

Statistical Profile of Italian American Women in the Professions within the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut Tri-State Area

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This issue of the *ITALIAN AMERICAN REVIEW* focuses on Italian American Women in the Professions. We will present here the socio-demographics of the journal's theme and a geographical region of the country. Nearly 34% of all Italian Americans reside in the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut (Tristate Area). Of the 28,759,467 residents in the Tristate Area, 17.26% or 4,964,334 people identify themselves with Italian-American ancestry. Italian-American women comprise 51.14%; of this ethnic population with 2,538,708 females (See reference 1).

The educational attainment of the Italian-American women is such that 27.82% of Italian-American women have only a high school diploma; 12.47% of Italian American women have some college education but no degree. Of those who have terminal college degrees, 5.16% of Italian-American women have an Associate college degree, 8.48% have a Bachelor degree, 3.12% have Master degrees, .61% have professional degrees (such as (J.D.; MD; MSW; etc.); with only .16% of Italian American women having doctoral degrees (Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.). Italian-American women have similar educational levels in the general population in the Tristate Area up to the Associate degree. However a smaller percentage of Italian-American women have earned Bachelor degrees or more advanced degrees (12.47% Italian American women compared to 15.41% for the general population). The distribution of earned doctorates among Italian American women is nearly half (.16%) of the distribution of earned doctorates in the general female population (.32%).

Italian American women are similar in age distribution to the general population with 35.43% of Italian American women being less than 25 years of age; 24.93% between 25 and 40 years range; 20.10% between 40 and 60 years range; and 19.55% of Italian-American women have more than 60 years. There is a higher percentage of Italian-American women who are presently married (42.18%) as compared to the general population (39.88%). In addition, they

represent a smaller percentage of Italian-American women who are divorced or separated (6.4% as compared to 9%). However, there is a higher percentage of Italian American women who have never married (42.60% as compared to 41%).

Approximately 7% of the Italian-American women in the Tristate Area were born in a foreign country (probably Italy); 4.54% of Italian-American women are naturalized citizens; and 1.79% are not U.S. citizens. Nearly 14% of the Italian-American women speak another language besides English (most likely Italian) with almost 12% of the females speaking the other language very well or well.

Italian-American women are not represented at their work-force level in the military with only 4.54% of the females in active military duty being of Italian-American ancestry. Although they are better represented in passive military duty or reserves, Italian-American women are still underrepresented with 9%.

Approximately, 1,426,913 Italian-American women are in the work-force. They constitute 56.21% of all Italian-American women and 16.9% of all females in the Tristate Area. Among the Italian-American women in the work-force, 80% are employed in private and non-profit organizations, 9.2% in local municipal governments, 3.7% in state governments, 1.7% in federal government, and 5.4% self-employed or in family businesses. Thus, Italian American women are underrepresented in government occupations with 12.77% of the women in federal government, 13.79% of the women in state government and 15% of the women in local municipalities. They are better represented however in private and nonprofit occupations and in occupations within the self-employed and family business categories. In a recent study conducted jointly by the John D. Calandra Italian-American Institute and National Council of Columbia Associations in Civil Service it was found that in New York City government agencies, 7 out of 10 civil service occupations underrepresented Italian-Americans with 9 out 10 occupations under-representing Italian American women.¹

Table (1) shows a breakdown of the management and professional occupations among different types of employers and the total work-force in the TriState Area. Italian American women are better represented in private sector occupations than governmental occupations. Among the different type of government employers,

¹ 1990's Italian-American Representation in Civil Service Occupations: New York City and New York State; Milione, Vincenzo and Scelsa, Joseph V.; Annual Conference of National Council of Columbia Associations in Civil Service; June, 1993.

Italian American Women in the Professional Occupations
N.J., N.Y., CT. Tri-State*

Occupation	Private Prof'l	Private Non-Profit	Local Worker	State Worker	Federal Government	Total Work Force
Executive, Administrative	19.78%	14.96%	13.20%	12.35%	16.79%	18.18%
Management Related	19.08%	18.36%	14.88%	19.38%	16.37%	18.38%
Engineers, Arch. & Surveyors	15.87%	0.00%	11.54%	11.38%	11.00%	13.61%
Mathematical, Computer Scientists	16.81%	21.07%	20.51%	20.99%	19.97%	18.31%
Natural Scientists	18.06%	7.46%	15.50%	0.00%	19.14%	14.30%
Health diagnosing	16.58%	9.37%	7.38%	6.47%	0.00%	10.80%
Health Assessment and treating	14.95%	11.95%	10.39%	8.53%	12.97%	12.84%
Teachers; Post Secondary	14.44%	9.30%	5.83%	11.51%	0.00%	10.30%
Teachers except Postsecondary	20.09%	16.78%	17.17%	16.85%	18.05%	17.41%
Librarians, Archivists, & Curators	24.07%	8.33%	12.83%	0.00%	0.00%	11.70%
Social Scientists & Urban Planners	17.05%	16.69%	17.32%	13.45%	0.00%	14.85%
Social, Recreation, & Religious Workers	12.60%	12.28%	6.57%	11.20%	6.51%	10.41%
Lawyers & Judges	10.51%	4.55%	10.39%	21.58%	9.03%	10.75%
Writers, Artists, Entertainers, & Athletes	16.02%	6.02%	4.77%	15.24%	15.05%	14.24%

*Reference: U.S. Census Bureau; 1990

TABLE I'

Italian-American professional women are better represented within local municipal workers than state or federal workers.

