

# the diverse *face*

*of Asians and Pacific Islanders  
in San Diego County*



ASIAN PACIFIC  
AMERICAN  
LEGAL CENTER  
OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



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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.

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# Welcome

**Stewart Kwoh**  
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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 San Diego 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, Bangladeshis, 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.

With *The Diverse Face of Asians and Pacific Islanders in San Diego 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 Orange 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 groups 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 can be 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

**There is not one Asian or Pacific Islander story.** Instead, the API story reflects a diverse set of experiences and histories. The Filipino nurse who came to meet the county's growing need for health care professionals, the Chinese shop owner whose family has run the same business for decades, and the Samoan enlistee in the U.S. Navy are all part of the Asian and Pacific Islander experience.

With roots in China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and other countries throughout Asia and the Pacific, Asians and Pacific Islanders (APIs) have called San Diego County home since the late 1800s. California's third largest county is home to more than 320,000 persons of API ancestry comprising 11% of the population. The API population in San Diego County continues to grow, increasing as much as 61% from 1990 to 2000.

Census 2000 data provide 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 San Diego 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, Orange County, and the state of California are also available from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center.



## t Key Findings

### Asians and Pacific Islanders are among the fastest growing racial groups in San Diego County.

San Diego County's Asian and Pacific Islander population grew as much as 61% from 1990 to 2000. In contrast, the county's total population grew only 13% over the decade. Some API ethnic groups, including Indians, Koreans, Chinese, and Thai, doubled in size. As Asian and Pacific Islander populations grow, policy makers should allocate greater resources to meet the specific needs of these communities.

### Asians and Pacific Islanders fall below average on a number of indicators of well-being.

Contrary to the popular "model minority" image, Asians and Pacific Islanders fall below average on a number of important measures of socioeconomic status. APIs have below average home ownership rates, higher than average rates of public assistance income, and per capita incomes far below that of the county overall. Pacific Islanders have college graduation rates far below average.

### Southeast Asian ethnic groups are among the county's poorest.

In the aggregate, Asians and Pacific Islanders are only slightly more likely than whites to live below the poverty line. Yet a more detailed examination of poverty in San Diego County shows that Southeast Asian ethnic groups are among the county's poorest. Cambodians and Hmong have poverty rates higher than any other racial or ethnic group, with nearly half of Cambodians living below the poverty line. Policy makers should work to provide greater educational opportunities and job training to Southeast Asians in San Diego County, while increasing economic development in the communities in which they live.

### More than 85,000 Asians and Pacific Islanders in San Diego County are limited English proficient.

Language affects an individual's ability to find work and access important social and health services. Yet 32% of Asians have problems communicating in English. Four Asian ethnic groups have majority limited English proficient (LEP) populations, including Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodians, and Hmong. Nearly a quarter of San Diego County's large Filipino population are LEP. Policy makers should increase opportunities to learn English, while ensuring that hospitals, police, and other service providers are able to serve LEP Asian clients.



With roots in India, Guam, Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, and other countries throughout Asia and the Pacific, Asians and Pacific Islanders have called San Diego County home since the late 1800s.



# Race and Ethnicity



**Home to over 320,000 Asians** and Pacific Islanders, San Diego County has the fifth largest API population in California. While the county's total population grew 13% from 1990 to 2000, its Asian and Pacific Islander population grew 61% during the same period. Asians and Pacific Islanders now comprise 11% of San Diego County's total population, according to 2003 Census Bureau estimates.

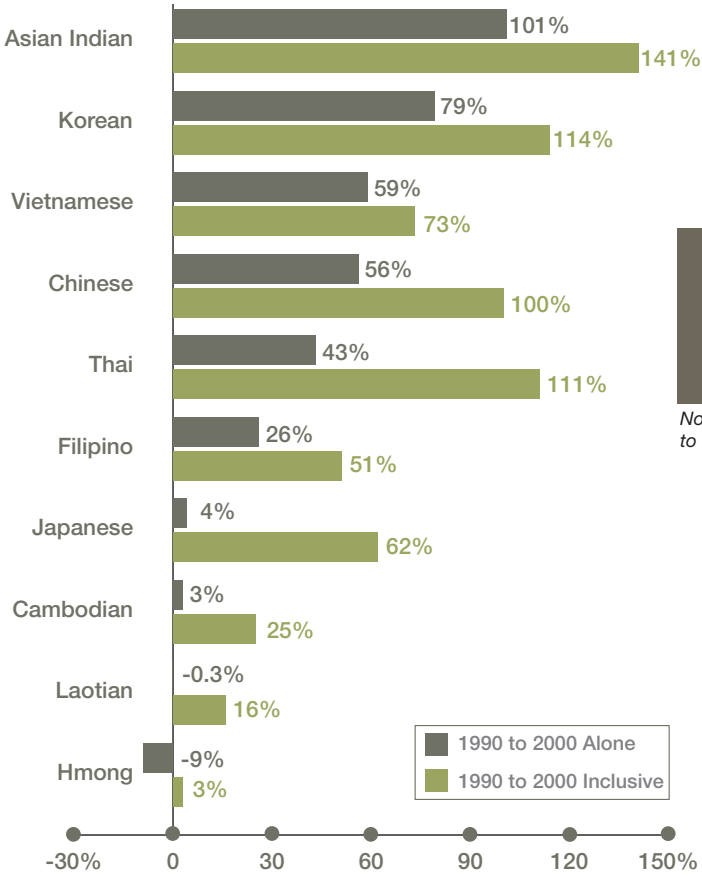
### Asians

- > Filipinos make up nearly half of Asians living in San Diego County. In contrast, Filipinos make up roughly one in four Asians in California and one in five Asians nationally.
- > While Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Thai populations all grew at high rates from 1990 to 2000, their overall numbers remain smaller compared to Filipinos.
- > Asians in San Diego County are more likely to be multiracial than whites, Latinos, and African Americans. Among the six largest Asian ethnic groups, Japanese are the most multiracial (32%).

*\*Alone figures are single race responses only. Inclusive figures include single race and multiracial responses. Alone figures for Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups are single race and single ethnic group.*

### Pacific Islanders

- > San Diego County has the second largest Pacific Islander population in the state, after Los Angeles County.
- > In contrast to Los Angeles County, where Samoans are the largest Pacific Islander group, Guamanians/Chamorros are the largest group in San Diego County. Guamanians/Chamorros make up 31% of the Pacific Islander group in San Diego County.
- > Pacific Islanders are more likely to be multiracial than any other major racial or ethnic group. With 45% reporting multiracial ancestry, the Pacific Islander population expands from more than 13,500 when considering only single race persons to more than 24,500 when adding multiracial persons. Among Pacific Islander ethnic groups, Native Hawaiians are most likely to be multiracial, with 62% reporting more than one racial background.



