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HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT:

ASIAN POVERTY IN THE NEW YORK METRO AREA



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PREFACE

Part of our mission at the Asian American Federation is increasing the voice and visibility of the Asian American community. Providing easy access to data in an understandable format enables our communities to advocate on policies that affect their lives and future. With this report we are building on our series, started in 2008, on Asian American poverty in New York City. Conversations with our various member agencies that serve vulnerable Asian New Yorkers revealed that Asian American poverty was becoming more prevalent in the suburbs of the New York metro area. The goal of this report is to highlight the growth of this population across the metro area while also addressing long-standing issues that contribute to the economic challenges they face.

No one could have predicted the arrival of a worldwide pandemic, let alone the economic and health consequences it has wrought. While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the world in many ways, the underlying issues raised in this report have not. The pandemic served only to highlight the frailty of the social safety net, particularly for Asian immigrants. While the first two sections of our report rely on the American Community Survey, which has yet to release data collected during the pandemic, we felt compelled to include a section in this report that uses additional data sources to capture the pandemic's impact on economic, social, and health measures that correlate with Asian Americans living in poverty.

In addition to the economic and health impacts of the pandemic, the Asian American community had to confront the fallout from the politicization of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The increase in anti-Asian hate incidents arising from the unwarranted association of the COVID-19 virus with Asian communities harmed the economic well-being of Asian-owned businesses and the mental health and personal safety of members of the Asian American community. Many Asian Americans were afraid to leave their houses for job, school, or even everyday activities as a result of the toxic combination of COVID-19 and anti-Asian prejudice.

Our greatest hope for this report is that it raises awareness of the human toll of poverty on the Asian American community. To address poverty in our community, we must first listen to the needs of those touched by poverty and then design programs to help individuals where they live and work.

We are grateful to the Korean American Community Foundation for their generous support of this report and our ongoing research on Asian American communities, which we hope will amplify Asian American voices and make their lives more visible.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The number of Asian Americans living in poverty increased by 15 percent over the last decade, from just over 252,000 in 2010 to almost 290,000 in 2019, mostly due to the overall growth of the Asian American population in the area. Asian Americans now make up 10.4 percent of those living in poverty in the New York metro area, up from 9.2 percent in 2010.

Asian Americans living in poverty are increasingly found in the suburban areas of the New York metro area. While New York City remains the area with the largest concentration of Asian Americans living in poverty, the city's share of that population has fallen from 76 percent in 2010 to 73 percent in 2019. The Hudson Valley region had the largest increase in the number of Asian Americans living in poverty.

Population growth of Asian Americans living in poverty was driven by **changing patterns of domestic migration**. Comparing 2010 to 2019, more Asian Americans living in poverty, either from other parts of the United States or from within the New York metro area, were choosing to move to the suburbs, rather than stay in New York City. However, Asian immigrants living in poverty moving into the metro area from abroad continued to prefer New York City. The access to in-language and culturally competent services offered by community-based organizations (CBOs) in Asian American neighborhoods remain a draw for new immigrants.

The **Asian groups** in the metro area with the highest poverty rates were Mongolian, Burmese, Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Chinese, Pakistani, and Malaysian, which were all above the metro-wide Asian poverty rate of 11.5 percent. Several groups had more than one fifth of their population living near the poverty line: Bangladeshi, Chinese, Nepalese, and Pakistani. For those households living near the poverty line, the loss of one job will likely take the whole household into poverty.

Asian American **immigrants** living in poverty were more likely to be non-U.S. citizens and newer immigrants (living in the U.S. less than 10 years). Among Asian Americans:

- Across the New York metro area 54 percent of immigrants living in poverty had been in the U.S. for less than 10 years.
- The poverty rate for non-citizens was 16 percent, compared to the poverty rates of 9.5 percent for native-born and 9.9 percent for naturalized citizens.
- Female immigrants had a higher poverty rate than male immigrants in New York City, 16.7 percent versus 14.2 percent.

Asian Americans living in poverty participated in the **labor force** at comparable rates to the rest of the population, and had lower unemployment than non-Asians of similar economic status. Among Asian Americans:

- Poor women had a lower labor force participation rate than men, indicating that they were less likely to be actively looking for work.
- Workers who lived in poverty were more likely to be employed in **restaurant and food services; taxi and limousine services; and nail salons and other personal care services.**
- The occupations held by poor workers differed between men and women:
 - Men were more likely to be employed as **taxi drivers and chauffeurs, chefs and cooks, and construction laborers.**
 - Women were more likely to have jobs as **aides and nursing assistants, personal care workers such as nail salon workers, and sewing machine operators.**
- The over-concentration of workers living in poverty upon specific industries have made them **extremely vulnerable economically during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Lower **educational attainment** was associated with higher poverty rates for Asian American adults over the age of 25 across the metro area, where 24 percent of adults without a high school diploma were living in poverty.

Limited English proficiency (LEP) rates were associated with poverty, demonstrating that English language skills affected job prospects, with more than half (54 percent) of workers in poverty having LEP.

While the number of Asian American **children** in the metro area living in poverty only increased by 1 percent,

- Seventy-three percent of Asian children in poor households live with two parents, compared to 34 percent of non-Asian children in poverty.
- Two-fifths of Asian children were living in linguistically isolated households, compared to less than one-fifth (19 percent) of their non-Asian counterparts.
- Only 33 percent of Asian children in poverty lived in households that received SNAP benefits in the previous year, compared to 58 percent of their non-Asian counterparts.

The number of Asian American **seniors** living in poverty increased by 67 percent, from 30,477 in 2010 to almost 50,970 in 2019. Social isolation was a significant problem for Asian American seniors living in poverty. Among Asian American seniors:

- Twenty-nine percent of seniors in poverty were living alone compared to 9 percent of seniors above the poverty threshold.
- Eighty percent of seniors living in poverty were LEP, while those above the poverty threshold had a 59 percent LEP rate.
- Sixty-eight percent of poor seniors lived in linguistically isolated households compared to 29 percent of those above the poverty threshold.

The high cost of living in the New York metro area greatly increased the financial burdens on Asian Americans living in poverty.

- After the adoption of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Asian Americans living in poverty closed the gap in **health insurance coverage** relative to their non-Asian peers living in poverty.
- The share of Asian and non-Asian households living in poverty that face **housing cost burdens** has not changed significantly between 2010 and 2019, with nearly 9 in 10 households in each group spending more than 30 percent of their household budget on housing.
- **Affordable childcare** for working parents remains a major challenge for poor and low-income families. Among Asian American children, those living in poverty were less likely to have all parents in the household working, compared to those children living near poverty.

The bulk of our report relies on data collected by the Census Bureau before the COVID-19 pandemic. These data are important to show long-term challenges to alleviating Asian American poverty. However, we need to rely on more recent data sources to reveal the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on poor and low-income Asian Americans in the metro area.

- Tracking New York State unemployment data showed that industries that poor and low-income Asian American workers rely on for jobs were hardest hit. For example, food services industry lost nearly three-quarters of their workforce in April 2020 (compared to 2019).
- Unemployment benefit applications for Asian New Yorkers increased by more than 6,000 percent in early 2020 compared to the same time period in 2019.
- The Economic Policy Institute estimates that the unemployment rate for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in New York State and New Jersey went from below that of the general population before the pandemic to higher than the general population after the pandemic lockdown hit. For AAPI workers in New York State, their unemployment rate remains above the statewide rate through the second quarter of 2021.
- Asian-owned small businesses were hit earlier and harder than the rest of the economy.
 - AAF's own survey of small businesses showed that 81 percent of businesses surveyed reported a more than 50 percent decline in revenue.
 - The Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth reported that consumer spending in Asian American business districts in New York City fell between 71-82 percent compared to a 65 percent decline for the whole city.

As Asian Americans become a large share of the population living in poverty, local and state agencies in suburban areas will have to make sure their social services are linguistically and culturally accessible to address the needs of this diverse population. Providing relevant services will require outreach that make use of cultural networks, ethnic media, and trusted voices and leaders in the community. Our recommendations cover educational opportunities for children and adults, improved language access, a focus on senior services, and building out capacity of Asian-led, Asian-serving organizations best placed to provide trusted, culturally competent services to their own communities.

INTRODUCTION

The impetus for this report grew out of our initial series of reports on Asian American poverty for New York City. As we shared our findings, we began to hear feedback about the changing demographics of Asian Americans living in poverty, particularly the outward migration to the suburbs. This report seeks to investigate the scale of this change in the geographic distribution of Asian American poverty in the New York metropolitan area and to understand who makes up this population and what challenges they face.

The Census Bureau defines poverty as people who live in families or households with income below the federal poverty income threshold. The report will occasionally use the term low-income, which covers families or households with incomes less than twice the size of the federal poverty income threshold. The methodology section provides further details on the income thresholds used in this report.

We also used an approximation of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's current definition of the New York–Newark, NY–NJ–CT–PA Combined Statistical Area (shortened to New York metro area for the rest of this report) as the study area. This area includes parts of Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley and, all of New York City and Long Island, which we describe in detail in the methodology section. Statistics apply to the entire metro area unless specified otherwise.

Our primary data source is the American Community Survey (ACS). The most current data available from the ACS covers up to 2019. As a result, the main part of our report will be focused on pre-COVID challenges of Asian Americans living in poverty. Given that before COVID the United States was experiencing a prolonged period of economic growth, our findings are rooted in identifying long-term structural and demographic changes happening among Asian Americans living in poverty and our recommendations reflect that. Nevertheless, to find a way around the inevitable lag in comprehensive government data on poverty, this report has an additional section where we examine available data from unemployment and business statistics that have a faster turnaround to estimate the scale of the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable Asian Americans.

This report examines Asian American poverty in the New York metro area from different angles. First, we look at general demographic trends by geography and Asian ethnic group. Second, the report investigates Asian Americans in poverty through various dimensions: immigration, employment, education, English proficiency, children, seniors, and living expenses. Third, we pull together various available sources to measure the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on Asian American in poverty. Finally, the report concludes with recommendations for action to address Asian American poverty over the long term.

Throughout the report we will use the terms Asian American and Asian New Yorker to emphasize that fact that Asian Americans have played an active role in the history of our country and city. In certain parts of the report, we may shorten the term to Asian, particularly when comparing Asian Americans to other ethnic groups, but the meaning still remains the same.

Section 1:

POVERTY AMONG ASIAN AMERICANS ROSE AS COMMUNITY GREW

The number of Asian Americans living in poverty increased by 15 percent over the last decade, from just over 252,000 in 2010 to almost 290,000 in 2019, mostly due to the overall growth of the Asian American population in the area. Asian Americans now make up 10.4 percent of those living in poverty in the New York metro area, up from 9.2 percent in 2010. However, the poverty rate for Asian Americans in the New York metro area saw a small decline between 2010 and 2019, from 12.4 percent to 11.5 percent.

Where Do Poor Asian Americans Live?

