

Profile of Asians in the District of Columbia using 3-year, 5-year, and 1-year American Community Survey estimates, 2000 Decennial Census and other data

Using data to make informed decisions is key to better serving the Asian and Pacific Islander population in the District of Columbia.

An Ever Transforming Population: A Glimpse into Asians in the District of Columbia in 2009

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Introduction

This profile reflects data primarily from the 2007 – 2009 3-year American Community Survey (ACS) estimates, 2009 1-year ACS estimates, 2006-2009 5-year ACS estimates, 2000 Decennial Census and other government data resources.¹ The 3-year ACS data is a valuable research tool that provides characteristic estimate data on populations at a 20,000 threshold, 1 year estimates have a threshold of 65,000, and 5-year estimates do not have any such threshold. These estimates are intended for research purposes and the Census warns against drawing conclusions or taking policy actions based on this data; the intent of this profile is informational to create a demographic profile of District Asians.

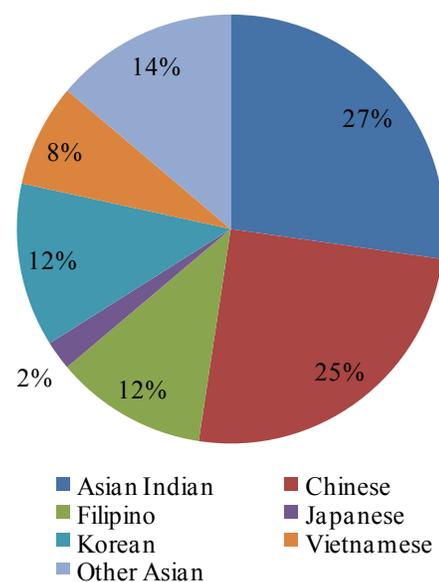
Using these estimates this profile will illustrate changes in the Asian population² in the District of Columbia and highlight various characteristics of this population, such as: population,

income and poverty, education, immigration, English ability, employment and housing.

Population

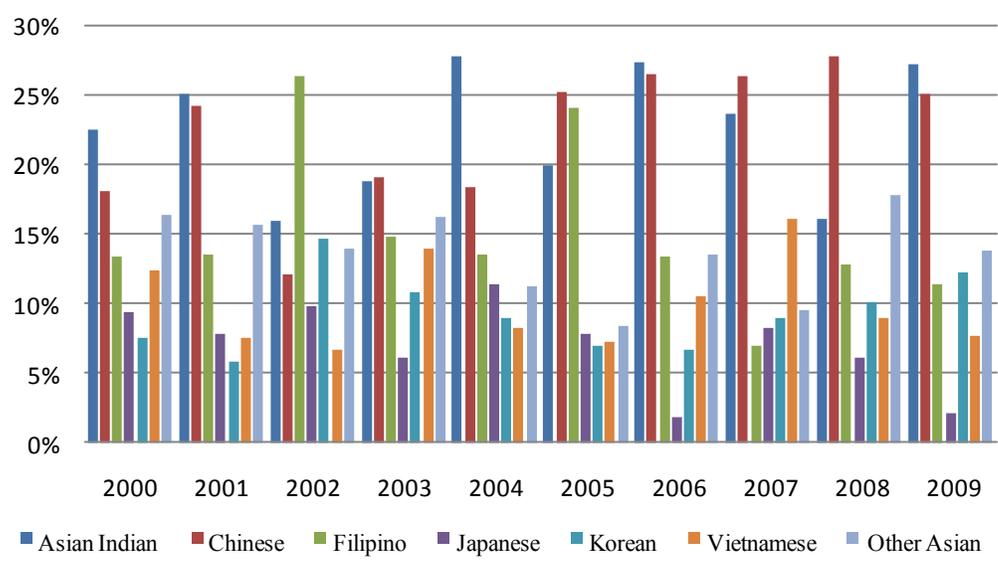
Since the 2000³ Decennial Census, the Asian population in the District of Columbia has seen an increase of

FIGURE 1. Asian Ethnic Breakdown



Source: 2009 American Community Survey 1-year estimate

FIGURE 2. Asian Ethnic Group Population Trend 2000 - 2009



Source: 2009 American Community Survey 3-year estimate

nearly 17.5%⁴ in 2009, which represented 3.69% (22,141) of the District’s population based on 1-year ACS data estimates. In comparison to the total D.C. population, Asians in D.C. had slightly higher incomes, experienced lower rates of poverty, had higher levels of education and faced a lower rate of English-language proficiency.

