

South Asian Americans in Illinois: Making Data Count



ASIAN AMERICANS
ADVANCING
JUSTICE
CHICAGO

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WELCOME

NOTE FROM THE AUTHORS

As one of the most rapidly growing groups in Illinois and the nation, South Asian Americans have the potential to speak collectively and effectively on issues of concern. However, in order to leverage that potential, it is crucial to consider the characteristics and needs of this community and the unique challenges that it faces. Building upon the groundbreaking 2005 demographic report Making Data Count by South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI), this report presents new demographic data on South Asian Americans in Illinois. SAAPRI is proud to partner with Advancing Justice-Chicago, formerly the Asian American Institute, in publishing this demographic profile, utilizing data from the 2010 United States Census as well as other recent research.

ABOUT US

South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (SAAPRI, www.saapri.org) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization established in 2001 to improve the lives of South Asian Americans in the Chicago area, by using research to formulate equitable and socially responsible public policy recommendations. Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago (Advancing Justice-Chicago, www.advancingjustice-chicago.org), formerly the Asian American Institute, was established in 1992 with a mission to empower the Asian American community through advocacy, by utilizing education, research, and coalition building. Please contact saapri@saapri.org or aai@aaichicago.org with any questions regarding the report.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Asian Americans have grown significantly in Illinois over the past decade, including people of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, and Bhutanese descent, as well as other smaller populations. According to the 2010 United States Census, there are over 242,000 South Asian Americans in Illinois. Indian Americans are by far the largest subgroup of Asian Americans in Illinois, with South Asian American representing an even higher number when counted together. Since 2000, South Asian Americans in Illinois have grown by over 55%, a notably higher growth than other minority populations, with most of this growth being in the Chicago suburbs.

The views and concerns of South Asian Americans must be considered during the decision-making process for any policy that impacts the local Asian American population. South Asian Americans represent about 36% of the state's Asian American population and 2% of the state's overall population, with concentrations being higher in particular counties, towns, and neighborhoods.

The large number of South Asian American eligible voters in Illinois indicates the great potential for political empowerment, but it also indicates the need for civic engagement.

Approximately 67% of South Asian Americans in Illinois are United States citizens, including those born in the United States as well as those who have become naturalized citizens. Several Congressional, Illinois House, and Illinois Senate districts have notable percentages of South Asian Americans. South Asian Americans are at a historically important juncture, possessing both eagerness and ambition to increase their influence in government and politics.

Limited English proficiency is a growing concern for South Asian Americans in Illinois, and it serves as a barrier to voting and civic engagement, as well as access to hospitals, schools, courts, and social services. About a quarter of South Asian American population in Illinois speak English less than “very well” and about 85% of South Asian Americans speak a language other than English at home. Because of the high number of limited English proficient Indian Americans who are eligible to vote, the City of Chicago and suburban Cook County election boards are now legally required to provide language assistance in Hindi, Gujarati, and Urdu.

Data on immigration, education, income, gender, business ownership, and other important factors reflect a diverse population that defies the “model minority” myth. Socioeconomic disparities affect South Asian Americans in Illinois, especially particular subgroups. The research reveals that there are many disadvantaged segments among South Asian Americans who would benefit from policy reform and advocacy efforts. The research also reveals important economic, civic, and social contributions made by South Asian Americans.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

South Asian Americans have a large presence in the United States and have been growing rapidly both nationally and locally. There are over 3.4 million South Asian Americans residing in the United States today and their population grew by over 80% within the past decade.¹ This report provides insight on the more than 242,000 South Asian Americans in Illinois, including people of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, and Nepali descent, as well as other smaller populations.² Since 2000, South Asians have grown by over 55% in Illinois, a notably higher growth than of Asian Americans overall or other racial minority groups.³ In particular, the Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Sri Lankan populations in Illinois grew by 52, 75, 153, and 104 percent, respectively, between 2000 and 2010.⁴

Community advocates have become increasingly concerned about the lack of data and analysis about South Asian Americans residing in Illinois. This lack of research makes it challenging for organizations, activists, and government officials to assist and advocate for South Asian Americans, representing a significant population in Illinois. Education about the realities of the local South Asian community can help diverse audiences to better understand and assist those South Asian Americans who are facing barriers and disparities.

For instance, research such as this demographic report can help organizations serving South Asian Americans to more effectively secure resources for their crucial work. Government and private funders have expressed that organizations must present hard data and other research on the community's needs and the programs that effectively address those needs. As another example, the linguistic and socioeconomic diversity of the South Asian American population often prevents effective service delivery to those in need, and the research captured here can provide insights on how to serve such a diverse community.

This report will help to explain the significance of the statistical figures on South Asian Americans in Illinois, and the opportunities and challenges they present to all South Asian Americans including issues related to citizenship status, income, education, linguistic diversity, health, and voting. This report clearly indicates that socio-economic disparities do exist within particular ethnic groups and across all South Asian American groups. This research reveals that there are many disadvantaged segments among South Asian Americans who would greatly benefit from policy reform and advocacy efforts.

¹ SAALT Demographic Snapshot February 2012, available at <http://saalt.org/resources/reports-and-publications/#factsheets> (citing United States Census data on Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan groups (2000, 2010)).

² U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

⁴ Ibid.

It is important to note that there is a dearth of data on smaller South Asian populations in Illinois, including Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, Bhutanese, and Maldivian populations, and currently available data does not sufficiently describe the unique issues facing these smaller populations. Efforts have been made in this report to include data on these populations where feasible, but SAAPRI also remains open to input from these and other communities on additional sources of information. Future research is also needed on unique characteristics based on country of origin, given that South Asian Americans are not only from South Asia, and the diaspora also descends from past generations of South Asians who originally settled in other parts of the world, including Africa, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and other parts of Asia and the Pacific Islands.

It should also be noted that, due to the growing importance of biracial and multiracial populations among Asian Americans and South Asian Americans, this report has included data on South Asian Americans “alone and in combination” when feasible. As an example, figures for “Indian Americans” in this report include people who reported the single ethnicity of Asian Indian alone, as well as people who reported that ethnicity in combination with one or more other ethnicities or racial groups.

SAAPRI and Advancing Justice-Chicago have generated this report with data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other selected sources to assist individuals and organizations to better serve the South Asian American community in Illinois. SAAPRI has published several reports relating to Asian Americans and South Asian Americans in the Chicago area, and it plans to publish additional reports periodically. The authors of this report hope that community organizations, political leaders, and social activists in the South Asian American and Asian American communities will make full use of the research to serve the community and bring about much-needed social, economic, and political reform for their constituencies.

CHAPTER 2: WHERE SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS RESIDE



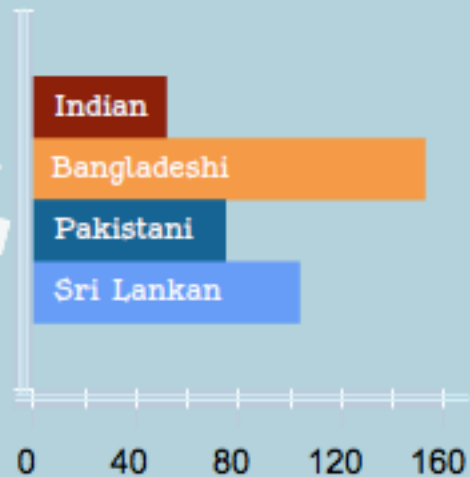
South Asian Americans in Illinois A Demographic Profile

UNITED STATES CENSUS

2010 Population Data



Since 2000, South Asian Americans have grown over **55%** in Illinois, mostly in the Chicago suburbs.



South Asian American Ethnic Groups Illinois 2010, Ranked in Order of Population

Table 1

Ethnic Group	Population Number	Percentage of South Asian Population
Asian Indian	203,669	84.1%
Pakistani	33,000	13.6%
Bangladeshi	2,088	0.9%
Sri Lankan	1,320	0.5%
Nepali	1,459	0.6%
Bhutanese	559	0.2%
Total South Asian Population	242,095	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

- ◆ According to the 2010 United States Census, there are over 242,000 South Asian Americans in Illinois, including people of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, and Bhutanese descent.
- ◆ South Asian Americans represent about 36% of the state's Asian American population and 2% of the state's overall population, with concentrations being higher in particular towns and neighborhoods.
- ◆ Indian Americans (also referred to as Asian Indians) are by far the largest subgroup of Asian Americans in Illinois. South Asian Americans, when counted together, represent an even more notable percentage of the Asian American population.

Comparison of Ethnic Groups Illinois 2010⁵

Table 2

Ethnic Group	Population Number	Percentage of Total Population	Growth, 2000-2010
South Asian American	242,095	1.9%	55.6%
Asian American	668,694	5.2%	41.2% ⁶
Black or African American	1,974,113	15.4%	1.9%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	101,451	0.8%	36.7%
Hispanic or Latino ⁷	2,027,578	15.8%	32.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

- ◆ Since 2000, South Asian Americans in Illinois have grown by over 55%.
- ◆ The percentage growth of South Asian Americans in Illinois between 2000 and 2010 has been notably higher than other minority populations.
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage growth of the overall population in Illinois was approximately 3%.

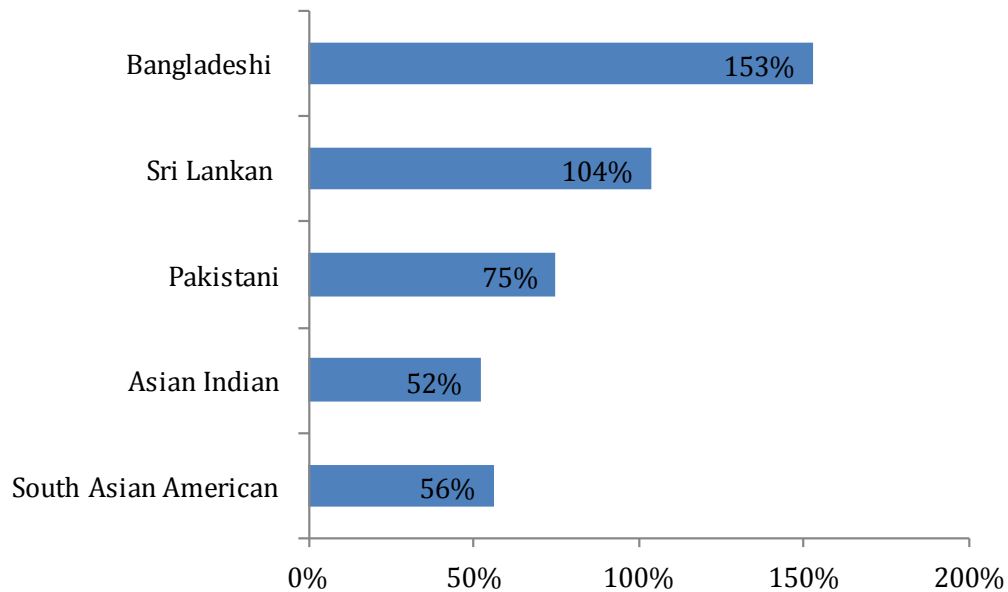
⁵ It should be noted that this report relies upon 2010 Census data but does not incorporate the 2010 Modified Race Summary file, which shows the results of modifying the 2010 Census population from census race categories (which include "some other race") into those consistent with the Office of Management and Budget standard categories (white, black or African-American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander).

⁶ Asian American Compass, available at <http://www.advancingjustice-chicago.org/news-media/publications> (citing U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census).

⁷ The category of Hispanic or Latino (of any race) from the 2010 Census was used for this analysis.