Geographically, more poor Asian Americans were moving to the suburbs accounting for an increasingly large share of the suburban poor population. While New York City remained the center of poverty in the New York metro area, the suburban share of the Asian American population living in poverty had risen. In 2010, 24 percent of Asians living in poverty in the metro area lived outside of New York City.

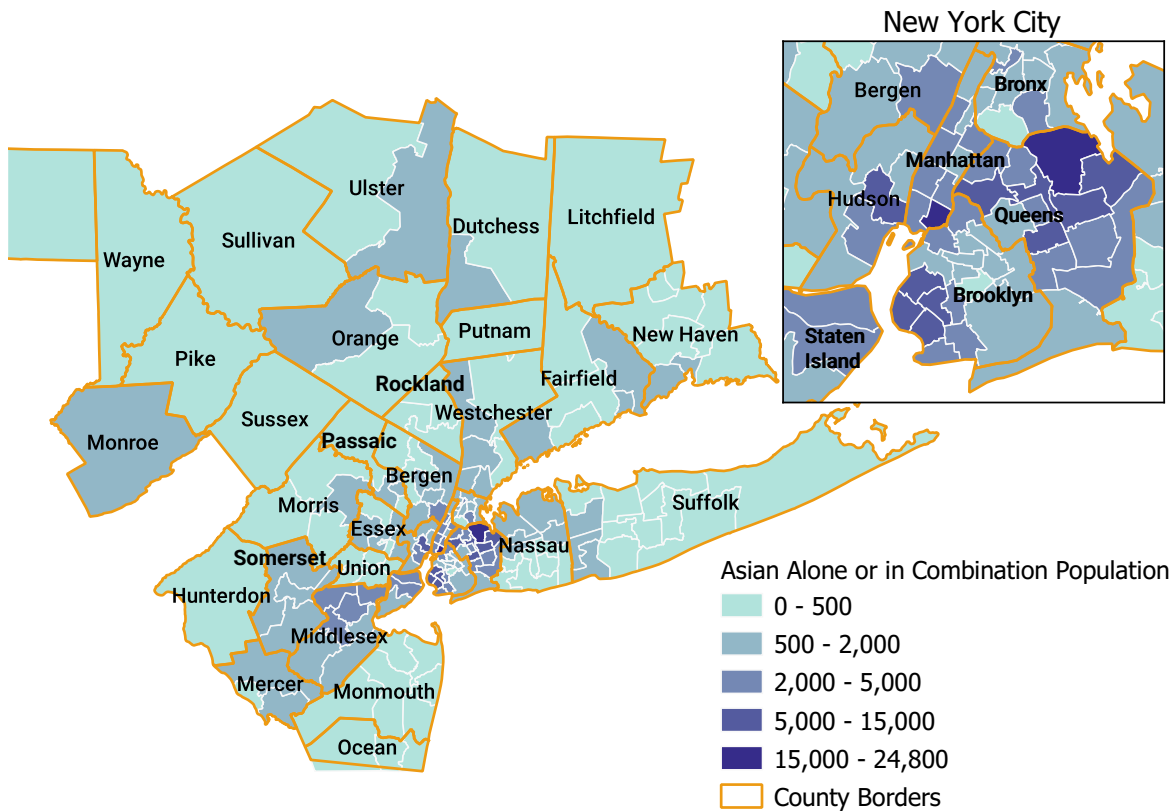
Asian Americans living in poverty increased by **15 percent** over the last 10 years in NYC.



MAP 1

ASIAN POPULATION IN POVERTY

NEW YORK METRO AREA 2019



*Produced by the Asian American Federation
Source: 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau*

By 2019, the suburbs of the metro area had 27 percent of the Asian American population living in poverty.

Among Asian ethnic groups, New York City also remained the center of poverty. However, regional poverty trends from 2010 to 2019 showed that the growth in Asian Americans living in poverty in the Hudson Valley, Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey-

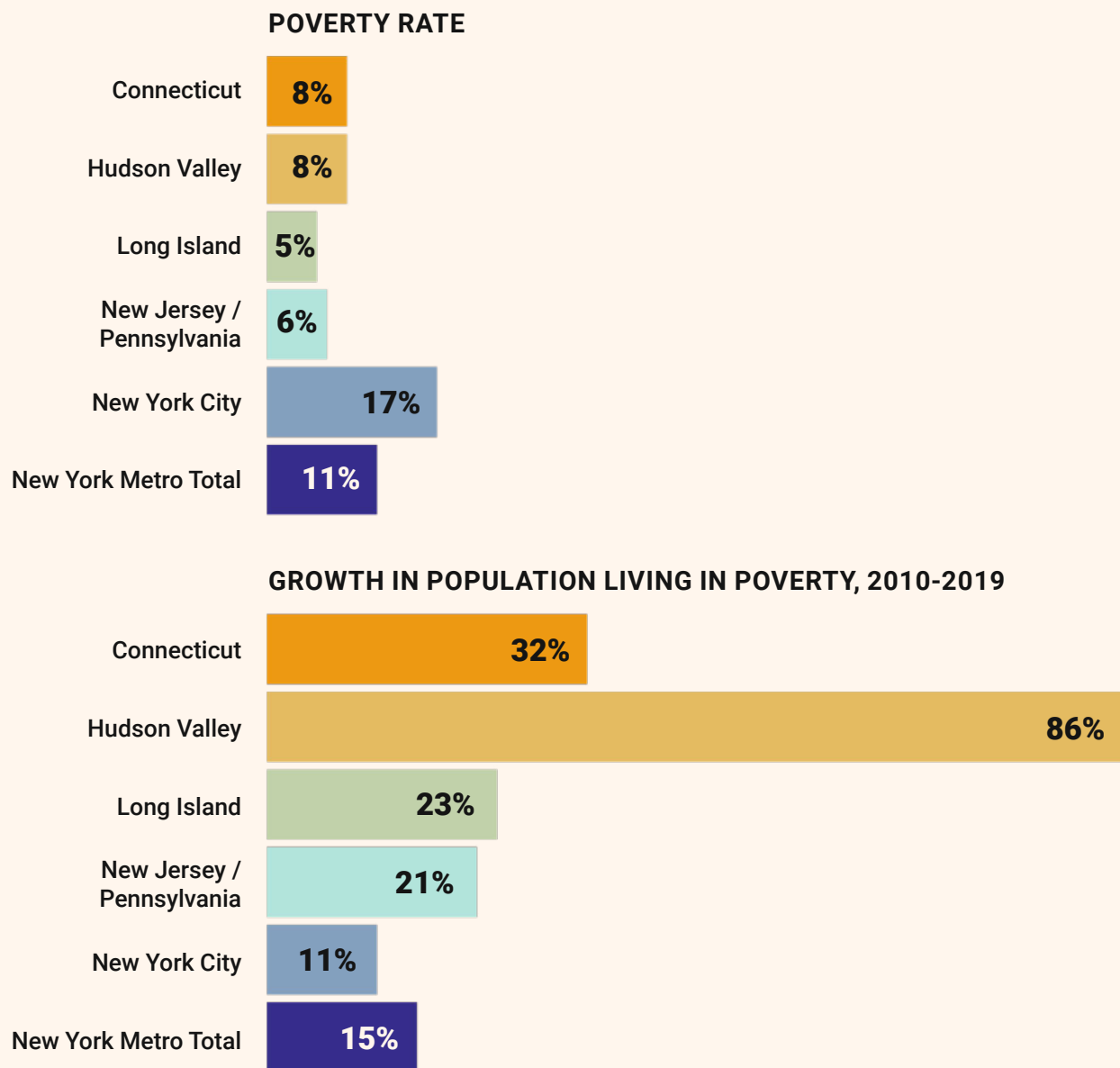
Pennsylvania outpaced the growth in New York City, pointing to spread and growth in poverty outside the central hub and into suburbs. In particular, the Hudson Valley saw the greatest percentage increase in Asian Americans living in poverty (Chart 1). While the total Asian American population grew by 16%, the number living in poverty increased by 86%. The increase in poverty rates in the Hudson Valley was offset by small declines in

poverty rates in the other regions, resulting in a less than one percent decline in the overall Asian American poverty rate for the whole metro area.

Similar to the Asian poverty rate across the New York metro area, Black, Hispanic, and non-Hispanic White poverty rates did not change much from 2010 to 2019. When the

CHART 1

ASIAN AMERICAN POVERTY



Sources: AAF Analysis of 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

poor population was examined by major race and ethnic groups by specific regions, Asians in the Hudson Valley were the only demographic group where the growth in the poor population outpaced the total population growth (Appendix 1).

The growth in Asian American poverty in the Hudson Valley indicates that poor Asian Americans were moving into the Hudson Valley possibly to take advantage of better opportunities. One possible explanation for this trend is the 2009 settlement between

Westchester County and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that required the county to build 750 units of affordable housing in the county, thereby attracting more low-income families into the region. Other possible explanations include families looking for better job prospects or educational opportunities for their children. Additional research specific to this community is necessary to reveal the specific motivations behind this trend.



In New York City,
there are nearly
300,000
Asian Americans
who live in
poverty.

More Established but Poor Asian Americans Chose the Suburbs

The Asian American population including those living in poverty continued to migrate out of New York City, a trend that is supported by anecdotal evidence from our member agencies. Our member agencies saw more of their clients moving out of New York City and yet continuing to visit the city for services due to a shortage of culturally and linguistically competent services near their new homes. We investigated migration patterns of Asian Americans in the metro area, where they settled and where they migrated, to further understand what is driving the increase in poor Asian Americans in the suburbs.

The American Community Survey collects information on people and households who had moved residences in the twelve months prior to their taking the survey. From this data we can separate the people who did move in that time frame into three groups:

- those that moved into the metro area from abroad,
- those that moved into the metro area from other parts of the United States, and
- those that moved within the metro area.

Comparing 2010 to 2019 data shows a gradual shift in moving preferences between New York City and the suburbs. First, poor Asian Americans were more likely than Asian Americans not living in poverty to have moved within the last twelve months, pointing to potential instability in their housing situations. In 2019, 17 percent of Asian Americans living in poverty had moved compared to only 12 percent of those not in poverty. We will see in later sections that affordable housing remains a major challenge for low-income Asians in the metro area.

Second, from 2010 to 2019, the preference among Asian Americans migrating to New York City from abroad remained virtually the same. Asian Americans living in poverty showed a distinct preference for moving into New York City, with 66 percent of poor Asian Americans relocating from abroad choosing to reside in the city, compared to only 40 percent of those living at or above the poverty level (Chart 2).

