



DEMOGRAPHIC AND  
SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILES  
OF ASIAN AMERICANS,  
NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND  
PACIFIC ISLANDERS  
IN THE UNITED STATES

JULY 2011

## ADVOCATES FOR HEALTH JUSTICE

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) is a health justice non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of more than 17 million Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders living in the United States and its jurisdictions. We believe that all persons have the right to be healthy, the right to live in a thriving community, and the right to quality, affordable, and accessible health care. For the past 25 years, APIAHF has worked with community advocates, public health leaders, and policymakers to generate policies, programs, and systems changes to improve the health of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.

Through our policy and advocacy efforts, APIAHF was instrumental in the creation of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, fought for the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and continues to demand the inclusion of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in the collection and reporting of local, state, and national health data.

Among our many successful partnerships, APIAHF is proud to direct the largest ever investment in Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities through a \$16.5 million grant by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Our work derives from three core values:

**RESPECT** because we affirm the identity, rights, and dignity of all people.

**FAIRNESS** in how people are treated by others and by institutions, including who participates in decision making processes.

**EQUITY** in power, opportunities, and resources to address obstacles hindering vulnerable communities and groups from living the healthiest lives.

## MISSION

APIAHF influences policy, mobilizes communities, and strengthens programs and organizations to improve the health of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders.

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## OVERVIEW

This brief provides an overview of demographic characteristics, socioeconomic status, and health care coverage of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders living in the United States. We focus on established social determinants of health, especially as they concern immigrants, such as education, income, nativity and citizenship, language use and proficiency, and health insurance coverage. This report uses the most recent national data available as of June 2011, the 2010 decennial Census and the 2007-2009 American Community Survey (ACS). The former was used to obtain data on demographic characteristics of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders nationally as aggregated racial groups, and the latter for more granular data disaggregated by ethnicity. To obtain estimates of health coverage, we used ACS data collected in 2009, the first year when such data were collected by the ACS.

## ASIAN AMERICANS, NATIVE HAWAIIANS, AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS IN THE UNITED STATES: 2000 AND 2010 CENSUS

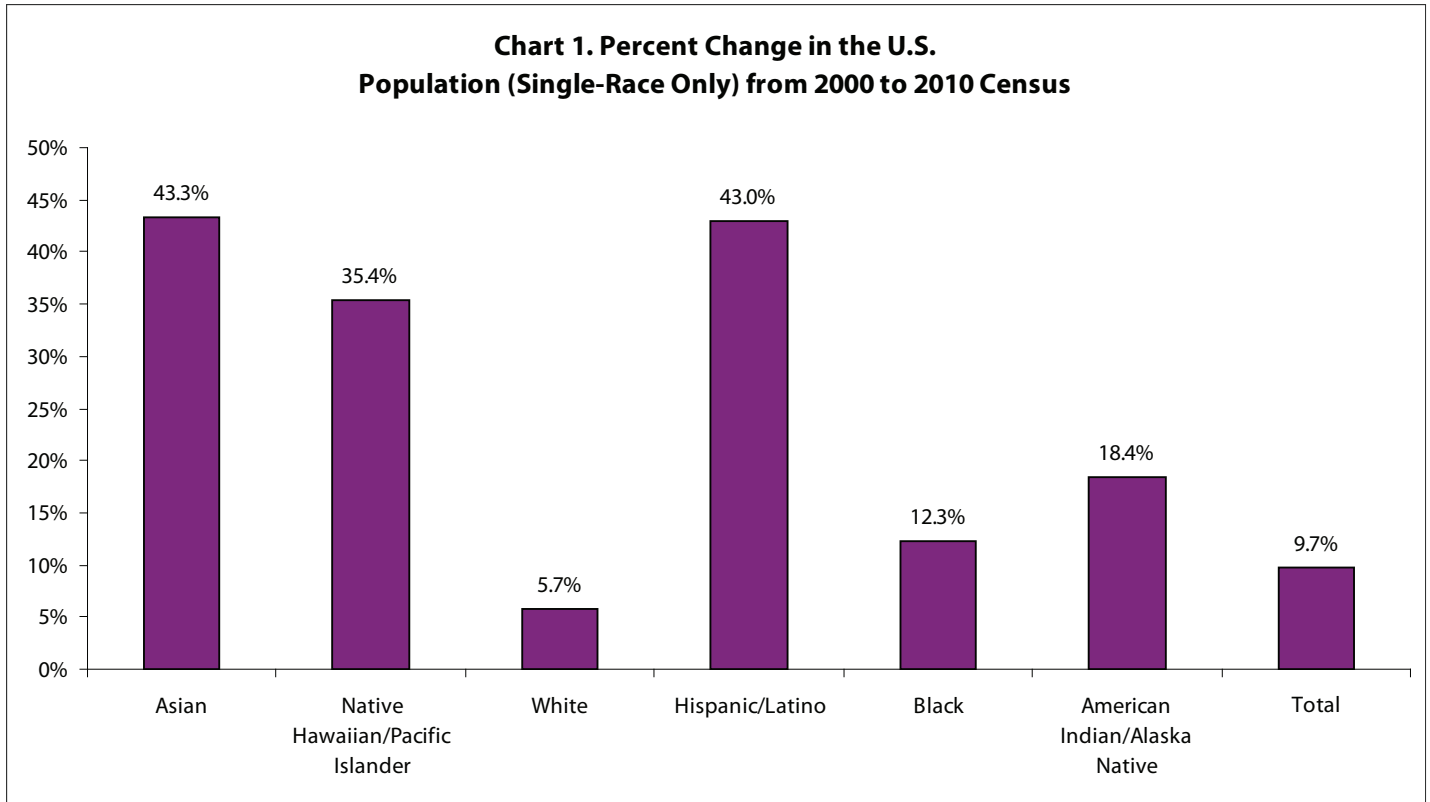
According to the 2010 Census, there were estimated 14,674,252 single-race Asian Americans (AAs) and 540,013 single-race Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPIs) living in the United States (Table 1). AAs as a single race accounted for about 4.8% of the U.S. population and NHPIs about 0.1%. As a single race and in combination with other races, there were estimated 17,320,856 Asian Americans (who constituted about 5.6% of the U.S. population) and 1,225,195 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (about 0.2% of the U.S. population). NHPIs were more likely than other racial groups to report multiple races (55.9%). About 15.3% of AAs reported being of multi-race heritage.

