



Houston Language Bank

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Executive Summary

AUGUST 2015

Source: 2010 US Census

Data does not reflect 2015 population growth & assumed Census 'undercounts' in LEP populations

East Harris County Demographic Research - Populations & Languages

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Each of the East Harris County emergency alert districts contains populations that potentially would be missed by alerts issued exclusively in English.

It is no surprise that the largest numbers of people who may not be fluent in English are Spanish speakers. But significant numbers of Asians are also located in eastern Harris County, and many are undoubtedly poorly served by alerts, which might be issued in English or Spanish.

Further analysis is necessary to pinpoint the languages most likely spoken by the Asian population in the various districts. This analysis would take the form of examination of secondary sources, as well as investigation with agencies and organizations that serve these populations, but some clues are evident from an examination of the known socio-economic factors in each section of the area.

BAY AREA

The largest single Asian population cluster is found in the Bay Area. Close to 10% of the approximately 150,000 residents here are Asian according to the Census. Much of the population in this section is not located here because of its proximity to industrial areas such as Bayport, but because of its shoreline, NASA, and access to other employment centers in Houston. The highest income neighborhoods in eastern Harris County are located in the Bay Area, and the makeup of the Asian populations would reflect this. While Vietnamese were drawn to the area by employment in fishing, the largest part of the Asian population is located in middle to upper middle class housing. Large numbers of Chinese and South Asians, that is, Indians and Pakistanis, would likely be the bulk of this Asian population. Vietnamese would also be found here, but as a smaller proportion of the total Asian population.

AUGUST 2015

'HOUSTON'

The area referred to as Houston is located inside of the Beltway and is not limited to areas within the City of Houston. It has a very high proportion of Hispanic residents, but also a significant number of Asians. While 64% of its 200,000 residents are Hispanic, another 3% are Asian. The largest Asian population group here is Vietnamese. Several clusters of dense settlement of Vietnamese are found in southeast Houston. The Vietnamese found in this area include many who are likely to have limited English proficiency.

PASADENA

The area designated Pasadena does not include the higher income portions of that city located in the Clear Creek Independent School District. About 1% of the approximately 150,000 residents are Asian, while over two thirds are Hispanic. Vietnamese are likely to be the largest Asian population group here.

NORTHSHORE

The Northshore area includes about 110,000 residents, about 70% of which are Hispanic. Asians make up another 1% of the population. Like Pasadena, Vietnamese are likely to make up the largest part of this population.

BAYTOWN

The Baytown area has a population of about 83,000. About 40% of the population is Hispanic, with Asians making up over 1% of the total. The area includes portions of Chambers County. The small number of Asians found in the more suburban Mont Belvieu portion of the area suggests that the Asian population here is lower income. Vietnamese are likely the largest portion of this Asian community.

LA PORTE

The La Porte area has a population of about 34,000, which is about 30% Hispanic and over 1% Asian. Further investigation is called for to determine the makeup of the Asian population here.

DEER PARK

The Deer Park area has a population of about 32,000. Asians make up over 1% of the population and Hispanics are about 27%. Further investigation would be necessary to identify the largest Asian population groups here, as well.

CONCLUSION

In total there are about 25,000 Asians found in the East Harris County community subject to emergency alerts. While many are fluent in English, many are not. Significant portions are located in areas and employment that attracts recent immigrants, and many are dependents that are even less likely to be English proficient. The specific language needs of this population can be determined with further study.