The State of Asian American Children

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Asian American Federation

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The statements made and views expressed are solely the responsibility of the authors.

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Preface

The image that mainstream American conjures up of Asian American children more often reflect only the most visible examples of high achievement. Unfortunately, this model minority myth hides the diversity of experiences and great need among Asian American children. This first of its kind report on the state of our children seeks to challenge the misperceptions and begin a dialogue on bridging the service and policy gaps they bring about.

As this report will show, not only that Asian American children are the fastest growing child population in the United States, but the population is increasingly diverse. The fastest growth comes from ethnic groups that have only been arriving in large numbers within the past two decades. Children come as parts of different streams of immigration, including economic migrants, refugees, and overseas adoptees.

This report will examine the changes in demographics and socioeconomic status of Asian American children. We seek to go deeper than other reports on Asian Americans and quantify the diversity of backgrounds and experiences among Asian American children. The Asian American Federation had three goals in mind when starting this project:

* To better understand the characteristics and the growth of Asian American children;

* To measure of the family support, financial, health, early school readiness, and educational needs of Asian American children;

* And to identify gaps and additional research needs on Asian American children and highlight the importance of disaggregated data on Asian groups.

Introduction

The State of Asian American Children sets out to present a detailed set of statistics from sources that are collected on an ongoing basis. The datasets used in this report are largely from federal government survey or databases, including the decennial censuses, the American Community Survey, and the National Health Interview Survey. The report sets a number of benchmark statistics that can be revisited using the same datasets to track progress or changes in the future.

This report also will highlight the need for more collection of data by Asian ethnic groups. Where the national level datasets fail to collect and report data on children from a range of Asian ethnic groups, we will use state and local data to help demonstrate the need for better data.

The bulk of this report is organized as five chapters. The first chapter covers the demographic changes that have occurred over the last decade among Asian American children. Topics will include ethnicity, age, geography, gender, immigration, and adoption. The second chapter will focus on education, including test score performance, high school graduation, college attendance, early education, and disconnected youth. The third chapter on health presents some measures of health status as well as measures of healthcare access, including regular medical and dental care and health insurance coverage. Family structures, divorce, birth, languages spoken at home and English ability will be covered in the fourth chapter. The final chapter on economic circumstances includes measures on poverty, family incomes, parental employment, food security, and housing. We conclude with a section of policy implications to tie together the common themes that emerge from this report.

Executive Summary

The *State of Asian American Children* is a first of its kind report that presents a national statistical portrait of Asian American children and youth.

The report is organized into chapters covering five broad topic areas with the key findings for each chapter below. The report also concludes with a brief section on policy implications that highlights a number of common themes that cut across the topic areas.

Demographics

Beyond the rapid growth of the Asian child population, Asian children had some demographic differences in terms of gender, nativity and adoption from other children.

- Asians were the fastest growing major race or ethnic group among all children.
- By 2060, one in ten children in the United States are forecast to be Asian.
- While about 8 in 10 Asian children were one of the five largest Asian ethnic groups (Filipino, Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese or Korean), the fastest growing Asian groups among children were from smaller groups, in particular other South Asian groups, such as Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Sri Lankans.
- Asian children were becoming more multiethnic and multiracial.
- Asian children were more likely to be female than children in the general population.
- Asian children were less likely to be foreign-born than Asian adults. About 7 percent of Asian children under the age of 5 were foreign born.
- Over 1 in 5 Chinese American girls were adoptees, while only 1 in 40 Chinese American boys were adopted. About 1 in 10 Korean children of either gender were adopted.
- Interracial adoption occurred in the majority of Asian adoptions where neither parent was the same ethnic group as the adoptee. The two exceptions were Filipino and Indian adoptees who were adopted by families where at least one parent was of the same ethnicity.

Education

Education data show that academic success was by no mean automatic for Asian American children. Socioeconomic background and ethnicity were key characteristics that differentiated Asian American students and their performance.

- While national aggregate test scores highlighted student success, careful examination of local test scores indicated that Asian American students from less privileged backgrounds often underperformed their district-wide classmates.
- Cambodian, Laotian and Hmong youth had higher status dropout rates than non-Hispanic Whites. Other specified Asian groups (which include many of the newest immigrant and refugee groups such as Bhutanese, Burmese and Nepali) as a whole had the highest status dropout rates among the groups examined.
- The majority of pre-school aged children were not enrolled in early education programs for ten out of nineteen Asian groups.
- Cambodian, Malaysian, and other specified Asians had higher rates of disconnected youth (those between age 16 to 24 who were neither in the labor force nor enrolled in school) than Hispanic or Black communities.

Health

Disaggregated health status data is very important given the diversity of ethnicities within the Asian community in order to address the specific needs of Asian American children. Better data on health insurance coverage and health access provided benchmarks for tracking the impact of the Affordable Care Act on Asian American children.

+ While Asian children overall were less likely to have asthma in their lifetime, Filipino children had lifetime asthma rates as high as Black children.
+ Filipino children were more than twice as likely that other Asian groups examined to have been diagnosed with diabetes at similar rates to that of Hispanic children.
+ Asian females from 15 to 24 years old were more likely to die by suicide than Black and Hispanic females.
+ Asian children were more likely to visit the dentist every six months than other major race groups. However, while Chinese, Filipino and Indian children were more likely to visit the dentist regularly than children in general, the remaining Asian groups in aggregate had regular dental visits at a similar rate to children in general.
+ Asian children who were not Chinese, Filipino nor Indian were more likely to not have a usual place for medical care than almost all other groups examined. Only Hispanic children were more likely to be without a usual place for medical care.
+ Korean children were the least likely to have health insurance. Seven additional Asian groups had more than 1 in 10 uninsured children, higher than the national uninsured rate for all children.

Family

While many Asian American families were two-parent families, children from a few groups were more likely to be in single-parent families. Birth rates among Asian American women showed that they were more likely than other major race and ethnic groups to delay children until after age 35. The languages spoken among Asian Americans continue to diversify while English ability remains an area of need for our newest immigrants.

+ Asian children were far more likely to live in married-couple families than any other major race or ethnic group.
+ Laotian and Cambodian children were more likely to live in a single parent family than non-Hispanic White children. They were also more likely to be living in a single-father family than all major race and ethnic groups.
+ Divorce rates among the Asian groups were all well below that of the general population, with only Japanese and Thais anywhere close to the divorce rates of the general population.
+ Four Asian groups (Laotian, Cambodian, Hmong, and Filipino) had higher birth rates among unmarried women than non-Hispanic White women.
+ While birth rates among Asian women were just slightly higher than the national average, births among Asian women were skewed more towards the oldest age group. Asian women had the lowest birth rates among the major race and ethnic groups below the age of 35 years, but the highest birth rates among those age 35 to 50 years old.
+ The six languages spoken by children more than doubled in size over the last decade including several South Asian languages (Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Nepali, and Sinhalese) and Burmese, with Nepali experiencing the fastest growth rate by far of 530 percent.
+ Seven Asian language groups had at least 30 percent of children with limited English proficiency.

Economic Status

The data on poverty and income point to specific needs in our communities for childcare, employment, food security, and affordable housing to provide a secure environment for Asian American children to adapt and thrive.

Poverty and Income

- While overall Asian children had poverty rates similar to non-Hispanic White children, segments of the Asian population had child poverty rates similar to Black or Hispanic children. The highest poverty rates were found among Asian groups with a history of refugee resettlement: three-quarters of Bhutanese children and one in three Burmese and Hmong children live in poverty.
- While Asian median family incomes were higher in aggregate, about half of Asian groups had median family incomes lower than the national median.

Childcare

- Among preschoolers with a working mother, grandparents were most common childcare option for Asian children, more than for any other group in this report.
- For children living with unemployed mothers, the percent of Asian children in self-care was highest among major race and ethnic groups across all age groups between 5 and 14 years old.
- Families of non-Hispanic white and Asian children were more likely to pay for childcare than families of Black and Hispanic.

Parental Employment

- Children who were Cambodian, Hmong, and emerging Asian groups classified in the "other specified Asian" category were just as or more likely than Black and Hispanic children to live in a situation with no parent employed full-time for a full-year.

Food Security

- Children from Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, and emerging Asian groups were more likely to receive SNAP than children in general. Well over 2 in 5 Hmong and "other specified Asian" children received SNAP, a higher rate than Black children.

Housing

- About half of all Asian groups had over one in five children living in overcrowded housing. Hmong, in particular, had over half of children living in overcrowded housing.
- For 9 out of 17 Asian groups, a higher percentage of children lived in housing-burdened households than children in general. For 9 out of 17 Asian groups, a higher percentage of children lived in housing-burdened households than children in general. About 42 percent of Asian children lived in households paying 30 percent or more of household income for owner costs, which was higher than those of non-Hispanic Whites, but lower than those of Hispanics, and Blacks.

Demographics

Asian Americans have been the fastest growing demographic group in the United States for several decades, growing from 7 million in 1990 to over 17 million in 2010. This chapter will cover the population changes among Asian American children by ethnicity, age, geography, and gender. We will also examine how immigration and adoption influence the growth in this population. Some key findings include:

* Asians were the fastest growing major population group among all children.
* By 2060, one in ten children in the United States are projected to be Asian.
* While about 8 in 10 Asian children were one of the five largest Asian ethnic groups (Filipino, Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese or Korean), the fastest growing Asian groups among children were from smaller groups, in particular other South Asian groups, such as Bangladeshis, Pakistanis and Sri Lankans.

* Asian children are becoming more multiethnic and multiracial.
* Asian children were more likely to be female than children in the general population.
* Asian children were less likely to be foreign-born than Asian adults. About 7 percent of Asian children under the age of 5 were foreign born.
* Over 1 in 5 Chinese American girls were adoptees, while only 1 in 40 Chinese American boys were adopted.
* Interracial adoption occurred in the majority of Asian adoptions where neither parent was the same ethnic group as the adoptee. The two exceptions were Filipino and Indian adoptees who were adopted by families where at least one parent was of the same ethnicity.

## Population Changes for Asians as a Group

No other major population group in the United States saw a faster growth rate in their child population than the Asian community (**Table 1.1**), matching the growth rate of Hispan-

TABLE 1.1: CHILD POPULATION FOR MAJOR POPULATION GROUP IN THE UNITED STATES, 2000-2010

Population Group	2000 Population	2010 Population	Percent Change
Asian Alone or in Combination	3,221,910	4,493,688	39%
Hispanic	12,342,259	17,130,891	39%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders Alone or in Combination	313,471	420,184	34%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone or in Combination	1,383,502	1,651,224	19%
Black Alone or in Combination	11,845,257	12,637,169	7%
Non-Hispanic White Alone	44,027,087	39,716,562	-10%
All Children	72,293,812	74,181,467	3%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2000 AND 2010 CENSUSES, SUMMARY FILE 2
NOTE: THE GROUPS IN OUR TABLES ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE AND WILL SUM UP TO GREATER THAN THE "ALL CHILDREN" CATEGORY DUE TO MULTIRACIAL CHILDREN COUNTING IN MULTIPLE CATEGORIES.
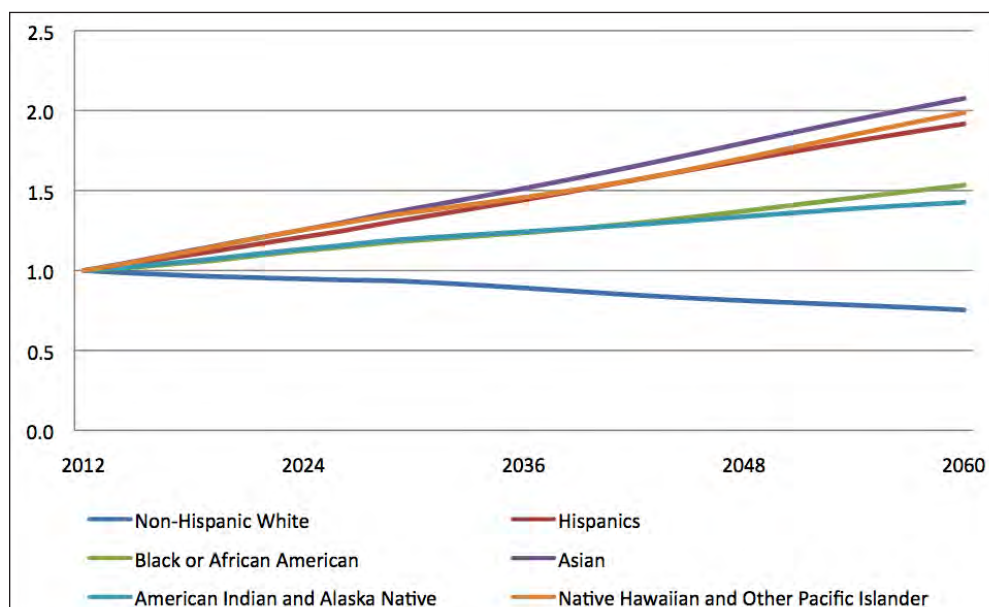
CHART 1.1: CHILD POPULATION GROWTH RATIO BY MAJOR POPULATION GROUP IN THE UNITED STATES, 2012-2060

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2012 NATIONAL POPULATION PROJECTIONS

ics. The share of Asian children in total children increased from 4.5 percent to 6.1 percent during the previous decade.

Going forward, the Census Bureau forecasts that the Asian child population will more than double in size over the next five decades (2010 to 2060) to a total of nearly 10 million children. Asian children are expected to be the fastest growing group among all major population groups in the United States. In 2060, it was estimated that one in ten children would be Asian.

Population Changes Among Asian Groups

The vast majority of Asian children belong to one of five ethnic groups: over one in five Asian children was either Filipino or Chinese, over one in six was Indian, and about one in ten was either Vietnamese or Korean.

The Asian ethnic groups with the fastest growing child populations were outside of the five largest groups. Fastest among them were three South Asian groups. Bangladeshi,

Pakistani and Sri Lankan children about doubled in size (159 percent, 91 percent, and 90 percent respectively). The number of Pakistani children surpassed that of Hmong, Cambodian, and Laotian children during the last decade to become the seventh largest Asian child population. Other fast growing groups included Thai (78 percent), Indonesians (73 percent), Indians (65 percent), and Malaysians (59 percent). Indians had the largest numeric increase of 322,821 children, followed by Filipinos (269,304), Chinese (245,628), Vietnamese (137,958), Koreans (89,997), Pakistanis (61,123), and Japanese (53,795).

Asian children have become increasingly multiracial and multiethnic. About 72 percent of Asian children identified as Asian only in 2010, decreasing from 77 percent in 2000. Less than half of Japanese, Thai, and Malaysian children identified themselves by a single ethnicity in 2010. Only a small majority of Filipino and Indonesian children identified themselves as single ethnic. At the other end of the spectrum, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Hmong, and

TABLE 1.2: CHILD POPULATION BY ASIAN GROUP IN THE UNITED STATES, 2000-2010

Asian Group	2000			2010			Alone Percent Change	AOIC Percent Change
	Alone Population	AOIC Population	Alone Share of AOIC	Alone Population	AOIC Population	Alone Share of AOIC		
Filipino	412,246	683,141	60%	500,003	952,445	52%	21%	39%
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	496,595	680,751	73%	632,162	926,379	68%	27%	36%
Indian	419,428	494,468	85%	691,684	817,289	85%	65%	65%
Vietnamese	304,345	347,238	88%	389,513	485,196	80%	28%	40%
Korean	261,242	338,918	77%	277,738	428,915	65%	6%	27%
Japanese	101,404	273,913	37%	82,251	327,708	25%	-19%	20%
Pakistani	49,925	67,305	74%	110,181	128,428	86%	121%	91%
Hmong	94,919	104,283	91%	103,404	111,045	93%	9%	6%
Cambodian	67,020	82,801	81%	61,082	87,152	70%	-9%	5%
Laotian	58,169	72,421	80%	46,556	73,185	64%	-20%	1%
Thai	17,399	33,729	52%	22,505	60,057	37%	29%	78%
Bangladeshi	12,052	16,837	72%	37,926	43,552	87%	215%	159%
Taiwanese	22,712	28,861	79%	30,456	42,313	72%	34%	47%
Indonesian	7,111	14,157	50%	12,657	24,511	52%	78%	73%
Sri Lankan	4,276	5,714	75%	8,026	10,830	74%	88%	90%
Malaysian	1,667	3,465	48%	2,587	5,524	47%	55%	59%
Other specified Asian	4,224	11,502	37%					
Burmese				30,278	33,705	90%		
Nepalese				10,983	13,364	82%		
Bhutanese				4,061	5,188	78%		

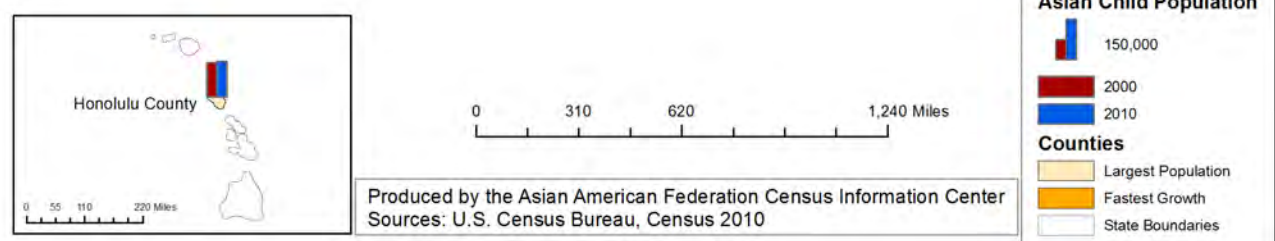SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2000 AND 2010 CENSUSES, SUMMARY FILE 2 NOTE: AOIC = ALONE OR IN COMBINATION

Map 1.1: Asian Child Population, 2010
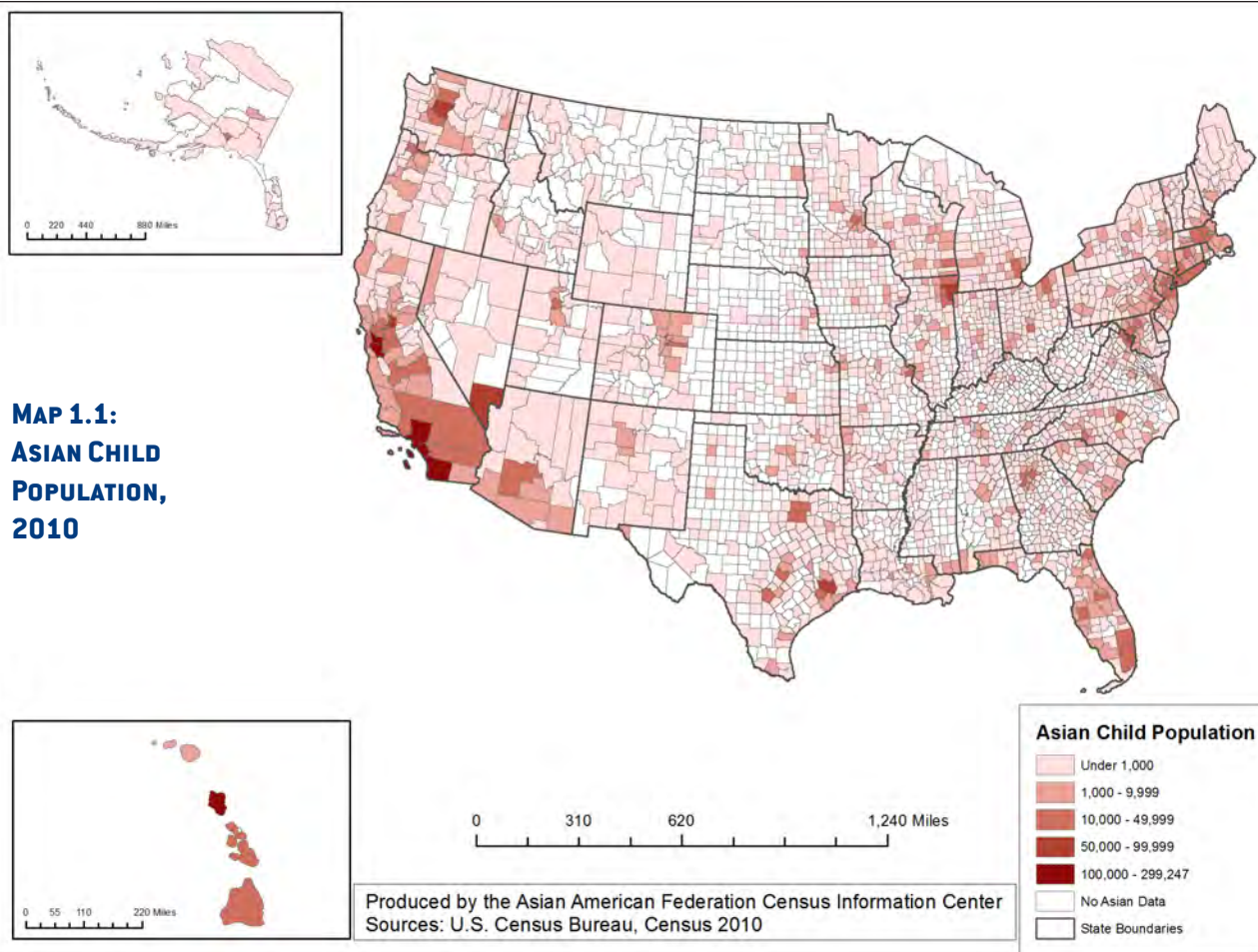
Map 1.2: Counties with the Largest and the Fastest Growing Asian Child Populations, 2000-2010

Note: For counties with more than 1000 Asian children

Indonesian children saw an increase in the share of respondents who were single-ethnicity. The groups that saw the largest decreases in the portion of children who were multiethnic were Laotians, Thai, Koreans, Japanese, and Cambodians.

Georaphic Distribution

The Asian child population is largely concentrated along the coastal areas of the United States and around urban areas in the central portion of the country (**Map 1.1**). Seven counties in the United States had more than 100,000 Asian children residing in them during the 2010 Census, up from five counties in 2000. Five of the seven counties were in California. Honolulu County in Hawaii and Queens County in New York made up the rest (**Map 1.2**). The counties with the fastest growing populations of Asian children were outside of the large Asian population centers of California, New York and Hawaii (**Map 1.2**).

However, the Asian ethnic group mix varies across the country (**Map 1.3**). Filipino children were the largest Asian group for many counties on the west coast while most of the counties where Indian children were most prevalent were in the eastern half of the United States. Chinese children were in plurality for many counties in the Northeastern United States. Hmong were the largest Asian groups in counties in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Carolina, and rural California. Vietnamese children were the most prevalent Asian group along the Gulf Coast.

Gender

Asians had slightly more males than females for all age groups under 25 years of age. However, compared to total population, Asians had relatively fewer males per 100 females particularly for the age groups of 5-9 years, 10-14 years and 20-24 years (**Chart 1.2**).

