



Growing New Jersey Minority Population Reaches Majority in Some Municipalities

by Sen-Yuan Wu

Census 2010 data on race and ethnicity showed that New Jersey is a highly diverse state with the nation's fourth largest Asian population and seventh largest Hispanic population. According to the 2010 Census, the state's proportion of "minority" population (40.7%) was substantially higher than the national average of 33 percent.



New Jersey's diversity, however, is not uniformly present throughout the state's 566 municipalities. The latest data showed that in 76 municipalities minority residents comprised more than 50 percent of the population. In the Garden State's 490 other municipalities, non-Hispanic whites comprised a majority of residents. According to the Census Bureau, a "majority-minority" area is one where more than 50 percent of its population was made up of people other than single-race non-Hispanic white. The 2010 Census results show an increase of 32 municipalities compared to results of the 2000 Census when New Jersey had 44 "majority-minority" municipalities.

The latest New Jersey data from Census 2010 showed:

- Populations of two municipalities in Essex County had more than 97 percent minority residents: East Orange (97.8%) with the state's high-

est percentage of minority residents and Irvington Township (97.4%).

- In five other municipalities, minorities comprised more than 90 percent of total population: Camden County's Lawnside Borough (96.9%) and Camden City (95.1%); Essex County's City of Orange Township (95.5%); Union County's Plainfield (91.7%); and Passaic County's Paterson (90.8%).
- There were no "majority-minority" municipalities in six counties: Cape May, Gloucester, Hunterdon, Ocean, Sussex and Warren.
- Non-Hispanic white residents comprise 90 percent of the population in 137 municipalities.

Hispanic Population

New Jersey's largest minority group is persons of Hispanic origin (or Latinos) and there were Hispanic residents in almost every municipality in 2010. The only towns with no Hispanic residents were two very small municipalities: Tavistock Borough (Camden County) and Walpack Township (Sussex County). Hispanics accounted for less than 10 percent of total residents in a majority of the state's municipalities (384).

Included in the ten municipalities with the largest Hispanic population was Newark City which had more Hispanic residents (93,746) than any other municipality in the state. The municipalities in this group also included Passaic County's Paterson City (84,254) and Passaic City; Hudson County's Jersey City, North Bergen Township and West New York Township; Union County's Union City and

The number of Hispanic residents increased in 542 NJ municipalities since 2000. Hispanics were the majority population in 13 municipalities in 2010.

Elizabeth City; Middlesex County's Perth Amboy and Camden County's Camden City. These same municipalities also comprised the ten cities with the largest Hispanic populations in 2000.

While Newark had the largest number of Hispanic residents, Hispanics

in 542 municipalities in New Jersey while 19 municipalities experienced a decline of Hispanic population. Municipalities with the largest increases in Hispanic residents included Elizabeth (+14,726), Newark (+13,124), Clifton (+11,246), Trenton (+10,230) and Paterson (+9,480).

Municipalities with the Largest Hispanic Population in NJ: 2010			
Municipality	County	Hispanic Population	
		Number	Percent
Newark	Essex	93,746	33.8%
Paterson	Passaic	84,254	57.6%
Elizabeth	Union	74,353	59.5%
Jersey City	Hudson	68,256	27.6%
Union City	Hudson	56,291	84.7%
Passaic	Passaic	49,557	71.0%
North Bergen Twp	Hudson	41,569	68.4%
Perth Amboy	Middlesex	39,685	78.1%
West New York Town	Hudson	38,812	78.1%
Camden	Camden	36,379	47.0%

Source: US Census Bureau

comprised only 33.8 percent of the city's population. Newark was ranked 36th among the 566 municipalities in 2010 in terms of percentage of Hispanic population. The municipalities with the highest proportion of Hispanic residents were Union City (84.7%) and Perth Amboy (78.1%). Four additional municipalities in which Hispanic residents made up more than 60 percent of the population were not the state's numerical top ten: Morris County's Dover Town and Victory Gardens Borough, Hudson County's Guttenberg Town and East Newark Borough.

Hispanics were the majority population in 13 municipalities in 2010, up from nine in 2000. The four new "Hispanic-majority" (proportion of Hispanics grew to more than 50%) municipalities are Hudson County's East Newark Borough, Union County's Elizabeth, Bergen County's Fairview Borough and Passaic County's Prospect Park Borough.