Population Growth By Ethnic Group, Illinois 2000 to 2010

Figure 1

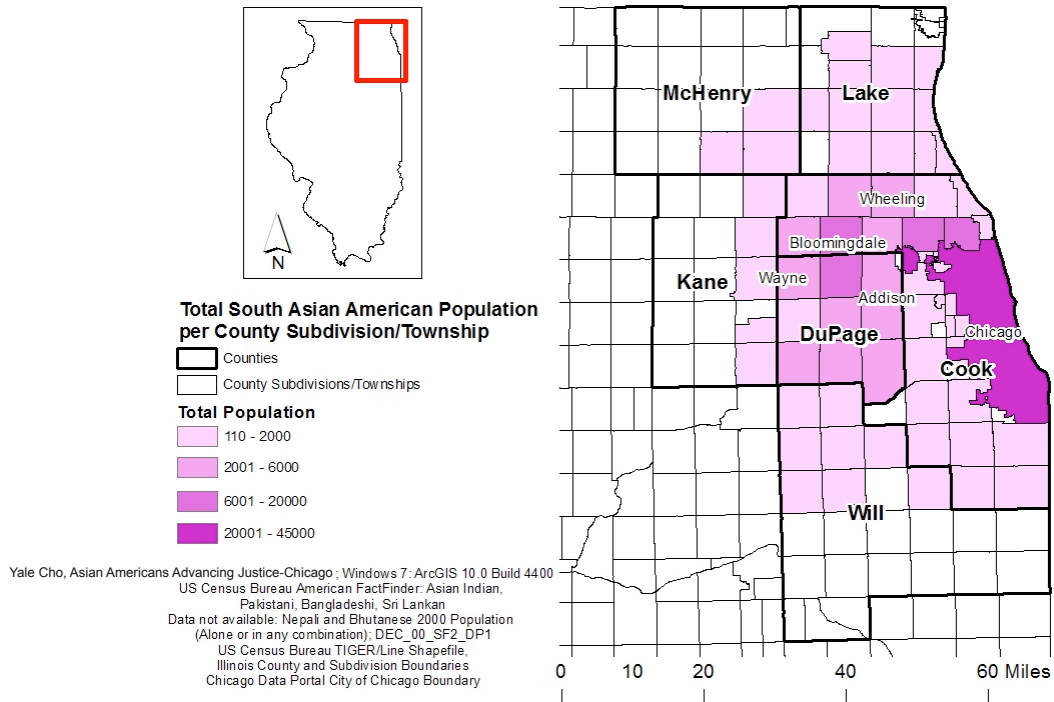


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

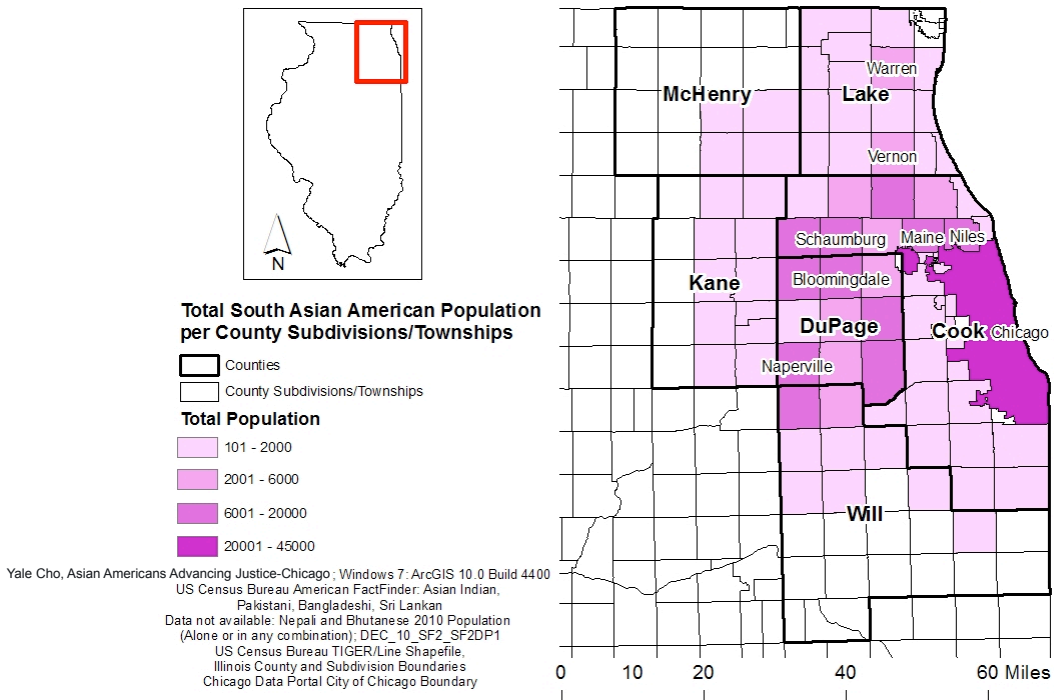
- ◆ Bangladeshi Americans represent the highest growth among South Asian American groups in Illinois, in terms of percentage.
- ◆ In terms of absolute numbers, Indian Americans experienced the largest population growth among South Asian Americans in Illinois.
- ◆ The growth of the Nepali and Bhutanese populations are not analyzed separately or as part of South Asian Americans collectively because the 2000 Census did not disaggregate information for these ethnic groups. Additional research is needed about these groups.

The South Asian American population in the suburban six-county area grew by about 64% from 2000 to 2010.

South Asian Population in the Six-County Area, Illinois, 2000



South Asian Population in the Six-County Area, Illinois, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

Population

By County and Ethnic Group, Illinois 2010

Table 3

County	Asian Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Sri Lankan	Nepali	Bhutanese	South Asian American	Percentage of Asian American Population	Percentage of Overall Population
DuPage County	44,823	7,180	270	236	114	87	52,710	51.9%	5.7%
Cook County⁸	101,873	18,349	1,235	605	863	345	123,270	34.0%	2.4%
McHenry County	2,741	415	33	23	5	0	3,217	33.7%	1.0%
Lake County	13,629	1,157	114	113	53	0	15,066	29.8%	2.1%
Kane County	5,200	1,047	23	38	44	81	6,433	30.5%	1.2%
Will County	11,932	2,618	130	55	32	0	14,767	41.7%	2.2%
Suburban Six-County Area⁹	146,670	22,840	1,126	694	484	174	171,988	41.5%	3.1%
Chicago	33,528	7,926	679	376	627	339	43,475	26.1%	1.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

⁸ Cook County estimates in this table include Chicago.

⁹ The Suburban Six-County Area in this table includes the populations of DuPage, Cook, McHenry, Lake, and Will counties. However, Chicago is not included in this estimate.

- ◆ Over 171,900 South Asian Americans – including people of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, and Bhutanese descent – reside in the suburban six-county area. Approximately 89% of the South Asian American population in Illinois lives in the Chicago area, with 71% living in the suburban six-county area and 18% living in the City of Chicago.
- ◆ The highest concentration of South Asian Americans are in Cook and DuPage counties, with about 123,200 South Asians Americans living in Cook County and approximately 52,700 living in DuPage County.
- ◆ The majority of Asian Americans residing in DuPage County are South Asian American, and 5.7% of the overall population of DuPage County is South Asian American, as discussed further below in Chapter 4.

Growth of South Asian Americans By County, Illinois 2000 to 2010

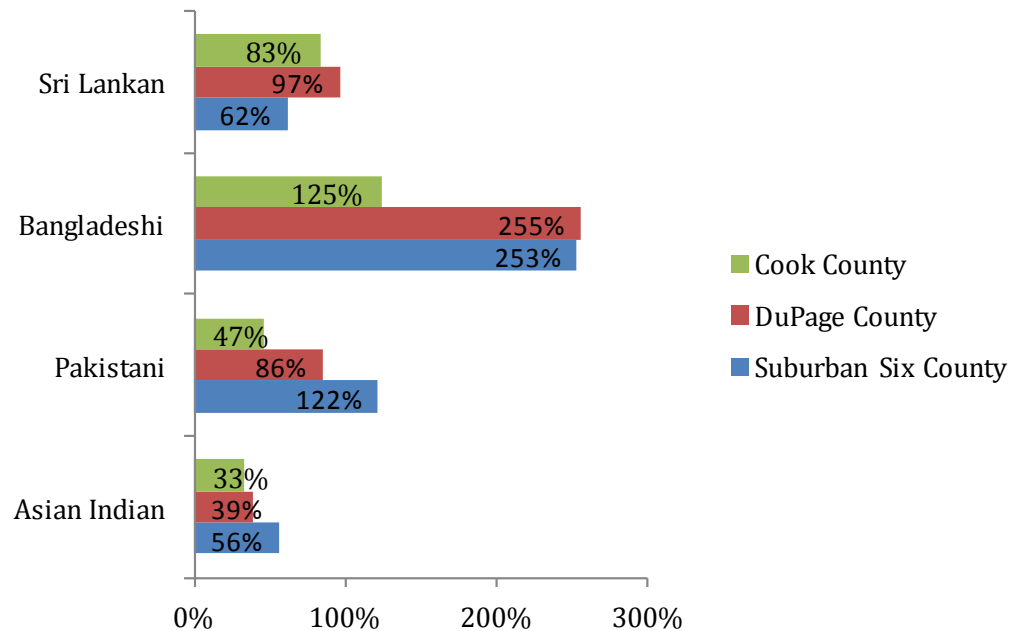
Table 4

County	% Growth
DuPage County	45%
Cook County	35%
McHenry County	128%
Lake County	132%
Kane County	190%
Will County	233%
Suburban Six-County Area	64%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

Growth of South Asian Americans By Ethnic Group and County, Illinois 2000 to 2010

Figure 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

- ◆ **The South Asian American population in the suburban six- county area grew by about 64% from 2000 to 2010, with the growth in particular counties being quite high in terms of percentage and absolute number.**
- ◆ Bangladeshi Americans had the highest growth among the South Asian American population in the Suburban Six County area, Cook County, and DuPage County, in terms of percentage.
- ◆ In terms of absolute numbers, Indian Americans experienced the largest population growth among South Asian Americans in the suburban six-county area.
- ◆ The Sri Lankan population in Will County decreased (72 to 55 people) between 2000 and 2010, becoming the only South Asian American population to experience a decrease in percentage growth among all the six counties. However, the Sri Lankan population did grow in other counties in Illinois.

Population

By Ethnic Group, Chicago 2010, Ranked in Order of Population

Table 5

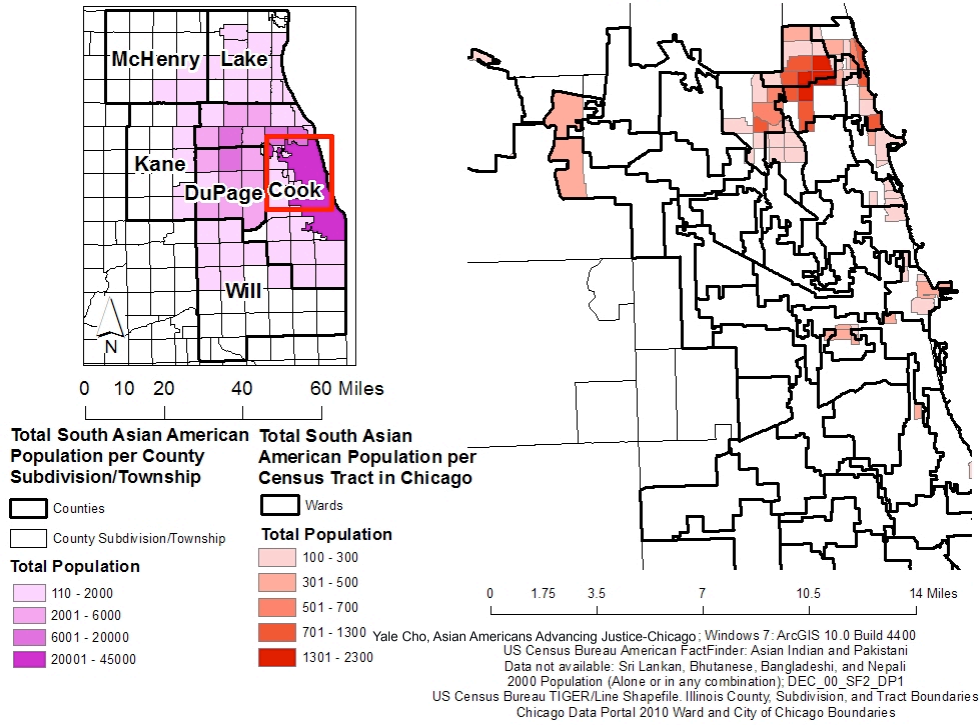
Ethnic Group	Population Number	Percentage of South Asian Population
Asian Indian	33,528	77.12%
Pakistani	7,926	18.23%
Bangladeshi	679	1.56%
Nepali	627	1.44%
Sri Lankan	376	0.86%
Bhutanese	339	0.78%
Total South Asian Population	43,475	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

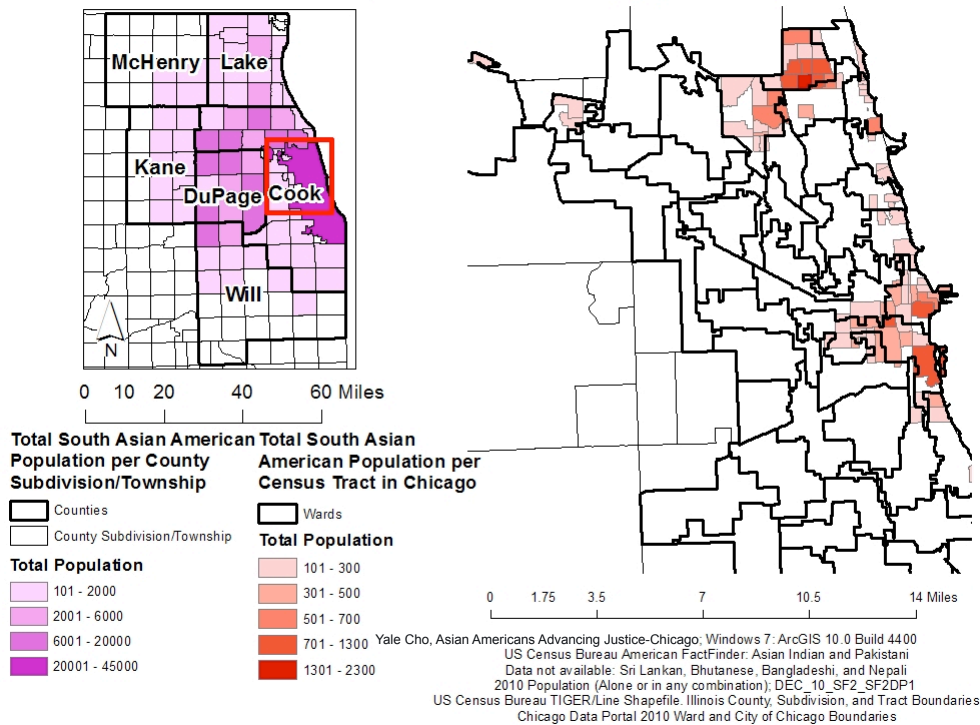
- ◆ According to the 2010 United States Census, there are over 43,400 South Asian Americans in the city of Chicago, including people of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, and Bhutanese descent.
- ◆ Indian Americans make up over 77% of the total South Asian American population in the city of Chicago.
- ◆ See Table 3 for data on South Asian American population as a percentage of the Asian American Population and the Overall Population of Chicago.
- ◆ **South Asian Americans represent about 26% of Chicago's Asian American population and 1.6% of the Chicago's overall population.**

The South Asian American population in Chicago grew by 18% from 2000 to 2010, with much of the growth being in downtown and surrounding areas.

