

Desis Count: South Asian Americans in the United States and New Jersey

*The 1st South Asian American Health Conference
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
New Brunswick, New Jersey
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on behalf the
South Asian Health Project*

Objectives

- 1. Census 2000: Brief Review of Race Question**
- 2. South Asians: National and New Jersey Data**

Census 2000 Question on Race

6. What is this person's race? Mark **one or more races** to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

White
 Black, African Am., or Negro
 American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe. ↴

Asian Indian Japanese Native Hawaiian
 Chinese Korean Guamanian or Chamorro
 Filipino Vietnamese Samoan
 Other Asian — Print race. ↴ Other Pacific Islander — Print race. ↴

Some other race — Print race. ↴

→ If more people live here, continue with Person 3.

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A Note About the Census and Undercount...

- The Decennial Census is a snapshot of everyone who was in the U.S. on April 1, 2000 and filled out a form or spoke with a Census enumerator.
- Regardless of immigration or citizenship status, length of residency in the U.S, age, or any other distinguishing characteristic.
- The “undercount” is not analogous with the undocumented population, though they do face more barriers to participation in the Census.

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Differences between Census 2000 and previous Enumerations

- “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” (NHOPI) are separate race groups for the first time.
- The Census Bureau reported info on more detailed groups within the “Asian” race group (16) than in 1990 (10).
- Respondents could select more than one race for the first time, leading to new reporting protocol for the Bureau.

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Within the “Asian” Race Group: *Detailed Asian Groups in Census 2000*

Asian Indian	Korean
*Bangladeshi	Laotian
Cambodian	*Malaysian
Chinese (<i>excl. Taiwanese</i>)	*Pakistani
Filipino	*Sri Lankan
Hmong	*Taiwanese
*Indonesian	Thai
Japanese	Vietnamese
Other Asian (<i>e.g. Nepalese, Burmese</i>)	
*Other Asian (<i>not specified</i>)	

*designates a new detailed group in Census 2000.

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Multiple Race Totals in Census 2000

For Accuracy, you must give range between “minimum” and “maximum” for race groups...

NYC	1990	2000		2000	
		Alone	% Growth	Alone or in Combination	% Growth
Bangladeshi	4,955	19,148	286.4%	28,269	470.5%

Includes only “Bangladeshi” Alone responses.

Includes “Bangladeshi + White”; “Bangladeshi + Asian Indian”, etc.

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Who are South Asian Americans?

The South Asian community in the United States is generally accepted to include individuals with ancestry from the following nations:

BANGLADESH	NEPAL
BHUTAN	PAKISTAN
INDIA	SRI LANKA
MALDIVE ISLANDS	

The community in the US also includes members of the Diaspora: past generations of South Asians who originally settled in many areas around the world, including the Caribbean (Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago), Africa, Canada, Europe, and other parts of the world.

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South Asian Census Data

- The Census Bureau does not aggregate “South Asian” as a race category.
- Either “Asian” or specific ethnic/racial groups (i.e. Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, etc.)
- We have to manually aggregate the data for a “South Asian” total.
- **BE CAREFUL!** “Race *Alone* or in combination with one or more other groups” categories cannot be aggregated.

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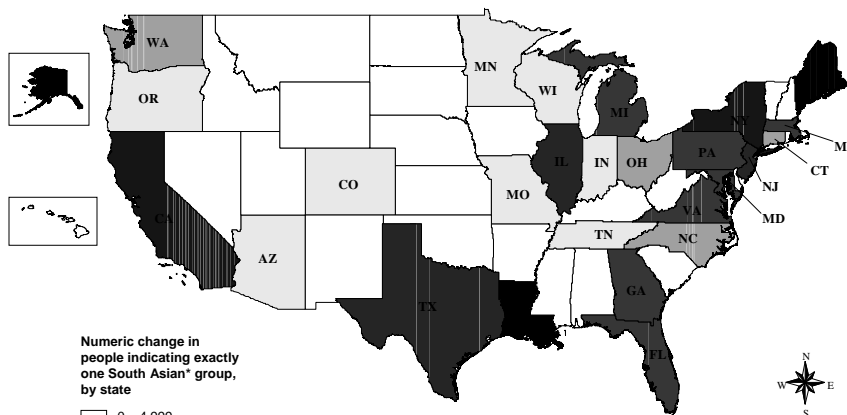
South Asian Population Growth: A National Perspective, 1990 to 2000