Among the Asian ethnic groups in general, males outnumbered females between the ages of 0 to 14 years (**Table 1.3**). The only major exception was for Chinese children, where females outnumbered males by a significant margin, especially between the ages of 5 to 14 years. For age 15 to 24 years, many Asian groups had substantial shifts in their gender ratios driven by immigration. Some groups,

MAP 1.3:
ASIAN ETHNICITY WITH LARGEST CHILD POPULATION BY COUNTY, 2010

Produced by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010
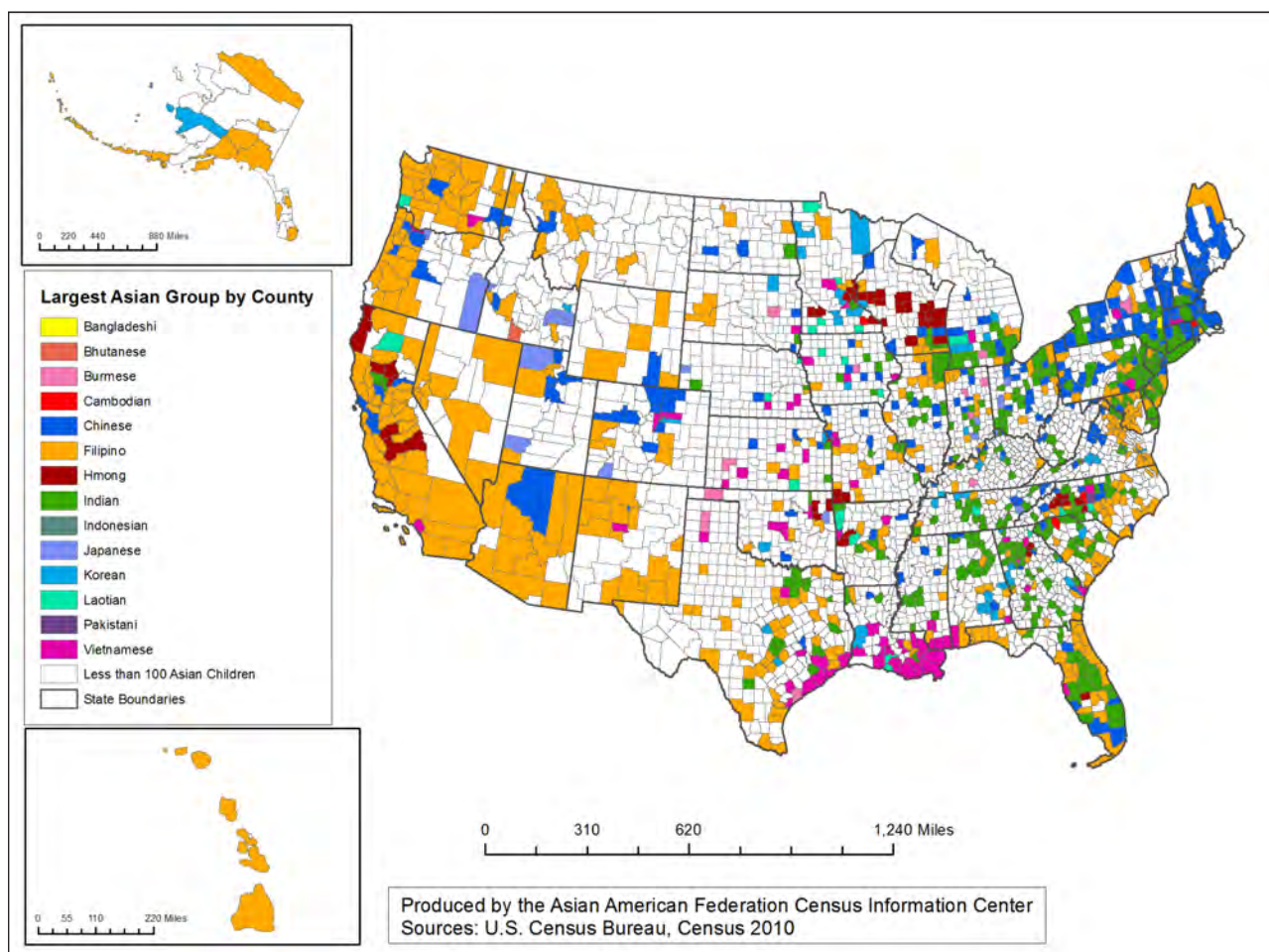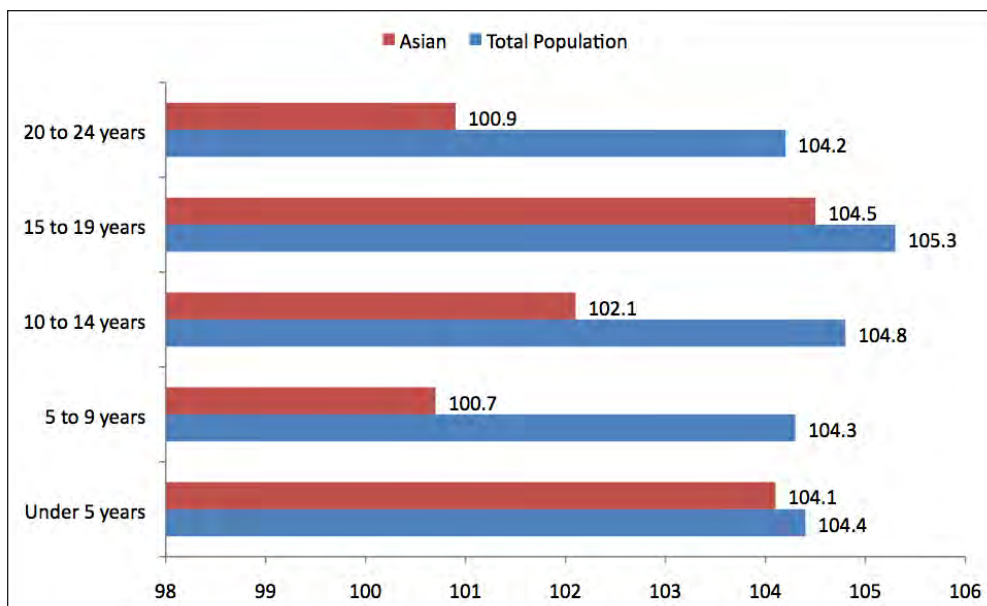
Chart 1.2: Males per 100 Females of Asians and Total Population in the United States, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Censuses, Summary File 2

such as Indian, Nepalese, and Sri Lankans, had a large influx of male youth. Other groups saw substantially more females entering the country: for example, Bangladeshi, Filipino, Japanese, Korean and Thai among others.

Immigration and Citizenship

Asian American children were less likely to be immigrants, compared to other age groups. The percentages of

foreign-born children were 31 percent for 15-19 years, 22 percent for 10-14 years, 15 percent for 5-9 years, and 7 percent for under 5 years. There were more foreign-born Asian girls than boys at the age groups of under 5 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years (11,389; 18,181; and 3,571 more respectively). For the age group of 15-19 years, however, there were 13,072 more foreign-born Asian boys than girls.

TABLE 1.3: Males per 100 Females by Asian Group in the United States, 2010

Asian Group	Under 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 14 years	15 to 19 years	20 to 24 years
Bangladeshi	101.7	101.1	107.0	109.2	97.0
Bhutanese	107.5	109.2	96.5	110.2	108.4
Burmese	108.5	105.7	104.7	110.9	110.0
Cambodian	104.9	102.1	102.7	103.2	93.3
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	99.6	85.3	89.7	100.1	101.4
Filipino	106.2	106.3	105.5	104.6	98.4
Hmong	104.4	105.1	106.6	105.2	98.9
Indian	105.2	104.3	106.1	108.9	111.0
Indonesian	102.2	106.5	107.6	105.6	92.4
Japanese	103.1	104.9	104.7	99.5	94.2
Korean	107.0	107.5	108.6	106.1	92.8
Laotian	105.3	104.5	102.5	102.7	99.1
Malaysian	118.8	114.4	108.4	102.2	105.0
Nepalese	102.1	104.0	105.0	108.8	127.4
Pakistani	104.1	105.5	105.3	106.5	104.7
Sri Lankan	100.1	101.1	99.9	98.1	117.5
Taiwanese	106.6	107.1	105.3	103.5	95.2
Thai	105.1	103.8	104.1	96.8	82.1
Vietnamese	105.2	104.8	104.4	104.7	97.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Censuses, Summary File 2
Note: Asian groups use alone or in combination populations.

Chart 1.3: Percent of Foreign-Born Population of Asian Alone or in Combination by Age Group in the United States, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Age Group	Percent
75 years and over	76%
35 to 74 years	84%
25 to 34 years	70%
20 to 24 years	47%
15 to 19 years	31%
10 to 14 years	22%
5 to 9 years	15%
Under 5 years	7%
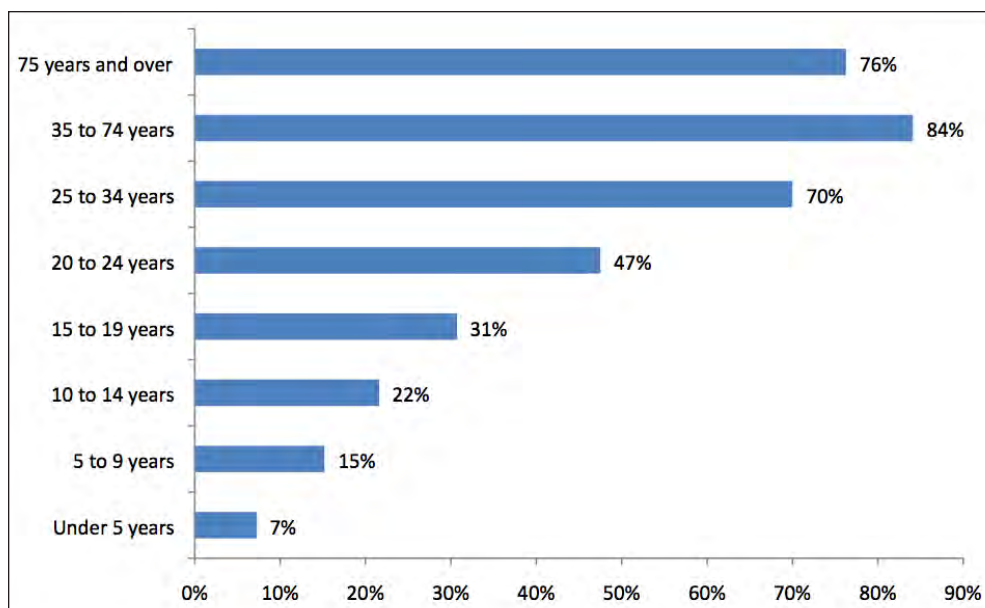
Chart 1.4: Naturalization Rates of Asian Alone or in Combination by Age Group in the United States, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Age Group	Percent
75 years and over	76%
35 to 74 years	66%
25 to 34 years	39%
20 to 24 years	38%
15 to 19 years	37%
10 to 14 years	33%
5 to 9 years	34%
Under 5 years	30%
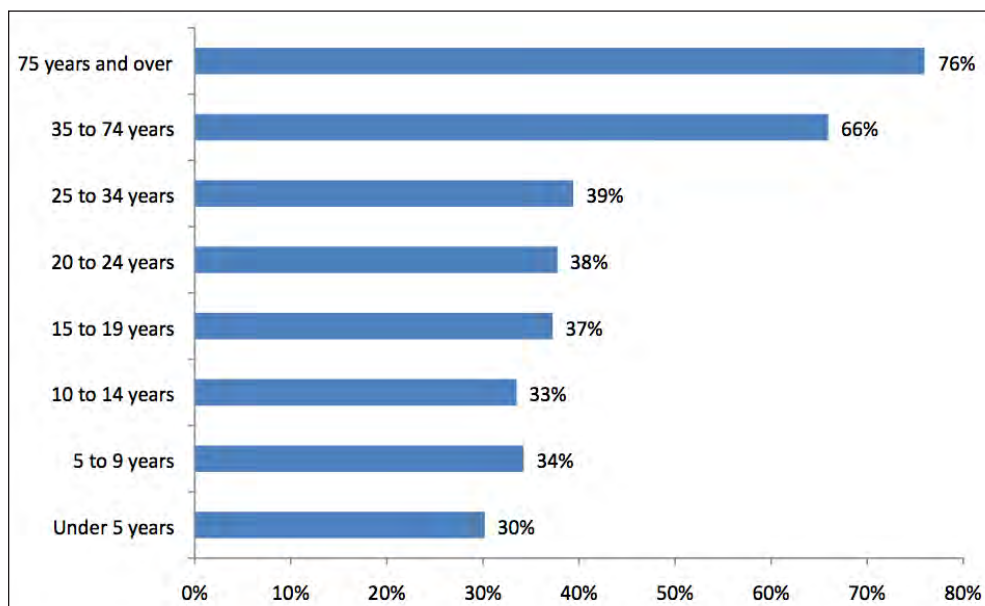
Table 1.4: Population of Adopted Children and Percent of Children who are Adopted by Major Population Group, 2010

Population Group	Population of Adopted Children	Percent of Children who were Adoptees
Total Population	1,615,976	2.2%
Non-Hispanic White Alone	793,448	2.0%
Black or African American Alone or in Combination	319,249	2.6%
Hispanics	312,375	1.9%
Asian Alone or in Combination	172,340	4.0%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)		

Foreign-born Asian children had relatively lower naturalization rates, compared to other age groups. Only 37 percent of Asian children 15-19 years, 34 percent of those 5-9 years, 33 percent of those 10-14 years, and 30 percent of those under 5 years were citizens. Asian boys and girls of 15-19 years had similar naturalization rates (36 percent and 38 percent respectively). For the age groups of under 5 years, 5-9 years, and 10-14 years, higher percentages of Asian girls than boys were naturalized citizens (36 percent versus 22 percent, 44 percent versus 23 percent, 38 percent versus 29 percent respectively). We will see in the next section that the larger number of immigrant Asian girls and their higher naturalization rates are likely to be due to international adoptions.

Adoptees

Asian children overall were slightly more likely to be adopted than other children from the major population groups. In addition, a large gender imbalance exists among Asian adoptees compared to the other major population groups.

Chinese and Korean children were more likely than other Asian children to be adopted with about one in ten Chinese and Korean children being adoptees. Chinese, Korean and Thai adoptees were also overwhelmingly overseas adoptees, with between 72 to 87 percent being born abroad.

The gender imbalance among Asian adoptees is largely driven by Chinese overseas adoption. Over 1 in 5 Chinese

Table 1.5: Population of Adopted Children, Percent of Children who were Adopted, and Percent of Adoptees who were Foriegn-Born by Asian Group, 2010

Population Group	Population of Adopted Children	Percent of Children who were Adopted	Percent of Adoptees who were Foreign-Born
Chinese	75,186	11.3%	86.6%
Korean	27,717	9.8%	87.2%
Vietnamese	12,496	3.2%	53.1%
Indian	11,558	1.7%	55.9%
Filipino	11,180	2.2%	49.6%
Other Asian	3,860	1.4%	50.8%
Cambodian	3,002	4.8%	62.1%
Japanese	2,222	2.6%	59.8%
Thai	1,465	5.7%	72.0%
Pakistani	1,041	1.0%	45.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

American girls were adoptees, while only 1 in 40 Chinese American boys were adopted.

The state with the most Asian child adoptees was California, more than double that of New York in second place. However, Pennsylvania and Michigan had relatively higher concentration of adoptees within their Asian child populations. Neither state is known for especially large Asian populations.

Interethnic adoption is the norm for most Asian adoptees. The vast majority (83%) of Chinese and Korean adoptees were placed in exclusively White families. Only for Filipino, Indian and Pakistani adoptees were the majority of adoptees placed in homes with at least one parent of the same ethnicity.

TABLE 1.6: TOP 10 STATES WITH LARGEST ASIAN ALONE POPULATION OF ADOPTED CHILDREN, 2010

State	Population of Adopted Children	Percent Children who were Adopted
California	19,224	2%
New York	9,274	3%
Pennsylvania	7,974	10%
Illinois	7,814	6%
Texas	7,193	3%
Washington	6,105	6%
New Jersey	6,030	4%
Michigan	5,995	10%
Massachusetts	5,469	7%
Florida	5,000	5%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2008-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS)

CHART 1.6: PERCENT OF ADOPTEES WHERE NO PARENT IS THE SAME ETHNICITY AS THE ADOPTEE, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2008-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) NOTE: ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE POPULATIONS.
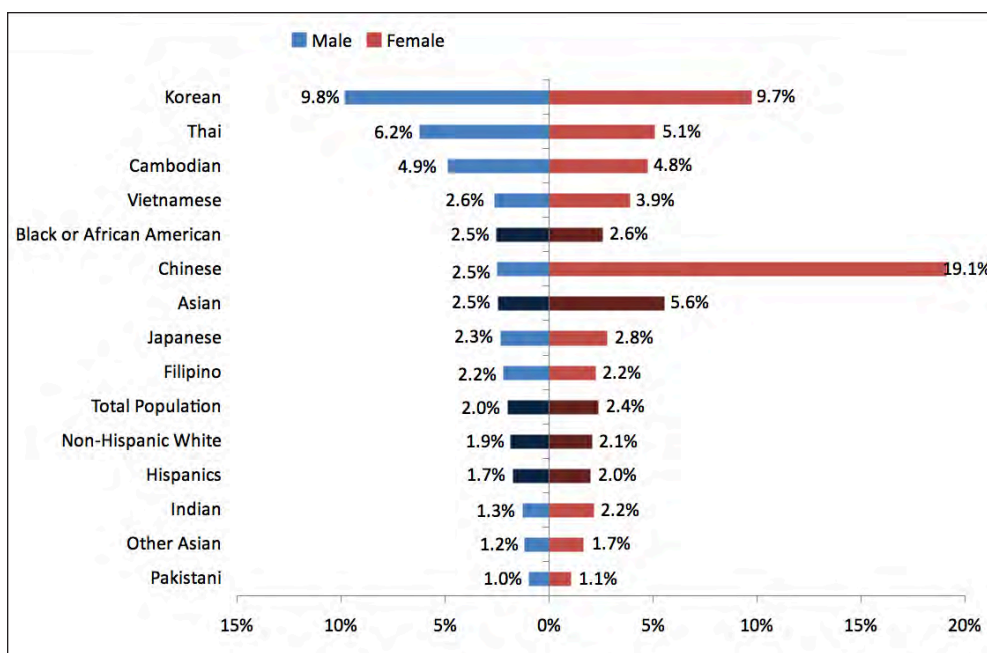

Ethnicity	Percent
Chinese	88%
Korean	88%
Thai	77%
Cambodian	70%
Vietnamese	64%
Japanese	58%
Asian Indian	40%
Filipino	31%
Pakistani	20%
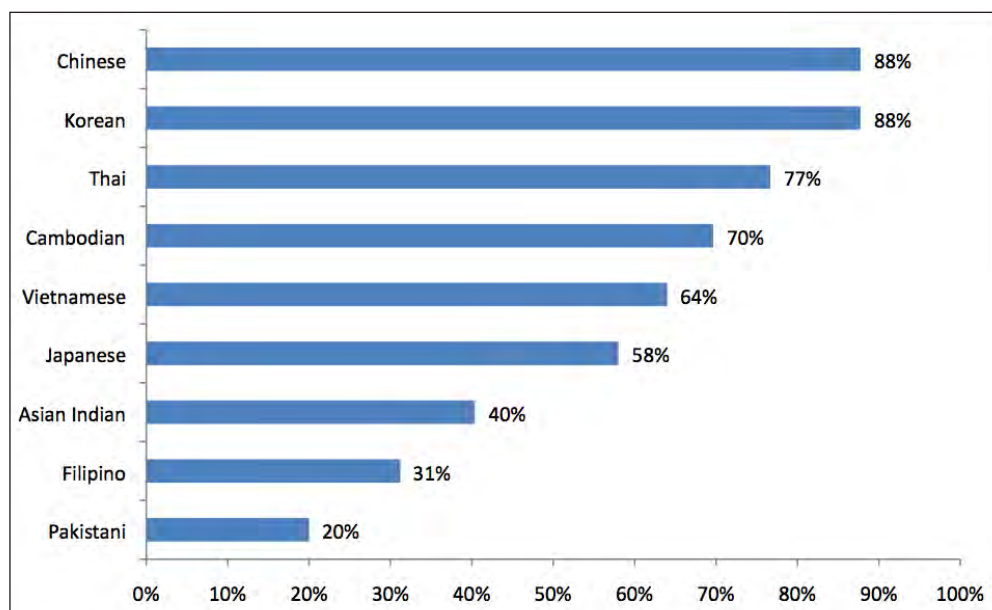
Education

As the population of Asian American children continues to grow and diversify, meeting the educational needs of these children presents many challenges. As we saw in the demographics chapter, Asian children were largely born in the United States, but their parents and their peers were mostly immigrants. Immigrant families face challenges with language access and learning to navigate an unfamiliar education system. In this chapter, we will present data that examines education measures to see the impact of these challenges on student achievement. Data on student test scores, high school graduation rates, college attendance, early education, and disconnected youth will be examined. Key findings include:

+ While national aggregate test scores highlight Asian student success, careful examination of local test scores indicate that Asian students from less privileged backgrounds underperform their district-wide classmates.

+ Cambodian, Laotian and Hmong youth had higher status dropout rates than non-Hispanic Whites. Other specified Asian groups (which include many of the newest immigrant and refugee groups such as Bhutanese, Burmese and Nepali) as a whole have the highest status dropout rates among the groups examined.

+ Less than half of Bhutanese, Burmese, Cambodians, Hmong, and Laotians ages 18 to 24 years were enrolled in college or graduate school.

+ The majority of pre-school aged children were not enrolled in early education programs for ten out of nineteen Asian groups.

