

# the diverse *face*

*of Asians and Pacific Islanders  
in Orange County*

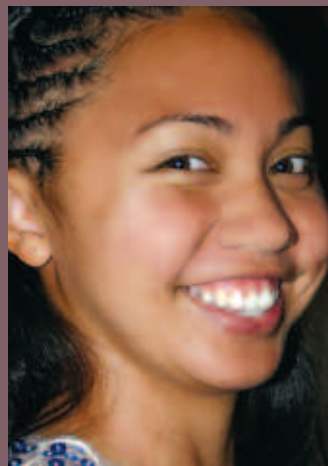


ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



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### Asian Pacific American Legal Center

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California was founded in 1983 with broad community-based support and has become the largest organization in the country focused on providing multilingual, culturally sensitive legal services, education, and civil rights support to one of the nation's fastest growing populations.

The mission of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact Asian Pacific Americans and to create a more equitable and harmonious society. APALC is affiliated with the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium in Washington, D.C.

APALC's Demographic Research Unit was established to make research more accessible to the growing Asian and Pacific Islander community and those that serve it,

including community organizations, government agencies, and policy makers.

### Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance

The Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) is dedicated to enhancing the health, and social and economic well-being of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County, California. Established in 1997, OCAPICA works to improve and expand the community's opportunities through service, education, advocacy, organizing and research. These community-driven activities seek to empower Asians and Pacific Islanders to define and control their lives and the future of their community.

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**Asians and Pacific Islanders are often** thought of as a homogenous people, a “model minority” held up as an example of all that can be accomplished in our country. Like many myths, this one exaggerates facts and is riddled with misperceptions.

The reality is that the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community in Orange County is not homogenous – in fact, it is one of the most diverse and complex in Southern California. Though they may all fall under a single banner in the public imagination and share some common issues and values, Chinese, Bangladeshi, Tongans, Cambodians, and other API groups are different from one another in many ways.

To respond to these differences, the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC) works to make available demographic information that illustrates the intricacies of the growing API population. Through data collection, analysis, and mapping, APALC compiles demographic information that supports program planning, service delivery, and advocacy.



## Welcome

**Stewart Kwoh**  
President & Executive Director,  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center

With *The Diverse Face of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County*, we hope to communicate the rich diversity, the deep, multiple layers, and the fascinating complexities that bring both unlimited opportunity and difficult challenges to this collection of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures, histories, and needs. This report is one in a series of profiles we have compiled about the API population. Reports are also available for the state of California, Los Angeles County, and San Diego County.

The series of reports study Asian and Pacific Islander groups both separately and as a whole to illustrate the individual challenges of specific groups, while at the same time acknowledging the shared roots and common issues of Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Many Asians and Pacific Islanders live full and successful lives. However, the success of some threatens to overshadow the everyday hardships that other Asian and Pacific Islander groups are facing. It is only by peeling back the layers that core problems are revealed and solutions can be found. It is hoped that the analysis and recommendations presented in this report will serve as the impetus for positive change for those who still struggle to find their place in Southern California.

I would like to extend my thanks to the funders, sponsors, and community organizations who made this report and its launch possible.



## Introduction

**Orange County's** demographic landscape is very different from those portrayed on popular television shows like "The OC."

In 2003, decades of growth in its Asian and Latino population led to a defining moment in the county's history: whites no longer constituted a majority of its total population. Yet the perception of Orange County as white and affluent highlights the need for community leaders and policy makers to better understand these demographic changes and their impact on the effective delivery of services to the county's diverse population.

Orange County's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) population is complex and growing. Consisting of those with roots in China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and other countries throughout Asia and the Pacific, Asians and Pacific Islanders now comprise roughly 16% of the county's total population and together grew as much as 77% from 1990 to 2000. They include new immigrants and families who have been here for generations; youth and seniors; low-income workers and affluent professionals. Their diversity makes them challenging to understand and serve.

Census 2000 data provides the single most comprehensive source of information to date about the Asian and Pacific Islander community. This report compiles these and other data on the API population and 20 ethnic subgroups with a substantial presence in Orange County.\* It is designed as a tool to assist elected officials, program planners, funders, advocates, business leaders, and grant writers in better understanding

and describing the API community and its needs. We hope that it will provide a comprehensive view of the API community and reveal the broad diversity found within this growing and dynamic group.

For the first time, the 2000 Census allowed people to report membership in more than one racial or ethnic group. A unique feature of this report is the presentation of data for both single race and multiracial populations. Throughout the report, the term "alone" refers to persons reporting a single race only, and the term "inclusive" refers to the single race and multiracial population combined for a given group (also referred to as "alone or in combination" in Census Bureau reports). Unless otherwise noted, inclusive figures are used for the facts presented herein. See Technical Notes on page 23 for a more detailed explanation. Other terminology is defined in the Glossary on page 22.

\* Demographic profiles for the Asian and Pacific Islander populations of Los Angeles County, San Diego County, and the state of California are also available from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.



## > Key Findings

**Asians are the fastest growing major racial or ethnic group in Orange County.**

The Asian population grew as much as 76% from 1990 to 2000. In comparison, Orange County's total population grew only 18% over the decade. The Asian population doubled in size in some of the county's largest Asian communities, including Westminster and Irvine. Growth in both established and emerging API populations requires greater public and private investment in serving API communities.

**Some Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups are among the county's poorest.**

Contrary to popular belief, thousands of Asians and Pacific Islanders living in Orange County struggle with poverty. According to Census 2000, the Tongan community is poorer than any other major racial or ethnic group, while some of the largest API communities, including Vietnamese, Chinese, and Koreans, have above average rates of poverty. Policy makers should expand job training and economic development initiatives to help lift poor APIs out of poverty.

**Nearly 180,000 Asians are limited English proficient.**

Language barriers are among the most pressing issues facing Asians in Orange County. Seven Asian groups, including three of the four largest groups, have majority limited English proficient (LEP) populations. More than half of Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Laotians, Koreans, Hmong, Cambodians, and Thai in Orange County have difficulty speaking English and have limited ability to access critical services like healthcare and police protection.

**While some Asians and Pacific Islanders are highly educated, many lack even a high school degree.**

Orange County's Asian and Pacific Islander communities include some of its most and least educated residents. While a majority of Asian Indians, Pakistanis, Chinese, Bangladeshis, and Filipinos adults age 25 years or older have earned a bachelor's or advanced degree, a majority of Tongans and Hmong have not graduated from high school. One-third of Vietnamese, Orange County's largest API community, do not have a high school degree. Initiatives to promote educational opportunity should not overlook Asian and Pacific Islander communities.



Orange County's Asian and Pacific Islander population includes new immigrants and families who have been here for generations; youth and seniors; low-income workers and affluent professionals.

# Race and Ethnicity



## A greater proportion of

Orange County's total population is Asian and Pacific Islander than any other county in Southern California, including Los Angeles. The county is also home to the nation's largest Vietnamese community.

Often perceived to be primarily white, Orange County has the third largest Asian and Pacific Islander (API) population in California. At nearly half a million people, the county's API population comprises 16% of its total population, the highest concentration of APIs in a Southern California county according to 2003 Census Bureau estimates.

## Asians

- > Asians have the fastest growth rate among major racial and ethnic groups in Orange County. Asian growth in the county from 1990 to 2000 (76%) and 2000 to 2003 (12%) outpaced that of whites, Latinos, and African Americans.
- > With more than 141,000 Vietnamese residents, Orange County has the largest number of Vietnamese of any county in the United States. The county's Vietnamese population nearly doubled in size from 1990 to 2000 and makes up more than 30% of the Vietnamese population statewide.
- > Asian Indian, Pakistani, and Filipino communities each experienced a high rate of growth from 1990 to 2000.

## Pacific Islanders

- > Native Hawaiians and Samoans are Orange County's largest Pacific Islander communities, numbering 5,217 and 4,555 respectively.
- > Pacific Islanders are more likely than any other major racial or ethnic group to report more than one race. As a racial group, 46% of Pacific Islanders reported a multiracial heritage. Among Pacific Islander ethnic groups, 61% of Native Hawaiians reported multiple racial backgrounds.

