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Fact Sheet

Poverty and Social Indicators among Asian-Americans

May 2010

In 2008, 15.5 million people in the United States indicated that they were Asian or part Asian-American, 5 percent of the total population. The Asian-American median age for single-race Asians was 35.8; the corresponding figure was 36.8 for the general population.

Source: Population estimates, <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/013733.html>, and <http://www.census.gov/popest/national/asrh/NC-EST2008-asrh.html>

- In 2007, Chinese-Americans were the largest Asian-American group with 3.54 million, followed by Filipinos (3.05 million), Asian Indians (2.77 million), Vietnamese (1.64 million), Koreans (1.56 million) and Japanese (1.22 million).
- California had the largest Asian-American population on July 1, 2007, with 5 million. The state also had the largest numerical increase in Asian-Americans from 2006 to 2007 (106,000).
- In Hawaii, Asian-Americans made up the highest proportion of the total population (55 percent), with California (14 percent) and New Jersey and Washington (8 percent each) next.

Source: Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

Poverty

In 2008, the poverty rate among Asian-Americans was 11.8 percent, compared with 13.2 percent in the United States overall.

Overall U.S.: 13.2
Asian-Americans: 11.8
Non-Hispanic White: 8.6
African-American: 24.7
Hispanic: 23.2

In 2008, the extreme poverty rate among Asian-Americans was 5.5 percent compared with 5.7 percent in the United States overall.

Overall U.S.: 5.7
Asian-Americans: 5.5
Non-Hispanic White: 3.7
African-American: 11.4
Hispanic: 9.1



Rick Reinhard

Income

In 2008, the median income in Asian-American households was \$65,637, higher than the overall household median income in the United States of \$50,303.

Overall U.S.: \$50,303
Asian-Americans: \$65,637
Non-Hispanic White: \$55,530
African-American: \$34,218
Hispanic: \$37,913

Source: Census Bureau

Education

Asian-Americans are more educated than the population as a whole.

- Nearly one in five Asian-American adults have a graduate degree. Nationwide about one in 10 Americans have a graduate degree.

Source: Measure of America, 2010, <http://www.measureofamerica.org/acentury-apart/>

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Health Insurance

Analysts suggest that the uninsured rate among Asian-Americans is higher than the rate in the United States overall, because higher rates of Asian-Americans are either self-employed, or employed in small firms (with less than 100 employees), and the current healthcare system does not provide adequate coverage to these occupational scenarios.

Source: See the discussion in "Health Insurance Coverage and Access to Care Among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders." <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/healthinsurancecoverageandaccesstocareamongasian%20americansandpacificislanders.pdf>

- In 2008, 17.6 percent of Asian-Americans lacked health insurance, compared with 15.4 percent in the United States overall.

Overall U.S.: 15.4
 Asian-Americans: 17.6
 Non-Hispanic White: 10.8
 African-American: 19.1
 Hispanic: 30.7

Source: Census Bureau

Immigration

In 2009, Asians accounted for the highest percentage of immigrants gaining U.S. citizenship through naturalization.

- Thirty-seven percent, or 276,375, of immigrants obtaining citizenship through naturalization were born in Asia.

Source: Department of Homeland Security

American Human Development Index

- Asian-Americans score the highest on the American Human Development Index, followed by whites, Latinos, African-Americans, Native Americans, and Alaskan Natives.

- In terms of health, which is measured by life expectancy, Asian-Americans live the longest (86.6 years), followed by Latinos (82.8 years), who outlive whites by more than four years. The average for the United States is 78.3.

Source: Measure of America, 2010, <http://www.measureofamerica.org/acentury-apart/>

Unemployment

One reason for lower unemployment among Asian-Americans is that they work in high-skill occupations (e.g., engineering and medicine) at a higher rate. Workers in lower-skilled occupations (e.g., construction and manufacturing) have experienced relatively higher job losses.

- In 2009, the annual household unemployment rate among Asian-Americans was 7.3 percent, compared with 9.3 percent in the United States overall. As of April 2010, the unemployment rate among Asian-Americans was 6.8 percent, compared with 9.9 percent in the United States overall.

Overall U.S.: 9.9

Asian-Americans: 6.8

Non-Hispanic White: 8.6

African-Americans: 15.9

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



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