**Population Growth of Ten Largest Asian Ethnic Groups, 1990 to 2000**  
*Note: Ranked by 1990 to 2000 alone*

**Table 1. San Diego County Race & Ethnicity**

Racial & Ethnic Groups	1990		2000				Percent Growth	
			Alone		Inclusive		1990 to 2000 Alone	1990 to 2000 Inclusive
	Number	% Total	Number	% Total	Number	% Asian		
White, Non-Hispanic	1,633,281	65%	1,548,833	55%	1,613,910	57%	-5%	-1%
Latino / Hispanic	510,781	20%	700,010	27%	750,965	27%	37%	47%
Asian	184,596	7%	249,802	9%	295,346	10%	35%	60%
African American	159,306	1%	161,480	6%	186,679	7%	1%	17%
American Indian	20,066	1%	24,337	1%	46,177	2%	21%	130%
Pacific Islander	13,715	0.5%	13,561	0.5%	24,524	0.9%	-1%	79%
More than one race	--	--	115,810	4%	--	--	--	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,498,016</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,813,833</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,813,833</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>13%</b>

Asian Ethnic Groups	1990		2000				Percent Growth	
			Alone		Inclusive		1990 to 2000 Alone	1990 to 2000 Inclusive
	Number	% Asian	Number	% Asian	Number	% Asian		
Filipino	95,945	52%	121,147	50%	145,132	49%	26%	51%
Chinese	19,686	11%	30,750	13%	39,278	13%	56%	100%
-Chinese, except Taiwanese	--	--	28,581	12%	36,660	12%	--	--
-Taiwanese	--	--	2,169	1%	2,618	1%	--	--
Vietnamese	21,118	11%	33,504	14%	36,512	12%	59%	73%
Japanese	17,869	10%	18,649	8%	29,028	10%	4%	62%
Korean	6,722	4%	12,004	5%	14,404	5%	79%	114%
Asian Indian	5,039	3%	10,148	4%	12,145	4%	101%	141%
Laotian	7,025	4%	7,002	3%	8,149	3%	0%	16%
Cambodian	4,185	2%	4,314	2%	5,213	2%	3%	25%
Thai	1,109	1%	1,584	1%	2,345	1%	43%	111%
Hmong	1,585	1%	1,441	1%	1,636	1%	-9%	3%
Indonesian	643	0.3%	589	0.2%	1,254	0.4%	-8%	95%
Pakistani	384	0.2%	522	0.2%	770	0.3%	36%	101%
Sri Lankan	70	0.0%	167	0.1%	223	0.1%	139%	219%
Malaysian	159	0.1%	127	0.1%	478	0.2%	-20%	201%
Bangladeshi	19	0.01%	102	0.04%	117	0.04%	437%	516%
Other Asian	3,038	2%	2,512	1%	6,520	2%	-17%	115%
More than one Asian Group	--	--	5,240	2%	--	--	--	--
<b>Total Asian Population</b>	<b>184,596</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>249,802</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>295,346</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>60%</b>

Pacific Islander Ethnic Groups	1990		2000				Percent Growth	
			Alone		Inclusive		1990 to 2000 Alone	1990 to 2000 Inclusive
	Number	% P.I.	Number	% P.I.	Number	% P.I.		
Guamanian or Chamorro	5,306	39%	4,875	36%	7,646	31%	-8%	44%
Samoaan	3,929	29%	4,402	32%	6,149	25%	12%	57%
Native Hawaiian	3,778	28%	2,362	17%	6,610	27%	-37%	75%
Tongan	116	1%	231	2%	339	1%	99%	192%
Melanesian	34	0.2%	66	0.5%	116	0.5%	94%	241%
Other Pacific Islander	552	4%	1,357	10%	4,402	18%	146%	697%
More than one P.I. Group	--	--	268	2%	--	--	--	--
<b>Total P.I. Population</b>	<b>13,715</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>13,561</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>24,524</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>79%</b>

*Note: Groups ranked by inclusive number. Alone figures are single race responses only. Inclusive figures include single race and multiracial responses. 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



## The Asian and Pacific

Islander population in San Diego County is growing in both established and emerging API communities. Asians make up one of every five persons in National City and more than one of every ten persons in San Diego, Chula Vista, La Presa, and Bonita.

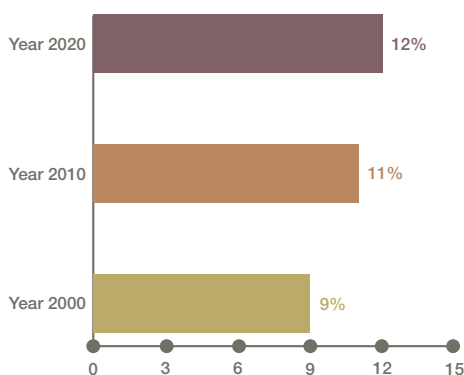
### Asians

- > The city of San Diego is home to the county's largest Asian population (189,413), with many living in and around Mira Mesa, Linda Vista, and Paradise Hills.
- > Asians are most highly concentrated in National City, where they make up 20% of the city's total population. Filipinos alone make up 19% of those living in National City.
- > Asian populations in Chula Vista, Oceanside, Poway, and San Diego are both highly concentrated and growing rapidly. From 1990 to 2000, Asian populations in Chula Vista and Oceanside doubled in size.

### Pacific Islanders

- > Pacific Islanders are found in high numbers and percentages both in the southern and northern parts of San Diego County. In the south, more than 10,000 Pacific Islanders live in the city of San Diego. To the north, more than 3,000 call Oceanside home. Nearly 2,000 Pacific Islanders live in Chula Vista in the south and more than a 1,000 live in Vista in the north.
- > The highest percentage of Pacific Islanders in the county (2%) is found in two cities: La Presa in the south and Oceanside in the north.

San Diego County Asian Population Projections, 2010 and 2020

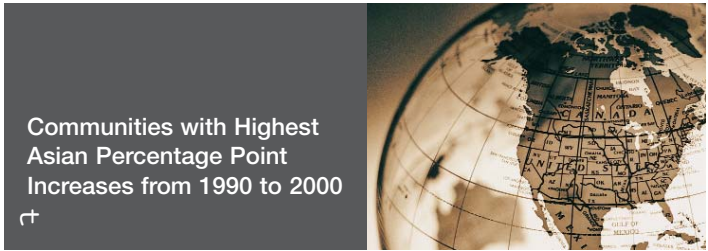


Source: State of California, Department of Finance

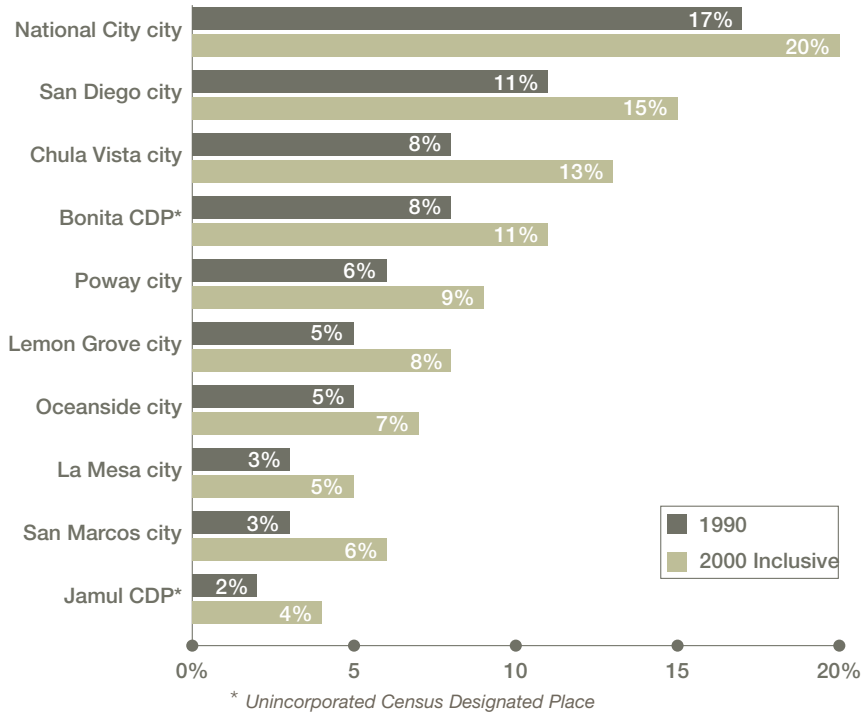
Table 2. Census Population Estimates for 2003

Major Racial & Ethnic Groups	Number	Percent
White	1,569,930	53.6%
Latino / Hispanic	840,875	28.7%
Asian	321,384	11.0%
African American	198,566	6.8%
American Indian	49,779	1.7%
Pacific Islander	27,329	.09%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>2,930,886</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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.



