per room.

About this Profile

Through this series of demographic profiles, the Asian American Federation Census Information Center seeks to increase understanding of the rapidly-growing and diverse Asian American population in the New York metropolitan area. 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.

Version 1.0 – 09/15

© 2015 Asian American Federation
120 Wall Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10005
Tel.: (212) 344-5878 | Fax: (212) 344-5636