**Table 1. U.S. Populations by Race/Ethnicity**

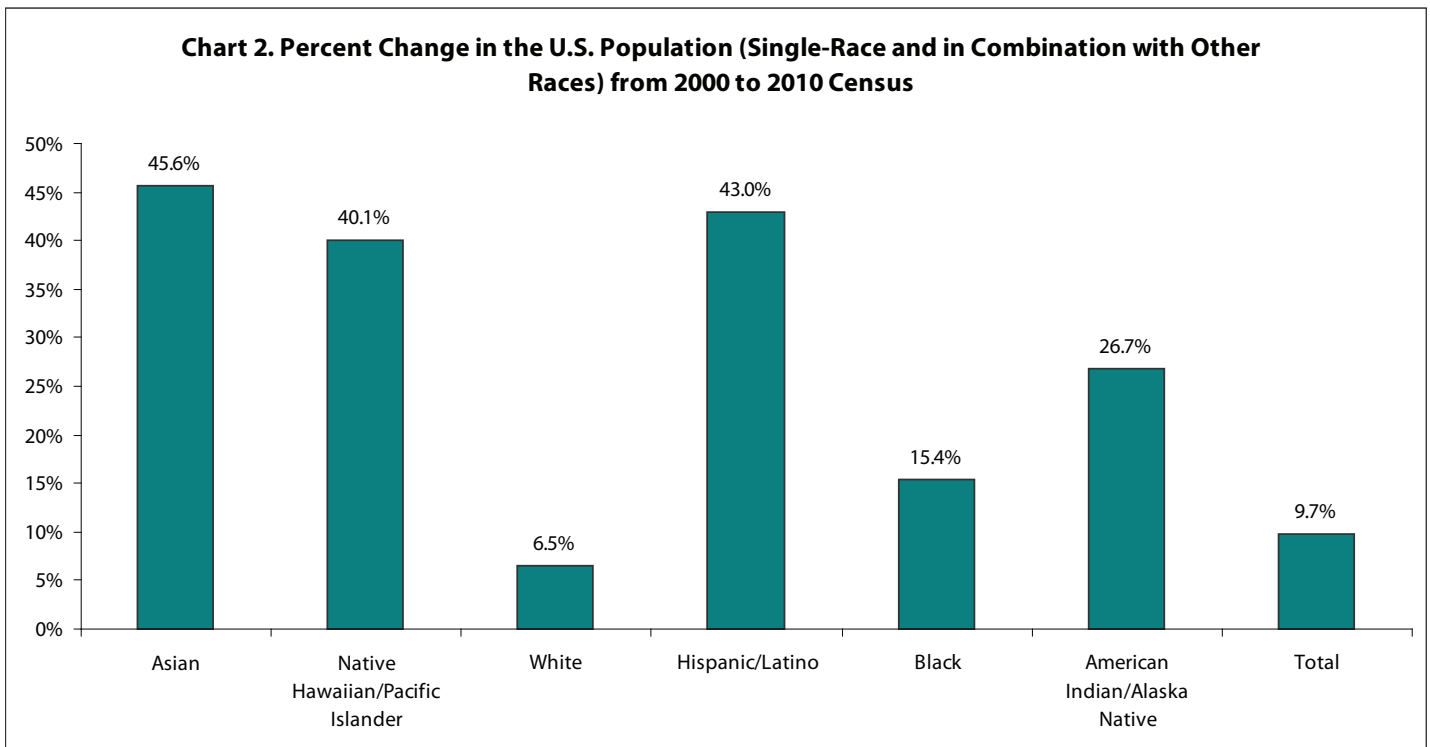
Race/Ethnicity	2000 Census		2010 Census	
	Estimated Count	Percent of U.S. Population	Estimated Count	Percent of U.S. Population
<i>Single-race only</i>				
Asian	10,242,998	3.6%	14,674,252	4.8%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	398,835	0.1%	540,013	0.2%
White	211,460,626	75.1%	223,553,265	72.4%
Hispanic/Latino	35,305,818	12.5%	50,477,594	16.3%
Black	34,658,190	12.3%	38,929,319	12.6%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	2,475,956	0.9%	2,932,248	0.9%
Total	281,421,906	100.0%	308,745,538	100.0%
<i>Single-race and in combination with other races</i>				
Asian	11,898,828	4.2%	17,320,856	5.6%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	874,414	0.3%	1,225,195	0.4%
White	216,930,975	77.1%	231,040,398	74.8%
Hispanic/Latino	35,305,818	12.5%	50,477,594	16.3%
Black	36,419,434	12.9%	42,020,743	13.6%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	4,119,301	1.5%	5,220,579	1.7%
Total	281,421,906	100.0%	308,745,538	100.0%