South Asian Population in Chicago, Illinois, 2000



South Asian Population in Chicago, Illinois, 2010



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

Comparison of Ethnic Groups, Chicago 2000 to 2010

Table 6

Ethnic Group	Population Number	Percentage of Total Population	Growth, 2000-2010
South Asian American	43,475	1.6%	18.0%
Asian American	166,770	6.2%	18.7% ¹⁰
Black or African American	913,009	33.9%	-15.8%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	26,933	1.0%	28.9%
Hispanic or Latino	778,862	28.9%	3.4%

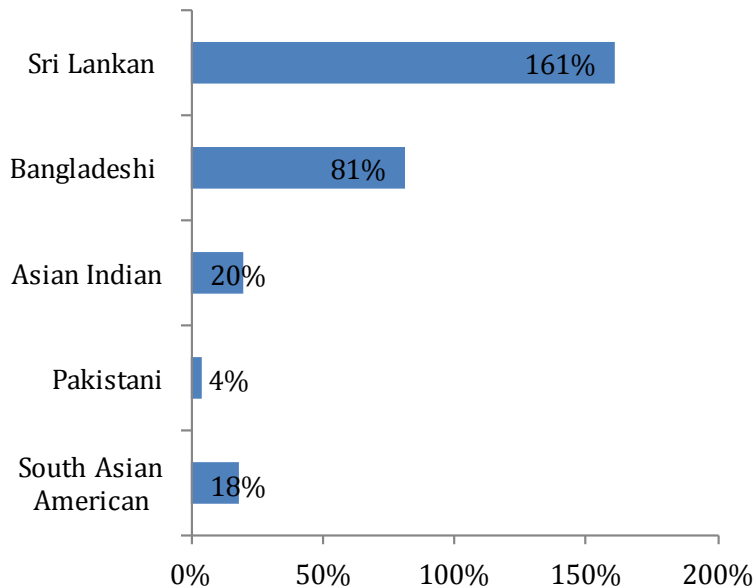
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

- ◆ Overall, the South Asian American population grew by 18% in the city of Chicago. This growth has been notably higher than other minority populations including Blacks/African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos.
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2010, the overall population in Chicago actually decreased by 6.9%.
- ◆ The population of the West Ridge area of Chicago, including Devon Avenue, is discussed further below in Chapter 4.

¹⁰ Asian American Compass, available at <http://www.advancingjustice-chicago.org/news-media/publications> (citing U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census).

Growth of South Asian Americans Chicago 2000 to 2010

Figure 3



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census & 2000 Census.

- ◆ Sri Lankans had the largest percentage growth among South Asian American groups in the city of Chicago.
- ◆ Pakistanis had the lowest percentage growth among South Asian American groups in the city of Chicago. However, this group grew at a rapid rate in the suburban six-county area, as discussed above.
- ◆ Within the city of Chicago, Chinese Americans are the largest Asian American ethnic group, and South Asian Americans are the second largest, when counted together.¹¹ However, Indian Americans are the Chicago metro area's largest Asian American ethnic group, with more than 180,000 in number.¹²
- ◆ In terms of percentage growth, the fastest growing Asian American ethnic groups in the Chicago metro area are South Asian. Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan American populations in the area doubled in size between 2000 and 2010.¹³

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

South Asian American Population

By City or Village, Ranked by Percentage of South Asian Americans

Table 7

Rank	City or Village	Number of South Asian Americans	Percentage of Overall Population	Rank	City or Village	Number of South Asian Americans	Percentage of Overall Population
1	Oak Brook	1,353	17.16%	13	Streamwood	3352	8.41%
2	South Barrington	783	17.15%	14	Carol Stream	3331	8.39%
3	Lincolnwood	1,771	14.07%	15	Oakbrook Terrace	158	7.40%
4	Hoffman Estates	6,726	12.96%	16	Bloomingtondale	1602	7.28%
5	Glendale Heights	4,144	12.11%	17	Niles	2157	7.24%
6	Morton Grove	2,808	12.07%	18	Lombard	3038	7.04%
7	Schaumburg	8,925	12.02%	19	Wheeling	2534	6.73%
8	Burr Ridge	1,152	10.91%	20	Indian Creek	31	6.71%
9	Skokie	6,943	10.72%	21	Woodridge	2170	6.58%
10	Hanover Park	3,784	9.96%	22	Mount Prospect	3505	6.47%
11	Bartlett	3,624	8.79%	23	Vernon Hills	1574	6.27%
12	Naperville	12,132	8.55%	24	Des Plaines	3613	6.19%
				25	Willowbrook	522	6.11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

- ◆ Oak Brook, South Barrington, Lincolnwood, Hoffman Estates, and Glendale Heights are the top 5 cities or villages in Illinois that have the highest percentage of South Asian Americans including people of Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Nepali, and Bhutanese descent.
- ◆ In terms of absolute numbers of South Asian Americans, Chicago, Naperville, Schaumburg, Aurora, Skokie, and Hoffman Estates are the cities or villages in Illinois that have the highest numbers of South Asian Americans.
- ◆ South Asian Americans make up 1.61% of the population in the city of Chicago and 4.01% of the population in Aurora, the second most populous city in Illinois.

South Asian American Population

By Illinois Congressional District, Ranked by Number and Percentage of South Asian Americans

Table 8¹⁴

Rank	Illinois Congressional District	Number of South Asian Americans	Percentage of Overall Population
1	8	60,122	8.4%
2	9	44,437	6.2%
3	6	40,097	5.6%
4	10	30,350	4.3%
5	11	30,042	4.2%

Source: Estimation process was applied to Census 2010 data.

Please contact the authors for more information on the research method used.

By Illinois State House District, Ranked by Number and Percentage of South Asian Americans

Table 9¹⁵

Rank	Illinois State House District	Number of South Asian Americans	Percentage of Overall Population
1	16	18,150	16.7%
2	56	17,764	16.3%
3	44	16,775	15.4%
4	15	14,899	13.7%
5	45	12,434	11.4%
6	41	12,053	11.1%
7	46	11,838	10.9%
8	84	10,320	9.5%
9	55	10,303	9.5%
10	20	10,220	9.40%

Source: Estimation process was applied to Census 2010 data.

Please contact the authors for more information on the research method used.

¹⁴ Additional information about district boundaries and representatives can be found at http://www.house.gov/representatives/#state_il.

¹⁵ Additional information about district boundaries and representatives can be found at <http://www.ilga.gov/house>.

South Asian American Population

By Illinois State Senate District, Ranked by Number and Percentage of South Asian Americans

Table 10¹⁶

Rank	Illinois State Senate District	Number of South Asian Americans	Percentage of Overall Population
1	8	29,576	13.6%
2	28	26,975	12.4%
3	23	23,689	10.9%
4	22	19,210	8.8%
5	21	17,321	8.0%
6	27	14,463	6.7%
7	24	13,544	6.2%
8	7	12,275	5.6%
9	29	11,488	5.3%
10	10	11,178	5.14%

Source: Estimation process was applied to Census 2010 data. Please contact the authors for more information on the research method used.

South Asian American Population

By City of Chicago Ward, Ranked by Number and Percentage of South Asian Americans

Table 11¹⁷

Rank	City of Chicago Ward	Number of South Asian Americans	Percentage of Overall Population
1	50	9,040	16.8%
2	40	6,731	12.5%
3	42	5,918	11.0%
4	39	3,918	7.3%
5	27	3,759	7.0%
6	48	3,544	6.6%
7	4	3,500	6.5%
8	2	3,047	5.7%
9	25	2,226	4.1%
10	41	2,211	4.10%

Source: Estimation process was applied to Census 2010 data. Please contact the authors for more information on the research method used.

¹⁶ Additional information about district boundaries and representatives can be found at <http://www.ilga.gov/senate/>.

¹⁷ Additional information about district boundaries and representatives can be found at <http://www.wbez.org/no-sidebar/approved-ward-map-95662>.

CHAPTER 3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS

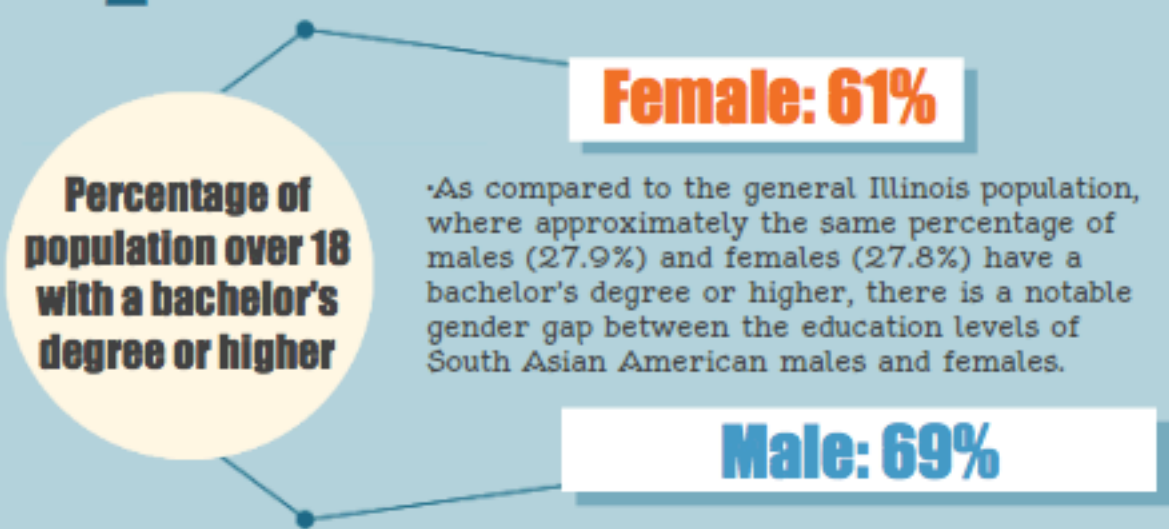


The Gender Gap

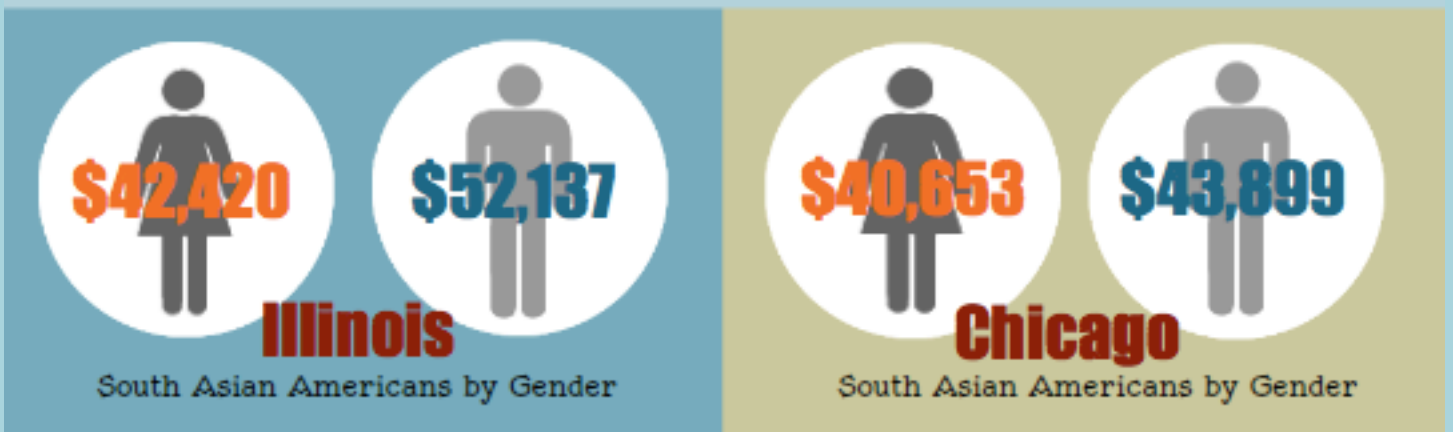
SAAPRI: A Demographic Profile



How do South Asian American women in Illinois fare compared to their male counterparts?



