



# Census Profile: New York City's Filipino American Population

Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center

## Introduction

This profile provides a snapshot of New York City's Filipino American population, based on an analysis of 2000 and 1990 U.S. census data.<sup>1</sup> It discusses population size, growth, age and geographic distribution, as well as immigration patterns, citizenship status, education levels, English ability, income, poverty, and housing patterns. Comparisons with the city's total population offer context.<sup>2</sup>

Census data show that the number of Filipino New Yorkers grew by close to one-half from 1990 to 2000. In addition,

## Filipino American Statistics at a Glance

Population	
2000 Alone or In-Combination Population in New York City	62,058
Queens (as a Percentage of NYC Population)	33,225 (54%)
Manhattan	10,223 (16%)
Brooklyn	7,918 (13%)
Bronx	5,446 (9%)
Staten Island	5,246 (8%)
1990 Population in New York City	43,229
Population Growth from 1990 to 2000	44%
Immigration	
Foreign-Born Population	47,885
Foreign-Born Percentage of Total Population	72%
Educational Attainment (Adults 25 and Older)	
Number of Adults Without a High School Diploma	3,058
Percentage of Adults Without a High School Diploma	7%
Limited English Proficiency (Speaks English "Well," "Not Well," or "Not at All")	
Total Number	12,922
Percentage of Total Population	21%
Income	
Median Household Income	\$69,228
Median Family Income	\$78,219
Per Capita Income	\$27,065
Number of Households Earning Less Than \$20,000	2,285
Percentage of Households Earning Less Than \$20,000	11%
Number of Households Earning More Than \$100,000	5,673
Percentage of Households Earning More Than \$100,000	27%
Poverty	
Number of Individuals Living in Poverty	3,897
Percentage of Total Population Living in Poverty	6%
Number of Children (17 and Younger) Living in Poverty	684
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty	5%
Number of Elderly (65 and Older) Living in Poverty	413
Percentage of Elderly Living in Poverty	8%



Photograph - Corky Lee

Carmine Street in Manhattan

compared with city-wide residents, in 2000, Filipinos as a whole were much more educated, spoke English better, had higher incomes, were less likely to live in poverty, and were more apt to own their homes. However, in an exception to the pattern of Filipinos having higher socioeconomic status than the general population, Filipino senior citizens had less command of English than their counterparts city-wide. Also noteworthy, Filipino women significantly outnumbered Filipino men in New York City, while the city's overall Asian American population was evenly split between genders.

## Population

In 2000, the New York metropolitan area had the fourth-largest Filipino American population in a U.S. metropolitan region.<sup>3</sup> Approximately 65 percent of Filipino Americans in New York State lived in New York City. Filipinos also were the fourth-largest Asian American ethnic group in New York City, constituting 7 percent of the city's Asian population.<sup>4</sup>

From 1990 to 2000, the Filipino population in New York City increased by 44 percent, from 43,229 to 62,058. That growth was far greater than the city's overall 9 percent population rise but lower than the 71 percent expansion of the city's total Asian population. In raw numbers, the addition of 18,829 Filipino New Yorkers represented the sixth-largest population increase among Asian groups in the city in the last decade.<sup>5</sup>

Within New York City, in 2000, the majority (54 percent, or 33,225) of Filipinos lived in Queens, followed by Manhattan (16 percent, or 10,223); Brooklyn (13 percent, or 7,918); the Bronx (9 percent, or 5,446); and Staten Island (8 percent, or 5,246).

By age, 21 percent (13,704) of the city's Filipino residents were children (age 17 and younger); 72 percent (48,084) were working-age adults (18 to 64); and 7 percent (4,901) were senior citizens (65 and older). The age distribution for the entire city population was 24 percent children, 64 percent working-age adults, and 12 percent elderly.

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## About 40 percent of elderly Filipino Americans in New York City have limited English skills.

