STATE OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC MINNESOTANS

2010 CENSUS AND 2008-2010 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT

APRIL 2012

A REPORT FROM THE

COUNCIL ON

ASIAN PACIFIC

MINNESOTANS

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Executive Summary

Every ten years, the United States of America goes about the process of counting or enumeration of its population. This census is constitutionally mandated as a way to apportion the members of the United States House of Representatives. The census is also used to distribute federal funding to local communities. In the 2010 Census, approximately 74% of households returned their census form by mail, the remaining households were counted by census workers walking neighborhoods throughout the United States. Minnesota's response rate was 75%.

The census is the most comprehensive source of demographic data on the US population and tells us much about our nation's people and its change over time. This report presents the current state of Asian Pacific Minnesotans, what our population is, and our social and economic status. The data herein provides a snapshot of the lives we lead and is evidence of the struggles and successes we face. In black and white numbers, it tells us who we are, but it does not tell us who we will be.

It is our hope that the Asian Pacific community and our allies understand and take note of this report and use it to shape our future.

Among our many findings, chief among them are:

- Since 2000, Asians in Minnesota grew 52.5% and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders grew 5.8%.
- Minnesota's Asian Pacific population is vastly different from the national make-up. 50.2% of our population identifies as Southeast Asian vs. 20.7% of the national average
- The Hmong population is the largest Asian population in Minnesota at 66,181 or 27% of all Asian Pacific Minnesotans

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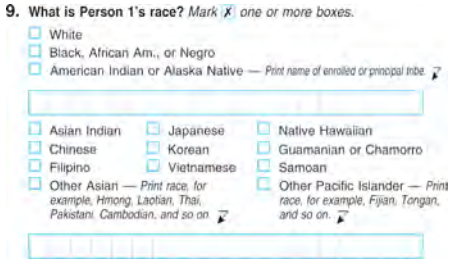
This report will provide an overview of Asian and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander populations based on the 2010 Census and the 2008-2010 American Community Survey. Five race categories are used in the Census; White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders (NHPI) and Hispanic Origin. For the first time in Census 2000, individuals were also able to select 'one or more boxes' on race to allow individuals of mixed race backgrounds to identify as such. This option continued with the 2010 Census. This report primarily focuses on the Asian and NHPI populations.

Figure 1. Reproduction of the Questions on Hispanic Origin and Race from the 2010 Census

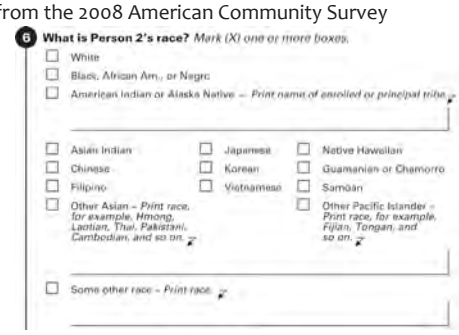

9. What is Person 1's race? *Mark ☒ one or more boxes.*

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Other Asian — *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.*
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire

Figure 2. Reproduction of the Questions on Hispanic Origin and Race from the 2008 American Community Survey


6 What is Person 2's race? *Mark (X) one or more boxes.*

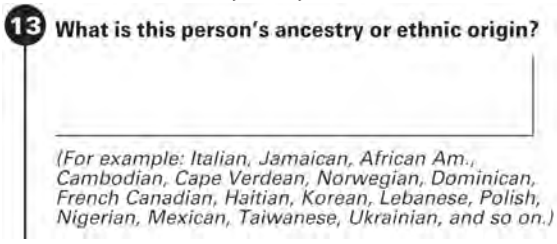
- ☐ White
- ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Other Asian – *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.*
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander – *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.*

- ☐ Some other race – *Print race.*

Source: 2008 American Community Survey questionnaire

Figure 3. Reproduction of the Questions on Ancestry from the 2008 American Community Survey


13 What is this person's ancestry or ethnic origin?

(For example: Italian, Jamaican, African Am., Cambodian, Cape Verdean, Norwegian, Dominican, French Canadian, Haitian, Korean, Lebanese, Polish, Nigerian, Mexican, Taiwanese, Ukrainian, and so on.)

Source: 2008 American Community Survey questionnaire

The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines "Asian" as people with origins in the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, and the Indian subcontinent.[1] For the 2010 Census, individuals were able to self-identified under seven Asian response categories; Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese or Other Asian.

The OMB definition of "NHPI" is persons having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. NHPI were able to self-identify under four Pacific Islander response groups; Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, and Other Pacific Islanders (see Figure 1).

The American Community Survey is a survey that provides communities with information they need to plan investments and services. For the purpose of this report, we will draw from communities that self-identify in the Asian ancestry groups. The U.S. Census Bureau defines ancestry as a "person's ethnic origin, heritage, descent, or "roots" which may reflect their place of birth or that of previous generations of their family[2]" (see Figure 3).

Race concepts[3]

- **Race alone population-** People who reported a single race group (e.g. Asian; NHPI)
- **Race in combination population-** People who reported more than one major race group (e.g. Asian and White; NHPI and White)
- **Race alone or in combination population-** All people who reported a particular race group, either alone, or in combination with one or more other major race groups

1 The 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, issued by OMB, is available at www.whitehouse.gove/omb/fedreg/1997standards.html.

2 American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey 2010 Subject Definition is available on the U.C. Census Bureau's internet site at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/SubjectDefinitions/2010_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf

3 Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 20010, U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Brief, C2010BR-02, March 2011, is available on the U.S.

Introduction: Who are the Asian Pacific Americans?

Historically, census enumeration for Asian Pacific Islander populations were determined by which groups immigrated to the United States or when the United States acquired territories.[4] The first data collection for Asian populations was in the mid-nineteenth century when the first Asian immigrant groups, Chinese and Japanese, came to the United States. Census data for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) became available after the United States acquired the various island territories in the late 1800's. Asian Pacific Americans have been enumerated since 1880, however, their presence comprised of less than 0.2% of the population for nearly 70 years.

Early Asian settlers were typically Chinese or Japanese males who were hired as cheap laborers or railroad layers in the west coast. For over 60 years, set immigration quotas had a large impact on the number of persons that were able to work and live in the United States. For example, the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act which suspended Chinese immigration, the "Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907" curtailed immigration of Japanese Laborers, and the Immigration Act of 1917 which further suspended the migration of peoples from Asian and Pacific Islands. However, in the 1940's, with the growing relations between countries during World War II the situation of exclusionary immigration laws changed and by the 1950's many laws began to be repealed and special acts were implemented to increase immigration.

Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders history in the United States differ from many Asian groups because the NHPI population grew as the United States acquired Pacific Island territories. For instance, in 1898 the United States annexed the Hawaiian Islands and created the Territory of Hawaii. Hawaii became the center of American military power and officially became the fiftieth state of the United States in 1959. Other Pacific Islands also became American territories in the mid-1900's and the Census Bureau began enumerating the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island populations at this time. Prior to 1980, the Census Bureau only listed Native Hawaiians and so characteristics of growth and trends for the various Pacific Island ethnic groups were not available until then.

Asian and Pacific Islander Population, 1900 to 2010

Year	Total U.S. Population	Total U.S. Asian Pacific Islander Population	Asian Pacific Islander, Percent of Total
1900	76,212,168	204,462	-
1910	92,228,531	249,926	-
1920	106,021,568,	332,432	-
1930	123,202,660	489,326	-
1940	132,165,129	489,984	-
1950	151,325,798	599,091	-
1960	179,323,175	877,934	-
1970	230,323,175	1,429,562	0.7%
1980	226,545,805	3,466,421	1.5%
1990	248,709,843	7,273,662	2.9%
2000	281,421,906	10,641,833 (12,773,242)	3.7% (4.5%)
2010	308,745,538	15,214,265 (18,546,051)	5.0% (6.0%)

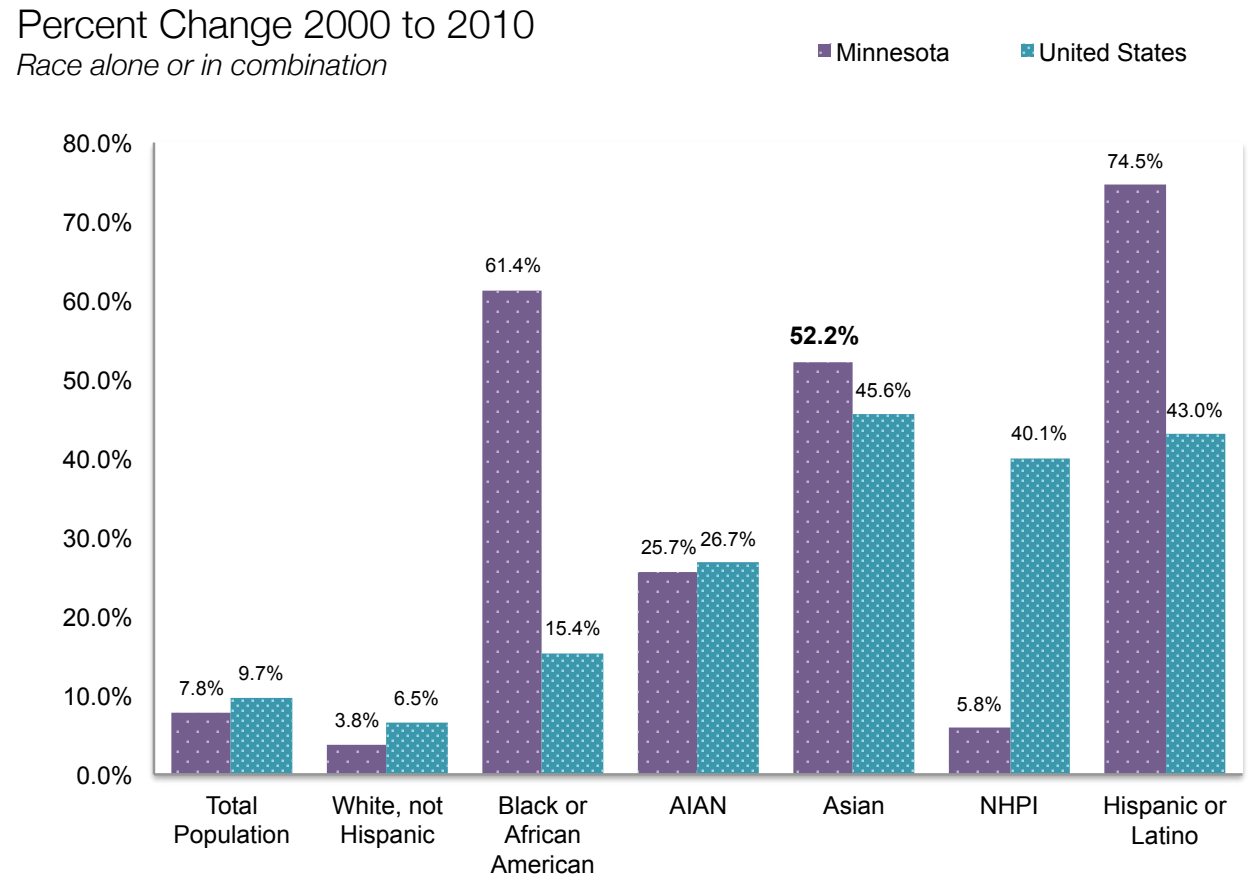
Source: U.S. Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0056/twps0056.html>
Notes: A dash indicates that the percentage is less than 0.5%
Numbers in parenthesis indicate alone, or in combination

4 Gall, Susan, The Asian American Almanac: A Reference Work on Asians in the United States. Detroit, MI: Gale Research Inc,. 1995

With the enactment of the Immigration Act of 1965, all immigration quotas based on national origin was eliminated. This helped facilitate the dramatic changes in demographic distribution of Asian Pacific Islanders in the United States in the 1970's. Around this time, the Asian American population grew significantly as post-War refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia came to escape persecution from their home countries. Between 1970 and 1980 the Asian population doubled and from 1980 to 1990 it doubled again which quadrupled the population of Asians in a 20-year span.