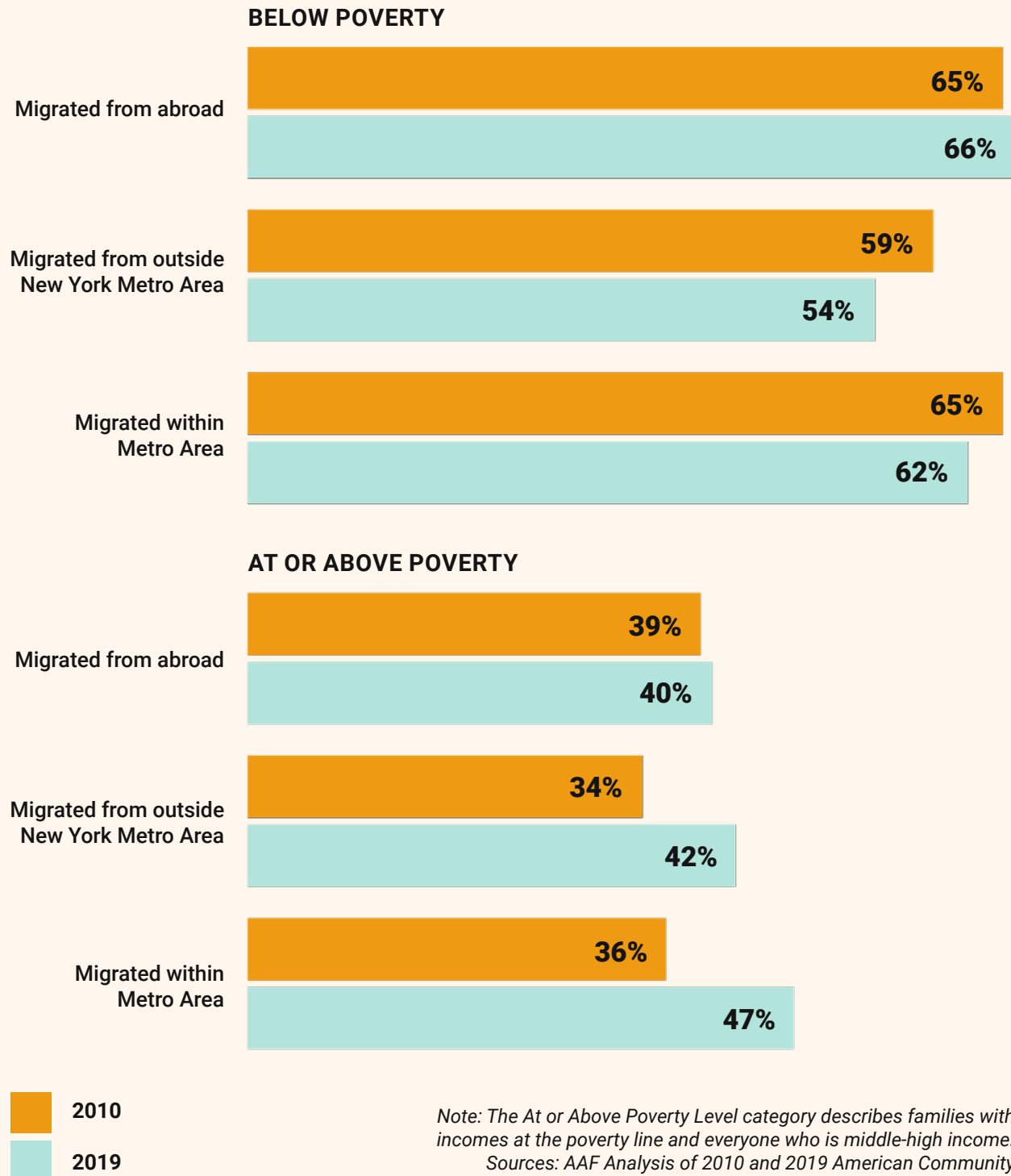
Finally, a shift in preferences occurred among those moving from within the United States, both from those outside the metro area and those within. Asian Americans living in poverty showed a decline in choosing to move into or within New York City, while those at or above the poverty level showed an increasing preference to move to the city (Chart 2). For example, among Asian Americans moving



CHART 2

POPULATION FLOW OF ASIANS

NEW YORK METRO AREA

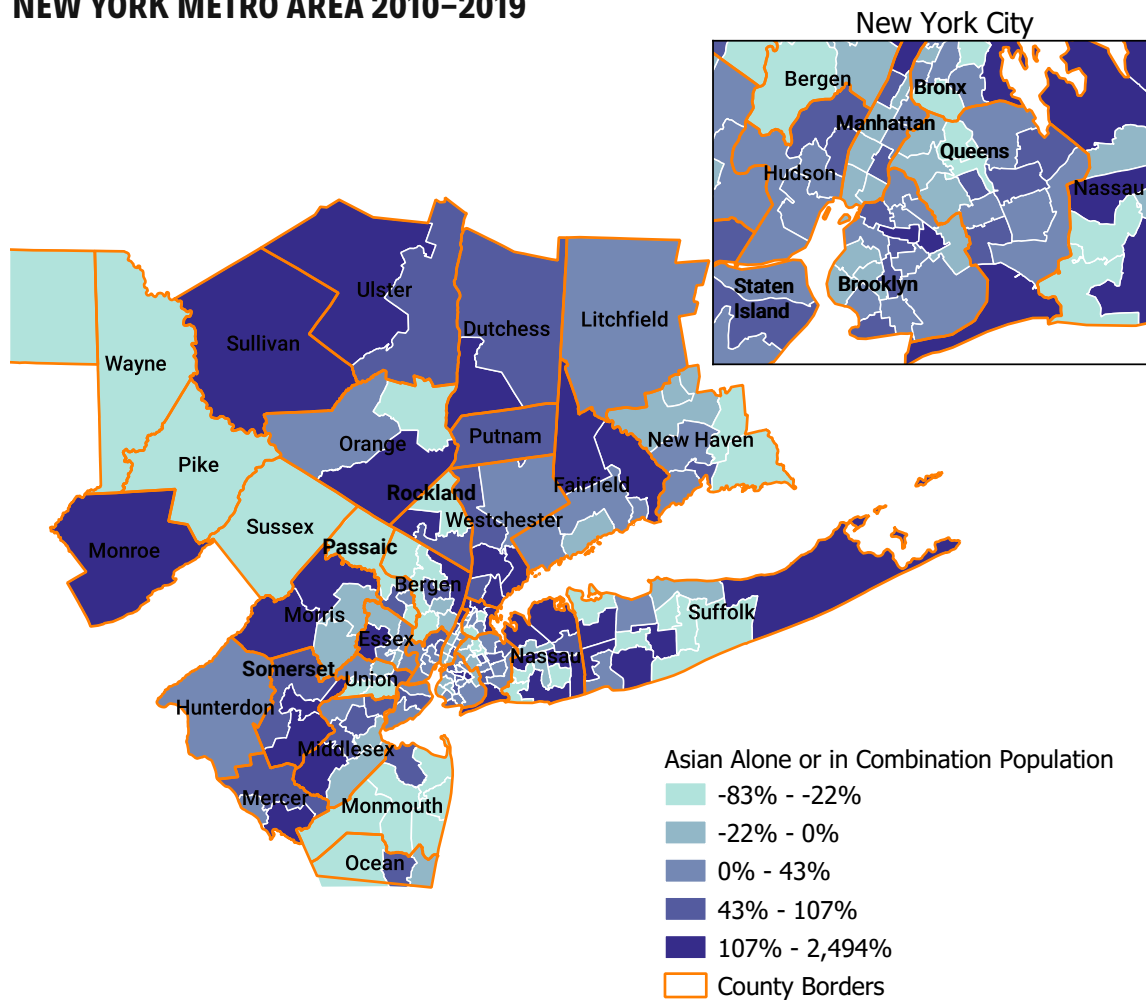


Note: The At or Above Poverty Level category describes families with incomes at the poverty line and everyone who is middle-high income.
Sources: AAF Analysis of 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

MAP 2

CHANGE IN ASIAN POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY

NEW YORK METRO AREA 2010–2019



Produced by the Asian American Federation

Sources: 2010 and 2019 American Community Surveys 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

into the metro area, 59 percent of those living below the poverty level chose the city in 2010 compared to only 54 percent in 2019.

This analysis suggests that New York City

continues to be an immigrant receiving city, but once Asian immigrants begin to establish themselves in the United States, there is an increasing preference to move to suburban parts of the metro area.

Expanding Needs Across Asian Groups

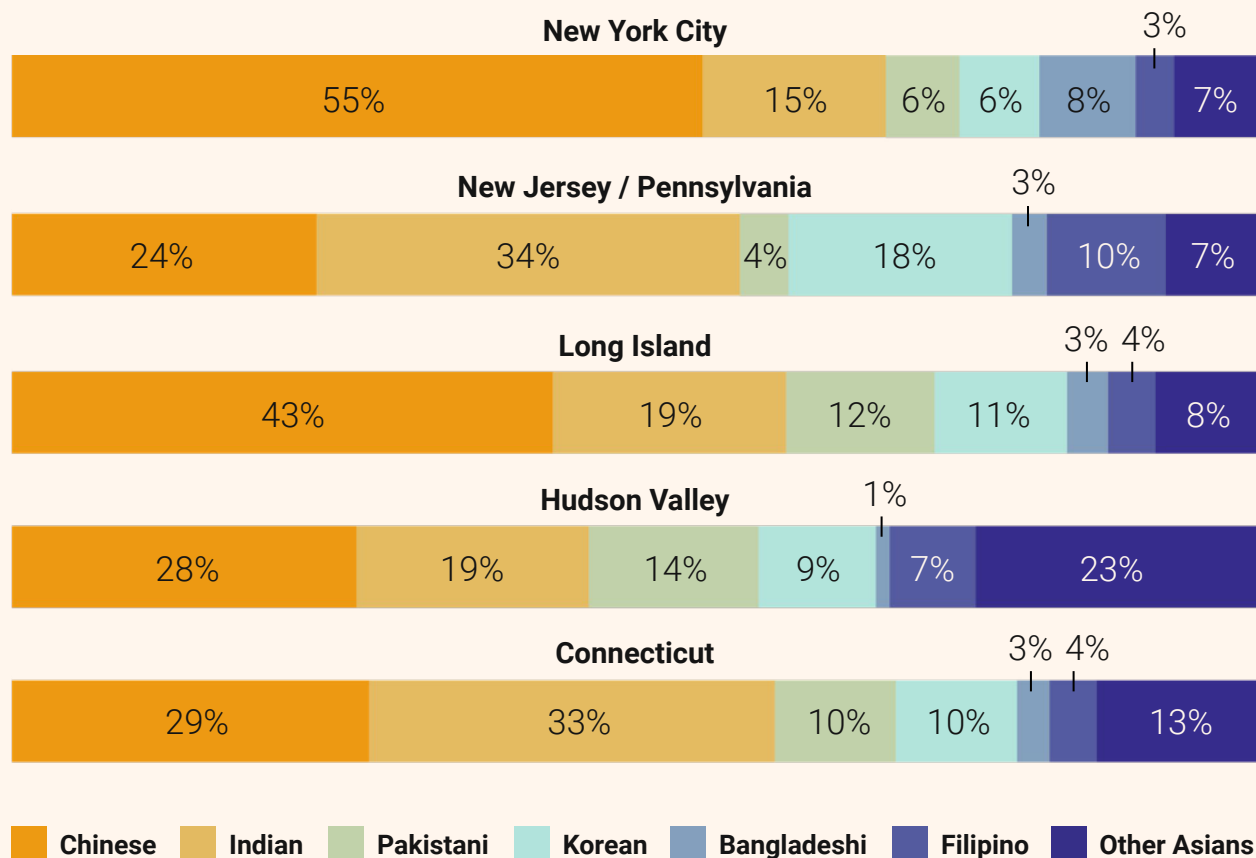
While the overall poverty rates in the metro area showed that Asians as a group had lower poverty rates compared to Black and Hispanics, the diverse range of Asian ethnic groups that fell under the umbrella of Asian American showed a wide range of poverty rates, ranging from a low of 5 percent for Laotians to a

high of 23 percent for Mongolians (Appendix 2A). The Asian groups in the metro area with the highest poverty rates were Mongolian, Burmese, Bangladeshi, Cambodian, Chinese, Pakistani, and Malaysian, which were all above the metro wide Asian poverty rate of 11.5 percent.

