

WASHINGTON

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 United States Census 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 which can support efforts by community economic development and housing advocates.¹

Population

In 2000, the Asian American Population made up 5% and the NHPI population made up 0.4% of Washington's total population. The five largest Asian American groups (including those of mixed race or ethnicity) were: Filipinos (96,700), Chinese/Taiwanese (70,949), Koreans (56,438), Japanese (56,210), and Vietnamese (50,697). Asian Indians, Vietnamese, Thai, Filipinos, and Chinese/Taiwanese 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 (13,507), Samoans (10,607), and Guamanian/Chamorros (8,597). The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population grew immensely from 1990 to 2000. Tongans and Melanesians experienced the fastest growths, with increases more than 250% from 1990 to 2000.

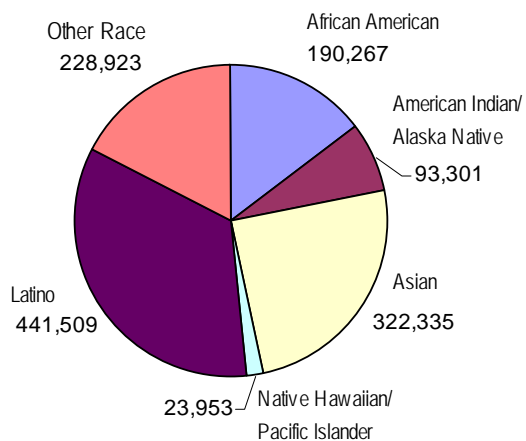
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population

NHPI Group	1990	2000		% Growth from 1990	% Growth from 1990
		NHPI Alone, one Asian Group	NHPI Alone or in Combination		
Guamanian/Chamorro	3,816	5,823	8,597	53%	125%
Melanesian	314	837	1,110	167%	254%
Native Hawaiian	5,047	4,883	13,507	-3%	168%
Samoan	3,589	8,049	10,607	124%	196%
Tongan	174	754	1,029	333%	491%
Other Pacific Islander	391	2,037	7,224	421%	1748%

Washington's Asian Population

Asian Group	1990	2000		% Growth from 1990	% Growth from 1990
		Asian Alone, one Asian Group	Asian Alone or in Combination		
Asian Indian	7,965	23,992	28,614	201%	259%
Bangladeshi	not available	119	163		
Cambodian	10,757	13,899	16,630	29%	55%
Chinese, including Taiwanese	34,114	59,914	70,949	76%	108%
Filipino	45,705	65,373	96,700	43%	112%
Hmong	853	1,294	1,485	52%	74%
Indonesian	not available	1,369	2,315		
Japanese	34,989	35,985	56,210	3%	61%
Korean	30,292	46,880	56,438	55%	86%
Laotian	5,878	7,974	9,382	36%	60%
Malaysian	not available	222	501		
Pakistani	not available	1,214	1,772		
Sri Lankan	not available	326	410		
Thai	2,606	3,825	5,527	47%	112%
Vietnamese	18,246	46,149	50,697	153%	178%
Other Asian	5,954	5273	11635	-11%	95%

Washington's Minority Population



The Asian Population grew by 65%, making it the state's second fastest growing minority group after Latinos, who grew by 106% in 2000.

Citizenship

Immigrants made up a large proportion of the Asian American population in 2000. 67% (215,852) of the total Asian population was foreign-born while 10% (614,457) of the total Washington population was foreign born. 33% (105,397) of Asians were born in the United States. By 2000, 54% (117,072) of the foreign-born population became naturalized citizens. In comparison, NHPIs were largely a native-born population in 2000, at 83% (17,995). 43% (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	13%	19%	17%	10%
High School diploma only	25%	18%	37%	26%
Associate's degree or higher	36%	45%	20%	37%

Asian Americans have a higher educational attainment rate with 45% earning an Associate's degree or higher, in comparison to Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders (20%) and Whites (37%). The majority of NHPIs (37%) has earned a "High School diploma only". Both Asians (19%) and NHPIs (17%) had higher percentages of persons with less than a high school diploma than the total (13%) and non-Hispanic White (10%) populations.

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% (174,650). However, when we look at age group, 40% (9,948) of the elderly (age 65 and older) population spoke English either "Not Well" or "Not at All". NHPIs spoke English either "very well" or "well" at a rate of 45% (8,867). The NHPI elderly population at 15% (111) had the most difficulty speaking English either "Not Well" or "Not at All".

