

# MASSACHUSETTS

## 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 4% and the NHPI population made up 0.04% of Massachusetts's total population. The five largest Asian American groups (including those of mixed race or ethnicity) were: Chinese/Taiwanese (92,380), Asian Indians (48,588), Vietnamese (36,685), Cambodians (22,886), and Koreans (19,469). Hmong (872%), Asian Indians, and Vietnamese all experienced fast growth rates, with increases more than a 150% from 1990 to 2000.

The three largest NHPI groups (including those of mixed race or ethnicity) were: Native Hawaiians (1,356), Guamanian/Chamorro (812) and Samoans (747). Samoans, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders experienced the fastest growths, with increases more than 200% from 1990 to 2000.

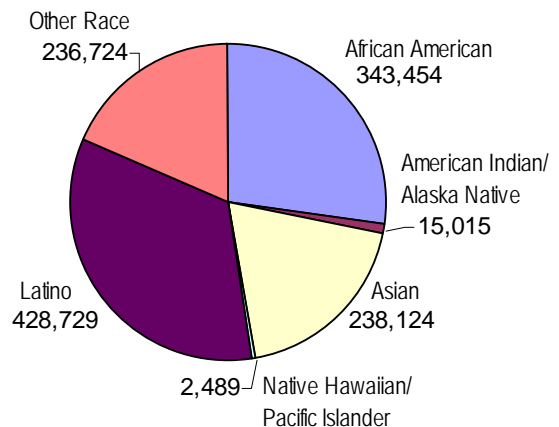
### Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population

NHPI Group	1990	2000			
		NHPI Alone, one Asian Group	% Growth from 1990	NHPI Alone or in Combination	% Growth from 1990
Guamanian/Chamorro	527	529	0%	812	54%
Melanesian	39	22	-44%	44	13%
Native Hawaiian	404	562	39%	1,356	236%
Samoan	149	476	219%	747	401%
Tongan	23	26	13%	41	78%
Other Pacific Islander	94	794	745%	5,636	5896%

### Massachusetts's Asian Population

Asian Group	1990	2000			
		Asian Alone, one Asian Group	% Growth from 1990	Asian Alone or in Combination	% Growth from 1990
Asian Indian	18,885	43,801	132%	48,588	157%
Bangladeshi	not available	573		784	
Cambodian	13,849	19,696	42%	22,886	65%
Chinese, including Taiwanese	53,545	84,392	58%	92,380	73%
Filipino	6,567	8,273	26%	11,661	78%
Hmong	134	1,127	741%	1,303	872%
Indonesian	not available	730		1,063	
Japanese	8,830	10,539	19%	13,997	59%
Korean	12,124	17,369	43%	19,469	61%
Laotian	3,862	3,797	-2%	4,449	15%
Malaysian	not available	218		346	
Pakistani	not available	2,145		2,864	
Sri Lankan	not available	651		771	
Thai	1,554	2,141	38%	2,747	77%
Vietnamese	14,653	33,962	132%	36,685	150%
Other Asian	5,492	4633	-16%	10050	83%

### Massachusetts's Minority Population



The Asian Population grew by 68%, making it the state's fastest growing minority group. Latinos made up the second fastest group, growing at a rate of 49% in 2000.

## Citizenship

In Massachusetts, immigrants made up a large proportion of the Asian American population. 72% (171,034) of the total Massachusetts Asian population was foreign-born while 12% (772,983) of Massachusetts' total population was foreign born. As of 2000, 28% (67,212) of Asians were born in the United States and 42% (72,105) of the foreign-born Asian population were naturalized citizens. In comparison, NHPIs were largely a native-born population in 2000, at 77% (1,407). 29% (122) of foreign-born NHPIs were naturalized citizens.

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

	Total Population	Asian alone	NH/PI alone	NH White alone
Less than a high school diploma	15%	24%	24%	13%
High School diploma only	27%	14%	31%	28%
Associate's degree or higher	40%	54%	30%	42%

Asian Americans have a higher educational attainment rate at 54% with an Associates degree or higher, in comparison to NHPIs (30%), NH Whites (42%) and the state's population (40%). The majority of NHPIs have earned either a High School diploma (31%) or Associates Degree or higher (30%).