Between 2000 and 2010, the number of persons of Hispanic origin increased

The number of Hispanic residents more than doubled in 175 municipalities during the past decade. Most fast growing municipalities, however, had small population bases. For instance, Hispanics increased by 994.1 percent in Hunterdon County's West Amwell Township, increasing from 17 in 2000 to 186 in 2010. Among the 19 municipalities with declining Hispanic population, Atlantic County's Brigantine had the most significant decrease falling by 535 residents or 45.1 percent.

African American Population

While African Americans accounted for less than 10 percent of total population in most (443) municipalities in New Jersey according to the 2010 Census data, African American (or black) residents lived in all but six small municipalities. Newark had the largest number of African American residents (145,085) in the state. Jersey City was the distant second, with 64,002 black residents. These two cities plus Essex County's East Orange and Irvington Township, Passaic County's Paterson, Mercer County's Trenton, Camden County's Camden, Union County's Elizabeth and Plainfield,



Municipalities with the Largest Black Population in NJ: 2010

Municipality	County	Black Population	
		Number	Percent
Newark	Essex	145,085	52.4%
Jersey City	Hudson	64,002	25.8%
East Orange	Essex	56,887	88.5%
Paterson	Passaic	46,314	31.7%
Irvington Twp	Essex	46,058	85.4%
Trenton	Mercer	44,160	52.0%
Camden	Camden	37,180	48.1%
Elizabeth	Union	26,343	21.1%
Plainfield	Union	25,006	50.2%
Willingboro Twp	Burlington	23,007	72.7%

Source: US Census Bureau

and Burlington County's Willingboro Township round out the state's ten municipalities with the largest black population.

In six of these ten municipalities, black residents represented high percentages of municipal populations. However, African

Americans accounted for less than one-half of the resident population in Jersey City, Paterson, Camden and Elizabeth. Camden County's Lawnside Borough had the highest proportion of black residents (88.8%), followed closely by Essex County's East Orange (88.5%).

Although the number of black residents were not large enough to rank four municipalities among the ten towns with the greatest number of black residents, the percentages of black residents were high (53% to 72%) in those towns: Essex County's City of Orange Township, Salem County's Salem, Union County's Roselle Borough and Hillside Township.

Twelve municipalities were "black-majority" (more than 50% of their population were African Americans) in 2010, down from fourteen in 2000. The percentage of African Americans in three former "black-majority" municipalities fell below 50 percent since 2000: Atlantic County's Pleasantville, Camden County's Chesilhurst borough and Camden Hillside Township (Union County) was the only municipality to newly become "black-majority" in 2010.

The black population increased in 412 municipalities between 2000 and 2010. Union County's Union Township had the largest gain (+5,665) followed by Essex County's West Orange Township (+4,436) and Camden County's

Winslow Township (+4,133). Among the 146 municipalities with a net loss of black population, Essex County's East Orange (-5,575) and Camden County's Camden (-5,448) experienced the most severe decline of African American population.

Four municipalities had more than 1,000 percent growth of black population from very small bases. For instance, the black population grew from 15 in 2000 to 514 in 2010 in Hunterdon County's West Amwell Township. The 95.8 percent decrease of black population in Essex County's North Caldwell Borough was the most severe in New Jersey between 2000 and 2010.

Asian Population

Asian was the majority (57.8%) among Palisade Park Borough's (Bergen County) residents, as of 2010. At least one in every three residents were Asian in nine other municipalities: Middlesex County's Plainsboro, Edison, South Brunswick and Piscataway townships; Bergen County's Englewood Cliffs, Fort Lee, Edgewater and Leonia boroughs; and Mercer County's West Windsor Township. However, less than 10 percent of total residents were Asian in 478 municipalities.



Hudson County's Jersey City and Middlesex County's Edison Township continued to have the largest Asian populations (58,595 and 43,177, respectively) in 2010. Four other municipalities in Middlesex County (Woodbridge,

Municipalities with the Largest Asian Population in NJ: 2010			
Municipality	County	Asian Population	
		Number	Percent
Jersey City	Hudson	58,595	23.7%
Edison Twp	Middlesex	43,177	43.2%
Woodbridge Twp	Middlesex	22,324	22.4%
Piscataway Twp.	Middlesex	18,744	33.4%
South Brunswick Twp.	Middlesex	15,592	35.9%
Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp.	Morris	15,487	29.1%
Fort Lee Borough	Bergen	13,587	38.4%
Franklin Twp.	Somerset	12,450	20.0%
Palisades Park Borough	Bergen	11,350	57.8%
East Brunswick Twp.	Middlesex	10,835	22.8%

Source: US Census Bureau

age (18 and over) from the 2010 Census are available on the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's Labor Market Information web page - [2010 Census Data for New Jersey](#). For more information, contact New Jersey Department of Labor, Division of Labor Market and Demographic Research, P. O. Box 388, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0388.