+ Cambodian, Malaysian, and an aggregate group (Other Specified Asians) which includes recent Bhutanese and Burmese refugees, had higher rates of disconnected youth than Hispanic or Black communities. We define disconnected youth as those between age 16 to 24 who were neither in the labor force nor enrolled in school.
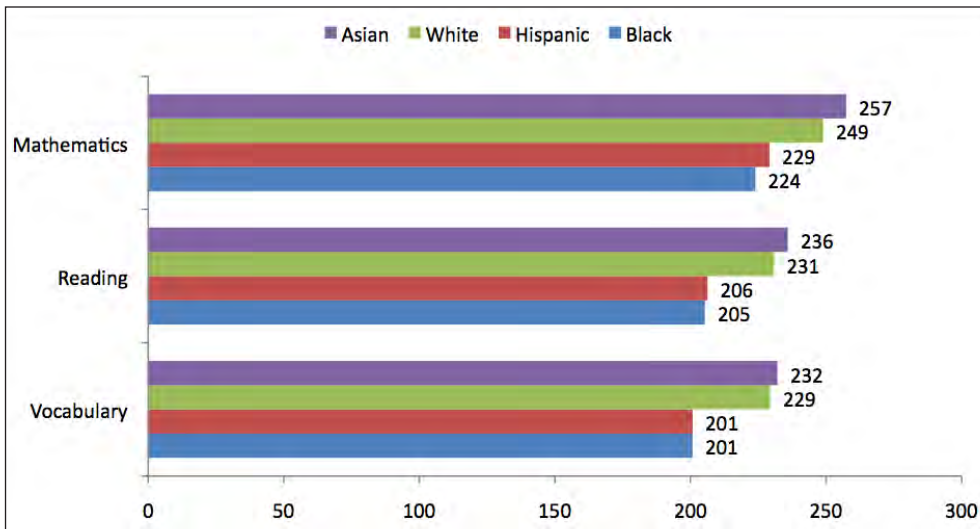
CHART 2.1 NATIONAL AVERAGE SCALE SCORES OF 4ᵀᴴ-GRADE STUDENTS ON SUBJECTS OF MATHEMATICS, READING AND VOCABULARY BY MAJOR POPULATION GROUP, 2011

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP), 2011
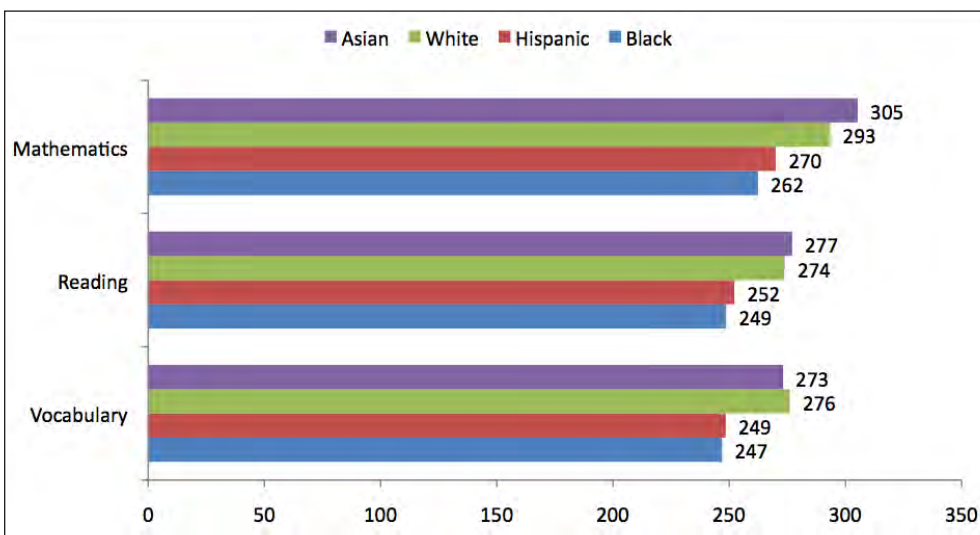
CHART 2.2 NATIONAL AVERAGE SCALE SCORES OF 8ᵀᴴ-GRADE STUDENTS ON SUBJECTS OF MATHEMATICS, READING AND VOCABULARY BY MAJOR POPULATION GROUP, 2011

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP), 2011

CHART 2.3 NATIONAL AVERAGE SCALE SCORES OF 12TH-GRADE STUDENTS ON SUBJECTS OF MATHEMATICS, READING AND VOCABULARY BY MAJOR POPULATION GROUP, 2009

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS (NAEP), 2009

Legend: Asian/Pacific Islander, White, Hispanic, Black

Subject	Asian/Pacific Islander	White	Hispanic	Black
Mathematics	175	161	138	131
Reading	298	296	274	269
Vocabulary	304	307	276	272
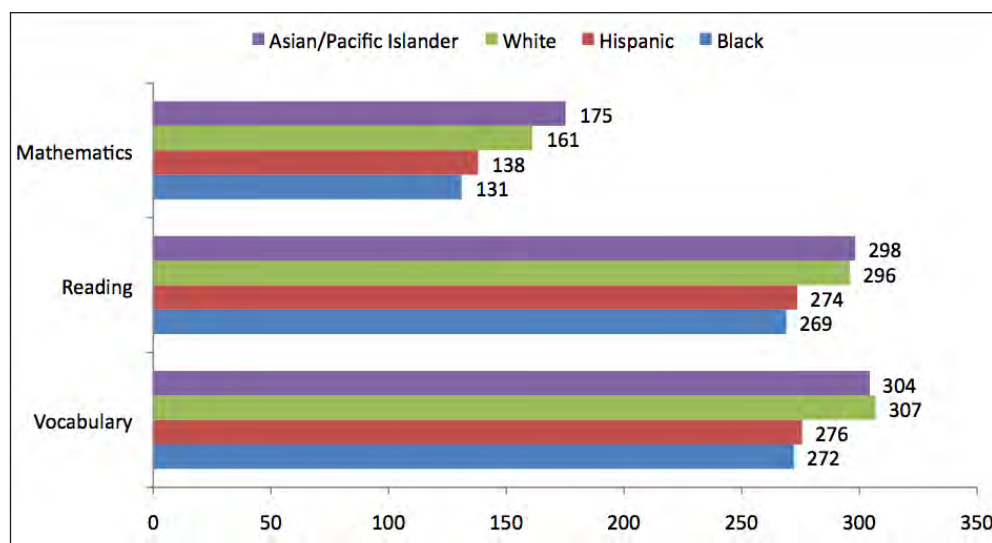
Test Scores

Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show that Asian students in aggregate perform at a high level. The average scores of 4th-grade Asian students in 2011 for mathematics, reading, and vocabulary were highest among major population groups. The 8th-grade Asian students in 2011 had the highest scores on mathematics and reading, but scored slightly lower than White students in vocabulary. The 12th-grade results were from 2009 and combined Asian and Pacific Islander students and saw similar results as the 8th-grade results from 2011.

While national aggregate test score data for Asian American children paint a picture of success, digging deeper and examining local data reveals areas where Asian American students are struggling to succeed. The two examples of local data below are not meant to single out the school districts but are to illustrate the need to pay attention to Asian

American student performance at the local level to ensure that children do not slip through the cracks.

Examining the most recently available test scores for Asian American students in New York City schools reveals several schools in Asian neighborhoods with performance below the citywide rate. In particular, for English language arts tests, schools in Manhattan's Chinatown, Chinese neighborhoods of Sunset Park and Bensonhurst, Bangladeshis near Parkchester in the Bronx, Bangladeshi and Pakistani neighborhoods in central Brooklyn, and Indian and Indo-Caribbean neighborhoods of Richmond Hills and South Ozone Park in Queens, all had Asian students scoring below the citywide rate. For mathematics tests, Asian student scored below the citywide rate in the South Asian neighborhoods of Parkchester in the Bronx, central Brooklyn, and Richmond Hills and South Ozone Park in Queens.

CHART 2.4 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL AVERAGED FRESHMAN GRADUATION RATE (AFGR) BY MAJOR POPULATION GROUP, SCHOOL YEAR 2009-10

SOURCE: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS, COMMON CORE OF DATA (CCD) STATE DROPOUT AND COMPLETION DATA FILE, SCHOOL YEAR 2009–10

Population Group	AFGR
Asian/Pacific Islander	94%
White	83%
Hispanic	71%
Black	66%
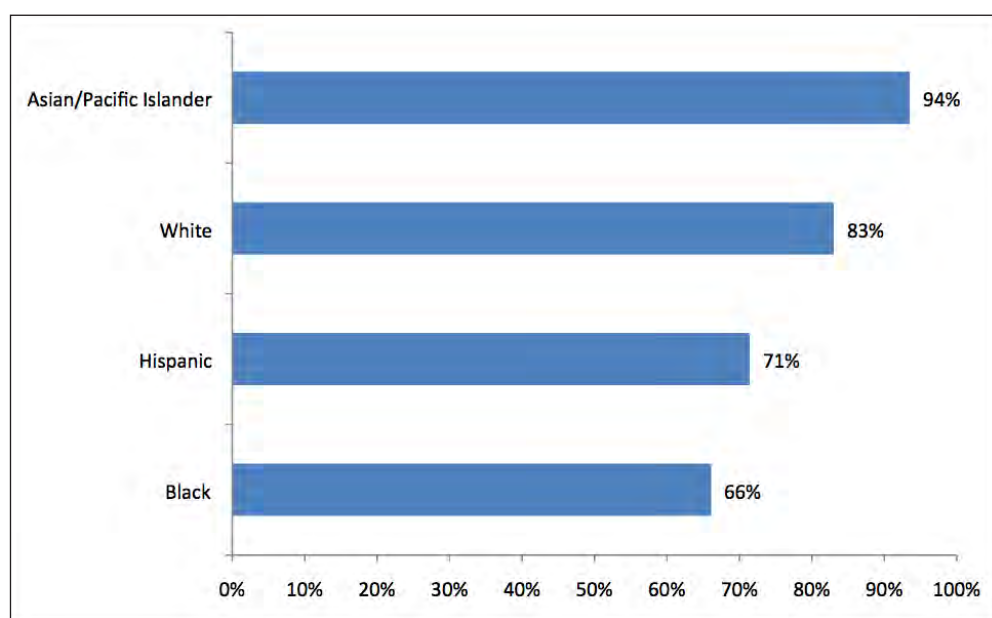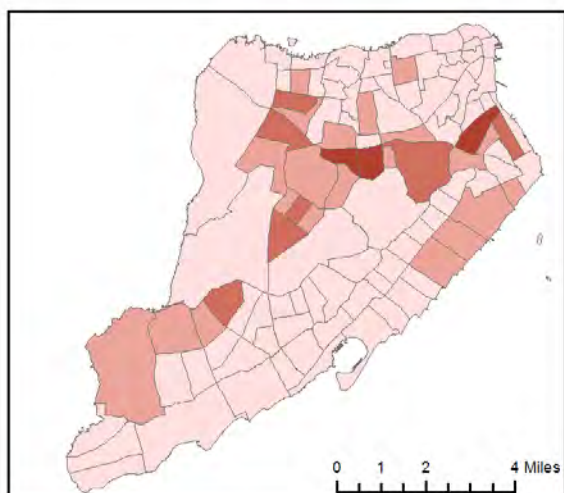
Lower than the citywide rate of 26.4%

Asian Child Population

- 0 - 99
- 100 - 199
- 200 - 299
- 300 - 499
- 500 - 1553

19.8%

18.1%

24.9%

25%

18.4%   18.5%

14.3%   26.1%

20.1%   25.2%

25.1%   25.6%   22.9%

23.1%
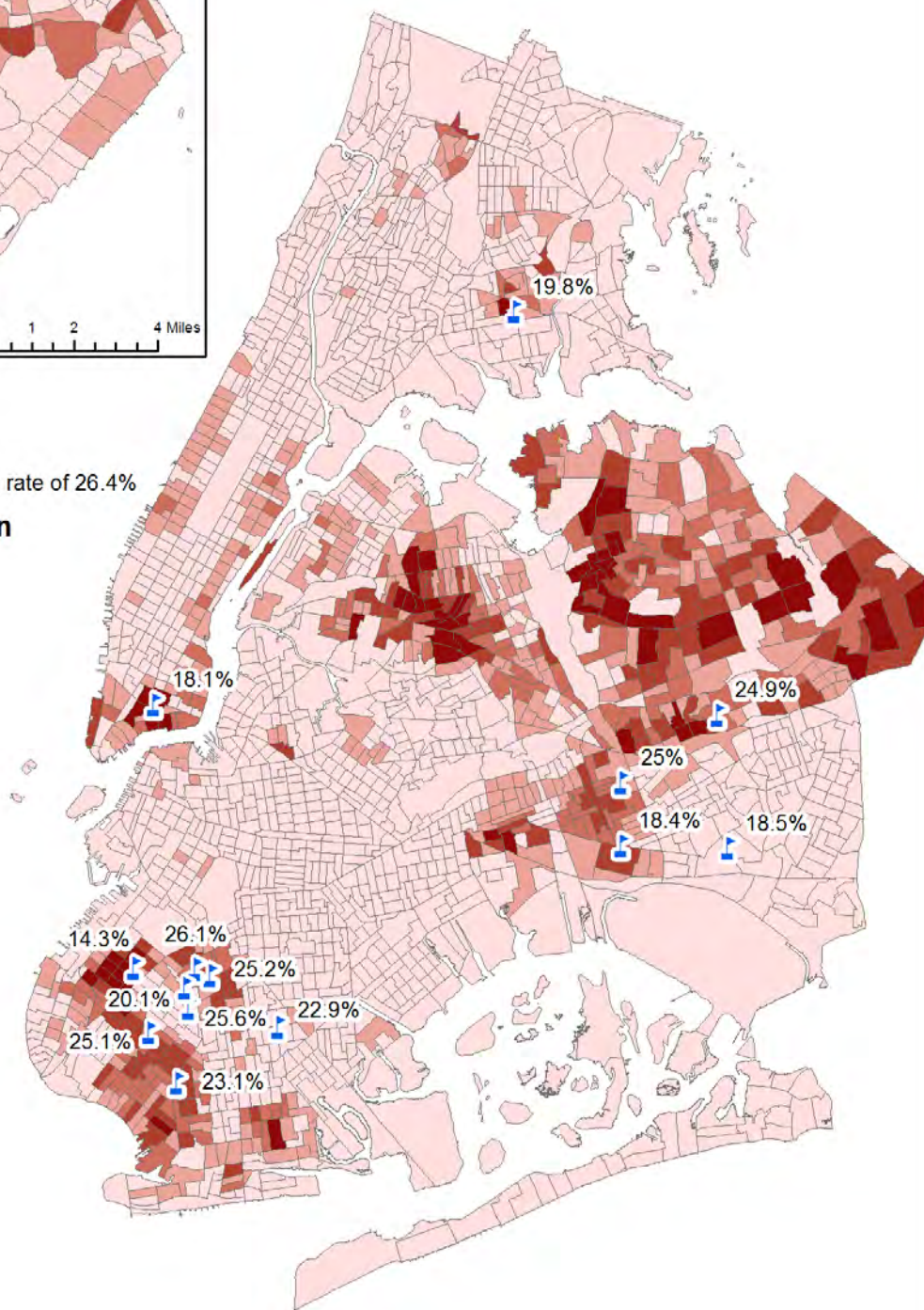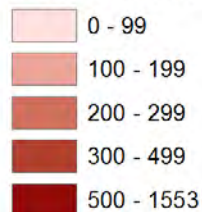
MAP 2.1: RESULTS FOR ASIAN STUDENTS IN NEW YORK CITY ON NEW YORK STATE 2013 ELA TEST (GRADES 3-8)
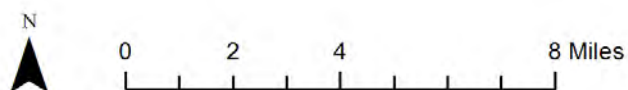
0   1   2   4 Miles

N

0   2   4   8 Miles

Produced by the Asian American Federation
Census Information Center
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010;
New York City Department of Education

Lower than the citywide rate of 29.6%

Asian Child Population

	0 - 99
	100 - 199
	200 - 299
	300 - 499
	500 - 1553

24.2%

28.9%

20.6%   20.2%

29.2%   26.7%

**MAP 2.2: RESULTS FOR
ASIAN STUDENTS IN
NEW YORK CITY ON NEW
YORK STATE 2013 MATH TEST
(GRADES 3-8)**

Produced by the Asian American Federation
Census Information Center
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010;
New York City Department of Education

N

0   2   4   8 Miles

0   1   2   4 Miles
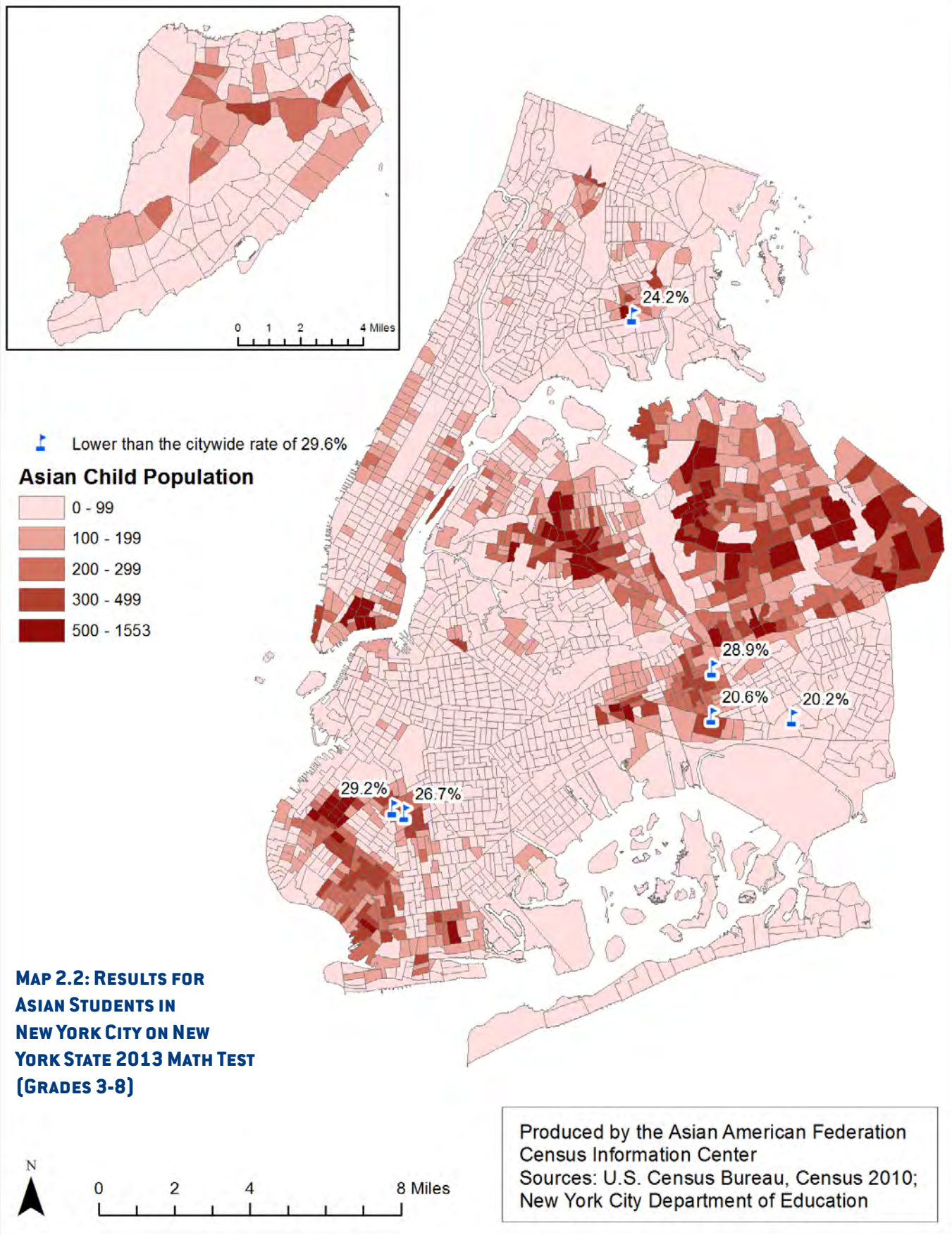
In another example, the St. Paul Public School District in Minnesota has a high concentration of Hmong students. The 2012 American Community Survey estimates that three-quarters of all Asian K-12 children were Hmong. In addition, within the last five years, a wave of Burmese refugees primarily of Karen ethnicity have been resettled in St. Paul, increasing the need for classes and services for English language learners in a language not previously served. As a consequence, a little more than one in four Asian students in the St. Paul Public School Districts were deemed proficient in state reading tests and 42% were proficient in math during 2013, as reported by the Minnesota Department of Education through their Minnesota Report Card website. By comparison, around 70 percent of non-Hispanic White children were proficient in reading and math.

High School Graduation

Another way to measure Asian American student achievement is to examine high school graduation rates. Reflecting the national aggregate test scores, Asians as a whole across the nation tended to graduate high school (**Chart 2.4**). The Averaged Freshman Graduation Rate of Asian/Pacific
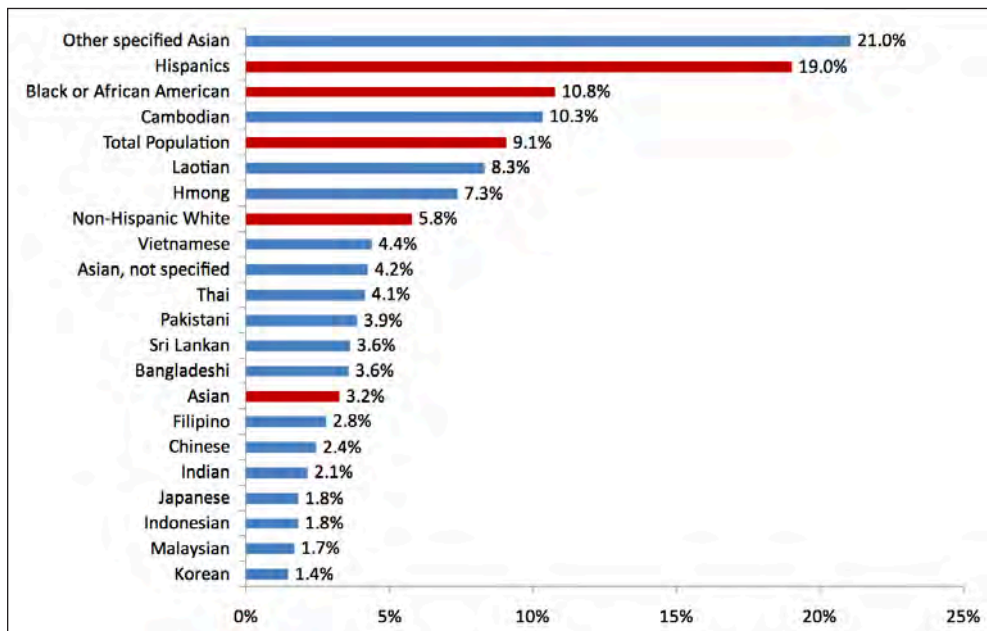
CHART 2.5 PERCENT OF 16- TO 24-YEAR-OLDS WHO WERE HIGH SCHOOL STATUS DROPOUTS BY POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) NOTE: ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE POPULATIONS.
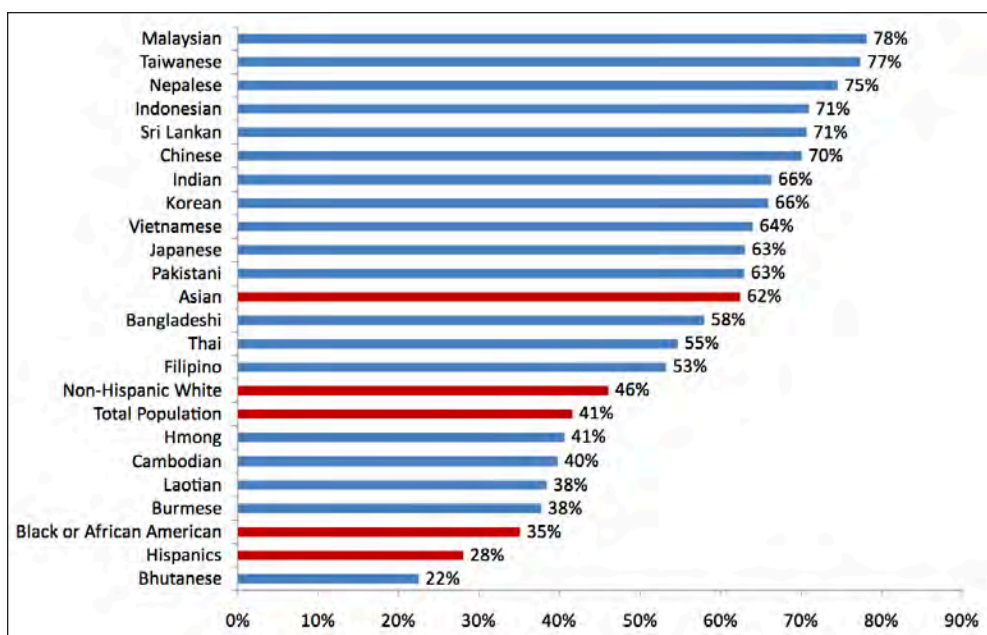
CHART 2.6 PERCENT OF 18- TO 24-YEAR-OLDS WHO WERE ENROLLED IN COLLEGE OR GRADUATE SCHOOL BY POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) SELECTED POPULATION TABLES NOTE: 1. ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE OR IN COMBINATION POPULATIONS; 2. CHINESE POPULATION EXCLUDES THOSE WHO IDENTIFIED AS TAIWANESE, WHO ARE TABULATED SEPARATELY.