## Language Abilities

At first glance, it appears that the Asian American population that also speaks other languages spoke English either "very well" or "well" at a rate of 77% (143,831). However, when we look at age group, 59% (7,337) of the elderly (age 65 and older) population spoke English either "Not Well" or "Not at All". Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders spoke English either "very well" or "well" at a rate of 69% (570). The NHPI population at 13% (25 people), from age 5 to 17, had the most difficulty speaking English either "Not Well" or "Not at All".

21% (56,522) of the total Massachusetts population (5 years and over) speaks an Asian or Pacific Island language and lives in a linguistically isolated household.<sup>3</sup> 39% (20,620) of Massachusetts' Asian households who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language are linguistically isolated versus 27% (twenty nine) of NHPI households.

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

	#	%
Total Population	573,421	9%
Asian Alone	36,588	16%
NHPI Alone	395	25%
NH White Alone	324,834	6%

In Massachusetts, the proportion of persons living below the federal poverty level was 9%. In contrast to the NHW (6%) and total (9%) populations, the poverty rate level of Asians (16%) and NHPIs (25%) is much higher.

## Income

In comparison to the NH white population, Asians and NHPIs have lower median family income levels and per capita incomes.<sup>5</sup> The NH white median family income is \$66,030 compared with Asians' median family income of \$57,893 and NHPIs median family income of \$36,429 trailing far behind. The per capita income of Asians (\$21,452) is also lower than those of NHWs per capita income (\$28,245). The per capita income of NHPIs (\$16,948) is much lower than both Asians and NHWs.

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

	Asian Alone	NHPI Alone	NH White Alone
<\$15,000	18%	24%	13%
\$15-34,999	17%	26%	20%
\$35-74,999	32%	30%	35%
>\$75,000	32%	20%	33%

## Average Household Size

Total Pop Average household size	2.51
Asian Average household size	2.98
NHPI Average household size	2.62
NH White Average household size	2.43

Because household incomes are calculated by the income generated by a household, household size plays a significant factor in estimating wealth. Asian (2.98) and NHPI (2.62) have a greater average household size than non-Hispanic Whites (2.43). Yet, the household incomes produced by the larger Asian and NHPI households and individual per capita income is considerably lower than their NH White counterparts.

## Housing

In 2000, Asian and NHPI renters were paying a higher percentage of their income towards rent in contrast to non-Hispanic Whites. The Median gross rent as a percentage of household income was: Asians (25.4), NHPIs (29.8). and NH Whites (24.9).

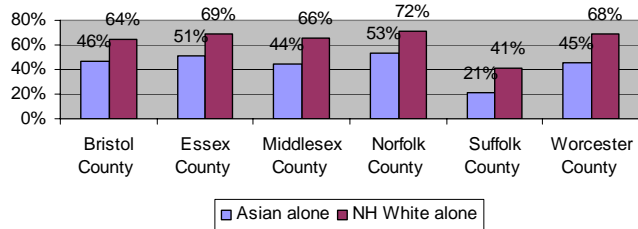
## Owner vs. Renter

	Owner		Renter	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	1,508,248	62%	935,332	38%
Asian alone	29,767	41%	42,860	59%
NHPI alone	183	37%	312	63%
NH White alone	1,397,643	67%	692,328	33%

In Massachusetts, Asian Americans have a higher renter rate (59%) rather than home ownership rate (41%). Similarly, Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders rent (63%) more rather than own their own homes (37%). Both Asians and NHPIs have home ownership rates less than NH

Whites (74%) and the state’s population (62%). Six counties throughout Massachusetts further illustrate this trend, where homeownership gaps of 18% or more exist between Asians and non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>7</sup>

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



### Overcrowded Homes<sup>8</sup>

	#	%
<b>Total Asian pop:</b>	72,627	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	12,257	17%
<b>Total NHPI pop:</b>	495	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	74	15%
<b>Total NH White pop:</b>	2,089,971	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	23,838	1%

The Asian (17%) and NHPI (15%) households are much more overcrowded than NH 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.

### 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 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 seven counties were limited to counties with 1,000 or more occupied units. Data suppressed for NHPIs because population was not big enough to meet population threshold requirements.

<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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