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

Vincenzo Milione, Ph.D. and Joseph V. Scelsa, Ed.D.,

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute

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 that 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-State¹

Occupation	Private Profit	Private Non-Profit	Local Worker	State Worker	Federal Government	Total Work Force
Executive, Administrative	19.78%	14.96%	13.20%	12.36%	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%

¹Reference: U.S. Census Bureau; 1990

TABLE I¹

¹ United States Census Bureau; New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut; 1990.

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 (14.54%), 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

Dr. Joseph V. Scelsa
Director

Dr. Vincenzo Milione
Assistant Director
for Education and Research

Assisted by
Carmine Pizzirusso

September 1991

©John D. Calandra Italian American Institute



The City University of New York

The John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
 Graduate Center
 25 West 43 Street
 New York, N.Y. 10036
 (212) 642-2094

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%

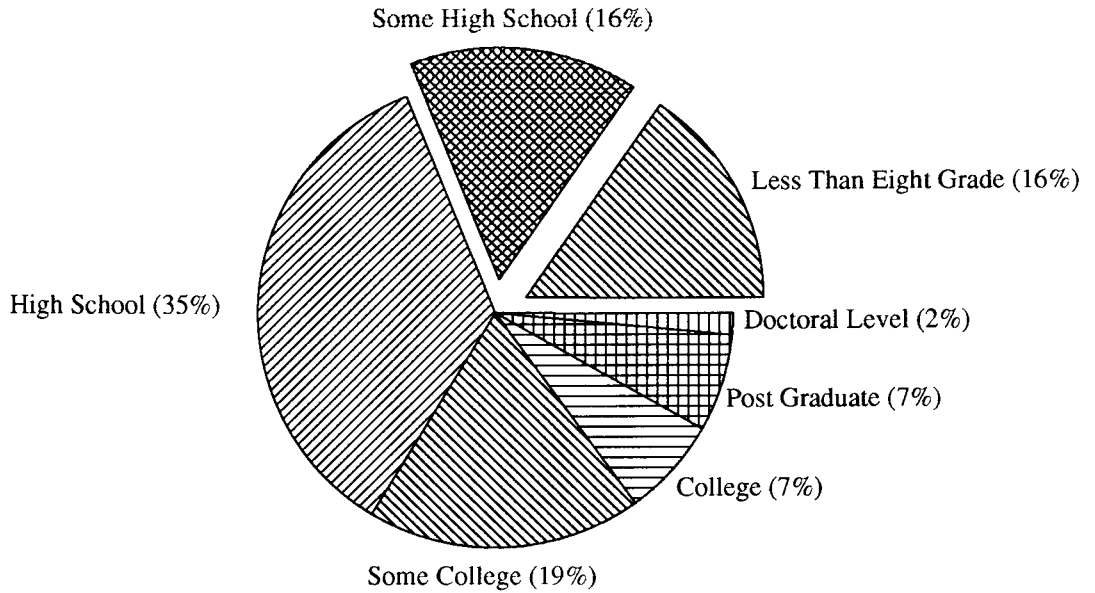
(Demographics of Italian-Americans in U.S.A.-continued)

	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)