**Asians as Percent of the Total Population**



\* Unincorporated Census Designated Place

**Table 3. Communities with the Highest Concentration of Asians**

Place	Number	% of Total
National City city	11,060	20%
San Diego city	189,413	15%
Chula Vista city	22,709	13%
La Presa CDP*	4,118	13%
Bonita CDP*	1,305	11%
Imperial Beach city	2,487	9%
Poway city	4,366	9%
Lemon Grove city	1,995	8%
Oceanside city	11,853	7%
Spring Valley CDP*	1,833	7%

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

Filipinos, San Diego's largest Asian or Pacific Islander group, first came to San Diego in 1903 as students at the State Normal School (now San Diego State University). Filipinos later arrived in larger numbers as men enlisted in the U.S. Navy and laborers who found work in the county's agricultural and service sectors (Castillo, 1976). The



easing of discriminatory immigration quotas in 1965 led to a dramatic increase in the number of Filipino and other Asian immigrants coming to this country, with many settling in and around Southern California. In 2001, San Diego was the third most popular destination for Filipino immigrants coming to the United States (USCIS, 2004).

Sources: Castillo, Adelaida. 1976. "Filipino Migrants in San Diego, 1900-1946," in *Journal of San Diego History*, Volume 23 Number 3. United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Immigration Statistics. 2004. *2001 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service*.

# Social Characteristics



## Asians and Pacific

Islanders are arguably more diverse than any other racial group in San Diego County.

Their social characteristics, such as age, household size, homeownership, and education, vary considerably by ethnic group.

### Median Age

Asians and Pacific Islanders tend to be younger than the average San Diego County resident. The median ages of Asians (31) and Pacific Islanders (25) both fall below the county's median age of 33. Along with Latinos, Pacific Islanders are San Diego County's youngest major racial or ethnic group.

> Pacific Islanders are the youngest racial group in San Diego County. The median age of Tongans (17) is less than half the median age of whites (39) and the lowest of any of the major racial or ethnic groups in the county.

- > Southeast Asian populations are also typically young. The median ages of Hmong (19) and Cambodians (21) are among San Diego County's lowest.
- > The median age of APIs decreases with the inclusion of its multiracial population, indicating the relative youth of those of mixed race. Comparing alone and inclusive figures, the Asian median age decreases from 33 to 31, while the Pacific Islander median age falls from 29 to 25.

### Average Household Size

On average, Asian and Pacific Islander households are larger than those of all other major racial or ethnic groups in San Diego County, except Latinos.

- > The average size of Asian (3.27) and Pacific Islander (3.34) households exceeds that of the country overall (2.73).
- > Hmong households in San Diego County typically consist of more than seven members, three times the average household size of whites. Hmong, Tongans, Cambodians, Laotians, and Samoans have average household sizes larger than any other major racial or ethnic group in the county.
- > Among the six largest API groups in San Diego County, Vietnamese (3.70) and Filipinos (3.62) have the largest average household sizes.

### Home Ownership

Asians and Pacific Islanders have below average home ownership rates. The San Diego County home ownership rate is 55% overall, 52% for Asians, and 43% for Pacific Islanders. Fourteen API groups have below average home ownership rates, including Vietnamese, Japanese, Koreans, and Asian Indians.

- > Approximately 52% of Asians in San Diego County own homes, compared to 62% of whites. Two of the county's largest Asian ethnic groups, Filipinos (57%) and Chinese (61%), drive up overall rates of home ownership among Asians countywide. But Vietnamese, the second largest Asian group, have home ownership rates far below average—44% compared to 55% for the country overall.
- > Cambodians (16%), Tongans (26%), Hmong (27%), and Thai (31%) have San Diego County's lowest rates of home ownership, while Malaysians (67%) and Taiwanese (64%) have home ownership rates higher than any other racial or ethnic group.

*Note: All figures are for the inclusive population, except for white, which is for the single race non-Hispanic population.*

**Education**

Compared to whites, Asians are less likely to have completed high school, but equally likely to hold a college degree. Pacific Islanders are less likely than whites to have completed both high school and college.

**High School Education**

- > Approximately 18% of Asians living in San Diego County have less than a high school degree. In contrast, only 8% of whites have not completed high school. Southeast Asians have the lowest high school completion rates countywide; 63% of Cambodians, 55% of Hmong, and 48% of Laotians have less than a high school degree.
- > As a group, 15% of Pacific Islanders have less than a high school degree. By ethnic group, 12% of Native Hawaiians have not completed high school, while 18% of Guamanians/Chamorros have less than a high school degree.

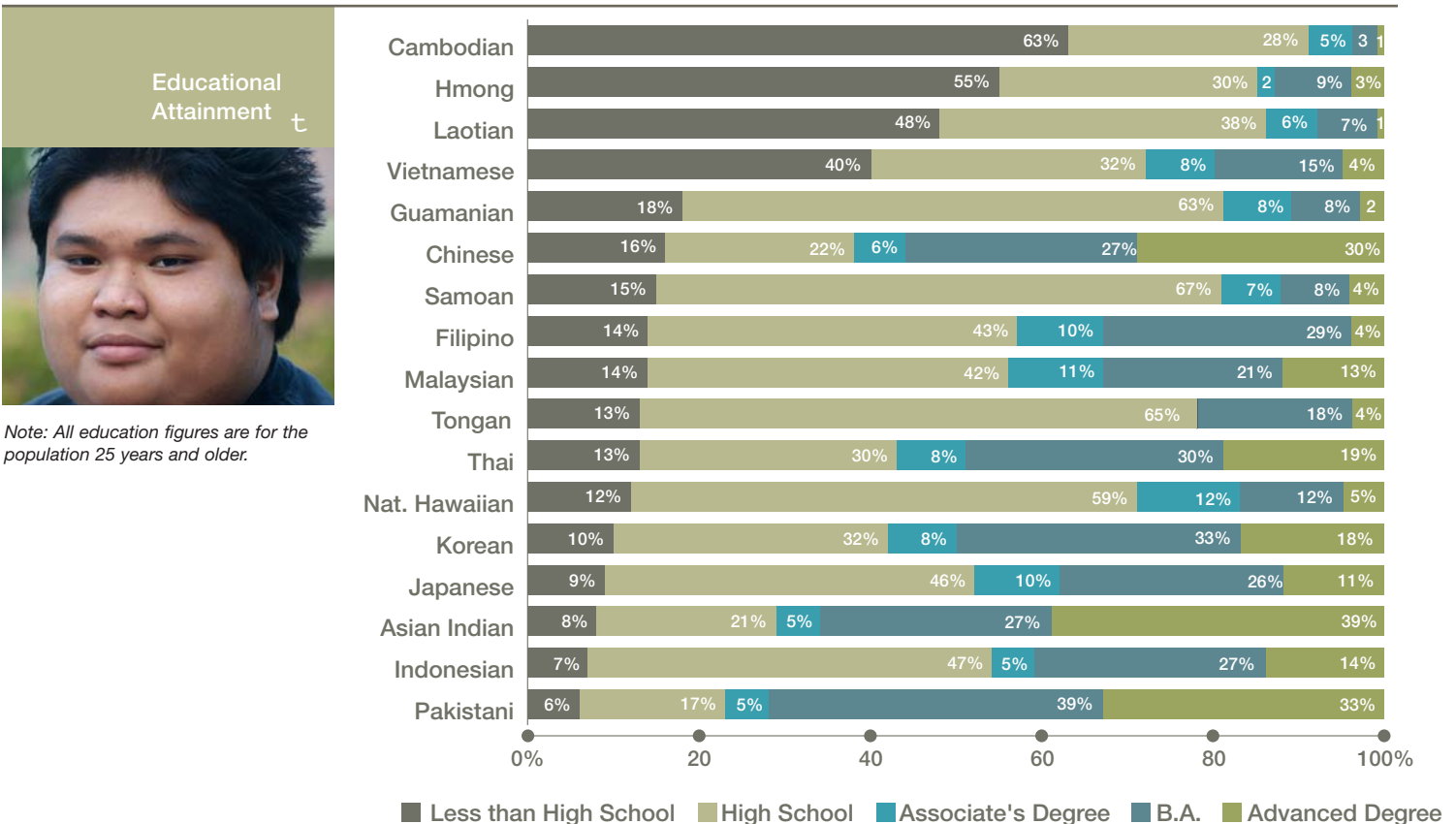
**College Completion**

- > Pacific Islanders complete college at a rate far below average. Only 15% of Pacific Islanders graduate with a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 30% of the county's residents overall.
- > While the proportion of Asians in San Diego County holding a bachelor's or advanced degree (36%) is equal to that of whites, disproportionate numbers of Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders have yet to earn a college degree. Cambodians (4%),

Laotians (8%), Guamanians/Chamorros (10%), and Samoans (11%) have the county's lowest rates of college degree attainment.

