

There is Acute Need for AAPI Language Access in COVID-19 Hot Spots

There are approximately 3.6 million Limited English Proficient (LEP) Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) in the 30 metropolitan¹ areas with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The percentage of AAPIs who are LEP in the top 30 COVID-19 hot spots – where 33.0% of AAPIs aged 5 and up are LEP – is higher than for US AAPIs as a whole (31.4% LEP).

The COVID-19 Hot Spots with the largest populations of AAPI LEP speakers are as follows:

MSA	# AAPI LEP Population age 5&up	AAPI LEP %	Top 5 AAPI Language Needs by LEP Population
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA MSA	779,050	37.8%	1. Chinese 2. Vietnamese 3. Korean 4. Tagalog 5. Japanese
New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA MSA	778,614	36.9%	1. Chinese 2. Korean 3. Bengali 4. Tagalog 5. Urdu
San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA MSA	366,887	30.6%	1. Chinese 2. Tagalog 3. Vietnamese 4. Korean 5. Hindi
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX MSA	170,874	32.8%	1. Vietnamese 2. Chinese 3. Urdu 4. Malayalam, Kannada, or other Dravidian languages 5. Tagalog
Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI MSA	166,890	27.1%	1. Chinese 2. Tagalog 3. Korean 4. Gujarati 5. Vietnamese

¹ As of 1/22/21, the 30 MSAs with the most confirmed COVID-19 cases are: 1. New York City, 2. Los Angeles, 3. Chicago, 4. Dallas, 5. Miami, 6. Riverside, 7. Phoenix, 8. Houston, 9. Atlanta, 10. Philadelphia, 11. DC, 12. Boston, 13. Twin Cities, 14. Detroit, 15. St. Louis, 16. San Diego, 17. Nashville, 18. Las Vegas, 19. Denver, 20. San Francisco, 21. Charlotte, 22. Tampa, 23. San Antonio, 24. Indianapolis, 25. Orlando, 26. Cincinnati, 27. Milwaukee, 28. Columbus, 29. Kansas City, 30. Baltimore; per <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-us-cases.html>. NOTE: AAPI LEP data not available for Nashville, Milwaukee, Kansas City, Cincinnati

Source: US Census, 2018 1-year ACS