Source: 2000 and 2010 Census

As had been the case in the preceding decades, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders were the fastest growing racial groups in the United States during the last decade (Charts 1 and 2). The number of AAs as a single race and in combination with other races increased by almost half (45.6%) from about 11.9 million in 2000 to about 17.3 million in 2010. NHPI (40.1%) numbers sharply increased as well, also as a single race and in combination with other races, from slightly under 0.9 million in 2000 to over 1.2 million in 2010. NHPI (40.1%) numbers sharply increased as well, also as a single race and in combination with other races, from slightly under 0.9 million in 2000 to over 1.2 million in 2010.

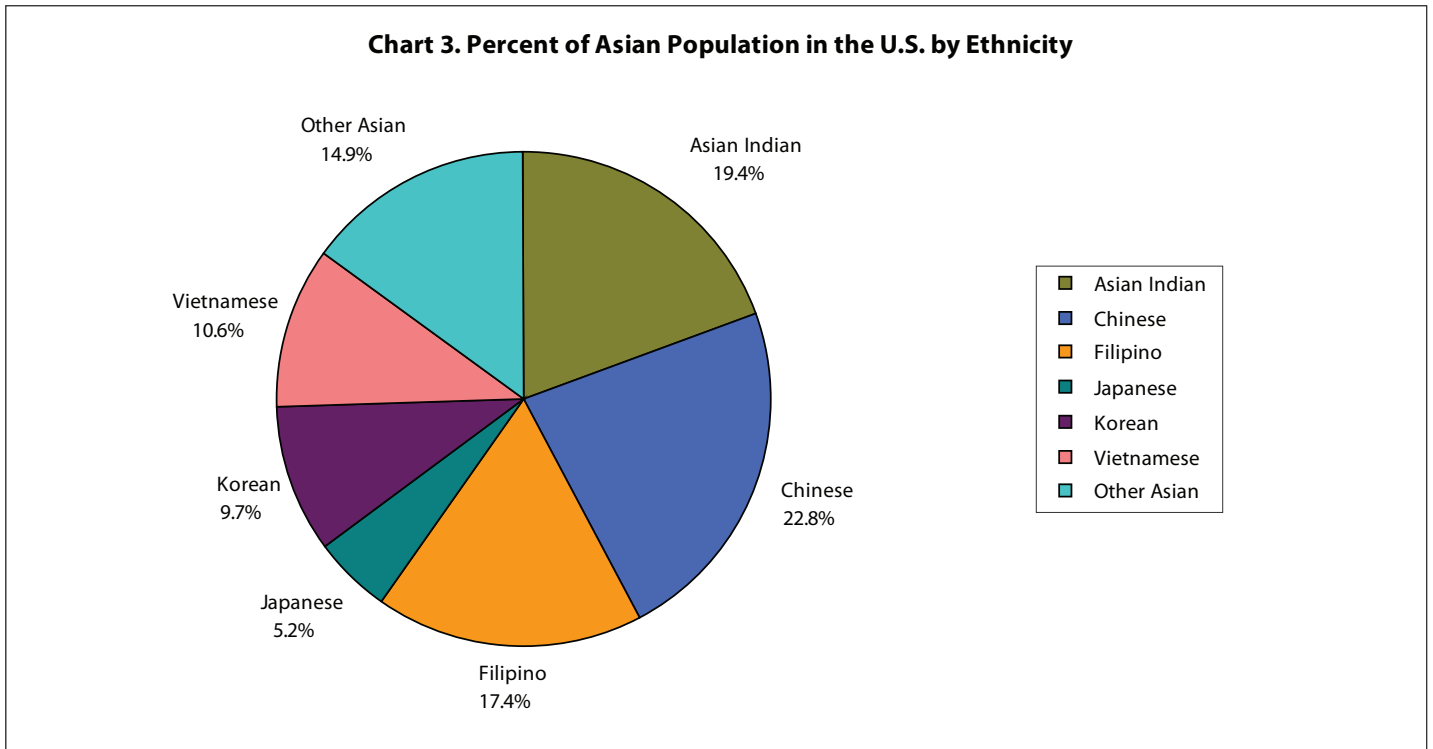


Source: 2000 and 2010 Census

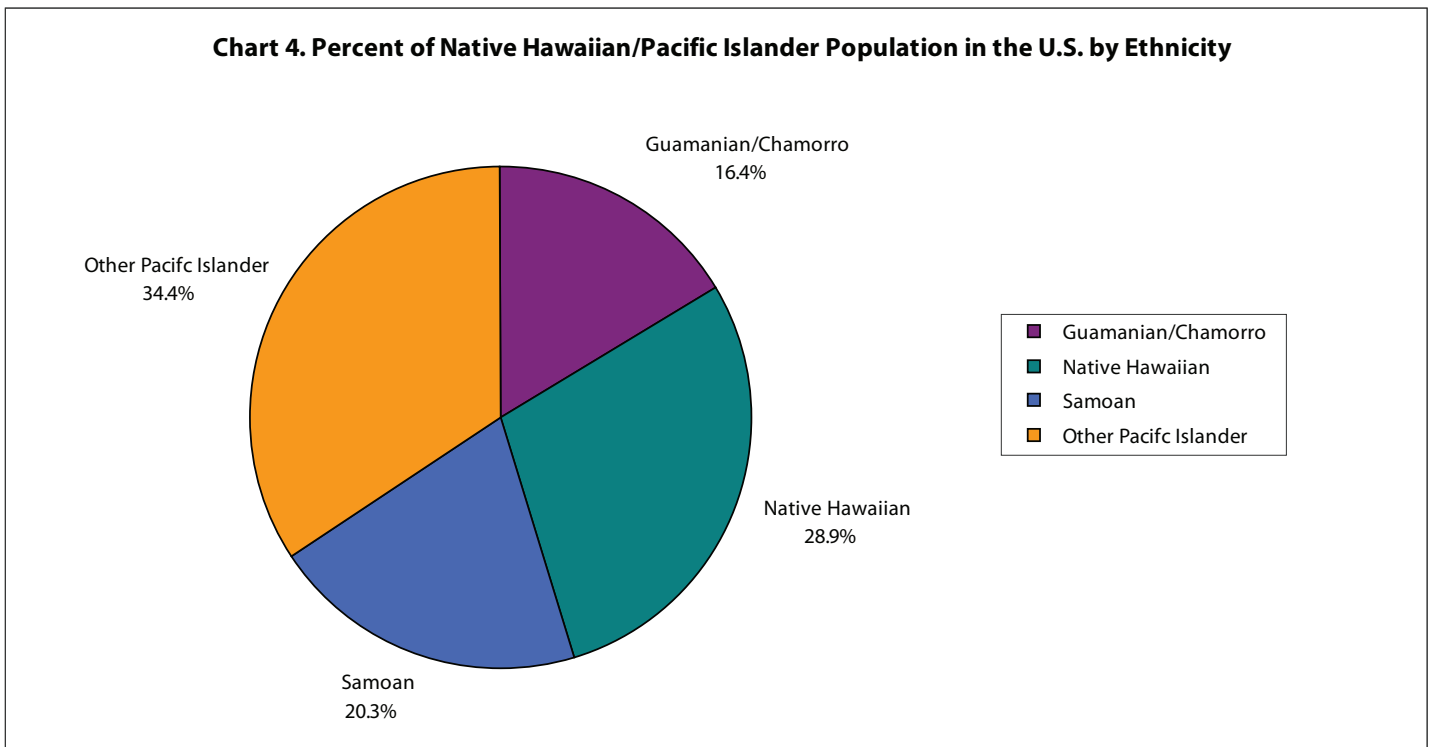


Source: 2000 and 2010 Census

Almost nine in ten AAs (85.1%) came from one of six major groups: Chinese (22.8%), Asian Indian (19.4%), Filipino (17.4%), Vietnamese (10.6%), Korean (9.7%), and Japanese (5.2%) (Chart 3). American Indians surpassed Filipinos in numbers in the 2010 Census for the first time, reflecting the dramatic increase in immigrants from South Asia over the past decade. Almost two in three NHPIs were Native Hawaiian (28.9%), Samoan (20.3%), or Guamanian/Chamorro (16.4%), the three largest NHPI ethnic groups (Chart 4). As of June 2011, further data from Census 2011 on smaller AA and NHPI ethnic groups are unavailable.



Source: 2010 Census



Source: 2010 Census

The five states with the largest AA populations were California (about 5.6 million), New York (about 1.6 million), Texas (about 1.1 million), New Jersey (about 791,000), and Hawai'i (about 777,000) (Table 2). They accounted for more than half of the total U.S. AA (56.6%) population, with California and New York respectively accounting for almost one in three and one in ten AAs nationally. The five states with the largest NHPI populations, accounting for almost two-thirds of the total U.S. NHPI (63.5%) population, were Hawai'i (about 353,000), California (about 282,000), Washington (about 66,000), Texas (about 43,000), and Utah (about 35,000) (Table 3). Hawai'i and California respectively accounted for almost three in ten and one in four NHPIs nationally.

