

# ILLINOIS

## A Profile of the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population

Created by the Asian Pacific American Community Development Data Center,  
A Project of National CAPACD, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, and U.S. Census Bureau Census Information Center Program



### Introduction

This profile uses census data from the 1990 and 2000 US Censuses to highlight important social and economic trends emerging in the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities. This profile features statistics on population, ethnic composition, citizenship status, educational attainment, language abilities, income, housing, and poverty that can support efforts by community economic development and housing advocates.<sup>1</sup>

### Population

In 2000, the Asian American Population made up 3% and the NHPI population made up 0.04% of Illinois's total population. The five largest Asian American groups (including those of mixed race or ethnicity) were: Asian Indians (133,978), Filipinos (100,338), Chinese/Taiwanese (86,095), Koreans (56,021), and Japanese (27,702). Asian Indians and Vietnamese experienced fast growth rates, with increases more than 100% from 1990 to 2000.

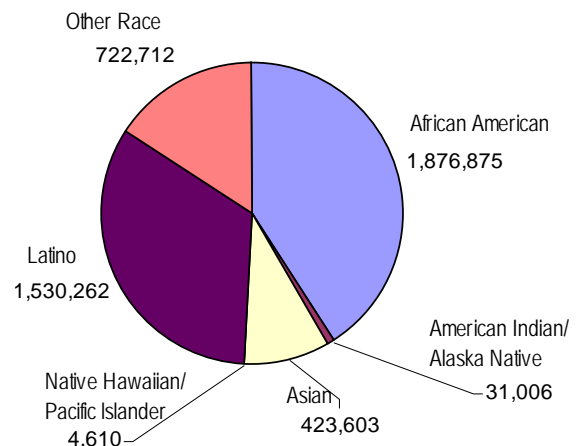
increases more than 150% from 1990 to 2000. Samoans grew the fastest with a rate of 319%.

NHPI Group	1990	2000			
		NHPI Alone, one Asian Group	% Growth from 1990	NHPI Alone or in Combination	% Growth from 1990
Guamanian/Chamorro	1,105	988	-11%	1,496	35%
Melanesian	21	34	62%	68	0%
Native Hawaiian	1,000	1,003	0%	2,506	151%
Samoan	367	1,062	189%	1,539	319%
Tongan	15	18	20%	43	187%
Other Pacific Islander	186	1,352	627%	6,072	3165%

Asian Group	1990	2000			
		Asian Alone, one Asian Group	% Growth from 1990	Alone or in Combination	% Growth from 1990
Asian Indian	64,200	124,723	94%	133,978	109%
Bangladeshi	not available	668		825	
Cambodian	3,026	2,879	-5%	3,516	16%
Chinese, including Taiwanese	49,936	76,725	54%	86,095	72%
Filipino	64,224	86,298	34%	100,338	56%
Hmong	433	485	12%	604	39%
Indonesian	not available	767		1,201	
Japanese	21,831	20,379	-7%	27,702	27%
Korean	41,506	51,453	24%	56,021	35%
Laotian	4,985	5,235	5%	5,973	20%
Malaysian	not available	455		711	
Pakistani	not available	15,103		18,881	
Sri Lankan	not available	549		646	
Thai	5,180	5,833	13%	7,231	40%
Vietnamese	10,309	19,101	85%	21,212	106%
Other Asian	16,939	6812	-60%	16,711	-1%

The three largest NHPI groups (including those of mixed race or ethnicity) were: Native Hawaiians (2,506), Samoans (1,539), and Guamanian/Chamorro (1,496). Tongans and Native Hawaiians experienced fast growth rates, with

### Illinois' "Minority" Population



The Asian Population grew by 50%, making it the state's second fastest growing minority group after Latinos, who grew 69% in 2000.

### Citizenship

Immigrants made up a large proportion of the Asian American population; 72% (305,563) of the total Asian population was foreign-born whereas 12% (1,529,058) of Illinois' total population was foreign born. As of 2000, 28% (117,877) of Illinois' Asians were born in the United States, while 48% (147,868) of the foreign-born population

became naturalized citizens. In comparison, NHPIs were largely a native-born population in 2000, at 75% (2,873). 47% (443) of foreign-born NHPIs are naturalized citizens.