Median Earnings for Full Time Workers



Gender

By Ethnic Group, Illinois 2010

Table 12

Asian Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Sri Lankan	South Asian American - Overall
52% male; 48% female	52% male; 48% female	54% male; 46% female	57% male; 43% female	52% male; 48% female

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Citizenship Status

By Gender and Ethnic Group, Illinois 2010

Table 13

Citizenship Status	Asian Indian	Pakistani	Bangladeshi	Sri Lankan	South Asian American - Overall
U.S.-Born Citizen	31.1% (51% male; 49% female)	35.4% (50% male; 50% female)	29.9% (50% male; 50% female)	21.0% (72% male; 28% female)	31.5% (51% male; 49% female)
Naturalized Citizen	35.1% (53% male; 47% female)	41.3% (52% male; 48% female)	28.4% (66% male; 34% female)	25.0% (36% male; 64% female)	35.7% (53% male; 47% female)
Citizen (including U.S.-Born and Naturalized)	66.3% (52% male, 48% female)	76.7% (52% male, 49% female)	58.2% (58% male, 42% female)	46.0% (52% male, 48% female)	67.2% (52% male, 48% female)
Non-Citizen	33.7% (53% male; 47% male)	23.3% (53% male; 47% female)	41.8% (50% male; 50% female)	54.1% (61% male; 39% female)	32.8% (53% male; 47% female)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Gender

By Ethnic Group, Chicago 2010¹⁸

Table 14

Asian Indian	Pakistani	South Asian American - Overall
55% male; 45% female	54% male; 46% female	55% male; 45% female

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Citizenship Status

By Gender and Ethnic Group, Chicago 2010

Table 15

Citizenship Status	Asian Indian	Pakistani	South Asian American - Overall
U.S.-Born Citizen	33.3% (54% male; 46% female)	35.4% (53% male; 47% female)	33.6% (53% male; 47% female)
Naturalized Citizen	31.5% (53% male; 47% female)	38.4% (53% male; 47% female)	32.7% (53% male; 47% female)
Citizen (including U.S.-Born and Naturalized)	64.8% (53% male, 47% female)	73.8% (53% male, 47% female)	66.3% (53% male, 47% female)
Non-Citizen	35.2% (59% male; 41% female)	26.2% (58% male; 42% female)	33.7% (59% male; 41% female)

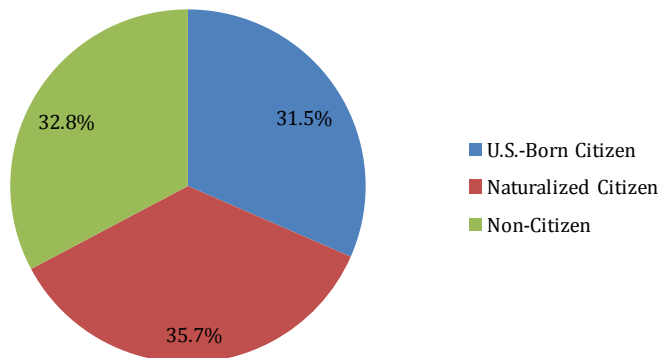
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

¹⁸ The United States Census Bureau provides very limited information about socioeconomic characteristics of Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans, Nepalis, and other smaller South Asian American groups in Chicago. Analysis of these groups in terms of gender, citizenship, place of birth, income, poverty, health insurance coverage, and other factors is not available. This highlights the need for additional data about these groups in the future.

Citizenship Status of South Asian Americans

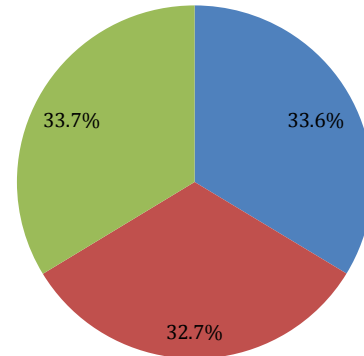
Illinois 2010

Figure 4



Chicago 2010

Figure 5



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ Approximately 67% of South Asian Americans in Illinois are United States citizens. This estimate includes the four major South Asian American populations of Asian Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Sri Lankan¹⁹, and this estimate includes those born in the United States as well as those who have become naturalized citizens.
- ◆ In Chicago, approximately 51% of the population are females and 49% are males, but among South Asian Americans in Chicago, 45% are females and 55% are males. For some South Asian American ethnic subgroups in Illinois, there does seem to be a difference in the percentage of South Asian American males and females who are U.S.-born citizens, naturalized citizens, and non-citizens. Additional research would help to provide insights on the reasons for such gender differences.

¹⁹ The United States Census Bureau provides very limited information about socioeconomic characteristics of smaller South Asian American groups in Illinois. Analysis of these groups in terms of gender, citizenship, health insurance coverage, and other factors is not available. This highlights the need for additional data about these groups in the future.

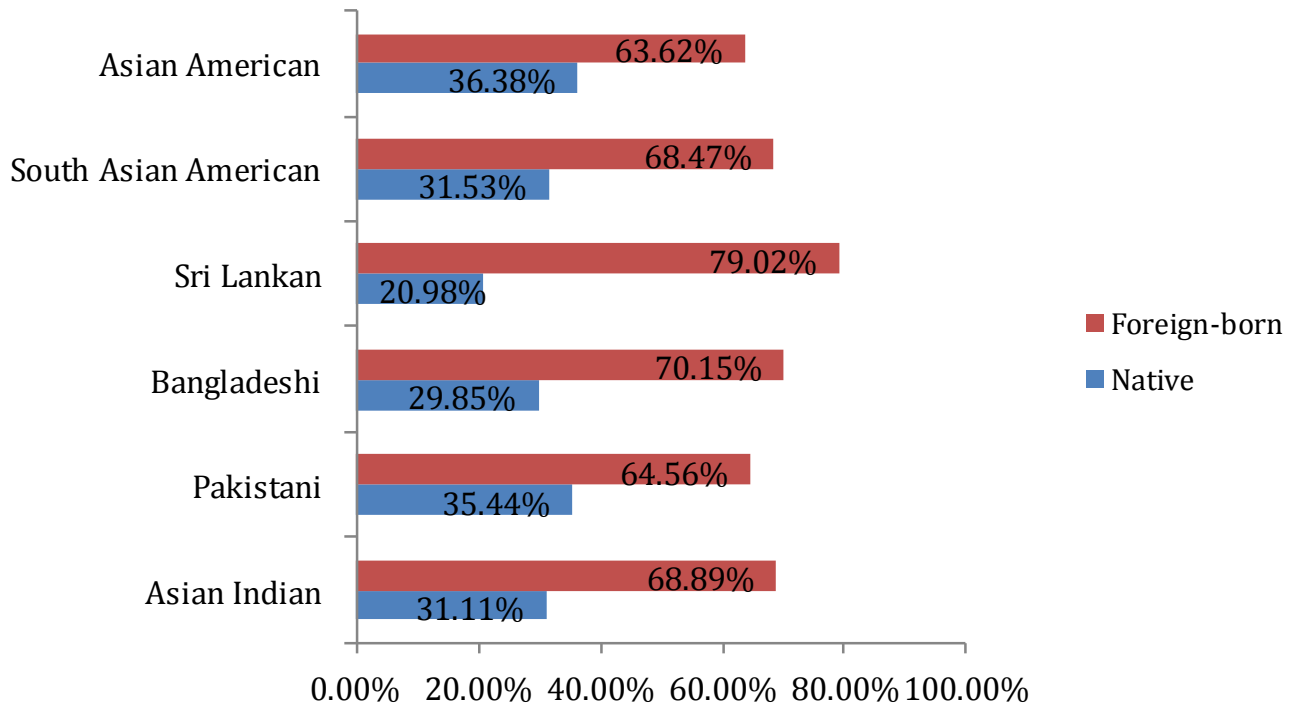
Civic Participation Among South Asian Americans

- ◆ Although detailed analysis on voter turnout is beyond the scope of this report, the authors used an estimation technique to approximate South Asian voting participation in the 8th Congressional district, the Illinois Congressional district with the highest concentration of South Asian Americans.²⁰ In this district, about 70% of South Asian American registered voters actually did vote in at least one recent federal election, compared with 71% turnout among all registered voters in the same district. However, South Asian American participation in more than one recent federal election lags behind the overall turnout rate. Additional research is required to better understand civic participation of South Asian Americans, including research on registration rates among eligible voters, voter turnout in the recent 2012 election, and participation in local and state elections.
- ◆ South Asian Americans are at a historically important juncture, possessing both eagerness and ambition to increase their influence in government and politics. In 2011, Ameya Pawar became the first South Asian American and the first Asian American member of the Chicago City Council. In Skokie, Niles Township, and York Township, South Asian Americans have been elected to local office, and several South Asian American judges have been elected and appointed to the Cook County Courts. In the March 2012 primary election, South Asian Americans ran for office in three of the 18 federal Congressional seats in Illinois. South Asian Americans are eager to see members of their own community become actively involved in all forms of civic engagement, including exercising their right to vote and serving in elected office.
- ◆ South Asian Americans are anxious for all government officials – regardless of race – to show more accountability and effectively address the community’s needs. In the wake of recent hate crimes against South Asian American individuals and institutions, the community worked with local and state legislators to pass anti-hate resolutions to denounce hate crimes and hateful political rhetoric and take measures to promote tolerance and inclusion.

²⁰ Results from the 2012 election have not yet been analyzed, and voter turnout rates included in this report reflect participation in the 2006, 2008, or 2010 federal Congressional elections. The authors thank Taking Our Seat, a community-based organization serving South Asian Americans in New York, for their assistance with the analysis. Please contact the authors for more information about the estimation process used.

Place of Birth By Ethnicity, Illinois 2010

Table 16



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

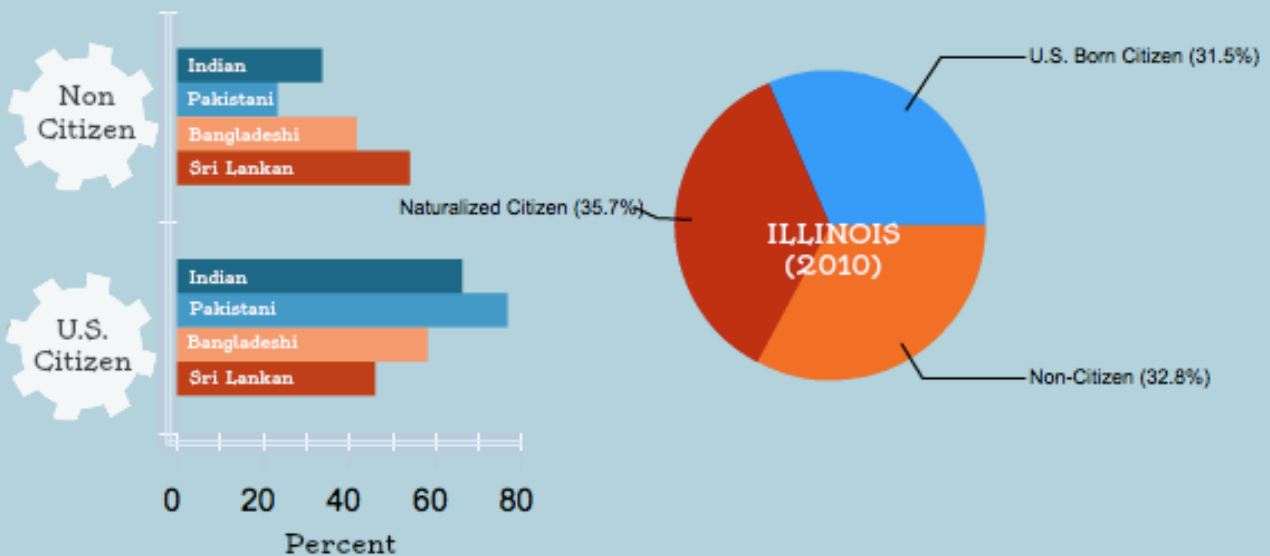
- ◆ **South Asian Americans represent about 36% of the state's Asian American population. Among this population, about 68% is foreign-born and 32% were born in the United States.**
- ◆ Foreign-born South Asian Americans are born in Asia and also Europe, Africa, and other places throughout the world.
- ◆ Most research on immigrants focuses on Latino and Asian immigrants as aggregate groups, and additional research needs to be conducted on South Asian Americans in particular.²¹

²¹ See Immigration Policy Center, *New Americans in Illinois: The Political and Economic Power of Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians in the Prairie State* January 2012, available at http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/New_Americans_in_Illinois_2012.pdf (citing United States 2010 Census data).