	1990	2000 Asian Alone	% Growth	Asian Alone or in Combination	% Growth
Asian Indian	815,447	1,678,765	105.9%	1,899,599	133.0%
Bangladeshi	11,838	41,280	248.7%	57,412	385.0%
Pakistani	81,371	153,533	88.7%	204,309	151.1%
Sri Lankan	10,970	20,145	83.6%	24,587	124.1%
TOTAL	919,626	1,893,723	105.9%	N/A	N/A

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

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South Asian* Population Change in the United States, 1990 to 2000

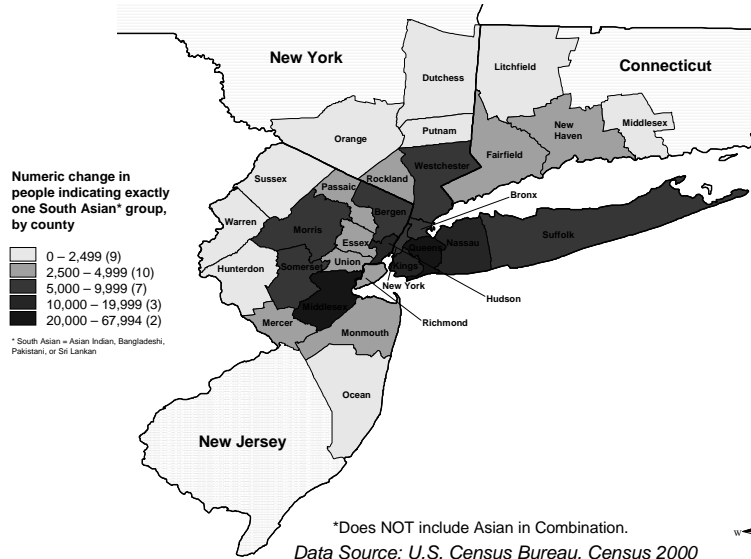


*Does NOT include Asian in Combination.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Map created by Asian American Federation Census Information Center

South Asian* Population Change in the NY Metro Area, 1990 to 2000



South Asian Population Growth: New Jersey, 1990 to 2000

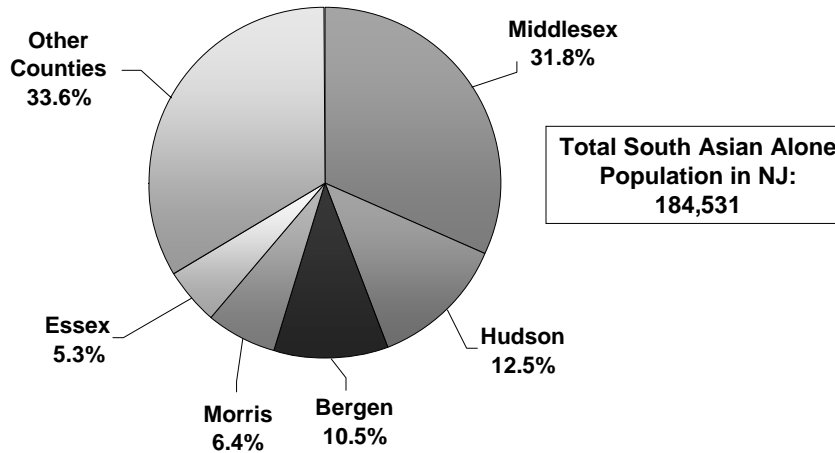
	1990	2000		Asian Alone or in Combination	
		Asian Alone	% Growth		% Growth
Asian Indian	79,440	169,180	113.0%	180,957	127.8%
Bangladeshi	791	2,056	159.9%	2,910	267.9%
Pakistani	5,797	12,112	108.9%	15,392	165.5%
Sri Lankan	533	1,183	122.0%	1,357	154.6%
TOTAL	86,581	184,531	113.1%	N/A	N/A

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 2.