### Educational Attainment<sup>2</sup>

	Total Pop.	Asian alone	NH/PI alone	NH White alone
<b>Less than a High School diploma</b>	19%	13%	29%	13%
<b>High School diploma only</b>	28%	12%	23%	30%
<b>Associate's degree or higher</b>	32%	64%	27%	35%

In Illinois, Asian Americans have a higher educational attainment rate at 64% with an Associates degree or higher, in comparison to Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (27%), Whites (35%), and the general population (32%). The majority of NHPIs (29%) has earned “Less than a High School diploma” indicating that they have the lowest educational attainment rates among all of the comparison groups.

### Language

At first glance, it appears that the Asian American population (which speaks another language other than English) spoke English either “very well” or “well” at a rate of 84% (273,529). However, when we look at age group, 48% (10,602) of the elderly (age 65 and older) Asian non-English only population spoke English either “Not Well” or “Not at All”. Similarly, non-English only NHPIs spoke English either “very well” or “well” at a rate of 79% (1,261). The elderly NHPI population at 41% (27) also had the most difficulty speaking English either “Not Well” or “Not at All”.

11% (65,498) of the total Illinois population (5 years and over) speaks an Asian or Pacific Islander language and lives in a linguistically isolated household.<sup>3</sup> 31% (26,504) of Illinois’ Asian households who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language are linguistically isolated versus 6% (seven) of NHPI households.

### Poverty Status<sup>4</sup>

The proportion of persons whose income in 1999 was below the federal poverty level:

	#	%
<b>Total Population</b>	1,291,958	11%
<b>Asian Alone</b>	39,930	10%
<b>NHPI Alone</b>	456	13%
<b>White Alone</b>	515,344	6%

In comparison to the total state population (11%), the poverty rate level of Asians (10%) is slightly lower and whites (6%) much lower. However, the NHPI population has a poverty rate level 2 percent above the total state population.

### Income

In comparison to the NH white population, Asians have higher median family income levels but lower per capita incomes.<sup>5</sup> Asians median family income (\$66,046) is above the NH white median family income (\$60,970) with NHPIs median family income (\$41,629) trailing far behind. Yet, the Asian per capita income (\$ 24,137) is lower than those of NH whites’ per capita income (\$26,975). NHPIs per capita income (\$15,523) is much lower than both Asians and NH whites.

### Household Income (in 1999 dollars)<sup>6</sup>

	Asian Alone	NHPI Alone	NH White Alone
<b>&lt;\$15,000</b>	13%	13%	11%
<b>\$15-34,999</b>	16%	29%	22%
<b>\$35-74,999</b>	35%	37%	38%
<b>&gt;\$75,000</b>	35%	21%	29%

### Average Household Size

<b>Total Pop Average household size</b>	2.63
<b>Asian Average household size</b>	2.96
<b>NHPI Average household size</b>	3.23
<b>White Average household size</b>	2.44

Because household incomes are calculated by the income generated by a household, household size plays a significant factor in estimating wealth. Asian (2.96) and NHPI (3.23) have a greater average household size than NH Whites (2.44). Thus, larger Asian and NHPI households may produce higher household incomes but their per capita income level is much lower than non-Hispanic whites.

### Housing

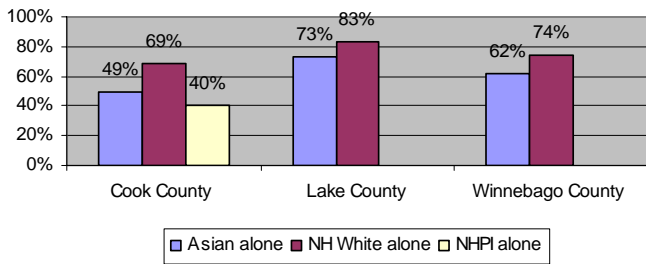
In 2000, White renters were paying a slightly higher percentage of their income towards rent. The median gross rent as a percentage of household income was: Asians (25.1), Whites (26.9), and NHPIs (23.8).