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A notable demographic feature of the Filipino population in New York City in 2000 was its uneven gender distribution. For the total Filipino population, the female/male ratio was 58 percent/42 percent, while the city's overall Asian population was about 50 percent female and 50 percent male. The skewed pattern for Filipinos was most pronounced among working-age adults, of whom 60 percent were women and 40 percent were men, compared with the 51 percent female/49 percent male ratio for their counterparts within the city's total Asian population.

### Immigration and Citizenship

The vast majority (72 percent, or 47,885) of the city's Filipinos in 2000 were foreign-born, compared with about one-third (36 percent) of all city residents.

Three-quarters (35,865) of Filipino immigrants in New York City came to the United States in the last 20 years, fueling recent population growth. Specifically, 40 percent (19,041) of the foreign-born Filipino population immigrated to this country from 1990 to March 2000; 35 percent (16,824) arrived from 1980 to 1989; and 25 percent (12,020) came before 1980.

Of all the city's Filipino immigrants counted in the 2000 census, 52 percent (24,907) were naturalized citizens, compared with 45 percent of all New York City immigrants. Furthermore, according to 2000 census data, 73 percent of foreign-born Filipino New Yorkers became citizens within 20 years, compared with 31 percent of foreign-born residents city-wide.

### Educational Attainment

Filipinos in 2000 were substantially more educated than the general New York City population.

Of the city's total Filipino adult population (46,132), 7 percent (3,058) had not graduated from high school – one-fourth of the 28 percent rate for adults city-wide.<sup>6</sup> Also, 4 percent (1,851) of adult Filipino New Yorkers had less than a ninth-grade education, compared with 15 percent of all city adults.

At the high end of the educational spectrum, 84 percent (38,653) of Filipino adults in New York City had post-secondary education, compared with 48 percent of all adults city-wide.

More than half (60 percent, or 6,709) of school-age Filipino children in New York City were enrolled in the city's public school system – a lower proportion than for city children overall (79 percent). Thus, 40 percent of Filipino children attended private schools, compared with 21 percent of children city-wide.

### English Proficiency

English-speaking skills were higher for New York City's Filipino adults overall and for Filipino working-age adults than for their city-wide counterparts, while the reverse was true for elderly residents, as evidenced by degrees of Limited English Proficiency (LEP).<sup>7</sup>

Roughly 21 percent (12,922) of the total Filipino population spoke English "well", "not well" or "not at all," compared with 24 percent of all city adults. Similarly, the LEP classification applied to 20 percent (9,539) of Filipino working-age adults and 25 percent of total city adults in that age group. However, 40 percent (1,955) of Filipino senior citizens had limited English skills – a rate much higher than 27 percent of the city's elderly residents overall.

### Income

By all measures of income, Filipino New Yorkers surpassed city residents as a whole. Filipino median household income was \$69,228, far exceeding \$38,293 city-wide, and Filipino median family income of \$78,219 was much higher than \$41,887 for the total city population.<sup>8</sup> Filipino per capita income was \$27,065, compared with \$22,402 city-wide.