Of added concern, several groups had more than one-fifth of their population who could be

CHART 3

ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF ASIANS IN POVERTY BY REGION



Source: AAF Analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

considered near-poor: Bangladeshi, Chinese, Nepalese, and Pakistani. We define near-poor as households with incomes ranging from at the federal poverty income threshold and up to double the poverty threshold. We anticipate that the wide spread job losses impacting the Asian community during the COVID-19 pandemic will result in many of these households and families falling into poverty.

In the New York metro area as a whole, 48 percent of Asians in living in poverty were Chinese, 19 percent were Indian, 9 percent were Korean, 6 percent were Bangladeshi and Pakistani each, 4 percent were Filipinos, and Japanese and Vietnamese were 1 percent each. Differences among the regions included Indians who made up the largest share of Asian Americans in poverty for New Jersey-Pennsylvania and Connecticut regions, and Other Asians were up the second largest share of Asian Americans in poverty for the Hudson Valley region (Chart 3).

Overall, there had not been a significant change in the composition of Asian groups living in poverty in the past decade. Earlier we showed that Asians living in poverty were still concentrated in New York City and the largest

Asian groups remained mostly the same since 2010 across the different regions. However, there were notable changes in how some Asian ethnic groups were spread across the regions. First, the New Jersey-Pennsylvania region had the second-highest number of Asian Americans living in poverty. For example, 34 percent of Vietnamese living in poverty in the metro area, 35 percent of Koreans, and 37 percent of Filipinos were living in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania region. Second, while 84 percent of Japanese in poverty in the metro area lived in New York City in 2010, the proportion went down to 69 percent by 2019. The population shifted to the New Jersey-Pennsylvania region where the proportion grew to 13 percent, and to the Hudson Valley, where the proportion of Japanese in poverty grew to 11 percent. Third, the vast majority (76 percent) of Sri Lankans living in poverty in the metro area resided in New York City in 2010. By 2019, that proportion shrunk down to a slight majority (54 percent), while the proportion of Sri Lankans in poverty grew to 25 percent in Hudson Valley and 20 percent in the New Jersey-Pennsylvania region. And finally, a large share (30 percent) of the Burmese population in poverty lived in Hudson Valley.



Section 2:

WHO ARE ASIAN AMERICANS IN POVERTY?

As the population of poor Asian Americans grew across the metro area and in particular the suburbs, it is important to understand who this population is and to identify their needs and challenges. This section of the report will examine this population through the following lenses: immigration, employment, education, English proficiency, children, seniors, and living expenses.

Immigration

Asian American immigrants living in poverty were more likely to be non-U.S. citizens and new immigrants (living in the U.S. less than 10 years). Across the New York metro area, 54 percent of Asian American immigrants living in poverty had been in the U.S. for less than 10 years.

Also, non-U.S. citizen Asian Americans in the metro area had consistently higher poverty

rates than Asian Americans with citizenship. The poverty rate for non-citizens was 16 percent, compared to the poverty rates of 9.5 percent for native-born and 9.9 percent for naturalized citizens. In addition, our analysis revealed a significant gender gap in poverty between Asian immigrants in New York City. Female Asian immigrants had a higher poverty rate than male Asian immigrants in New York City, 16.7 percent versus 14.2 percent.

Employment

Asians living in poverty participated in the labor force at comparable rates to the rest of the population. Asian workers also had lower unemployment rates than non-Asians of similar economic status, at 16 percent for Asians compared to 24 percent for non-Asians. The unemployment rate only included those unemployed who were actively looking for



TABLE 1

TOP 15 INDUSTRIES FOR ASIAN AMERICAN WORKERS LIVING IN POVERTY

Industries	Workers in Poverty
Restaurants and Other Food Services	18.6%
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	4.6%
Construction	4.2%
Taxi and Limousine Service	3.9%
Home Health Care Services	3.3%
Supermarkets and Other Grocery Stores	3.0%
Elementary and Secondary Schools	2.5%
Individual and Family Services	2.3%
Nail Salons and Other Personal Care Services	2.1%
Hospitals	2.1%
Apparel Manufacturing	1.9%
Clothing Stores	1.9%
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	1.6%
Beauty Salons	1.5%
Offices of Physicians	1.4%

*Note: Bold categories indicate the top industries for Asian American workers only.
Source: AAF Analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau*

work. Those who were not actively looking for work were not included in the unemployment rate calculations.

However, there were significant differences in employment for men and women among Asian Americans, particularly in labor force participation rates. The labor force partici-

pation rate is the percent of working age adults who are either employed or actively looking for work. Among Asian Americans, poor women had a lower labor force participation rate than men (Chart 4), which may be contributing to the disparity in poverty rates between Asian immigrant men and women.

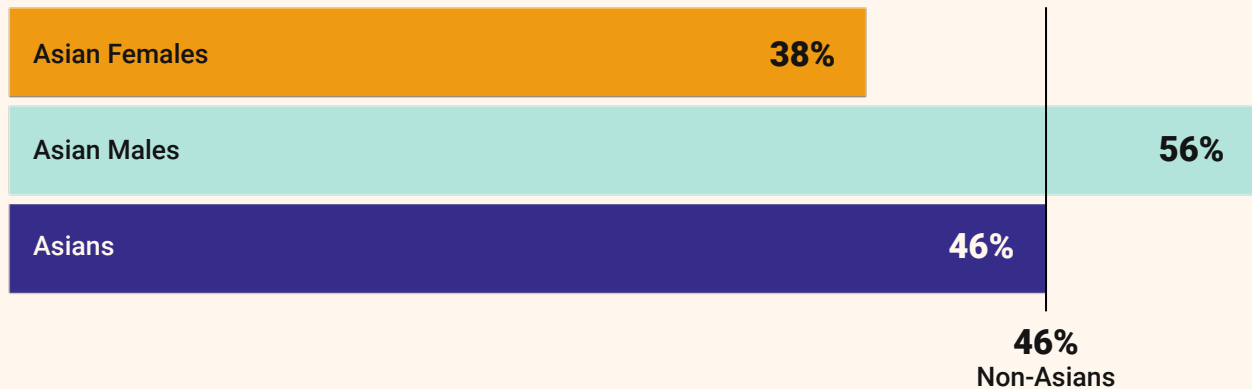
Working class Asian Americans were employed in the same mix of industries and occupations in 2019 as they were 2008¹, with a

¹ Asian American Federation. (2008). *Working by Poor: Asian American Poverty in New York City*. Retrieved from <https://www.aafederation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/WorkingButPoor.pdf>

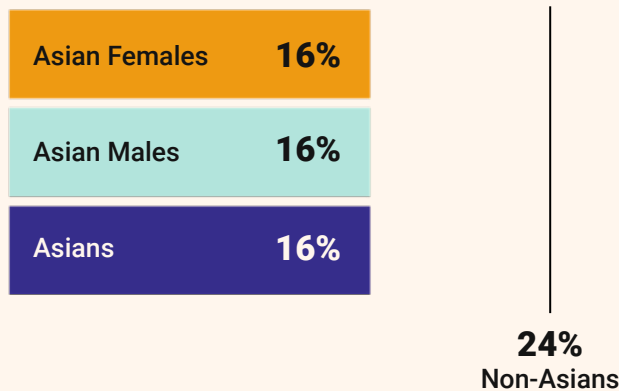
CHART 4

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS FOR POPULATION IN POVERTY

LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: AAF Analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 2

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS FOR ASIAN AMERICAN MEN LIVING IN POVERTY

Occupations	Workers in Poverty
Cashiers	6.0%
Chefs and Head Cooks	5.8%
Taxi Drivers	5.4%
Construction Laborers	4.5%
Delivery Workers and Truck Drivers	3.5%
Cooks	3.7%
Food Preparation Workers	2.8%
Retail Salespersons	2.7%
First Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	2.4%
Waiters and Waitresses	2.2%

Source: AAF Analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

significant portion of those in poverty working in restaurant and food services. In terms of industry, 18 percent of Asian workers living in poverty were employed in the restaurant and food services industry. In comparison, only 10 percent of non-Asian workers living in poverty worked in the restaurant and food service industry. In addition, Asian Americans living in poverty disproportionately relied on jobs in the taxi and limousine service industry and in nail salons and other personal care services.

From an occupational perspective, the top 10 occupations for Asian Americans in poverty

differed by gender. Table 2 shows that there were several occupations that were specific to Asian American men living in poverty, such as taxi drivers and chauffeurs, chefs and cooks, and construction laborers. Caregiving work as aides and nursing assistants, personal care workers such as nail salon workers, and sewing machine operators working in apparel manufacturing were among the top occupations for Asian American women living in poverty.

TABLE 3

TOP 10 OCCUPATIONS FOR ASIAN AMERICAN WOMEN LIVING IN POVERTY

Occupations	Workers in Poverty
Cashiers	8.7%
Waiters and Waitresses	5.1%
Retail Salespersons	4.5%
Home Health Aides	3.4%
Personal Care Aides	3.3%
Nursing Assistants	3.3%
Childcare Workers	3.1%
Manicurists and Pedicurists	3.1%
Sewing Machine Operators	2.5%
Postsecondary Teachers	2.4%

Source: AAF Analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

Education

Lower educational attainment was associated with higher poverty rates for Asian American adults over the age of 25 across the metro area. About one in four (24 percent) of those adults without a high school diploma were living in poverty compared to 13 percent of

those with a high school diploma, 7 percent of people with higher education (2-year or 4-year degree), and 5 percent of postgraduate degree holders.