More recently, foreign-born Asians have come to the United States seeking educational and occupational opportunities. In the past decade, Asians had the largest population growth nationwide compared to any other race or origin, at 43.3% Asian alone (or 45.6% alone or in combination). That is a growth of 4.4 million individuals who self-identify as Asian alone (or 5.4 million as Asian alone or in combination). Similarly, Pacific Islanders had a significant increase of 35.4% (or 40.1% alone or in combination), a growth of 141,178 individuals who self-identified as NHPI alone (or 350,781 as alone or in combination).

There are ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic distinctions between Asian and Pacific Islander groups which are illustrated in their population, economic, housing and social characteristics. The racial categorization by the Census Bureau allows these groups to be distinct and independent of each other. However, the many shared cultural and racial histories between and within the Asian Pacific communities in the United States contributes to the identification of Asian Pacific Islander Americans as a whole, and is often referred as the Asian Pacific Islander community.



Source: U.S. Census 2000, 2010, Summary File 1

Minnesota's Asian Pacific Population

Each individual Asian Pacific ethnic group has their own experiences in immigration, settlement, and way of life in the United States. Over the decades, race categorization has expanded to recognize the diversity within the Asian Pacific Islander community. Like the rest of the nation, Minnesota's early Asian Pacific population mainly consisted of Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos. The earliest documentation of Asians in Minnesota was in 1880 when two Chinese men established the Chinese Laundry in St. Paul and the Lung Wing Laundry in Minneapolis.[5] Others came to Minnesota from other states as foreign exchange students or as foreign laborers seeking economic opportunity.

During the 1970's, Minnesota experienced a large influx of refugees from Southeast Asia. Large population of Lao, Cambodian, Vietnamese and Hmong arrived in seek of asylum.[6] For example, the Vietnamese known as the 'boat people' came to the United States fleeing repressive communist government in 1975. The Hmong, who supported American troops during the Vietnam War, came to the United States as political refugees. The Lao and Cambodians came because they were employed by the U.S. government and companies in Asia.

In the past two decades, other Asian groups have migrated to Minnesota to seek refuge from repressive government. Tibetans have arrived in the United States as part of the U.S. Tibetan Resettlement Project (under the 1990 Immigration Act). Minnesota is home to an estimated 3,000 Tibetans, the second largest Tibetan-American community in the United States. The Karen (pronounced Ka-REN), a minority group from Burma and Thailand, have been persecuted by the Burmese military junta and it is estimated that Minnesota is home to the largest population of Karen outside Southeast Asia.

5 Holmquist, June Drenning. They Chose Minnesota: A Survey of the State's Ethnic Groups. Minnesota Historical Society Press: St. Paul, 1981.

6 Please note: "Lao" and "Laotian" is used interchangeably in this report. Local communities refer to themselves as the peoples from Laos, and thus Lao, and may not coin themselves as Laotian.

More recently, many foreign-born Asian Pacific groups have immigrated to Minnesota seeking professional, educational and social opportunities. Career advancement in the informational technology and business fields draw many people to Minnesota. Individuals that migrate to the U.S. for specialized jobs or for furthering their education will eventually bring family members. For many immigrants, it is important to connect with the larger ethnic community in their area which has helped develop local cultural organizations to meet the needs of the growing Asian Pacific populations.

A closer look at Minnesota's population shows that the demographic makeup of Minnesota is changing. From 2000 to 2010, the total population of Minnesota grew 7.8% with the total population at 5.3 million. The population of color increased 56.7% that is 337,335 individuals who identified as Black or African American, AIAN, Asian, NHPI, or Hispanic or Latino (alone or in combination). Minnesota's Asian population grew at 52.2%, an increase of 84,718 individuals who identified as either Asian alone or in combination. The Asian population makes up 4.7% of the total population and increased from 3.3% in 2000 (Asian alone or in combination). Minnesota's NHPI population is the smallest major race group, making up only 0.1% of the total population, however, the NHPI population also saw a growth of 5.8% (NHPI alone or in combination). This is an increase of 339 individuals that identified as NHPI, making the total NHPI population 6,206.

Minnesota's Asian Pacific Population, 1900-2010

Year	Total Minnesota	Total Asian Pacific	Pacific Islander	Chinese	Japanese	Filipino	Koreans	Asian Indians	Southeast Asian	Other Asian
1900	1,751,394	217	-	166	51	-	-	-	-	-
1910	2,075,708	344	-	275	67	2	-	-	-	-
1920	2,387,125	621	-	508	85	20	-	4	-	-
1930	2,563,953	832	-	524	69	236	-	3	-	-
1940	2,792,300	862	-	551	51	250	1	3	-	6
1950	2,982,483	2,061	-	720	1,049	292	-	-	-	-
1960	3,413,864	3,642	-	1,270	1,726	646	-	-	-	-
1970	3,804,971	7,605	168	2,422	2,603	1,456	959	-	-	-
1980	3,942,025	26,536	380	4,835	2,789	2,677	6,319	3,670	5,866*	-
1990	4,375,099	77,886	943	8,980	3,581	4,237	11,576	8,234	37,035**	3,309
2000	4,919,479	143,947 (168,281)	1,979 (5,867)	16,060	3,816	6,284	12,584	16,887	77,140	11,176
2010	5,303,925	216,390 (253,338)	2,156 (6,206)	24,643	3,611	9,464	14,982	33,031	110,307	20,352

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
**This is the population figure for Vietnamese only*
Notes: Figures for groups are based on intermittent selective enumeration process
Figures in parenthesis indicate numbers for individuals who identified as alone or in combination

Geographic Distribution

Minnesota's Asian Pacific population makes up 4.8% of the population which is less than the national average of 6.0% (alone or in combination). The make-up of Minnesota's Asian population is different compared to the rest of the nation. The nation's three largest Asian groups are Chinese, Filipinos, and Asian Indians. In Minnesota, the three largest Asian populations are the Hmong, Asian Indians, and the Chinese.

From 2000 to 2010 all selected categories of Asian population grew in Minnesota. Minnesota's percentage of Southeast Asian population ranks first among the nation. Approximately 50.2% of Asian population identifies as Southeast Asian compared to the national average of 20.7%. Southeast Asian includes Burmese, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Race reporting for the Asian and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population by Selected Categories: 2010

Asian alone or in combination, Minnesota

Ethnic Group	Number	Percentage of Grand Total
Asian Indian	38,097	15.5%
Bangladeshi	858	0.4%
Bhutanese	284	0.1%
Burmese	3,763	1.5%
Cambodian	9,543	3.9%
Chinese*	28,776	11.7%
Filipino	15,660	6.4%
Hmong	66,181	27.0%
Indonesian	665	0.3%
Japanese	7,995	3.3%
Korean	20,995	8.6%
Laotian	12,009	4.9%
Malaysian	431	0.2%
Nepalese	1,438	0.6%
Pakistani	2,840	1.2%
Sri Lankan	944	0.4%
Taiwanese	1,365	0.6%
Thai	2,734	1.1%
Vietnamese	27,086	11.1%
Native Hawaiian	1,847	0.8%
Samoan	640	0.3%
Tongan	100	0.0%
Guamanian or Chamorro	727	0.3%
Marshallese	50	0.0%
Fijian	61	0.0%
Total Asian	**241,664**	**98.6%**
Total NHPI	**3,425**	**1.4%**
Grand Total	**245,089**	**100.0%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Summary File 1
**except Taiwanese*

Nationwide, South Asians (Bangladeshi, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans, and Asian Indians) saw the highest rates of growth and in Minnesota this holds true. In Minnesota, the South Asian population doubled from 2000 to 2010, from 21,925 to 42,739, which is approximately 18% the Asian population. Although the population size of these groups may be relatively small, they contribute to the South Asian population as a whole.

The Hmong population is still the largest Asian population in Minnesota increasing 45.6% from 2000 to 2010, an estimated 20,738. They are mainly concentrated in the Hennepin and Ramsey County area, with Ramsey County having the largest Hmong population at 34,374, which is 59.0% of the Asian population in Ramsey County.

In 2000, Chinese, except Taiwanese, were the 4th largest group; a decade later they are the 3rd largest Asian group in Minnesota with 28,776 individuals identifying as Chinese.

The Vietnamese moved from being the 2nd largest group to the 4th largest group, although they still grew at 31.7%, an increase of 6,516.

Among all states Minnesota is home to the

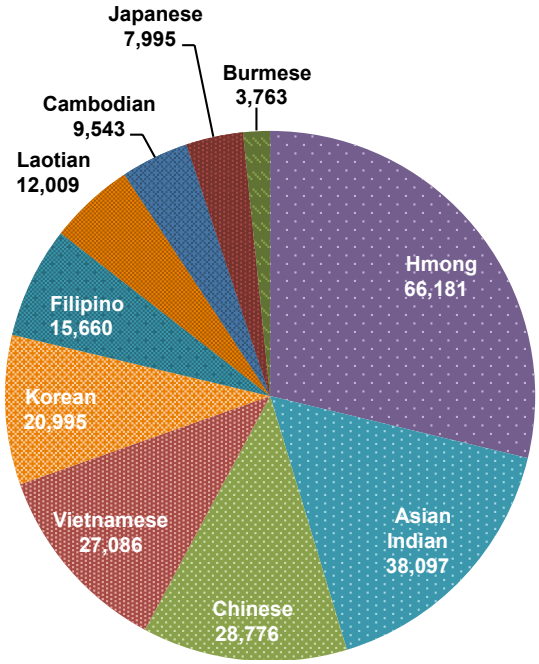
- Second largest number of Hmong
- Third largest population of Laotians
- Fifth largest population of Burmese
- Sixth largest population of Cambodians
- Sixteenth largest population of Vietnamese

Top ten Asian ethnic groups with the largest percent growth from 2000 to 2010

- Bangladeshi, 175.9%
- Pakistani, 143.6%
- Sri Lankan, 94.6%
- Asian Indian, 90.8%
- Taiwanese, 82.7%
- Thai, 82.5%
- Filipino, 61.5%
- Indonesian, 55.0%
- Chinese (except Taiwanese), 54.5%
- Cambodian, 46.1%

Ten Largest Asian Populations

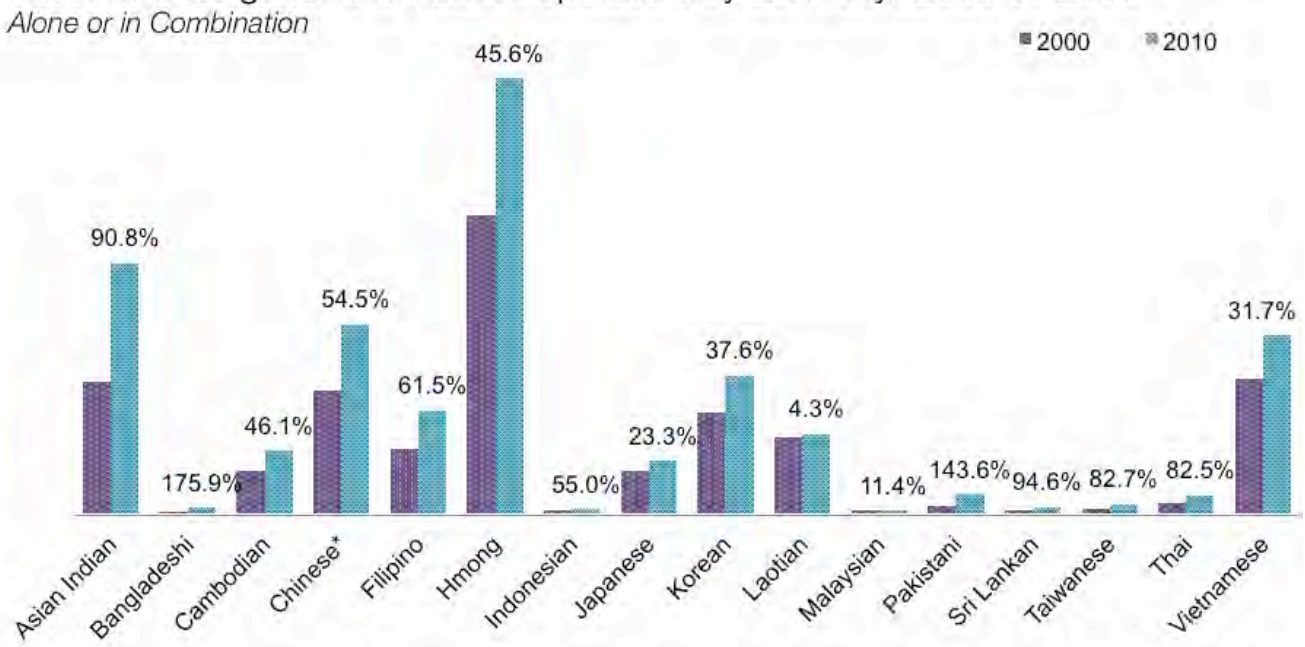
by Ethnic Group, Minnesota; Alone, or in combination