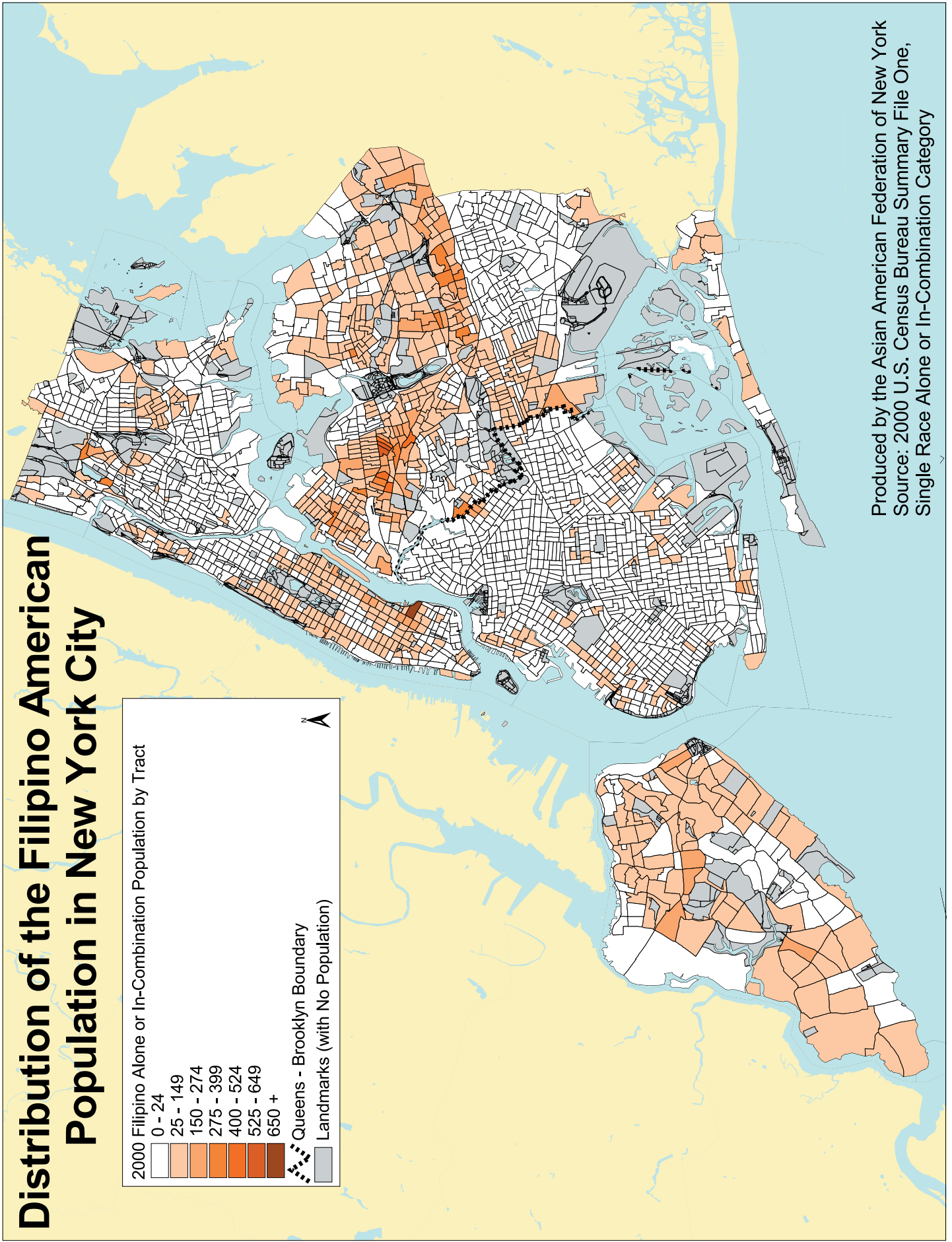
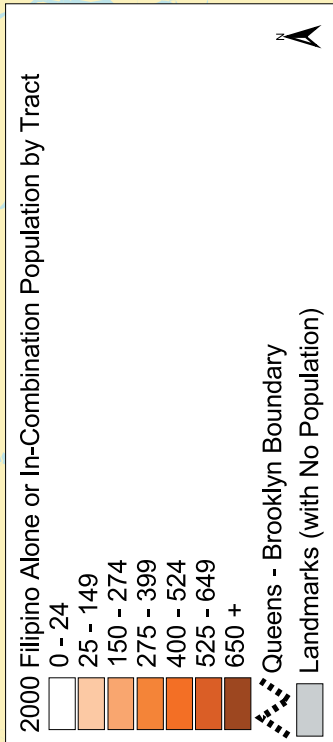
### Poverty

Poverty rates for Filipinos were considerably lower than for the total New York City population.<sup>9</sup>

Among all Filipinos in the city, 6 percent (3,897) lived below the poverty line – less than one-third of the overall New York City poverty rate of 21 percent. By age category, 5 percent (684) of the city's Filipino children lived in poverty, compared with 30 percent of children city-wide, while 8 percent (413) of elderly Filipinos experienced poverty, compared with 18 percent of senior citizens city-wide.