33% (68,655) of the total Washington population (5 years and over) speaks an Asian or Pacific Island language and lives in a linguistically isolated household.³ 37% (26,913) of Asian households who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language are linguistically isolated versus 8% (244) of NHPI households.

Poverty Status⁴

The proportion of persons living below the federal poverty level was 11%.

	#	%
Total Population	612,370	11%
Asian Alone	40,409	13%
NHPI Alone	3,266	15%
NH White Alone	380,041	8%

In comparison to the total state (11%) and non-Hispanic white (8%) population, the poverty rate level of Asians (13%) and NHPIs (15%) is higher in the state of Washington.

Income

In comparison to the NH white population, Asians and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders have lower median family income levels and per capita incomes.⁵ Asians median family income (\$54,611) is slightly below the NH white median family income (\$56,337) with NHPIs median family income (\$45,596) trailing far behind. The Asian per capita income (\$ 20,141) and NHPIs per capita income (\$15,025) is much lower than those of NH whites' per capita income (\$ 25,081).

Household Income (in 1999 dollars)⁶

	Asian Alone	NHPI Alone	White Alone
<\$15,000	17%	16%	12%
\$15-34,999	20%	23%	24%
\$35-74,999	36%	43%	39%
>\$75,000	27%	18%	25%

Average Household Size

Total Pop Average household size	2.53
Asian Average household size	2.92
NHPI Average household size	3.44
NH White Average household size	2.44

Because household incomes are calculated by the income generated by a household, household size plays a significant factor in estimating wealth. Asian (2.92) and NHPI (3.44) 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 NHWs.

Housing

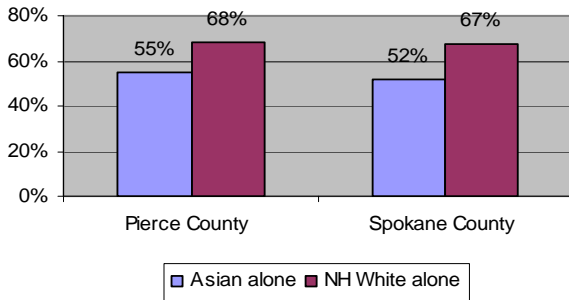
In 2000, NHPI renters were paying a slightly higher percentage of their income towards rent. The Median gross rent as a percentage of household income was: NHPIs (26.5) compared with Asians (25.9), and NHWs (26.3).

Owner vs. Renter

	Owner		Renter	
	#	%	#	%
Total population	1,466,985	65%	804,413	35%
Asian alone	57,520	57%	43,443	43%
NHPI alone	2,626	43%	3,514	57%
NH White alone	1,298,381	68%	612,691	32%

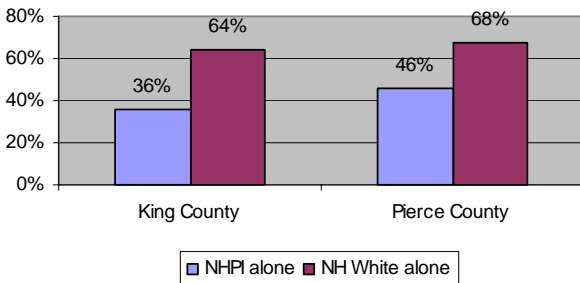
In Washington, Asian Americans have a higher home ownership rate (57%) rather than renter rate (43%). In contrast, NHPs rent (57%) more rather than own their own homes (43%). Both Asians and NHPs have home ownership rates less than the non-Hispanic white (68%) and total (65%) populations. Two counties throughout Washington further illustrate this trend, where homeownership gaps of 10% or more exist between Asians and NH Whites.⁷

Washington Counties with Largest Homeownership Rate Disparity, 2000



In two counties, homeownership gaps of 10% or more existed between NHPs and Whites, with a particularly high gap in King County (28%).⁸

Washington Counties with Largest Homeownership Rate Disparity, 2000



Overcrowded Homes⁹

According to the 2000 Census, Asian (17%) and NHPi (21%) households are much more overcrowded than White households (3%). 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.

	#	%
Total Asian pop:	100,963	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	16,775	17%
Total NHPi pop:	6,140	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	1,288	21%
Total NH White pop:	1,911,072	100%
1.01 or more occupants per room	51,979	3%

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@asec.ucla.edu. Please visit our website at www.sscnet.ucla.edu/asec/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/asec/.

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, citizenship 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 two counties were limited to counties with 1,000 or more occupied units for Asians and non-Hispanic Whites.

⁸ The two counties were limited to counties with 500 or more occupied units, in order to capture the homeownership trends of a smaller Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander population.

⁹ 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.

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