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Summary File 1
**except Taiwanese*

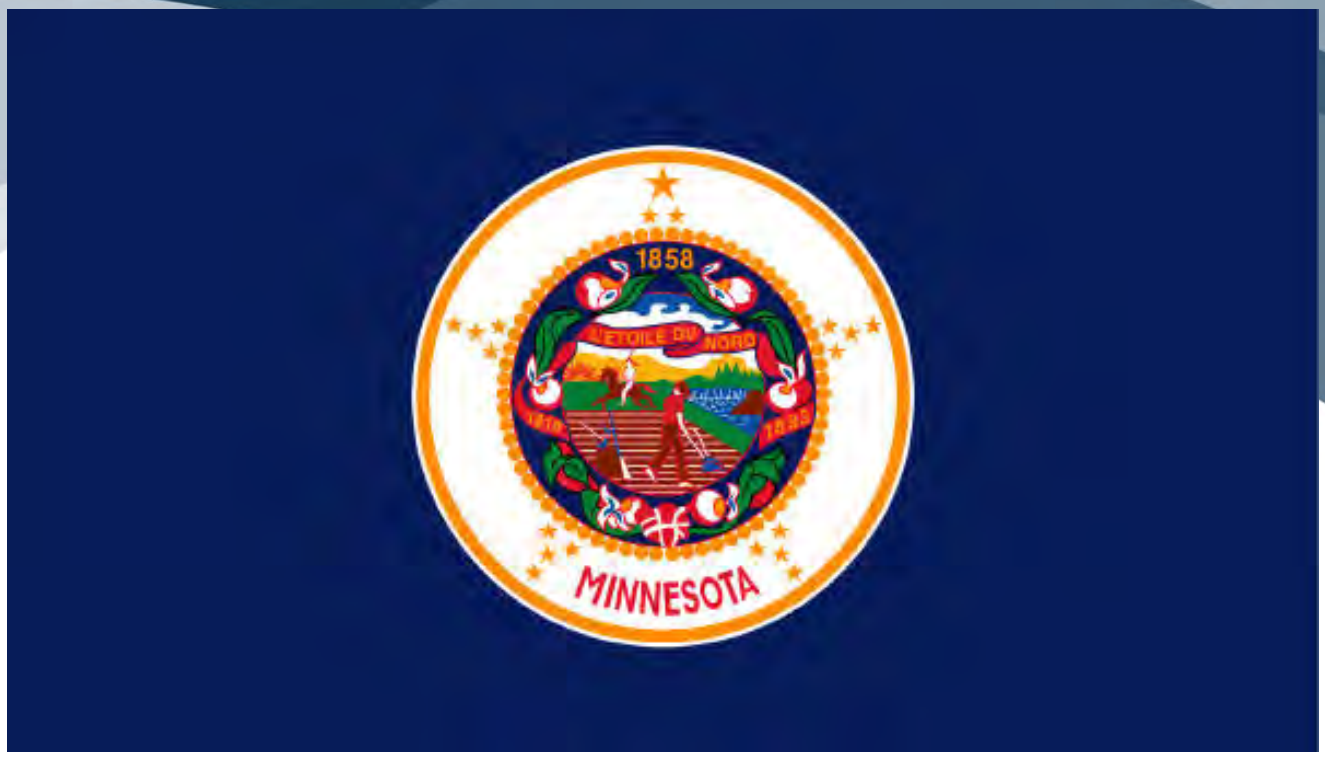
Percent Change for the Asian Population by Ethnicity: 2000 to 2010

Alone or in Combination



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010, Summary File 1
**except Taiwanese*

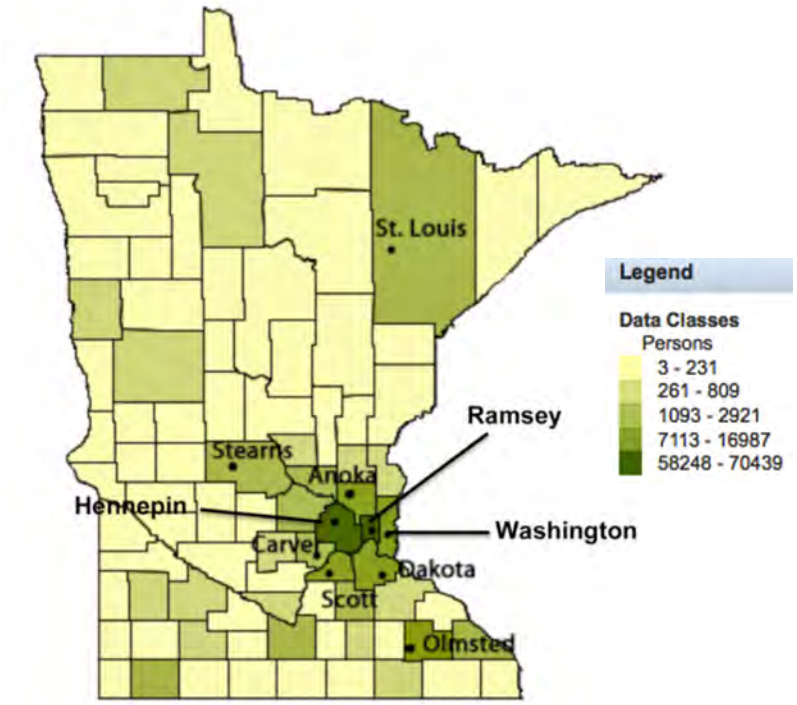
Minnesota Counties



There are Asians living in every county of Minnesota with enclaves scattered throughout the state. In general, Minnesotan Asians are concentrated in the seven-county region; Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sterns and Washington and Olmstead and St. Louis. Hennepin County has the largest total Asian population at an estimated 70,439. Ramsey County has the second largest population of Asians at an estimated 58,248. Over half of the Asian population in Minnesota lives in these two counties.

Ten Counties with the Largest Asian Populations

Asian alone or in combination, Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Summary File 1

Counties with High Asian Populations

Asian alone or in combination

Hennepin County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	84,123	
Asian Indian	17,659	21.0%
Hmong	17,446	20.7%
Chinese*	11,371	13.5%
Vietnamese	9,328	11.1%
Korean	7,188	8.5%
Laotian	4,755	5.7%
Filipino	4,181	5.0%
Other Asian, not specified	3,340	4.0%
Japanese	2,787	3.3%
Cambodian	2,150	2.6%

Ramsey County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	65,144	
Hmong	35,647	54.7%
Chinese*	4,971	7.6%
Asian Indian	4,573	7.0%
Vietnamese	4,074	6.3%
Burmese	3,109	4.8%
Other Asian, not specified	2,980	4.6%
Korean	2,826	4.3%
Filipino	2,000	3.1%
Cambodian	1,483	2.3%
Japanese	1,115	1.7%

Dakota County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	21,455	
Asian Indian	4,416	20.6%
Vietnamese	3,212	15.0%
Chinese*	2,535	11.8%
Korean	2,099	9.8%
Filipino	2,093	9.8%
Cambodian	1,435	6.7%
Hmong	1,303	6.1%
Laotian	1,247	5.8%
Other Asian, not specified	793	3.7%
Japanese	778	3.6%

Anoka County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	15,789	
Hmong	4,008	25.4%
Vietnamese	2,589	64.6%
Asian Indian	2,308	89.1%
Chinese*	1,682	72.9%
Korean	1,376	81.8%
Filipino	1,105	80.3%
Other Asian, not specified	858	77.6%
Japanese	502	58.5%
Laotian	396	78.9%
Pakistani	345	87.1%

Washington County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	14,046	
Hmong	4,584	32.6%
Asian Indian	2,156	15.3%
Chinese*	1,632	11.6%
Vietnamese	1,224	8.7%
Korean	1,190	8.5%
Filipino	1,032	7.3%
Other Asian, not specified	541	3.9%
Japanese	487	3.5%
Cambodian	453	3.2%
Pakistani	187	1.3%

Olmsted County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	9,332	
Cambodian	1,679	18.0%
Asian Indian	1,580	16.9%
Chinese*	1,351	14.5%
Vietnamese	1,154	12.4%
Laotian	785	8.4%
Korean	654	7.0%
Filipino	602	6.5%
Other Asian, not specified	390	4.2%
Japanese	299	3.2%
Hmong	280	3.0%

Scott County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	8,700	
Vietnamese	1,907	21.9%
Asian Indian	1,576	18.1%
Cambodian	1,174	13.5%
Chinese*	919	10.6%
Laotian	760	8.7%
Korean	596	6.9%
Other Asian, not specified	553	6.4%
Filipino	437	5.0%
Hmong	172	2.0%
Japanese	160	1.8%

Stearns County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	3,723	
Vietnamese	679	18.2%
Chinese*	610	16.4%
Asian Indian	426	11.4%
Laotian	402	10.8%
Korean	386	10.4%
Filipino	297	8.0%
Other Asian, not specified	176	4.7%
Japanese	167	4.5%
Hmong	165	4.4%
Cambodian	103	2.8%

Carver County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	3,164	
Asian Indian	438	13.8%
Korean	435	13.7%
Chinese*	433	13.7%
Vietnamese	412	13.0%
Filipino	341	10.8%
Laotian	316	10.0%
Cambodian	229	7.2%
Japanese	133	4.2%
Other Asian, not specified	131	4.1%
Hmong	130	4.1%

St. Louis County	Number	Percent
Total Asian	2,579	
Chinese*	488	18.9%
Korean	445	17.3%
Asian Indian	323	12.5%
Filipino	309	12.0%
Vietnamese	274	10.6%
Japanese	219	8.5%
Hmong	174	6.7%
Other Asian, not specified	86	3.3%
Pakistani	45	1.7%
Thai	39	1.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Summary File 1
**except Taiwanese*