**Table 2. Top 5 U.S. States with the Estimated Highest Asian Population**

State	Asian Population	
	Estimated Count (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Percent of U.S. Asian Population
1. California	5,552,938	32.1%
2. New York	1,575,954	9.1%
3. Texas	1,106,069	6.4%
4. New Jersey	791,234	4.6%
5. Hawai'i	777,780	4.5%

Source: 2010 Census

**Table 3. Top 5 U.S. States with the Estimated Highest Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population**

State	NHPI population	
	Estimated Count (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Percent of U.S. Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Population
1. Hawai'i	352,699	28.8%
2. California	281,840	23.0%
3. Washington	65,740	5.4%
4. Texas	42,991	3.5%
5. Utah	34,684	2.8%

Source: 2010 Census

## NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP

AAs (59.9%) had the highest proportion of the foreign-born among all racial groups, far higher than the proportion of citizens (12.5%) in the overall U.S. population (Table 4). Among AA ethnic groups, Sri Lankans (76.5%) had the highest proportion of the foreign-born, followed by Malaysians (72.7%) and Bangladeshis (72.6%). Japanese (28.4%) had the lowest proportion of the foreign-born. Among AAs, Hmong (84.1%) had the highest proportion of U.S. citizens, by birth and naturalization, followed by Japanese (81.5%) and Thais (80.3%). The proportion of citizens was the lowest among Pakistanis (52.5%), followed by Koreans (56.5%).

**Table 4: Estimated Percentages of Nativity and Citizenship Status in the U.S.**

Race/Ethnicity (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Native	Foreign-Born	Foreign-Born	
			Naturalized U.S. Citizen	Not a U.S. Citizen
Asian	40.1%	59.9%	31.9%	68.1%
Asian Indian	30.2%	69.8%	56.7%	43.3%
Bangladeshi	27.4%	72.6%	46.9%	53.1%
Cambodian	48.0%	55.9%	50.1%	49.9%
Chinese, except Taiwanese	38.9%	61.1%	63.4%	36.6%
Filipino	46.7%	53.3%	59.9%	40.1%
Hmong	56.3%	43.7%	63.5%	36.5%
Indonesian	34.5%	65.5%	56.8%	43.2%
Japanese	71.6%	28.4%	34.9%	65.1%
Korean	35.4%	64.6%	32.7%	67.3%
Laotian	45.1%	54.9%	54.3%	45.7%
Malaysian	27.3%	72.7%	61.9%	38.1%
Pakistani	34.9%	65.1%	27.0%	73.0%
Sri Lankan	23.5%	76.5%	57.2%	42.8%
Taiwanese	32.0%	68.0%	43.1%	56.9%
Thai	40.5%	59.5%	66.9%	33.1%
Vietnamese	36.1%	63.9%	49.4%	50.6%
Other Asian	23.6%	76.4%	73.0%	27.0%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	86.4%	13.6%	23.1%	76.9%
Fijian	33.8%	66.2%	48.5%	51.5%
Guamanian/Chamorro	93.0%	7.0%	40.2%	59.8%
Native Hawaiian	98.5%	1.5%	57.5%	42.5%
Samoaan	88.4%	11.6%	48.4%	51.6%
Tongan	63.6%	36.4%	56.6%	43.4%
Other Pacific Islander	71.3%	28.7%	48.0%	52.0%
White	93.1%	8.0%	38.7%	61.3%
Hispanic/Latino	61.8%	38.2%	57.2%	42.8%
Black	92.0%	8.0%	41.5%	58.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	95.0%	5.0%	28.5%	71.5%
Total	87.5%	12.5%	42.9%	57.1%

Source: 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates



The vast majority of NHPs (86.4%) were born in the U.S., similar to the U.S. average (87.5%). Virtually all Native Hawaiians (98.5%) were born in the U.S., as well as Guamanians/Chamorros (93.0%) and Samoans (88.4%). As expected, most NHPs (90%) were U.S. citizens, with virtually all Native Hawaiians (99.4%), Guamanians/Chamorros (95.8%), and Samoans (94.0%) having U.S. citizenship. Fijians (66.2% and 65.9%, respectively) and Tongans (36.4% and 84.2%, respectively) had higher proportions of the foreign-born and lower proportions of U.S. citizens than other NHP ethnic groups.

## **LANGUAGE USE AND ENGLISH PROFICIENCY**

The vast majority of AAs (70.5%) spoke a language other than English at home, a rate higher than for all other races except Hispanics/Latinos (76.8%) (Table 5). Among AA ethnic groups, Bangladeshis (91.5%) had the highest proportion of speaking a language other than English at home, followed by Hmong (91.3%), Pakistanis (85.7%), and Vietnamese (84.2%). Indeed, within each Asian ethnic group, the majority spoke a language other than English at home, with Japanese (36.1%) being the only exception.

Not surprisingly, many Asian Americans had limited English proficiency (LEP), defined by the U.S. Census as “speaking English less than very well.” Among those who spoke languages other than English at home, AAs (32.4%) had almost over four times the proportion of LEP people in the U.S. overall (8.6%). The Vietnamese (50.5%) had the highest proportion of adults with LEP, followed by Bangladeshis (46.1%), Cambodians (43.4%), Hmong (42.9%), and Taiwanese (42.5%).