Nearly half (47 percent, or 307) of Filipino children in poverty lived in two-parent families, compared with 34 percent of all city children below the poverty line.

# Distribution of the Filipino American Population in New York City



Produced by the Asian American Federation of New York  
 Source: 2000 U.S. Census Bureau Summary File One,  
 Single Race Alone or In-Combination Category



## Housing

Filipinos were more likely to own their homes than the general population. According to the census, 62 percent of Filipinos in the city rented and 38 percent owned their homes, compared with 70 percent renters and 30 percent homeowners in the city overall.

Filipino New Yorkers in 2000 had an average household size of 2.82 people – larger than 2.59 for the general New York City population.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> All numbers are from Summary Files (SF) One, Two, Three and Four of the U.S. census. However, SF One and SF Two data refer to information collected from a 100 percent U.S. population survey while SF Three and Four data represent a sample survey.

<sup>2</sup> Rates and percentages for each section of this profile are derived from the data universe related to the topic at hand. Therefore, population tallies for one subject will not necessarily correspond with those for another topic.

<sup>3</sup> In 2000, metropolitan areas for Los Angeles (with 434,781 Filipino Americans), San Francisco (379,196), and Honolulu (191,393) had the three largest Filipino populations in U.S. metropolitan regions.

<sup>4</sup> The largest Asian American ethnic groups in New York City in 2000 were Chinese Americans (374,321, or 42 percent of the city's Asian population); Indian Americans (206,228, or 23 percent); and Korean Americans (90,896, or 10 percent).

<sup>5</sup> When compared with the Filipino Alone category for the 1990 census, the Filipino population increased by 27 percent (11,764).

<sup>6</sup> For education tabulations, adults are defined as individuals age 25 and older.

<sup>7</sup> "Limited English Proficiency," as used in the profile, refers to individuals who spoke English "well," "not well" or "not at all" as of Census 2000.

<sup>8</sup> Household income refers to the income of all occupants of a housing unit. Family income refers 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.

<sup>9</sup> Families and individuals are classified as below the poverty line if their total family income or unrelated individual income was less than 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>.

## Technical Note

### Race Categories

The 2000 census was the first decennial census in which respondents were allowed to mark more than one race. As a consequence, Census 2000 race information is far more complicated than such data from previous censuses. For example, 2000 data include results for single-race as well as multiple-race responses. "Asian Alone" corresponds to the respondents who reported exactly one Asian group and no other race category. "Alone" should be considered the minimum

population size in any analysis that uses Census 2000 data. To be as inclusive as possible, this profile uses "Asian Alone or in Any Combination" numbers.

"Alone or in Any Combination" corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that included the selected Asian group, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected an Asian group and another racial group (e.g., Korean and black), that individual, while excluded from the "Asian Alone" count, was tallied in the "Alone or in Any Combination" count for the Asian group and the other racial group. Hence, some overlap in the "In Combination" numbers occurred. "Alone or in Any Combination" should be considered the maximum population size in any analysis that uses Census 2000 data.

## About This Profile

This is one of a series of Asian American population profiles prepared by the Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center (CIC) to increase understanding of the rapidly growing and diverse Asian American population in the New York metropolitan area.

The Asian American Federation of New York, a nonprofit leadership organization that works collaboratively to meet the critical needs of Asian Americans in the New York metropolitan area, was selected by the U.S. Census Bureau to operate the only CIC in the New York area focused on serving the Asian American community. Established in 2000, the center provides census information, conducts data and policy analysis, and encourages census participation. For more information on the Federation, visit [www.aafny.org](http://www.aafny.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

For more information regarding this profile, please contact the Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center at (212) 344-5878 x19 or [cic@aafny.org](mailto:cic@aafny.org), or visit [www.aafny.org/cic/](http://www.aafny.org/cic/).

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