

Full Report : Battle of Neighborhoods

1. Best Neighborhoods in New York to immigrate from India

For thousands of people immigrating to the US from India, it becomes a conundrum to choose the best place to live and start a family. In order to do so, one has to look at the job prospects, real estate/rental rates, and good neighborhoods with schools and parks around.

This report would try to evaluate a specific case of immigration to New York to determine the best neighborhoods based on the density of Indian-Americans living in different boroughs, venues located around a neighborhood, rental rates and crime statistics.

The report is specifically targeted at the Indian community who wish to immigrate to US(New York in specific) based on certain criteria, however, it can be translated to other aspects or communities by making certain changes in the data collection exercise.

2. Data Sourcing

1. Density of Indian-American population in each borough of New York

First, we shall get the density of Indian-American population in each borough and choose the one with the highest since people would prefer to live around a community they are familiar with.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indians_in_the_New_York_City_metropolitan_region

Rank ↴	Borough ↴	City ↴	Indian Americans ↴	Density of Indian Americans per square mile ↴
1	Queens (2014) ^[32]	New York City	144,896	1,326.5
2	Brooklyn (2012)	New York City	25,270	357.9
3	Manhattan (2012)	New York City	24,359	1,060.9
4	The Bronx (2012)	New York City	16,748	398.6
5	Staten Island (2012)	New York City	6,646	113.6
	Total (2014) ^[30]	New York City	227,994	753.4

2. Home rental rates around the chosen Borough

Home rental rates around each neighborhood shall be acquired from the following source. It shall depict the median rental rates of a two bedroom house around each neighborhood, which can be considered as an aspect of cost of living.

Source: <https://www.renthop.com/study/assets/new-york-city-cost-of-living-2017/nyc-2br-median-rent-and-income-table.html>

Neighborhood	Borough	Two-Bedroom Median Rent
Queensbridge-Ravenswood-Long Island City	Queens	\$3,300.00
Jamaica	Queens	\$2,562.50
Hunters Point-Sunnyside-West Maspeth	Queens	\$3,969.00
Flushing	Queens	\$2,512.50
Rego Park	Queens	\$3,062.50
Hammels-Arverne-Edgemere	Queens	\$2,300.00
Old Astoria	Queens	\$2,725.00
Corona	Queens	\$2,355.00

3. Venues around the chosen Borough using Foursquare api

Venues around the neighborhoods shall be acquired from Foursquare API and sorted so that it reflects the popularity neighborhood. Due to the limited potential of Foursquare api data the relevant venues could not be accumulated and only the count of the venue category was considered, which means higher the number of venues, much diverse would be the categories around a neighborhood like restaurants, grocery stores, hospitals, clinics, pharmacy, bank, etc.

Neighborhood	Venue_Category_Count
0 Ozone Park	35
1 Kew Gardens Hills	21
2 Hillcrest	18
3 Utopia	18
4 Fresh Meadows	16
5 Pomonok	15
6 Middle Village	15
7 South Ozone Park	12
8 Whitestone	4
9 Glendale	4

4. Crime statistics of the chosen borough

The crime statistics of the borough per neighborhood was scraped from the following source and sorted accordingly. However, the crime rates of all neighborhoods could not be sourced since the website offered only the top ten safest and dangerous neighborhoods. The statistics shows the number of non-violent crimes per 1000 people in each neighborhood.

Source: https://www.brickunderground.com/blog/2014/07/address_report_safest_and_least_safe_neighborhoods

QUEENS

<i>Safest Neighborhoods</i>	<i>Non-violent crimes per 1,000 residents</i>
Bellerose	2.48
Glen Oaks	3.96
Pomonok	3.98
Beechurst/Whitestone	4.83
Corona	5.13
Little Neck	5.52
Rego Park	5.75
Belle Harbor	5.87
East Flushing	5.91
Murray Hill	5.95

3. Results

After sourcing the data regarding Indian-American population density for each borough in New York, only Queens was chosen to be explored further for simplicity's sake and also, it had the highest density. The reason to choose Queens stems from the fact that majority of the population prefer to stay closer to the homogenous community.

The scrapped data regarding rental rates, crime rates and venue categories were amalgamated to represent an overall picture.

Borough	Neighborhood	Latitude	Longitude	Two-Bedroom Median Rent	Crime_Per_1000	Venue_Category_Count
0	Queens	Whitestone	40.781291	-73.814202	1950.0	4.83
1	Queens	Pomonok	40.734936	-73.804861	1975.0	3.98
2	Queens	Ozone Park	40.680708	-73.843203	2000.0	14.4
3	Queens	South Ozone Park	40.668550	-73.809865	2000.0	10.7
4	Queens	Kew Gardens Hills	40.722578	-73.820878	2050.0	10.9

The rental rates, venue category counts, and crime rates for the final 5 neighborhoods were normalized in order to evaluate a score.

Borough	Neighborhood	Latitude	Longitude	Two-Bedroom Median Rent	Crime_Per_1000	Venue_Category_Count	Total_Score
1	Queens	Pomonok	40.734936	-73.804861	0.75	1.000000	0.354839
0	Queens	Whitestone	40.781291	-73.814202	1.00	0.918426	0.000000
2	Queens	Ozone Park	40.680708	-73.843203	0.50	0.000000	1.000000
3	Queens	South Ozone Park	40.668550	-73.809865	0.50	0.355086	0.258065
4	Queens	Kew Gardens Hills	40.722578	-73.820878	0.00	0.335893	0.548387

To evaluate a score, it is to be understood that, rental rates and crime rate should be minimum to score high and venue count should be great. In order to do so, 1 was deducted from normalized rates of rent and crime. The final score would be a simple addition of all the scores.

4. Conclusion

From the above table, it is clear that Pomonok scored highest with 2.105 and followed closely by Whitestone. So, for anyone from the Indian community who wished to migrate to Queens, the best options would be Pomonok and Whitestone due to their relative lower crime rate, rental rates and proximity to various venues.

This report combines very few aspects to evaluate and determine the best place to move to. There are, however, various other factors that can be considered given that the data is available easily, like real-estate rates, proximity to public transport, public schools, specific areas like parks, libraries, office etc, which could enhance the quality of results.