### Owner vs. Renter

	Owner		Renter	
	#	%	#	%
<b>Total population</b>	3,089,124	67%	1,502,655	33%
<b>Asian alone</b>	73,273	55%	61,131	45%
<b>NHPI alone</b>	488	50.5%	479	49.5%
<b>NH White alone</b>	2,547,719	75%	864,670	25%

In Illinois, Asian Americans have a higher home ownership rate (55%) rather than renter rate (45%). In contrast, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders own (50.5%) and rent (49.5%) at about the same rate. In comparison to whites (75%), both Asians and NHPIs home ownership lag behind by 20% to 24.5%, respectively. Three counties throughout Illinois further illustrate this trend, where homeownership gaps of 10% or more exist between Asians, NHPIs and Whites.<sup>7</sup>

**Illinois Counties with Largest Homeownership Rate Disparity, 2000**



**Overcrowded Homes<sup>8</sup>**

The Asian (15%) and NHPI (12%) households are much more overcrowded than White households (1%). This may reflect larger and extended families, or the necessity for multiple family members to work and contribute to housing costs, or the inability of individual family members to afford to establish their own households.

	#	%
<b>Total Asian pop:</b>	134,404	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	20,831	15%
<b>Total NHPI pop:</b>	967	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	120	12%
<b>Total NH White pop:</b>	3,412,389	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	48,028	1%

**Conclusion**

The 1990 and 2000 census data reveal that tremendous changes have occurred within the Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities. Population growth, poverty status, educational attainment, and housing data show the great diversity of successful communities and those still in need.

**For more information**

Please contact Melany Dela Cruz, Coordinator and Research Analyst for the Asian Pacific American Community Development Data Center (APACDDC), if you would like more information about this profile or APACDDC’s services, at (310)-267-2474 or email [apadacenter@aasc.ucla.edu](mailto:apadacenter@aasc.ucla.edu). Please visit our website at [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/census](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/census). Data citations from this profile should include the following acknowledgement: “Data obtained from analysis created by the Asian Pacific American Community Development Data Center.”

For more information about the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, please visit [www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/](http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/aasc/).

For more information about National CAPACD, please visit [www.nationalcapacd.org](http://www.nationalcapacd.org).

**Notes about the Data**

Census 2000 is the first decennial census in which respondents were allowed to mark more than one race. There are results for single race responses, as well as for multiple race responses. “Asian Alone” corresponds to the respondents who reported exactly one Asian group and no other Asian group or race category. “Alone” should be considered the minimum population size in any analysis that uses Census 2000 data. “Alone or in any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that include the selected Asian group, either alone or in any combination with other Asian groups or other race categories. If a respondent selected more than one Asian group (i.e. “Japanese” and “Filipino”), that individual would be tallied in the total for each Asian group; thus, some overlap in the In Combination numbers will occur. “Alone or in any Combination” should be considered the maximum population size in any analysis that uses Census 2000 data.

The Census Bureau has advised that this is why the data is not directly comparable between 1990 and 2000. If a comparison must be made the bureau has recommended that a range between the “Asian Alone”, “one group” total and the “Asian or in any Combination” is used. However, for some socioeconomic categories such as education levels, citizen ship status, income, housing, poverty, and language abilities, the Bureau only tabulated the data for the Alone population.

**Footnotes**

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise noted, all numbers are from the Summary Files One, Two, and Three of the US Census. Please note that SF1 and SF 2 data refers to data collected from a 100 percent population survey of the US population whereas SF 3 is a sample survey of 1 in 6 households.

<sup>2</sup> For education tabulation, educational attainment rates are for persons that are age 25 and older. Does not include “some college.”

<sup>3</sup> A **linguistically isolated household** is one in which no member 14 years old and over (1) speaks only English or (2) speaks a non-English language and speaks English “very well.” In other words, all members 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English.

<sup>4</sup> Persons are classified as below poverty level if their total family income or unrelated individual income was less than the poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder, and number of related children under 18 living at home in 1999. For these thresholds, please see <http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/threshld/thrsh99.html>.

<sup>5</sup> A family income refers to the earnings of a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together.

<sup>6</sup> This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.

<sup>7</sup> The three counties were limited to counties with 1,000 or more Asian or white occupied units. Due to data suppression by the U.S. Census Bureau, homeownership data for NHPIs was only available for Cooke County, in which 180 households owned a home.

<sup>8</sup> Although the Census Bureau has no official definition of crowded units, many users consider units with more than one occupant per room to be crowded.

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