Sex and Age

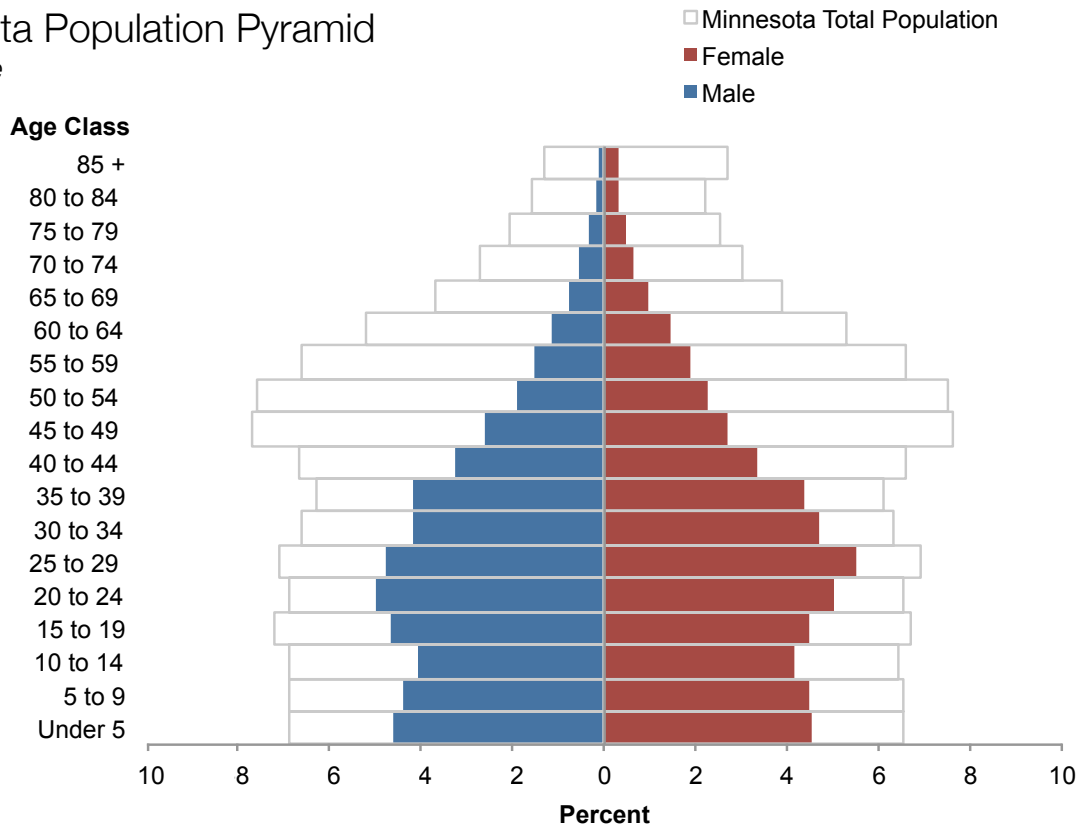
Sex and age is used as an indicator of population growth and age structure of a population.

In general, the Asian and Pacific Islander populations are younger than the population of the United States, and this holds true in Minnesota. **The median age for Minnesota's Asians is 27.3, making them on average ten years younger than the total population median age at 37.4.**

- A larger percentage of Asians are under 18, at 31.5% compared to the rest of the state at 24.2%.
- Sixty four percent of Asians, an estimated 136,623 individuals, are of a working-age between 18 and 64. A large proportion of the working age group are graduating college and seeking employment (ages 25 to 29).
- A smaller number of Asians are 65 and older compared to the state's average.

Minnesota Population Pyramid

Asian alone



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

Language

English language ability can prove to be a barrier that impacts the access of services such as healthcare, social services, housing, courts and education.

Nation-wide, more than a third of the Asian American population is considered limited English proficient.[7] Persons who speak English less than "very well" are considered limited English proficient and are thought to need English assistance in some situations. **In Minnesota, approximately 142,846 people speak Asian and Pacific Island languages at home, 2.9% of the total population.**

- One in five of Minnesota's Asians (native and foreign-born) speaks only English.
- Approximately 22% of Minnesota's Asian households are linguistically isolated. Linguistic isolation is when no one 14 years old and over speak only English or speaks a non-English language and speaks English "very well."
- In the United States the largest groups of languages spoken by Asians are composed of languages from China, however, in Minnesota the largest group of languages spoken by Asians is Hmong.

Asian and Pacific Language Spoken at Home: 2010

Minnesota

	Number	Percent
Hindi	7,182	4.9%
Chinese	18,589	12.6%
Japanese	3,716	2.5%
Korean	5,678	3.8%
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	5,978	4.0%
Hmong	54,647	36.9%
Tagalog	6,040	4.1%
Thai	2,501	1.7%
Laotian	9,041	6.1%
Vietnamese	19,661	13.3%
Other Asian Languages	13,257	9.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

Ability to Speak English for MN's Population Who Speak an Asian and Pacific Island Language at Home

Age	Speak English 'very well'		Speak English less than 'very well'	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
5-17	21,147	15.0%	12,634	9.0%
18-64	50,630	36.0%	48,645	34.6%
65 years +	1,698	1.2%	6,021	4.3%
Total	73,475	52.2%	67,300	47.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

7 A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. (2004). Asian American Justice Center

Immigration

Minnesota is attractive to immigrants for a number of reasons; strong economy, good quality of life, educational opportunities and a history of strong volunteerism and immigration resettlement.

Asians have the highest foreign-born rates in the nation. **In Minnesota, the foreign-born population accounts for 7.1% of the total population, 376,470 individuals. Foreign-born Asians in Minnesota make up 62.4% of the Asian population; this is larger than any racial group.**

- Minnesota is home to diverse Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups, many who come to the U.S. legally as refugees and asylum seekers, for employment, or for family reunification.
- Those that come to the United States as refugees or asylum seekers are fleeing persecution from their country of origin. For example, a large number of the Hmong had resided in Laos and Thailand before coming to the United States.
- A high percentage of immigrants are of working age 18-64, 85.5%, compared to native-born residents.

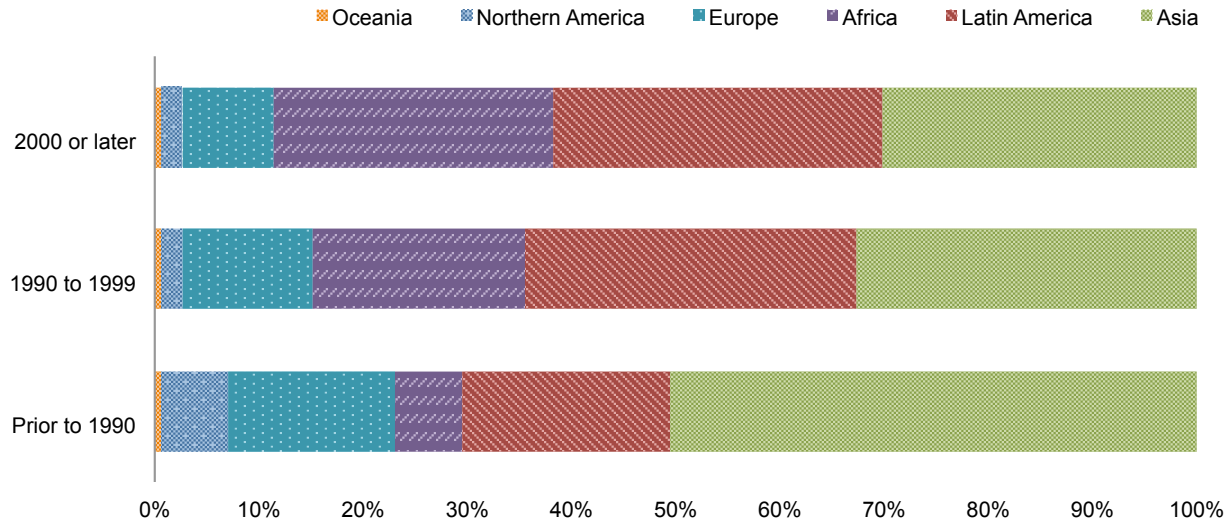
Top 10 Places of Birth for Foreign-Born Population in Minnesota

Country of Birth	Estimate
Total Foreign born in Asia	137,782
Laos	25,280
India	21,690
Vietnam	17,199
Korea	13,625
Thailand	12,802
China*	12,385
Philippines	7,090
Cambodia	4,231
Japan	2,642
Burma	2,468

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan*

Foreign-born Population by Period of Entry and World Region of Birth: 2010

Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

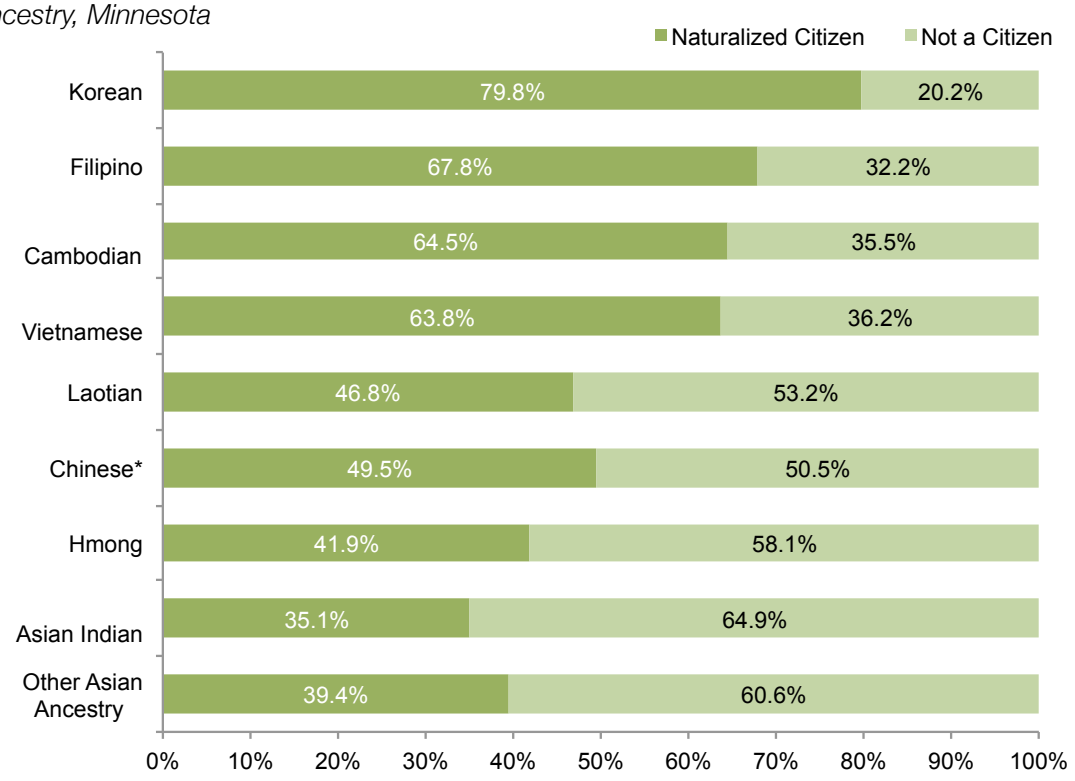
Benefits to citizens include; voting, bringing family members to the United State, obtaining citizenship for children born abroad, traveling with a U.S. passport, becoming eligible for Federal jobs, becoming an elected official, and showing your patriotism.

Nation-wide, a large portion of the Asian Pacific Islander population is naturalized citizens compared to other race categories. **Of the foreign-born population in Minnesota that was born in Asian, approximately 56.9% are naturalized citizens.**

- Of the Foreign-born Asians, 18 years and over, 34.3% are not US Citizen, which limits participation in civic activities for a large portion of the Asian population.
- Korean, Filipino, Cambodian and Vietnamese have the highest percent of individuals that are naturalized citizens.
- In contrast, Asian Indian, Hmong, Chinese and Laotian have the highest percent of individuals that are not U.S. citizens.

Naturalization of Asian Population

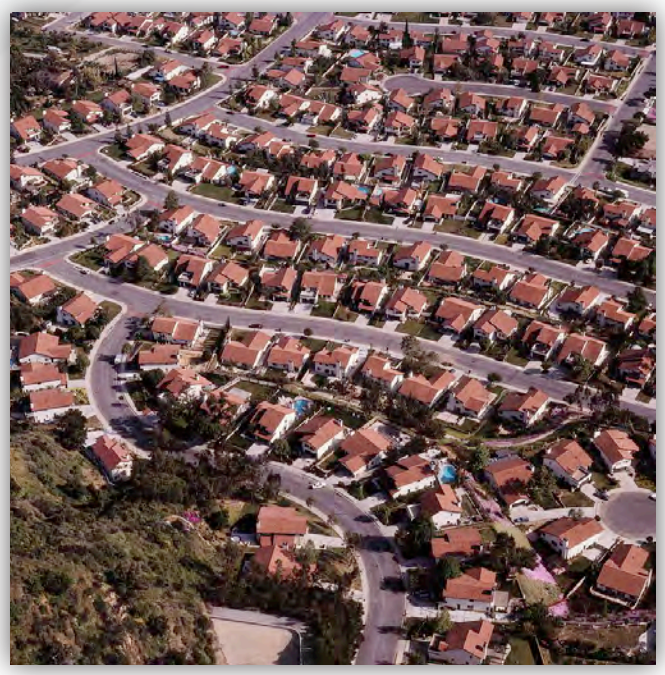
by Ancestry, Minnesota



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*

Housing Characteristics

Home ownership is an important indication of economic and social factors such as permanence in the state, investment in neighborhood, family connectedness, and a strong economy.