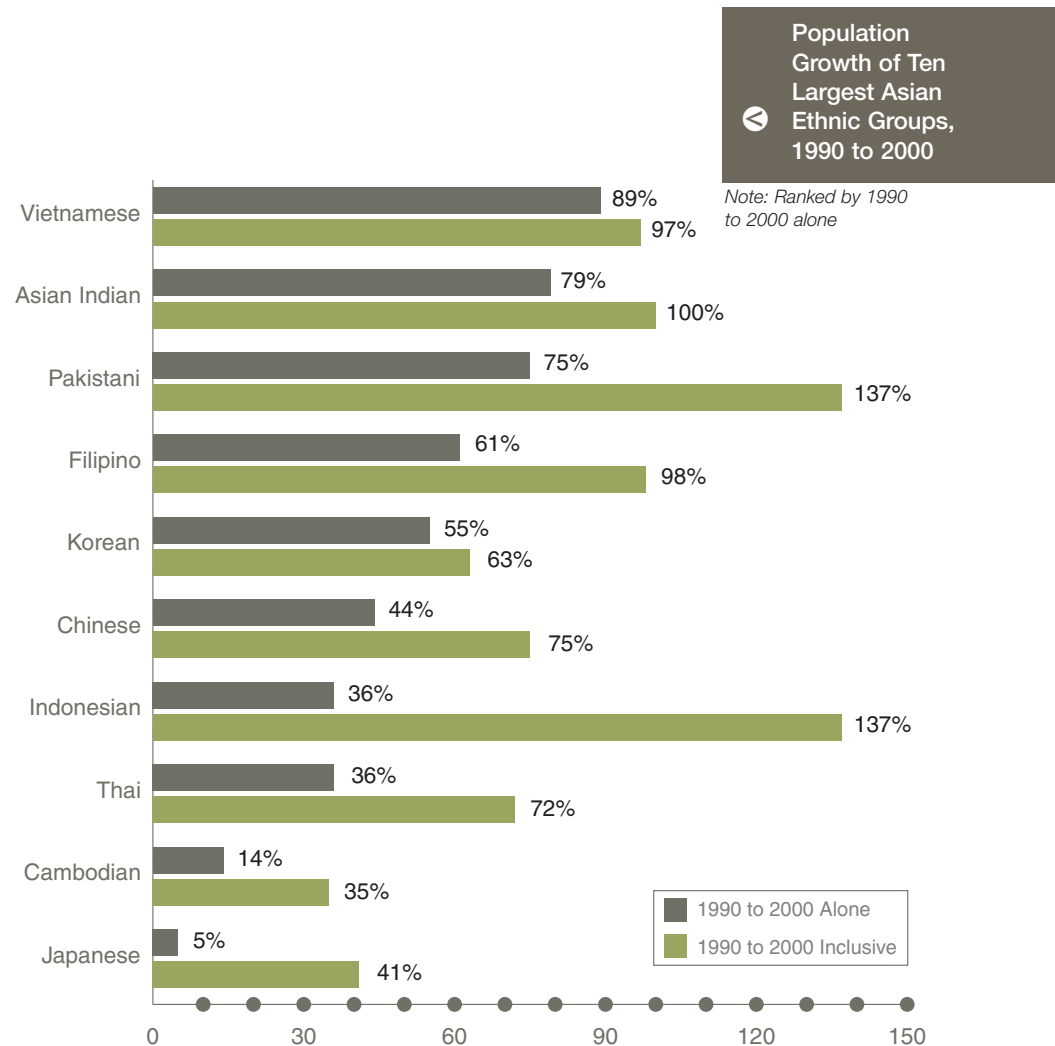


Table 1. Orange County Race & Ethnicity

Racial & Ethnic Groups	1990		2000				Percent Growth	
	Number	% Total	Alone Number	Alone % Total	Inclusive Number	Inclusive % Total	1990 to 2000 Alone	1990 to 2000 Inclusive
White	1,554,501	64%	1,458,978	51%	1,512,912	53%	-6%	-3%
Latino / Hispanic	564,828	23%	822,686	29%	875,579	31%	46%	55%
Asian	240,703	10%	386,785	14%	423,911	15%	61%	76%
African American	42,681	2%	47,649	2%	59,426	2%	12%	39%
American Indian	12,165	1%	19,906	1%	37,584	1%	64%	209%
Pacific Islander	8,489	0.4%	8,938	0.3%	16,666	0.6%	5%	96%
More than one race	-	-	101,347	4%	-	-	-	-
Total	2,410,556	100%	2,846,289	100%	2,846,289	100%	18%	18%

Asian Ethnic Groups	1990		2000				Percent Growth	
	Number	% Asian	Alone Number	Alone % Asian	Inclusive Number	Inclusive % Asian	1990 to 2000 Alone	1990 to 2000 Inclusive
Vietnamese	71,822	30%	135,548	35%	141,164	33%	89%	97%
Chinese	41,403	17%	59,717	15%	72,437	17%	44%	75%
-Chinese, except Taiwanese	--	--	50,217	13%	61,174	14%	--	--
-Taiwanese	--	--	9,500	2%	11,263	3%	--	--
Filipino	30,356	13%	48,946	13%	60,000	14%	61%	98%
Korean	35,919	15%	55,573	14%	58,564	14%	55%	63%
Japanese	29,704	12%	31,283	8%	41,767	10%	5%	41%
Asian Indian	15,212	6%	27,197	7%	30,464	7%	79%	100%
Cambodian	3,979	2%	4,517	1%	5,359	1%	14%	35%
Thai	2,227	1%	3,022	1%	3,822	1%	36%	72%
Pakistani	1,508	1%	2,636	1%	3,579	1%	75%	137%
Indonesian	1,395	1%	1,903	0.5%	3,301	1%	36%	137%
Laotian	2,893	1%	2,711	1%	3,208	1%	-6%	11%
Hmong	575	0.2%	986	0.3%	1,126	0.3%	71%	96%
Sri Lankan	314	0.1%	709	0.2%	843	0.2%	126%	168%
Bangladeshi	113	0.05%	311	0.1%	433	0.1%	175%	283%
Malaysian	107	0.04%	168	0.04%	324	0.1%	57%	203%
Other Asian	3,176	1%	3,007	1%	8,387	2%	-5%	164%
More than Asian group	-	-	8,551	2%	-	-	-	-
Total Asian Population	240,703	100%	386,785	100%	423,911	100%	61%	76%

Pacific Islander Ethnic Groups	1990		2000				Percent Growth	
	Number	% P.I.	Alone Number	Alone % P.I.	Inclusive Number	Inclusive % P.I.	1990 to 2000 Alone	1990 to 2000 Inclusive
Native Hawaiian	3,166	35%	1,986	22%	5,217	31%	-37%	65%
Samoan	2,979	37%	3,555	40%	4,555	27%	19%	53%
Guamanian or Chamorro	1,406	4%	1,363	15%	2,318	14%	-3%	65%
Tongan	345	17%	442	5%	610	4%	28%	77%
Melanesian	79	1%	104	1%	145	1%	32%	84%
Other Pacific Islander	514	6%	1,327	15%	4,268	26%	158%	730%
More than one PI group	-	-	161	2%	-	-	-	-
Total PI Population	8,489	100%	8,938	100%	16,666	100%	5%	96%

Note: Groups ranked by 2000 inclusive number. Alone figures are single race responses only. Inclusive figures include single race and multiracial responses combined. Alone figures for Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups are single race and single ethnic group. Latino/Hispanic is not exclusive of other race and ethnic groups, unless otherwise noted. Population figures are not mutually exclusive, therefore columns may not sum up to the total.

# Geographic Concentration



## Orange County's Asian

and Pacific Islander population is increasing in both size and concentration, making up more than a quarter of the total population in several cities in the county, including La Palma, Westminster, Irvine, Garden Grove, and Fountain Valley. Newer API populations are also emerging in cities in the southern part of the county, such as Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo.

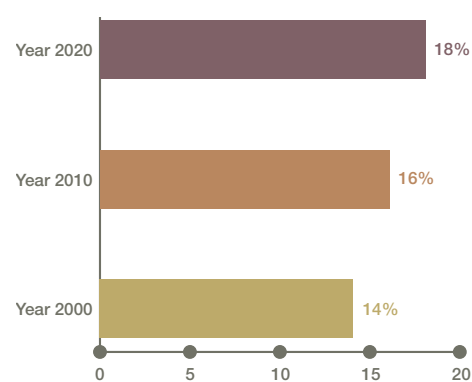
### Asians

- > Four cities in Orange County have large, established Asian populations that are growing at high rates. From 1990 to 2000, Asians in Westminster grew from 22% to 40% of that city's total population. Similarly, Irvine grew from 18% to 32%, Garden Grove grew from 20% to 32%, and Buena Park grew from 14% to 23% Asian.
- > La Palma has the highest concentration of Asians of any community in Orange County – nearly half of its population is of Asian ancestry.
- > Among cities, Irvine and Garden Grove had the largest numeric increase in Asian population from 1990 to 2000, each increasing by more than 20,000. The Asian population in Irvine and Westminster doubled in size from 1990 to 2000.
- > Orange County's Vietnamese population is concentrated in Garden Grove and Westminster, with significant numbers in the surrounding cities of Santa Ana and Anaheim. More than 67% of the county's Vietnamese live in these four cities.
- > The Asian population is more diverse in other cities. La Palma is 17% Korean, 9% Chinese, 8% Filipino, 5% Japanese, 4% Asian Indian, and 2% Vietnamese. Irvine is 12% Chinese, 5% Korean, 3% Vietnamese, and 3% Filipino.

### Pacific Islanders

- > Orange County has the fourth largest Pacific Islander population in California.
- > Home to nearly 2,400 Pacific Islanders, Anaheim contains the largest number of Pacific Islanders in Orange County. More than 1,000 Pacific Islanders live in each of the cities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Huntington Beach.

Orange County Asian Population Projections, 2010 and 2020



Source: State of California, Department of Finance

Table 2. Census Population Estimates for 2003

Major Races	Number	Percent
White	1,464,439	49.5%
Latino/Hispanic	948,420	32.1%
Asian	476,861	16.1%
African American	66,052	2.2%
American Indian	41,613	1.4%
Pacific Islander	18,139	0.6%
Total	2,957,766	100.0%

Note: Ranked by 2003 number. All figures are for the inclusive population (single race and multirace combined) and are not exclusive of Latino/Hispanic, except for white, which is single race and non-Hispanic. Source: Population Estimates Branch, U.S. Bureau of the Census, July 1, 2003.