CHART 2.7 PERCENT OF 3- TO 4-YEAR-OLDS BY TYPE OF SCHOOL BY MAJOR POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) SELECTED POPULATION TABLES

Legend: ■ Enrolled in public school ■ Enrolled in private school ■ Not enrolled in school

Group	Enrolled in public school	Enrolled in private school	Not enrolled in school
Asian	20%	34%	46%
Black or African American	36%	15%	49%
Non-Hispanic White	22%	28%	50%
Total Population	26%	22%	52%
Hispanics	29%	10%	61%
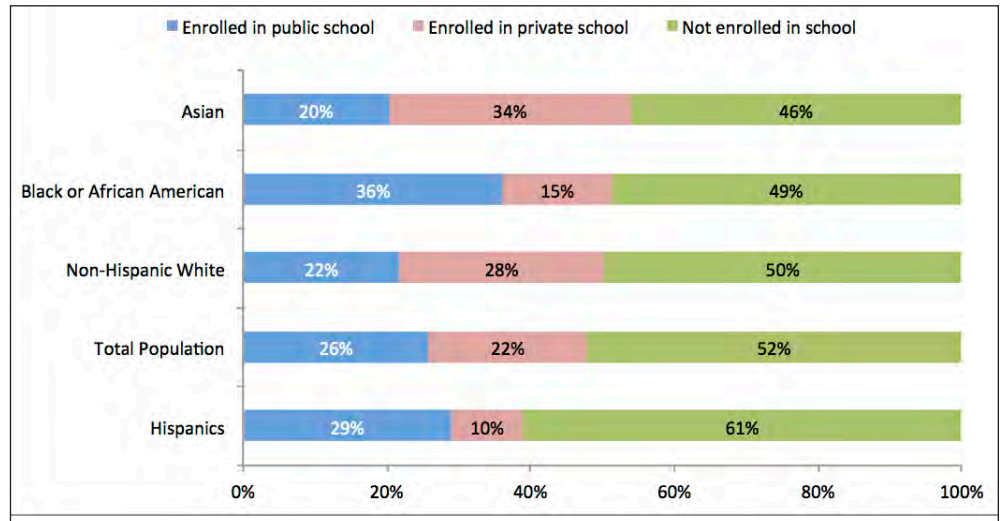
CHART 2.8 PERCENT OF 3- TO 4-YEAR-OLDS BY TYPE OF SCHOOL BY ASIAN GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) SELECTED POPULATION TABLES
NOTE: 1. ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE OR IN COMBINATION POPULATIONS;
2. CHINESE POPULATION EXCLUDES THOSE WHO IDENTIFIED AS TAIWANESE, WHO ARE TABULATED SEPARATELY.

Legend: ■ Enrolled in public school ■ Enrolled in private school ■ Not enrolled in school

Group	Enrolled in public school	Enrolled in private school	Not enrolled in school
Sri Lankan	26%	46%	27%
Taiwanese	20%	48%	32%
Chinese	21%	42%	37%
Bhutanese	39%	23%	38%
Indian	18%	44%	38%
Japanese	17%	45%	38%
Korean	20%	39%	42%
Malaysian	21%	35%	45%
Pakistani	23%	27%	50%
Filipino	20%	26%	54%
Vietnamese	24%	21%	55%
Thai	16%	27%	56%
Indonesian	19%	25%	56%
Burmese	28%	13%	59%
Nepalese	17%	21%	62%
Bangladeshi	23%	11%	66%
Laotian	23%	8%	69%
Hmong	22%	4%	74%
Cambodian	13%	11%	76%
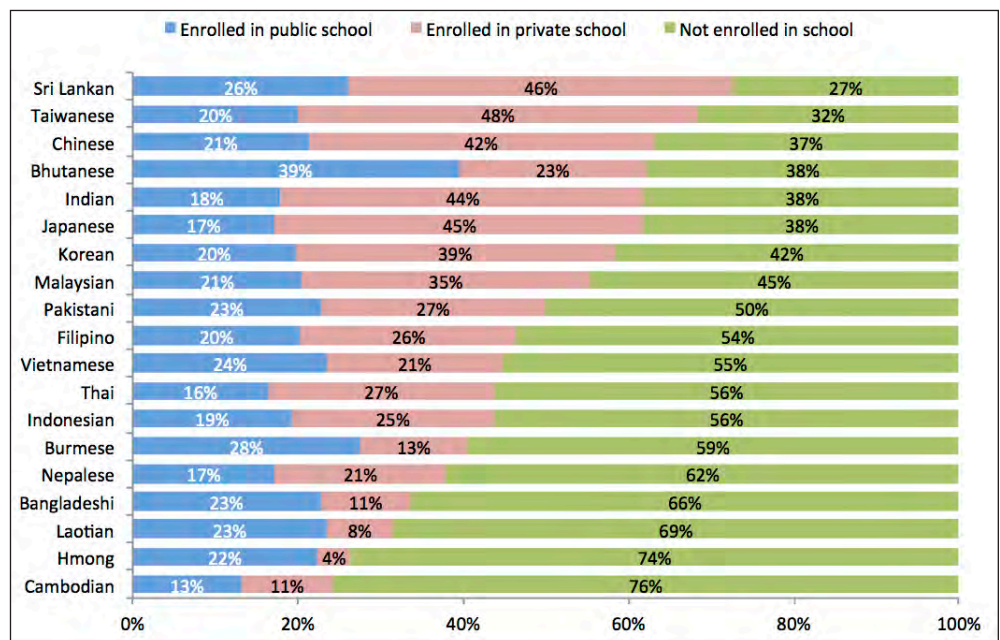
Islander students was highest at 94 percent among major population groups. Status dropout rates (the percent of 16-24 year olds who are not enrolled in school and did not have a high school diploma) were lower than Blacks, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic Whites (**Chart 2.5**). However, Cambodian, Laotian and Hmong had higher status dropout rates than non-Hispanic Whites. Other specified Asian groups (which include many of the newest immigrant and refugee groups such as Bhutanese, Burmese and Nepali) as a whole have the highest status dropout rates among the groups examined.

College Attendance

While college attendance rates among Asians as a whole and for many Asian groups reflect the stereotype of the model minority, several groups were less likely to be enrolled in college or graduate school than the general population of 18 to 24 year olds (**Chart 2.6**). Among them, Bhutanese had lowest percent at 22 percent, followed by 38 percent of Burmese and Laotians, 40 percent of Cambodians, and 41 percent of Hmong.
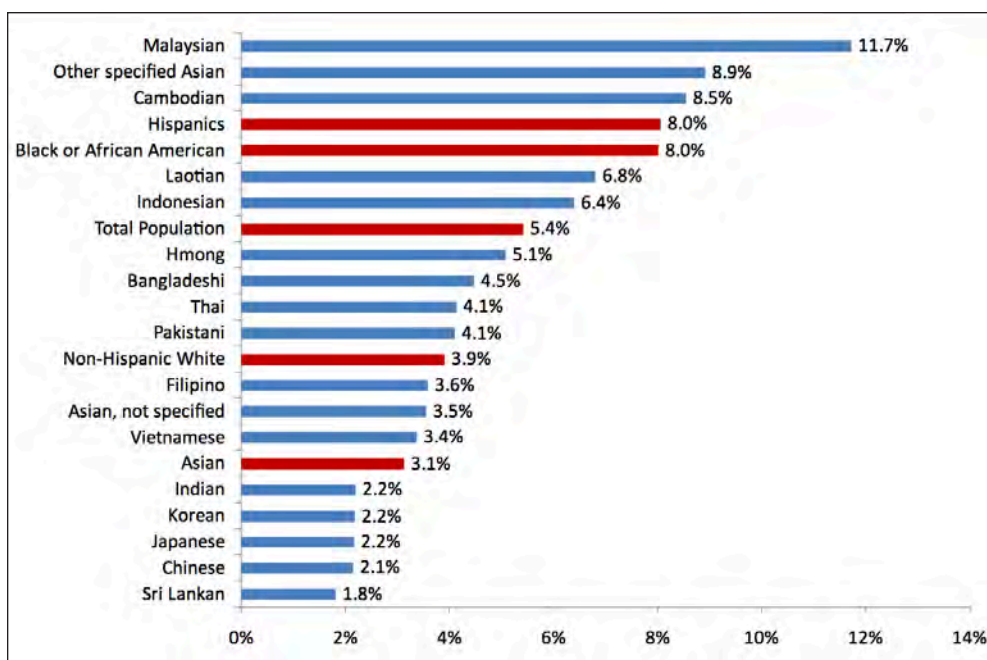
Early Education

Over half of 3- to 4-year-old Asian children were enrolled in school, higher than any other major population groups.

About half of 19 Asian groups had at least half of 3- to 4-year-old children enrolled in school. Among them, The percent of Sri Lankan children who were enrolled in school was highest at 73 percent. On the other hand, only one in four Hmong or Cambodian children was enrolled in school.

More 3- to 4-year-old Asian children were enrolled in private school than public school. About one in three Asian children were enrolled in private school, while one in five were enrolled in public school.

About 7 out of 19 Asian groups had more 3- to 4-year-old children enrolled in public school than private school.

Among them, the public school enrollment rate of Bhutanese children was highest at 39 percent, followed by 28 percent of Burmese children. On the other hand, almost half of Taiwanese children were enrolled in private school, more than doubling the size of those enrolled in public school.

Disconnected Youth

Youth who were neither actively engaged in school or in the labor force were defined as disconnected youth. Asian youth in aggregate were less likely than Blacks, Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites to be disconnected (**Chart 2.9**). However, Malaysians, "other specified Asians"(which include more recently arrived Asian groups such as Bhutanese, Burmese, and Nepalese), and Cambodians all had higher disconnected youth rates than Blacks and Hispanics. Six other Asian groups had higher disconnected youth rates than non-Hispanics Whites.

Health

The diversity within the Asian American community provides health policy and program challenges. This chapter will present some data on health status to illustrate the importance of approaching health studies on the Asian American children in a disaggregated fashion. We will also cover data on health care access, including dental and medical utilization and health insurance coverage. Key findings include:

- While Asian children overall were less likely to have asthma in their lifetime, Filipino children had lifetime asthma rates as high as Black children.
- Filipino children were more than twice as likely that other Asian groups examined to have been diagnosed with diabetes at similar rates to that of Hispanic children.
- Asian females from 15 to 24 years old were more likely to die by suicide than Black and Hispanic females.
- Asian children were more likely to visit the dentist every six months than other population groups. However, while Chinese, Filipino and Indian children were more likely to visit the dentist regularly than children in general, the remaining Asian groups in aggregate had regular dental visits at a similar rate to children in general.
- Asian children who were not Chinese, Filipino nor Indian were more likely to not have a usual place for medical care than almost all other population groups examined. Only Hispanic children were more likely to be without a usual place for medical care.

- Korean children were the least likely to have health insurance. Seven additional Asian groups had more than 1 in 10 uninsured children, higher than the national uninsured rate for all children.

Asthma

Nationally Asian children have similar rates of asthma as non-Hispanic Whites. However, Filipino children have higher rates of asthma than other Asian and non-Hispanic White children (**Chart 3.1**).

Among those who ever had asthma, the percent of Asian children who still have asthma was lower than Blacks, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic Whites. Though Indians had the lowest asthma rate, almost all Indian children who were ever told had asthma still had it.

California data suggest that Asian children born in the US were more likely to have an asthma diagnosis than foreign-born Asian children. Davis, Kreutzer, Lipsett, King, and Shaikh (2006) found that based on the California Health Interview Survey, Asians born in the United States have a 2.5 times greater probability of having an asthma diagnosis than foreign-born Asians who have not become naturalized. Foreign-born Asians who have become naturalized have asthma prevalence 50% higher than those who have not become naturalized. This pattern holds even when investigating Asian Americans only between the ages of 11 and 18 years.

Chart 3.1 Percent of Children Under 18 Years Who Were Ever Told Had Asthma by Population Group, Average 2006-2010

Source: Minnesota Population Center and State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Integrated Health Interview Series: Version 5.0. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2012. 2006-2010 single-year datasets. https://www.ihis.us

Population Group	Percent
Black or African American	20%
Filipino	17%
Total Population	14%
Non-Hispanic White	12%
Hispanics	12%
Asian	11%
Chinese	10%
Other Asian	9%
Indian	8%

Javier, Huffman, and Mendoza (2007) found that according to a California survey of 7th, 9th, and 11th grade students conducted from 2001 to 2003, Filipinos have the highest lifetime asthma prevalence rates (23.3%) among API subgroups. This prevalence rate is lower than the rate for African Americans, higher than the rate for Whites and Asians overall, and comparable with the rate for Puerto Ricans, an already recognized high-risk population.

Diabetes

Just as in the asthma data, disaggregating prevalence data for diabetes reveals one ethnic group standing out from the rest. Filipino children were more than twice as likely that other Asian groups examined to have been diagnosed with diabetes at similar rates to that of Hispanic children.

CHART 3.4 PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS WHO HAD FLU SHOT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY POPULATION GROUP, 2006-2010

SOURCE: MINNESOTA POPULATION CENTER AND STATE HEALTH ACCESS DATA ASSISTANCE CENTER, INTEGRATED HEALTH INTERVIEW SERIES: VERSION 5.0. MINNEAPOLIS: UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, 2012. 2006-2010 SINGLE-YEAR DATASETS. HTTPS://WWW.IHIS.US
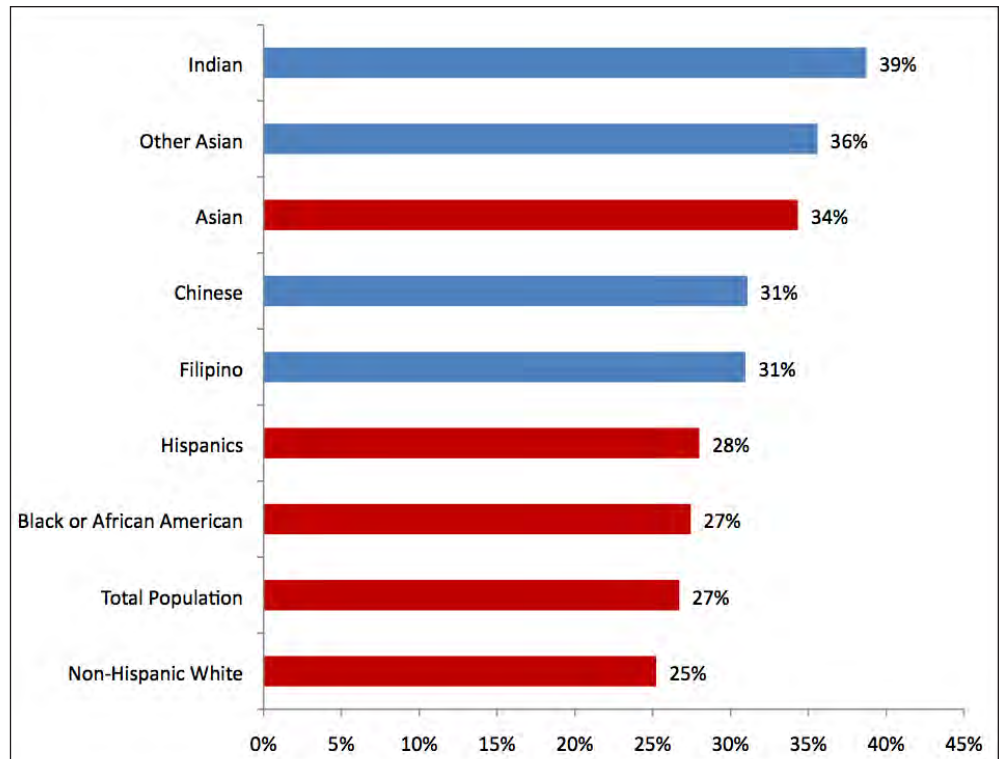
CHART 3.5 CRUDE DEATH RATES FOR INTENTIONAL SELF-HARM FOR FEMALES, 1999-2010

SOURCE: CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION, CDC WONDER, HTTP://WONDER.CDC.GOV/
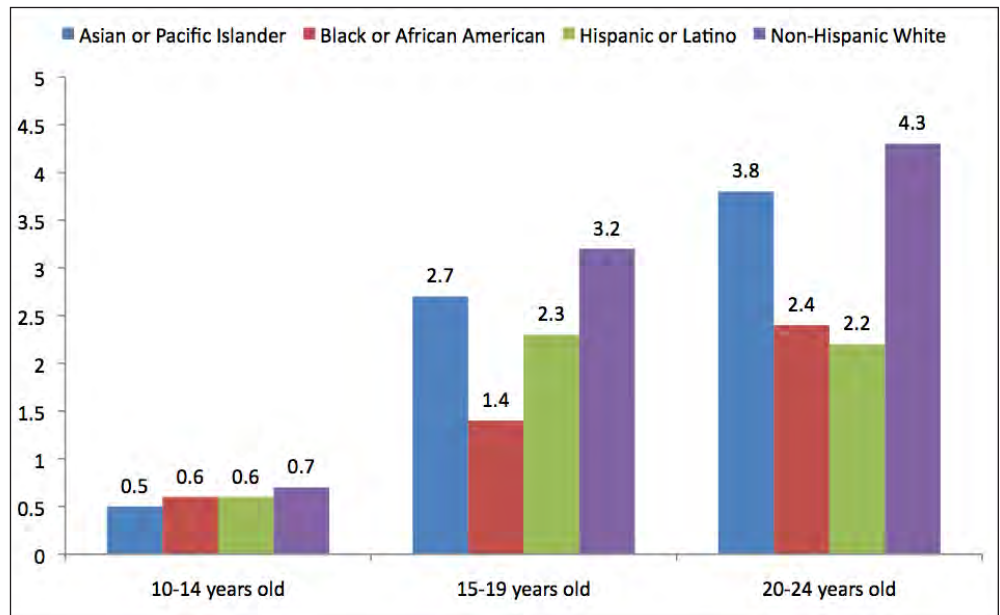
Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations are required annually for maximum protective effect. Flu vaccination rates demonstrate both children's access to medical care as well as parental views on the importance of vaccination. NHIS data show that the percent of Asian children who had flu shots annually was highest among the major race groups examined.

While only half of non-Hispanic Asian females between the ages of 13-17 were likely to start the HPV vaccine series (similar to non-Hispanic Whites and Blacks, but lower than Hispanic and Native American females), Asian females were more likely than all groups to complete the HPV vaccine series (86.0 percent compared to 69.6 percent of all races). (Maternal and Child Health Bureau, 2013)

Suicide

Vital statistics data collected by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) only reports data for Asians and Pacific Islanders in aggregate. Existing literature on race reporting on death certificates suggest that Asian deaths are underreported slightly due to discrepancies between races identified on death certificates versus personal self-identification.

Intentional self-harm, as reported in the CDC Vital Statistics, was the fourth most common cause of death for 10-14 year old Asians and Pacific Islanders, for both boys and girls. The rates were also below that for Blacks, Hispanics, and non-Hispanic Whites. However, as girls got older, crude death rates due to suicide among Asian and Pacific Islander females from ages 15-24 became higher than that for Black and Hispanic girls and young women. Asian males also saw an increase in crude death rates due to suicide, but the rates never passed the other three groups.

Dental

Asian children had similar rate seeing a dentist every six months as non-Hispanic White children. Other Asian

Chart 3.8 Percent of Children Under 18 Years Who Had No Health Insurance by Population Group, 2010 (For groups with children 20,000 and above)

Population Group	Percent
Korean	17.4%
Hispanics	15.9%
Thai	13.0%
Pakistani	12.8%
Laotian	12.2%
Bangladeshi	12.1%
Cambodian	10.8%
Asian, not specified	10.4%
Vietnamese	10.2%
Total Population	8.7%
Black or African American	7.7%
Asian	7.3%
Indian	6.5%
Chinese	6.2%
Non-Hispanic White	5.9%
Filipino	5.8%
Hmong	5.8%
Japanese	4.2%
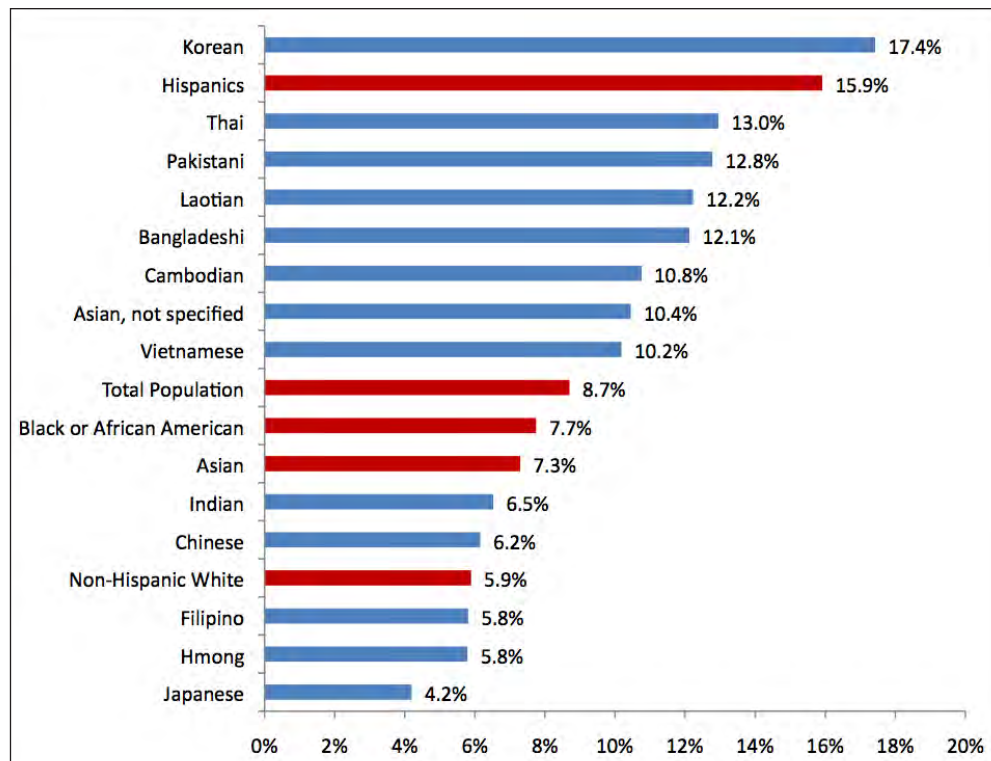
Chart 3.9 Percent of Children Under 18 Years Who Had At Least Six Months without Health Coverage by Population Group, Average Number of 2006-2010

Population Group	Percent
Hispanics	2.2%
Total Population	1.6%
Non-Hispanic White	1.4%
Black or African American	1.4%
Other Asian	1.1%
Asian	1.0%
Filipino	1.0%
Indian	1.0%
Chinese	1.0%
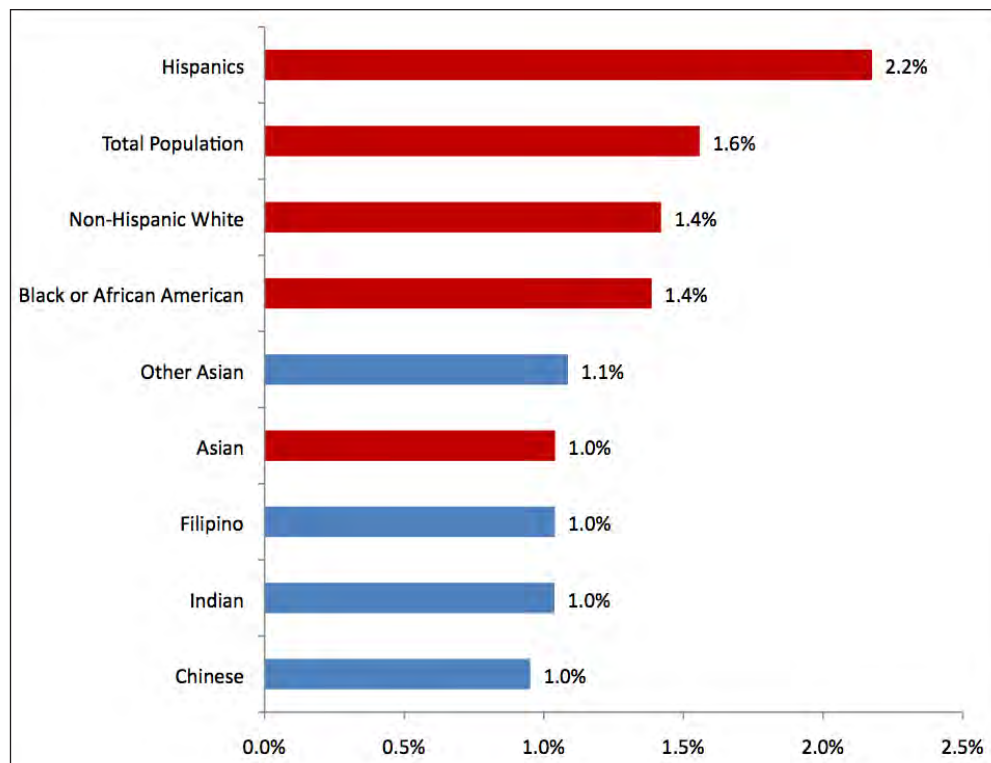
children as a group had lower rates of seeing a dentist every six months than Chinese, Filipino and Indian children.