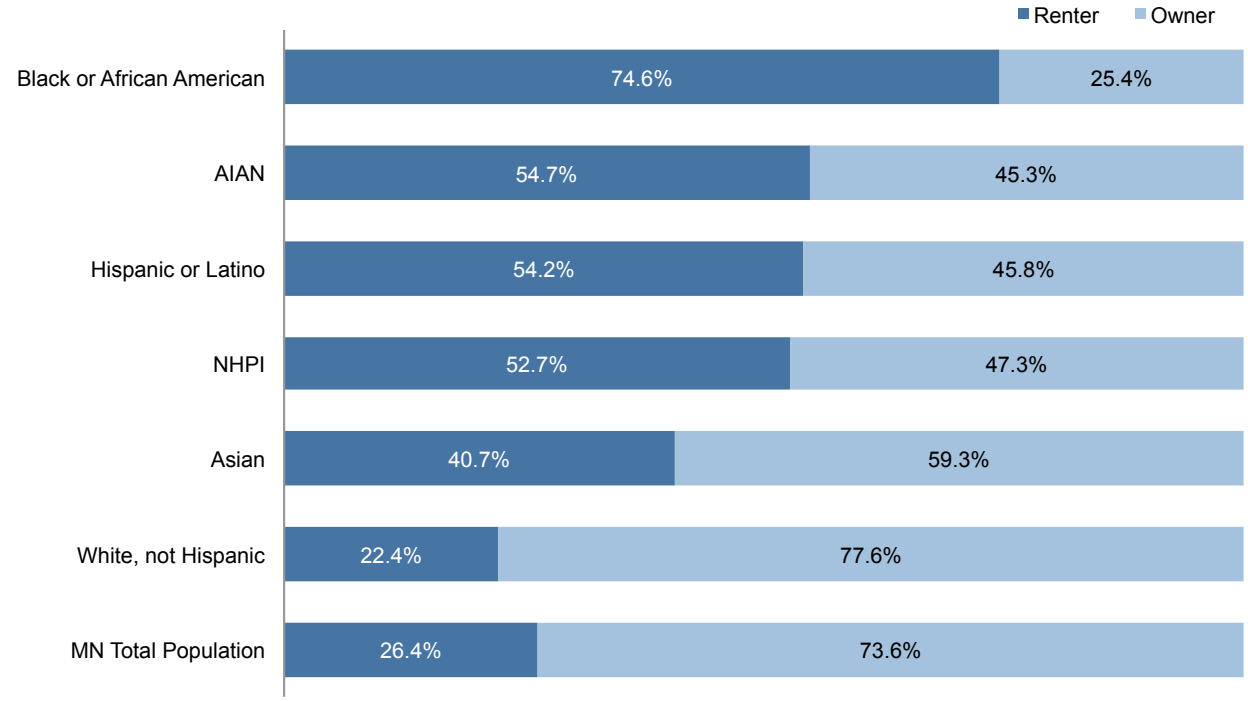


In 2010, 89.4% of Minnesota's housing units were occupied while 10.6% of these units were vacant. **Approximately 57,000 housing units are occupied by Asian householder owners or renters.** The average homeownership rate in Minnesota is 73.6% and all race groups, besides non-Hispanic White, have below average homeownership rates.

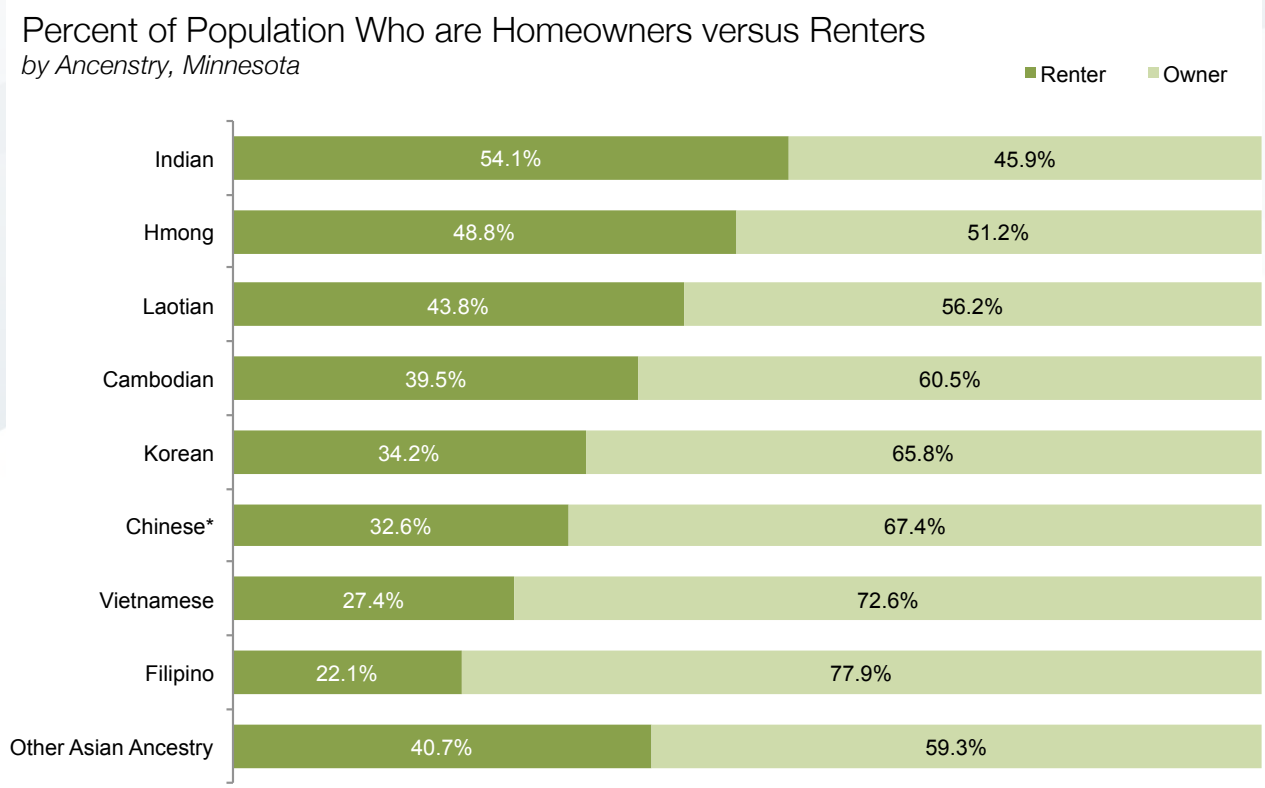
- 59.3% of Minnesota's Asians are homeowners, while 40.7% rent their homes. The proportion of Asian homeowners is less than the state's total homeownership rates.
- NHPI have a slightly lower proportion of homeownership than Asians at 47.3%.

Percent of Population Who Are Homeowners versus Renters

by Race and Hispanic Origin, Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*

The makeup of Asian households is different than the rest of the state. **The average household size in Minnesota is 2.5 people per household while MN Asians average household size is 3.5.** Household size affects overcrowded conditions of the household; overcrowdedness is defined as more than one person per room. **In Minnesota, 9.8% of Asians in Minnesota live in overcrowded households. This is in contrast to the state average of 1.7%.**

Homeownership among the Asian ancestry groups differ significantly.

- Homeownership among Filipino, Vietnamese, and Chinese are highest. Filipinos have a higher percentage of homeownership than the state's average.
- In contrast, Asian Indian, Hmong and Laotians have the highest percentage of renters.

School Enrollment

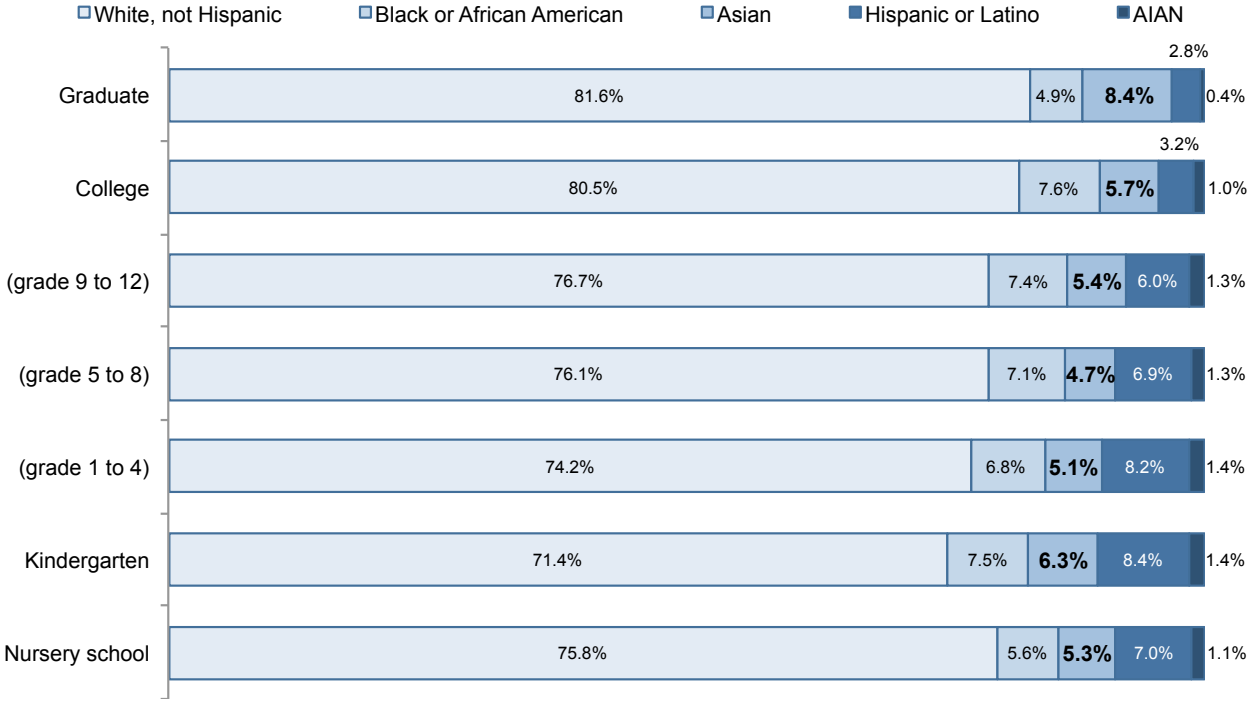
School enrollment levels may indicate trends in the population aged 3 and older and can be used to project the increase or decrease of students in school and the future workforce.

