

National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

History

National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month began as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week, first observed in 1979 under President Jimmy Carter, who noted the “enormous contributions to the sciences, arts, industry, government and commerce” made by Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. In 1990, President George H.W. Bush expanded the celebration to cover the whole month of May. May was chosen by the organizers in recognition of May 7, 1843, the date the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and in recognition of May 10, 1869, which marked the completion of the transcontinental railroad, which would not have been possible without the contributions of Chinese-Americans.

How Jeanie Jew's Story Led to the Creation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

<https://time.com/5592591/asian-pacific-heritage-month-history/>

Who are Asians and Pacific Islanders?



The current population of Asia is **over 4.6 billion people**, based on the latest United Nations estimates. Asia population is equivalent to 60% of the total world population. Asia ranks number 1 among regions of the world (roughly equivalent to "continents"), ordered by population. The 27 Asian ethnicities include:

East Asian

- Asian Indian
- Chinese
- Taiwanese
- Japanese
- Korean

South Asian

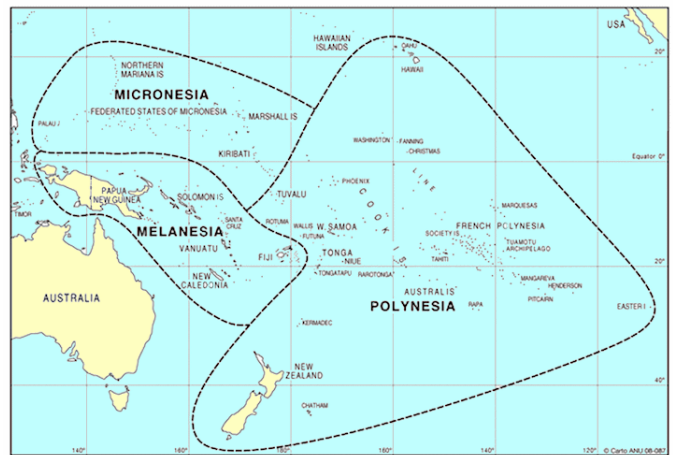
- Bangladeshi
- Burmese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Sri Lankan

Southeast Asian

- Burmese
- Cambodian
- Filipino
- Hmong
- Indonesian
- Laotian
- Malaysian
- Mien
- Singaporean
- Thai
- Vietnamese

West Asian

- Iranian
- Iraqi
- Lebanese
- Saudi Arabian
- Palestinian
- Syrian



Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) have a population of **about 2.3 million people**, spread across a unique and diverse region made up of hundreds of islands, and scattered over an area equivalent to 15 percent of the globe's surface. The 27 Pacific Islander ethnicities include:

Melanesia

- Papua New Guinea
- Solomon Islands
- New Caledonia
- Vanuatu
- Fiji

Polynesia

- Tuvalu
- Wallis and Futuna
- Tokelau
- Samoa
- American Samoa
- Tonga
- Niue
- Cook Islands
- French Polynesia
- Pitcairn

Micronesia

- Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (14 islands including Saipan, Rota, and Tinian)
- Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap)
- Gilbert Islands
- Guam
- Nauru
- Republic of Palau
- Republic of Kiribati
- Republic of Marshall Islands

Native Hawaiian

** (United States Affiliation)*

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospitals
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee

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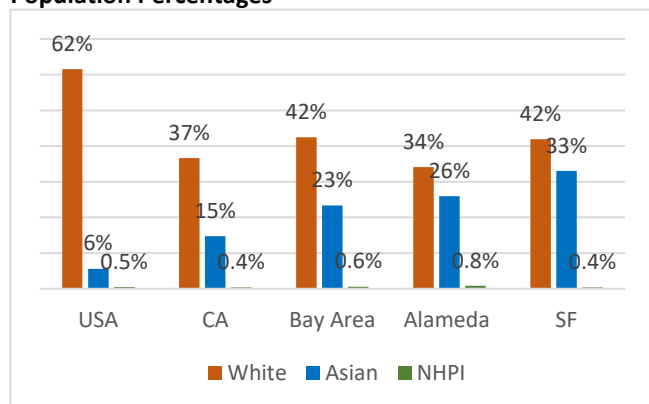
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.

Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have a history in America that stretches back hundreds of years. The first record of Asians in North America dates to 1587, when Filipino sailors came to what is now California. The first Chinese people recorded in the United States were three sailors who came to Baltimore in 1785 as part of an interracial shipping crew.

U.S. Population: Asian Alone or in Combination with Other Races

Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States increased by 45 percent between 2000 and 2010, making them one of the fastest growing minority groups in the country. According to the 2017 Census Bureau population estimate, there are 18.2 million Asian Americans and 1.5 million NHPs living in the United States. Asian Americans account for 5.6 percent of the nation's population, whereas NHPs make up about 0.45% of the population.

Population Percentages



Changing Race/Ethnicity of Adolescents

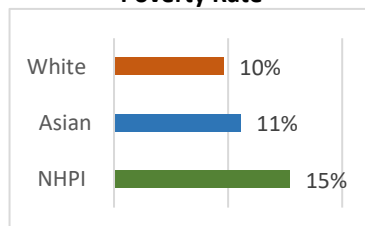
Today, there are almost 42 million adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 in the United States, and adolescents make up 12.9 percent of the population. As the U.S. population ages, adolescents will represent a smaller proportion of the total. By 2050, estimates show that adolescents will make up 11.3 percent of the population.

| | | |
|-------|------|-------|
| White | 2016 | 53.0% |
| | 2050 | 40.8% |
| Asian | 2016 | 5.0% |
| | 2050 | 7.3% |
| NHPI | 2016 | 0.2% |
| | 2050 | 0.2% |

Median Annual Income

| | |
|-------|----------|
| White | \$65,834 |
| Asian | \$83,456 |
| NHPI | \$60,734 |

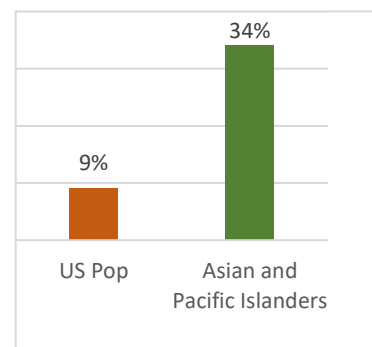
Poverty Rate



Rates of Limited English Proficiency

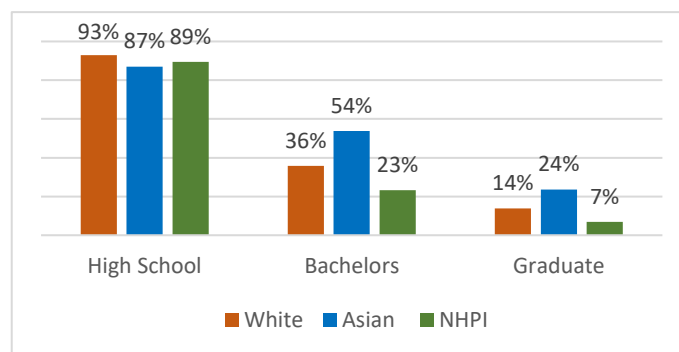
32.6% of Asian Americans are not fluent in English. In 2017, 74.4% of Asian Americans spoke a language other than English at home.

The percentage who "do not speak English very well" varies among Asian American groups: 48.9% of Vietnamese, 44.8% of Chinese, 20.9% of Filipinos, 18.7% of Asian Indians, and 2% of Native Hawaiians are not fluent in English.



Education

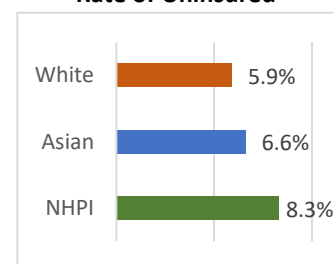
86.9% of all Asians and 89.4% of NHPs graduated high school compared to 92.9% of non-Hispanic whites. 53.8% of Asians and 23.3% of NHPs earned at least a Bachelors, compared to 35.8% of whites. 23.6% of Asians and 6.9% of NHPs held a graduate degree, compared to 13.8% of whites.



Insurance Coverage

In 2017, 73.7% of Asians and 66.9% of NHPs in comparison to 75.4% non-Hispanic whites used private health insurance. 26.3% of Asians and 33.5% of NHPs in comparison to 33.7% of non-Hispanic whites relied on public health insurance.

Rate of Uninsured



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HEALTH DISPARITIES

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (NHPIs) compared to Non-Hispanic Whites

