



Fact Sheet on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders



Prepared for the Treasury Department’s AA and NHPI Economic Summit
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Introduction

The Asian American¹ (AA) and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander² (NHPI) communities are among the fastest growing populations in the United States. While representing just over 6 percent of the US population (7 ½ percent if the part-AA and -NHPI people are included), these rapidly expanding communities contribute substantially to the economic strength and social fabric of American society. Within this fact sheet, you will find an overview of key AA and NHPI communities in the US, where they live, how they contribute to the economic growth of the US, pathways to further prosperity among these communities, and how Treasury is responding to White House initiatives³ to support them.

Where are AA and NHPIs? Mapping AA and NHPI communities across the US

When considering geographic dispersion, generally, AA and NHPI communities are concentrated within six states and in major metropolitan centers. Nearly one third of all Asian Americans live in California while a majority of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders live in Hawaii or California.⁹

Key Takeaways:

- At the state level, the AA and NHPI communities can be so small that their demographic and economic data are not always collected or reported in official statistics.
- Disaggregating the data to examine various ethnicities more closely can help policy makers and researchers better understand the broader economic circumstances of these small communities.

Example: Though the two most populous AA communities in California are Chinese and Filipino, one-third of the Hmong population reside in California. On average, Chinese Americans have higher incomes and greater wealth than Hmong Americans. Using average income data for these communities could mask the economic reality of Hmong Americans and make it difficult for policy makers to create targeted policies that would serve each community best.

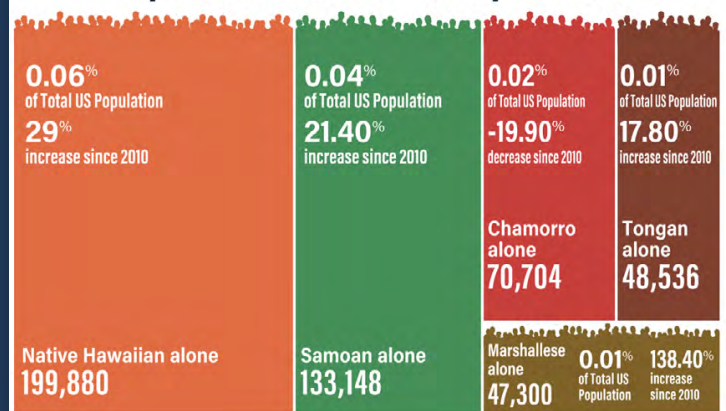
Who are AA and NHPIs? Small but mighty (and growing!)

There are nearly 21 million⁴ people in the AA-alone and NHPI-alone communities, representing about 6.3 percent and 0.3 percent of the total U.S. population respectively⁵. (Note: the term “alone” is used by Census to indicate individuals who are only of one race.) However, from 2010 to 2020 their populations grew by 35.5 percent and 27.8 percent⁶, much faster than the growth of the overall U.S. population at 7.4 percent⁷. The charts⁸ below show the largest five ethnicities within the AA and NHPI communities.

Top Five Largest Asian Alone Groups in 2020



Top Five NHPI Alone Groups in 2020



For more information on ethnicities by State please visit:
<https://www.myasianvoice.com>

How are AA and NHPIs doing, economically?

The Census Bureau collects information on various measures of household economic status, including income and homeownership, for the AA and NHPI populations as a whole and for some ethnic subgroups within the Asian category. A comparison of economic statistics across the AA and NHPI ethnicities shows how considerable differences across subgroups can be hidden within the larger categories.¹⁰

Key Takeaways:

- While median household income of Asian Americans is significantly higher than that of the overall U.S. population (\$107,000 vs. \$74,600), the range across subgroups goes from a low of \$69,300 for the Burmese, to a high of \$152,300 for Asian Indians. And the median income among all NHPI households (\$72,400) is below the median for the overall U.S. population.
- Adjusting for their larger-than-average household sizes, Southeast Asian Americans and NHPIs are relatively worse off than the general population as well as other Asians in terms of per capita (per person) income.
- While a smaller percentage of Asian Americans are in poverty compared with the U.S. population overall (10 percent vs. 13 percent), the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander poverty rate is higher than the national average (18 percent), and the poverty rate among the elderly (over 65 years old) is higher than the national average for both AAs and NHPIs, and for all AA subgroups except the Japanese, Asian Indian, and Filipino subgroups.

AA and NHPI entrepreneurs make significant contributions to the U.S. economy:

- Based on the latest available Census data from 2021, the AA community makes up 6.3 percent of the population and represents nearly 11 percent of all employer firms, employing about 5.0 million workers in the United States, the highest among all minority groups.¹¹ Meanwhile, there were about 8.3 thousand NHPI firms employing over 53 thousand employees in 2021.
- Earlier Census data on nonemployer firms provides a fuller picture of the AA and NHPI entrepreneurial ecosystem. In 2020, there were over 2.3 million Asian American-owned and 83.5 thousand Native Hawaiian- or Pacific Islander-owned firms.¹²

Treasury programs help unlock sources of capital for AA and NHPI communities.