In Minnesota, there are over 1.4 million children enrolled in school. **Minnesota Asians make up 5.4% of the total enrolled student population, which is an estimated 76,496 students.**

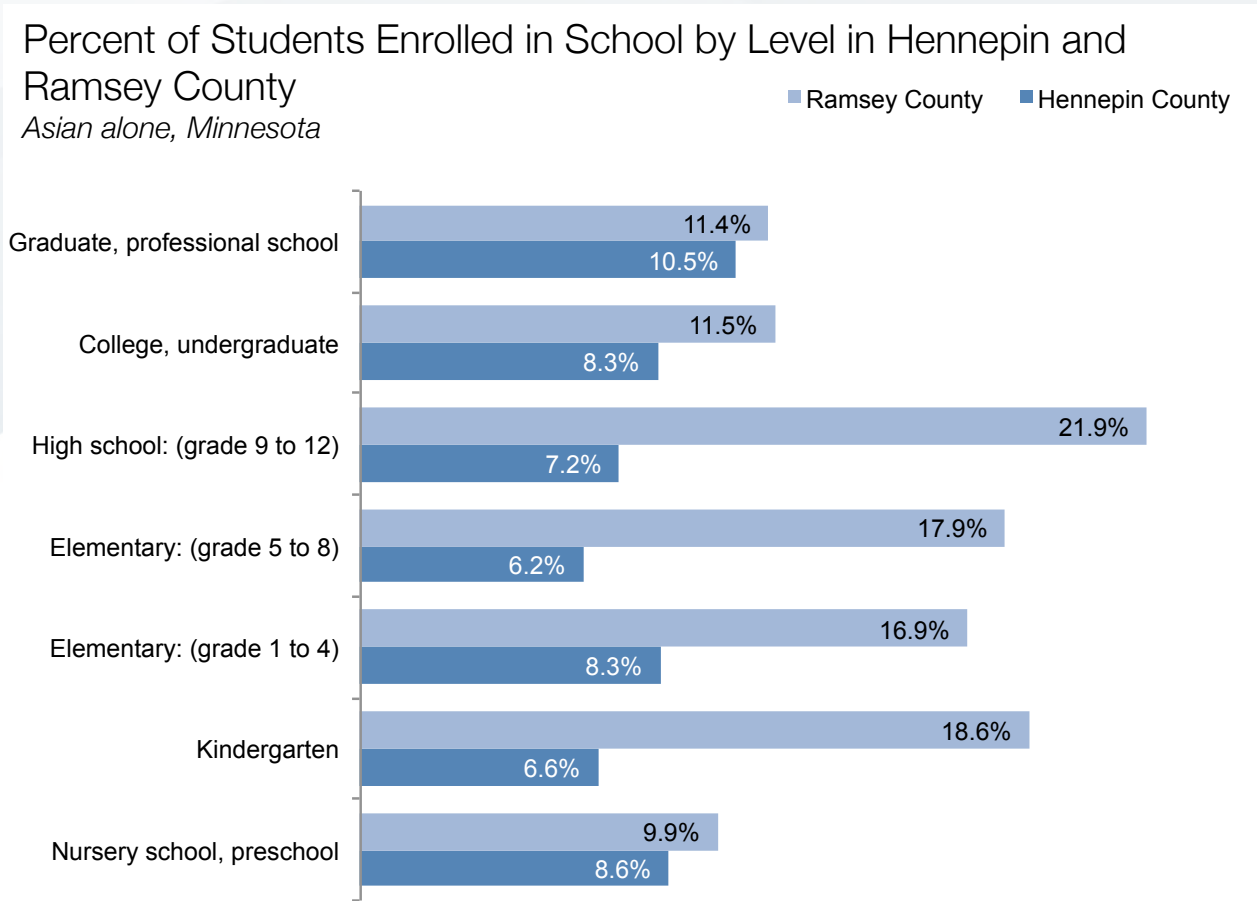
- The school level with the largest number of enrolled students is college, with 17,970 Asian students.
- The second largest number of students enrolled in a school level is high school grades 9 to 12 with 16,121 students.

Percent of Students Aged 3 and Older Enrolled in School by Level

by Race & Hispanic Origin, Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

School enrollment varies by county and by district. **Over half of the Asian students in Minnesota are enrolled in the Hennepin County and Ramsey County.**

- In Hennepin County, 7.8% (23,840) of students are Asian. In Ramsey County, 15.8% (22,638) of students are Asians.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as "the highest level of education completed in terms of the highest degree or the highest level of schooling completed".

Educational attainment is an indicator of future job security, economic security, and future opportunities to build assets. **Nationally, there is a high percentage of Asians with less than a high school diploma and a high percentage of Asians with a bachelor's degree compared to non-Hispanic Whites.** The educational profile of Asians illustrates the varying educational attainment levels within the Asian communities in Minnesota.

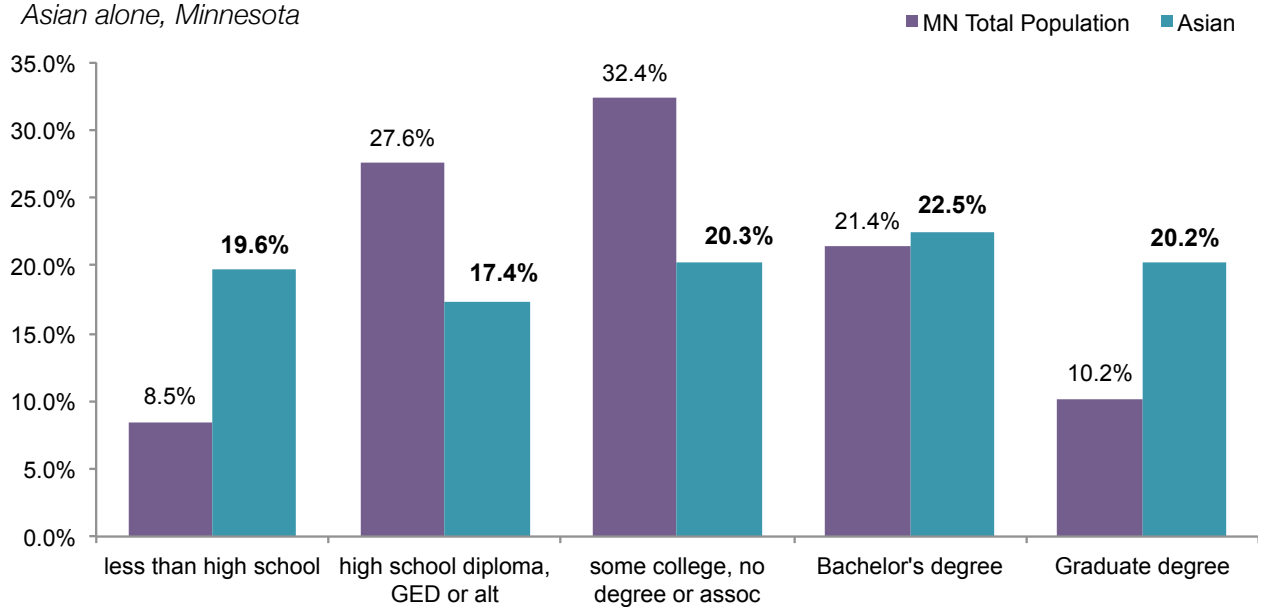
- Of Asians 25 and older, 19.6% had less than a high school diploma a rate which exceeds Minnesota's average of 8.5%.
- The percentage of Asians with a bachelor's degree or higher is 42.7% which is higher than Minnesota's average 31.6%.

Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25+
Asian alone, Minnesota

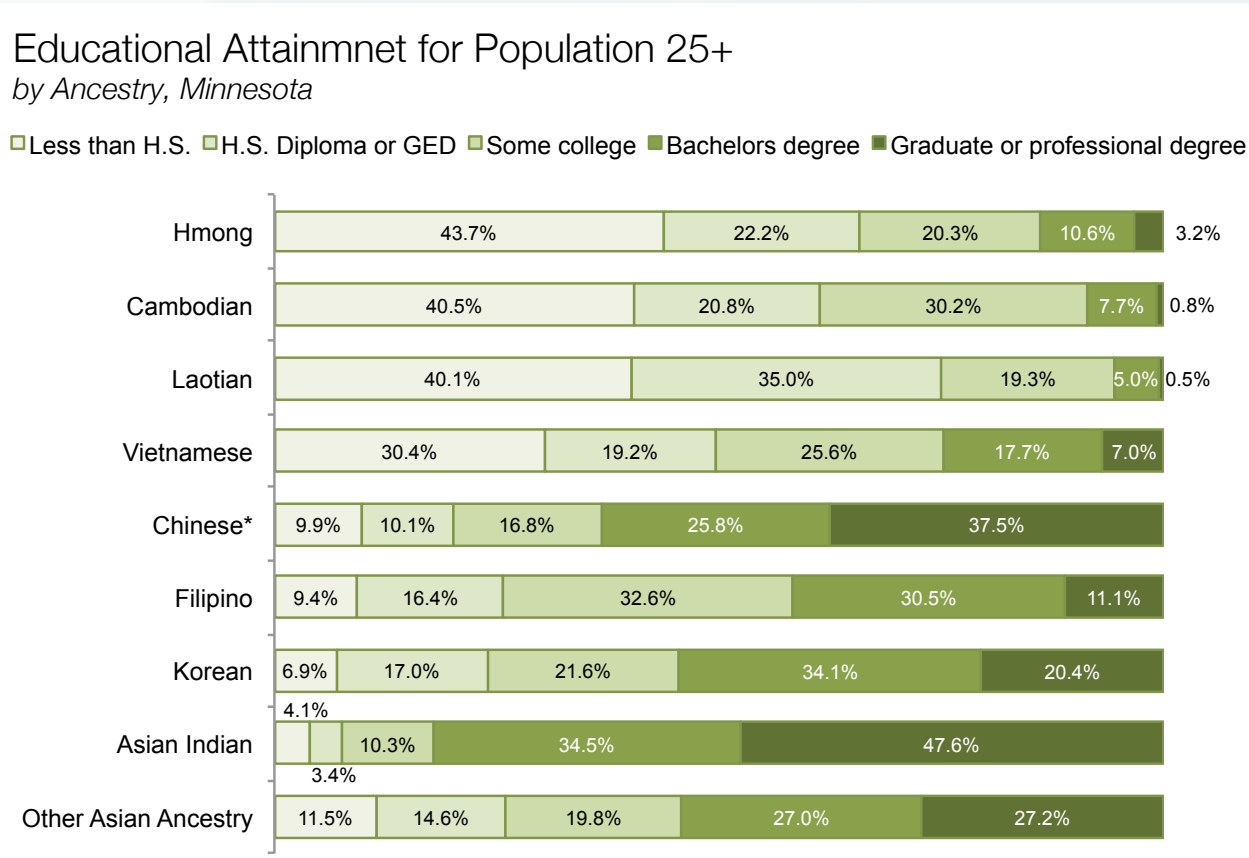
	Male	Female	Total	Total
Less than high school	8.0%	11.7%	19.6%	22,466
High School diploma, GED, or alternative credential	7.6%	9.8%	17.4%	19,867
Some college, no degree or Associates degree	9.7%	10.5%	20.3%	23,158
Bachelor's degree	10.7%	11.9%	22.5%	25,772
Graduate degree	11.4%	8.8%	20.2%	23,069
TOTAL	47.3%	52.7%	100.0%	114,332

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

Educational Attainment for Population 25+
Asian alone, Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*

Approximately 41.5% of Minnesota's Asians population has a high school degree or higher compared to the state's average of 29.7%. A closer look at ancestry groups reveals a large disparity within the Asian American community.

- The educational attainment among the Hmong, Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese is the lowest among Asians in Minnesota.
- In contrast, Asian Indian, Korean, Filipino and Chinese have the highest percentage of individuals with bachelor's degrees or graduate degrees.
- Approximately 43.7% of the Hmong population has less than high school diplomas.
- Only 0.8% of Cambodians and 0.5% of Laotians hold a graduate degree.
- 47.6% of the Asian Indian population has a graduate degree or higher.