English Proficiency

Limited English proficiency (LEP) rates were associated with poverty, demonstrating that



English language skills affected job prospects. Anyone aged five and up who reported speaking English less than “very well” was classified as having LEP. Studies have shown that working-age adults with LEP earned less than their English proficient counterparts.² More than half (54 percent) of Asian American workers in poverty had LEP, while over one-third (34 percent) of Asian American workers living above the poverty line had LEP.

Children

While the total population for Asian American children in the New York metro area grew by 14 percent, over the past decade, the number of Asian children living in poverty only increased by 1 percent. However, in the Hudson Valley region, the number of Asian American children living in poverty more than doubled, increasing by 122 percent. Overall poverty rates among

Asian American children in the New York metro area changed little between 2010 and 2019, with only a 1 percent decrease.

Compared to the rest of the population, Asian children differed from non-Asian children in certain household characteristics and living arrangements. Asian children in poverty were more likely to be living in two-parent married couple households than non-Asian children. Seventy-three percent of Asian children in poor households live with two parents, compared to only 34 percent of non-Asian children in poverty (Chart 5).

Linguistic isolation is defined as living in a household where no one over the age of 14 self-identifies as speaking English “very well.” Asian children living in poverty were more than twice as likely as non-Asian children to be living in a linguistically isolated household, with 40 percent of Asian children in such households versus 19 percent of non-Asians. In linguistically isolated households, adults may be unable to access needed programs and assistance for their children or the family as a whole due to limited English skills.

² Wilson, J.H. (September 24, 2014). *Investing in English Skills: The Limited English Proficient Workforce in U.S. Metropolitan Areas*. Brookings. Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/investing-in-english-skills-the-limited-english-proficient-workforce-in-u-s-metropolitan-areas/>



While both Asian and non-Asian children had similar health insurance coverage rates, Asian children faced other economic disparities when compared to non-Asians. Asian children in poverty had the same 4 percent uninsured rate as non-Asian children. However, among households that received SNAP benefits, only 33 percent of Asian children in poverty received SNAP benefits at home in the previous year, compared to 58 percent of their counterparts. Also, Asian children were more likely to be living in a housing cost burdened household. A household is considered having a housing cost burden if more than 30 percent of the household budget goes to mortgage or rent. Among poor households, 89 percent of Asian children and 86 percent of non-Asian children lived in households with a housing cost burden. Among those living near poverty, it was 80 percent of Asian children compared to 74 percent of non-Asian children.

Seniors

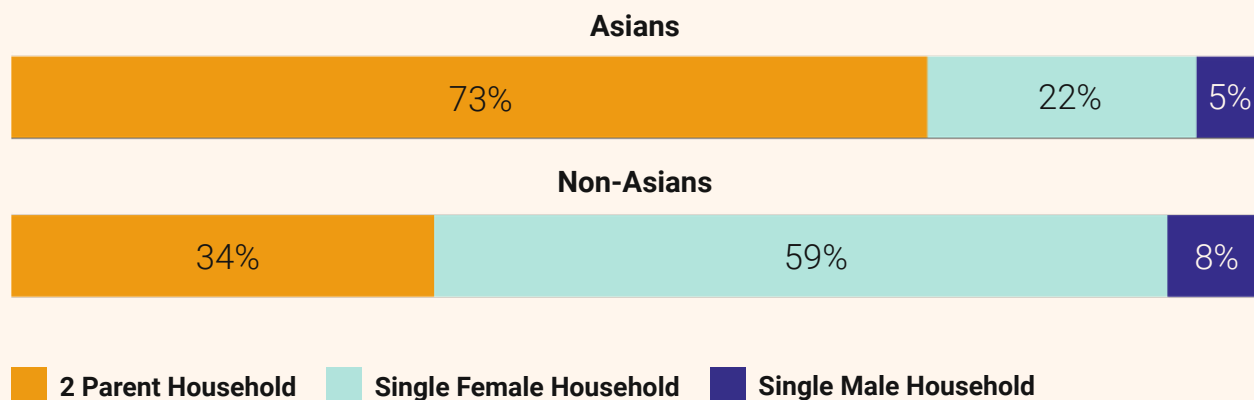
Asian American seniors living in poverty are a particularly vulnerable population. They face a number of challenges including lack of language access, social isolation, low health coverage, and high housing costs. As the population grows, so will their needs, and their challenges will become more pressing.

The number of Asian American seniors living in poverty increased by 67 percent, from 30,477 in 2010 to almost 50,970 in 2019, even as the overall poverty rate for seniors in the metro area fell by one percent. The total population of Asian American seniors increased by 78 percent.

Additionally, social isolation was a reality for Asian American seniors, especially at different income levels. Asian seniors living alone in poverty were particularly vulnerable group.

CHART 5

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY

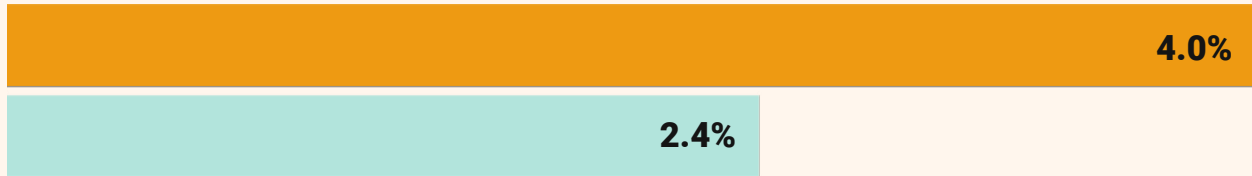


Note: Due to rounding, percentages may not appear to add up to 100%.
 Source: AAF Analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

CHART 6

SENIORS WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Living in Poverty



Near Poverty



Middle-High Income



Source: AAF Analysis of 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

In addition, a lack of English proficiency is seen as a barrier to receiving social services or public assistance and contributes to social isolation. Twenty-nine percent of Asian American seniors in poverty were living alone compared to nine percent of those above the poverty threshold.

While English ability was an issue for the majority of Asian American seniors, there was still a significant gap in English speaking ability between those living in poverty and those living at higher income levels. Eighty percent of Asian American seniors living in poverty had LEP, while those above the poverty

threshold had a 59 percent LEP rate. Sixty-eight percent of poor Asian American seniors lived in linguistically isolated households compared to 29 percent of those above the poverty threshold.

Across the New York metro area, the high cost of housing constrained low-income Asian American seniors. 80 percent of Asian American seniors in poverty lived in housing cost burdened households. For Asian American seniors in the near poverty category, the percentage was 73 percent living in cost burdened households.

Our analyses also showed potential under-utilization in social safety net programs by Asian American seniors living in poverty. Asian seniors across all income levels were more likely to lack health insurance coverage than non-Asian seniors. Even Asian seniors in the higher income group were more likely to be uninsured than non-Asian seniors pointing

to potential lack of access to or eligibility for health coverage through Medicare (Chart 6). SNAP/food stamp enrollment was also lacking for poor Asian American seniors. Only 53 percent of Asian American seniors in poverty resided in households that received SNAP benefits.

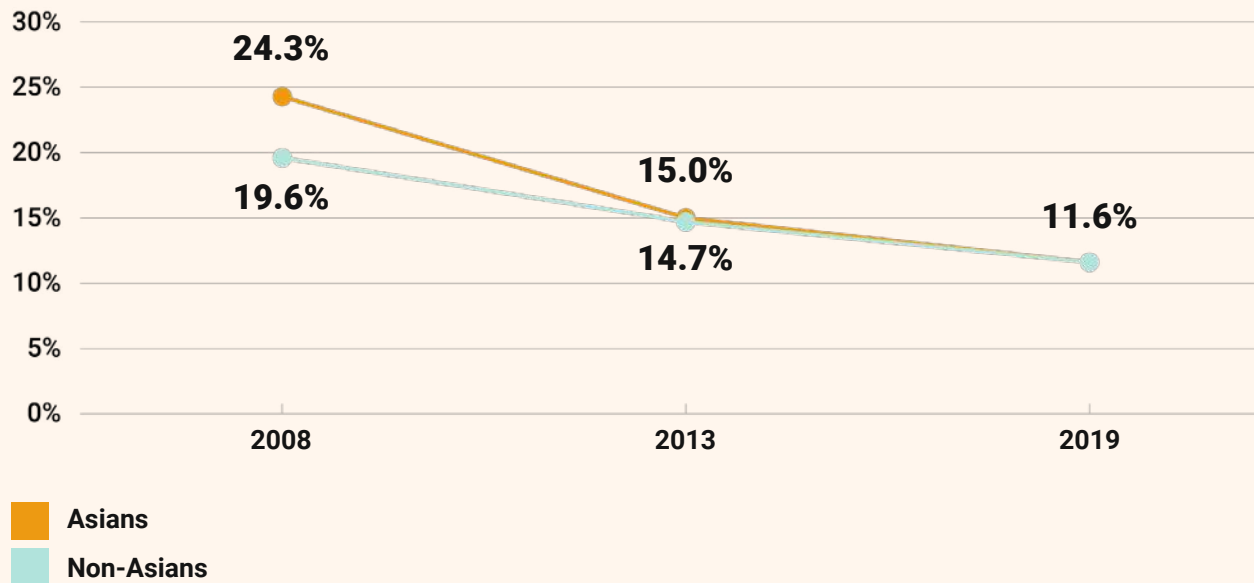
Factors in Cost of Living

The cost of living in the New York metro area is among the highest in the country. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the New York metro area has the second highest regional price levels among major metro areas in the United States, trailing behind the San Francisco metro area. The high cost of living in the New York metropolitan area added to the pressure on the working poor. This section looks at the major contributors to the high cost of living, such as health insurance, housing, and childcare. While health-care coverage has significantly improved over the last decade,



CHART 7

POPULATION IN POVERTY WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE



Sources: AAF Analysis of 1) 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau
2) 2008 and 2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, IPUMS USA

the burden of housing costs remained high, and access to affordable childcare remained a barrier to low-income parents entering the labor force.

Health Insurance

The passage and implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) reduced the overall uninsured rates of the Asian American population in the metro area, in line with

national trends.³ Chart 7 shows uninsured rates prior to the ACA in 2008 and post ACA in 2013 for Asians and non-Asians in poverty. In 2019, the downward trend in uninsured rates persisted, and the gap between Asians and the rest of the population was closed. However, when broken down by age group,

³ Gunja, M. Z., Baumgartner, J.C., Shah, A., et al. (July 2020). *Gap Closed: The Affordable Care Act's Impact on Asian Americans' Health Coverage*. The Commonwealth Fund. Retrieved from <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/issue-briefs/2020/jul/gap-closed-aca-impact-asian-american-coverage>

Asian seniors in poverty still had a higher uninsured rate than non-Asian seniors.

Housing

Housing was a major expense and the largest contributor to the high cost of living for Asians and non-Asians living in poverty or near poverty. Most households fell into the category of housing-cost burdened, meaning they spent more than 30 percent of the household budget on housing costs. In the New York metro area, there was almost no change in the cost of housing over the past decade. In 2019, 88 percent of Asians and 87 percent of non-Asians living in poverty faced a housing cost burden. The region with the highest housing burden was Connecticut, where 92 percent of Asians living in poverty faced high housing costs. The housing burden for poor Asians in other regions of the metro area was nearly identical.