Data from local sources suggest that further disaggregation is needed. In a study from California, Yu, Huang, and Singh (2010) found that more than one third of South Asian children aged 3 years and older had never seen a dentist.

Most South Asian groups are aggregated in the Other Asian category.

In a study of children in Hawaii, Javier et al. (2007) found that Filipino children stand out as having one of the highest rates of dental caries (defined as decayed and filled teeth), a rate nearly three times the national average. Also,

the proportion of Filipino children with baby bottle tooth decay and unmet dental treatment needs is higher than the proportion of White children.

Access to Medical Care

According to the NHIS, the percent of Asian children without usual place for medical care was higher than those of Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites, but lower than those of Hispanics. Chinese, Filipino and Indian children were as likely as Black children to be without a usual place for medical care, while the remaining Asian groups in aggregate ranked second behind Hispanic children.

In a study of children in California, Yu et al. (2010) found that Korean and Vietnamese children were more likely to be without a usual place for health care and to have had no
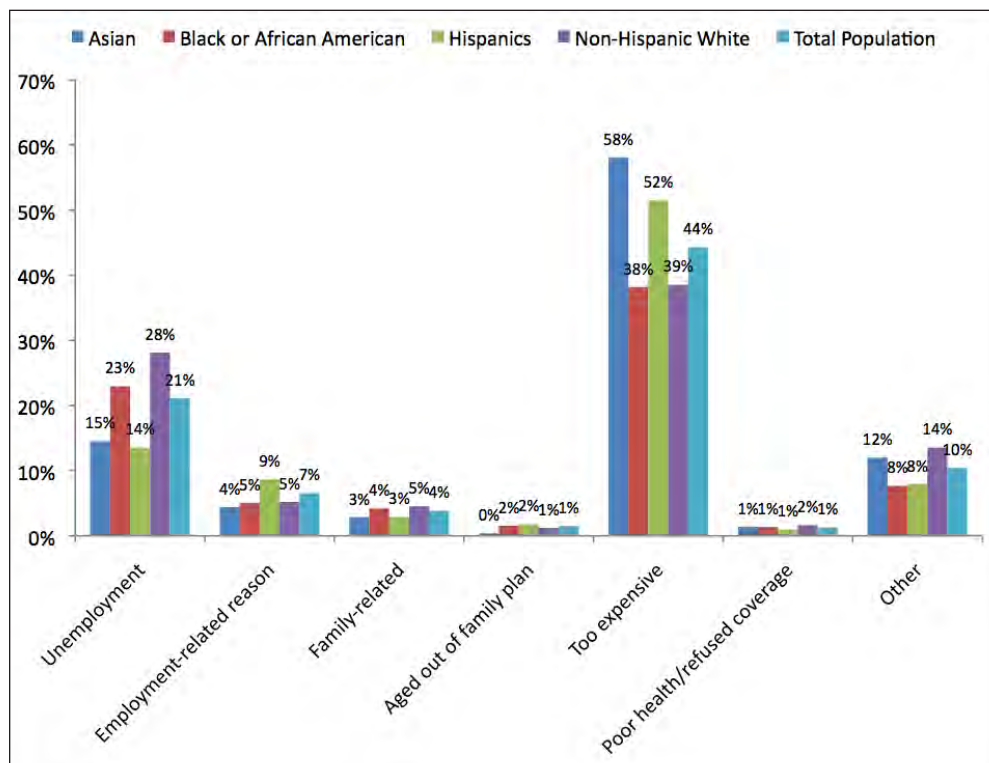
Chart 3.10 Reasons for No Insurance of Children Under 18 Years by Population Group, Average Number of 2006-2010

Source: Minnesota Population Center and State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Integrated Health Interview Series: Version 5.0. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2012. 2006-2010 single-year datasets. https://www.ihis.us
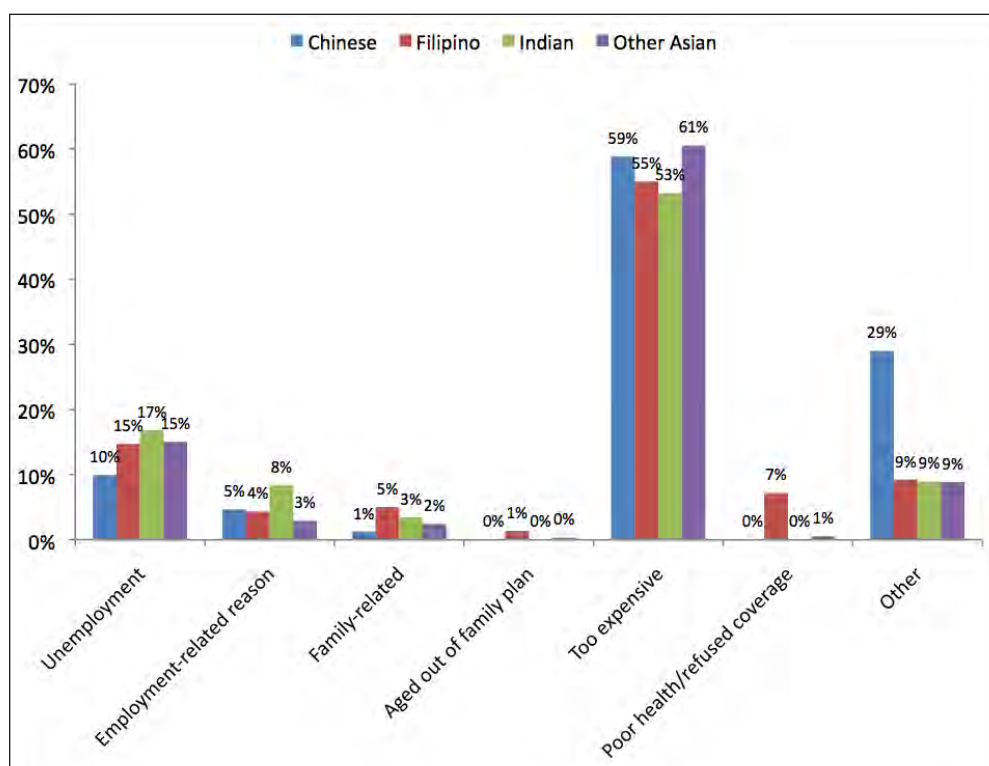
Chart 3.11 Reasons for No Insurance of Children Under 18 Years by Asian Group, Average Number of 2006-2010

Source: Minnesota Population Center and State Health Access Data Assistance Center, Integrated Health Interview Series: Version 5.0. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2012. 2006-2010 single-year datasets. https://www.ihis.us

contact with a health professional within the past 12 months than were non-Hispanic White children. Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese children were more likely to not have had a well-child visit within the past 12 months than were non-Hispanic White children. Except for South Asians, children in all Asian groups were less likely to have had an emergency room visit within the past year than were non-Hispanic White children.

Health Insurance

Over nine in ten Asian children were covered by health insurance, which was similar to those of non-Hispanic White and Black children. Over half of Asian children had private insurance, slightly lower to that of non-Hispanic White children. All the Asian groups had about nine in ten children covered by health insurance, and over half of children had private insurance.

The insurance coverage for Asians was steady from 2006 to 2010, with a slight increase of public insurance rate and drop of private insurance rate. Chinese saw a huge drop of health insurance coverage, particularly for private insurance.

The percent of Asian children without health insurance for at least half a year was similar to those of Black and non-Hispanic White children. Other Asian children had the highest rate of no health insurance for at least half a year.

For over half of Asian children who did not have insurance, expense was given as the reason for non-coverage.

Based on California Health Interview Survey, Yu et al. (2010) found that Korean, Filipino, and Vietnamese children were more likely to be without health insurance at the time of the interview than were non-Hispanic White children. Nearly 13% of Korean children were uninsured.

Family Structure and Language

The aggregate picture of Asian Americans paints a portrait of traditional family values and stability. However, disaggregated data reveals areas where the Asian stereotype of married couple families breaks down. This chapter will examine Asian children's home environments through data on family structure, divorce rates, birth rates, and languages spoken at home. Some key findings include:

+ Despite the aggregate finding of Asian children were far more likely to live in married-couple families than any other major population group, Laotian and Cambodian children were more likely to live in a single parent family than non-Hispanic White children. They were also more likely to be living in a single-father family than all major population groups.
+ Divorce rates among the Asian groups were all well below that of the general population, with only Japanese
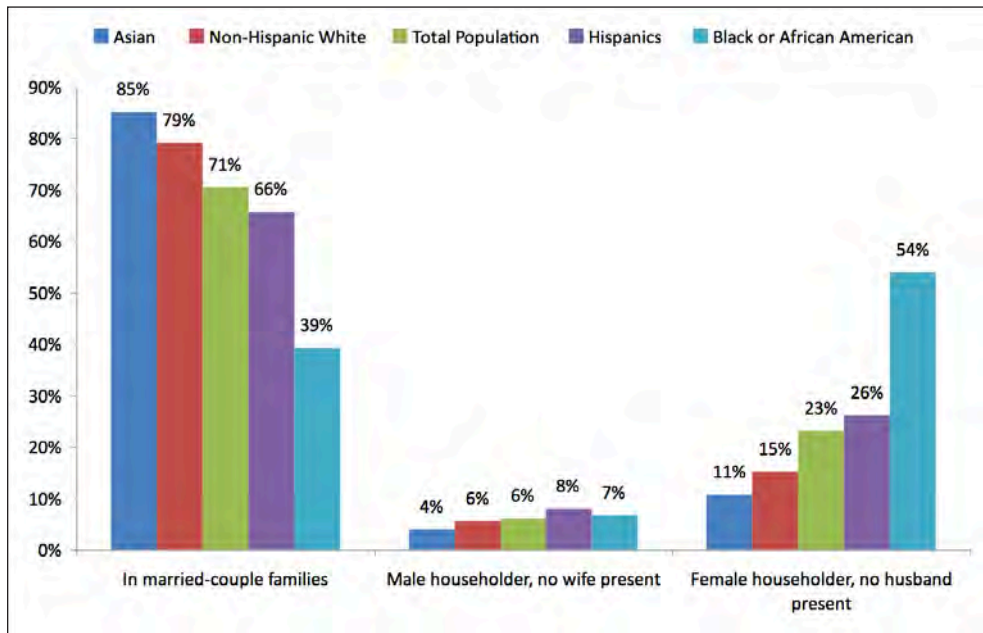
Chart 4.1 Percent of Own Children Under 18 Years by Family Types by Major Population Group, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
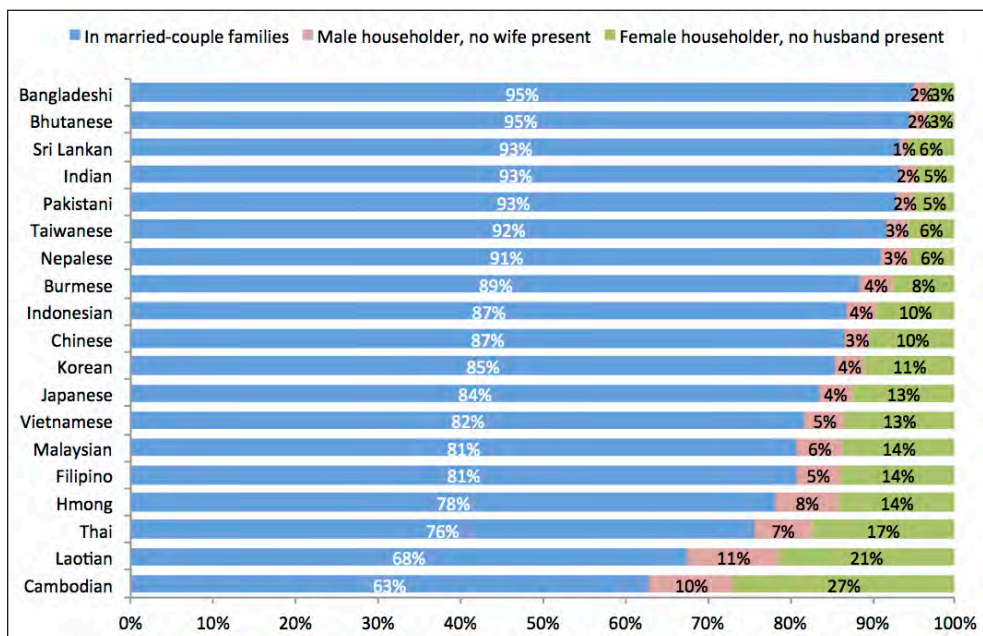
Chart 4.2 Own Children Under 18 Years by Family Types by Asian Group, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations; 2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

Chart data (Male / Female):
- Non-Hispanic White: 10.1% / 12.2%
- Black or African American: 9.9% / 13.2%
- Total Population: 9.3% / 11.7%
- Japanese: 6.7% / 8.7%
- Hispanics: 6.3% / 9.4%
- Thai: 5.9% / 10.3%
- Malaysian: 5.0% / 7.0%
- Cambodian: 4.9% / 6.3%
- Filipino: 4.8% / 7.2%
- Laotian: 4.6% / 7.8%
- Vietnamese: 4.4% / 6.9%
- Indonesian: 3.9% / 6.2%
- Asian: 3.9% / 6.2%
- Sri Lankan: 3.5% / 4.6%
- Chinese: 3.5% / 5.8%
- Korean: 3.4% / 6.9%
- Pakistani: 2.9% / 2.5%
- Hmong: 2.5% / 4.8%
- Indian: 2.4% / 3.3%
- Taiwanese: 2.2% / 4.1%
- Nepalese: 2.2% / 0.8%
- Burmese: 1.9% / 3.3%
- Bangladeshi: 1.8% / 2.5%
- Bhutanese: 0.0% / 1.0%

and Thais anywhere close to the divorce rates of the general population.

- Four Asian groups (Laotian, Cambodian, Hmong, and Filipino) had higher birth rates among unmarried women than non-Hispanic White women.
- While birth rates among Asian women were just slightly higher than the national average, births among Asian women were skewed more towards the oldest age group. Asian women had the lowest birth rates among the major population groups below the age of 35 years, but the highest birth rates among those age 35 to 50 years old.
- The six languages spoken by children more than doubled in size over the last decade including several South Asian languages (Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Nepali, and Sinhalese) and Burmese, with Nepali experiencing the fastest growth rate by far (530 percent).
- Seven Asian language groups had at least 30 percent of children with limited English proficiency.

Family Structure

Asian children were far more likely to live in married-couple families than any of the major population groups examined **(Chart 4.1)**. Only 4 percent of Asian children lived in single father families, and over one in ten Asian children lived in single mother families. From 2000 to 2010, the percent of Asian children in married-couple families dropped slightly by 1 percent, while that of Hispanic children had the largest drop of 6 percent.

Children in most Asian groups were more likely to live in married-couple families than non-Hispanic White children, with the key exception of several Southeast Asian groups: Hmong, Thai, Laotians and Cambodians. Laotian and Cambodian children were also more likely to be in a single-father family than any major population group, with one in ten children in single-father environments.

Chart 4.4 Births per 1,000 Unmarried Women by Population Group, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations;
2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

Population Group	Value
Hispanics	58
Black or African American	57
Laotian	56
Cambodian	47
Hmong	45
Total Population	37
Filipino	29
Non-Hispanic White	26
Malaysian	24
Vietnamese	21
Thai	19
Asian	17
Burmese	16
Japanese	15
Indonesian	14
Nepalese	9
Pakistani	9
Korean	9
Chinese	9
Indian	8
Taiwanese	5
Bangladeshi	4
Sri Lankan	2
Bhutanese	0
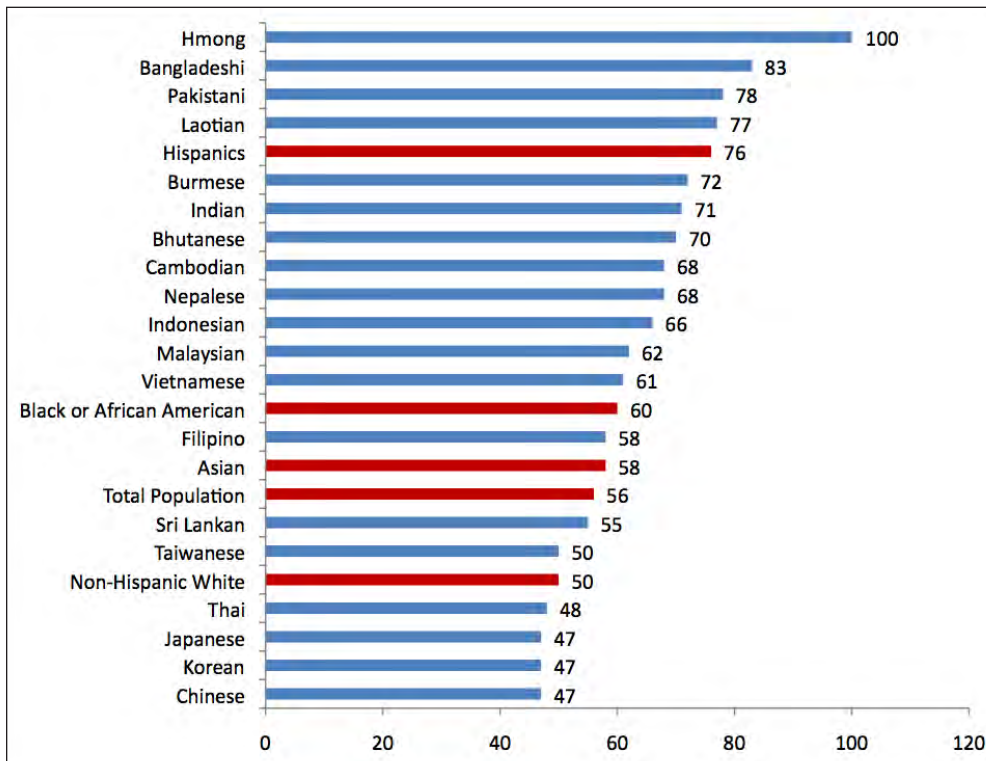
Chart 4.5 Births Per 1,000 Women 15 to 50 Years Old by Population Group, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations;
2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

Population Group	Value
Hmong	100
Bangladeshi	83
Pakistani	78
Laotian	77
Hispanics	76
Burmese	72
Indian	71
Bhutanese	70
Cambodian	68
Nepalese	68
Indonesian	66
Malaysian	62
Vietnamese	61
Black or African American	60
Filipino	58
Asian	58
Total Population	56
Sri Lankan	55
Taiwanese	50
Non-Hispanic White	50
Thai	48
Japanese	47
Korean	47
Chinese	47

Chart 4.6 Births Per 1,000 Women 15 to 19 Years Old by Population Group, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations;
2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

Population Group	Births per 1,000
Hispanics	47
Black or African American	45
Laotian	37
Cambodian	33
Hmong	29
Total Population	28
Non-Hispanic White	18
Malaysian	14
Vietnamese	13
Filipino	12
Thai	11
Japanese	10
Asian	10
Burmese	8
Indonesian	8
Bangladeshi	7
Pakistani	6
Indian	6
Chinese	6
Korean	4
Bhutanese	0
Nepalese	0
Sri Lankan	0
Taiwanese	0

Chart 4.7 Births Per 1,000 Women 20 to 34 Years Old by Population Group, 2010
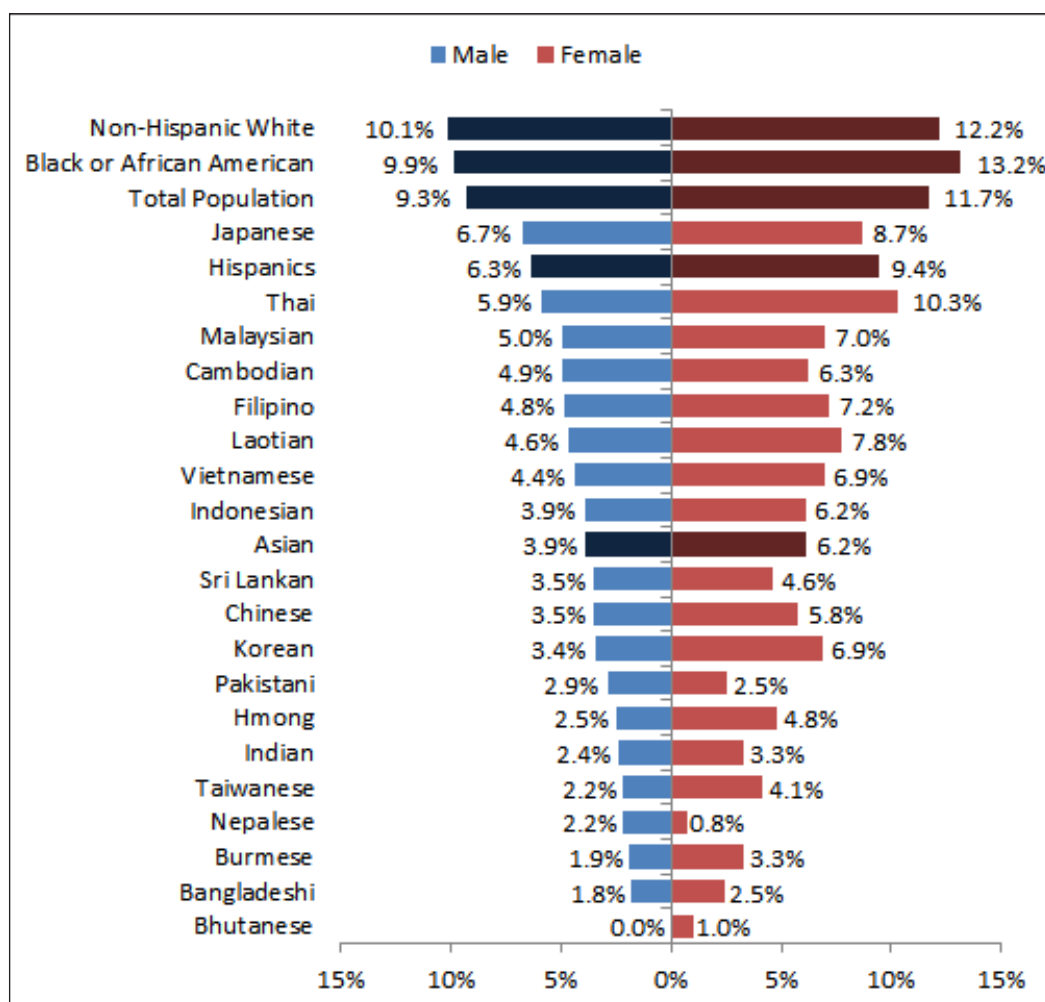
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations;
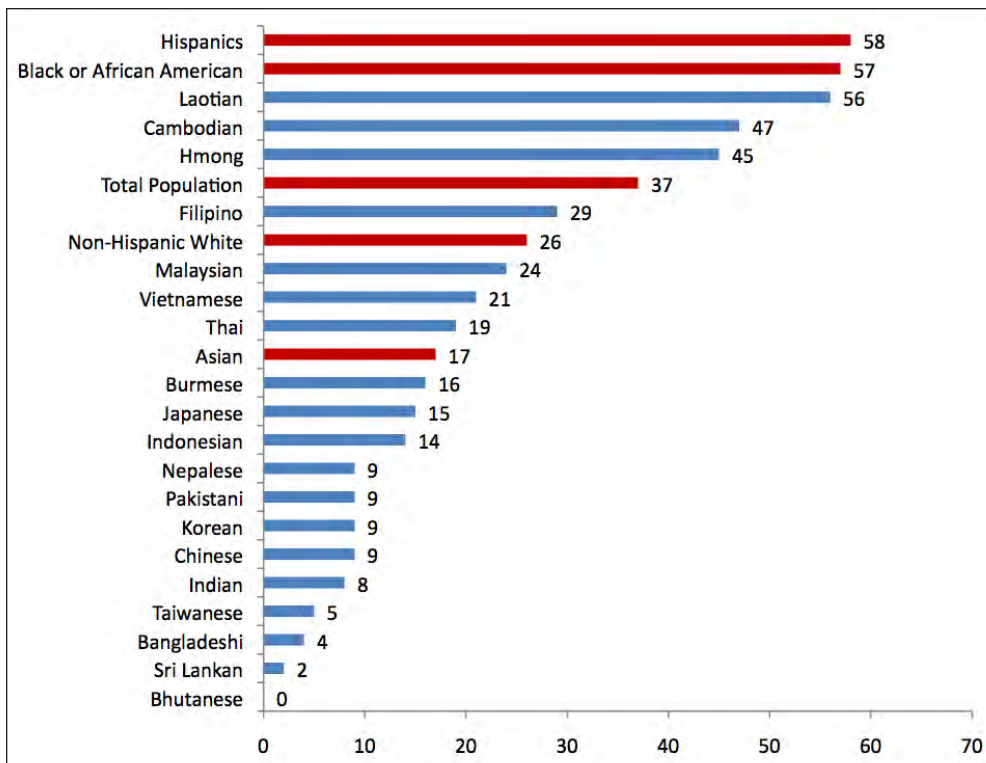2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

