



New York City and Metro FACT SHEET

One of every 300 people in the world lives within 50 miles of Times Square, i.e., in the NYC metro area! Metro NY now has almost **22 million** people. Metro NY extends beyond NYC to include northern New Jersey, Long Island, six counties in NY State north of the city, and the three closest counties in Connecticut. The US government describes this area as the New York-Newark-Bridgeport Combined Statistical Area. Metro NY is usually described as the **3rd or 4th largest metropolitan area in the world.**

NYC is the “**Capital of the World**” in that it is a media, cultural, economic, political and entertainment center of global and national influence. The 2010 Global Cities Index ranks NYC, though sixth in overall population, first in global impact and second in GNP (see Foreign Policy, Sept/ Oct 2010). There are 26 Fortune Global 500 companies in NYC. It is arguably the strongest global center of international business activity.

A sovereign God is **internationalizing** the city, bringing the “nations” (people groups) to NYC: up to **65%** of residents are now **foreign-born or children of foreign-born!** 50% of Queens residents are foreign-born; 43% of Brooklyn residents are foreign-born.

NY metro has over **500 people groups** (So. Baptist research) and, over **800 languages** (according to the NY Times) are spoken on the streets and in the homes of metro residents.

Queens is the most religiously-plural and ethnically-diverse zip code in the world. **Flushing** is a human zoo: one section of that Queens community has people from 133 nations of the earth!

There are over **5 million Spanish-speaking** in NYC; one half of the residents of Bronx speak Spanish! Many are now also in Corona/Queens and upper Manhattan. The largest Hispanic groups in the past were Puerto Ricans and Dominicans but now NYC is seeing great numbers of Mexicans (fastest growing), Columbians, Ecuadorians, Peruvians, Salvadorans, Cubans and Guatemalans. Most NYC Hispanics are Rom Catholic though many are becoming Pentecostals.

Over two million Jewish people live in Metro New York, making it the largest Jewish city in the world. Large Jewish people groups: Russian Jews (500,000), Hasidic Jews, Satmar/Romanian Jews, Israelis, Persian Jews, Gorsky-Kavkazi Jews, Syrian Jews, Lubavitch/Russian Jews, Bukharan Jews. Source: *ethNYcity*.

Metro NY has **800,000 Muslims**. Some of the large Muslim groups: Syrio-Lebanese, Albanians, Bangladeshis, Arabs, Yeminis, Afghans, Pakistanis, Iranians. Only 15-20 full-time Christian workers labor among NYC Muslims. Note: Most NYC Indonesians are Chinese/Christians not Muslims.

Other major religions found in Metro NY: **450,000 Hindus, 250,000 Buddhists, 100,000 Sikhs, Taoists**, and thousands of other Eastern non-religionists. 12% of New Yorkers profess to be atheists or agnostics (Barna). Yet NYC is far less secular and much more religious than most think!

Metro NY is the **major American hub** for Greeks, Russians, Chinese, South Asians, West Africans (150,000), West Indian/Caribbeans, South Americans, and so on. NYC is the world’s 2nd largest Puerto Rican city, 4th largest Italian city, 3rd largest Greek city, 2nd largest Dominican and Haitian city, etc.

More than **650,000 Chinese** peoples live in metro NY and less than 2% are thought to be Christians. One major exception: the Fuzhou (Fujianese) Chinese are seeing many converted.

Korean Americans number about **185,000** in metro NY and about 70% are evangelical Christians compared to 18% evangelical in South Korea!

NYC is home to **191 colleges** and universities with an estimated **950,000 students**; many are international students from abroad.

Manhattan's **Greenwich Village** may be one of the most significant neighborhoods in the America because many of our new cultural ideas and fashion trends emanate from there.

Manhattan, Staten Island, and Long Island are **less than 3% evangelical Christian**; the other boroughs are an estimated 5% evangelical. Many of those counted as evangelical are Pentecostals or Charismatics. Not all professed "evangelicals" are saved. Though NYC has over 8,000 evangelical churches many more doctrinally sound congregations are needed!

NYC is the **least Protestant** major city in America. Some estimate that over **50% of NY'ers are Roman Catholic**. Lots of Italians, Irish, and Hispanics, etc. The Catholic Church is a major force in the city. Most non-evangelical Protestants are "mainline Protestants," and so are more liberal in theology and politics than evangelicals. Largest groups: Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Episcopalians. Another large bloc of 'Christians': Eastern Orthodox. According to Barna (10-11-10), 73% of New Yorkers self-identify as "Christians," one of the lowest in the nation.



In the **NY State prison system**, 80% of the inmates come from six neighborhoods of NYC! We can either pay 50 to 100 thousand dollars a year to incarcerate people or we can do something about reaching these neighborhoods!

20,000 new churches are needed in NYC to match the average per capita ratio of 1,000 people per church existing in most of the rest of the USA!



Why Reach New York City?

New Testament Pattern.

Those who study the expansion of the Church following Christ's resurrection note that the city was central to the early church's focus. First-century leaders such as Paul started churches in the cities of influence first, knowing that the surrounding countryside and region would follow the city.

NYC Exerts Influence on our Culture.

What we read, buy, watch, wear, spend, think, talk about, and work for is in some way greatly shaped by someone in New York City. And if some of those shaping our culture are doing so with God's purposes in mind, all of us will benefit. If we desire to positively impact the culture today, we must be willing to multiply churches in strategic places such as New York City.

Spiritual Indifference to the Gospel.

Millions of people are far from God and some communities are vastly under-churched in Greater New York. Research indicates that new churches are the best at reaching new generations and non church-goers. Although there are existing churches who are effectively reaching out to others, there are not enough of these outreach-oriented churches.

A Generation of Youth are in Crisis.

An alarmingly high rate of NYC students do not graduate from high school nor do they have the basic skills to compete in today's information economy. As adults, many of these young people will experience irregular employment, work in low-wage jobs and live in poverty.