Childcare

Our analysis assessing the need for affordable childcare services revealed a novel finding for children who are poor or near poverty: while 36.2 percent of Asian American children living in poverty had all parents in their households working, 43.8 percent of Asian children aged 0 to 12 living near poverty had all parents working (both in single and two-parent households). In addition, the data trend remained consistent across all metro area regions (Appendix 2A). Furthermore, Asian children were less likely to have all parents working than non-Asian children. This combined with the lower labor force participation rates for Asian immigrant women, indicate an opportunity to reduce poverty among Asian American children by encouraging and supporting more women to enter the work force.

There could be a variety of reasons why Asian children were less likely to have both parents working, including difficulties in obtaining



adequate childcare. A host of issues ranging from cost of transport, cost of childcare, and lack of culturally/linguistically competent services could affect a family or parent's decision to remain at home and outside the labor force. Cultural norms might include multigenerational and multi-family living arrangements where childcare is provided by female caregivers who are not in the labor force. Certain groups in the Asian immigrant community may prefer to follow gender norms in two-parent households where mothers with young children do not enter the labor force. More research on the subject is required to

accurately depict the needs of low-income Asian families with children. However, access to affordable childcare, regardless of social and cultural standards, has been shown to increase women's participation in the labor force and should be offered to anyone who needs it.⁴

⁴ Burgess, K., Chien, N., & Enchautegui, M. (December 2016). *The Effects of Child Care Subsidies on Maternal Labor Force Participation in the United States*. ASPE Office of Human Services Policy. Retrieved from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/253966/EffectsCCSubsidiesMaternalLFPBrief.pdf>



Section 3:

COVID-19 DEVASTATED LOW-INCOME ASIAN AMERICANS

The previous sections of this report were based on data collected prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. While direct measures of Asian American poverty from 2020 American Community Survey will arrive later this fall, many indirect measures of Asian American poverty foreshadow a significant increase in official poverty rates among Asian Americans in the New York metro area due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These measures include employment statistics for Asian American workers, revenue losses by Asian-owned businesses, and estimates of the number of Asian American most at risk of falling into poverty due to income loss. This section will also summarize health and social impacts of COVID-19 on Asian Americans in the metro area, and close with some specific recommendations to address the challenges caused by the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on Asian American employment, especially in the New York region. Working-class Asians faced enormous job loss due to their concentration in service industries that were most impacted by the pandemic. According to AAF's report on the impact of COVID on Asian employment, major job losses in apparel manufacturing, personal care (beauty and nail salons); laundromats; food services; taxi and rideshare; and retail affected low-income Asians living in poverty or near poverty.⁵ For example, the food services industry lost nearly three-quarters of their workforce in April 2020 (compared to 2019),

⁵ Khan, R., Shih, H., (2020) Impact of COVID-19 on Asian Employment in New York City. Asian American Federation. <https://www.aafederation.org/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-asian-american-employment-in-nyc/>



with little recovery in the following months. The drop in employment in the largest industry employing poor Asians was a major setback.

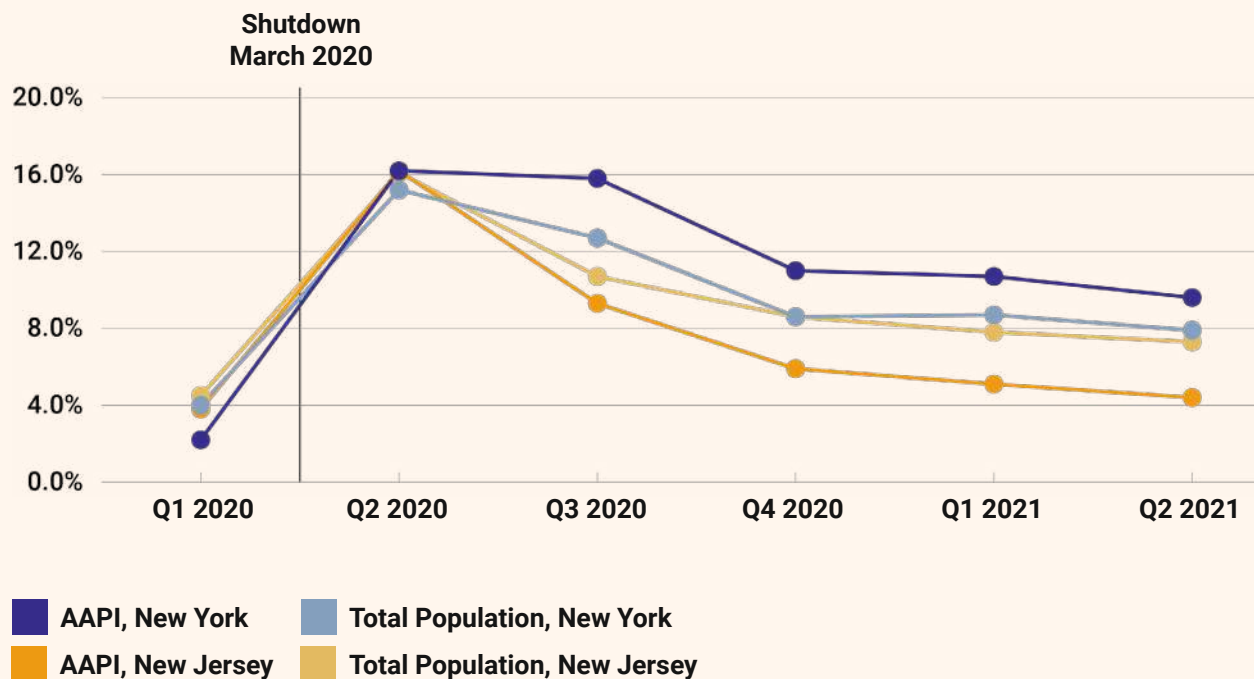
Unemployment data from the state and federal government also showed a disparate impact on Asian New Yorkers. Unemployment benefit applications increased by more than 6,000 percent during February to June of 2020 for Asian New Yorkers. The Economic Policy Institute’s analyses⁶ show that the

unemployment rate amongst the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in New York State during Q1 of 2020 was lower than the overall unemployment before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, by the second quarter of 2020 the AAPI unemployment rate of 16.2 percent surpassed the state’s 15.2 percent unemployment rate at the height of pandemic-related restrictions and shutdowns (Chart 8). A year later, the AAPI employment in New York has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels. The unemployment rate for AAPIs in the second quarter of 2021 remained 1.7 percentage points higher than the state’s overall unemployment rate.

⁶ Economic Policy Institute. (2020). *State Unemployment by Race and Ethnicity*. Retrieved from <https://www.epi.org/indicators/state-unemployment-race-ethnicity-2020q1q2/>

CHART 8

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Note: The data source uses the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) category instead of Asian.
Source: Economic Policy Institute (EPI)

Another way to measure impact is to look at indicators for Asian-owned small businesses that employ many poor and low-income Asians. As we saw from the pre-COVID data, low-income Asians were heavily reliant on service industries, including most significantly in food services. AAF's report on small business losses showed an estimated 81 percent of Asian-owned small businesses surveyed reported more than 50 percent loss of revenue during the pandemic—if they were not already shut down.⁷ The Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth reported that consumer spending during late March 2020 declined in Manhattan Chinatown by 82 percent, in Flushing by 71 percent, and in Jackson Heights by 73 percent, compared to 65 percent for all on New York City.⁸

Finally, measuring how many Asian Americans in the metro area were in the near poverty category (defined as having a household income between the federal poverty line and twice the federal poverty line), is a way of

gauging how many people lived in families or households that were essentially one paycheck away from falling into poverty. Based on 2019 data, Nepalese Americans in the metro area, in particular, had a low poverty rate of 6 percent, but the second highest near poverty rate of 27 percent, trailing only the Bangladeshi Americans. Chinese and Pakistani Americans in the metro area also had near poverty rates at or above 20 percent.

Asian Americans felt the negative impact of COVID on multiple fronts and the pandemic continues to hamper recovery efforts in 2021. Asians suffered health impacts in ways that were similar to the general population. Weighted averages, using New York City data, showed that COVID cases were just as prevalent in areas with low Asian populations as well as in neighborhoods with high Asian populations. However, research into disaggregated health data from the Center for the Study of Asian American Health revealed that South Asians had the second highest rate of infection in the city, just behind Hispanic New Yorkers. Chinese New Yorkers had the highest mortality rate from COVID-19.⁹

⁷ Kim, A., Khan, R., & Shih, H. (2021). *Small Businesses, Big Losses*. Asian American Federation. https://www.aafederation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/AAF_SB_Survey_2021.pdf

⁸ Lee, E., (2021, February 9). *NYC Asian communities hit earlier and harder by COVID-19*. Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth. Retrieved from <https://www.mastercardcenter.org/insights/nyc-asian-communities-hit-earlier-and-harder-by-covid-19>

⁹ Ramachandran, V., (2020, December 17). *South Asian, Chinese New Yorkers Among the Hardest Hit by Covid, Study Shows*. NBC News. Retrieved from <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/south-asian-chinese-new-yorkers-among-hardest-hit-covid-study-n1251457>

**The AAPI
unemployment rate
remains higher than
New York's overall
unemployment rate.**



Asians also suffered unique and unprecedented social impacts from the pandemic. They became the target of a growing number of hate crimes and anti-Asian incidents. Being victimized in this fashion has left Asians afraid and anxious, and has had a discernible effect on the Asian small business community. Asian workers, particularly those in the service industry, remain hesitant to return to work. A disproportionate number of Asian American parents have chosen to keep their children home from school, which limits their ability to work full-time.

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have made the Asian American community more vulnerable to poverty. We expect poverty among Asians will reach levels last seen during the great recession from 2007-2009, where at least 1 in 4 Asian New Yorkers were living in poverty. The Asian poor are particularly vulnerable due to their immigration status and limited English proficiency (LEP). This has an impact on their eligibility for relief programs, as well as their ability to obtain information and apply for programs for which they are eligible.

Addressing the COVID-19 Pandemic

The economic effect of the pandemic as well as the rise of anti-Asian hate incidents has increased the need for community safety programs and mental health services. Our short-term recommendations are to:

- Build out a network of linguistically and culturally competent food service programs to address food insecurity and lack of eligibility for government benefits due to immigration status.
- Target assistance for immigrant seniors, who as the most vulnerable group and are more likely to live in poverty and isolation both of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Asian seniors also require culturally competent, in-language mental health services through programs that foster social and cultural connection. Routine checkups such as assurance calls and meal/grocery deliveries can begin to provide them with the support they need for physical and mental well-being as the recovery process begins.
- Support coordinated community safety programs that integrate reporting, community ambassadors, community safety training, and victim support, to help Asian American feel safer.