Citizenship & Civic Engagement

SAAPRI: A Demographic Profile

67% of South Asian Americans in Illinois are U.S. Citizens.

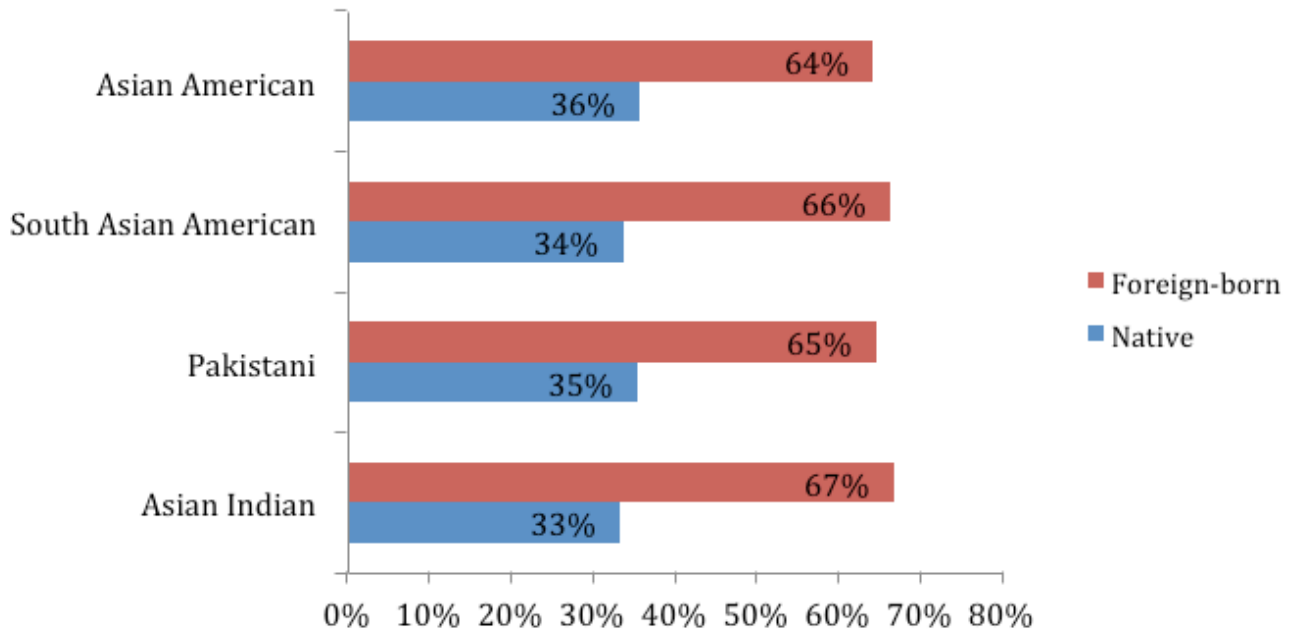


In the 8th Congressional district, the district with the highest concentration of South Asian Americans in Illinois, about 70% of South Asian American registered voters voted in at least one recent federal election.

Because of the high number of limited English proficient Indian Americans who are eligible to vote, the City of Chicago and suburban Cook County election boards are now legally required to provide language assistance in Hindi, Gujarati and Urdu.

Place of Birth By Ethnicity, Chicago 2010

Figure 6



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

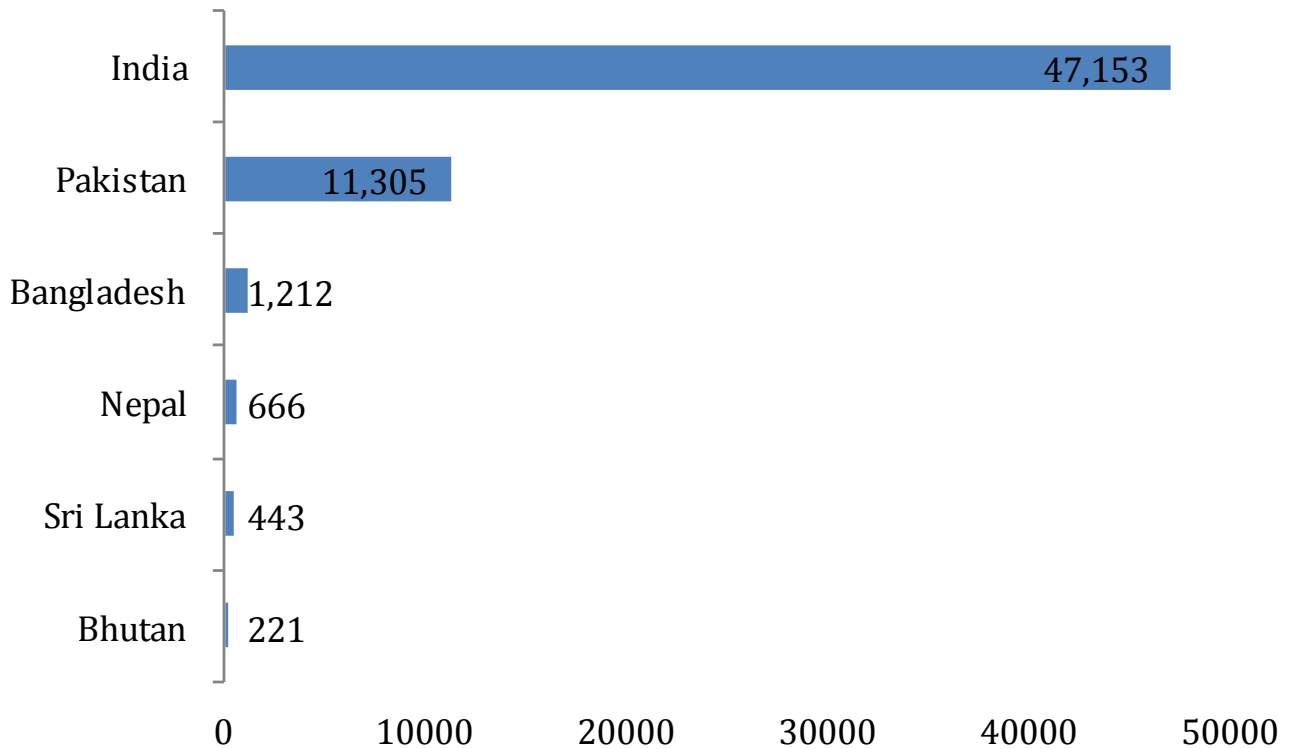
- ◆ The recent growth of Asian Americans in the greater Chicago area has been fueled by the increasing numbers of South Asian immigrants coming to the city, with the fastest growing Asian American ethnic groups in the area being South Asian populations.²²
- ◆ South Asian Americans make up one of the largest immigrant groups in the Chicago area, entering through both employment-based and family-based channels. The South Asian American population includes high-skilled and lower-skilled workers, people who integrate successfully and people who suffer unfair burdens of prejudice and backlogs, and established and rising entrepreneurs as well as undocumented workers.
- ◆ As of 2010, India was the country of origin of the second-largest group of immigrants to the Midwest, being second only to Mexico.²³ Additional research is needed to shed light on the issues facing Indian and South Asian immigrants in the Chicago area and the Midwest.

²² Asian Americans Advancing Justice, A Community of Contrasts, available at http://www.advancingjustice.org/sites/default/files/Community_of_Contrasts_Midwest_2012.pdf.

²³ Task Force on Immigration and U.S. Economic Competitiveness, U.S. Economic Competitiveness at Risk: A Midwest Call to Action on Immigration Reform, available at <http://midwestimmigration.org/the-report>.

Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status in Chicago Metro Area By Asian Country of Birth, Chicago 2000-2010²⁴

Figure 7



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Immigration Statistics.

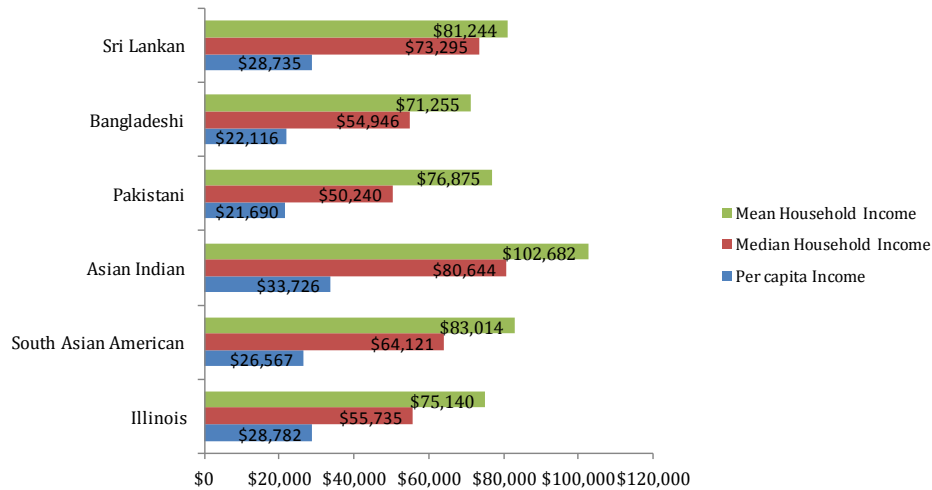
- ◆ South Asian Americans make up approximately 43% of the Asian Americans in the Chicago area who obtained legal permanent resident (LPR) status between 2000 and 2010.
- ◆ The largest numbers of Asian-born individuals who obtained LPR status between 2000 and 2010 were from India (47,153), followed by people from Philippines (27,609) and China (21,346).²⁵ This indicates that Indian Americans and South Asian Americans are an important segment of the area's immigrants and should be considered in any policy decisions regarding immigration.

²⁴ Asian Americans Advancing Justice, A Community of Contrasts, available at http://www.advancingjustice.org/sites/default/files/Community_of_Contrasts_Midwest_2012.pdf (citing United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Immigration Statistics (2000-2010)).

²⁵ Ibid.

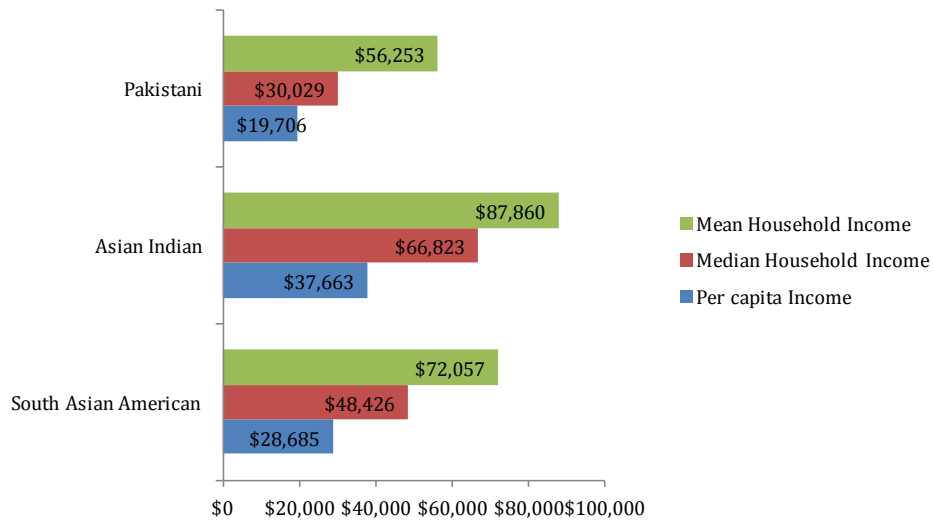
Income and Poverty Levels Per Capita vs. Household Income By Ethnic Group, Illinois 2006-2010

Figure 8



By Ethnic Group, Chicago 2006-2010

Figure 9

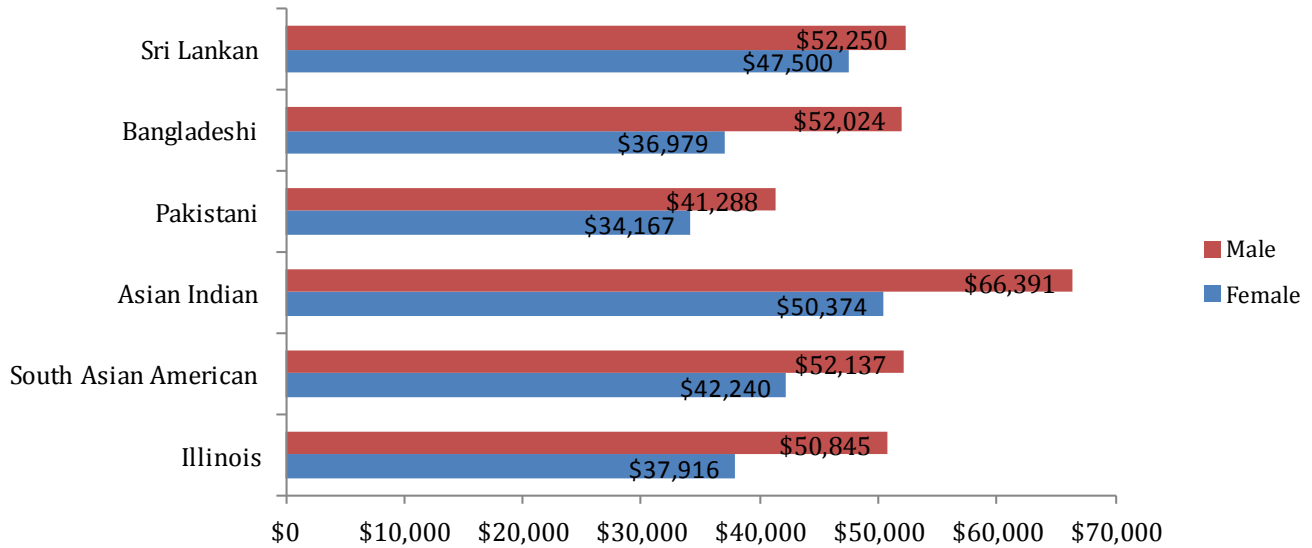


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ **In Illinois, South Asian Americans have a lower per capita income than the overall population.** Given that many South Asian Americans live in multi-generational households, per capita income may be a more accurate indication of income level as opposed to household income.