Since early 2021, Treasury has made historic investments in programs to unlock sources of capital to financially underserved communities, including through the [Emergency Capital Investment Program \(ECIP\)](#), the [State Small Business Credit Initiative \(SSBCI\)](#), and numerous programs administered by the [Community Development Financial Institutions Fund \(CDFI Fund\)](#). While the AA and NHPI communities have long been served by Treasury capital access programs, recent improvements in program implementation and more demographically disaggregated data collection promise to expand the reach of these programs to the most deeply underserved.

Expanding AA and NHPI access to CDFI services:

- Treasury has implemented programmatic improvements that aim to help CDFIs direct capital and services to AA and NHPI populations. The new CDFI certification and reporting process revises specifications to the “Other Targeted Populations” category to include underserved Vietnamese and Filipino populations, as well as Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders living in the continental United States, allowing CDFIs to receive credit for providing financial products and services to these specific populations that experienced hardship in obtaining financing, according to verifiable data.¹³

Collecting more granular data on the AA and NHPI beneficiaries:

- The SSBCI program aims to better track and report demographic information of business owners that receive financing through the program. This includes providing an option to the AA and NHPI beneficiaries to report on their ethnicity in more detail, to better understand how SSBCI is serving the diverse business needs within the AA and NHPI community.¹⁴ Individual ethnicities that can be reported include Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Guamanian or Chamorro, Native Hawaiian, and Samoan.¹⁵

Two capital access programs authorized under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, ECIP and [CDFI Equitable Recovery Program](#), will also collect information on race and ethnicity from awardees, including from the AA and NHPI communities.^{16;17} ECIP has used early data to highlight particularly impactful ECIP investments, with more demographic data expected once reporting on demographic information of beneficiaries becomes a program requirement in summer 2024.¹⁸

ECIP Results to Date

Through ECIP, Treasury has invested more than \$190 million in five Asian and Pacific Islander-owned institutions and credit unions. Early 2022 data shows lending to Asian American and Pacific Islander individuals and businesses has been significant.

To learn more about the impact of the ECIP program to date, please visit: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-small-businesses/emergency-capital-investment-program>

The CDFI Fund will likewise collect and analyze detailed demographic information from grantees under the ERP. Once it has received and reviewed reports from award recipients, the CDFI Fund will share ERP data publicly.

AA and NHPs doing business with Treasury

Asian-owned businesses have received an average of \$375 million annually in Treasury contract funds over the past 5 years. In Fiscal Year 2023, they received \$261 million from Treasury contracts.¹⁹

Helping AA and NHP households access tax credits

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provides substantial support to low- and moderate-income families with children. In multigenerational households, more than one adult may meet the eligibility criteria to claim the EITC, creating confusion among which adult should do so (Maag, Peters, and Edelstein 2016).²⁰ According to analysis from the Pew Research Center, 18 percent of the US population lives in multigenerational households. The share of Asians living in multigenerational households is 24 percent (Cohn et al. 2022).²¹

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) offers tax help in a variety of languages through the [IRS.gov website](https://www.irs.gov).²² Currently, languages of Asian origin [include](#): Chinese (Traditional), Chinese (Simplified), Vietnamese, and Korean. Webpages translated into these languages are available throughout the IRS site. In addition, the IRS offers a summary information page on federal tax filing in several other languages, including Tagalog (Philippines), Farsi (Middle East/Central Asia), Japanese, Gujarati (India), Punjabi (Pakistan/India), Khmer (Cambodia), Urdu (Pakistan), and Bengali (Bangladesh/India).²³ The number of Asian-language page views on IRS.gov in Calendar Year 2023 exceeded 3.5 million.²⁴