Section 4:

RECOMMENDATIONS

To reduce poverty among Asian Americans in the New York metro area, it is critical to address the limited economic opportunities available to low-wage immigrant workers. Asian American workers in poverty were hampered by either a lack of education or the inability to transfer professional and degree credentials to the American labor market. A key impediment to economic advancement was also a lack of English language skills. More broadly, as the metro area's population disperses, access to culturally and linguistically competent social services must expand. Our recommendations aim to help reduce poverty among Asian Americans through four major areas: education, language access, senior support, and social service capacity.

Education

Over the long term, educational opportunities for both children and adults are the route out of poverty. Therefore, we recommend that:

- State and local governments implement a comprehensive in-language outreach campaign, particularly for poor and low-income families, to ensure that Asian American parents and children are aware of and have access to all educational opportunities available to them.
- Adult language learners, particularly female Asian American immigrants, who have a greater poverty rate and are less likely to be in the work force than Asian immigrant men, should be the focus of job development programs that are designed to meet their cultural needs.
- Workforce development bridging programs be created for workers without formal education to obtain new skills.
- Pathways be created for immigrant employees to adapt professional credentials from their home countries to the American labor market.



Language Access

There is an urgent need for improved language access for the Asian American community. Programs and benefits aimed at alleviating poverty need to be delivered in-language across the New York metro area. Therefore, we recommend that:

- Local government agencies should expand language access to address the diversity in immigrant populations. New Jersey and Pennsylvania’s judicial systems have language access plans which can serve as a model for other agencies. For states that lack existing language access plans, health and judicial agencies would be logical places to begin developing and implementing them. For New York State, the government should expand and codify into state law the languages covered by New York’s Executive Order on language access to include languages spoken by low-income, limited English proficient immigrants.
- Governments elicit feedback directly from community-based organizations (CBOs) regarding gaps in language services and/or providing funding to CBOs to provide in-language assistance.
- Governments increase investment in job and language training to help immigrants move into higher-paying careers across the New York metro area. Additionally, programs that train low-income workers to access in-demand careers and leverage their existing cultural and language skills, and seek bilingual employees, should be developed.
- Language access should be addressed as a workforce development opportunity by creating training programs for members of the community to earn formal credentials for translation skills that many are already providing for their community and by supporting non-profit language banks that can provide a clearinghouse for translation jobs at all levels of government including courts, immigration services and social services.



To address the diversity of Asian immigrant communities and ensure they have equal and meaningful access to benefits, local government agencies should expand language access.

Senior Support

Language and cultural barriers, as well as a high poverty rate, indicate that Asian elders have a desperate need for services. As the Asian senior population continues to grow at a rapid pace, CBOs that serve them will be even more stretched. Accordingly, we recommend that:

- State and local governments help smaller CBOs with unique language and cultural skills compete for government contracts for senior centers by either setting aside a portion of the social services budget for smaller contracts or recognizing the value of language and cultural competency and established presence in immigrant neighborhoods in the proposal evaluation process.
- Mental health services for seniors that are culturally and linguistically accessible be created or expanded,

preferably delivered through the CBOs that already serve those seniors in some capacity.

- The creation of a network of multilingual and culturally informed food service programs and connect them with alternative food benefits to serve Asian American seniors who are having difficulty accessing traditional government assistance.

Social Services Capacity

To address the key gaps in services outside of New York City, we look to government and philanthropy to invest in creating and expanding capacity for organizations to provide in-language, culturally competent services. As the Asian American population continues to disperse throughout the metro area, we need to ensure that these services follow them to wherever they move. We recommend:



- Government contracts have built in protections for social service subcontractors to prevent complete loss of funding when tight budgets cause contracts to be cut. Current contracting procedures for senior services favor larger contracts, cutting out smaller Asian-serving CBOs. These organizations frequently must subcontract with a larger main contractor, and as a result, they are often the first to be eliminated during budget cuts and the last to see budget increases.
- Investment in immigration legal services, as well as recognition of the critical work of organizations led by and serving Asian Americans in providing a linguistic and cultural bridge to these services. Because they have deep roots in and trusted relationships with the communities they serve, these CBOs are ideally positioned to increase their capacity for immigration legal services, including case management support to help clients navigate daunting legal processes.
- Increased funding for state and local safety net programs like community health centers and clinics, as well as food pantries, in anticipation of rising demand as immigrants lose access to public benefits due to changes in the federal government's immigration policies.

Increase funding for state and local safety net programs like community health centers and food pantries to meet rising demand from immigrants who may lose public benefits because of policy changes.



METHODOLOGY

Primary Data Source

This report utilizes data from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), 5-year estimates from 2019 with comparison to 5-year estimates from 2010. Unless specified otherwise, the findings discussed are from the 2019 dataset. The findings pertain to the complete New York metro area unless, specific regions (New York City, New Jersey, etc.) are identified. We examined poverty through the dimensions of age, race, immigration, gender, language abilities, educational levels, job opportunities, family types, health insurance coverage, geography and Asian ethnicity. We also relied on the Census Bureau’s 2010 and 2019 5-year American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files which use Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) as their base unit of geography at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geographic-areas/pumas.html>. For analysis on healthcare coverage this report uses ACS 5-year estimates from 2013 with comparison to 5-year estimates from 2008 using the IPUMS USA online data analysis system at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/sda/>.

Geographic Definitions

When utilizing the PUMS data, we included all the PUMA geographies that contained all the counties that lie in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget’s current definition of the New York–Newark, NY–NJ–CT–PA Combined Statistical Area. Because the PUMA geographies in rural parts of the country often combine counties to achieve the minimum population threshold requirements for PUMAs, our analysis includes several outlying counties on the edges of the formal definition of the metro area. Because the additional population included, particularly the Asian population, is quite small relative to the core geographic areas, we chose to be more inclusive in our analysis, to get around the limitations in the PUMA geographic definitions. We also split up the metro area into five regions for some analyses.

1. The **Connecticut** region was defined by PUMA areas in western Connecticut that include the counties of Litchfield, New Haven, and Fairfield.
2. The **New Jersey-Pennsylvania** region combines PUMA areas from both states. The Pennsylvania counties included are Monroe, Pike, Wayne and Susquehanna. New Jersey counties in the region include Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Union.
3. **New York City** was delineated by PUMA areas that cover all five counties that comprise New York City: Queens, Bronx, Kings (Brooklyn), Richmond (Staten Island), and New York (Manhattan)
4. **Long Island** was defined by PUMA areas that cover Nassau and Suffolk counties.

5. The **Hudson Valley** region included PUMA areas covering Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Ulster, Sullivan, and Westchester counties.

Poverty Definitions

For this report we use the federal guidelines for determining poverty status as implemented by the U.S. Census Bureau, outlined at: <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>. The guidelines define a series of income thresholds based on family size and composition. A family is defined as living in poverty if their total family income falls below the given poverty threshold for the year. For example, the federal poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$25,926 in 2019. Once a family is categorized as living in poverty, or below the poverty threshold, all members of the family are assigned the designation in the dataset. The term near poverty is used to describe those families with incomes at the poverty threshold all the way up to double the poverty threshold income level. The term low-income refers to everyone in families with incomes that are less than double the poverty threshold. In the case of the family of two adults and two children in 2019, those families with incomes less than \$51,852 would be considered low-income, and those with incomes at \$25,926 and up to \$51,852 would be considered near poverty.

Immigrants

The terms immigrant and immigrants are used to discuss people who are foreign born and immigrated to the U.S., while the term new immigrants refer to foreign born people who immigrated to the U.S. less than 10 years prior to the survey period.

Asian Ethnicities

Major Asian ethnic groups are reported based on Census categories. Asians in the data are identified in several instances by nationality instead of ethnicity. For example, refugees who the Census Bureau classifies as “Burmese” were largely from ethnic minorities of Myanmar, such as Karen, Karenni and Chin. For these minorities, to be identified as “Burmese,” the ethnic majority in Myanmar, is problematic due to the history of ethnic conflict. While the Census Bureau is constantly studying how they can better adjust their data collection and reporting to reflect the changing needs of our communities, we must work with the ethnicity labels that are currently available. The analysis will also include comparisons between Asians and Non-Asians - including of all major race groups (Hispanic, Black, and Non-Hispanic White).

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1

OVERVIEW OF POVERTY AND POPULATION CHANGE

	Poverty Rate	Change in Number of People in Poverty (2010-2019)	Change in Total Population (2010-2019)
ASIAN			
Connecticut	8.4%	32.4%	28.2%
Hudson Valley	7.5%	86.5%	16.3%
Long Island	4.8%	23.1%	32.1%
New Jersey / Pennsylvania	6.1%	20.5%	24.0%
New York City	16.6%	10.9%	20.1%
BLACK			
Connecticut	19.0%	15.1%	16.5%
Hudson Valley	14.3%	8.2%	12.3%
Long Island	9.7%	2.8%	12.2%
New Jersey / Pennsylvania	17.0%	2.3%	5.6%
New York City	20.9%	-2.2%	2.6%

CONTINUED

	Poverty Rate	Change in Number of People in Poverty (2010-2019)	Change in Total Population (2010-2019)
HISPANIC			
Connecticut	19.7%	13.3%	29.4%
Hudson Valley	15.4%	21.7%	25.2%
Long Island	12.5%	59.8%	25.9%
New Jersey / Pennsylvania	16.9%	23.4%	22.2%
New York City	24.8%	-2.5%	7.2%
NON-HISPANIC WHITE			
Connecticut	5.6%	5.6%	-6.6%
Hudson Valley	8.1%	9.9%	-4.9%
Long Island	4.4%	10.4%	-7.8%
New Jersey / Pennsylvania	6.1%	4.8%	-7.0%
New York City	11.1%	-2.5%	-0.8%

Sources: AAF Analysis of 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

POVERTY AND NEAR POVERTY RATES FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, NEW YORK METRO AREA

Ethnic Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate	Age Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate
Bangladeshi	20%	28%	Children (0-17)	11.4%	16.2%
Burmese	21%	18%	Working Age Adults (18-64)	10.5%	13.8%
Cambodian	17%	10%	Seniors (65+)	17.2%	17.8%
Chinese	16%	20%			
Filipino	6%	8%			
Indian	7%	10%			
Indonesian	7%	16%			
Japanese	8%	9%			
Korean	11%	13%			
Laotian	5%	15%			
Malaysian	12%	17%			
Mongolian	23%	16%			
Multi-Asian	11%	14%			
Nepalese	6%	27%			
Other Asian	12%	16%			
Pakistani	16%	24%			
Sri Lankan	9%	15%			
Taiwanese	10%	6%			
Thai	10%	16%			
Vietnamese	9%	17%			

