



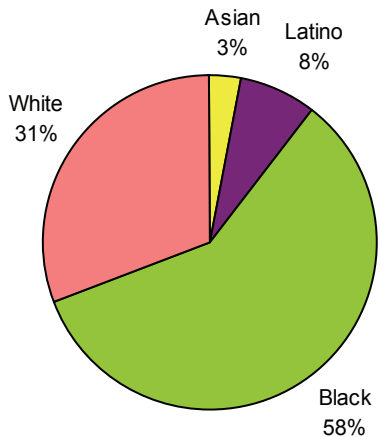
Census 2000 Profile: Asians in the District of Columbia

Introduction

From 1990 to 2000, the Asian population¹ in the District of Columbia increased by 64%, making it the fastest growing ethnic group in the District. Using data from the 1990 and 2000 Census², this profile details District Asians in terms of population size, income and poverty, education, immigration and citizenship, English proficiency, employment, and housing.

Comprised mainly of foreign-born individuals, the District Asian population in 2000 represented a multitude of Asian ethnic backgrounds. In comparison to the total D.C. population, Asians in D.C. earned lower incomes, experienced higher rates of poverty, had higher levels of education and faced greater language barriers.

District Population Breakdown



Population

In 2000, the Asian population in the District of Columbia rose to 17,956, an increase of 64% from 1990. Within this population, 55.6% were females and 44.4% were males. The majority of Asians living in D.C. were between the ages of 18 and 64 years, youth (17 years and under) constituted 14% and senior citizens (65 years and older) 6.5% of the total population.

The District's largest Asian groups were Chinese (except Taiwanese) at 4,173 and Asian Indian at 3,507,

Japanese (1,471). From 1990 to 2000, the Bangladeshi population saw the fastest growth among the Asian groups, at 251%. The Taiwanese population also grew significantly at 207%. Other major increases were seen in the Vietnamese population (172%) and in the Asian Indian population (119%).

District Asian Population Breakdown

Asian Group	1990	2000			
		Asian Alone, One Asian Group	% Change from 1990	Asian Alone or in Combination	% Change from 1990
Asian Indian	1,601	2,845	78%	3,507	119%
Bangladeshi	43	116	170%	151	251%
Cambodian	55	34	-38%	47	-15%
Chinese	3,102	3,636	17%	4,173	35%
Filipino	2,082	2,228	7%	2,714	30%
Hmong	0	6	N/A	6	N/A
Indonesian	125	164	31%	225	80%
Japanese	1,029	1,117	9%	1,471	43%
Korean	814	1,095	35%	1,273	56%
Laotian	51	56	10%	62	22%
Malaysian	112	42	-63%	66	-41%
Pakistani	169	188	11%	276	63%
Sri Lankan	89	139	56%	157	76%
Taiwanese	42	98	133%	129	207%
Thai	212	211		261	23%
Vietnamese	747	1,903	155%	2,035	172%
Other Asian	650	151		225	
Total	10,923	15,189	39%	17,956	64%

Income and Poverty

The Asian population earned less than the District's total population in 2000. With an average household size³ of 1.99, the District's Asian population had a median household income⁴ of \$36,520, which was 10% lower than the District's median household income of \$40,127. The median family income⁵ for Asian families was \$46,250, which was also lower than the median family income for the entire District, at \$46,283. The average family size⁶ for Asian families was 3.06. Per capita income for Asians, at \$27,077, was also less, as the DC per capita income was \$28,659.

In addition to lower wages, Asians in the District experienced higher rates of poverty for families and individuals than the rest of the District. The percentage of Asian families in poverty⁷ was 17.3%, compared to the District's family poverty rate of 16.7%.

In 2000, a fifth of all Asian households in the District were linguistically isolated.

For Asian families with related children under 18 years old, approximately a quarter (23.8%) fell below the poverty line, compared to the District rate of 24.5%. In Asian families with a female householder without a husband present, 25.2% lived in poverty, whereas for those households with related children under 18, 35.1% lived in poverty.

Among Asian individuals for whom poverty status was determined (16,422), 22% lived below the poverty line, whereas the District's rate of individuals in poverty was 20%. Out of the Asian youth population (under 18 years), 19.3% of these individuals lived in poverty. A fourth of Asian individuals 65 years and over (25.1%) fell below the poverty line, which was approximately a tenth greater than the District rate of 16.4%.

Education

In the population of Asians 25 years and older, approximately 18% did not graduate from high school, four percent lower than the rate for the entire District. Out of this 18%, 7.5% attended some or all of grades 9 through 12 but did not receive a diploma. However, the proportion of Asian individuals 25 years and older who did not reach 9th grade (10.9%) was greater than D.C.'s percentage (7.8%) by almost three percent. Those Asians 25 years and over who achieved a Bachelor's degree or higher constituted 57.9% of the total Asian population, while 39% of the total District population had a Bachelor's degree or higher.

