

### **Fact Sheet: Asian Americans in the United States**

The 2000 Census Reports and Census 2002 Population Characteristics Report for Asian and Pacific Islanders reported that there were 281.4 million persons that comprised the population of the United States, and of this population, 4.4% or 12.5 million were Asian and Pacific Islanders. This number included 10.2 million people or 3.6% who reported only Asian and 1.7 million people, or .6%, who reported Asian as well as one or more other races. Hispanics who reported their race as Asian, either alone or in combination with one or more races, are included in the numbers for Asians (US Census 2000).

- ❑ For purposes of the Census, “the term Asian refers to persons having origins in any of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. (For example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korean, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam). While the term Asian is used to denote a group of persons of Asian ancestry, the Asian category is comprised of heterogeneous groups of persons.
- ❑ The largest subgroup of Asians in the United States are the Chinese, followed by Filipinos and Asian Indians.
- ❑ Of the largest Asian groups, Japanese were the most likely to report being in combination with one or more other Asian races or other groups, and Vietnamese are the least likely to be in combination with one or more other races or other Asian groups (US Census 2000, The Asian Population).
- ❑ Data has been collected on the Chinese population since the 1860 census and on the Japanese population since the 1870 census, and data collection classifications were expanded to include Filipinos and Koreans in the 1910 Census.
- ❑ Prior to the 1970 Census, Asian Indians were included in the White category and the Vietnamese population was included in the Other race category (U.S. Census 2000).
- ❑ In the 1980 census there were six separate response categories for Asians: Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. These same categories appear for both Census 1990 and 2000 but a write in area for respondents not included in the Asian subgroup categories was provided. Census 2000 also had changes in how it looked at race, providing for self-reporting of one or more races (US Census 2000, The Asian Population).
- ❑ Between 1990 and 2000, the Asian population increased faster than the total population. Because race reporting in 2000 included those of mixed race, the Asian population increased at 48% for Asian alone as a race and 72% for Asian in combination with another race.
- ❑ For the years 1990 to 2000, increase in the population of Asians ranged from 48% to 72%. In comparison, the total population grew by 13% in the same time range (U.S. Census 2000, the Asian population). This population is young, with 26% of Asians and Pacific Islanders under age 18, compared to 23% for non-Hispanic Whites (US Census 2000, The API population).

- ❑ In contrast to their predominantly rural US history, Asian Americans are now the most urbanized US population, with about 95% living in urban rather than rural residences. The Asian population is largely in just three states: California, New York, and Hawaii, and those states accounted for 51% of the Asian population. Hawaii accounted for 19% of this population. California had the largest Asian population of 4.2 million, followed by New York at 1.2 million, and Hawaii at .7 million.
- ❑ The ten states with the largest Asian populations were California, New York, Hawaii, Texas, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Florida, Virginia and Massachusetts. Combined, these states represented 75% of the Asian population (US Census 2000). The Asian population exceeded the U.S. level of 4.2 percent in nine states. Five of these states were in the West: Hawaii (58%), California (12%), Washington (6.7%), Nevada (5.6%), and Alaska (5.2%). Two of these states were in the Northeast: New Jersey and New York, both at 6.2%, and two states were in the south: Maryland at 4.5% and Virginia at 4.3 %.
- ❑ Although Asians resided in an array of counties across the nation, the largest concentrations tended to be in coastal and urban counties. The two cities with the largest Asian populations are New York City, NY, with 872,777 persons and Los Angeles, Ca, with 404,444 persons (US Census 2000). Ninety-five percent of all Asians and Pacific Islanders live in metropolitan areas, which is a much greater proportion than non-Hispanic Whites (78%). Of these populations were twice as likely to live in central cities located in metropolitan areas (41% compared to 21%) but not in central cities. (US Census 2000, The Asian Population).
- ❑ The dramatic numerical population increases is largely a result of increased immigration from China, India, Korea and the Philippines, and other Asian and Pacific Islands areas following the adoption of the Immigration Act of 1965 (US Department of Commerce, 1993).
- ❑ One fourth of the United States foreign-born population is from Asia (US Census Profile). Asian born residents number 7.2 million persons, or 57.6% of the Asian Pacific American population [7.2/12.5]. Asian immigrants have come from China, India, Korea, the Philippines and Vietnam. For all but Korea, the number of persons emigrating from each nation rose significantly between 1990 and 2000 (US Census Profile).
- ❑ Asian and Pacific Islander households were more likely to be family households, at 73%, than non family households. The same is true for the non-Hispanic white population, but to a lesser degree, at 66%. Family size varied by family type. Asian and Pacific Islander families were larger than their non-Hispanic white counterparts, with 18% of these households having five or more members compared to 11% of non-Hispanic White families (US Census 2000, The Asian Population).

- ❑ Asians and Pacific Islanders are more likely than non-Hispanic whites to have earned a college degree, but segments of this population are also more likely to have less than a ninth grade education. Asian and Pacific Islander men (51%) were much more likely than non-Hispanic White (32%) men to have earned a bachelor's degree, and Asian and Pacific Islander women (44%) were more likely than non-Hispanic White women (27%) to have earned a bachelor's degree.
- ❑ A substantial difference occurs at lower educational levels: Asians and Pacific Islanders were almost twice as likely to have less than a ninth grade education (7%) than non-Hispanic Whites (4%). The figures for women were very different, with Asian and Pacific Islander women to have less than a ninth grade education at 14.5% compared to non-Hispanic white women at 11.1% (US Census 2000, The Asian Population).
- ❑ While educational attainment is highly valued in Asian communities, its attainment by different subgroups widely varies. Those with the highest levels of educational attainment at the college level were Asian Indians, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino and Koreans, while those at the lowest levels of high school graduation attainment were the Hmong, Cambodians and Laotians (US Department of Commerce, 1993).

## References

### US Census

- ❑ The Asian Population: 2000, U.S. Census Bureau, Issued February 2002
- ❑ A profile of the nation's foreign born population from Asia (2000 Update), Issued February 2002
- ❑ The Asian and Pacific Islander Population in the United States: March 2002, U.S. Census Bureau, Issued February 2003
- ❑ The Foreign Born Population in the United States: March 2002, Issued February 2003

### US Department of Commerce

- ❑ We the Americans: Asians, US Department of Commerce, Issued September 1993

## Contact:

Mary L. Olvera

New Business & Client Services

Cultural Marketing Public Relations

A TMJ Global, Inc. Company

<http://www.culturalmarketingpr.com>

<http://www.culturalmarketingpr.com/contact.php>

phone: 312 / 235-2078