

MINNESOTA

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 support efforts by community economic development and housing advocates.¹

Population

In 2000, the Asian American Population made up 3% and the NHPI population made up 0.04% of Minnesota's total population. The five largest Asian American groups (including those of mixed race or ethnicity) were: Hmong (45,443), Vietnamese (20,570), Asian Indians (19,963), Chinese (18,622), and Koreans (15,255). Hmong, Thai, Asian Indians, Filipinos, Vietnamese, and Chinese all experienced fast growth rates, with increases more than a 100% from 1990 to 2000.

The three largest NHPI groups (including those of mixed race or ethnicity) were: Native Hawaiians (1,526), Samoans (767), and Guamanian/Chamorros (483). All Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander groups experienced tremendous growth with increases more than 100% from 1990 to 2000.

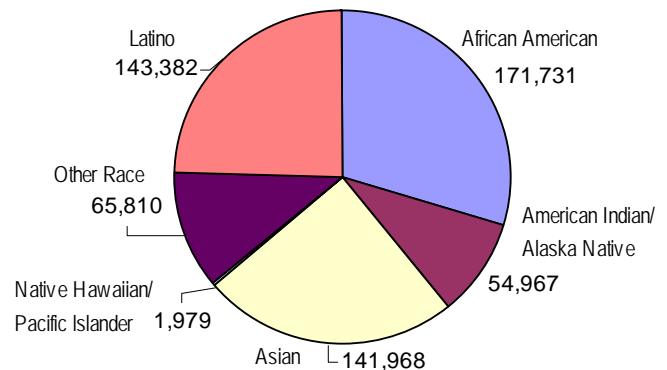
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population

NHPI Group	1990	2000		NHPI Alone or in Combination	% Growth from 1990
		NHPI Alone, one Asian Group	% Growth from 1990		
Guamanian/Chamorro	165	266	61%	483	193%
Melanesian	9	27	200%	41	356%
Native Hawaiian	383	593	55%	1,526	298%
Samoan	120	508	323%	767	539%
Tongan	33	38	15%	71	115%
Other Pacific Islander	161	451	180%	2,893	1697%

Minnesota's Asian Population

Asian Group	1990	2000		Asian Alone or in Combination	% Growth from 1990
		Asian Alone, one Asian Group	% Growth from 1990		
Asian Indian	8,234	16,887	105%	19,963	142%
Bangladeshi	not available	244		311	
Cambodian	3,858	5,530	43%	6,533	69%
Chinese, including Taiwanese	8,980	15,484	72%	18,622	107%
Filipino	4,237	6,284	48%	9,696	129%
Hmong	16,833	41,800	148%	45,443	170%
Indonesian	not available	289		429	
Japanese	3,581	3,816	7%	6,483	81%
Korean	11,576	12,584	9%	15,255	32%
Lactian	6,381	9,940	56%	11,516	80%
Malaysian	not available	238		387	
Pakistani	not available	930		1,166	
Sri Lankan	not available	407		485	
Thai	576	1,046	82%	1,498	160%
Vietnamese	9,387	18,824	101%	20,570	119%
Other Asian	3,309	4,153	26%	7,113	115%

Minnesota's "Minority" Population



The Asian Population grew by 84%, making it the state's second fastest growing minority group, after Latinos whose growth rate was 166% in 2000.

Citizenship

Immigrants made up a large proportion of the Asian American population. 70% (96,784) of the total Minnesota Asian population was foreign-born compared to 5% (260,463) of Minnesota's total population being foreign born. In 2000, 30% (42,461) of Asians were born in the United States and 44% (42,403) of the foreign-born Asian population was naturalized citizens. In comparison, NHPIs were largely a native-born population in 2000, at 71% (1,229). 29% (1,605) of foreign-born NHPIs were naturalized citizens.

Educational Attainment²

	Total Population	Asian alone	NH/PI alone	NH White alone
Less than a high school diploma	12%	29%	22%	11%
High School diploma only	29%	16%	26%	29%
Associate's degree or higher	35%	42%	30%	36%

In Minnesota, Asian Americans have a higher educational attainment rate of 42% with an Associates degree or higher, in comparison to the state's population (35%), Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (30%) and Non Hispanic Whites (36%). A significant percentage of NHPIs (26%) has earned only a High School diploma.