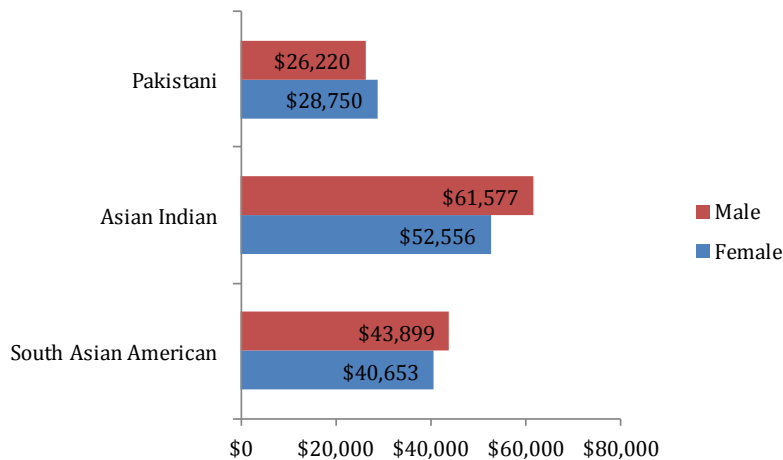
Median Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers By Ethnic Group and Gender, Illinois 2006-2010

Figure 10



By Ethnic Group and Gender, Chicago 2006-2010

Figure 11



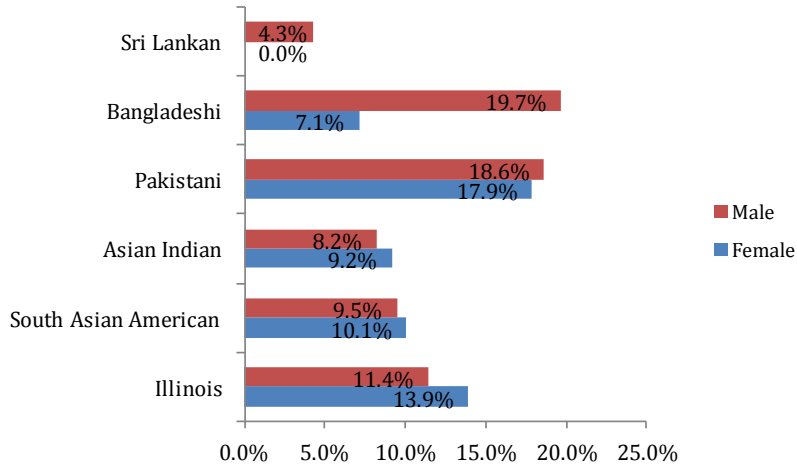
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ In Illinois, there is a large gap between the income of South Asian American male and female full-time year-round workers. The gap is highest among Indian Americans and Bangladeshi Americans.

Percentage of Population Whose Income in the Past 12 Months was Below Poverty Level

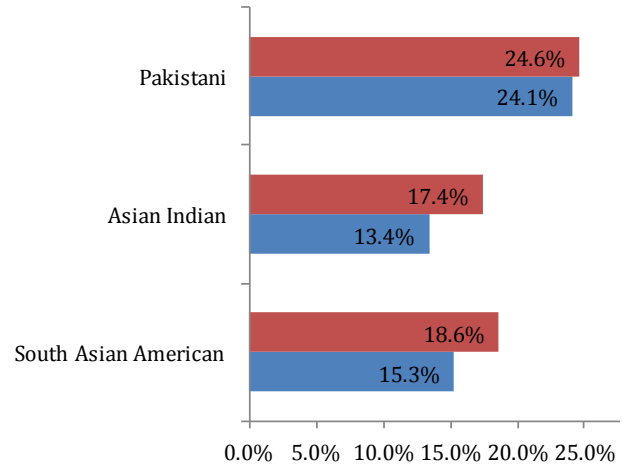
By Ethnic Group and Gender, Illinois 2006-2010

Figure 12



By Ethnic Group and Gender, Chicago 2006-2010

Figure 13



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ Poverty is a problem for South Asian Americans in Illinois, with some ethnic groups having higher poverty rates than the overall Illinois population. Rates of poverty are even higher among South Asian Americans in Chicago.
- ◆ Over 20% of Indian Americans in the Chicago metro area are low-income. Nearly half of Pakistani Americans (47%) are low-income, a rate similar to African Americans (48%) and Latinos (46%).²⁶

²⁶ Asian Americans Advancing Justice, A Community of Contrasts, available at http://www.advancingjustice.org/sites/default/files/Community_of_Contrasts_Midwest_2012.pdf (citing U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Tables B17001 and C17002).

Firms²⁷

By Ethnicity, Illinois 2007

Table 17

	All firms (number)	Percent of total Asian (%)	Receipts (\$1,000)	Employer firms (number)	Employees (number)	Annual pay- roll (\$1,000)
Total Asian	59,367	100.00%	18,485,950	16,006	102,991	3,223,116
Asian²⁸ Indian	18,693	31.49%	8,219,832	6,383	42,343	1,519,416

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners.

- ◆ Indian American-owned businesses make an important impact on commerce in Illinois. Among Asian American-owned firms in Illinois, Indian American-owned firms account for 31% of the firms, 44% of the receipts, 41% of the jobs created, and 47% of the payments made to employees.
- ◆ Additional facts about Asian American businesses in Illinois are available in Advancing Justice-Chicago's fact sheet titled *Asian American-Owned Businesses in Illinois*.

²⁷ Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago, Asian American-Owned Businesses in Illinois (citing U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Survey of Business Owners).

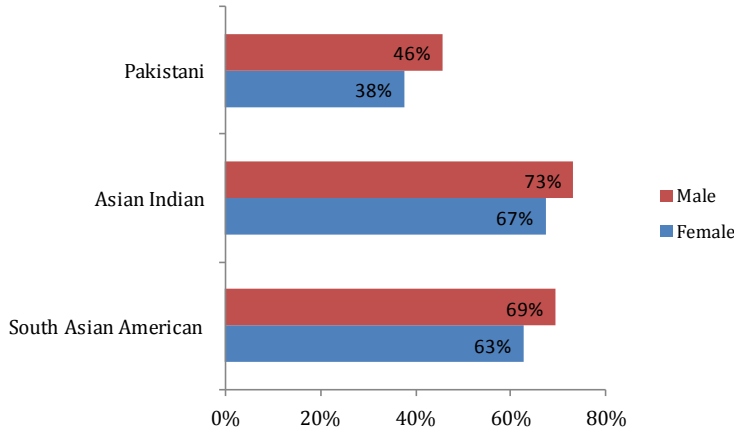
²⁸ Additional data on other South Asian groups may be available at a later time.

Education²⁹

Percentage of Population 18 or Above With Bachelor's Degree or Higher

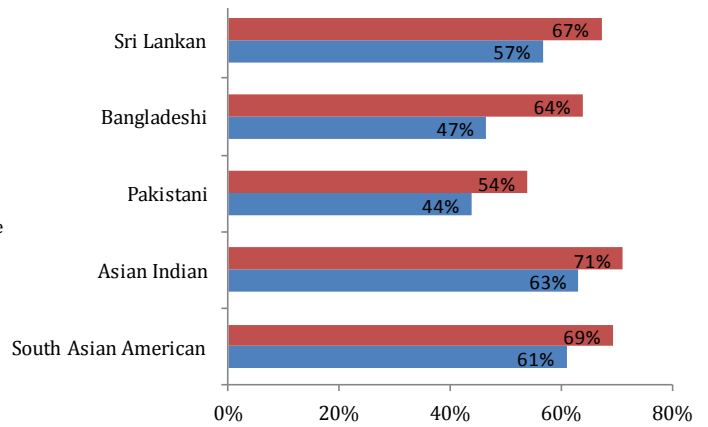
By Ethnic Group and Gender,
Chicago 2006-2010

Figure 14



By Ethnic Group and Gender,
Illinois 2006-2010

Figure 15



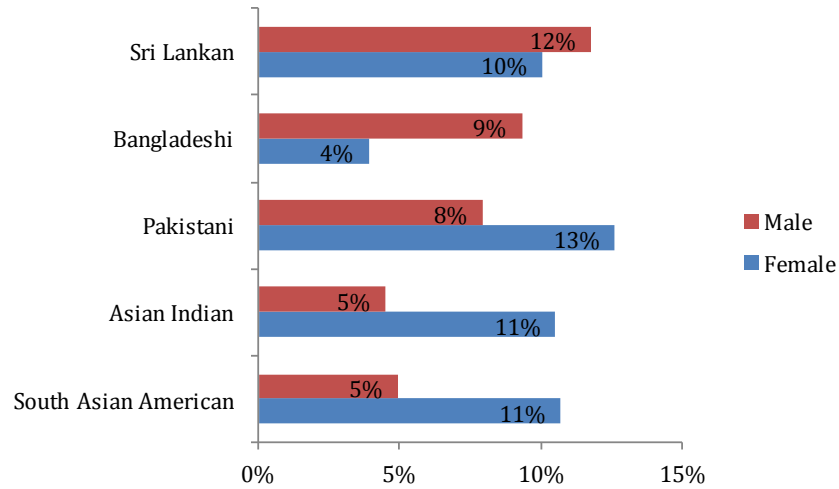
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ As compared to the general Illinois population, where approximately the same percentage of males (27.9%) and females (27.8%) have a bachelor's degree or higher, there is a notable gender gap between the education levels of South Asian American males and females. The gender gap is also apparent among South Asian Americans in Chicago.
- ◆ Additional research is required on the type of education received by South Asian Americans in Illinois, as many community members have raised concerns about low return on education or varying value of degrees obtained abroad.

²⁹ Please note that all education data includes individuals aged 18 or higher.

Percentage of Population 18 or Above with Less than High School Diploma By Ethnic Group and Gender, Illinois 2006-2010

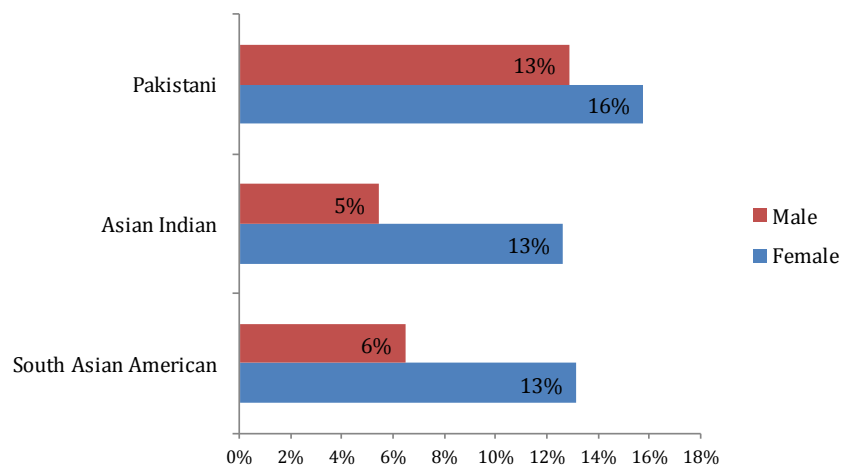
Figure 16



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

By Ethnic Group and Gender, Chicago 2006-2010

Figure 17



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ As compared to the general Illinois population, where the percentage of females who have less than a high school education (13.3%) is actually slightly lower than that of males (14.8%), substantially more Indian American and Pakistani American females have low education as compared to males. The gender gap is also apparent among South Asian Americans in Chicago.

South Asian Languages Spoken by English Language Learner Students³⁰ Illinois 2010

Figure 18

	Percentage of South Asian Americans	Percentage of Indian Americans	Percentage of Pakistani Americans	Percentage of Bangladeshi Americans	Percentage of Sri Lankan Americans	Percentage of Overall Illinois Population
English Only	15.0%	15.2%	13.6%	10.9%	21.6%	78.3%
Language other than English	85.0%	84.8%	86.4%	89.1%	78.4%	21.7%

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, 2010 Bilingual Education Program and English Language Learners in Illinois Statistical Report.