Population Group	Births per 1,000
Hmong	159
Bangladeshi	146
Pakistani	133
Hispanics	125
Laotian	123
Indian	109
Black or African American	107
Total Population	104
Cambodian	100
Indonesian	100
Non-Hispanic White	98
Burmese	97
Filipino	94
Nepalese	93
Bhutanese	91
Vietnamese	90
Asian	89
Sri Lankan	88
Japanese	73
Korean	69
Chinese	69
Malaysian	67
Thai	67
Taiwanese	51

Population Group	Births per 1,000
Malaysian	67
Burmese	66
Taiwanese	59
Hmong	48
Vietnamese	48
Bhutanese	47
Indonesian	46
Pakistani	43
Filipino	40
Chinese	39
Asian	39
Laotian	38
Cambodian	38
Sri Lankan	38
Korean	38
Nepalese	37
Thai	36
Indian	35
Japanese	34
Hispanics	32
Bangladeshi	31
Total Population	24
Black or African American	22
Non-Hispanic White	22

Chart 4.8 Births Per 1,000 Women 35 to 50 Years Old by Population Group, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations;
2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

Divorce Trends Impacting Asian Children
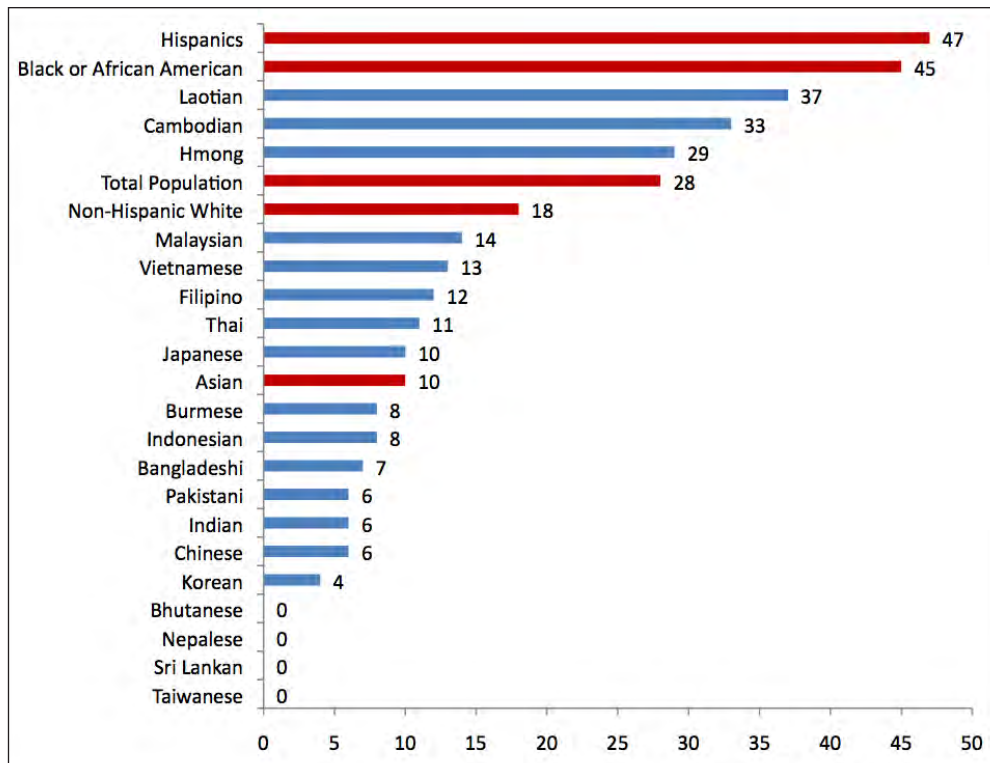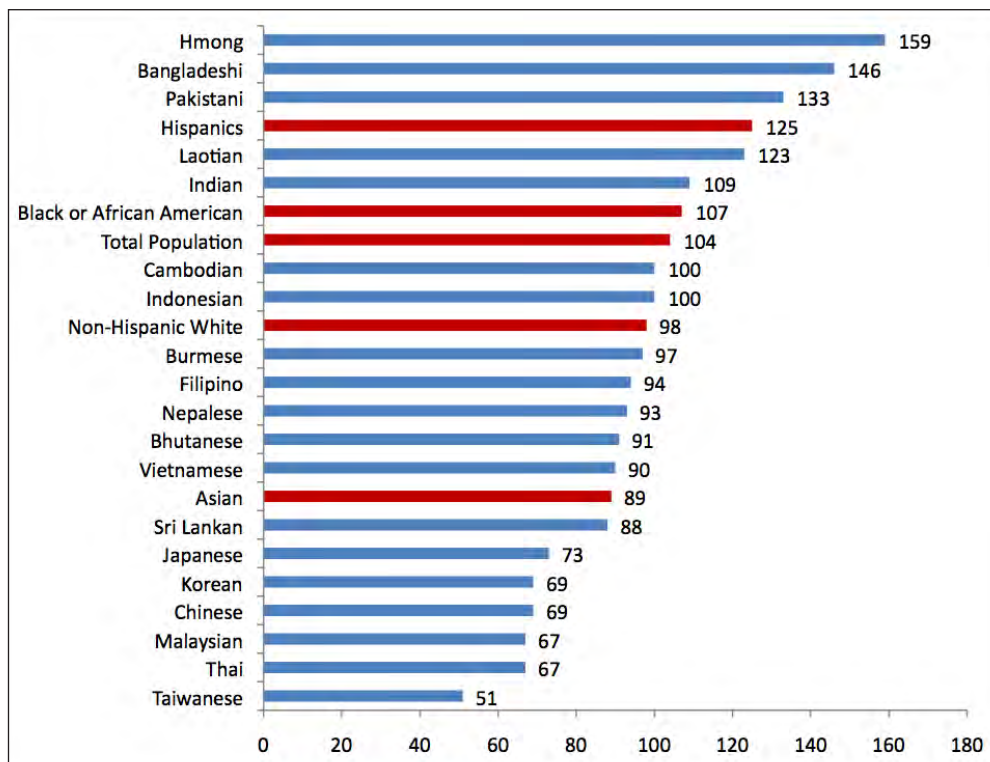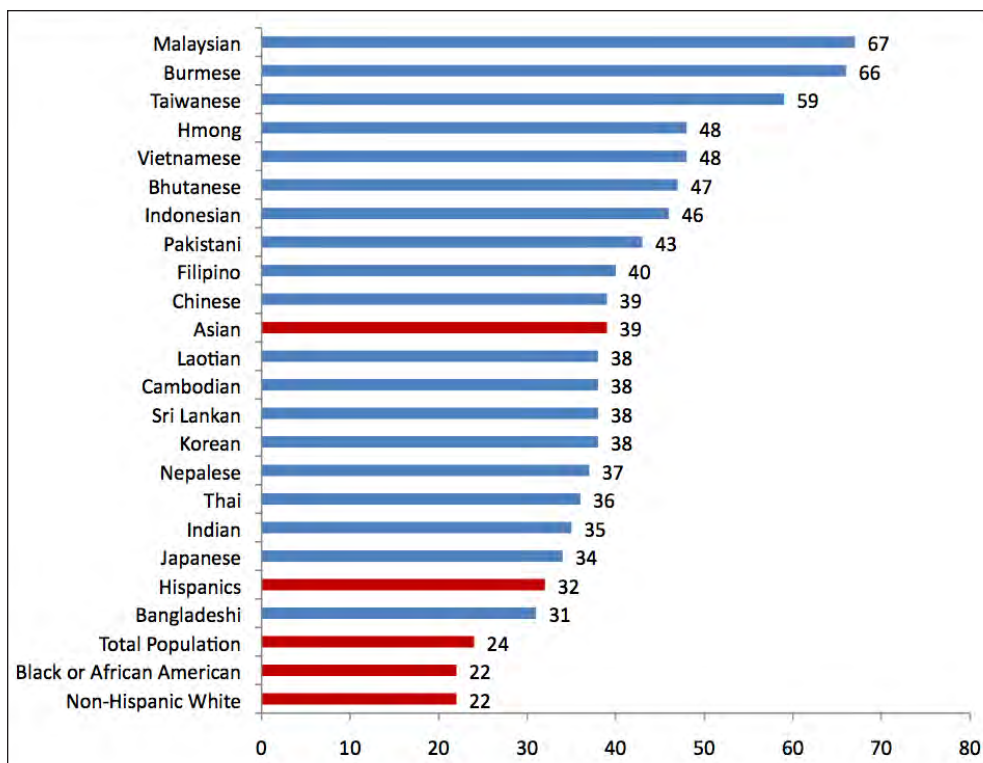
The high rates of two-parent families also were reflected in the low rates of divorce among Asian Americans. About 4 percent of Asian males and 6 percent of Asian females were divorced at the time of the ACS, both of which were the lowest rates among major groups examined. From 2000 to 2010, the divorce rate of Asian males stayed the same and that of Asian females increased by 1 percent. Total population and non-Hispanic Whites both experienced an increase of 1 percent of divorce rates for both males and females.

Divorce rates among the Asian groups were all well below that of the general population, with only Japanese and Thais anywhere close to the divorce rates of the general population.

Births by Unmarried Women

Asian unmarried women had the lowest birth rates among the four major groups examined (**Chart 4.4**). Four Asian groups (Laotian, Cambodian, Hmong, and Filipino) had higher birth rates among unmarried women than non-Hispanic White women. Laotian, in particular, had 56 births per 1,000 unmarried women, which was comparable to Hispanic, and Black women.

Births by Mother's Age

While birth rates among Asian women were just slightly higher than the national average, births among Asian women were skewed more towards the oldest age group.

Asian women had the lowest teen birth rates among the four major groups examined and the lowest birth rates among 20 to 34 year olds, but the highest birth rates among those age 35 to 50 years old.

Birth rates also varied widely among Asian groups ranging from below that of non-Hispanic White women and well above that of Hispanic women (**Chart 4.5**). About 15 out of 19 Asian groups had birth rates greater than that of the non-Hispanic White population (at least 50 births per 1,000 women 15 to 50 years old). Hmong had the highest birth rates among the Asian groups.

By age group, Asian women were more likely to delay child birth until later. Asian women as a whole had the lowest overall birth rates from ages 15 to 34, and the highest birth rates for ages 35 to 50, compared to Blacks, Hispanics and non-Hispanic Whites. Differences between Asian ethnic groups were also large. Cambodian, Hmong, and Laotian teens had the highest birth rates among Asian groups, which were higher than the national teen birth rate but lower than Hispanic and Black teen birth rates (**Chart 4.6**). About 7 out of 19 Asian groups had at least 100 births per 1,000 women 20 to 34 years old, which was higher than the non-Hispanic White birth rate (**Chart 4.7**). For women 35 to 50 years old, Malaysian had 67 births per 1,000 women, followed by 66 births for Burmese and 59 births for Taiwanese (**Chart 4.8**).

Chart 4.9 Population 5 to 17 Years Old by Asian Languages Spoken at Home, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Language	Population
Chinese	373,647
Vietnamese	231,761
Korean	164,707
Tagalog	130,092
Urdu	78,334
Hmong	69,015
Japanese	63,613
Hindi	62,061
Gujarati	50,055
Panjabi	42,752
Bengali	40,848
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	34,642
Telugu	29,589
Laotian	25,824
Tamil	19,342
Malayalam	19,046
Thai	16,378
Other languages of India	11,113
Other Asian languages	8,583
Marathi	8,523
Indonesian	7,937
Ilocano	7,470
Nepali	7,040
Burmese	6,509
Kannada	4,973
Other languages of Pakistan	2,692
Sinhalese	2,530
Bisayan	2,225
Malay	1,713
Sebuano	1,361

Chart 4.10 Percent Change of Population 5 to 17 Years Old by Asian Languages Spoken at Home, 2000-2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Language	Percent Change
Chinese	32%
Vietnamese	14%
Korean	5%
Tagalog	1%
Urdu	22%
Hmong	-18%
Japanese	13%
Hindi	46%
Gujarati	20%
Panjabi	34%
Bengali	80%
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	-40%
Telugu	253%
Laotian	-32%
Tamil	134%
Malayalam	51%
Thai	17%
Marathi	107%
Indonesian	17%
Ilocano	-8%
Nepali	530%
Burmese	154%
Kannada	90%
Other languages of Pakistan	-20%
Sinhalese	135%
Bisayan	8%
Malay	82%
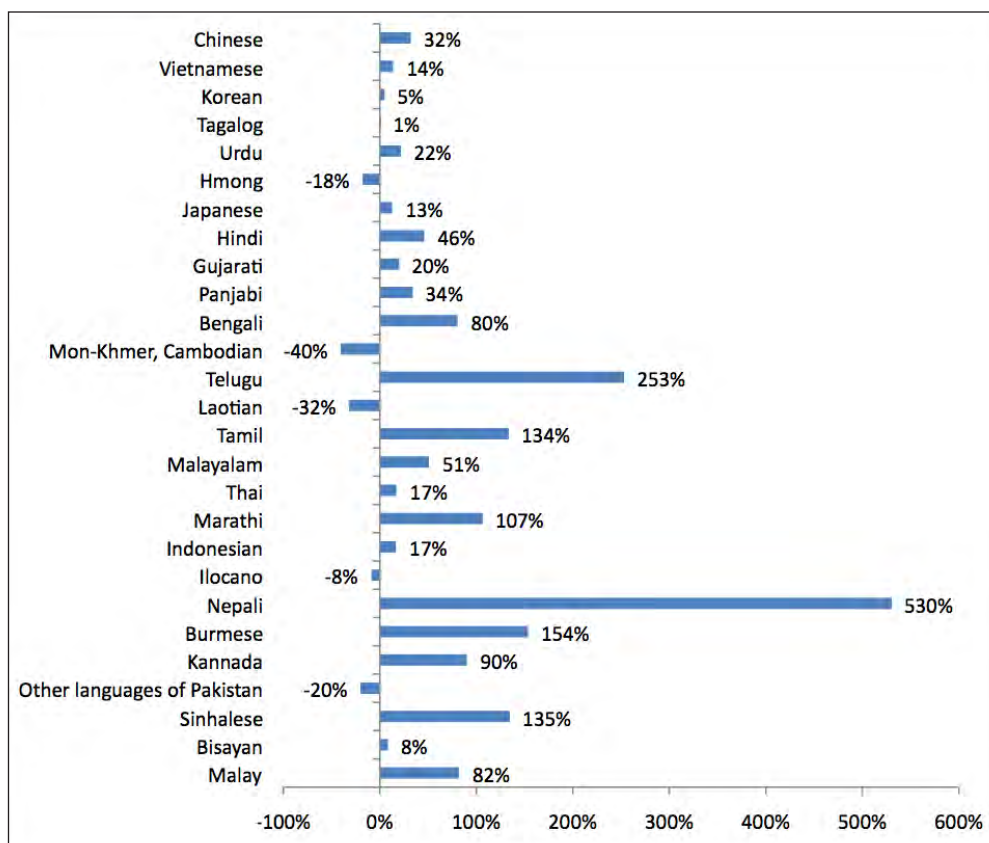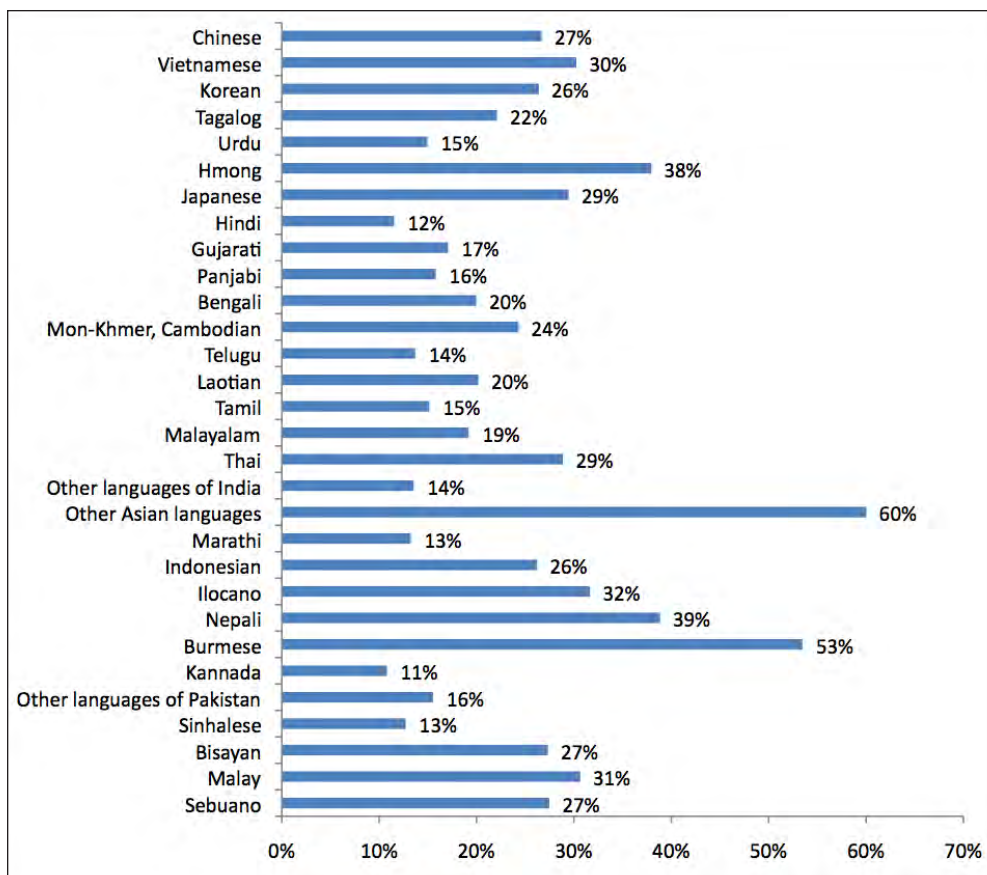
Languages Spoken at Home and English Ability

Chinese was the third most spoken language for children, right after English and Spanish. The six languages spoken by children more than doubled in size over the last decade including several South Asian languages (Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Nepali, and Sinhalese) and Burmese, with Nepali experiencing the fastest growth rate by far of 530 percent.

Seven Asian language groups had at least 30 percent of children with limited English proficiency. Over half of children speaking other Asian languages or Burmese had limited English proficiency.

Limited English proficiency (LEP) rates for children held steady or declined during the last decade with the exception of Nepali speaking children. Nepali-speaking children saw an increase of 13 percentage points in their LEP rates, indicating that large portions of the huge influx of Nepali-speaking children over the last decade had limited English skills.

Economic Circumstances

In aggregate, Asian American children appear to be in better economic standing than other major population groups. However, data at smaller geographies and for the different Asian groups reveal areas of economic hardship. In this chapter, we will examine several different measures of socio-economic status: poverty, family income, parental employment, childcare, food security, and housing. Some of the key findings were:

Poverty and Income

- While overall Asian children had poverty rates similar to non-Hispanic White children, segments of the Asian population had child poverty rates similar to Black or Hispanic children. The highest poverty rates were found among Asian groups with a history of refugee resettlement: three-quarters of Bhutanese children and one in three Burmese and Hmong children live in poverty.
- While Asian median family incomes were higher in aggregate, about half of Asian groups had median family incomes lower than the national median.

Childcare

- Among preschoolers with a working mother, grandparents were most common childcare option for Asian children, more than for any other major race and ethnic group.
- For children living with unemployed mothers, the percent of Asian children in self-care was highest among

major population groups across all age groups between 5 and 14 years old.
- Families of non-Hispanic white and Asian children were more likely to make childcare payments than families of Black and Hispanic.

Parental Employment

- Children who were Cambodian, Hmong, and from emerging Asian groups classified in the "other specified Asian" category, were just as or more likely than Black and Hispanic children to live in a situation with no parent employed full-time for a full-year.

Food Security

- Children from Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, and newly arrived Asian groups, such as Bhutanese and Burmese, were more likely to receive SNAP than children in general. Well over 2 in 5 Hmong and "other specified Asian" children received SNAP, a higher rate than Black children.