- > Half of Filipinos in Orange and Los Angeles Counties hold a bachelor's or advanced degree, yet only a third of Filipinos in San Diego County have the same level of education. Only 4% of Filipinos have an advanced degree.
- > In San Diego County, a majority or near majority of four API ethnic groups, Asian Indian (66%), Chinese (57%), Korean (50%), and Thai (49%), have a bachelor's or advanced degree.

Approximately 18% of Asians living in San Diego County have less than a high school degree. In contrast, only 8% of whites have not completed high school.



Note: All education figures are for the population 25 years and older.

# Economic Indicators



## Economic indicators

include some of the most important measures of a group's overall well-being, including income and poverty. These indicators show that the Asian and Pacific Islander community includes some of San Diego County's poorest and most affluent ethnic groups.

### Income

Asians have nearly matched whites in median household income, yet earn only 60% of the per capita income of whites, highlighting the role larger households play in the distribution of Asian income.

#### *Median Household Income*

Both Asian (\$51,008) and Pacific Islander (\$46,040) median household incomes approach those of whites (\$52,089). Yet these incomes are earned by a greater number of workers per family and divided among a greater number of persons per household.

- > Cambodians and Tongans have the lowest household incomes of any of the major racial or ethnic group in the county. In contrast, Asian Indians, Chinese, and Filipinos earn the highest median household incomes in the county.
- > Regardless of their level, Asian and Pacific Islander household incomes are earned by a greater number of workers per family. Approximately 19% of Asian and 16% of Pacific Islander families have three or more workers, compared to only 9% 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 their overall well-being.

Accounting for their larger households, the per capita incomes of Asians (\$17,966) and Pacific Islanders (\$15,781) in San Diego County are only 60% and 52% the per capita income of whites (\$30,150), respectively.

- > Fifteen of 18 API groups have per capita incomes lower than the county average. Hmong, Cambodians, Tongans, Laotians, and Samoans have San Diego County's lowest per capita incomes.
- > While Filipinos have median household incomes far above the county average, their larger households push them well below the county average for per capita income.

#### *Public Assistance Income*

Asians and Pacific Islanders have above average rates of receiving public assistance income. Four percent of San Diego County residents receive general assistance or TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) income while 5% of Asians and 6% of Pacific Islanders received such income. Six Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander groups have public assistance levels

*Note: All figures are for the inclusive population, except for white, which is for the single race non-Hispanic population.*

higher than any other major racial or ethnic group in the county.

- > Approximately 42% of Hmong, 41% of Cambodians, 17% of Laotians, and 14% of Vietnamese received public assistance income, compared to a county average of 4%. Hmong and Cambodian populations have public assistance levels that are more than 10 times the county average. Public assistance use tends to be higher among Southeast Asians, many of whom came to the United States as refugees and were placed on assistance as part of refugee resettlement programs.
- > Among Pacific Islanders, 30% of Tongans and 9% of Samoans receive public assistance income.

### Poverty

Asians and Pacific Islanders have poverty rates below the county average, but higher than whites. Disaggregated data show that ten API ethnic groups have above average poverty rates, again illustrating economic diversity in the API community

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

- > Eleven percent of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the county live below the poverty line compared to 7% of whites.
- > Seventeen API groups have poverty levels higher than whites. A near majority (46%) of Cambodians in San Diego County live below the poverty line, the highest poverty rate of any of the major racial or ethnic groups in the county. In addition, 24% of Hmong, 21% of Tongans, 20% of Laotians, and 19% of Vietnamese live in poverty.
- > Only 6% of Filipinos live below the federal poverty line, a rate half the county average and lower than any major racial or ethnic group in the county

### Below 200% Of The Federal Poverty Line (\$34,058 for a family of four in 1999)

In areas with higher costs of living, the federal poverty line can be doubled to better identify the low-income population. According to this definition, 28% of Asians and 34% of Pacific Islanders in San Diego County are low-income, or earn incomes below 200% of the federal

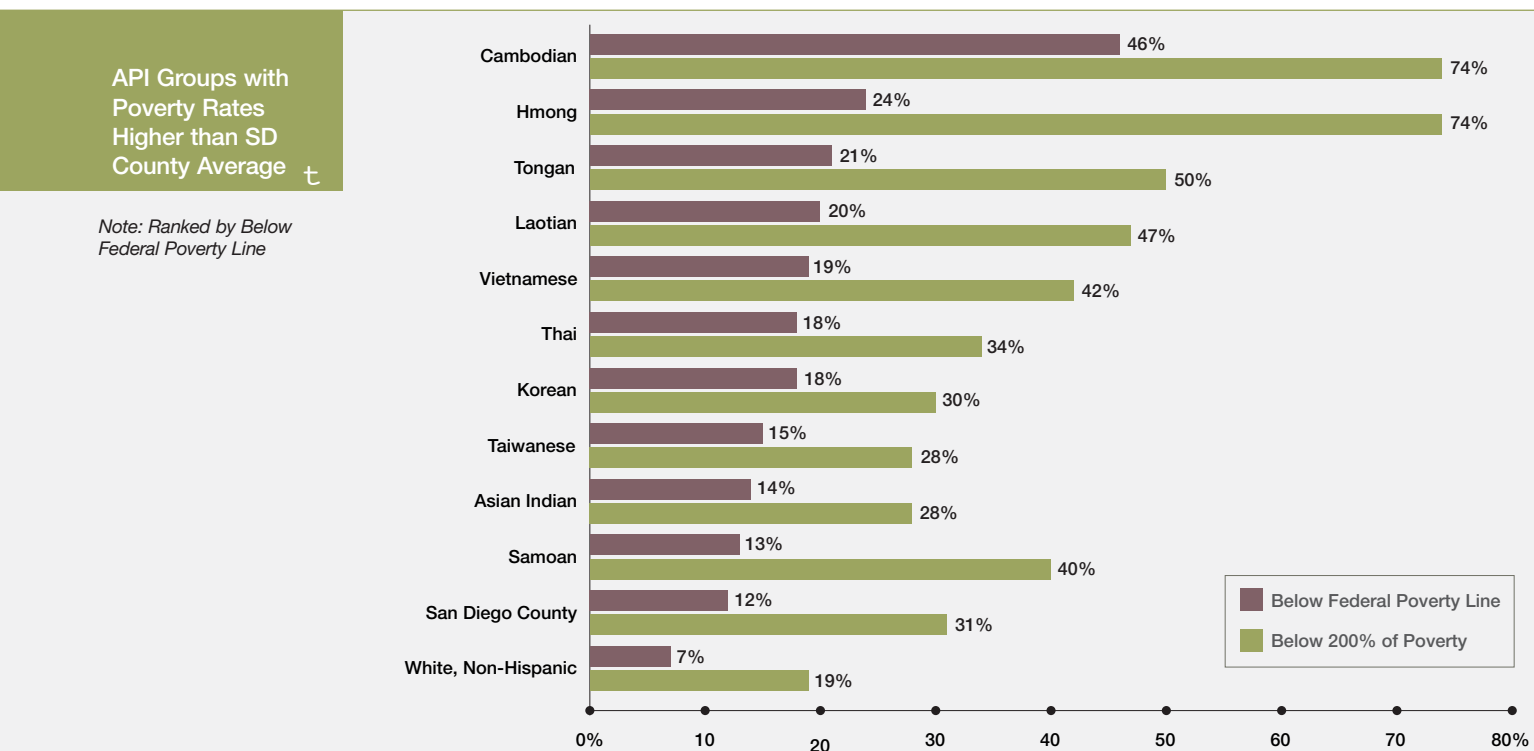
poverty line. By this definition, only 19% of whites are low-income.

