

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month - May 2007

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important milestones in Asian Pacific American history: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843 and the contributions of Chinese workers to the building of the transcontinental railroad, completed on May 10, 1869. In 1992, Congress expanded the 10-day observance to a month long celebration. In 1997 the Asian or Pacific Islander racial category was separated into two categories: "Asian" and "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander." Below are selected population and health facts for you to use in your events with links to additional information.

The population of Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders has grown significantly since Census 2000.

Asians

21%

The estimated increase in population between 2000 and 2005 for Asians.

14.4 million --- 2005

The estimated number of U.S. residents in July 2005 who said they were Asian (single race or multiracial). This group comprised about 5% of the total population.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/006808.html>

11.9 million --- 2000

The estimated number of U.S. residents in April 2000 who reported they were Asian (alone or in combination with one or more other races). This group comprised about 4.2% of the total population.

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html>

Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

13.3%

The estimated increase in population between 2000 and 2005 for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHOPI).

990,000 --- 2005

The estimated number of U.S. residents in July 2005 who said they are Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (single race or multiracial). This group comprised 0.3 percent of the total population.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/006808.html>

874,000 --- 2000

The estimated number of U.S. residents in April 2000 who said they are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (alone or in combination with one or more other races). This group comprised 0.3% of the total population.

<http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html>

The five largest ethnic groups are Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese and Korean.

Ethnic group (single race)	Estimated population
Asian Indian	2,319,222
Bangladeshi	48,577
Cambodian	217,438
Chinese, except Taiwanese	2,797,966
Filipino	2,282,872
Hmong	183,265
Indonesian	63,609
Japanese	833,761
Korean	1,246,240
Laotian	193,247
Malaysian	13,460
Pakistani	192,431
Sri Lankan	30,125
Taiwanese	84,291
Thai	143,169
Vietnamese	1,418,334

(Source: 2005 American Community Survey)

Ethnic group (single race)	Estimated population
Polynesian:	250,238
Native Hawaiian	151,878
Samoan	56,736
Tongan	28,194
Other Polynesian	13,430
Micronesian:	106,852
Guamanian or Chamorro	76,062
Other Micronesian	30,790
Melanesian :	21,623
Fijian	20,030
Other Melanesian	1,593

(Source: 2005 American Community Survey)

Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are more likely to NOT have health insurance coverage than the general population.

17.9%

Percentage of single-race Asians without health insurance coverage in 2005, up from 16.5 % in 2004 and higher than the U.S. average of 15.9%.

21.8%

The three-year average (2003-2005) percentage without health insurance for those who reported their race as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander but did not report any other race. The U.S. average is 15.9%.

http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/income_wealth/007419.html

Three Out of the Top Five Languages Spoken at Home Other than English and Spanish are Asian languages

Language	*In millions
Chinese	2.0
French	1.6
German	1.4
Tagalog	1.2
Vietnamese	1.0
Italian	1.0
Korean	0.9
Russian	0.7
Polish	0.7
Arabic	0.6

*Population 5 years and over, in millions. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.

(Source: Language Use Census 2000 citing U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3)

Selected Health Facts

<p>HIV/AIDS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV/AIDS has been on the rise among Asian American (AA), Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHOPI). Between 1999 and 2003, AIDS diagnoses' increased by 34%. • AA and NHOPI are less likely than others to get tested for HIV. <p>For more information, please go to: http://www.banyantreeproject.org/hivaidis_apis.html</p>
<p>Domestic Violence</p>	<p>A compilation of community-based studies points to the high prevalence of domestic violence in Asian communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 41%-60% of respondents have reported experiencing domestic violence (physical and/or sexual) during their lifetime. This estimate is based on studies of women's experiences of domestic violence conducted among different Asian ethnic groups in the U.S. <p>For more information, please go to: http://www.apiahf.org/apidvinstitute/GenderViolence/factsheet.htm</p>
<p>Cancer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lung cancer is the predominant cancer affecting AAs and NHOPIs, and is the number one cause of cancer death for all these groups, except Asian Indian women. • Once diagnosed with cancer, Native Hawaiians have a 5-year survival rate that is 18% lower than for Caucasians. • Asian American females are the first American population to experience cancer as the leading cause of death; it has been the number one killer of Asian American women since 1980 (AANCART). • Socio-economic status is a significant and common factor in cancer-related disparities seen among different racial/ethnic groups in the U.S. Screening reduces mortality both by decreasing incidence and by detecting a higher proportion of cancer at early and more treatable stages. <p>Please go to http://www.apiahf.org/programs/cdp/aapicancerfacts.htm for more information</p> <p><u><i>A BOOK OF HOPE: Stories of Healing To Honor Asian American & Pacific Islander Cancer Survivors</i></u>, is a compilation of 14 AAPI cancer survivors who talk about coping with the disease and cancer survivorship. For a copy please contact: eednacot@apihf.org</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Hepatitis B</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAs and NHOPIs are also disproportionately affected by liver cancer, 80% of which is caused by chronic Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) Infection. • An estimated 1.4 million Americans are chronically infected with HBV, and over half are AA and NHOPI. • Due to the high prevalence of hepatitis B in the community and the asymptomatic nature of the virus, it is imperative for AAs and NHOPIs to be screened and vaccinated against hepatitis B. <p>For more information, please go to: http://www.apiahf.org/resources/pdf/APIAHF_Hepatitis_Fact_Sheet_Sept_2006.pdf</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Diabetes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many immigrant communities have significantly higher rates of diabetes in the U.S. than are seen in their native countries. The prevention and management of diabetes relies heavily on lifestyle changes, particularly nutrition and exercise. • Challenges such as poverty and lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services hinder AAs and NHOPIs from receiving adequate care and information. • Obesity is recognized as a serious risk factor for diabetes. Immigrants in the U.S. often eat foods that are higher in animal fat and exercise less than is typical in their native country. <p>For more information, please go to: http://www.apiahf.org/resources/pdf/APIAHF%20Diabetes%20Fact%20Sheet%20M1.pdf http://www.apiahf.org/programs/cdp/diabetes.htm</p>

Health briefs on [Cambodians](#), [Chamorros](#), [Chinese](#), [Filipinos](#), [Hmong](#), [Japanese](#), [Koreans](#), [Native Hawaiians](#), [Samoans](#), [South Asians](#), and [Vietnamese](#) in the United States are available on our website at <http://www.apiahf.org/resources/index.htm>