Among the industries within the Tri-State Area Italian-American women are better represented in the construction industries (20.39%), wholesale trade industries (20.03%), and finance and real estate industries (19.53%). They are underrepresented in agriculture industries (13.12%), public administration industries (15.16%), entertainment and manufacturing industries (15.31%), professional industries (15.38%), personal service industries (15.40%), business and repair services industries (15.58%) and less in the transportation industries (16.55%).

Within the occupations in these industries, Italian American women are better represented among technical and sales occupations (19.10%) and precision and craft occupations (16.90%). They are underrepresented in military occupations (2.46%), farming and fishing occupations (11.03%), operators and laborers occupations (12.41%), service occupations (14.51%), and management and professional occupations (16.02%).

Italian-American women have made great progress among their female counterparts since their immigrant roots in the United States. However, there are still many areas where Italian-American females need better representation as indicated by the socio-demographic statistics presented in this summary.



The City University of New York



Statistical Profile of Italian Americans in U.S.A.: Socio-Demographics, and Educational Achievement Level

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Demographics of Italian-Americans in U.S.A.*

	Number of Italian-Americans	% Within Total Italian-Americans	% Italian-Americans In Total U.S.A.
Population			
Italian-Americans	11,677,000	100%	5%
U.S. Citizenship			
Non-Citizen	217,000	2%	3%
Citizen	11,460,000	98%	5%
Veteran	1,476,000	13%	5%
Family			
Females	5,917,000	51%	5%
Marital Status			
Married	5,109,000	43%	5%
Widow	530,000	5%	4%
Divorce	435,000	4%	4%
Separate	118,000	1%	3%
Single	5,485,000	47%	6%
Avg Number of Children		2.59 (Italian-American)	2.80 (USA Population)
Senior Citizen	1,157,000	10%	5%
Culture			
Birth Place			
US	10,720,000	92%	5%
Foreign born	957,000	8%	6%
Language			
Eng. and Other Lang.	1,649,000	14%	7%
Education			
School Population			
Preschool	928,000	8%	6%
Elementary	1,907,000	16%	5%
High School	1,173,000	10%	6%
Education Attainment (21+ years old).			
Less than H.S.	2,320,000	31%	5%
High School Only	2,627,000	35%	5%
Some College	1,391,000	19%	5%
College Only	505,000	7%	4%
Graduate Studies	500,000	7%	5%
Doctoral Level	110,000	1%	5%

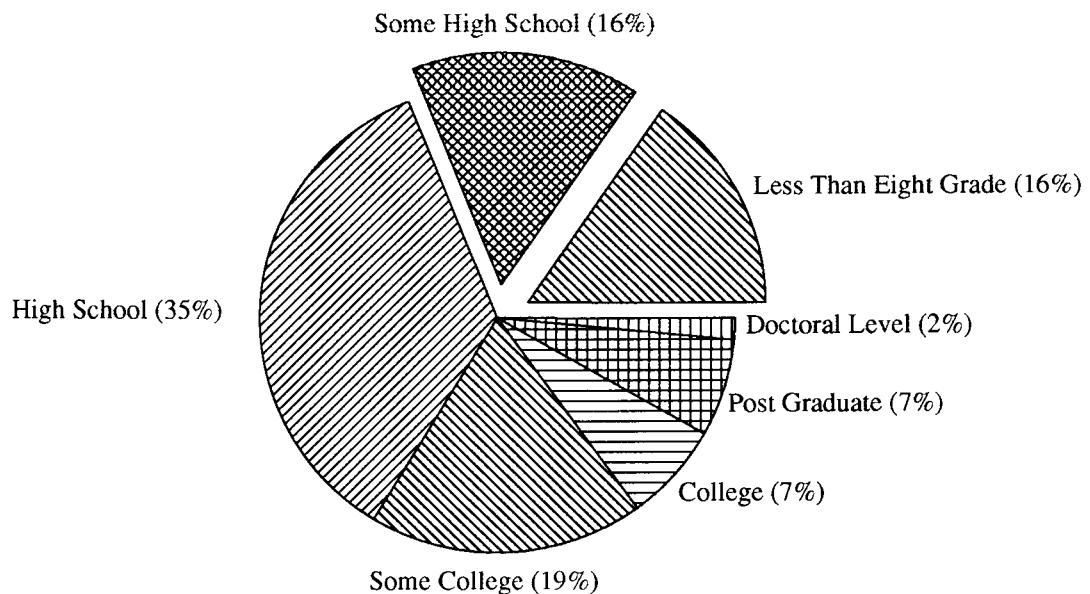
(Demographics of Italian-Americans in U.S.A.-continued)