- > Eleven Asian ethnic groups are more likely than average to be low-income. Sixteen Asian ethnic groups are more likely than whites to have income below 200% of the federal poverty line.
- > Nearly three-quarters of Cambodians and Hmong and roughly half of Tongans and Laotians are low income. A third or more of Guamanians/Chamorros, Thai, and Pakistanis have income below 200% of the poverty line.

**Table 4: Communities with the Highest Asian and Pacific Islander Poverty Rates**

Place	Number in Poverty	% in Poverty
La Mesa city	475	19%
Vista city	608	16%
El Cajon city	405	14%
Imperial Beach city	264	14%
SD County API	29,242	11%

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



# Asians and Pacific Islanders in San Diego 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	
	PCT 4		PCT 8		HCT 2		PCT 64		PCT 142		PCT 141		PCT 100	
1.	Latino	25	Latino	3.80	Black	32%	Latino	47%	Latino	22%	Latino	53%	Black	8%
2.	Pac. Islander	25	Pac. Islander	3.34	Latino	39%	Am. Indian	22%	Black	19%	Black	41%	Latino	7%
3.	Black	27	Asian	3.27	Pac. Islander	43%	Asian	18%	Am. Indian	17%	Am. Indian	40%	Am. Indian	6%
4.	Am. Indian	29	Am. Indian	2.95	Am. Indian	46%	Pac. Islander	15%	Asian	11%	Pac. Islander	34%	Pac. Islander	6%
5.	Asian	31	Black	2.78	Asian	52%	Black	14%	Pac. Islander	11%	Asian	28%	Asian	5%
6.	White	39	White	2.36	White	62%	White	8%	White	7%	White	19%	White	2%
	SD County	33	SD County	2.73	SD County	55%	SD County	17%	SD County	12%	SD County	31%	SD County	4%

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	
1.	Tongan	17	Hmong	7.28	Cambodian	16%	Cambodian	63%	Cambodian	46%	Cambodian	74%	Hmong	42%
2.	Hmong	19	Tongan	5.04	Tongan	26%	Hmong	55%	Hmong	24%	Hmong	74%	Cambodian	41%
3.	Cambodian	21	Cambodian	4.61	Hmong	27%	Laotian	48%	Tongan	21%	Tongan	50%	Tongan	30%
4.	Samoan	21	Laotian	4.46	Thai	31%	Vietnamese	40%	Laotian	20%	Laotian	47%	Laotian	17%
5.	Guamanian	24	Samoan	4.29	Samoan	37%	Guamanian	18%	Vietnamese	19%	Vietnamese	42%	Vietnamese	14%
6.	Pakistani	26	Vietnamese	3.70	Korean	38%	Chinese excl	16%	Thai	18%	Samoan	40%	Samoan	9%
7.	Laotian	26	Filipino	3.62	Laotian	40%	Chinese	16%	Korean	18%	Guamanian	34%	Guamanian	8%
8.	Thai	27	Malaysian	3.50	Pakistani	41%	Samoan	15%	Taiwanese	15%	Thai	34%	Filipino	4%
9.	Nat. Hawaiian	28	Guamanian	3.46	Asian Indian	42%	Filipino	14%	Asian Indian	14%	Pakistani	33%	Chinese excl	3%
10.	Korean	29	Taiwanese	2.86	Vietnamese	44%	Malaysian	14%	Samoan	13%	Korean	30%	Chinese	3%
11.	Indonesian	29	Chinese	2.81	Indonesian	45%	Tongan	13%	Pakistani	12%	Nat. Hawaiian	30%	Nat. Hawaiian	3%
12.	Asian Indian	29	Chinese excl	2.81	Guamanian	45%	Thai	13%	Japanese	12%	Taiwanese	28%	Korean	2%
13.	Vietnamese	30	Indonesian	2.79	Nat. Hawaiian	46%	Nat. Hawaiian	12%	Nat. Hawaiian	12%	Asian Indian	28%	Asian Indian	2%
14.	Taiwanese	31	Korean	2.76	Japanese	52%	Korean	10%	Indonesian	12%	Chinese	25%	Japanese	1%
15.	Filipino	32	Asian Indian	2.75	Filipino	57%	Japanese	9%	Chinese	11%	Japanese	25%	Taiwanese	0%
16.	Chinese	32	Nat. Hawaiian	2.65	Chinese excl	61%	Asian Indian	8%	Chinese excl	11%	Chinese excl	25%	Indonesian	0%
17.	Chinese excl	32	Pakistani	2.50	Chinese	61%	Taiwanese	8%	Guamanian	8%	Filipino	22%	Malaysian	0%
18.	Japanese	34	Thai	2.43	Taiwanese	64%	Indonesian	7%	Malaysian	7%	Indonesian	20%	Pakistani	0%
19.	Malaysian	38	Japanese	2.31	Malaysian	67%	Pakistani	6%	Filipino	6%	Malaysian	15%	Thai	0%
20.	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*
21.	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*

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

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 89		PCT 130		PCT 44		PCT 44		PCT 38		PCT 38		PCT 42	
Latino	34,555	Latino	11,738	Asian	59%	Asian	57%	Latino	79%	Latino	39%	Latino	23%
Black	36,273	Pac. Islander	15,781	Latino	42%	Pac. Islander	55%	Asian	69%	Asian	32%	Asian	21%
Am. Indian	39,093	Black	15,789	Pac. Islander	11%	White	55%	Pac. Islander	35%	Am. Indian	10%	Pac. Islander	4%
Pac. Islander	46,040	Am. Indian	16,884	Am. Indian	9%	Black	35%	Am. Indian	25%	Pac. Islander	9%	Am. Indian	4%
Asian	51,008	Asian	17,966	Black	7%	Am. Indian	31%	Black	11%	Black	4%	Black	2%
White	52,089	White	30,150	White	6%	Latino	28%	White	8%	White	2%	White	1%
SD County	47,067	SD County	22,926	SD County.	22%	SD County	41%	SD County	33%	SD County	15%	SD County	7%