Housing

- About half of all Asian groups had over one in five children living in overcrowded housing. Hmong, in particular, had over half of children living in overcrowded housing.
- For 9 out of 17 Asian groups, a higher percentage of children lived in housing-burdened households than children in general. For 9 out of 17 Asian groups, a higher percentage of children lived in housing-burdened

Chart 5.1 Child Poverty Rate by Population Group, 2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations;
2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

Population Group	Child Poverty Rate
Bhutanese	74.8%
Burmese	35.8%
Black or African American	34.4%
Hmong	32.8%
Hispanics	29.2%
Bangladeshi	26.4%
Cambodian	23.2%
Nepalese	20.1%
Pakistani	19.7%
Total Population	19.2%
Laotian	16.8%
Thai	15.2%
Vietnamese	15.1%
Indonesian	13.0%
Korean	11.4%
Non-Hispanic White	11.3%
Asian	11.1%
Malaysian	10.5%
Chinese	9.8%
Sri Lankan	9.1%
Taiwanese	8.8%
Indian	7.7%
Filipino	6.9%
Japanese	6.7%
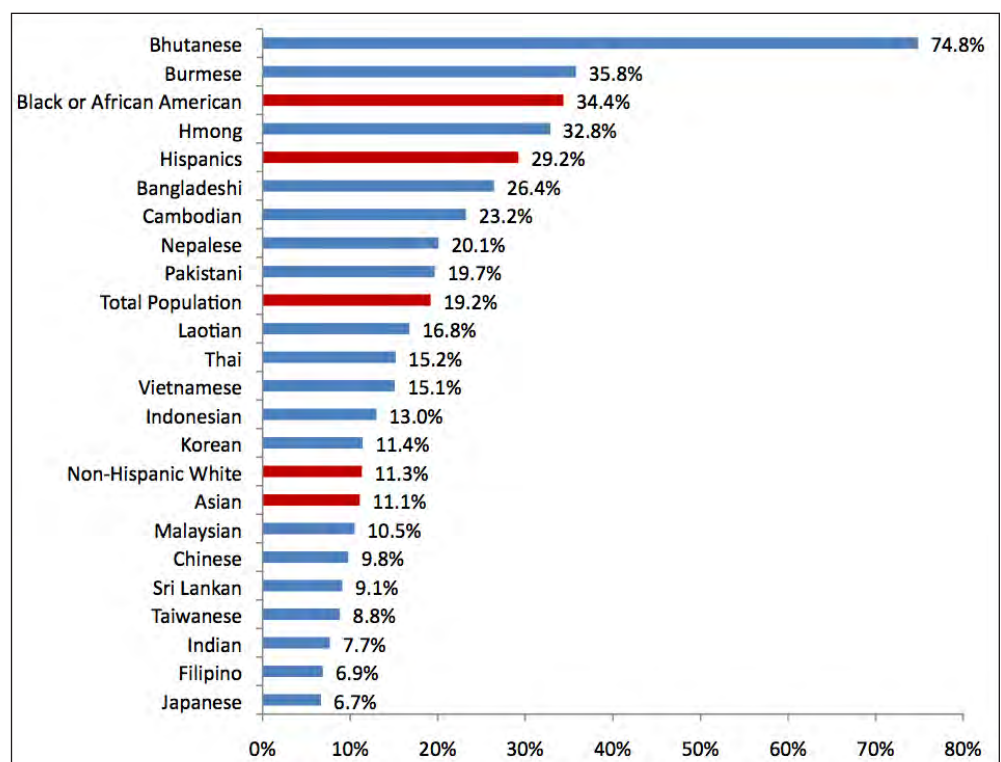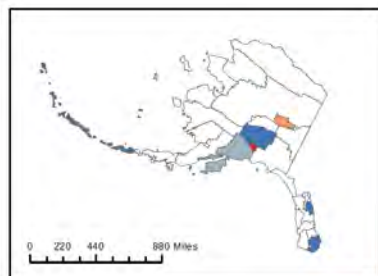
Map 5.1: Ratio of Asians to Non-Hispanic Whites Child Poverty Rates, 2010

Poverty Ratio

- Under 0.50
- 0.50 - 0.99
- 1.00 - 1.49
- 1.50 - 1.99
- 2.00 - 8.39
- No Asian Data
- State Boundaries

0   220   440   880 Miles

0   55   110   220 Miles

0   310   620   1,240 Miles

Produced by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey
Selected Population Tables

Population Group	Growth Rate
Sri Lankan	113%
Thai	102%
Bangladeshi	76%
Indonesian	56%
Pakistani	46%
Hispanics	40%
Korean	26%
Filipino	24%
Indian	20%
Total Population	19%
Black or African American	13%
Non-Hispanic White	12%
Japanese	11%
Chinese	10%
Asian	7%
Vietnamese	3%
Malaysian	-2%
Hmong	-21%
Laotian	-28%
Taiwanese	-37%
Cambodian	-37%

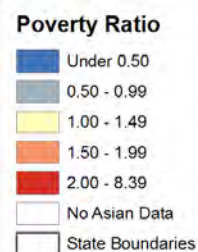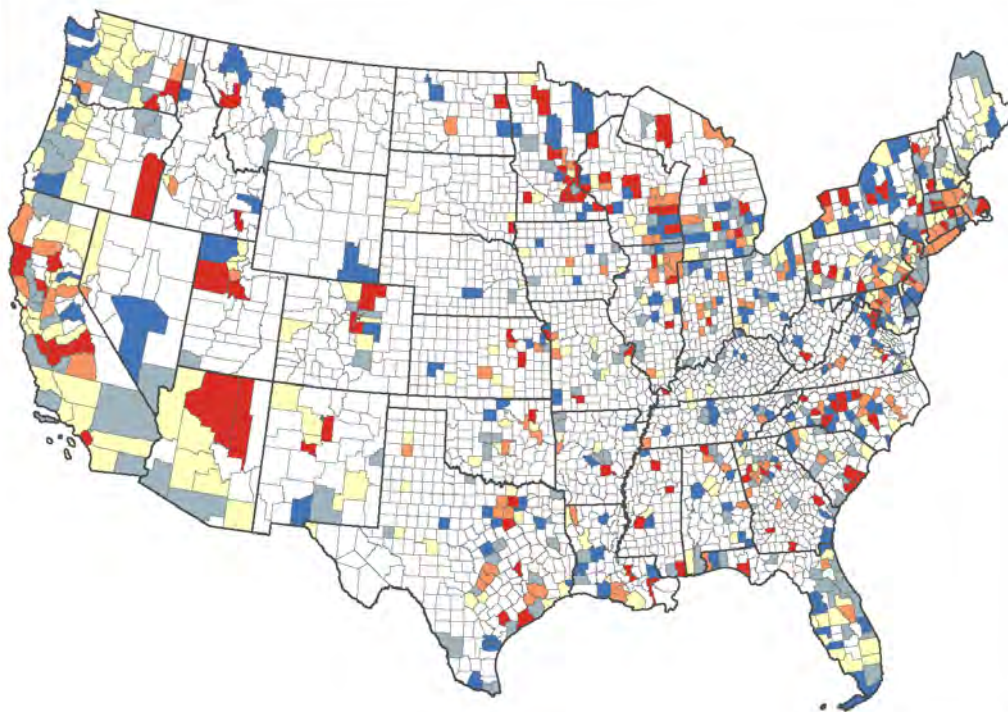**Chart 5.2 Growth Rate of Child Poverty Population by Population Group, 2000-2010**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Selected Population Tables
Note: 1. Asian groups use alone or in combination populations;
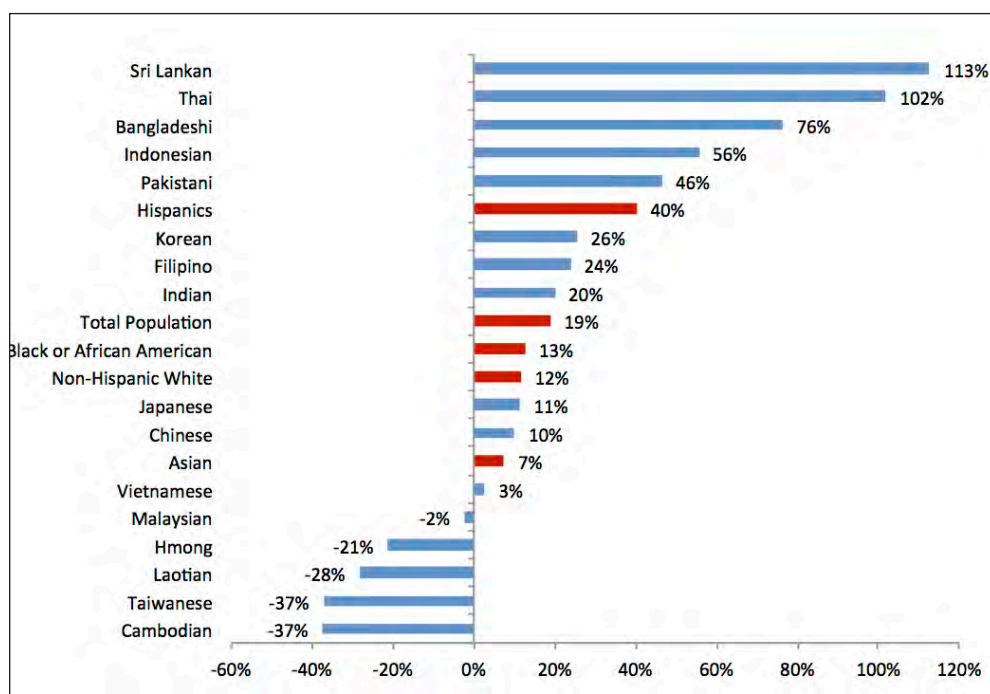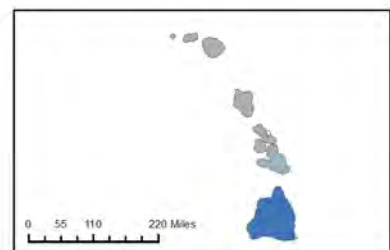2. Chinese population excludes those who identified as Taiwanese, who are tabulated separately.

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households than children in general. About 42 percent of Asian children lived in households paying 30 percent or more of household income for owner costs, which was higher than those of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and non-Hispanic Whites, but lower than those of Hispanics, native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and Blacks.

Poverty Rates

In 2010, the poverty rate for Asian children was similar to those of non-Hispanic White children, ranking the lowest among the four major groups (**Chart 5.1**). About 461,354 Asian children lived below the poverty level. However, if one examines the poverty in rates of Asian children disaggregated by geography and ethnicity, one finds areas of extreme poverty within the Asian community.

CHART 5.3 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS BY FAMILY TYPE BY MAJOR POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) SELECTED POPULATION TABLES
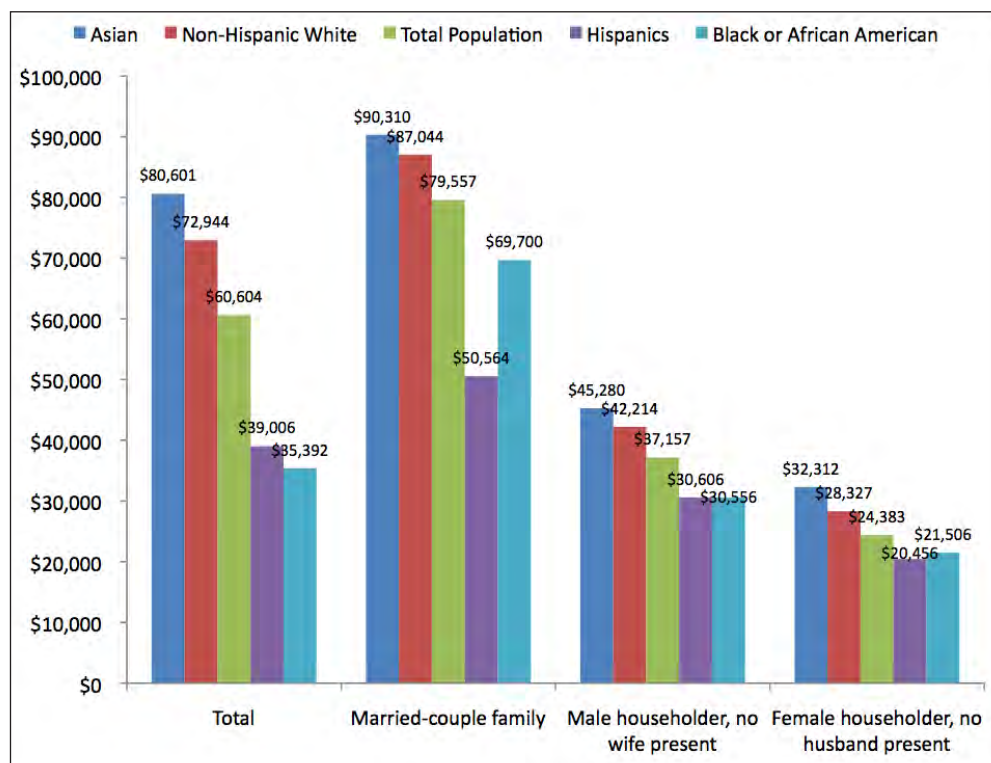
CHART 5.4 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME OF FAMILIES WITH OWN CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS BY ASIAN GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) SELECTED POPULATION TABLES
NOTE: 1. ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE OR IN COMBINATION POPULATIONS;
2. CHINESE POPULATION EXCLUDES THOSE WHO IDENTIFIED AS TAIWANESE, WHO ARE TABULATED SEPARATELY.
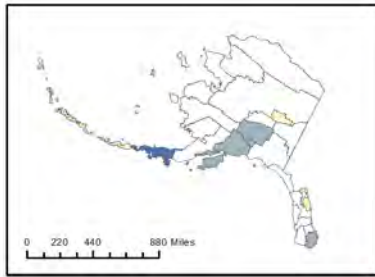
Map 5.2: Ratio of Median Income of Asian Families to Non-Hispanic White Families with Own Children under 18 Years, 2010
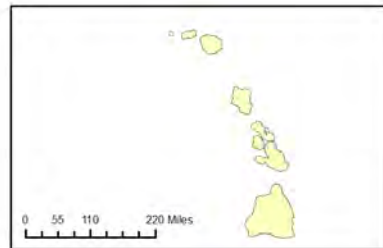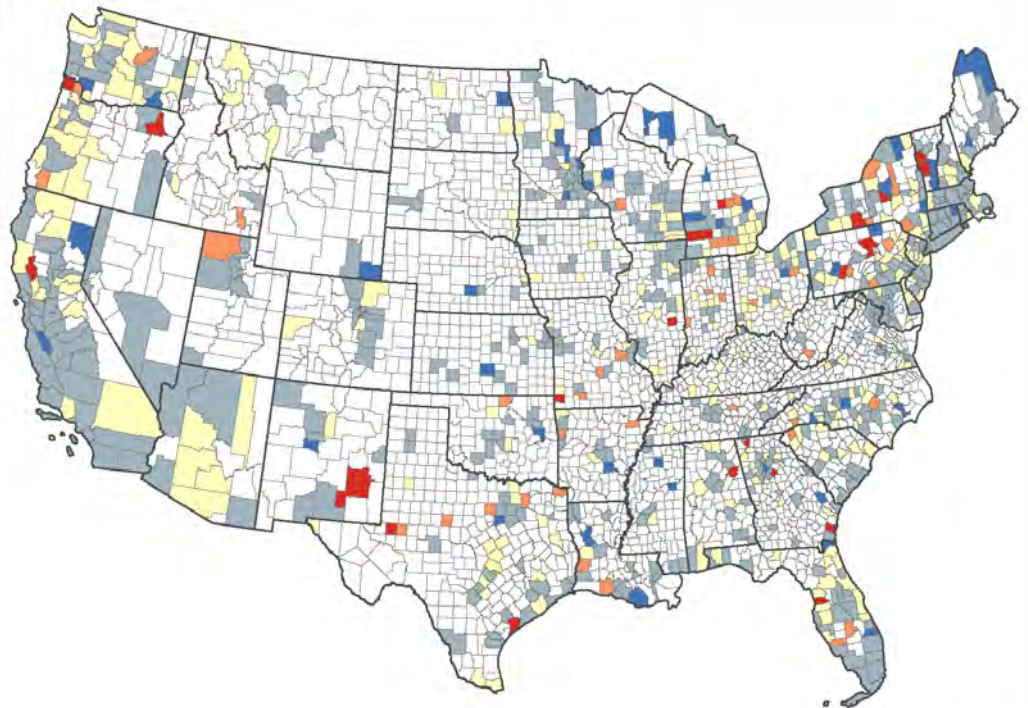
Ratio of Median Income

- Under 0.50
- 0.50 - 0.99
- 1.00 - 1.49
- 1.50 - 1.99
- 2.00 - 4.24
- No Asian Data
- State Boundaries

0   310   620   1,240 Miles

Produced by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center
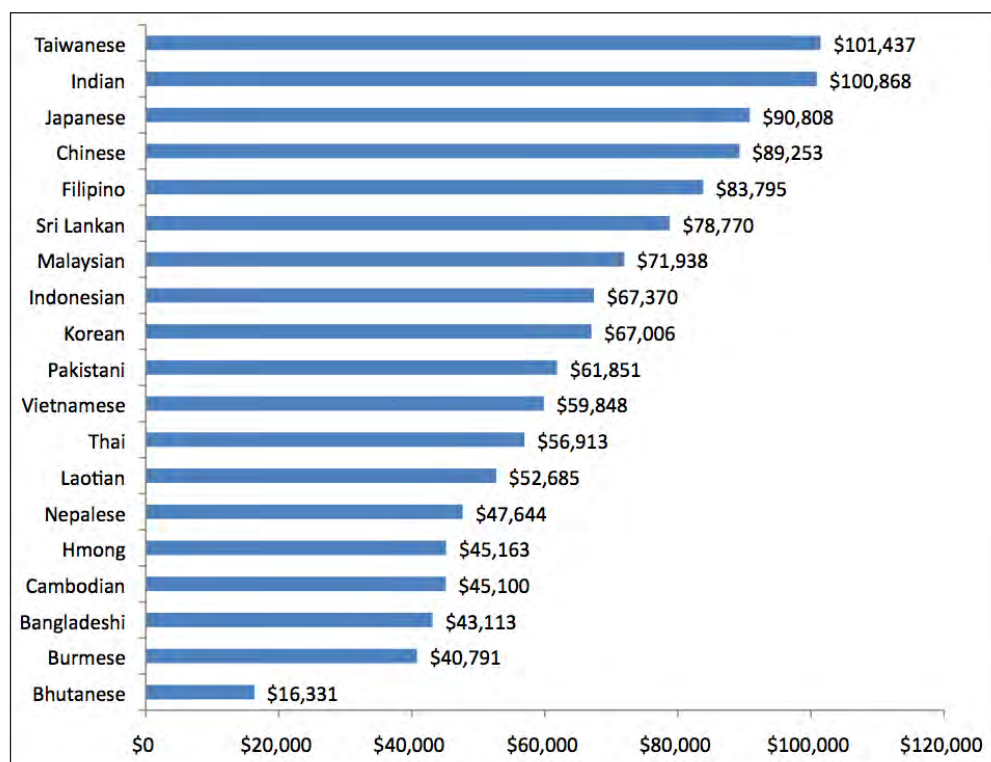Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey
Selected Population Tables
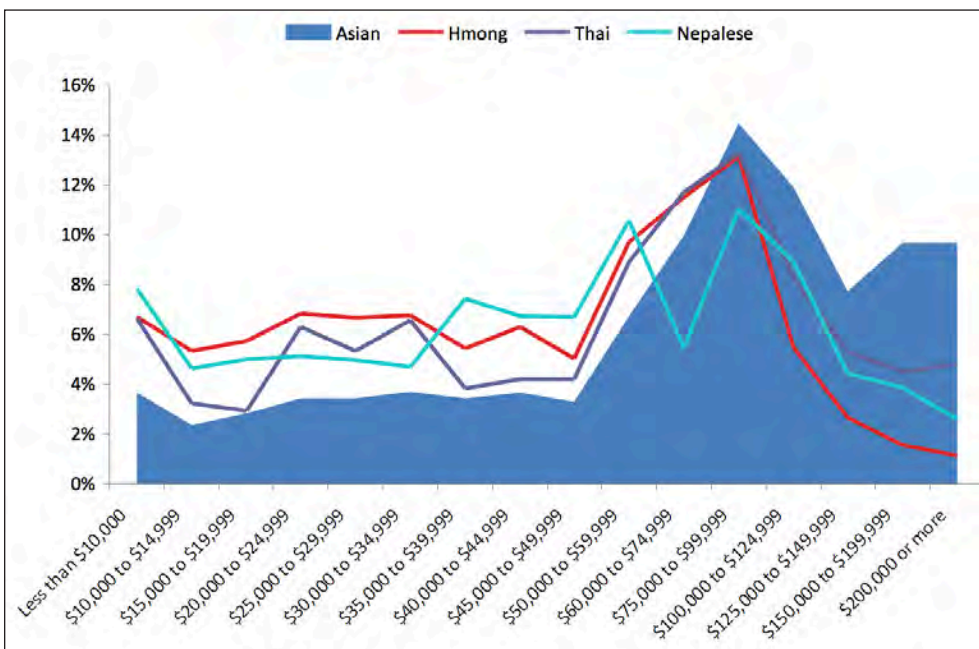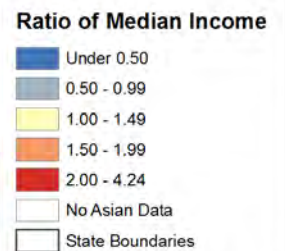
Chart 5.5 Family Income Distribution of Families with Own Children under 18 Years for Asian, Hmong, Thai and Nepalese Populations, 2010

Economics

The child poverty rates among Asian groups were tremendously different, ranging from a low of 6.7 percent to a high of 74.8 percent. Bhutanese children had the highest poverty rate. About one in three Burmese or Hmong children lived in poverty. Chinese (89,175), Vietnamese (69,770), Filipino (60,598), and Indian (57,791) had over 50,000 children lived in poverty.

Geographically, concentrations of Asian children with higher poverty rates than non-Hispanic White children were found in California, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina and Wisconsin (**Map 5.1**).

From 2000 to 2010, the number of Asian children who lived in poverty grew by 7 percent with an increase of

CHART 5.6 PERCENT OF CHILDREN LIVING WITH NO PARENT WITH FULL-TIME, FULL-YEAR EMPLOYMENT, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) NOTE: ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE POPULATIONS.

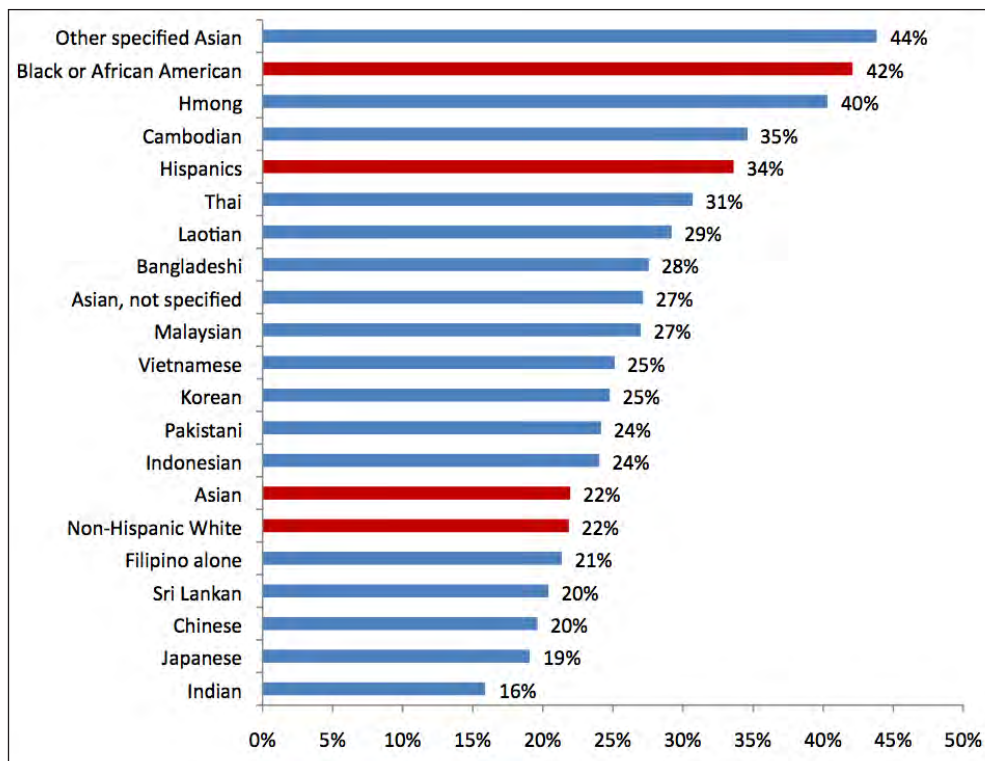| Group	Percent
Other specified Asian	44%
Black or African American	42%
Hmong	40%
Cambodian	35%
Hispanics	34%
Thai	31%
Laotian	29%
Bangladeshi	28%
Asian, not specified	27%
Malaysian	27%
Vietnamese	25%
Korean	25%
Pakistani	24%
Indonesian	24%
Asian	22%
Non-Hispanic White	22%
Filipino alone	21%
Sri Lankan	20%
Chinese	20%
Japanese	19%
Indian	16%

CHART 5.7 TOP SIX CHILDCARE ARRANGEMENTS OF ASIAN PRESCHOOLERS UNDER 5 YEARS OLD LIVING WITH MOTHER (AVERAGE FOR YEARS 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011)

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, SURVEY OF INCOME AND PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (SIPP), 2004 PANEL, WAVE 4 & 8, 2008 PANEL, WAVE 5 & 8

Arrangement	Asian alone	Total	Non-Hispanic White alone	Hispanics	Black alone
No regular arrangement	47%	42%	39%	54%	38%
Grandparent	23%	23%	24%	20%	24%
Organized facility	23%	23%	25%	15%	29%
Multiple arrangements	18%	19%	18%	13%	17%
Other parent	16%	16%	18%	12%	12%
Day care center	12%	12%	14%	6%	16%

31,582. From 2000 to 2010, 11 out of 16 Asian groups experienced dramatic growth of child poverty populations. Among them, the child poverty populations of Sri Lankan and Thai doubled in size, and those of Bangladeshi and Indonesian grew by over 50 percent.