	Number of Italian-Americans	% Within Total Italian-Americans	% Italian-Americans In Total U.S.A.
Employment/Career Development			
Employed	6,664,000	57%	5%
Civilian Employment	5,173,000	44%	5%
Labor			
Private Wage Worker	4,925,000	74%	5%
Federal	285,000	4%	4%
State	270,000	4%	5%
Local	581,000	9%	5%
Self Employed	603,000	9%	5%
Industries			
Agriculture	107,000	2%	2%
Construction	396,000	6%	5%
Manufacturing	1,453,000	22%	5%
Transport & Comm	424,000	6%	5%
Trade	1,630,000	24%	6%
Finance & Real Est.	441,000	7%	6%
Business & Repair	318,000	5%	6%
Personal Service	184,000	3%	4%
Entertainment	114,000	2%	7%
Professional	1,162,000	17%	5%
Public Administration	373,000	6%	6%
Other	62,000	Less than 1%	---
Occupation			
Managerial & Professional	1,375,000	20%	5%
Technical Sales	2,260,000	34%	6%
Service	912,000	14%	5%
Farming	104,000	2%	3%
Production	839,000	13%	5%
Operator Labor	1,112,000	17%	5%
Other	62,000	Less than 1%	---
Work Disability	864,000	7%	4%
Unemployment Rate	334,000	6%	5%
Economics			
Family Income			
Low Income (<10k)	2,595,000	22%	4%
Middle Income	8,335,000	72%	5%
High Income (>50k)	747,000	6%	6%
Wage Income			
Low (<10k)	2,831,000	50%	5%
Middle	2,806,000	49%	6%
High(>50k)	50,000	1%	4%
Interest Income	2,485,000	21%	5%
Public Assistance Income	252,000	2%	3%
Social Security Income	1,284,000	11%	4%
Other Income	1,092,000	9%	4%
Below Poverty	793,000	7%	3%

*Reference: 1980 Housing and Population Data, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce

USA

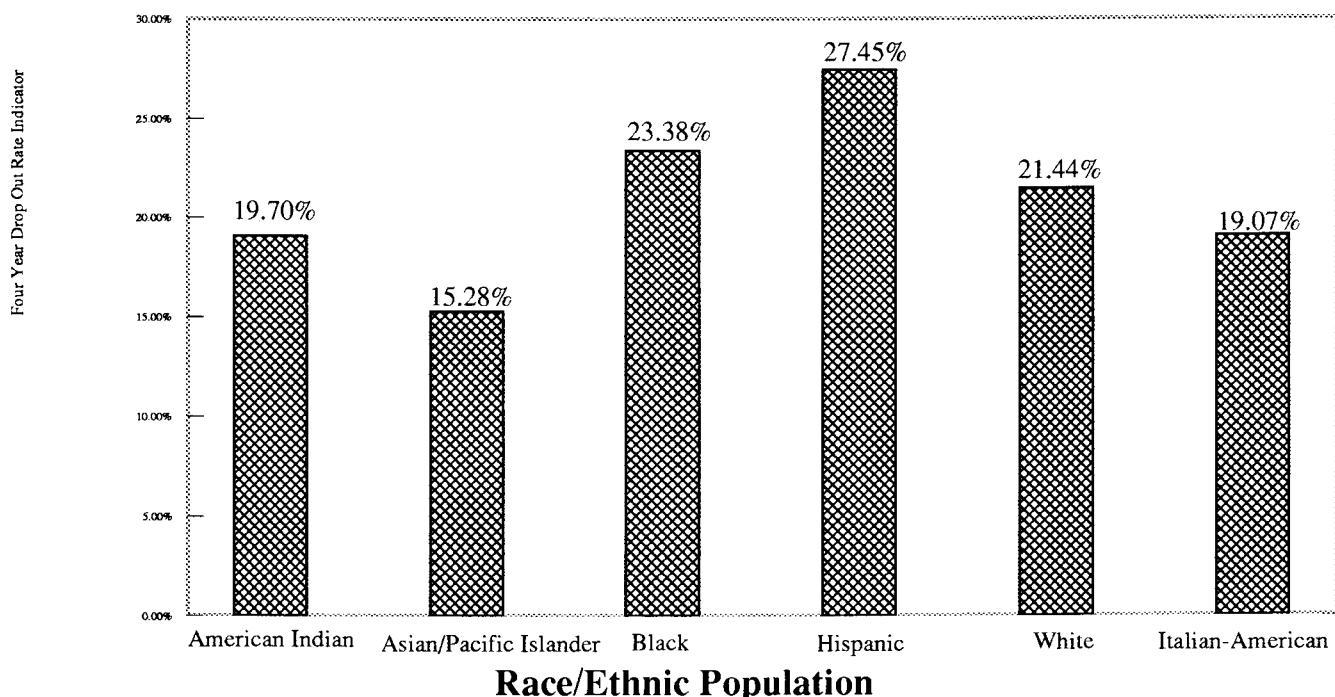
Italian-American Educational Profile



USA

High School Dropout Rate Indicator

(By Race and Ethnicity)



Reference: John D. Calandra Italian American Institute; Dropout Rate Model
Utilizing 1980 Census Data and 1987-1988 NYC Board of Education Data