Immigration and Citizenship

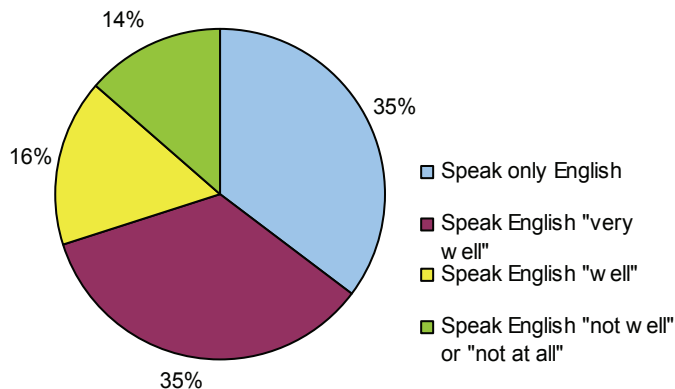
The District's Asian population was largely made up of foreign-born individuals, who accounted for 64.5% of

the total Asian population. This was approximately five times more than the District's foreign-born population of 12.9%. The majority of the foreign-born Asian population (55.1%) came to the United States between 1990 and 2000, while 19.9% came between 1980 and 1990 and 25% before 1980. Out of the 11,392 foreign-born Asians in the District, 22.2% were naturalized citizens.

English Proficiency

In 2000, approximately two thirds (64.8%) of the District's Asian population spoke a language other than English, compared to 16.8% 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 5,020 (30.1%) D.C. Asians, who spoke *English less than very well*, which is almost five times greater than the District's percentage (7.1%).

English Language Ability of D.C.'s Asian Population



More than half of the Asian LEP population (55.1%) were working age adults, 18 to 64 years, while working-age individuals who speak English less than well comprised only 5.8% of the total District population. Asians 65 years and over who *speak English less than very well* comprised 4.7% of all Asians in D.C. and those 17 years and under, 5%. There were five times as many linguistically isolated Asians households⁸ (21.5%) as there were linguistically isolated households in the District (4.1%).

For individual Asian groups, the Vietnamese population had the largest proportion of individuals who spoke English less than very well, at 66.4%. In second was the Chinese population where more than a third of the

population (38%) spoke English less than very well, followed by the Filipino population with 25.3%, the Japanese population with 24.6%, and the Korean population with 23.2%. For linguistically isolated households, the top five Asian groups that had the largest proportion of linguistically isolated households were the Vietnamese, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Filipinos, and the Koreans.

Approximately a quarter of Asian families and Asian individuals in the District live in poverty.

Employment

The percentage of District Asians in the labor force in 2000 was 69.5%, and more than half (54.8%) of all Asian families with children under 6 years had all parents in the labor force. For the entire District population, 63.6% were in the labor force, and 62.2% of families with children under 6 had all parents in the labor force. More than two thirds, 77%, of the Asian population in D.C. were private wage and salary workers, followed by government employees (19.4%), self-employed workers (3.4%), and unpaid family workers (0.2%).⁹

Housing

Among Asian households, one in four households owned their own homes, a homeownership rate of 25.1%, which was approximately 15% lower than the District homeownership rate of 40.8%. The renter's rate among the District Asian population was 74.9%, whereas for the District, the rate of renting was approximately 16% lower, at 59.2%. The median value of rented housing among Asian households was \$742, while the median value for the District was a fifth lower, at \$618.

Footnotes

¹ 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 2000 U.S. Census defined *Asian* as self-identification among people of Asian descent.

² Unless otherwise noted, the numbers used in this profile are from the Summary Files One, Two, Three, and Four of the U.S. Census. SF One and SF Two refer to data collected from a 100 percent survey of the U.S. population, while SF Three and SF Four are sample surveys of about 1 in 6 households.

³ Household size is the total number of people living in a housing unit.

⁴ Household income refers to the total income of all occupants in a housing unit.

⁵ Family income refers to the total income of a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption and reside together.

⁶ Family size is the number of people who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and reside together in a housing unit.

⁷ For 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>.

⁸ A linguistically isolated is a household where no member, 14 years old and over, (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well." As such, all members of the household, 14 years old and older have some difficulty with English.

⁹ Private wage and salary workers include people who work for wages, salary, commission, tips, pay-in-kind, or piece rates for a private-for-profit employer or a private-not-for-profit, tax-exempt, or charitable organization. Government workers refer to people who are employees of any local, state, or federal government unit, regardless of the activity of the particular agency. Self-employed workers refer to those people who work for profit or fees in their own unincorporated business, profession, or trade, or who operated a farm. Unpaid family workers are those people who worked 15 hours or more without pay in a business or on a farm operated by a relative.

Notes about the Data:

The 2000 U.S. Census was the first decennial census in which respondents were allowed to mark more than one race. As such, 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 2000 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 2000 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 the Neel Saxena at the D.C. Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs at:

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