



At a Glance: AAPIs in the United States

Population

- ✓ **14.4 mil Asians** & close to **1 mil Pacific Islanders**, more than **5%** of the US population¹
- ✓ Between 2004 and 2005, the Asian population **grew 3%**– faster than any other race
- ✓ By 2050, Asians are expected to **grow 213%** to 33.4 mil – 8% of the US population
- ✓ The largest ethnic subgroups are Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, and Japanese; other sizable ethnic groups are Cambodian, Pakistani, Laotian, Hmong, and Thai

States with Highest Percentage of AAPIs

- ✓ Highest Percentage of Asians – Hawai`i with 57.5%, California with 13.5%, Washington and New Jersey each with 7.7% and New York with 7.2%²
- ✓ Highest Percentage of Pacific Islanders – Hawai`i with 22.1%, Utah with 1.0%, Nevada and Alaska each with 0.9%, and Washington with 0.8%

Voting

- ✓ Nearly 7 mil APIAs are eligible to vote³
- ✓ About half of those APIAs registered to vote
- ✓ Close to 3 mil APIAs actually voted in 2004

Languages

- ✓ **2.3 mil people**, ages 5 and older, speak **Chinese** in their homes; Chinese is the most frequently spoken language at home after Spanish¹
- ✓ **1 mil people** speak **Vietnamese** in their homes
- ✓ **1 mil people** speak **Tagalog** in their homes
- ✓ **4 Asian languages** are among the **top 10 most frequently spoken languages** at home: Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean⁴

Education

- ✓ 49 percent of Asians have a bachelor's degree or higher¹
- ✓ But, education levels are very different across AAPIs – here, percentages for bachelor's degree or higher - 61 percent for Asian Indians, 57 for Chinese, 18 percent for Vietnamese, 16 percent for Hawaiians, and 8 percent for Hmong⁵

Income/Household

- ✓ Both Asians and Pacific Islanders have higher than average median household income – Asians, the highest of all races, with \$63,642 and Pacific Islanders with \$49,361, compared with population average of \$48,451⁶
- ✓ However, AAPIs also have above average rates for three or more workers per household
- ✓ Thus, the per capita income for AAPIs is much lower – Asians with \$27,884 and Pacific Islanders with \$16,689, compared with population average of \$25,267

¹U.S. Census 2007 *Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: May 2007* ²U.S. Census 2005 Population Estimates

³APIAVote Fact Sheet ⁴U.S. Census 2000 ⁵Asian American Justice Center 2006 *A Community of Contrasts* ⁶2006 American Community Survey



✓ ***Asian Americans believe they have a voice in government.***

According to the 2004 American National Election Study¹, 64% of Asians reported they disagreed with the statement “People like me don’t have any say in what the government does.” In fact, Asians reported the highest percentage of disagreement. The percentage of disagreement with this statement was 47% among Whites, 39% among African Americans, 33% among Hispanics, and 55% among Native Americans.

✓ ***Asian Americans are actively interested in politics.***

Over 70% of Asians indicated they were “very much interested” or “somewhat interested” in following the campaigns in 2004, according to the 2004 ANES. Moreover, 55% of Asians reported that they tried to influence the vote of others. Once again, their percentage was higher than other ethnic groups: 51% among Whites, 39% among African Americans, 40% among Hispanics, and 40% among Native Americans.

✓ ***Asian Americans vote!***

85.2% of Asian American registered voters participated in the 2004 election, compared to 89.4% of White, non-Hispanic voters. According to the 2004 Current Population Survey², Asian (excluding Pacific Islanders) voters participate at the following rates: 29.8% of the total population and 44.1% of Citizens 18 and older population.

✓ ***The Asian American vote matters.***

Every vote counts. In the 2006 Senate race between Jim Webb and George Allen, the race was won by only 7,231 votes. With 162,679 Asian American potential voters, the Webb campaign utilized the “Macaca Incident” to organize a multi-prong outreach effort to the Asian American community, from placing ads in ethnic newspapers to using new media featuring Jim Webb’s wife, Hong Le Webb and celebrity Daniel Dae Kim. As a result, an increased number of Asian American voters turned out. *The Asian American vote has not been tapped into, thus if utilized, the APIA community would be the swing vote.*

✓ ***Asian Americans are higher educated and have high earning potential – they fit the profile of those who are more politically knowledgeable, interested, and active.***

49.4% of Asian Americans (excluding Pacific Islanders) have a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared to 30.6% for White, non-Hispanic respondents, according to the 2004 CPS. 38.4% of Asian Americans earn more than \$50,000 a year, compared with 35% for White, non-Hispanic respondents. Much public opinion research shows that people who are most interested in politics and more likely to donate to political campaigns are people with higher education and incomes. *Therefore, it is just a matter of time before Asian Americans become a prominent political force.*

¹ The 2004 NES dataset includes N=1,212 and analyses are conducted on a weighted dataset to reflect a nationally representative sample. More information on The American National Election Study can be found at <http://www.electionstudies.org/>.

² The 2004 Current Population Survey is conducted by the US Census Bureau and more information can be found at <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/race/api.html>.