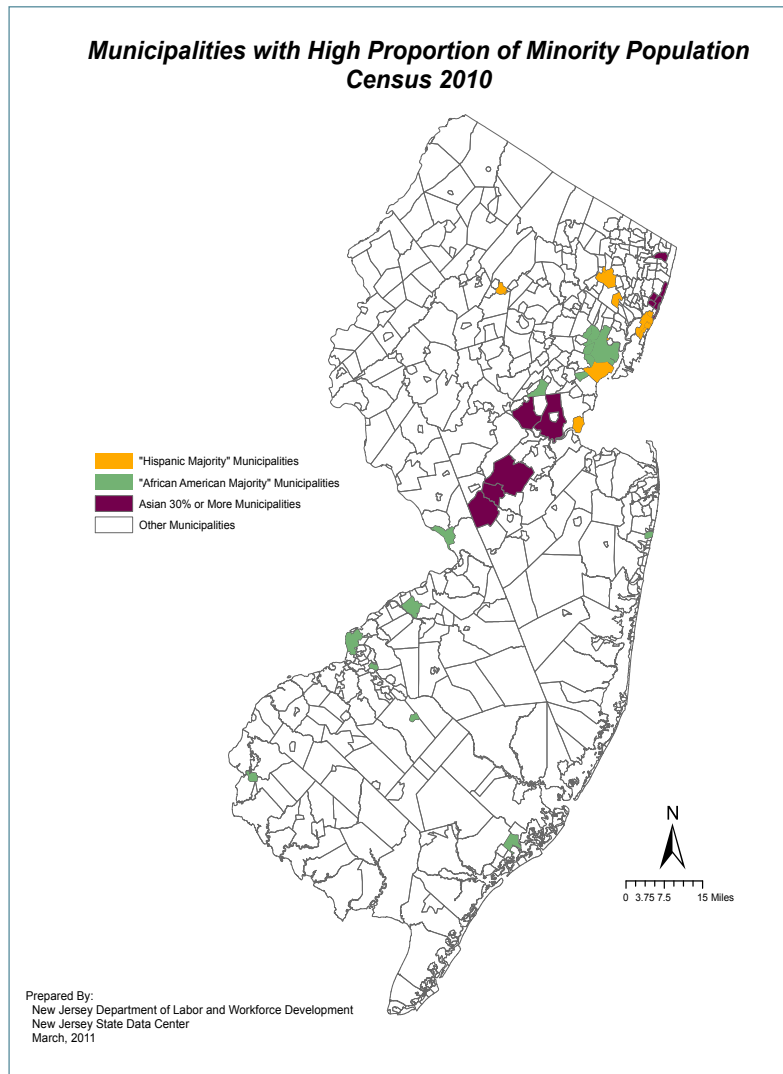
Piscataway and South Brunswick) and Morris County (Parsippany-Troy Hills) also had large (more than 15,000) Asian populations. Five small municipalities in Camden, Cape May and Ocean counties had no Asian residents.

The Asian population more than doubled in 110 municipalities between 2000 and 2010. Gloucester County's Woolwich Township (+1,706%) and Burlington County's Chesterfield Township (+1,592%) had the highest growth rates, while Jersey City (+19,714) and Edison Township (+14,580) had the largest numeric gains. Since 2000 the Asian population was unchanged in 10 municipalities and declined in 81 municipalities. The decline in the number of Asian residents was most substantial in Passaic County's Passaic (-700) and Hudson County's Kearny Town (-435), while Ocean Gate Borough's (Ocean County) 80 percent decline was the most rapid in the state.

More Data

Population data discussed in this report are summarized in 10 tables which are available by clicking here: http://lwd.dol.state.nj.us/labor/lpa/census/2010/censusdata/minorities_mcd.xls.

State, county and municipal population counts by race; Hispanic origin; and



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