- ◆ A significant number of South Asian American students in Illinois public schools have limited English proficiency and need assistance in order to transition to learning in English. Among Asian American students who are deemed to be English Language Learners (ELL students), nearly 44% of them speak a South Asian language at home.
- ◆ The South Asian language spoken by ELL students in Illinois – from largest to smallest language group – are Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Telugu, Malayalam, Nepali, Tamil, Farsi, Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, Pashto, Sinhalese, Konkani, Sindhi, Sourashtra, Oriya, Bagheli, Assamese, and Tulu.³¹

³⁰ Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, Language Access: Bi-lingual Education for Asian American Youth in Illinois (citing Illinois State Board of Education, 2010 Bilingual Education Programs and English Language Learners in Illinois Statistical Report).

³¹ Some of the languages such as Farsi are also spoken in countries outside of South Asia, but they are included because there are Farsi speakers from South Asia. Some of the language categories used by boards of education should be revised with input from South Asian Americans.

Linguistic Diversity and Limited English Proficiency

Languages Spoken at Home for Population 5 years and over By Ethnic Group, Illinois 2006-2010

Table 18

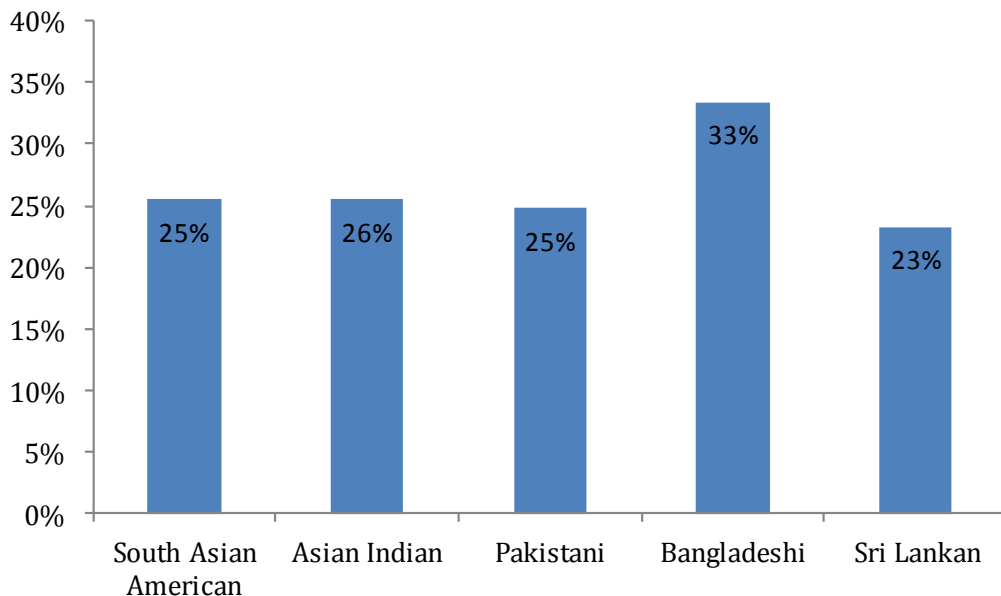
Language	Number	Percent of ELL Students in Illinois
Asian languages	16,403	8.90%
South Asian languages	7,176	3.90%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ About 85% of the South Asian American population in Illinois speaks a different language than English at home, as compared to the general population, where only about 22% speak a language other than English at home. Over 170,000 South Asian Americans speak a language other than English at home. This includes people who are bilingual or multilingual as well as people with limited English proficiency.

Percentage that Speak English Less than “Very Well” for Population 5 years and over By Ethnic Group, Illinois 2006-2010

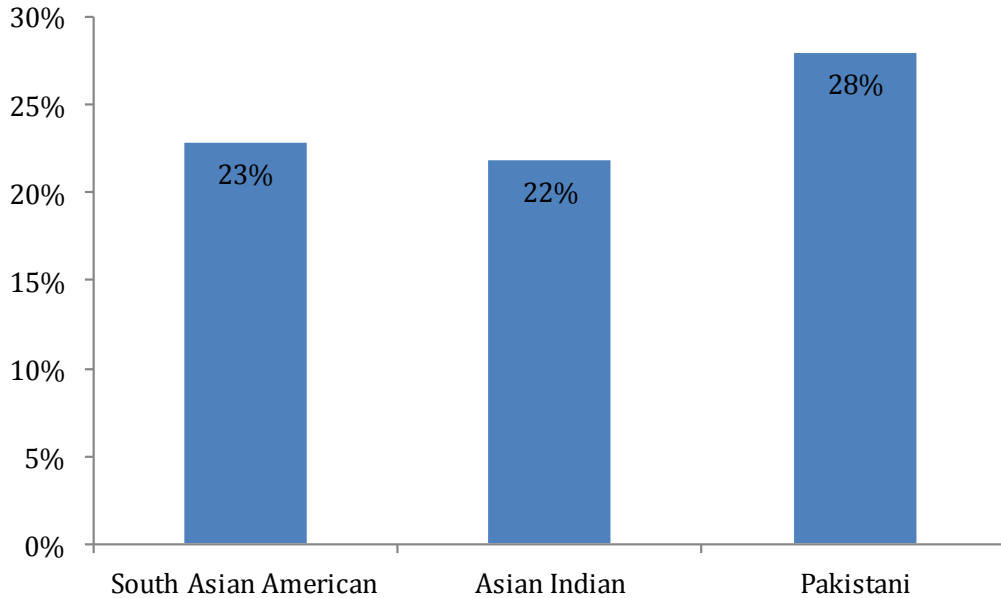
Figure 19



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Percentage that Speak English Less than “Very Well” for Population 5 years and over By Ethnic Group, Chicago 2006-2010

Figure 20

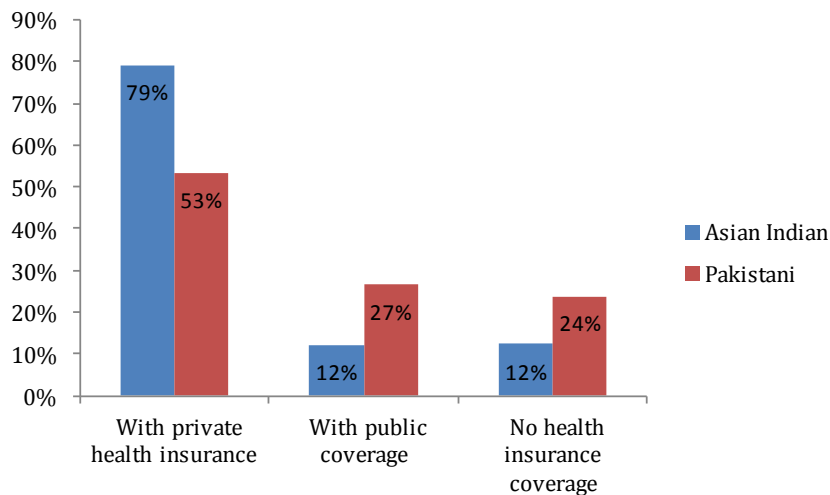


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

- ◆ In Illinois, about a quarter of South Asian Americans speak English less than “very well,” as compared to a much lower rate of limited English proficiency in the general Illinois population (about 10%).
- ◆ The Bangladeshi population in Illinois reports a notably higher percent of speaking English less than “very well” (33%) when compared to the other South Asian populations.
- ◆ Limited English proficiency is a growing concern for South Asian Americans, and it serves as a barrier to voting and civic engagement, as well as access to quality health care, education, and social services.
- ◆ **Because of the high number of limited English proficient Indian Americans who are eligible to vote, the City of Chicago and suburban Cook County election boards are now legally required to provide language assistance in Hindi, Gujarati, and Urdu.**

Health Insurance Coverage By Ethnic Group, Illinois 2008-2010

Figure 21



- ◆ In Illinois, a higher percentage of Indian Americans (12%) and Pakistani Americans (24%) have no health insurance coverage, as compared to Whites (11%).³²
- ◆ Among all subgroups of Asian Americans in Illinois, Pakistani Americans have the highest rate of lacking health insurance coverage (24%).³³

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Health Research on Local South Asian Americans – Spotlight on Heart Disease and Diabetes

Additional research is needed on various health issues affecting South Asian Americans, including heart disease, diabetes, domestic violence, mental health, and disability. For example, South Asian Americans have been found to have a disproportionate risk of coronary heart disease and diabetes.³⁴ Regular physical activity has been known to prevent type 2 diabetes and coronary heart disease. Among Asian Americans, however, South Asian Americans report the least physical activity and have a disproportionate prevalence of diabetes and coronary heart disease. Cultural factors, lack of awareness, and perceptions about exercise may affect physical activity of South Asian Americans, particularly women. They continue to be underrepresented in health research, despite evidence that their cardio metabolic risk is higher than other U.S. populations. Research focusing on South Asian Americans socio-cultural determinants of health is essential to formulating necessary intervention strategies and health policies.

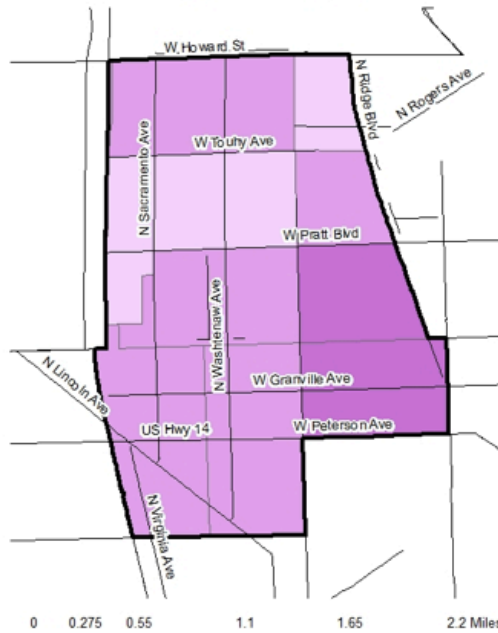
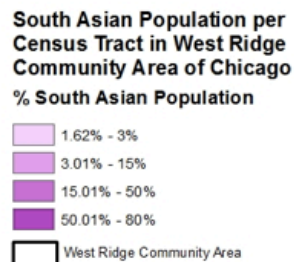
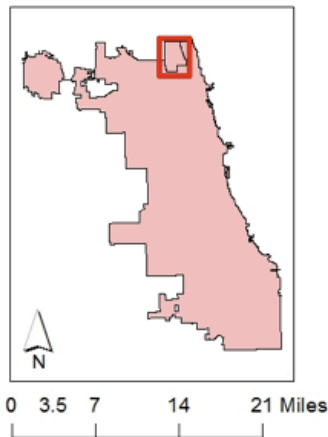
³² Asian Americans Advancing Justice, A Community of Contrasts, available at http://www.advancingjustice.org/sites/default/files/Community_of_Contrasts_Midwest_2012.pdf (citing U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey).

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Knowledge Gaps and Misconceptions About Coronary Heart Disease Among U.S. South Asians, available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2844724/?tool=pubmed> (2010). One of the authors of the report, Dr. Namratha Kandula, is working closely with the South Asian community in Chicago's West Ridge and Rogers Park neighborhoods to better understand the factors that are influencing the health of South Asian immigrants. Dr. Kandula's research aims to empower community members to achieve optimal health.