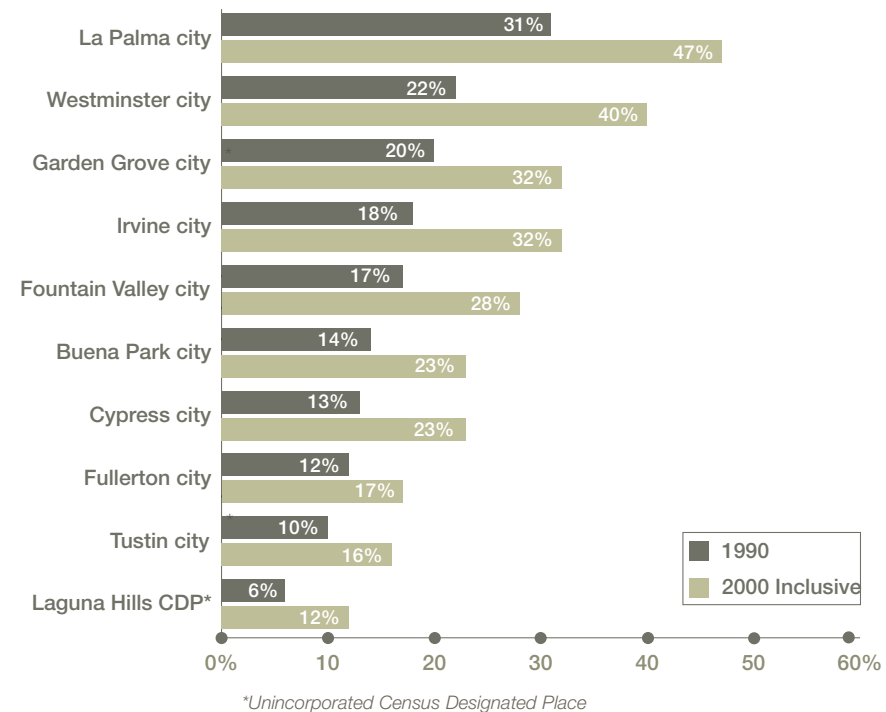
Table 3. Communities with the Highest Percentage of Asians

Place	Number	% of Total
La Palma city	7,204	47%
Westminster city	34,860	40%
Irvine city	46,251	32%
Garden Grove city	53,224	32%
Fountain Valley city	15,229	28%
Cypress city	10,543	23%
Buena Park city	17,770	23%
Newport Coast CDP*	518	19%
Fullerton city	21,885	17%
Foothill Ranch CDP*	1,866	17%

Note: Figures are for the inclusive population (single race and multiracial population combined)  
\*Unincorporated Census Designated Place



Asians as Percent of the Total Population



\*Unincorporated Census Designated Place

Orange County is home to the second largest number of Asian and Pacific Islander-owned businesses in the United States. According to the 1997 Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises, the more than 45,000 API-owned businesses in the county bring in receipts of \$15 billion. In an effort to recognize the API community



and its contributions to the local economy, community leaders have mounted campaigns to officially name areas with large numbers of API-owned businesses. In 1988, part of the city of Westminster was officially designated as 'Little Saigon.' In 2003, Garden Grove's 'Korean Business District' followed suit.

# Social Characteristics



An examination of Asian and Pacific Islander social characteristics reveals significant differences among ethnic groups. Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders are younger, have larger households, lower home ownership rates, and are less likely to have completed college.

**Median Age**  
Asians and Pacific Islanders are younger than Orange County's general population. The median age for Asians (33) and Pacific Islanders (27) both fall below Orange County's median age of 34.

> Pacific Islanders are much younger than the general population and rank second only to Latinos as the county's youngest racial and ethnic group. All four major Pacific Islander groups (Tongans, Samoans, Guamanians, and Hawaiians) have median ages below 30 years.

- > Tongans (21), Hmong (22), and Samoans (22) have the county's lowest median ages.
- > The median age of APIs decreases with the inclusion of the multiracial population, showing the relative youth of those of mixed race. Comparing alone versus inclusive figures, median age decreases by four years for Japanese and Thai and by six years for Guamanians/Chamorros.

**Average Household Size**  
With an average household size of 3.4 for Asians and 3.5 for Pacific Islanders, API households are typically larger than those of both whites (2.4) and the county as a whole (3.0).

- > Among the six largest API groups, Vietnamese (4.2) and Filipino (3.4) households are largest on average.
- > Average Hmong, Samoan, and Laotian households include five or more persons. Their households are larger than those of any other major racial or ethnic group in the county and more than twice the size of white households.
- > The multiracial API population has smaller households on average. Comparing alone versus inclusive figures, the average size decreases from 4.0 to 3.5 for Pacific Islander households and from 3.5 to 3.4 for Asian households.

**Home Ownership**  
According to the California Association of Realtors, Orange County had the highest median home prices in Southern California and the seventh highest median home prices statewide in October 2004. Census 2000 indicates that homeownership rates for both Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County are below average. APIs who rent devote a larger proportion of their income to housing than any other major racial or ethnic group.

- > Asian (58%) and Pacific Islander (50%) homeownership rates are below the county average (61%).
- > API homeownership rates vary by ethnic group, from a high of 78% for Taiwanese to a low of 36% for Tongans, the latter being the least likely among major racial or ethnic groups in the county to be homeowners. Among the largest API groups in Orange County, Koreans and Vietnamese have the lowest rates of homeownership, 49% and 51% respectively.
- > API households who rent spend 29% of their annual income on housing, an amount greater than any other major racial or ethnic group countywide.
- > Korean and Vietnamese renters in Orange County devote 32% of their household income to rent.

## Education

As a stark example of the contrasts in the API community, Asians are less likely to have completed high school compared to whites, but more likely to have a college degree. Nineteen percent of Asians have less than a high school degree, compared to 7% of whites. In contrast, 42% of Asians have at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 38% of whites.

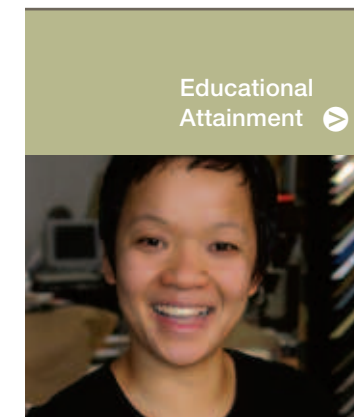
### High School Education

> While some API groups in Orange County show high rates of high school graduation, many Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander groups fare much worse, including the county's large Vietnamese population. More than a third of Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Laotian and half of Tongan and Hmong adults 25 years or older have not graduated high school.