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Census 2000: South Asians in NJ

Percentage of Total South Asian Alone by County



*Does NOT include Asian in Combination.
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.
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Education of South Asians in New Jersey

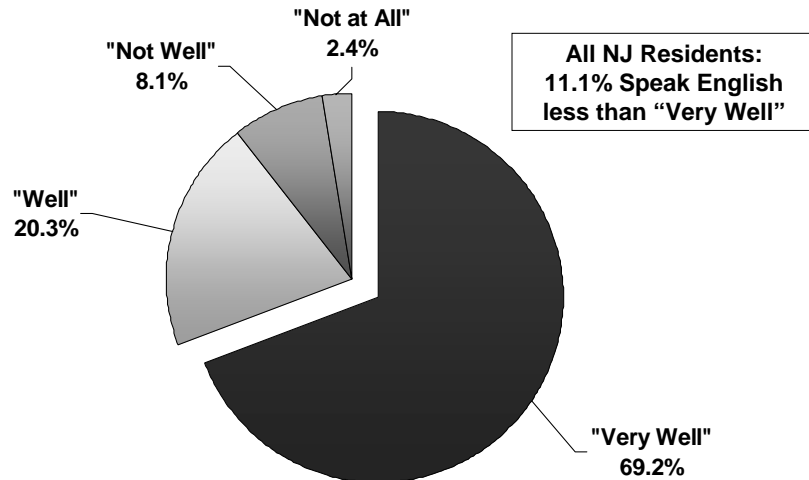
13% of South Asians did not have a high school diploma
- Compared with 18% of all NJ residents

78% of South Asians had some form of post-secondary education
- Compared with 53% of all NJ residents

32% have Graduate/Professional Degrees
- Compared with 11% of all NJ residents

*Does NOT include Asian in Combination.
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.
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English Proficiency of South Asians in NJ



*Does NOT include Asian in Combination.
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Language Spoken at Home for South Asians in NJ

Gujarati	47,324
Hindi	31,395
Punjabi	7,725
Urdu	18,733
Other Indic Languages	27,993
Dravidian Languages	25,349

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Sample Data File.
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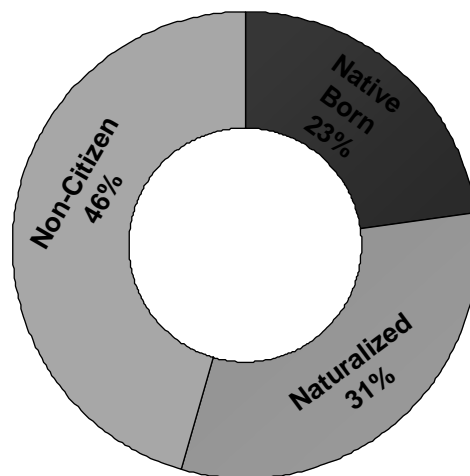
Occupations of South Asians in NJ

Occupation	NJ Total	South Asians	% SA
Computer specialists	140,572	18,974	13.5%
Physicians and surgeons	26,010	3,124	13.1%
Life and Physical Scientists	25,250	2,437	9.7%
Other Transportation Occupations	10,129	768	7.6%
Motor Vehicle Operators (not bus and truck drivers)	12,736	886	7.0%

*Does NOT include Asian in Combination.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.
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Citizenship Status of South Asians in New Jersey



US Entry for Foreign-Born SA

After 1990: 77,037
1980 – 1989: 43,110
Before 1980: 22,108

*Does NOT include Asian in Combination.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.
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