**Table 5. Estimated Percentages of Language Spoken at Home of Population 5 Years and Over in the U.S.**

Race/Ethnicity (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Speak English only	Speak Language Other Than English at Home	Speak Language Other Than English at Home	
			Speak English "Very Well"	Speak English Less Than "Very Well"
Asian	29.5%	70.5%	67.6%	32.4%
Asian Indian	23.0%	77.0%	78.1%	21.9%
Bangladeshi	8.5%	91.5%	53.9%	46.1%
Cambodian	19.4%	80.6%	56.6%	43.4%
Chinese, except Taiwanese	24.9%	75.1%	58.5%	41.5%
Filipino	43.1%	56.9%	81.5%	18.5%
Hmong	8.7%	91.3%	57.1%	42.9%
Indonesian	32.6%	67.4%	70.1%	29.9%
Japanese	63.9%	36.1%	82.1%	17.9%
Korean	28.8%	71.2%	58.7%	41.3%
Laotian	18.9%	81.1%	59.9%	40.1%
Malaysian	34.8%	65.2%	76.9%	23.1%
Pakistani	14.3%	85.7%	72.4%	27.6%
Sri Lankan	28.1%	71.9%	78.3%	21.7%
Taiwanese	18.2%	81.8%	57.5%	42.5%
Thai	34.0%	66.0%	63.8%	36.2%
Vietnamese	15.8%	84.2%	49.5%	50.5%
Other Asian	19.2%	80.8%	53.2%	46.8%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	71.4%	28.6%	91.6%	8.4%
Fijian	22.7%	77.3%	79.6%	20.4%
Guamanian/Chamorro	71.9%	28.1%	92.5%	7.5%
Native Hawaiian	89.8%	10.2%	98.2%	1.8%
Samoaan	55.2%	44.8%	87.9%	12.1%
Tongan	38.7%	61.3%	81.8%	18.2%
Other Pacific Islander	63.5%	36.5%	87.5%	12.5%
White	85.9%	14.1%	94.2%	5.8%
Hispanic/Latino	23.2%	76.8%	62.4%	37.6%
Black	91.9%	8.1%	97.2%	2.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	79.8%	20.2%	93.8%	6.2%
Total	80.2%	19.8%	91.4%	8.6%

Source: 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Given the high proportion of U.S.-born, it is understandable that NHPs were much more likely than AAs to use only English at home (71.4%). Most NHPs (91.6%) who spoke another language at home were also proficient in English. Only about one in ten Native Hawaiians (10.2%) and three in ten Guamanians/Chamorros (28.1%) spoke languages other than English at home. Still, there was a significant minority among NHPs who did not speak English at home or had LEP. Fijians (77.3%) had the highest proportion of persons who spoke a language other than English at home, followed by Tongans (61.3%) and Samoans (44.8%). Among NHPs who spoke languages other than English at home, Fijians (20.4%) had the highest proportion of those with LEP, followed by Tongans (18.2%) and Samoans (12.1%).

## SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS

Socioeconomically, there was a great deal of diversity among AA ethnic groups (Table 6). There was a bimodal distribution of educational levels among AA ethnic groups, split between those who tended to be highly educated and those who did not. Seven AA ethnic groups had over half of adults ages 25 or older with bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees: Taiwanese (72.6%), Asian Indian (68.4%), Malaysian (57.4%), Sri Lankan (56.3%), Pakistani (54.8%), Korean (51.7%), and Chinese (50.3%). On the other end of the spectrum were the ethnic groups with high proportions of adults who received less education than a high school diploma, which included Hmong (39%), Cambodian (38.4%), Laotian (34.2%), and Vietnamese (28.0%).

**Table 6. Estimated Percentages of Educational Attainment of Population 25 Years and Over in the U.S.**

Race/Ethnicity (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Less than High School Diploma	High School Graduate (or Equivalency)	Some College or Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Asian	14.1%	16.8%	20.3%	29.3%	19.5%
Asian Indian	9.5%	10.9%	11.2%	31.7%	36.7%
Bangladeshi	19.0%	19.4%	15.1%	26.0%	20.5%
Cambodian	38.4%	24.8%	22.7%	11.3%	2.8%
Chinese, except Taiwanese	18.5%	15.7%	15.5%	25.8%	24.5%
Filipino	8.0%	16.5%	29.7%	37.3%	8.6%
Hmong	39.0%	23.0%	24.2%	11.2%	2.7%
Indonesian	6.4%	18.2%	28.7%	31.2%	15.4%
Japanese	5.9%	20.9%	27.7%	30.9%	14.6%
Korean	8.5%	19.3%	20.6%	33.8%	17.9%
Laotian	34.2%	29.4%	24.1%	9.7%	2.6%
Malaysian	7.2%	15.2%	20.2%	36.8%	20.6%
Pakistani	13.4%	15.5%	16.3%	30.0%	24.8%
Sri Lankan	7.5%	15.9%	20.3%	27.0%	29.3%
Taiwanese	4.6%	8.0%	14.9%	30.6%	42.0%
Thai	16.4%	18.5%	22.9%	26.6%	15.6%
Vietnamese	28.0%	22.3%	23.1%	19.0%	7.5%
Other Asian	18.1%	15.3%	19.6%	18.1%	18.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	12.3%	35.7%	34.9%	12.2%	4.9%
Fijian	21.0%	34.3%	32.3%	9.7%	2.7%
Guamanian/Chamorro	14.2%	31.3%	36.5%	12.5%	5.5%
Native Hawaiian	9.5%	37.1%	35.5%	12.7%	5.3%
Samoaan	13.7%	37.9%	35.8%	8.7%	3.9%
Tongan	18.6%	36.5%	29.9%	12.0%	3.0%
Other Pacific Islander	12.9%	27.6%	31.4%	20.1%	8.1%
White	12.8%	29.3%	28.7%	18.4%	10.8%
Hispanic/Latino	39.3%	26.7%	21.2%	8.7%	4.0%
Black	19.2%	32.2%	31.0%	11.6%	6.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	20.1%	29.9%	34.2%	10.3%	5.5%
Total	15.1%	29.0%	28.1%	17.6%	10.2%