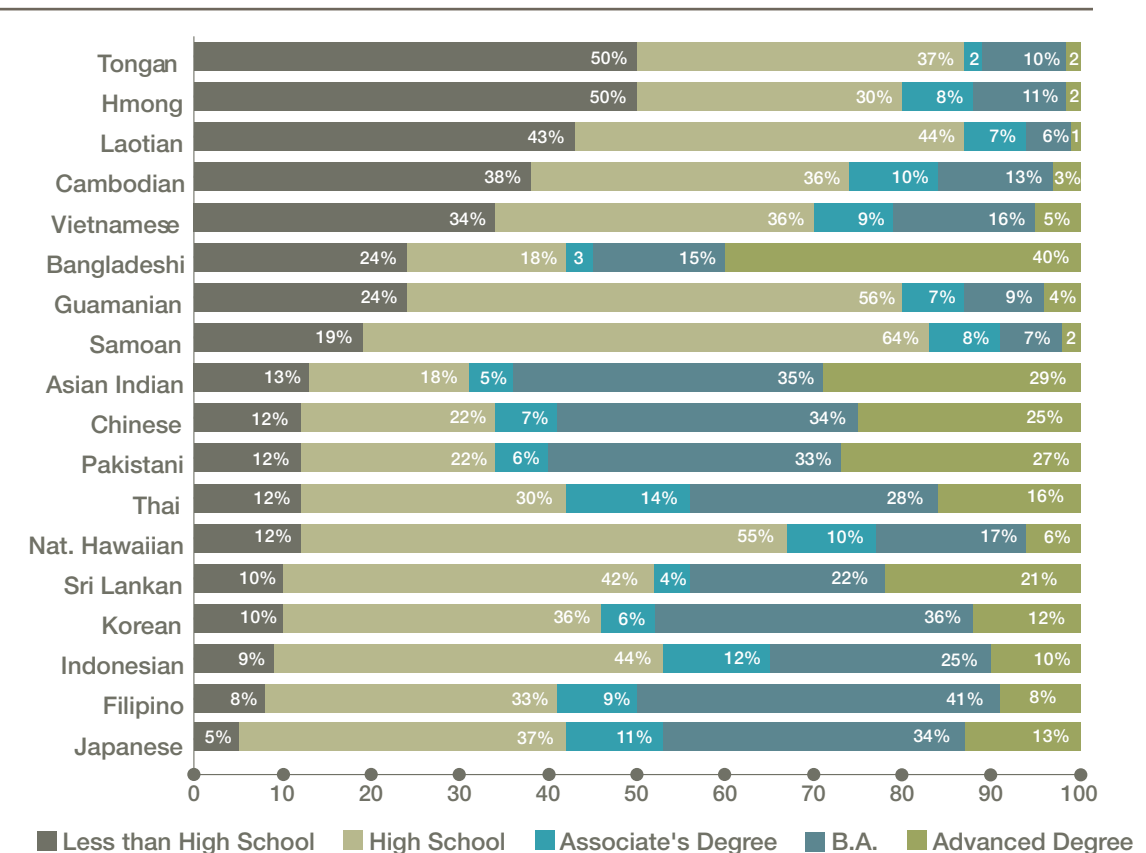
### College Graduates

- > Among API ethnic groups, Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders are least likely to have earned a bachelor's or advanced degree. While 38% of whites in Orange County have earned a bachelor's or advanced degree, only 6% of Laotians and 9% of Samoans have done so.
- > Fewer than 20% of Tongans, Hmong, Guamanians/Chamorros, and Cambodians have graduated from college. Vietnamese and Native Hawaiians have slightly higher rates of college completion, 21% and 23% respectively, but still remain well below the county average of 31%.
- > API groups with the lowest rates of college completion, including Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Tongans, and Hmong, are also those with the lowest rates of high school completion.
- > Other API groups have the county's highest levels of educational attainment. A majority of five API groups in Orange County have earned a bachelor's or advanced degree: Asian Indians, Pakistanis, Chinese, Bangladeshis, and Filipinos.

High school is the highest level of education achieved by 71% of Pacific Islanders in Orange County. Only 10 percent of Samoans have a bachelor's degree or higher.



Note: All education figures are for the population 25 years and older. Ranked by less than high school.



# Economic Indicators



## Economic indicators such

as income and poverty are important measures of a group's overall well-being. While aggregate data on APIs have contributed to a public perception of APIs as economically successful, data disaggregated by ethnic group reveal many API communities to be among the poorest in Orange County.

## Income

Contrary to the perception that all APIs are well to do, Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County have below average incomes.

## Median Household Income

The median household income for Asians in Orange County (\$58,229) is slightly lower than that for the county as a whole (\$58,820). The median household income for Pacific Islanders (\$51,534) falls significantly below the county median.

- > With median household incomes below \$42,000, Tongan and Bangladeshi median household incomes are lower than those of any other major racial or ethnic group in Orange County.
- > Ten API groups, including Vietnamese and Koreans, have median household incomes lower than the county median.
- > While nearly half of API groups show above average median household incomes, many achieve those incomes by having a greater number of workers per family. In Orange County, 21% of Pacific Islander and 20% of Asian families have three or more workers per family, compared to 11% of white families.

## Per Capita Income

Per capita income is the average income for each member of a group (the total income earned by a group divided by the number of people in that group). Because Asian and Pacific Islander households are larger on average, per capita income is a better measure of a group's overall well-being.

The per capita incomes of both Asians (\$20,768) and Pacific Islanders (\$18,208) in Orange County fall below that of the county (\$25,826). Fifteen of 20 API groups have per capita incomes lower than the county as a whole and Pacific Islanders have the second lowest per capita income among major racial or ethnic groups.

- > Tongans, Hmong, and Samoans have Orange County's lowest per capita incomes.
- > While Filipinos and Laotians have above average median household incomes, their larger household sizes push them below the county average in per capita income.

## Public Assistance Income

Asians have higher rates of public assistance use than any other major racial or ethnic group in Orange County. Pacific Islanders have average rates of public assistance use countywide.

- > Five API groups, including four Southeast Asian groups, are the most likely of Orange County's major racial or ethnic groups to use public assistance. While 3% of the county's population receives public assistance income, 22% of Hmong, 17% of Tongans, 14% of Vietnamese, 12% of Laotians, and 11% of Cambodians receive public assistance countywide.
- > Many Southeast Asian refugees such as Cambodians, Hmong, Laotians, and Vietnamese were placed on public assistance as part of U.S. refugee resettlement programs. Vietnamese make up 33% of Orange County's Asian population, but 71% of Asians receiving public assistance income.

## Poverty

Nearly all API ethnic groups in Orange County have poverty rates greater than that of whites. Eleven API ethnic groups have poverty rates higher than the county average and Tongans stand out as the county's poorest group.

## Below Poverty Level (\$17,029 annually for a family of four in 1999)

- > In Orange County, API groups with high poverty rates include Tongans, Cambodians, Indonesians, Vietnamese, Thai, Taiwanese, and Koreans. Among the five largest Asian groups in the county, Vietnamese, Koreans, and Chinese have poverty rates higher than average.
- > Poverty among Asians and Pacific Islanders is more concentrated in certain cities. While 11% of Asians countywide live below the poverty line, 18% of Asians living in the cities of Westminster and Costa Mesa are poor (see Table 4).
- > The poverty rate for Pacific Islanders is lower than the county average as a whole, but some Pacific Islander groups, including Tongans and Guamanians/

Chamorros, are poorer than average. Indeed, Tongans have the highest poverty rate of all major racial or ethnic groups in Orange County.

- > The poverty rate for Asian seniors (10%) is higher than the county average for all persons 65 years or older (6%). Tongans, Thai, Hmong, and Guamanians/Chamorros have the highest rates of senior poverty countywide.
- > While Asians and Pacific Islanders have lower child poverty rates than the county overall, some API ethnic groups, including Cambodians, Vietnamese, Indonesians, Tongans, Thais, Bangladeshis, and Taiwanese, have high rates of child poverty.

## 200% of Poverty (\$34,058 for a family of four in 1999)

In areas with higher costs of living, the federal poverty line is often doubled to better identify the low-income population. According to this definition, more than one quarter of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County are low-income, or earn incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line. Members of eight

API groups are more likely than the average Orange County resident to be low-income by this definition.

- > Nearly two-thirds of Tongans earn incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line, making Tongans more likely than any major racial or ethnic group in Orange County to be low-income.
- > One third or more of four API groups live below 200% of the poverty line: Bangladeshis, Cambodians, Vietnamese, and Hmong.

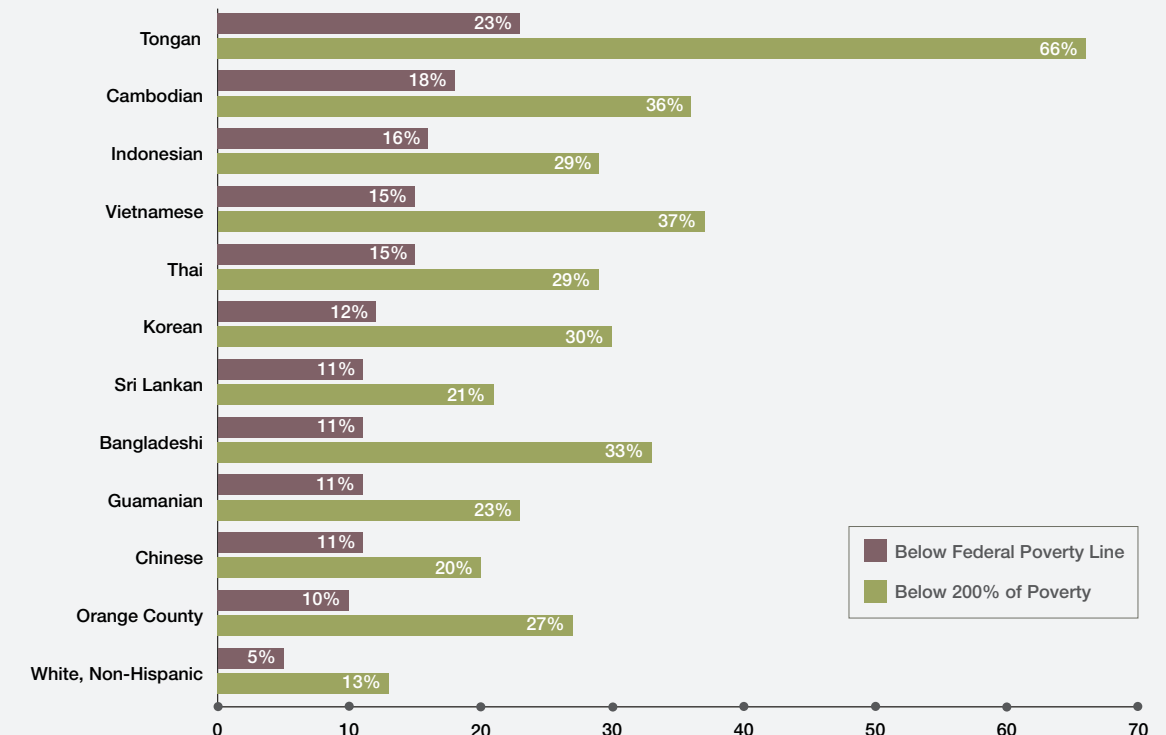
Table 4: Communities with the Highest Asian Poverty Rates

Place	Number in Poverty	% in Poverty
Westminster city	5,967	18%
Costa Mesa city	1,386	18%
Garden Grove city	8,318	16%
Irvine city	6,381	16%
Stanton city	741	13%
Orange County Asians	44,813	12%