While the entire Asian population grew over the past eight years, the various ethnic groups fluctuated over time as seen in Figure 2. In 2009, within the Asian population, 56.5% were females and 43.5% were males. The majority of Asians were between the ages of 25 and 34 years, youth (17 years and under) constituted 18.5% and senior citizens (65 years and older) 6.9%. The District’s largest Asian groups were Asian Indian at 4,704 and Chinese at 4,343 followed by Other Asian (2,388), Korean (2,133), Filipino (1,981), and Vietnamese (1,340).⁵

nonfamily households (63.5%) compared to 56.5% of nonfamily District households. In these nonfamily households, female householders headed 36.8% of households in the Asian population and 30.4% in the entire District’s population.

Income and Poverty

The Asian population earned more than the District’s total population in 2009. With an average household size⁶ of 1.98, the District’s Asian population had a median household income⁷ of \$78,656, 35% higher than the District’s median household income, \$58,422. The median income for Asian families was \$102,977, which was also higher than the median family income⁸ for the District, \$70,311. The average family size⁹ for Asian families was 2.96. Per capita income for Asians was at \$43,025, close to the DC per capita income of \$41,825.

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In Asian households, nonrelatives comprised 15.2% and 9.6% of the entire District’s households. Asian households were comprised of mainly

DC's Asian population experienced lower rates of poverty for families and individuals than the rest of the District. The percentage of Asian families below poverty¹⁰ was 4.5%, compared to the District's 13.8%. For Asian families with related children under 18 years old, approximately 6.5% fell below the poverty line. In families with a female householder without a husband present, 10.6% lived in poverty.

Among Asian individuals for whom poverty status was determined, 10.5% lived below the poverty line, lower than the District's percentage. Out of the Asian youth population (under 18 years), 5.4% of these individuals lived in poverty. A fourth of Asian individuals 65 years and over (20.5%) fell below the poverty line, which was greater than the District rate of 14.2%.

Education

In the Asian population 25 years and older, approximately 10.6% graduated high school or equivalent, compared to 20.6% of the entire District's population 25 years and older. In this same population, 29.4% of Asians had

a Bachelors degree, compared to 21.3% of the entire District's population.

Immigration, Migration, and English Proficiency

The District's Asian population was largely made up of foreign-born individuals, who accounted for 53.6% of the total Asian population. This was approximately four times more than the District's foreign-born population percentage of 12.5%. Of the Asian foreign born population, 46.6% entered the US before 1990, 20.6% entered between 1990 and 1999, and 32.8% entered after 2000. Additional immigration and citizenship data is available through the Department of Homeland Securities division on Immigration Statistics. According to the latest data, the District had 2,934 individuals obtained Legal Permanent Status¹¹ in 2009 with 206 from China, India, and Philippines. There were 2,188 individuals naturalized¹² in 2008 in the District of Columbia, with 183 from China, Indian, and Philippines.

Since 2008, 20.5% of Asians moved to the District from another state and 5.4% came from aboard.

Over half (52%) of the District's Asian population spoke a language other than English, compared to 13.6% of the entire District population. For the purposes of this profile, Limited English Proficient (LEP) individual is defined as a person who speaks *English less than very well*. There were 3,082 (15.7%) D.C. Asians, who spoke *English less than very well*, which is nearly four times greater than the District's percentage (4.2%).

Within the Chinese speaking population, 46% were LEP, in the Vietnamese speaking population 31%

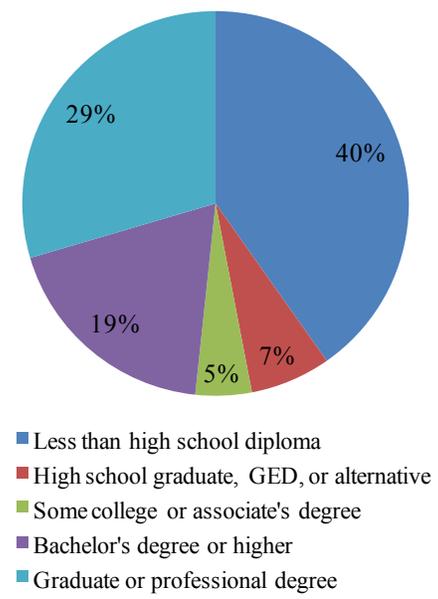
were LEP, in the Indic language speaking population 30% were LEP and Korean speaking population 33% were LEP.¹³

Employment and Housing:

The percentage of District Asians in the labor force in 2009 was 70% compared to 64.1% of the entire District's population in the labor force. Most Asians in the labor force had an occupation in management, professional, and related occupations, as did most of the entire District's population.