Source: 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Overall, AA ethnic groups tended to have higher annual incomes than the overall U.S. population (Table 7). The two ethnic groups with the highest median household and family, as well as per capita incomes, were Asian Indian and Taiwanese, but other groups such as Filipino, Sri Lankan, Japanese, Chinese, and Malaysian also had consistently high median household, median family, and per capita incomes—far higher than the national figures. As expected, these same groups had the lowest percentages of families and children living below the federal poverty line (Table 8). The ethnic groups with the lowest median family, median household, and per capita incomes among AA groups were Bangladeshi, Hmong, and Cambodian, which were also lower than those for the U.S. population. Consistent with this, the proportions of families and children living below the federal poverty line were higher for these three ethnic groups than for other AA groups, with the highest proportions seen among Hmong families (24.5%) and children (32.4%), followed by Bangladeshi (17.8% and 26.0%, respectively) and Cambodian (17.4% and 23.1%, respectively).

**Table 7. Estimated Income in the Past 12 Months in the U.S.**

Race/Ethnicity (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Median Family Income	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Asian	\$78,565	\$68,549	\$28,342
Asian Indian	\$96,872	\$86,660	\$36,533
Bangladeshi	\$45,849	\$45,953	\$16,784
Cambodian	\$49,439	\$50,669	\$15,940
Chinese, except Taiwanese	\$80,369	\$68,420	\$30,061
Filipino	\$84,003	\$76,455	\$25,799
Hmong	\$47,339	\$47,038	\$10,949
Indonesian	\$69,577	\$60,906	\$25,729
Japanese	\$85,368	\$65,767	\$31,831
Korean	\$64,768	\$53,934	\$26,118
Laotian	\$56,296	\$55,119	\$16,585
Malaysian	\$82,777	\$63,269	\$33,264
Pakistani	\$67,379	\$62,744	\$24,663
Sri Lankan	\$83,638	\$73,927	\$32,480
Taiwanese	\$96,007	\$77,596	\$38,312
Thai	\$64,077	\$55,210	\$21,708
Vietnamese	\$59,456	\$54,799	\$21,542
Other Asian	\$55,609	\$51,514	\$20,114
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	\$63,251	\$57,664	\$19,020
Fijian	\$69,757	\$65,766	\$21,456
Guamanian/Chamorro	\$63,146	\$57,900	\$20,054
Native Hawaiian	\$69,784	\$60,950	\$20,954
Samoa	\$55,701	\$53,329	\$15,567
Tongan	\$50,482	\$50,204	\$11,907
Other Pacific Islander	\$63,439	\$54,803	\$19,478
White	\$66,590	\$54,277	\$29,418
Hispanic/Latino	\$42,388	\$40,920	\$15,506
Black	\$40,861	\$34,585	\$17,549
American Indian/Alaska Native	\$45,666	\$38,515	\$17,933
Total	\$62,367	\$51,369	\$27,100

Source: 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Compared to AAs, NHPI ethnic groups are not as diverse in education levels. Only about one in five Guamanian/Chamorro (18%) and Native Hawaiian (18%) adults ages 25 or older had bachelor’s, graduate, or professional degrees; the proportions were even lower for Tongans (15.0%), Samoans (12.6%), and Fijians (12.4%). Fijians (21.0%), Tongans (18.6%), and Guamanians/Chamorros (14.2%) had the highest proportions of adults with less than a high school diploma. Among NHPI ethnic groups, the proportion of adults without high school diplomas was the lowest for Native Hawaiians (9.5%).

**Table 8. Estimated Percentages of Poverty in the U.S.**

Race/Ethnicity (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Families	Persons Under 18 years
Asian	8.2%	11.0%
Asian Indian	5.2%	7.6%
Bangladeshi	17.8%	26.0%
Cambodian	17.4%	23.1%
Chinese, except Taiwanese	9.4%	9.9%
Filipino	4.6%	6.6%
Hmong	24.5%	32.4%
Indonesian	8.2%	11.1%
Japanese	4.5%	7.1%
Korean	11.2%	11.4%
Laotian	10.5%	14.3%
Malaysian	4.7%	9.0%
Pakistani	12.3%	18.5%
Sri Lankan	5.1%	8.2%
Taiwanese	7.5%	6.7%
Thai	9.6%	15.2%
Vietnamese	12.1%	15.4%
Other Asian	16.9%	27.5%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	11.5%	16.4%
Fijian	5.3%	8.5%
Guamanian/Chamorro	9.6%	14.7%
Native Hawaiian	9.4%	14.8%
Samoan	13.6%	16.7%
Tongan	18.4%	21.9%
Other Pacific Islander	14.5%	15.8%
White	7.6%	14.8%
Hispanic/Latino	19.6%	29.1%
Black	21.6%	34.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	18.4%	28.6%
Total	9.9%	18.9%