*Note: Limited to places with an Asian population greater than 1,000. For single race population only.*

## API Groups with Poverty Rates Higher than Orange County Average

Note: Ranked by Below Federal Poverty Line



# Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County

## Major Racial and Ethnic Groups

	Median Age	Average Household Size	Home Ownership	Less Than High School Degree	Below Federal Poverty Line	200% of Federal Poverty Line	Public Assistance Income	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Foreign Born	Naturalization Rate of Foreign Born	Speak Other than English at Home	Speak English Less than "Very Well"	Linguistically Isolated Households
	PCT 4	PCT 8	HCT 2	PCT 64	PCT 142	PCT 141	PCT 100	PCT 89	PCT 130	PCT 44	PCT 44	PCT 38	PCT 38	PCT 42
1.	Latino 25	Latino 4.61	Black 38%	Latino 55%	Latino 19%	Latino 51%	Asian 6%	Latino 44,676	Latino 12,122	Asian 66%	Latino 20%	Latino 81%	Latino 48%	Asian 29%
2.	Pac. Islander 27	Pac. Islander 3.53	Latino 42%	Am. Indian 25%	Am. Indian 13%	Am. Indian 32%	Am. Indian 5%	Black 50,058	Pac. Islander 18,208	Latino 51%	Am. Indian 26%	Asian 80%	Asian 45%	Latino 27%
3.	Black 29	Asian 3.42	Am. Indian 48%	Asian 19%	Black 12%	Black 28%	Latino 5%	Pac. Islander 51,534	Am. Indian 19,720	Pac. Islander 23%	Black 31%	Pac. Islander 43%	Am. Indian 17%	Am. Indian 7%
4.	Am. Indian 31	Am. Indian 3.28	Pac. Islander 50%	Pac. Islander 18%	Asian 11%	Pac. Islander 27%	Black 4%	Am. Indian 51,768	Black 20,367	Am. Indian 18%	Pac. Islander 48%	Am. Indian 34%	Pac. Islander 15%	Pac. Islander 5%
5.	Asian 33	Black 2.83	Asian 58%	Black 13%	Pac. Islander 9%	Asian 26%	Pac. Islander 3%	Asian 58,229	Asian 20,768	Black 12%	Asian 57%	Black 17%	Black 7%	Black 3%
6.	White 40	White 2.44	White 69%	White 7%	White 5%	White 13%	White 2%	White 65,160	White 35,739	White 8%	White 59%	White 9%	White 2%	White 1%
	Orange County 34	Orange County 3.00	Orange County 61%	Orange County 21%	Orange County 10%	Orange County 27%	Orange County 3%	Orange County 58,820	Orange County 25,826	Orange County 30%	Orange County 38%	Orange County 41%	Orange County 22%	Orange County 10%

Figures are for the inclusive population (single race and multiracial respondents) except for white which are for single race whites.

## Asian and Pacific Islander Ethnic Groups

	Median Age	Average Household Size	Home Ownership	Less Than High School Degree	Below Federal Poverty Line	200% of Federal Poverty Line	Public Assistance Income	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Foreign Born	Naturalization Rate of Foreign Born	Speak Other than English at Home	Speak English Less than "Very Well"	Linguistically Isolated Households
1.	Tongan 21	Hmong 5.96	Tongan 36%	Tongan 50%	Tongan 23%	Tongan 66%	Hmong 22%	Tongan 32,321	Tongan 6,308	Bangladeshi 81%	Japanese 28%	Bangladeshi 99%	Vietnamese 64%	Vietnamese 46%
2.	Hmong 22	Samoan 5.18	Bangladeshi 39%	Hmong 50%	Cambodian 18%	Hmong 39%	Tongan 17%	Bangladeshi 41,406	Hmong 11,060	Sri Lankan 80%	Bangladeshi 34%	Vietnamese 95%	Taiwanese 56%	Taiwanese 39%
3.	Samoan 22	Laotian 5.02	Samoan 42%	Laotian 43%	Indonesian 16%	Vietnamese 37%	Vietnamese 14%	Indonesian 46,774	Samoan 11,773	Taiwanese 78%	Tongan 35%	Laotian 94%	Laotian 55%	Korean 39%
4.	Cambodian 29	Tongan 4.71	Hmong 46%	Cambodian 38%	Vietnamese 15%	Cambodian 36%	Laotian 12%	Korean 47,563	Cambodian 13,160	Vietnamese 76%	Indonesian 37%	Taiwanese 94%	Korean 54%	Thai 37%
5.	Guamanian 29	Cambodian 4.45	Korean 49%	Vietnamese 34%	Thai 15%	Bangladeshi 33%	Cambodian 11%	Cambodian 48,274	Bangladeshi 13,243	Korean 72%	Guamanian 39%	Hmong 91%	Hmong 52%	Laotian 34%
6.	Laotian 29	Vietnamese 4.19	Vietnamese 51%	Bangladeshi 24%	Taiwanese 14%	Korean 30%	Guamanian 6%	Guamanian 50,288	Laotian 13,864	Asian Indian 71%	Sri Lankan 43%	Cambodian 89%	Cambodian 52%	Bangladeshi 30%
7.	Nat. Hawaiian 29	Pakistani 3.70	Cambodian 53%	Guamanian 24%	Korean 12%	Indonesian 29%	Samoan 4%	Vietnamese 51,230	Vietnamese 15,324	Thai 69%	Thai 45%	Korean 89%	Thai 51%	Cambodian 28%
8.	Pakistani 29	Bangladeshi 3.58	Nat. Hawaiian 53%	Samoan 19%	Sri Lankan 11%	Thai 29%	Korean 3%	Thai 52,180	Guamanian 17,361	Pakistani 69%	Korean 48%	Thai 86%	Bangladeshi 44%	Chinese 26%
9.	Bangladeshi 30	Filipino 3.44	Pakistani 54%	Chinese excl 13%	Bangladeshi 11%	Samoan 26%	Asian Indian 3%	Pakistani 58,063	Korean 18,517	Cambodian 68%	Asian Indian 49%	Pakistani 83%	Chinese 40%	Chinese excl 24%
10.	Thai 30	Sri Lankan 3.44	Asian Indian 55%	Asian Indian 13%	Guamanian 11%	Guamanian 23%	Chinese excl 2%	Samoan 58,750	Thai 19,576	Indonesian 67%	Pakistani 51%	Asian Indian 81%	Chinese excl 38%	Hmong 23%
11.	Filipino 31	Asian Indian 3.31	Thai 57%	Chinese 12%	Chinese 11%	Taiwanese 23%	Chinese 2%	Nat. Hawaiian 59,091	Indonesian 19,762	Laotian 67%	Laotian 53%	Chinese 79%	Indonesian 33%	Japanese 18%
12.	Vietnamese 32	Taiwanese 3.24	Indonesian 57%	Pakistani 12%	Chinese excl 10%	Laotian 23%	Nat. Hawaiian 2%	Taiwanese 59,145	Filipino 21,037	Chinese 64%	Taiwanese 57%	Chinese excl 77%	Tongan 28%	Indonesian 18%
13.	Asian Indian 32	Korean 3.19	Laotian 58%	Thai 12%	Laotian 9%	Pakistani 22%	Filipino 2%	Laotian 60,583	Sri Lankan 22,208	Chinese excl 61%	Nat. Hawaiian 57%	Sri Lankan 76%	Asian Indian 24%	Tongan 14%
14.	Indonesian 32	Thai 3.16	Filipino 59%	Nat. Hawaiian 12%	Hmong 9%	Sri Lankan 21%	Taiwanese 2%	Sri Lankan 62,679	Pakistani 22,362	Filipino 57%	Filipino 60%	Indonesian 72%	Japanese 22%	Pakistani 12%
15.	Chinese excl 33	Guamanian 3.15	Sri Lankan 62%	Sri Lankan 10%	Samoan 8%	Chinese 20%	Thai 1%	Chinese 65,347	Taiwanese 22,683	Hmong 53%	Cambodian 63%	Tongan 66%	Pakistani 21%	Asian Indian 9%
16.	Chinese 34	Chinese 3.00	Guamanian 64%	Korean 10%	Pakistani 7%	Chinese excl 19%	Indonesian 1%	Japanese 66,154	Chinese 26,189	Tongan 45%	Chinese 64%	Filipino 62%	Filipino 17%	Samoan 7%
17.	Korean 34	Chinese excl 2.97	Japanese 69%	Indonesian 9%	Filipino 7%	Asian Indian 18%	Pakistani 1%	Chinese excl 66,631	Nat. Hawaiian 26,389	Japanese 30%	Vietnamese 64%	Samoan 60%	Samoan 17%	Filipino 7%
18.	Taiwanese 34	Indonesian 2.87	Chinese excl 70%	Filipino 8%	Japanese 6%	Nat. Hawaiian 18%	Japanese 1%	Filipino 66,787	Chinese excl 26,867	Samoan 21%	Samoan 65%	Japanese 40%	Guamanian 15%	Sri Lankan 5%
19.	Sri Lankan 35	Nat. Hawaiian 2.73	Chinese 71%	Taiwanese 6%	Asian Indian 6%	Filipino 16%	Bangladeshi 0%	Asian Indian 72,432	Asian Indian 27,762	Guamanian 13%	Chinese excl 65%	Guamanian 37%	Sri Lankan 8%	Nat. Hawaiian 1%
20.	Japanese 36	Japanese 2.46	Taiwanese 78%	Japanese 5%	Nat. Hawaiian 5%	Japanese 13%	Sri Lankan 0%	Hmong *	Japanese 29,870	Nat. Hawaiian 4%	Hmong 74%	Nat. Hawaiian 14%	Nat. Hawaiian 4%	Guamanian 1%

\*Data not available, population and number of cases too low to be reliable.