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	
Cambodian	25,540	Hmong	7,015	Vietnamese	73%	Cambodian	30%	Hmong	97%	Vietnamese	60%	Vietnamese	45%
Tongan	32,417	Cambodian	7,562	Taiwanese	72%	Japanese	31%	Cambodian	94%	Hmong	59%	Laotian	32%
Thai	35,208	Tongan	8,315	Malaysian	71%	Hmong	36%	Laotian	94%	Cambodian	57%	Cambodian	31%
Laotian	37,609	Laotian	10,888	Laotian	68%	Indonesian	36%	Vietnamese	91%	Laotian	53%	Korean	31%
Hmong	38,355	Samoaan	11,089	Asian Indian	67%	Guamanian	36%	Taiwanese	87%	Taiwanese	40%	Thai	28%
Korean	40,880	Vietnamese	14,637	Pakistani	66%	Thai	41%	Pakistani	83%	Korean	39%	Taiwanese	27%
Vietnamese	41,412	Guamanian	14,898	Korean	63%	Asian Indian	42%	Asian Indian	75%	Chinese	35%	Chinese	25%
Nat. Hawaiian	44,570	Thai	15,799	Cambodian	62%	Tongan	47%	Chinese	74%	Chinese excl	35%	Chinese excl	25%
Samoaan	45,391	Filipino	16,391	Chinese	59%	Korean	48%	Chinese excl	73%	Thai	33%	Japanese	23%
Japanese	46,129	Nat. Hawaiian	17,726	Indonesian	58%	Pakistani	49%	Korean	69%	Tongan	28%	Hmong	20%
Guamanian	47,008	Korean	18,947	Chinese excl	58%	Laotian	51%	Filipino	64%	Japanese	25%	Indonesian	14%
Indonesian	51,063	Indonesian	19,256	Filipino	58%	Chinese excl	56%	Thai	63%	Filipino	23%	Malaysian	12%
Pakistani	51,250	Pakistani	20,895	Thai	58%	Chinese	56%	Malaysian	62%	Asian Indian	18%	Pakistani	11%
Malaysian	53,750	Malaysian	21,069	Hmong	54%	Samoaan	57%	Tongan	60%	Pakistani	16%	Filipino	11%
Taiwanese	54,952	Japanese	22,641	Japanese	38%	Taiwanese	57%	Samoaan	54%	Malaysian	16%	Asian Indian	9%
Filipino	55,177	Chinese excl	23,446	Tongan	34%	Vietnamese	59%	Indonesian	49%	Indonesian	15%	Guamanian	6%
Chinese	58,459	Chinese	23,561	Samoaan	9%	Malaysian	59%	Japanese	44%	Samoaan	11%	Samoaan	3%
Chinese excl	58,559	Asian Indian	27,240	Guamanian	4%	Nat. Hawaiian	62%	Guamanian	30%	Guamanian	6%	Nat. Hawaiian	1%
Asian Indian	64,388	Taiwanese	28,496	Nat. Hawaiian	2%	Filipino	66%	Nat. Hawaiian	11%	Nat. Hawaiian	2%	Tongan	0%
Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*	Sri Lankan	*	Bangladeshi	*	Bangladeshi	*
Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*	Bangladeshi	*	Sri Lankan	*	Sri Lankan	*

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. \*Group did not meet population threshold.

# Language



## English language skills

affect an individual's ability to find work and access important social and health services. The ability to effectively communicate with emergency room staff after an accident can mean the difference between life and death. Yet 32% of Asians are limited English proficient; more than 85,000 Asians in San Diego County have difficulty communicating in English.

## A Language Other Than English Spoken At Home

- > Nearly 70% of Asians and 35% of Pacific Islanders speak a language other than English at home.
- > More than 90% of four Southeast Asian ethnic groups speak a language other than English at home, including Hmong (97%), Cambodians (94%), Laotians (94%) and Vietnamese (91%).
- > Three quarters or more of Taiwanese (87%), Pakistanis (83%), and Asian Indians (75%) in San Diego County speak a language other than English at home.
- > In contrast, the majority of Indonesians, Japanese, and Guamanians/Chamorros speak English at home.

## Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Limited English proficiency is defined as speaking English less than "very well."

- > Approximately 32% of Asians and 9% of Pacific Islanders are limited English proficient.
- > A majority of four Southeast Asian groups are LEP: Vietnamese (60%), Hmong (59%), Cambodians (57%), and Laotians (53%).
- > Fifteen Asian groups have rates of limited English proficiency higher than the county average. Roughly 23% of Filipinos, 35% of Chinese, and 25% of Japanese are LEP.

## Linguistic Isolation

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

- > Roughly one in five Asian households are linguistically isolated, the second highest rate among racial groups countywide.
- > Approximately 45% of Vietnamese households are linguistically isolated, more than six times the county average. Nearly a third of Laotian (32%), Cambodian (31%), and Korean (31%) households are linguistically isolated.
- > Eleven percent of Filipino households are linguistically isolated, a figure above the county average of 7%.



Nearly one out of every four Asian and Pacific Islander households in the city of San Diego is linguistically isolated.



*Note: All figures are for the inclusive population, except for white, which is for the single race non-Hispanic population.*

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

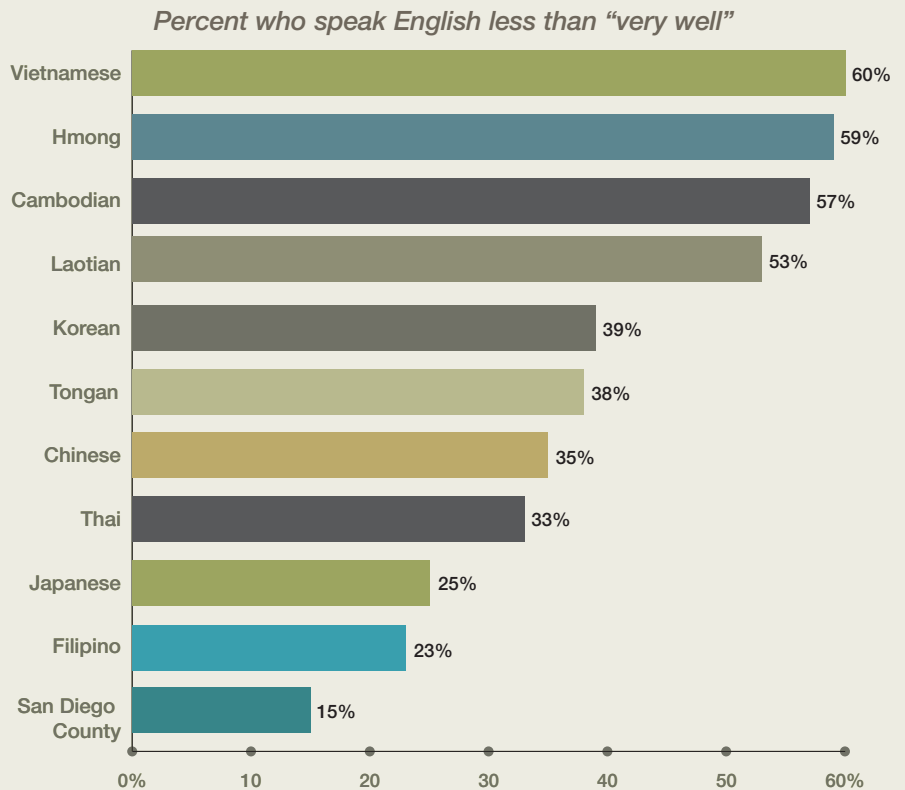
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### Areas With High Language Needs

The number of linguistically isolated households is growing, particularly in parts of San Diego County with high concentration of APIs. In some cities, the number of linguistically isolated households doubled from 1990 to 2000.

- > In seven cities, more than a fifth of API language speaking households are linguistically isolated.
- > The number of linguistically isolated API language speaking households in Oceanside, Vista, La Mesa, Escondido, and San Marcos more than doubled the number of linguistically isolated households from 1990 to 2000. Linguistically isolated API language speaking households grew by nearly 50% in the city of San Diego.
- > From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of API language speaking households in National City that are linguistically isolated increased from 26% to 32%. The proportion of API language speaking households that are linguistically isolated in La Mesa increased from 21% to 30% over the same period.