Source: 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Income differences among NHPI ethnic groups may be somewhat greater than education levels. All NHPI ethnic groups had lower per capita incomes than the national average. Fijians and Native Hawaiians had higher median household, median family, and per capita incomes than the other NHPI ethnic groups. Tongans and Samoans constituted lower-income groups, both of which had median household, median family, and per capita incomes much lower than the overall U.S. population’s. Similarly, the proportions of families and children who lived under the

poverty line were the highest for Tongans (18.4% and 21.9%, respectively), followed by Samoans (13.6% and 16.7%, respectively) and Native Hawaiians (9.4% and 14.8%, respectively).

## HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

AAs (71.7%) tended to have higher private insurance coverage rates than the U.S. population's (67.4%) (Table 9). The AA ethnic group with the highest private insurance coverage rate was Japanese (84.5%), followed by Taiwanese (79.6%), Asian Indian (79.0%), Chinese (72.2%), and Indonesian (71.8%). The ethnic groups with the lowest rates of private insurance coverage were Cambodian (52.1%), Hmong (46.0%), and Bangladeshi (44.2%). AA groups with lower private insurance rates tended to have higher public insurance rates, such as Hmong (43.2%), Bangladeshi (37.3%), and Cambodians (29.7%). Uninsurance rates were the highest for Bangladeshi (22.5%) and Cambodians (21.3%), along with Koreans (22.3%) and Pakistanis (22.9%).

**Table 9. Estimated Percentages of Health Insurance Coverage of Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population in the U.S.**

Race/ethnicity (Alone & In Combination with Other Races)	Private	Public	None
Asian	71.7%	19.4%	14.1%
Asian Indian	79.0%	12.8%	11.8%
Bangladeshi	44.2%	37.3%	22.5%
Cambodian	52.1%	29.7%	21.3%
Chinese, except Taiwanese	72.2%	20.5%	12.3%
Filipino	78.3%	18.1%	10.6%
Hmong	46.0%	43.2%	15.9%
Indonesian	71.8%	17.5%	15.0%
Japanese	84.5%	20.6%	7.9%
Korean	65.7%	16.1%	22.3%
Laotian	58.6%	25.7%	18.5%
Malaysian	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable
Pakistani	55.8%	23.5%	22.9%
Sri Lankan	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable
Taiwanese	79.6%	11.0%	13.8%
Thai	69.8%	15.3%	19.3%
Vietnamese	59.0%	25.4%	18.7%
Other Asian	49.3%	28.3%	24.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	66.3%	28.4%	13.5%
Fijian	na	na	na
Guamanian/Chamorro	72.4%	21.8%	13.1%
Native Hawaiian	70.1%	30.0%	10.2%
Samoan	60.3%	29.6%	16.5%
Tongan	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable
Other Pacific Islander	unavailable	unavailable	unavailable
White	71.8%	27.4%	13.3%
Hispanic/Latino	42.6%	30.5%	31.0%
Black	52.2%	37.8%	17.8%
American Indian/Alaska Native	48.5%	35.4%	24.1%
Total	67.4%	28.5%	15.1%

Source: 2009 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

NHPIs as an aggregated racial group had a lower private insurance rate (66.3%) but higher public insurance rate (28.4%) than Asians and the overall U.S. population. The uninsurance rate for NHPIs (13.1%) was lower than for Asians (14.1%) and the U.S. population (15.1%). Among NHPIs, Guamanians/Chamorros (72.4%) had the highest private insurance coverage rate, followed by Native Hawaiians (70.1%). Native Hawaiians (30.0%) also had the highest public insurance rate among the NHPI ethnic groups. Samoans (60.3%) who had the lowest private insurance rate had the highest uninsurance rate (16.5%) among the NHPI groups, despite its high public insurance rate (29.6%).

## **LIMITATION**

An important limitation to the current brief involves the data used: the one-year and three-year estimates generated by the 2007-2009 American Community Survey (ACS). The former was used in reporting health insurance coverage rates (based upon the ACS data collected in 2009, the first year when such data were collected), and the latter in other estimates concerning all other socioeconomic characteristics. With the exception of the decennial 2010 Census, the 2007-2009 ACS is the most recent of data; and compared to limited range of data the Census covers, the ACS provides far more comprehensive data on a wide range of demographic, socioeconomic, and other characteristics. However, one-year ACS estimates are generated using samples collected in geographic areas with 65,000 or more persons and three-year estimates in areas with 20,000 or more persons. Inevitably, one- or three-year ACS estimates are likely to exclude areas, presumably rural, with fewer than 20,000 residents. This report, therefore, may underestimate socioeconomic hardships or disparities related to health coverage that AAs and NHPIs may experience, to the extent that persons living in small geographical areas are at greater disadvantages.

We will update this brief as further 2010 Census data are made available and after the release of the 5-year (2005-2009) ACS data in December 2011, collected using a representative sample of the U.S. population covering all geographical areas.



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