Figures are for the inclusive population (single race and multiracial respondents). "Chinese" includes Chinese and Taiwanese. "Chinese excl" and "Taiwanese" are separate figures for the two groups. Racial and Ethnic Groups are ranked from worst to best with regards to socioeconomic status indicators. Source: U.S. Census 2000, Summary File 4

■ = Faring below whites for socioeconomic measures  
**■** = Faring below the county average for socioeconomic measures

# Language



English language skills play a critical role in an individual's ability to access employment and vital social and health services. An overwhelming majority of Asian groups speak a language other than English at home. Although 55% of the Asian population speak English "very well," 45% are limited English proficient and experience problems speaking English. Asians have the highest levels of linguistic isolation of any racial or ethnic group in Orange County.

### A Language Other Than English Spoken At Home

- > More than 80% of ten Asian groups speak a language other than English at home, including three of the largest groups: Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean. Nearly 100% of Bangladeshis speak a language other than English at home.
- > While 43% of Pacific Islanders speak a language other than English at home, figures vary greatly by ethnic group. More than 60% of Tongans and Samoans speak a language other than English at home, yet only 37% of Guamanians/Chamorros and 14% of Native Hawaiians do so.

### Limited English Proficiency

- > Seven Asian groups have majority limited English proficient (LEP) populations, including two of the largest groups: Vietnamese, and Korean.
- > Five Southeast Asian groups—Vietnamese, Laotians, Hmong, Cambodians, and Thai—had majority LEP populations.
- > A third or more of Indonesians, Chinese, and Bangladeshis are limited English proficient.

### Linguistic Isolation

A household is considered linguistically isolated when all of its members 14 years or older are limited English proficient.

- > Twenty-nine percent of Asian and 5% of Pacific Islander households are linguistically isolated.
- > Two of the largest Asian groups are among the most linguistically isolated: Vietnamese (46%) and Korean (39%).



Five Southeast Asian groups – Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, and Thai – have majority limited English proficient populations.



### API Groups with the Highest Rates of Limited English Proficiency



### Areas With High Language Needs

Linguistic isolation is growing in many of Orange County's largest API communities. In some cities, the number of linguistically isolated API households doubled from 1990 to 2000.

- > A majority or near majority of API language speaking households in Garden Grove (50%) and Westminster (46%) are linguistically isolated. Garden Grove has the largest number of API language speaking households that are linguistically isolated, with over 6,000.
- > From 1990 to 2000, the number of linguistically isolated API language speaking households doubled in six of Orange County's largest API communities, including Garden Grove, Westminster, Irvine, Anaheim, and Fountain Valley.
- > Fountain Valley had one of the highest rates of increase in linguistically isolated Asian households from 1990 to 2000, increasing by 135%. The percent of Asian households that are linguistically isolated increased from 27% to 37%.

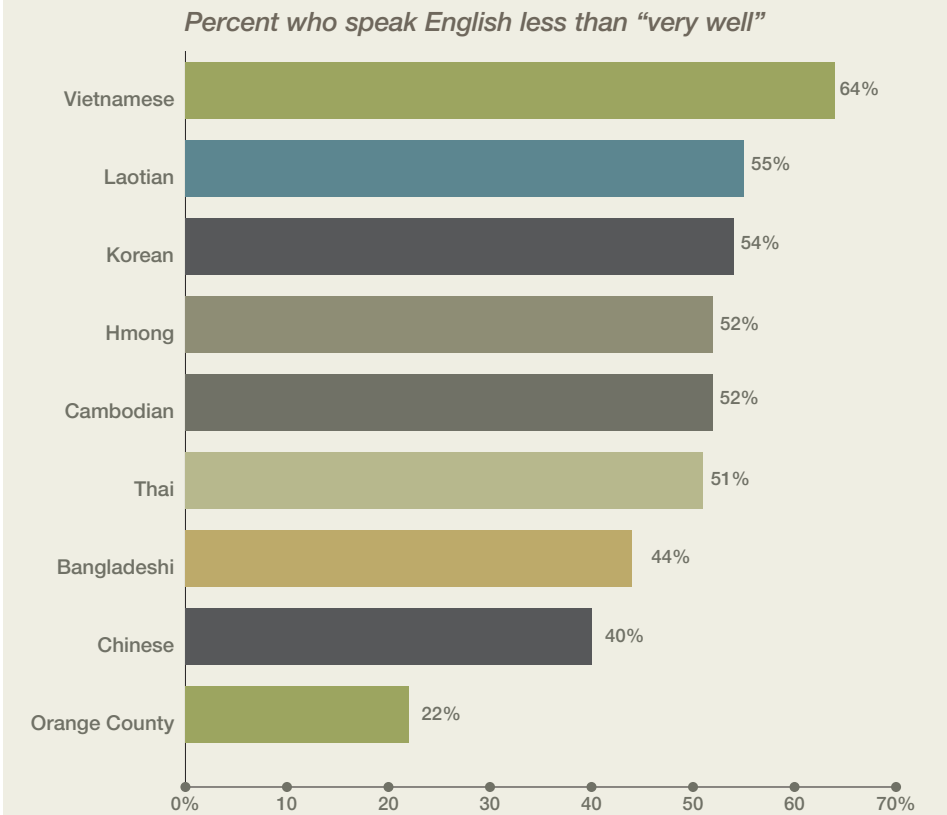
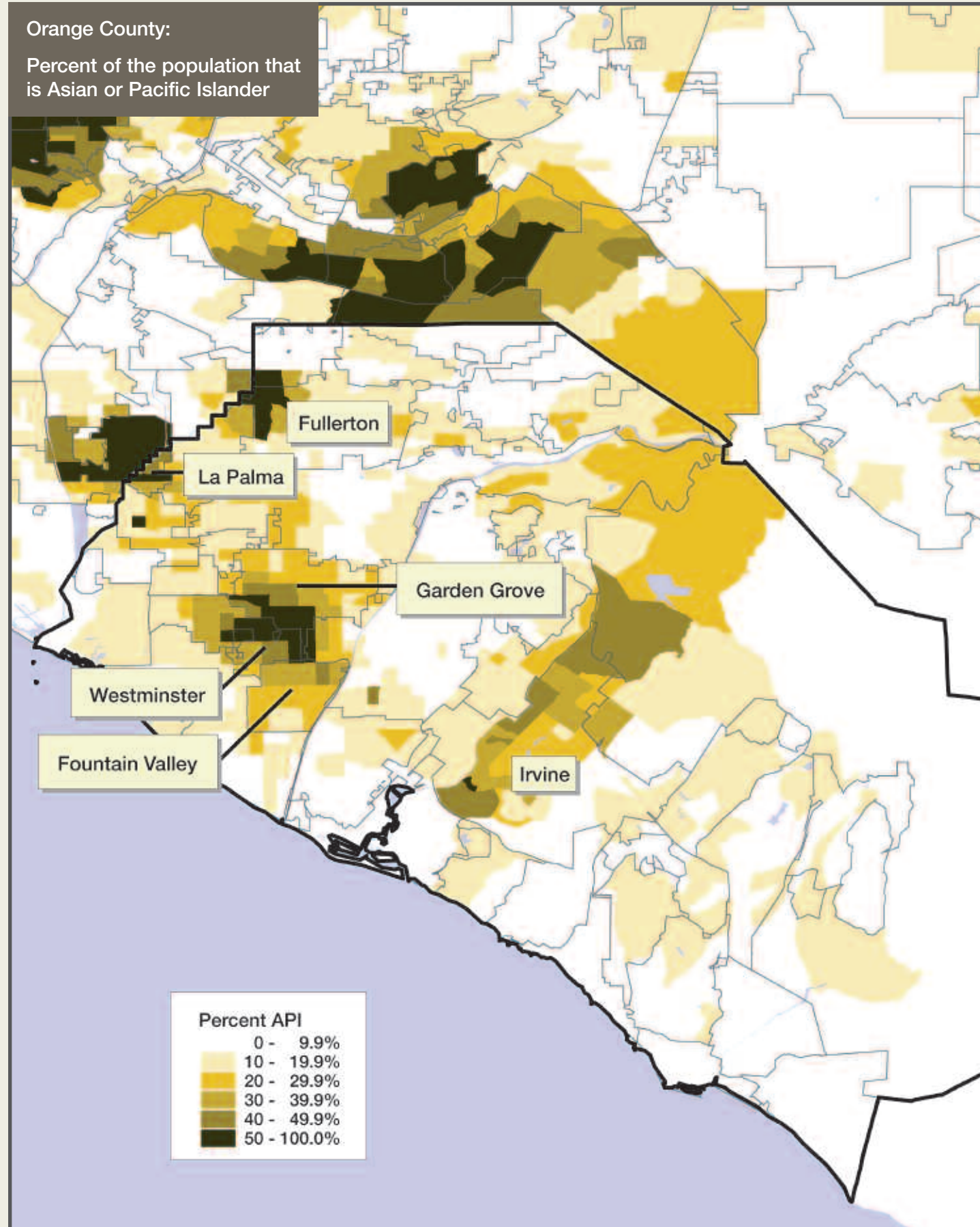