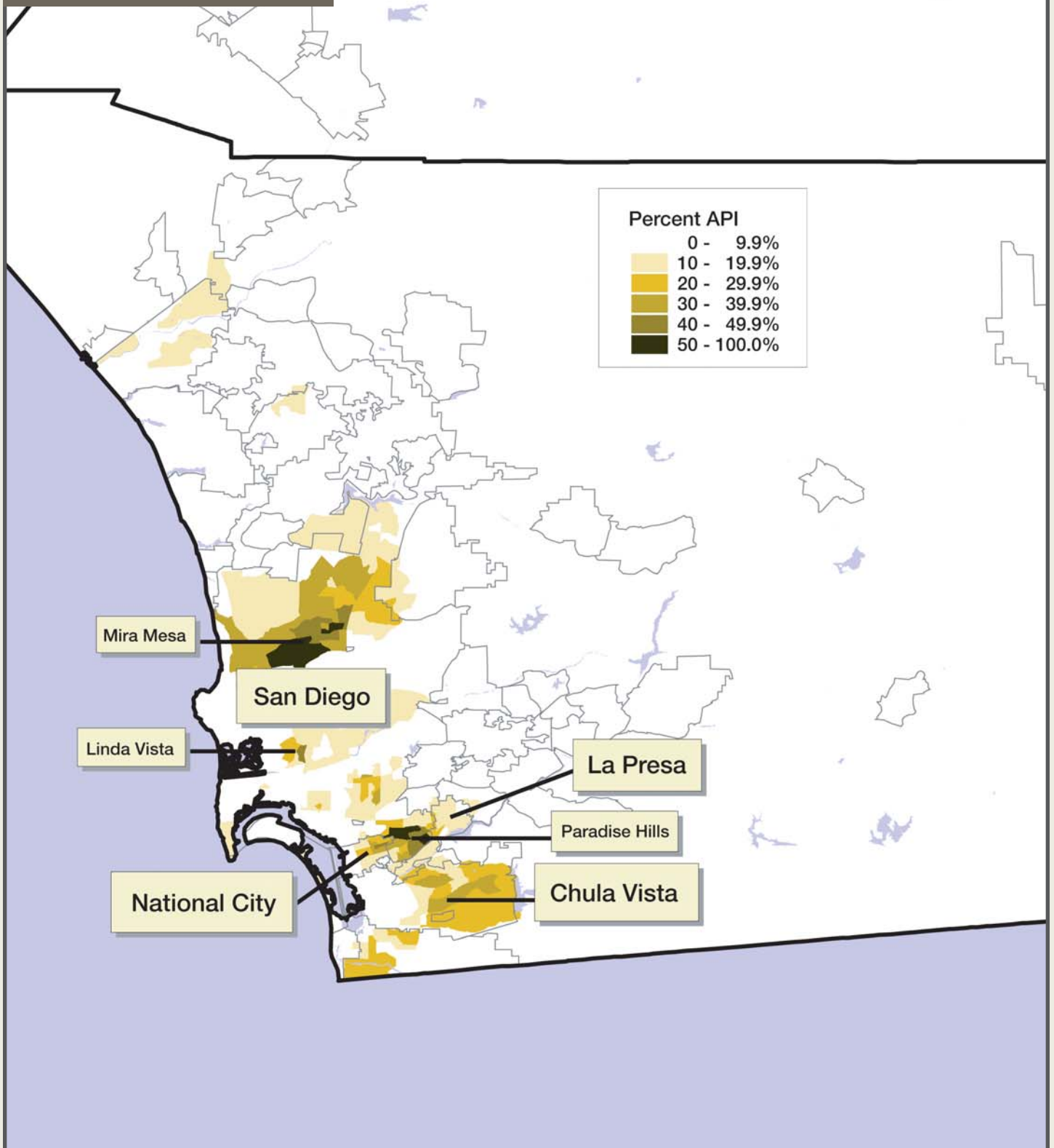


**Table 5: Communities with Highest Concentration of Linguistically Isolated API Language Speaking Households**

Community	Number	Percent of Households
1. National City city	1,013	32%
2. La Mesa city	229	30%
3. San Diego city	11,280	24%
4. Escondido city	372	23%
5. Vista city	298	23%
6. Carlsbad city	206	22%
7. El Cajon city	163	20%
8. San Marcos city	140	19%
9. Chula Vista city	961	18%
10. Poway city	138	17%

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

Percent of Population  
That is Asian and Pacific  
Islander, 2000





# Immigration and Citizenship

## Unlike whites, African

Americans, and Pacific Islanders, Asians are a disproportionately foreign-born population.

As in many counties in California, Asians in San Diego County are more likely than Latinos to be foreign-born. While Asian immigrants do naturalize at high rates, the large number of noncitizens mean many cannot register to vote.

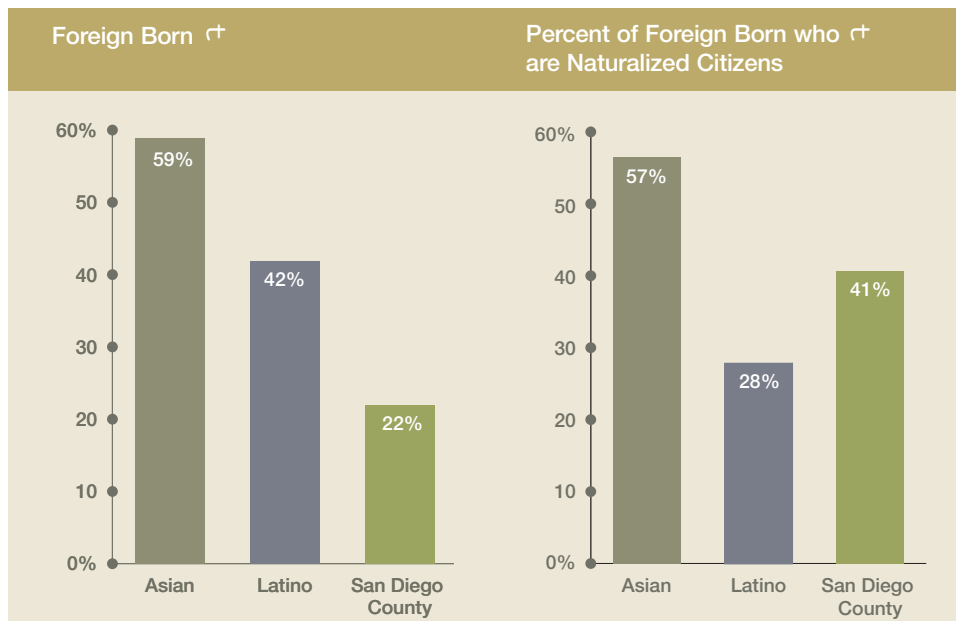
## Immigration

- > Asians are more likely to be foreign-born than any other racial or ethnic group. Approximately 59% of Asians county-wide are foreign-born, compared to 42% of Latinos.
- > Fourteen Asian groups are majority immigrant. Vietnamese (73%), Taiwanese (72%), and Malaysians (71%) are the most foreign-born of all racial or ethnic groups in San Diego, while more than 58% of Filipinos are foreign-born.
- > Pacific Islanders are less likely to be foreign born than Asians. Of Pacific Islander ethnic groups, Tongans are the most likely to be foreign-born, with 30% of Tongans born outside the U.S.

## Citizenship / Naturalization

- > Among foreign-born in San Diego County, Asians have the highest rate of naturalization. Approximately 57% of Asian and 55% of Pacific Islander foreign-born are naturalized citizens.
- > While overall rates of naturalization among Asian and Pacific Islander foreign-born are high, Cambodian (30%), Japanese (31%), Hmong (36%), Indonesian (36%), and Guamanian (36%) foreign-born naturalize at rates lower than the county average, leaving many in these communities ineligible to vote.

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



# Health Indicators



**Health indicators are also** critical measures of a group’s overall well-being. Those captured here show a mixed diagnosis for Asians and Pacific Islanders in San Diego County. Asians have high rates of low weight births and teen suicide countywide. While Asians have high rates of prenatal care access, they still lag behind whites in this area.

Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (1997/1999/2001) in San Diego city high schools found that 12.6% of Filipino and other Asian students reported a suicide attempt, compared to 9.7% overall.