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 76% (78,934). However, when we look at age group, 56% (2,679) of the adult (age 18 to 64) population spoke English either "Not Well" or "Not at All". NHPIs spoke English either "very well" or "well" at a rate of 87% (594). The NHPI elderly (age 65 and over) population at 19% had the most difficulty speaking English either "Not Well" or "Not at All".

35% (32,957) of the total Minnesota population (5 years and over) speaks an Asian or Pacific Island language and lives in a linguistically isolated household.³ 38% (10,092) of Minnesota's Asian households who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language are linguistically isolated.

Poverty Status⁴

	#	%
Total Population	380,476	8%
Asian Alone	25,887	19%
NHPI Alone	180	13%
NH White Alone	255,419	6%

In Minnesota, the proportion of persons living below the federal poverty level was 8%. In contrast to the NHW (6%) and state (8%) populations, the poverty rate level of Asians (19%) and NHPIs (13%) was much higher, the largest difference of 13% between Asian and non-Hispanic Whites.

Income

In comparison to the NH white population, Asians have a lower median family income level and per capita income.⁵ Asians' median family income (\$50,954) is below the NH white median family income of \$58,641. NHPIs median family income (\$59,286) is slightly above NHWs. Yet, both the Asian (\$21,452) and NHPI (\$16,948) per capita income levels are much lower than those of non-Hispanic whites' per capita income (\$24,494).

Household Income (in 1999 dollars)⁶

	Asian Alone	NHPI Alone	NH White Alone
<\$15,000	16%	18%	11%
\$15-34,999	21%	18%	23%
\$35-74,999	37%	27%	40%
>\$75,000	25%	38%	26%

Average Household Size

Total Pop Average household size	2.52
Asian Average household size	3.62
NHPI Average household size	3.11
NH White Average household size	2.47

Because household incomes are calculated by the income generated by a household, household size plays a significant factor in estimating wealth. Asian (3.62) and NHPI (3.11) have a greater average household size than NH Whites (2.47). Yet, the family and household income of Asians and the per capita incomes of both Asians and NHPIs are considerably lower than their NH White counterparts.

Housing

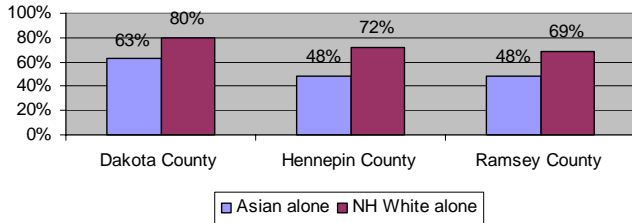
In 2000, non-Hispanic White renters were paying a slightly higher percentage of their income towards rent compared to Asians and NHPIs. The median gross rent as a percentage of household income was: Asians (23.2), NHPIs (21.5), and NH Whites (24.5).

Owner vs. Renter

	Owner		Renter	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	1,412,724	75%	482,403	25%
Asian alone	18,452	52%	16,845	48%
NHPI alone	251	55%	205	45%
NH White alone	1,345,424	77%	391,442	23%

In Minnesota, Asian Americans have a higher home ownership rate (52%) rather than renter rate (48%). Similarly, NHPIs own their own homes (55%) rather than rent (45%). Despite this trend, both Asians and NHPIs have home ownership rates less than the NH white (77%) and total (75%) populations. Three counties throughout Minnesota further illustrate this trend, where homeownership gaps of 17% or more exist between Asians and Non-Hispanic Whites.⁷

Minnesota Counties with Largest Homeownership Rate Disparity, 2000



Overcrowded Homes⁸

	#	%
Total Asian pop:	35,297	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	9,989	39%
Total NHPI pop:	456	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	31	7%
Total NH White pop:	1,736,866	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	24,318	1%

The Asian (39%) and NHPI (7%) 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 apadatacenter@aacsc.ucla.edu. Please visit our website at 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/.

For more information about National CAPACD, please visit 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

¹ 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.

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

³ 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.

⁴ 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>.

⁵ 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.

⁶ 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.

⁷ The three counties were limited to counties with 1,000 or more occupied units. A significant percentage of home ownership rate disparity also existed between Asians (872 units; 52%) and NHWs (34,644 units; 79%) in Olmsted County. The only data available for NHPIs was in Hennepin County (56 owner-occupied units; 31%).

⁸ 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.

Thank you very much to the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, the Asian American Federation of New York Census Information Center, and the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations for their assistance.