Table 5: Communities with Highest Concentration of Linguistically Isolated API Language Speaking Households

Community	Number	Percent of Households
1. Garden Grove city	6,094	50%
2. Westminster city	3,726	46%
3. Santa Ana city	3,063	42%
4. Stanton city	605	40%
5. Fountain Valley city	1,264	37%
6. La Palma city	535	33%
7. Anaheim city	3,290	33%
8. Buena Park city	1,246	31%
9. Fullerton city	1,702	30%
10. Irvine city	3,185	29%

Note: Limited to places with more than 1,000 API language speaking households

Orange County:  
Percent of the population that  
is Asian or Pacific Islander



## Immigration and Citizenship

**Immigration is driving** growth in Orange County's Asian population. Asians are more likely to be foreign-born than any other racial or ethnic group in the county, a result of the relatively recent lifting of immigration restrictions on Asian nations.

> Roughly three-quarters of Vietnamese and Koreans are foreign-born. Eighty percent or more of Bangladeshi and Sri Lankans are immigrants.

### Citizenship / Naturalization

> Asian foreign-born are more likely than other foreign-born to become naturalized citizens of the United States. Well over half of foreign-born Asians are citizens. Naturalization rates are particularly high among Southeast Asians, with 74% of Hmong, 64% of Vietnamese, and 63% of Cambodian foreign-born holding citizenship.

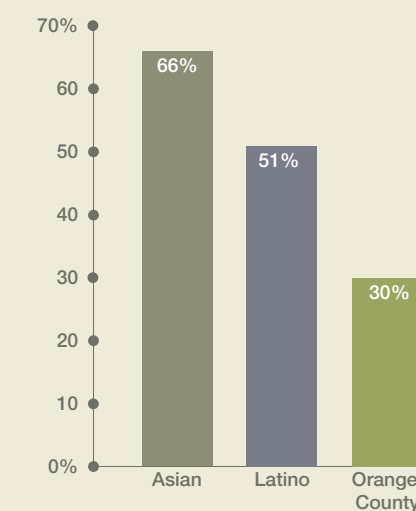
> Despite high naturalization rates, more than 100,000 Asians of voting age are ineligible to register to vote because they are not U.S. citizens. That number exceeds the number of Asians in Orange County who voted in the November 2000 General Election.

*Note: Figures are for inclusive population, unless otherwise noted.*

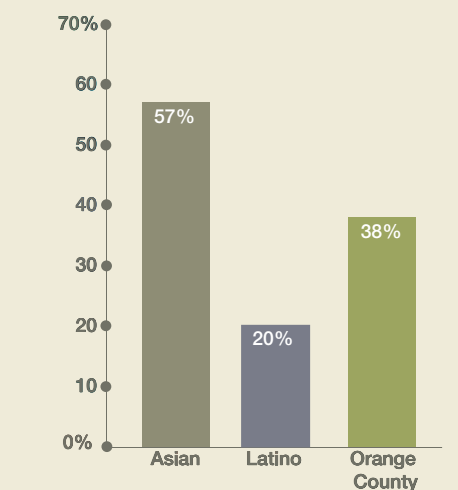
### Immigration

- > A greater proportion of Asians are foreign-born than any other racial or ethnic group in Orange County. Roughly 66% (inclusive) to 70% (alone) of Asians are foreign-born, compared to 51% of Latinos.
- > Only 23% (inclusive) to 24% (alone) of Pacific Islanders are immigrants, though Tongans are more likely to be foreign-born than other Pacific Islander groups (45%). In contrast, very few Native Hawaiians are foreign-born (4%).
- > Multiracial Asians are far less likely to be foreign-born, affecting the reporting of nativity for Asians. When including multiracial Asians, 66% of Asians are foreign-born. When limiting the population to single race Asians, 70% of Asians are immigrant.

### Foreign Born



### Percent of Foreign Born who are Naturalized Citizens



# Health Indicators



**Health indicators are an** important gauge of a community's overall well-being. Compared to whites, Orange County's API population has higher rates of infant mortality and lower rates of prenatal care, but lower rates of breast cancer and teen births. Asians are also less likely than whites to have health insurance, with a larger proportion of noncitizen APIs being uninsured.

**Infant Mortality**  
Asians in Orange County have infant mortality rates lower than the county average, but higher than whites. Asians experienced 4.1 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 1999, compared to 3.3 for whites and 4.5 for the county overall.<sup>1</sup>

**Prenatal care**  
The percentage of Asian mothers receiving prenatal care beginning in their first trimester was 88.6% in 1999. This rate is better than the county average of 86.5%,

but lower than that of whites (93.4%). Eleven percent of Asian women received late or no care at all throughout their pregnancy.<sup>1</sup>

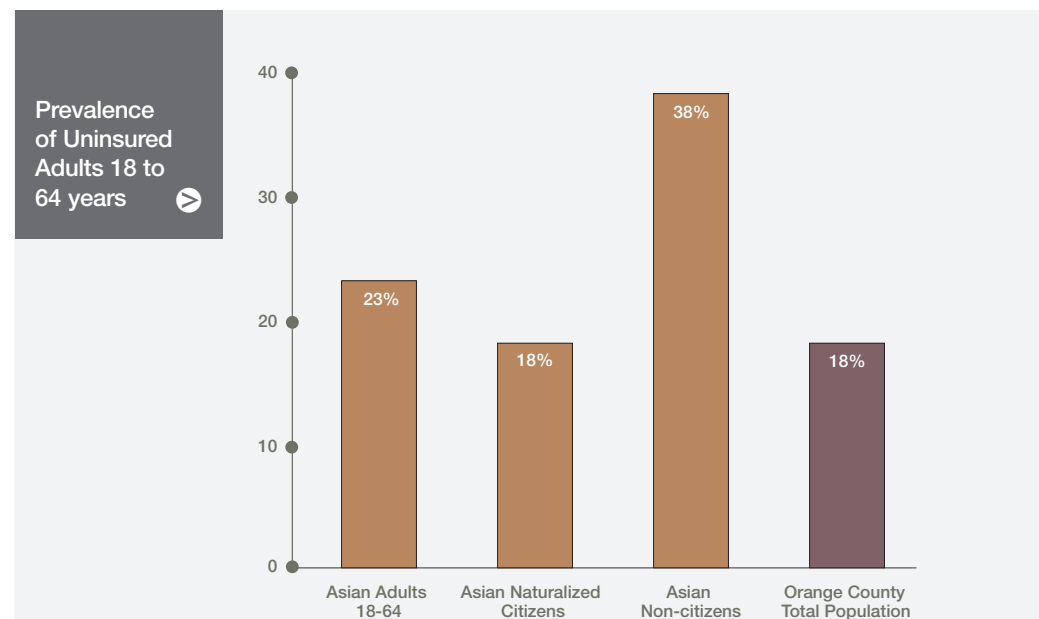
**Breast Cancer**  
For Orange County residents, the breast cancer-related death rate for Asians was greater than the rate for Latinos, but lower than whites in 1997. The rate was 12.2 deaths per 100,000 for Asians, 8.6 for Latinos, and 18.9 for whites.<sup>1</sup>

**Fertility and Births to Teens**  
Asians accounted for 12.2% of all births and 4% of teen births in Orange County in 1999. The Asian teen birth rate per 1,000 females under 19 years of age was

11.6, the lowest among major racial or ethnic groups.<sup>1</sup>

**Health Insurance**  
Nearly a quarter of Asian adults age 18 to 64 years were uninsured in 2001, above the county average of 18% and far above the average for whites (9%). While Asians made up 13.5% of Orange County respondents in the California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), they made up more than 17% of those without health insurance. Citizenship also affects insurance coverage rates. Roughly 38% of noncitizen Asians do not have health insurance.<sup>2</sup>

Source: (1) Orange County Healthcare Agency, (2) California Health Interview Survey (2001).



# California



Located in Westminster, La Quinta High School is more Asian than any other high school in Orange County. While the high school's more than 1,100 APIs make up nearly 67% of the Aztec student body, there are only nine API teachers (California Department of Education). In a county that is no longer majority white, diversity among teachers is critical to the educational experiences of all students. Diversity among teachers promotes exposure to diverse perspectives that enrich the educational experience and better prepares students to live and work in an increasingly diverse society.

**There are 4.3 million Asians** and Pacific Islanders in the state of California. From 1990 to 2000, California had the nation's largest growth in number of APIs, with an increase of over a million people. California is home to more Asians than any other state and has the second largest population of Pacific Islanders, after Hawaii.