- > Only 4% of Asian and Pacific Islander mothers received late or no prenatal care in 1998. This rate is lower than the county average of 5%, but higher than that for whites (2%).<sup>2</sup>

11% of Asian children in San Diego County are uninsured, rates far higher than white adults (9%) and children (7%).<sup>3</sup>

- > Immigrant Asians who are not citizens lack health insurance at rates much higher than Asians overall. While 17% of Asians (age 0 to 64) in San Diego County are uninsured, 22% of Asian noncitizens are without health insurance.<sup>4</sup>

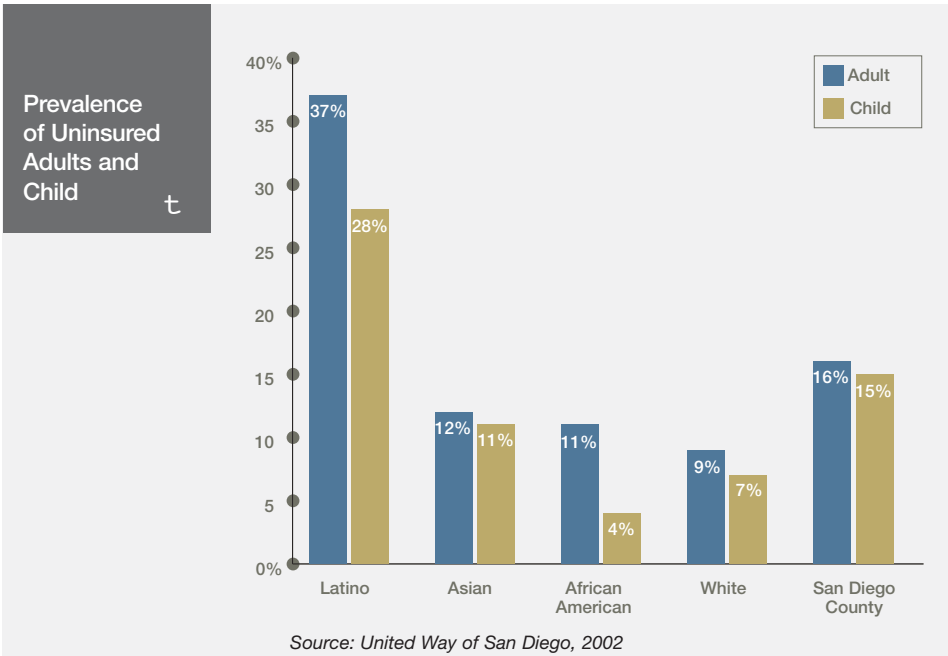
### Health Insurance Coverage

- > Asian adult and child health insurance coverage lags behind whites, according to a survey conducted by the United Way of San Diego County in 2002. Approximately 12% of Asian adults and

Sources: (1) San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency; (2) California Department of Health Services; (3) United Way of San Diego, 2002; (4) California Health Interview Survey, 2001.

### Health Status

- > Asian and Pacific Islander mothers are the second most likely in San Diego County to give birth to low birth weight infants. In 2001, low birth weight infants represented 7% of Asian births, compared to 6% of births countywide.<sup>1</sup>
- > Asian students as a whole, and Filipino students as a separate group, in San Diego schools have the highest rates of attempted suicide. The average of three



In the mid to late 1800s, Chinese faced harsh discrimination in California's railroad, mining, and agricultural industries and were limited to the lowest paying and most dangerous jobs. Yet from 1870 to 1890, the waters off San Diego's shores provided a unique opportunity for a number of Chinese entrepreneurs. Over a twenty-year period, Chinese played a major role in San Diego's fishing industry. Boats from as many as a dozen Chinese fishing companies patrolled San Diego Harbor, providing most of the area's fish. These companies thrived until exclusionary federal laws such as the Chinese Exclusion and McCreary Acts limited Chinese labor and boat ownership in the late 1800s.

*Source: McEvoy, Arthur F. 1977. "In places men reject Chinese fisherman at San Diego, 1870-1893" in Journal of San Diego History, volume 23 number 4.*



### There are 4.3 million Asians

and Pacific Islanders in the state of California. From 1990-2000, 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 1990-2000, growing by 125%, followed by Vietnamese 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.
- > California's Asians are 11% 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 1990-2000.
- > Native Hawaiians and Samoans are the largest Pacific Islander ethnic groups in the state of California.

#### Geographic Concentrations

- > Half of California's Asian population lives in three counties: Los Angeles, Santa Clara, and Orange County.
- > Placer, Santa Clara, Orange, and Alameda Counties had the highest rates of Asian growth from 1990-2000.
- > 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/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/ethnic group, they had one of the fastest growth rates from 1990 to 2000. 48% (alone) to 72% (inclusive).
- > Of the largest Asian populations, some South Asians and Southeast Asians grew the most over 1990-2000: Indians (133%), Pakistanis (151%), Hmong (107%), Vietnamese (99%)
- > Chinese and Filipinos are the largest Asian groups nationally.

### Pacific Islanders

- > Pacific Islanders more than doubled their population over 1990-2000.
- > Pacific Islanders are 54% multiracial, the highest of all racial/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 across other states.
- > The API population doubled in Georgia, North Carolina, and Nevada between 1990 and 2000.

In 2004, San Diego's Pacific Islander Festival drew over 100,000 people, making it one of the largest Pacific Islander festivals in the United States. Since 1995, the festival has brought together the cultural traditions of the peoples of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. "We continue to host the annual Pacific Islander Festival to share our songs and dances, our history and pageantry, our food and languages," said Tana Lepule, President of the Pacific Islander Festival Association. "The festival enhances communication and understanding of Pacific Islander traditions and values and their relevance in the world around us."

## Conclusion and Recommendations

Asian and Pacific Islander communities in San Diego are increasingly diverse and growing. These concurrent demographic trends present challenges to policy makers, who must work to better understand this complex community and its mounting needs.

The information compiled in this report helps facilitate that understanding. These data document considerable social and economic diversity in San Diego County's API community, challenging the stereotype of Asians and Pacific Islanders as a monolithic "model minority." Many in these communities struggle, but with support, are able to make better lives for themselves, their families, and their San Diego 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

#### Meet the increased need for services in growing Asian and Pacific Islander communities

Over the past decade, San Diego County's Asian and Pacific Islander population has grown in both established and emerging API communities, from Oceanside to Chula Vista. With this growth comes a greater need for services. In areas with established API communities, greater funding is needed if existing programs are to meet the increased demand for services. In areas with emerging API communities, programs such as linguistically and culturally appropriate after-school programs or senior services are needed. Government agencies, foundations, and businesses must respond to these changes by allocating greater resources to programs targeting these communities.

#### Recognize and respond to the role language plays in the delivery of critical services

Many in San Diego County's Asian and Pacific Islander communities have difficulty communicating in English. The impact of these language barriers can be severe, particularly in life-threatening situations. In hospitals, effective communication between

patient and staff is critical to the understanding and proper treatment of illness and disease. In police stations and at crime scenes, the quality of communication between victim and law enforcement can facilitate or limit the ability of police to protect county residents. To break down these language barriers, policy makers should (1) ensure greater access to English language acquisition programs like ESL and (2) ensure that hospitals, police departments, and other agencies are equipped to deliver services in Asian and Pacific Islander languages, including Chinese, Khmer (primary Cambodian language), Lao, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

#### Increase investment in low-income Asians and Pacific Islanders and the communities in which they live

Census 2000 data show some Asian and Pacific Islander populations, particularly Southeast Asians, to be among San Diego County's poorest. While many low-income APIs rely on public assistance to help make ends meet, five-year time limits instituted as part of 1996 welfare reform have resulted in many "timing out." Those who have reached these public assistance time limits

need access to employment opportunities that allow true self-sufficiency. Policy makers should work to increase the number of jobs in low-income Asian and Pacific Islander communities that pay a living wage and provide health insurance. Also, economic development initiatives should be coupled with programs that expand educational, English language learning, and job training opportunities to those who need them.

#### Promote the disaggregation of data on Asians and Pacific Islanders

The information captured in this report not only illustrates diverse service needs in the Asian and Pacific Islander community, but the value of disaggregating data by ethnic group. While disaggregated data provide policy makers with the tools they need to efficiently target programs and services, few federal, state, and local agencies collect or report such data. Policy makers should encourage agencies to collect and report information by ethnic group as a way of improving the delivery of services to San Diego 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).

## Technical Notes

### 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, the source for data in this report is the U.S. Census Bureau.

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

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