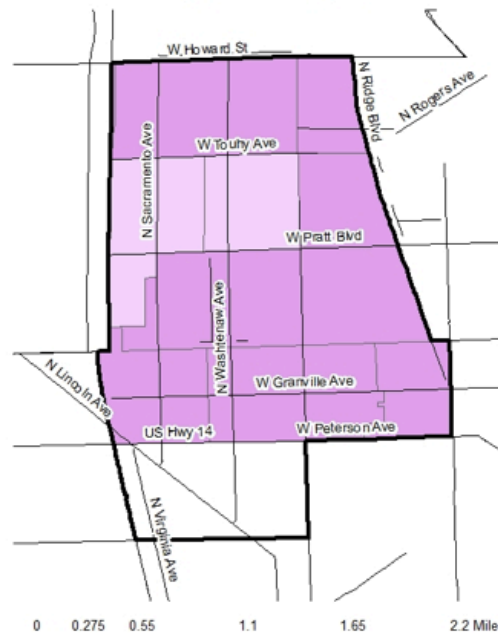
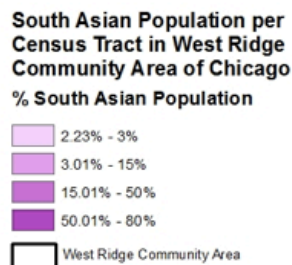
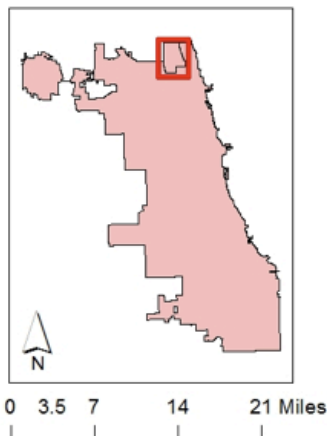
CHAPTER 4: RECENT TRENDS IN WEST RIDGE AND DUPAGE COUNTY

South Asian Population in West Ridge, Chicago, 2000



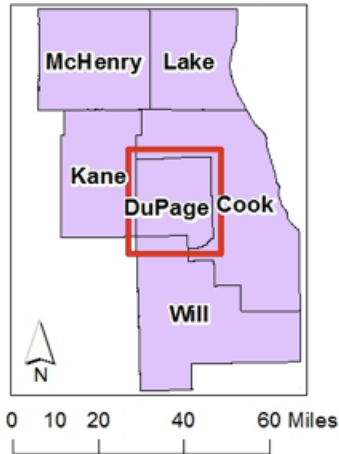
Yale Cho, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, ArcGIS 10.0 Build 4400
 US Census Bureau American FactFinder, Asian Indian and Pakistani
 Data not included: Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Bangladeshi, Nepali
 2000 Population (Alone or in any combination), DEC_00_SF2_DP1
 US Census Bureau TIGER/Line Roads Shapefile, Illinois County, Subdivision, and Tract Boundaries
 Chicago Data Portal Community Area and City of Chicago Boundaries

South Asian Population in West Ridge, Chicago, 2010



Yale Cho, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, Windows 7, ArcGIS 10.0 Build 4400
 US Census Bureau American FactFinder, Asian Indian and Pakistani
 Data not included: Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Bangladeshi, Nepali
 2010 Population (Alone or in any combination), DEC_10_SF2_SF2DP1
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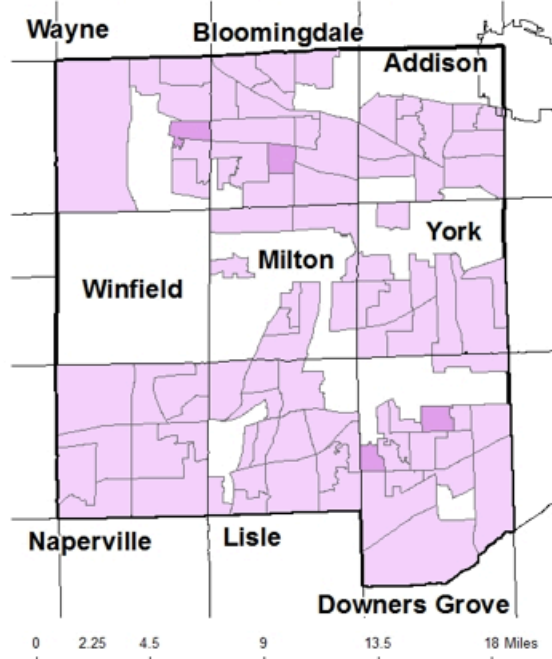
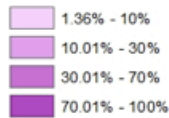
South Asian Population in DuPage County, Illinois, 2000



% South Asian Population per Census Tract within DuPage County Subdivisions/Townships

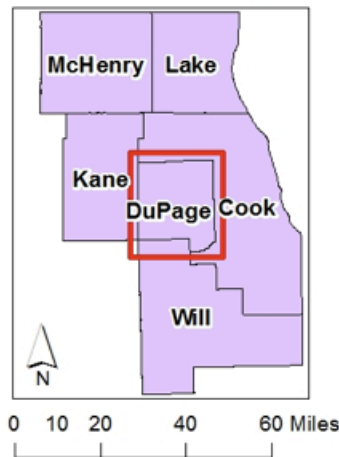
County Subdivisions/Townships

% South Asian Population



Yale Cho, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, Windows 7: ArcGIS 10.0 Build 4400
 US Census Bureau American FactFinder: Asian Indian and Pakistani
 Data not included: Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Bangladeshi, and Nepali
 2000 Population (Alone or in any combination); DEC_00_SF2_DP1
 US Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefile: Illinois DuPage County,
 Subdivision, and Tract Boundaries

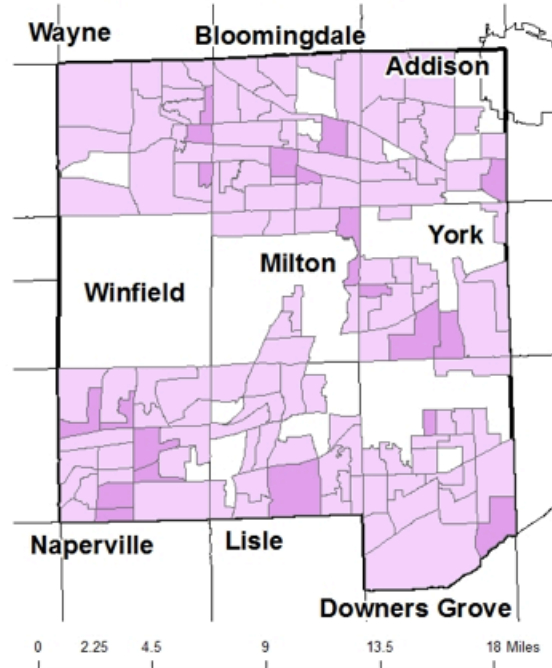
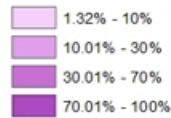
South Asian Population in DuPage County, Illinois, 2010



% South Asian Population per Census Tract within DuPage County Subdivisions/Townships

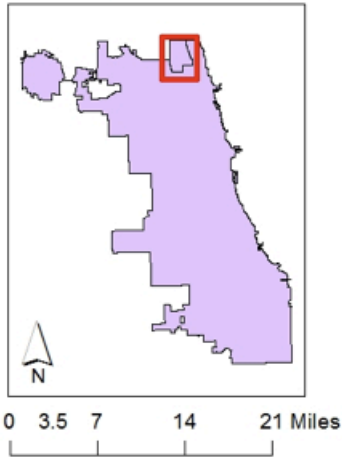
County Subdivisions/Townships

% South Asian Population



Yale Cho, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago, Windows 7: ArcGIS 10.0 Build 4400
 US Census Bureau American FactFinder: Asian Indian and Pakistani
 Data not included: Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Bangladeshi, and Nepali
 2010 Population (Alone or in any combination); DEC_10_SF2_SF2DP1
 US Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefile: Illinois DuPage County,
 Subdivision, and Tract Boundaries

Population by Race in West Ridge, Chicago, 2000



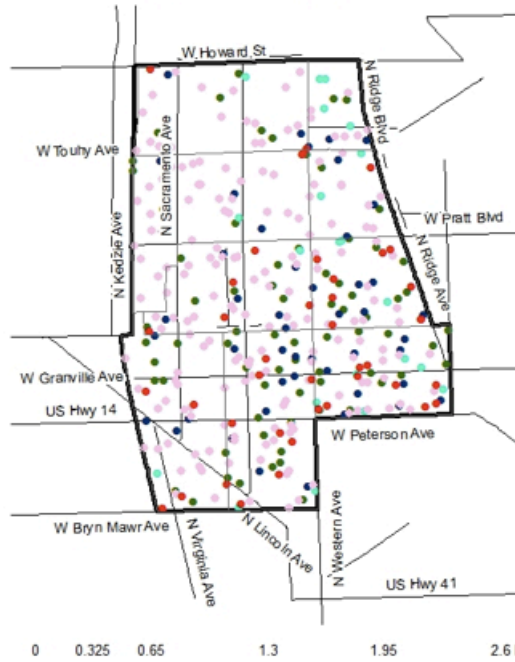
Population by Race in West Ridge Community Area of Chicago

1 Dot = 250

- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- South Asian
- Asian

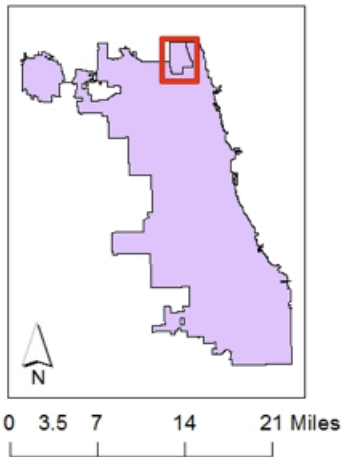
— Streets

▭ West Ridge Community Area



Yale Cho, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago; Windows 7: ArcGIS 10.0 Build 4400
 US Census Bureau American FactFinder: Asian, Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, White, South Asian
 (Asian Indian and Pakistani. Data not available: Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Bangladeshi, and Nepali)
 2000 Population (Alone or in any combination); DEC_00_SF2_DP1
 US Census Bureau TIGER/Line Roads Shapefile
 Chicago Data Portal Community Area and City of Chicago Boundaries

Population by Race in West Ridge, Chicago, 2010



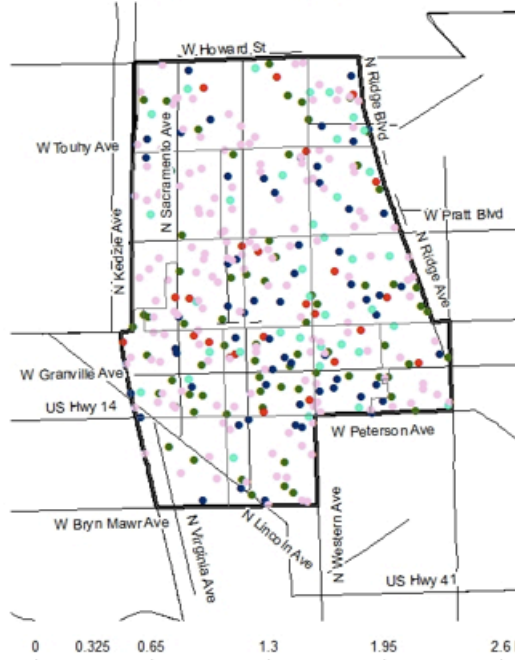
Population by Race in West Ridge Community Area of Chicago

1 Dot = 250

- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- South Asian
- Asian

— Streets

▭ West Ridge Community Area



Yale Cho, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago; Windows 7: ArcGIS 10.0 Build 4400
 US Census Bureau American FactFinder: Asian, Hispanic or Latino, Black or African American, White, and South Asian
 (Asian Indian and Pakistani. Data not available: Sri Lankan, Bhutanese, Bangladeshi, and Nepali)
 2010 Population (Alone or in any combination); DEC_10_SF2_SF2DP1
 US Census Bureau TIGER/Line Roads Shapefile
 Chicago Data Portal Community Area and City of Chicago Boundaries

- ◆ The West Ridge community area in the city of Chicago includes the portion of Devon Avenue that is home to many South Asian American individuals and businesses and has historically been a hub for South Asian Americans all across the Midwest. A comprehensive analysis of Devon Avenue is beyond the scope of this report, but various studies have pointed to the strong cultural and economic significance of this area.³⁵
- ◆ Despite experiencing a large growth in other parts of the Chicago area, the South Asian American and Asian American populations in West Ridge decreased slightly between 2000 and 2010, while Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino populations grew.³⁶
- ◆ As discussed earlier in this report in Chapter 2, South Asian Americans in DuPage County grew by 45% over the last decade, now numbering approximately 52,700.
- ◆ As also discussed in Chapter 2 above, the majority of Asian Americans living in DuPage County are South Asian American. Nearly 6% of the overall population of DuPage County is South Asian American. The Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri Lankan populations in DuPage County grew by 39, 86, 255, and 97 percent, respectively, between 2000 and 2010.
- ◆ Community input suggests an increase in unmet needs among South Asian Americans in DuPage County, including the lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate social services, as well as barriers such as racial and religious profiling.
- ◆ These population shifts in the West Ridge area (within Chicago) and DuPage County (in suburban Chicago) reflect the growth patterns discussed earlier in the report. The South Asian American population in Illinois grew significantly since 2000, with most of this growth taking place in the Chicago suburbs.
- ◆ The data in this report reflects several socioeconomic disparities and barriers facing South Asian Americans, even among suburban populations. Additional research is necessary to shed light on issues facing suburban and other emerging populations of South Asian Americans.

This report reveals numerous important findings about South Asian Americans in Illinois and the issues facing vulnerable populations. This data should inform policy and advocacy efforts for immigrant and minority communities. The social, linguistic, and economic diversity of South Asian Americans poses many additional questions that should be addressed by future community-based research.

³⁵ See, e.g., *Developing Devon: Creating a Strategic Plan for Economic Growth through Community Consensus*, South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (2007), available at <http://www.saapri.org>; *The Chicago New Americans Plan* at 18, City of Chicago, available at <http://www.cityofchicago.org/newamericans>.

³⁶ See U.S. Census Bureau, *2000 Census, 2010 Census & 2006-2010 American Community Survey* (data on community areas processed by Rob Paral & Associates, available at <http://www.robparal.com/>); *Making Data Count: South Asian Americans in the 2000 Census with Focus on Illinois* at 51, South Asian American Policy & Research Institute (2005), available at <http://www.saapri.org> and upon request.