POVERTY AND NEAR POVERTY RATES FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, HUDSON VALLEY

Ethnic Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate	Age Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate
Bangladeshi	8%	34%	Children (0-17)	7.0%	8.4%
Burmese	76%	4%	Working Age Adults (18-64)	7.6%	8.4%
Cambodian	5%	N/A	Seniors (65+)	8.0%	10.4%
Chinese	9%	11%			
Filipino	4%	6%			
Indian	5%	6%			
Japanese	7%	6%			
Korean	8%	8%			
Pakistani	22%	27%			
Sri Lankan	26%	37%			
Taiwanese	0%	0%			
Thai	13%	17%			
Vietnamese	10%	15%			

POVERTY AND NEAR POVERTY RATES FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, NEW YORK CITY

Ethnic Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate	Age Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate
Bangladeshi	22%	29%	Children (0-17)	18.8%	24.8%
Burmese	14%	20%	Working Age Adults (18-64)	14.5%	18.9%
Cambodian	30%	15%	Seniors (65+)	24.4%	22.9%
Chinese	19%	24%			
Filipino	9%	12%			
Indian	13%	18%			
Indonesian	9%	22%			
Japanese	10%	10%			
Korean	15%	16%			
Nepalese	7%	33%			
Pakistani	22%	27%			
Sri Lankan	10%	19%			
Taiwanese	13%	7%			
Thai	10%	18%			
Vietnamese	12%	19%			

POVERTY AND NEAR POVERTY RATES FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, LONG ISLAND

Ethnic Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate	Age Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate
Bangladeshi	8%	25%	Children (0-17)	4.9%	11.9%
Chinese	8%	10%	Working Age Adults (18-64)	5.0%	9.6%
Filipino	2%	7%	Seniors (65+)	4.1%	11.1%
Indian	2%	8%			
Japanese	4%	3%			
Korean	5%	15%			
Nepalese	0%	2%			
Pakistani	7%	21%			
Taiwanese	10%	13%			
Thai	9%	22%			
Vietnamese	2%	4%			

POVERTY AND NEAR POVERTY RATES FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA

Ethnic Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate
Bangladeshi	13%	19%
Burmese	35%	3%
Cambodian	2%	6%
Chinese	8%	9%
Filipino	5%	6%
Indian	5%	6%
Indonesian	6%	7%
Japanese	4%	10%
Korean	9%	12%
Nepalese	4%	10%
Pakistani	6%	19%
Sri Lankan	5%	5%
Taiwanese	7%	3%
Thai	11%	11%
Vietnamese	9%	18%

Age Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate
Children (0-17)	4.9%	8.3%
Working Age Adults (18-64)	5.9%	7.5%
Seniors (65+)	10.2%	12.1%

POVERTY AND NEAR POVERTY RATES FOR ASIAN AMERICANS, CONNECTICUT

Ethnic Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate	Age Group	Poverty Rate	Near Poverty Rate
Bangladeshi	16%	16%	Children (0-17)	7.8%	11.5%
Cambodian	10%	8%	Working Age Adults (18-64)	8.6%	10.5%
Chinese	11%	10%	Seniors (65+)	8.8%	13.0%
Filipino	4%	6%			
Indian	8%	8%			
Japanese	5%	14%			
Korean	13%	10%			
Pakistani	17%	25%			
Taiwanese	0%	11%			
Thai	9%	3%			
Vietnamese	1%	11%			

*Technical Notes: 1. Poverty and near poverty rates are not reported for population groups with less than 500 people.
2. Near Poverty refers to low income individuals and families that are not officially in poverty. These are people with incomes at the poverty threshold all the way up to double the poverty threshold (middle) income level.*

Sources: AAF Analysis of 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

CHARACTERISTICS OF POOR AND LOW INCOME ASIANS, NEW YORK METRO AREA

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
IMMIGRATION STATUS		
Native-Born	27.8%	28.8%
Naturalized Citizen	33.5%	36.8%
Non-Citizen	38.7%	34.3%
Percent of Immigrants arriving in 2010 or later	34.5%	36.7%
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY		
Age 5-17	28.9%	24.0%
Age 18-64	54.5%	32.8%
Age 65+	82.3%	75.8%
No Health Insurance	11.6%	11.4%
Housing Cost Burdened Households	88.0%	81.0%
CHILDREN		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	39.7%	40.7%
Age 0-12 with Working Parents (Single Parent or 2 Parent Households)	36.2%	43.8%

CONTINUED

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
SENIORS		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	68.0%	55.5%
Living Alone	29.3%	15.2%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
No High School Diploma	36.0%	31.5%
Associate Degree or Higher	34.2%	31.5%

CHARACTERISTICS OF POOR AND LOW INCOME ASIANS, HUDSON VALLEY

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
IMMIGRATION STATUS		
Native-Born	31.3%	34.1%
Naturalized Citizen	32.7%	40.0%
Non-Citizen	36.0%	25.9%
Percent of Immigrants arriving in 2010 or later	45.6%	23.4%
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY		
Age 5-17	36.2%	20.1%
Age 18-64	43.9%	47.2%
Age 65+	63.9%	53.9%
No Health Insurance	13.1%	8.4%
Housing Cost Burdened Households	87.2%	82.9%
CHILDREN		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	25.5%	26.0%
Age 0-12 with Working Parents (Single Parent or 2 Parent Households)	23.4%	61.5%

CONTINUED

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
SENIORS		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	45.5%	42.8%
Living Alone	27.9%	29.5%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
No High School Diploma	17.7%	24.5%
Associate Degree or Higher	50.9%	39.4%

CHARACTERISTICS OF POOR AND LOW INCOME ASIANS, NEW YORK CITY

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
IMMIGRATION STATUS		
Native-Born	27.6%	27.5%
Naturalized Citizen	34.2%	36.1%
Non-Citizen	38.1%	36.5%
Percent of Immigrants arriving in 2010 or later	33.1%	26.3%
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY		
Age 5-17	32.6%	29.9%
Age 18-64	59.6%	67.4%
Age 65+	82.6%	81.8%
No Health Insurance	10.4%	10.5%
Housing Cost Burdened Households	88.0%	79.3%
CHILDREN		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	44.2%	49.3%
Age 0-12 with Working Parents (Single Parent or 2 Parent Households)	36.7%	43.5%

CONTINUED

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
SENIORS		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	70.2%	61.9%
Living Alone	28.5%	14.4%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
No High School Diploma	42.1%	36.8%
Associate Degree or Higher	28.1%	25.6%

CHARACTERISTICS OF POOR AND LOW INCOME ASIANS, LONG ISLAND

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
IMMIGRATION STATUS		
Native-Born	32.9%	37.0%
Naturalized Citizen	32.1%	38.8%
Non-Citizen	35.1%	24.1%
Percent of Immigrants arriving in 2010 or later	37.8%	21.7%
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY		
Age 5-17	12.1%	11.2%
Age 18-64	41.3%	44.2%
Age 65+	63.1%	59.4%
No Health Insurance	8.7%	7.3%
Housing Cost Burdened Households	87.1%	89.2%
CHILDREN		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	23.8%	26.7%
Age 0-12 with Working Parents (Single Parent or 2 Parent Households)	29.0%	42.3%

CONTINUED

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
SENIORS		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	46.9%	41.3%
Living Alone	27.0%	14.8%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
No High School Diploma	14.2%	17.3%
Associate Degree or Higher	55.6%	44.2%

CHARACTERISTICS OF POOR AND LOW INCOME ASIANS, NEW JERSEY AND PENNSYLVANIA

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
IMMIGRATION STATUS		
Native-Born	25.8%	29.7%
Naturalized Citizen	32.9%	39.0%
Non-Citizen	41.3%	31.3%
Percent of Immigrants arriving in 2010 or later	42.0%	27.1%
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY		
Age 5-17	16.7%	12.0%
Age 18-64	40.8%	47.6%
Age 65+	75.7%	65.3%
No Health Insurance	16.3%	16.3%
Housing Cost Burdened Households	87.4%	84.4%
CHILDREN		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	26.5%	21.0%
Age 0-12 with Working Parents (Single Parent or 2 Parent Households)	39.5%	41.5%

CONTINUED

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
SENIORS		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	64.3%	42.7%
Living Alone	31.8%	15.4%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
No High School Diploma	17.9%	17.0%
Associate Degree or Higher	52.4%	48.4%

CHARACTERISTICS OF POOR AND LOW INCOME ASIANS, CONNECTICUT

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
IMMIGRATION STATUS		
Native-Born	33.2%	33.7%
Naturalized Citizen	21.6%	35.2%
Non-Citizen	45.2%	31.1%
Percent of Immigrants arriving in 2010 or later	57.7%	34.8%
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY		
Age 5-17	24.1%	12.3%
Age 18-64	40.3%	43.7%
Age 65+	78.1%	51.0%
No Health Insurance	14.5%	12.8%
Housing Cost Burdened Households	92.4%	84.1%
CHILDREN		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	22.8%	13.4%
Age 0-12 with Working Parents (Single Parent or 2 Parent Households)	31.3%	50.0%

CONTINUED

	Living in Poverty	Living Near Poverty
SENIORS		
In Linguistically Isolated Households	65.1%	19.0%
Living Alone	46.0%	18.3%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
No High School Diploma	24.0%	21.4%
Associate Degree or Higher	48.6%	46.0%

*Technical Notes: 1. Poverty and near poverty rates are not reported for population groups with less than 500 people.
 2. Near Poverty refers to low income individuals and families that are not officially in poverty. These are people with incomes at the poverty threshold all the way up to double the poverty threshold (middle) income level.*
 Sources: AAF Analysis of 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

APPENDIX 4

POPULATION CHANGE FOR ASIAN ETHNICITIES, 2010–2019

	Hudson Valley	New York City	Long Island	NJ / PA	CT	New York Metro Area
Bangladeshi	192%	112%	126%	176%	25%	115%
Cambodian	29%	-5%	40%	56%	16%	9%
Chinese	24%	20%	56%	17%	24%	20%
Filipino	22%	-2%	19%	-3%	3%	-1%
Indian	2%	6%	29%	37%	37%	21%
Indonesian	21%	-13%	125%	82%	188%	8%
Japanese	-24%	-13%	10%	-6%	15%	-11%
Korean	1%	-8%	2%	13%	27%	0%
Laotian	1%	2%	154%	65%	-37%	-17%
Malaysian	N/A	-9%	228%	-16%	1292%	5%
Multi-Asian	35%	8%	-9%	-8%	5%	0%
Pakistani	77%	58%	22%	80%	33%	55%
Sri Lankan	235%	13%	-35%	118%	-36%	39%
Thai	7%	35%	8%	-19%	-39%	8%
Vietnamese	-16%	-14%	-18%	-20%	-28%	-20%
Other Asian	115%	79%	139%	68%	116%	103%

Note: NJ = New Jersey, PA = Pennsylvania, CT = Connecticut
 Sources: AAF Analysis of 2010 and 2019 American Community Survey 5-year Public Use Microdata, U.S. Census Bureau

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