Endnotes

- 1 “Asians. Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of Central or East Asia, Southeast Asia, or South Asia, including, for example, Chinese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese.” Revisions to OMB’s Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, 89 Federal Register 22182 (3/28/2024).
- 2 “Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands, including, for example, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Chamorro, Tongan, Fijian, and Marshallese.” 89 Federal Register 22182.
- 3 White House Initiative on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. (2023). National Strategy to Advance Equity, Justice, and Opportunity for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Communities. In WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS, NATIVE HAWAIIANS, and PACIFIC ISLANDERS. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/WHIAANHPI-2023-Report-to-the-President-FINAL.pdf>
- 4 Shin, H., & Monte, L. (2022, May 25). Broad Diversity of Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Population. Retrieved from U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/05/aanhpi-population-diverse-geographically-dispersed.html>
- 5 See 2021 population estimates file at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/US/PST045221> Population estimates show 23.6 million Asian alone or in combination and 1.7 million NHPI alone or in combination for a total of 25.3 million AA or NHPI alone or in combination, or 7.6% of the U.S. population.
- 6 U.S. Census Bureau. (2021, August 12). Race and Ethnicity in the United States: 2010 Census and 2020 Census. Retrieved from U.S. Department of Commerce: <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/race-and-ethnicity-in-the-united-state-2010-and-2020-census.html>
- 7 Epstein, B., & Lofquist, D. (2021, April 26). First 2020 Census Data Release Shows U.S. Resident Population of 331,449,281. Retrieved from U.S. Census Bureau: <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2021/04/2020-census-data-release.html>
- 8 U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). Selected Population Profile in the United States, American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Selected Population Profiles, Table S0201, 2022. Retrieved May 1, 2024, from U.S. Department of Commerce: <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSSPP1Y2022.S0201?t=04>
- 9 MyAsianVoice, LLC (2024). AA and NHPI Demographics and Socio-economics Placemat, prepared for the U.S. Department of the Treasury AANHPI Economic Summit, May 7, 2024.
- 10 MyAsianVoice, LLC (2024). AA and NHPI Demographics and Socio-economics Placemat, prepared for the U.S. Department of the Treasury AANHPI Economic Summit, May 7, 2024
- 11 US Census Bureau. (2024, April 19). Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander heritage. Census.gov. <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2024/comm/asian-american-nhopi.html>
- 12 US Census Bureau. (2024a, February 9). Census Bureau releases nonemployer business data by demographic characteristics of owners. Census.gov. <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024/nonemployer-business-data.html>
- 13 U.S. Department of the Treasury (2023). An overview of key updates to the CDFI certification application. https://www.cdfifund.gov/sites/cdfi/files/2023-12/Overview_of_Key_Updates_to_the_CDFI_Certification_Application_12072023.pdf
- 14 U.S. Department of the Treasury. (2024c). SSBCI Capital Program Reporting Guidance. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SSBCI-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>
- 15 U.S. Department of the Treasury. (2024c). SSBCI Capital Program Reporting Guidance. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SSBCI-Reporting-Guidance.pdf>
- 16 CDFI Fund. (2023). Guidance on Demographic Data Collection for the CDFI Equitable Recovery Program (CDFI ERP). https://www.cdfifund.gov/sites/cdfi/files/2023-09/CDFI_ERP_Demographic_Data_Guidance_FINAL.pdf; US Department of the Treasury. (2024a). Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP) Instructions for Quarterly Supplemental Report for IDIs, BHCs, and SLHCs. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/QSR-Instructions-BHC-3.0.pdf>
- 17 The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 provides a waiver of the ECOA restrictions on demographic data collection for participating institutions in the ECIP and CDFI ERP programs.
- 18 CDFI Fund. (2023). Guidance on Demographic Data Collection for the CDFI Equitable Recovery Program (CDFI ERP). https://www.cdfifund.gov/sites/cdfi/files/2023-09/CDFI_ERP_Demographic_Data_Guidance_FINAL.pdf; US Department of the Treasury. (2024a). Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP) Instructions for Quarterly Supplemental Report for IDIs, BHCs, and SLHCs. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/QSR-Instructions-BHC-3.0.pdf>
- 19 FY2023 Annual Report to Congress. (n.d.). In OMWI • Office of Minority and Women Inclusion • Department of the Treasury. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/2016/OMWI-FY23-Annual-Report-to-Congress.pdf>
- 20 Maag, Elaine, H. Elizabeth Peters, and Sara Edelstein. 2016. "Increasing Family Complexity and Volatility: The Difficulty in Determining Child Tax Benefits". Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center, Washington, DC.
- 21 Cohn, D’Vera, Juliana Menasce Horowitz, Rachel Minkin, Richard Fry and Kiley Hurst. (2022, March 24). Financial issues top the list of reasons U. S. Adults live in multigenerational homes. Pew Research Center. Retrieved from: <https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2022/03/24/financial-issues-top-the-list-of-reasons-u-s-adults-live-in-multigenerational-homes/>
- 22 Internal Revenue Service. (2023, April 3). U.S. Department of the Treasury. Retrieved from IRS.gov offers tax help in a variety of languages: <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irsgov-offers-tax-help-in-a-variety-of-languages>
- 23 Internal Revenue Service. (n.d.). U.S. Department of the Treasury. Retrieved from Languages: <https://www.irs.gov/help/languages>
- 24 Email correspondence from IRS, Office of Online Services, on 5/3/2024