Family Income

Asian families with own children under 18 years had the highest median income across all the family types. The me-dian family income for Asians was $80,601 overall, $90,310 for married-couple family, $45,280 for male householder with no wife present, and $32,312 for female householder with no husband present.

About half of the Asian groups had median family income lower than the national average of $60,604. Among them, the median family income of Bhutanese ($16,331) was less than one third of the national average figure.

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Geographically, Asian families were concentrated in metropolitan areas with high median incomes. Asian families often had the same or lower median family incomes than non-Hispanic White families in the same county (**Map 5.2**). Particular in California and New York metropolitan area where most Asian are concentrated, only in one county each do Asian families seriously outperform non-Hispanic White families.
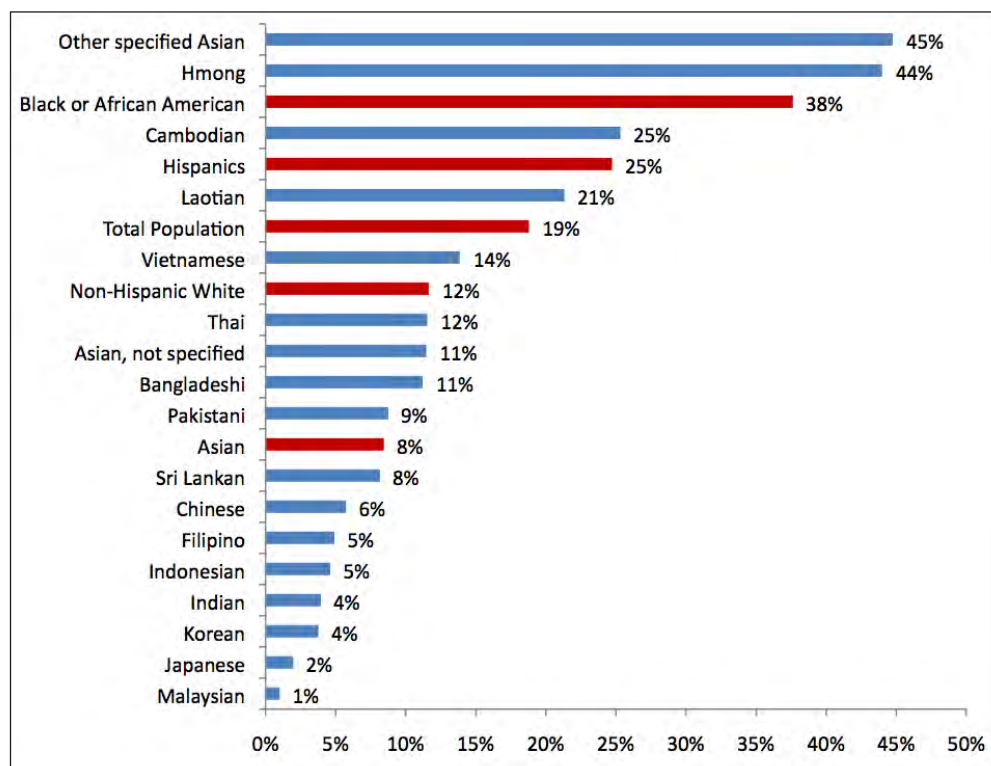
Median family income as a measure can disguise real income disparities within communities. For example, the distribution of family incomes for Hmong, Nepalese, and Thai show distinct differences. Hmong and Nepalese families have similar median family incomes, but Nepalese family incomes are closer together on the distribution, while the distribution among Hmong families has a distinct double peak, one between $20,000 to $30,000 per year

CHART 5.10 PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLDS WHO RECEIVE YEARLY FOOD STAMP/SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) NOTE: ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE POPULATIONS.

Population Group	Percent
Other specified Asian	45%
Hmong	44%
Black or African American	38%
Cambodian	25%
Hispanics	25%
Laotian	21%
Total Population	19%
Vietnamese	14%
Non-Hispanic White	12%
Thai	12%
Asian, not specified	11%
Bangladeshi	11%
Pakistani	9%
Asian	8%
Sri Lankan	8%
Chinese	6%
Filipino	5%
Indonesian	5%
Indian	4%
Korean	4%
Japanese	2%
Malaysian	1%

CHART 5.11 PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH OVER ONE OCCUPANT PER ROOM BY POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) NOTE: ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE POPULATIONS.

Population Group	Percent
Hmong	53%
Other specified Asian	45%
Bangladeshi	37%
Pakistani	31%
Cambodian	30%
Hispanics	30%
Laotian	29%
Filipino	22%
Asian, not specified	21%
Indonesian	18%
Vietnamese	18%
Sri Lankan	16%
Asian	16%
Indian	14%
Black or African American	14%
Chinese	14%
Korean	12%
Thai	12%
Japanese	10%
Malaysian	9%
Non-Hispanic White	6%

Economics
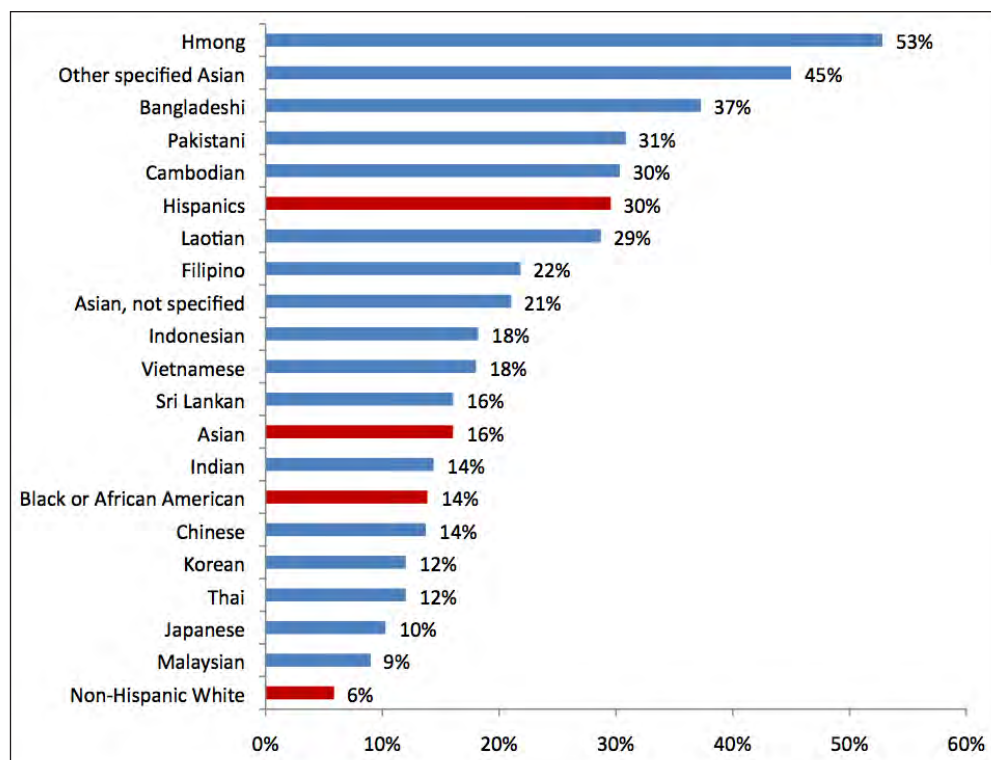
and other between $60,000 to $100,000. Thai families had higher median incomes than both Hmong and Nepalese families, but the share of Thai families with incomes between $20,000 to $30,000 per year was similar to Hmong and Nepalese.

Secure Parental Employment

Living in a family with at least one parent employed full-time for the whole year provides children with economic security, access to employer-provided healthcare, and a more stable family environment. While Asian children overall were mostly in secure parental employment situations, children who were Cambodian, Hmong, and from emerging Asian groups classified in the "other specified Asian" category, were just as or more likely than Black and Hispanic children to live in a situation without secure parental employment.

CHART 5.12 PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLDS PAYING GROSS RENT OF THIRTY PERCENT OR MORE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) NOTE: ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE POPULATIONS.
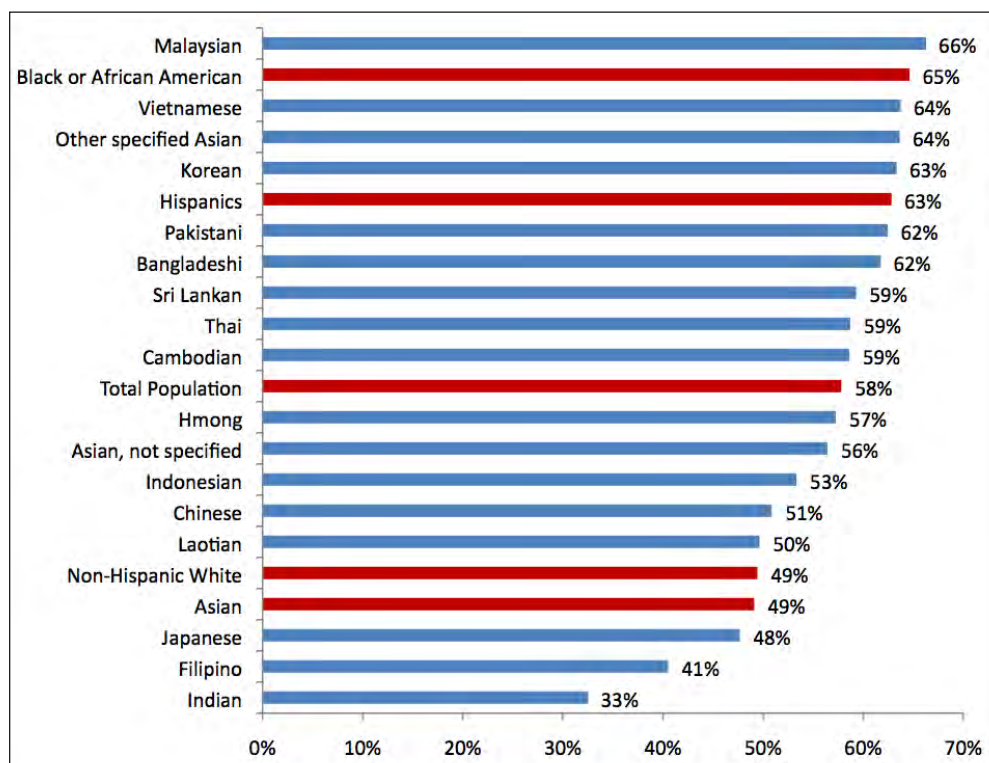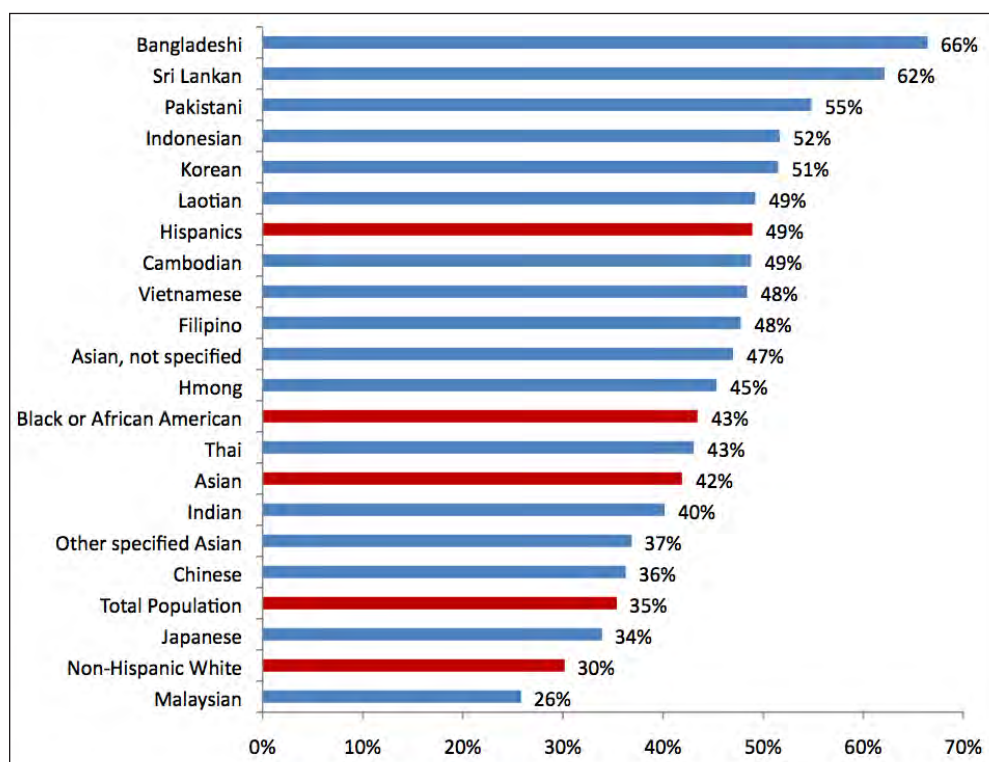
Malaysian 66%
Black or African American 65%
Vietnamese 64%
Other specified Asian 64%
Korean 63%
Hispanics 63%
Pakistani 62%
Bangladeshi 62%
Sri Lankan 59%
Thai 59%
Cambodian 59%
Total Population 58%
Hmong 57%
Asian, not specified 56%
Indonesian 53%
Chinese 51%
Laotian 50%
Non-Hispanic White 49%
Asian 49%
Japanese 48%
Filipino 41%
Indian 33%

CHART 5.13 PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLDS PAYING OWNER COSTS OF THIRTY PERCENT OR MORE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY POPULATION GROUP, 2010

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY (ACS) PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) NOTE: ASIAN GROUPS USE ALONE POPULATIONS.

Bangladeshi 66%
Sri Lankan 62%
Pakistani 55%
Indonesian 52%
Korean 51%
Laotian 49%
Hispanics 49%
Cambodian 49%
Vietnamese 48%
Filipino 48%
Asian, not specified 47%
Hmong 45%
Black or African American 43%
Thai 43%
Asian 42%
Indian 40%
Other specified Asian 37%
Chinese 36%
Total Population 35%
Japanese 34%
Non-Hispanic White 30%
Malaysian 26%

Economics

Childcare

For childcare arrangements of preschoolers under 5 years old, almost half of Asian children had no regular arrangement, ranking the second highest among major population groups. The other top childcare arrangements for Asian children included grandparent (23 percent), organized facility (23 percent), multiple arrangements (18 percent), other parent (16 percent), and day care center (12 percent).

For children living with unemployed mother, the percent of Asian children with no regular arrangements reached 78 percent, almost as high as that of Hispanic children. Nursery and school popped up in the list of top six childcare arrangements instead of other parent and day care center.

For children living with employed mother, grandparent became the top one childcare arrangement for Asian children, higher than that of any other major population groups. Besides, almost one in three Asian children has chosen organized facility, multiple arrangements or other parent. Only about 17 percent of Asian children had no regular arrangement, which was the lowest among major population groups.

For childcare arrangements of gradeschoolers 5 to 14 years old, almost nine in ten Asian children were taken care of primarily in school, slightly higher than that of any other major population groups. About half of Asian children had no regular arrangement. The other top childcare arrangements included multiple arrangements (16 percent), other parent (16 percent), enrichment activities (15 percent), self-care (12 percent), and grandparent (12 percent).

Asian families with children under 15 years were more likely to make childcare payments than families of any other major population groups. About 47 percent of Asian families with children under 5 years, 29 percent of Asian families with children 5 to 14 years, and 35 percent of Asian families with children under 15 years, made childcare payments.

Food Security

Across the nation, Asian children were half as likely as children in general to live in households that receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance. However, children of Asian groups with a history of refugee-based migration were much more likely to live in households who receive SNAP **(Chart 5.10)**. The group with the highest SNAP rates, "other specified Asians," includes the most recent wave of refugees, Bhutanese and Burmese.

Overcrowded Housing

About one in six Asian children lived in overcrowded households, higher than those of Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites, but lower than those of Hispanics. About half of all Asian groups had over one in five children living in overcrowded housing. Hmong, in particular, had over half of children living in overcrowded housing.

Housing Affordability

Among renting households, about half of Asian children lived in households burdened by housing costs (with gross rent at 30 percent or more of household income), which was the lowest among all major population groups.

For 9 out of 17 Asian groups, a higher percentage of children lived in housing-burdened households than children in general. Malaysian had the highest percentage of children living in unaffordable housing with 66 percent, followed by 64 percent of Vietnamese and other specified Asian children. Among households that own their homes, about 42 percent of Asian children lived in households burdened by housing costs (paying 30 percent or more of household income for owner costs), which was higher than those of non-Hispanic Whites, but lower than those of Hispanics and Blacks.

For 5 out of 17 Asian groups, at least half of children lived in households paying 30 percent or more of household income for owner costs. Bangladeshis had the highest percentage of children living in unaffordable housing with 66 percent, followed by 62 percent of Sri Lankan children.

Policy Implications

While the diversity of Asian American children is highlighted in the previous chapters of this report, what also emerges are a consistent set of themes that have implications on policy making going forward. This report concludes with a discussion on some of these themes as well as sets out some ideas for moving forward on these issues.

Education

This report shows that Asian American children do not automatically perform at a high level. Local and ethnic-specific data is much needed in order to determine where the needs are greatest. Even after identifying groups of underperforming children, policy makers and educators must develop an understanding of the cultural, social, and historical backgrounds of the communities from which these children come.

We saw the greatest increase in the Asian child population to be coming from outside the five largest Asian groups. These fastest growing groups often had the highest poverty and limited English proficiency rates. Schools must also develop programs that reach out and involve these newly immigrated parents. Beyond just providing language support, schools need to understand the economic and social pressures that exist within specific Asian communities and also acknowledge that Asian groups have difference in views on education, expectations from school systems, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

School bullying of Asian American students is another area of concern. Existing data on school bullying downplay the impact on Asian American students because the results are aggregated. However, Asian American students are not often targeted as a group, but targeted by their ethnicity. With the current reporting standards by national surveys, we have no way of knowing from those sources if the current racial profiling of South Asians post-9/11 is impacting school bullying of South Asian students. Instead, we must rely on reports from the community.

Health

One of the greatest health policy needs for Asian Americans is high-quality, disaggregated data. The sampling of measure on the health status of Asian American children demonstrated the absence of data in national survey of the smaller, but fastest growing Asian groups. Among the larger Asian groups that do have data, we see a marked difference in health status.

In terms of health access, the American Community Survey provides a starting point in measuring the health insurance coverage of our children. The data presented here

provide a benchmark to measure the impact of the Affordable Care Act on insurance coverage among Asian American children as programs are fully implemented over the next few years. Access to regular medical and dental care comes from other national surveys that have poorer coverage of all Asian groups. Strategies or partnerships for improving data quality in this sphere are needed.

Economic Status

A family's economic resources have a huge impact on the well-being of a child. Aside from educational opportunities and improved health outcomes, economic stability also provides a child with a safe environment to thrive. Our previous report on Asian American poverty in New York City found that the vast majority of Asian families living in poverty were two-parent families, unlike that of other population groups, where single-mother households were the predominant profile of poor families.

We found that Asian families were more likely to pay for childcare than other groups. For those families who are unable to survive on one salary and yet cannot afford to pay for childcare, the only solution is to send newborns back to relatives in their homelands until the child is old enough to enter the full-day public school system. Researchers have labeled these children as satellite babies and have found that these children have difficulty adapting to the sudden change in environment and often rejected their birth parents. The children reacted differently ranging from becoming more withdrawn to lashing out emotionally. Statistically quantifying this problem is difficult as the United States does not systematically report on numbers or demographics of people leaving the country. Aside from helping satellite children adjust to their new lives, the issue is also a symptom of the larger issue of creating affordable childcare options for working poor and low-income families.

Emerging Groups

Emerging groups are defined here as Asian ethnic groups other than the five largest groups that have had the fastest population growth in the last two decades. We also know the least about these groups because most are aggregated into an "other Asian" category in most surveys. While the American Community Survey (ACS) has most in-depth data by Asian groups, even then the ACS does not report out separately for the newest wave of Asian immigrants, in particular, Bhutanese, Burmese, and Nepalese.

Local governments and social service agencies have to adapt to the changing language needs of the Asian American community. With South Asian languages seeing the most rapid growth, service providers will have to train and bring on additional language and cultural capacity. These newest Asian communities should seek opportunities to connect with existing Asian community groups, government and philanthropic groups to help them develop collaborative programs to address their needs.

Refugee Families

Refugee families face additional challenges to adapting to life in the United States. These families were uprooted from their homelands by traumatic events, often resulting in on-going mental and physical issues. As a consequence, children from Southeast Asian families are at high risk for becoming disconnected youth due to high birth rates among unwed mothers, higher poverty rates, lower English proficiency, and lower educational attainment particularly in the Cambodian, Hmong, and Laotian communities. New programs and policies should be directed at improving parental job prospects, re-engaging disconnected youth, and providing culturally sensitive mental health services.

With the recent arrival of large numbers of Bhutanese and Burmese refugees to the United States, these communities can learn from the experiences of previous refugee communities from Southeast Asia. While poverty and secure parental employment are already a challenge for these newest arrivals, the impact on family structure has not yet materialized. In addition to improving job prospects and providing culturally appropriate mental health services, policy makers should consider extending assistance for newly arrived refugees to help keep families together during the long transition. Another challenge for the newer refugee groups is that government surveys are slow to include them in survey results, resulting in a dearth of data on their status and needs.

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About The Asian American Federation

Mission

The Asian American Federation is a nonprofit organization that works to advance the civic voice and well-being of Asian Americans. We provide leadership to the Asian American community through philanthropy, policy research and strengthening community nonprofits.

About Us

Established in 1989, the Federation represents and works with 46 nonprofit agencies in the fields of health & human services, education, economic development, civic participation and social justice. Together, we address Asian American needs and give voice to our communities.

What We Do

- **Philanthropy:** We promote giving and volunteerism to connect resources to needs. Our Asian American Community Fund provides grants to support programs and services.

- **Research & Advocacy:** We initiate research to assess community needs, to improve service access and to inform policies. We conduct advocacy on issues affecting our communities and our agencies. Our Census Information Center expands local access to census data and publishes up-to-date demographic profiles of Asian Americans.

- **Nonprofit Support:** We provide training and assistance to help member agencies strengthen and improve their governance, management capabilities and operational infrastructure. We also help agencies access funding and facilitate partnerships and collaboration.

- **Special Initiatives:** We make targeted efforts to respond to emerging issues as well as events or circumstances that impact our communities.

Other Publications

Asian American Federation (2013). *Asian Americans of the Empire State: Growing Diversity and Common Needs.* New York, NY.

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