**Race and Ethnicity**  
Asian and Pacific Islanders are the fastest growing major racial or ethnic group in California.

**Asians**  
> Of the largest Asian populations, Asian Indians had the fastest growth rate in California from 1990 to 2000, growing 125% over the decade. Vietnamese had the second highest growth rate at 73%.  
> Chinese and Filipinos make up the largest portion of the Asian community in California, at 27% and 26% of the state's Asian population respectively.  
> Roughly 11% of California's Asians are multiracial, a rate higher than that of the state's African Americans (10%), Latinos (6%), or whites (4%).

**Pacific Islanders**  
> The Tongan population in California grew by 93% from 1990 to 2000.  
> Native Hawaiians and Samoans are the largest Pacific Islander ethnic groups in the state of California.  
> Nearly half (47%) of Pacific Islanders are multiracial.

**Geographic Concentrations**  
> Half of California's Asian population lives in three counties: Los Angeles, Santa Clara, and Orange.  
> Placer, Santa Clara, Orange, and Alameda Counties had the highest rates of growth in Asian population from 1990 to 2000.  
> Sacramento County had the fastest rate of Pacific Islander growth, with an increase of 59% (alone) to 206% (inclusive) over the past decade.

## United States



### The Asian and Pacific

Islander population in the United States doubled from 1.5 million in 1970 to 3.7 million in 1980 and again to 7.3 million in 1990. Surpassing the 10 million mark in 2000, APIs continue to be one of the fastest growing racial or ethnic groups. APIs are growing not only in areas with long histories of API communities, such as California and New York, but also in newer areas in the South and Midwest.

#### Race and Ethnicity

Together, Asians and Pacific Islanders make up 4% to 5% of the U.S. population, or 12.7 million people, and are represented by a wide range of ethnic groups speaking many different languages.

#### Asians

- > While Asians remain the nation's fourth largest racial or ethnic group, they had one of the fastest rates of growth from 1990 to 2000, as high as 72%.
- > Of the largest Asian populations, South Asian and Southeast Asian communities grew the most over the past decade: Indians grew 133%, Pakistanis 151%, Hmong 107%, and Vietnamese 99%.
- > Chinese and Filipinos are the largest Asian groups nationally.

#### Pacific Islanders

- > Pacific Islanders more than doubled their population over 1990 to 2000.
- > Pacific Islanders are 54% multiracial, the highest of all racial or ethnic groups. There are more multiracial Pacific Islanders than those of single race.

#### Geographic Concentrations

- > The proportion of APIs nationally that live in California is declining – from 40% in 1990 to 35% in 2000. This indicates a greater distribution of API population across other states.
- > The API population doubled in Georgia, North Carolina, and Nevada between 1990 and 2000.

Asians and Pacific Islanders are becoming more active in Orange County politics. A record 20 APIs ran for political office in the county's November 2004 General Election and 10 won. Elected to represent the California State Assembly's 68th District, Republican Van Tran became the first Vietnamese American elected to the California State Legislature. "We see the growing realization



that, in order to have a voice in the policy-making process, the community has to have its own representatives who can address their needs and concerns in a direct way," said Assemblymember Tran.

Orange County's Asian and Pacific Islander communities have grown considerably over the last ten years. Its Vietnamese population, already the largest in the United States, nearly doubled in size. Others, including Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Indian communities, saw their numbers swell. This growth presents challenges to policy makers, who must both address misperceptions about APIs and take the steps necessary to address API needs.

This report documents considerable social and economic diversity in the API community, challenging the notion that Asians and Pacific Islanders are uniformly successful. Many struggle, yet with support, make better lives for themselves, their families, and their Orange County neighbors. The information presented here allows policy makers to identify areas of need in the API community and target programs effectively and efficiently to those who need them.

### Policy Recommendations

#### Develop sufficient social service and human relations infrastructures in areas with growing API populations

In areas with established API communities, such as Garden Grove and Westminster, government programs and social service agencies experienced in serving Asian and Pacific Islander clients are now faced with having to accommodate greater numbers of APIs. Areas with emerging API populations may be without linguistically and culturally appropriate programs altogether. Areas with either established or emerging API communities are also faced with growing human relations issues, as neighbors get used to being neighbors. Government agencies, foundations, and businesses must respond to these changes by allocating greater resources to programs targeting these communities.

#### Increase services responsive to APIs with language needs

Nearly 180,000 Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County have difficulty communicating in English, interfering with their ability to access basic services such as healthcare and police protection. Policy makers must ensure greater access to English language acquisition programs like

ESL classes, as well as ensure that hospitals and police departments are equipped to negotiate life-threatening situations in Asian languages. In a variety of service contexts, access to interpreters and written materials in languages like Chinese, Khmer (primary Cambodian language), Korean, Lao, Thai, and Vietnamese are critical to the welfare and safety of the county's API population.

#### Increase job training and economic development initiatives to support poor APIs in overcoming poverty

Disproportionate numbers of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County live below the poverty line. Many rely on public assistance to survive. Yet time limits instituted as part of the 1996 welfare reform have resulted in many low-income Asians and Pacific Islanders "timing out" and no longer eligible to receive any assistance. As this population struggles to make ends meet, policy makers should assist low-wage workers in developing relevant job and language skills, as well as ensure the quality of jobs in which they work. Job training programs should be targeted to their communities, delivered in languages workers understand. Immigrant workers should also

## Conclusion and Recommendations

have opportunities to learn English, including vocational English language instruction. Given the large numbers of API-owned businesses in Orange County, policy makers should also take steps to ensure that these businesses remain vibrant, providing living wages and healthcare for both employer and employee.

#### Encourage the collection and reporting of data on Asian and Pacific Islanders by race and ethnic subgroup

Presenting information on Asians and Pacific Islanders exclusively by racial group masks considerable social and economic diversity among API ethnic groups. Disaggregated data like those provided by the Census Bureau are critical to (1) developing an understanding of that diversity and (2) responding to the needs of underserved API ethnic groups hidden in data presented by race only. Yet few federal, state, and local agencies collect or report such data. Policy makers should encourage agencies to collect and report information by ethnic or subgroup as a way of more efficiently delivering services to Orange County residents.

# Glossary



## Race and Ethnicity

**Alone:** Racial or ethnic population figure that includes those who reported a single race only.

**Inclusive:** Racial or ethnic population figure that combines those who reported a single race and those who reported more than one race. Also referred to as “alone and in combination” or “single race and multiracial population.”

**Multiracial:** Those who reported more than one race. Also referred to as “mixed race” or “in combination.”

## Social Characteristics

**Income, Median Household:** A measurement of income that divides the income distribution of households (all persons living in the same residence) in 1999 into two equal parts, half falling below and half above the median household income.

**Income, Per Capita:** The mean income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group. It is derived by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population of that group.

**Income, Public Assistance:** Public assistance income includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). Separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) are excluded. This does not include Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

**Limited English Proficient:** Persons who speak English less than “very well.”

**Linguistically Isolated Households:** Households in which all members 14 years old or older speak English less than “very well.”

**Foreign-Born:** Includes people not born in the United States, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Island Areas (such as Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Northern Mariana Islands).

**Poverty:** A measure of income relative to the federal poverty threshold (the poverty line). Adjusted for family size, the federal poverty line was \$17,029 annually for a family of four in 1999.

**Poverty, 200 Percent of:** Because the federal poverty threshold is not adjusted for regional differences in the cost of living, the number of people below different percentages of the poverty level are often used. These specified poverty levels are obtained by multiplying the official thresholds by the appropriate factor. The average income cutoff at 200 percent of the poverty level was \$34,058 (\$17,029 x 2.0) in 1999 for a family of four.

## Geography

**Census Designated Place (CDP):** Geographic area designed to “provide census data for concentrations of population, housing, and commercial structures that are identifiable by name but not within (a place).” In other words, CDPs are concentrations of populations identified by the U.S. Census Bureau that are not incorporated cities.

**Places:** Includes incorporated cities and Census Designated Places (CDPs).

## The 2000 Census marked

the first decennial census in which persons could report more than one racial or ethnic background, capturing the multiracial population for the first time in U.S. Census history. While the change resulted in a more detailed description of race and ethnicity, it complicates reporting and prevents direct comparisons between the 2000 Census and 1990 or any other previous census.

The U.S. Census reports racial and ethnic background for the 2000 Census as two figures, “alone” and “inclusive.” Alone numbers represent single race responses. Inclusive (also referred to as “alone and in combination”) numbers represent single race and multiracial responses combined. Because the 1990 Census reported racial and ethnic background as a single figure, two measures of population growth are possible: one measuring growth from 1990 to 2000 alone and another measuring growth from 1990 to 2000 inclusive. Data for social and economic characteristics such as education, income, and home ownership are provided for the inclusive population for all racial and ethnic groups except for white, for which the alone population is described.

The U.S. Census does not consider Latino or Hispanic a racial category but as an ethnic category. Those of Latino or Hispanic origin can be of any race. Therefore, figures for the Latino population include persons of all racial backgrounds who indicated Latino or Hispanic origin. Likewise, all racial categories include those of Latino or Hispanic origin, except for white, which is non-Hispanic.

With the exception of data on health issues, which are from the Orange County Healthcare Agency and the California Health Interview Survey, the source for data in this report is the U.S. Census Bureau.

# Technical Notes

*The Diverse Face of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County* was produced by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.

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