Among Asian households, renting was more common, 57.4%, rented their housing. For District households, the rate of renters was 55.1%. The median value of rented housing among Asian households was \$1,336, while the median value for the District was \$998. The home ownership rate for Asian households was 42.6%, lower than the District's 44.9%.

FIGURE 3. Educational Attainment



Source: 2009 American Community Survey 3-year estimate

Footnotes

¹ All data will be used from the 2007 – 2009 ACS estimates unless otherwise specified and be labeled as 2009 data points in the profile.
² The data used is from the category of “Asian Alone or in Any Combination,” which included persons who marked Asian and persons who marked Asian and at least one other race. The U.S. Census defined *Asian* as self-identification among people of Asian descent.
³ The ACS 2007-2009 3-year estimates are the first set of ACS estimates produced for geographic areas with populations between 20,000 and 64,999. Census supports comparisons made between the 2007-2009 ACS data and Census 2000 data but caution users that there are important differences between the two data sets. These include differences in residence rules and universes. Perhaps of greatest importance, the Census 2000 characteristics are interpreted to be a snapshot of April 1, 2000 while the 2007-2009 ACS estimates describe the average characteristics over the 36 month period of January 2007 through December 2009.

⁴The data used is from the category of “Asian Alone or in Any Combination,” which included persons who marked Asian and persons who marked Asian and at least one other race. The U.S. Census defined *Asian* as self-identification among people of Asian descent.

⁵Data from 2009 American Community Survey 1-year estimate

⁶Household size is the total number of people living in a housing unit.

⁷Household income refers to the total income of all occupants in a housing unit.

⁸Family size is the number of people who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and reside together in a housing unit.

⁹Family income refers to the total income of a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption and reside together.

¹⁰For the 2000 Census, a family or individual was classified as “below the poverty level” when the total family income or unrelated individual income fell below 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>.

¹¹Legal permanent residents (LPRs) are foreign nationals who have been granted the right to reside permanently in the United States. LPRs are often referred to simply as “immigrants,” but they are also known as “permanent resident aliens” and “green card holders.”

¹²Naturalized citizens are foreign nationals who have become citizens of the United States after fulfilling requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act.

¹³Data from 2009 American Community Survey 5-year estimates

Notes about the Data

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a new approach to producing critical information about the characteristics of local communities. It will eliminate the need for a long form in the 2010 Census and is a key part of the Census Bureau’s Decennial Census Program. The ACS publishes social, housing, and economic characteristics for demographic groups covering a

broad spectrum of geographic areas in the United States and Puerto Rico. The ACS shifted from a demonstration program with a different sample design and sample size to the full sample size and design in 2005. It became the largest household survey in the United States, with an annual sample size of about 3 million addresses. Every year the ACS can support the release of single-year estimates for geographic areas with populations of 65,000 or more. The ACS will accumulate sample over 3-year and 5-year intervals to produce estimates for smaller geographic areas including census tracts and block groups. For more information about the ACS, you can refer to the *ACS Design and Methodology* report at www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/handbooks/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf

The Census data provides information not only on single-race responses but on multi-race responses as well. “Asian alone” corresponds to those respondents who reported exactly one Asian group and no other Asian group or race category. “Alone” should be considered the minimum population size in any analysis that uses Census data. “Asian Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that include the selected Asian group, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected more than one Asian group (i.e. “Filipino” and “Korean”), that individual would be included in the total for each Asian group. If a respondent selected an Asian group and another racial group (i.e. Japanese and White), that individual would not be included in “Asian Alone” but would be counted in “Asian Alone or in Any Combination.” As a result,

some overlap in the “In Combination” numbers will occur. Furthermore, “Alone or in Any Combination” should be considered the maximum population size in any analysis that uses Census data. In order to be as inclusive as possible, this profile uses the data from the race category of *Asian Alone or in Any Combination*.

For More Information

For further information about this profile, please contact Neel Saxena, Program Coordinator/Grant Manager at the D.C. Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs at:

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