Employment

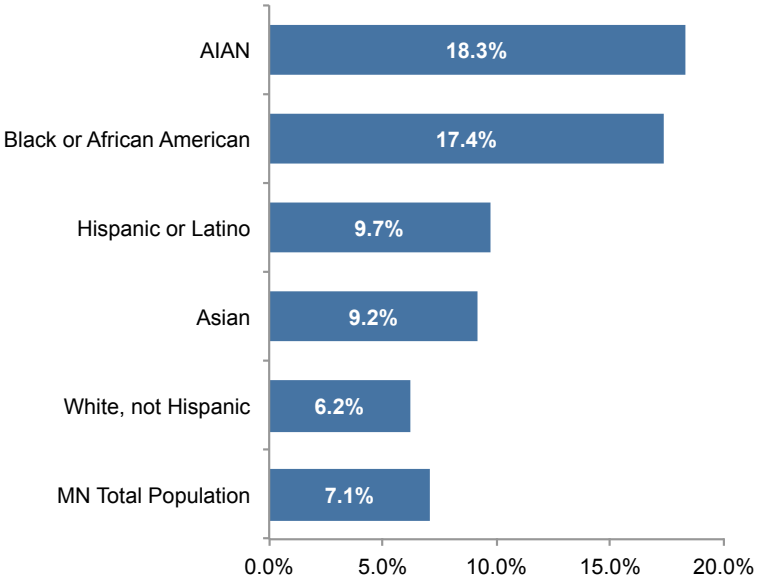
A majority of Asian Americans are working-age adults thus the employment of Asians in Minnesota is particularly important for our current and future workforce.

Minnesota's Asians make up approximately 3.7% of the labor force, an estimated 105,780 individual. **However, roughly one in ten Asians in the civilian labor force are without work.** The employment of Asian ancestry groups vary significantly.

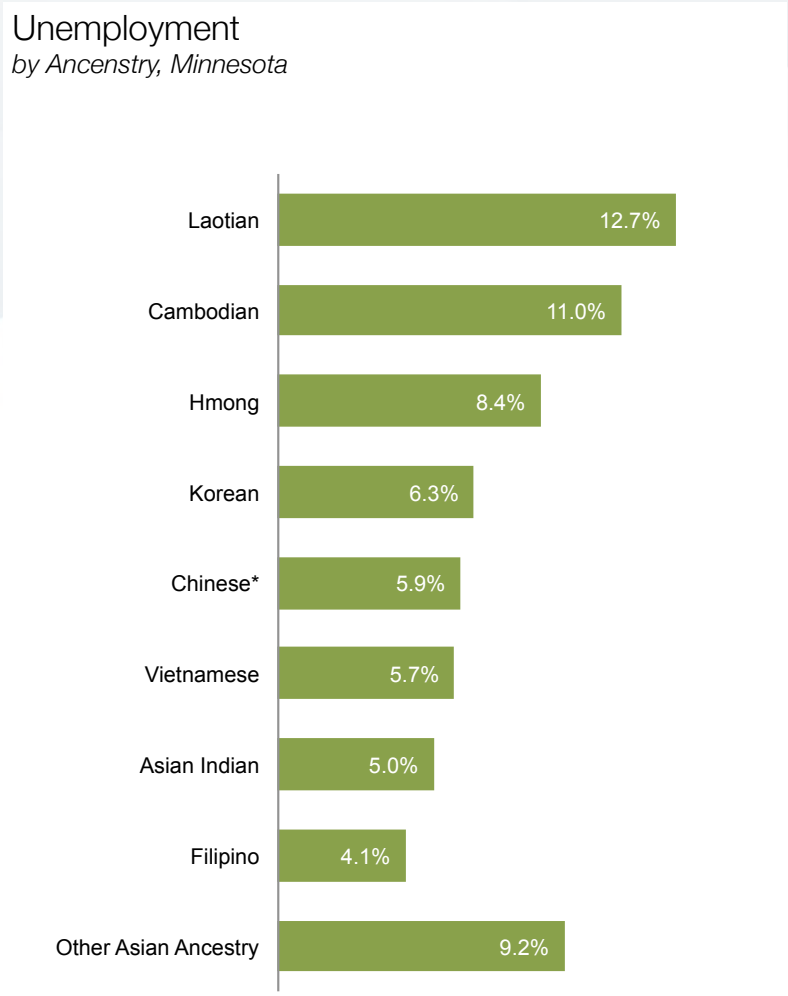
- The unemployment rate of Minnesota's Asian population (9.2%) is lower compared to other racial categories, but this is still higher than Minnesota's total unemployment rate, which is at 7.1%.

Unemployment

by Race and Hispanic Origin, Minnesota



Source: U.S Census, 2008-2010 American Community Survey



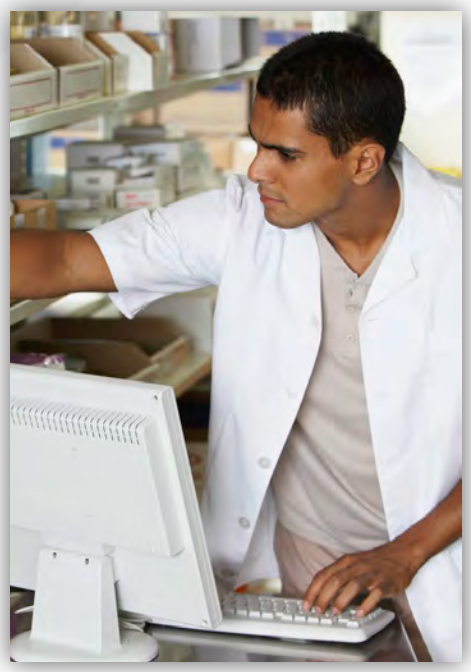
Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*

There are varying rates of unemployment among ancestry groups, many of which are below or exceed the state's unemployment rate of 7.1%.

- Lao, Cambodian and Hmong populations have unemployment rate higher than the state's average.
- In contrast, Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Asian Indian and Filipino are below the state's unemployment rate.

Occupation

Occupation is the principal activity in a person's life which may influence income earnings and potential career opportunities.

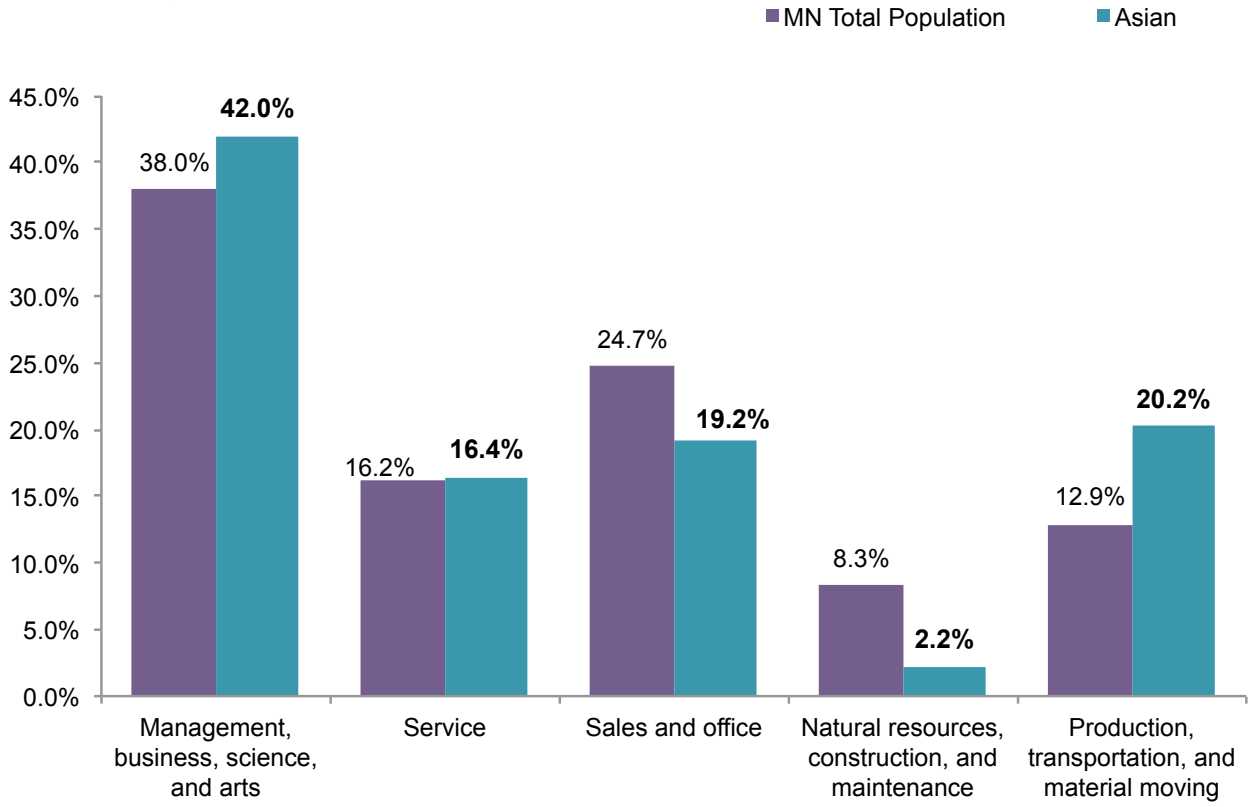


Minnesota's Asians are employed in all occupational categories; management, professional and related occupations, service occupations, sales and office occupations, construction, extraction and maintenance occupations, and production, transportation and material moving occupations. **A large proportion of the Asian population is working in managerial or professional occupations and production, transportation and material moving occupations.**

- Approximately 42.0% Minnesota's Asians are working in management, business, science, and arts professional fields.
- Minnesota's Asians are more likely than the total population to work in production, transportation, and material moving.

Occupations for Those 16 Years of Age and Older

Asian alone, Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

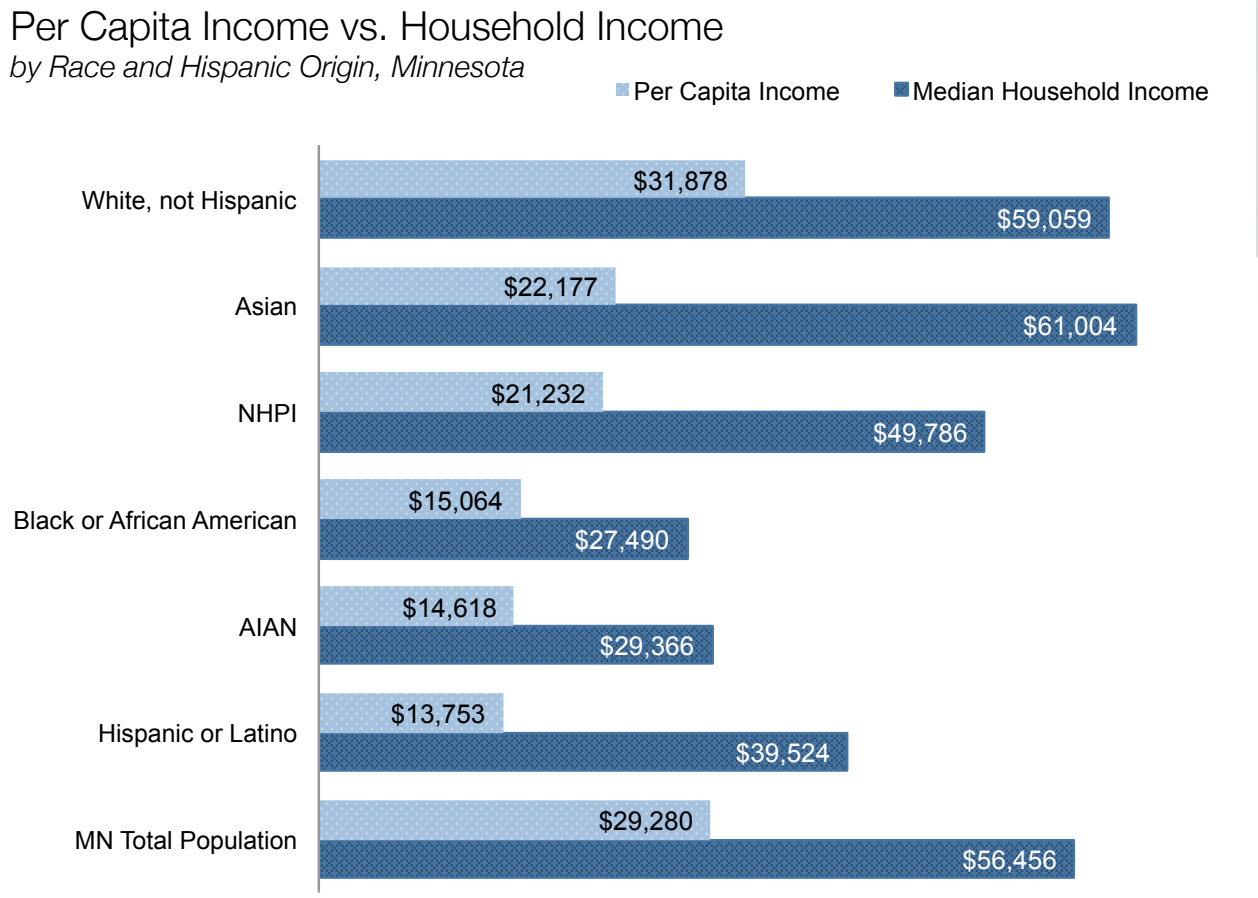
Occupation
by Ancestry Group, Minnesota

- Minnesota's Asian ancestry groups (East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, Asian, others) are disproportionately employed in occupational categories.
- The Southeast Asian ancestry group makes up the largest employment in the production, transportation and material moving occupations with 16.8%, approximately 20,000 individuals are employed in this occupation.
- Furthermore, the South Asian ancestry group makes up the most significant proportion in the management, professional and related occupations at 15.4%, or 18,330 individuals.

Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
Notes: Percentages are taken from the Total Asian population of 119,116

Income

Income is an indicator of socioeconomic status among your community.



Source: U.S. Census, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

Minnesota's Asians and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have median household incomes higher than that of the general population. **However, Asian households are more likely to have more workers per household which contributes to the overall household income. When comparing per capita income, Asians and NHPI populations have per capita incomes below that of Minnesota's population overall.**

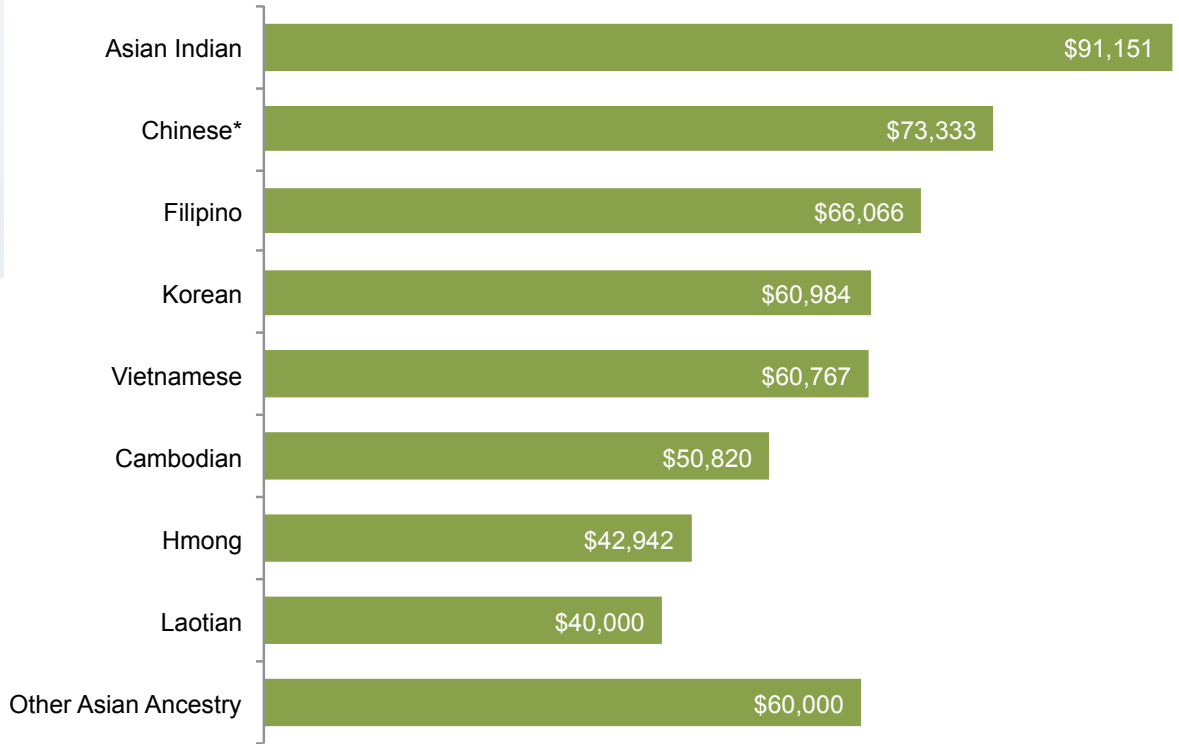
Per capita income

- At $22,177, Asian Americans earn less per capita income than non-Hispanic Whites but more than other racial groups.
- At $21,231, NHPI earn less per capita income than non-Hispanic Whites.

Household income

- Between 2008 and 2010, there is a 7.5% (1,290 households) increase in the number of Asian households that have a household income of less than $10,000.
- NHPI have a smaller median household income than the average household in Minnesota.

Median Household Income
by Ancestry, Minnesota



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*

The range of household income varies by Asian ancestry group *(see Household Income Range by Ancestry, Minnesota)*.

- Median household income of Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese is higher than Minnesota's average median household income.
- In contrast, Cambodian, Hmong and Laotian have lower median household incomes than Minnesota's average median household income.

Household Income Range
by Ancestry, Minnesota

	Minimum	Maximum
Laotian	$ 32,378	$ 47,622
Hmong	$ 39,526	$ 46,358
Cambodian	$ 40,923	$ 60,717
Other Asian Ancestry	$ 53,387	$ 66,613
Vietnamese	$ 53,793	$ 67,741
Korean	$ 52,100	$ 69,868
Filipino	$ 56,772	$ 75,360
Chinese	$ 64,960	$ 81,706
Indian	$ 86,325	$ 95,977

Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

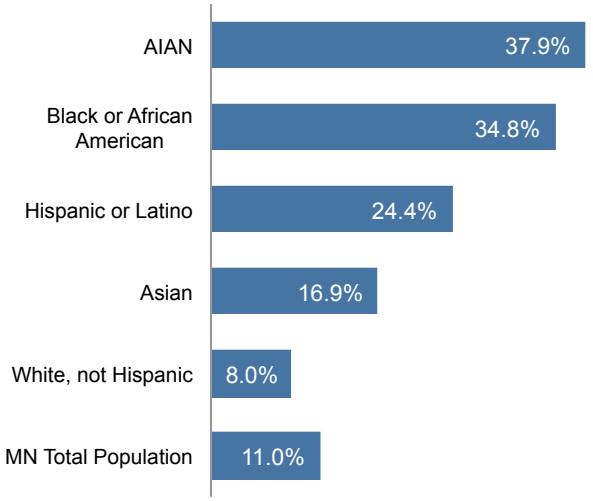
Poverty

Poverty has a significant effect on the lifestyles of individuals, families and the people in your community. These effects include, but are not limited to; lower living standards, lack of food and shelter, poor health, higher incidents of illness, lower academic achievement, and higher rates of crime.

Asian Americans have higher poverty rates than non-Hispanic whites, but lower poverty rates than other communities of color. **One in six of Minnesota's Asians live below the poverty line, that is a 16.9% or 34,759 individuals who live below $11,139 per year.** Poverty among Asian ancestry groups vary significantly.

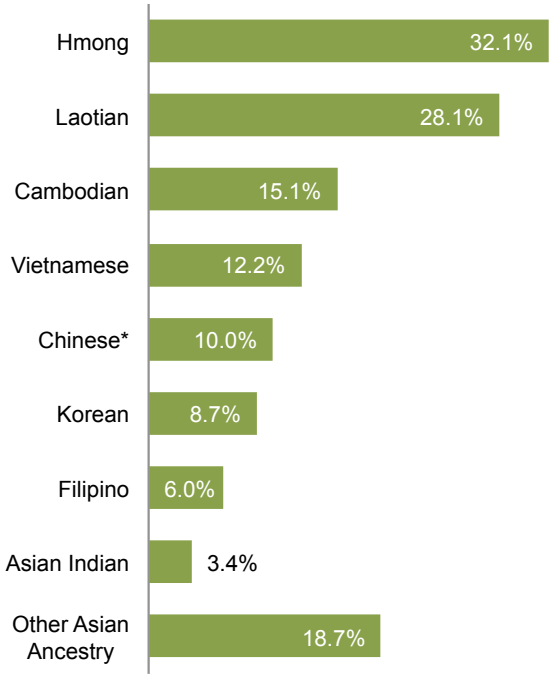
- The Hmong have the highest percentage of poverty at 32.1%. That is one in three Hmong who live below the poverty line.
- One in three Laotians lives below the poverty line.
- Nearly one in six Cambodians lives below the poverty line.
- In contrast, 10.0% or less of Chinese, Korean, Filipino and Asian Indians live below the poverty line.

Poverty
by Race and Hispanic Origins, Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
Notes: Poverty status in the past 12 months

Poverty
by Ancestry, Minnesota



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*
Notes: Poverty status in the past 12 months

Child and Senior Poverty

Child poverty has negative impact on outcomes such as school readiness, overall health and adult productivity. For our seniors, as the generation of baby boomers age their economic security will influence the nation's health and social services.

Income Below Poverty Threshold
Asian alone, Minnesota

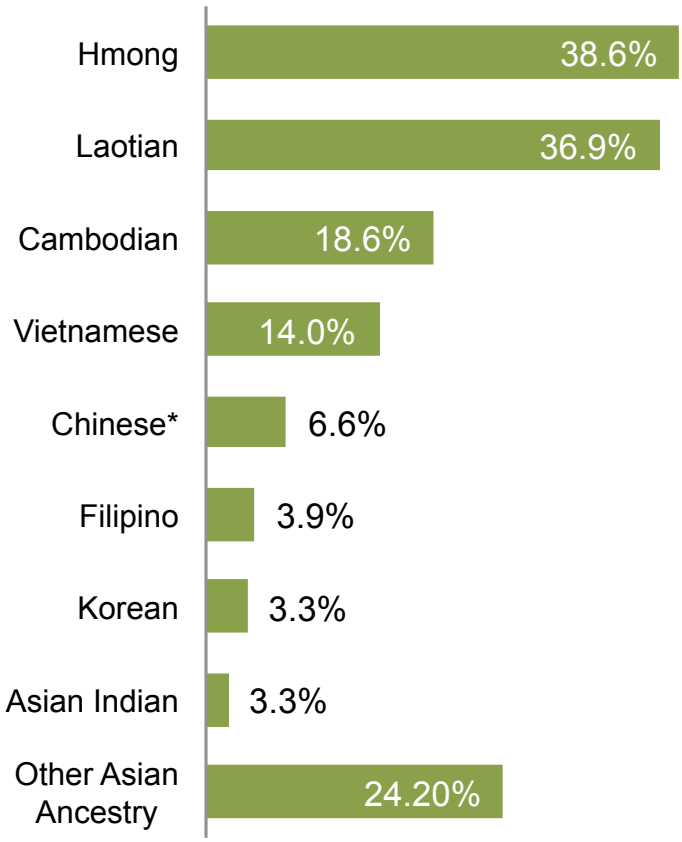
Age Group	Count	Percent
0-17	38,365	42.4%
18-64	47,592	31.0%
65+	3,347	33.1%

Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

Minnesota's children are more likely to live in poverty than a decade ago. **Of Minnesota's Asians: one in five children live below the poverty line and one in five seniors (ages 65+) live below the poverty line.**

- Hmong and Lao communities have the highest proportion of children who live in poverty. Over one-third of Hmong and Lao children live below the poverty line.
- One-sixth of Cambodian children live in poverty.
- In contrast, less than 10% of Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Asian Indian children live below the poverty line.

Child Poverty
by Ancestry, Minnesota



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*
Notes: Poverty status in the past 12 months

Health Insurance

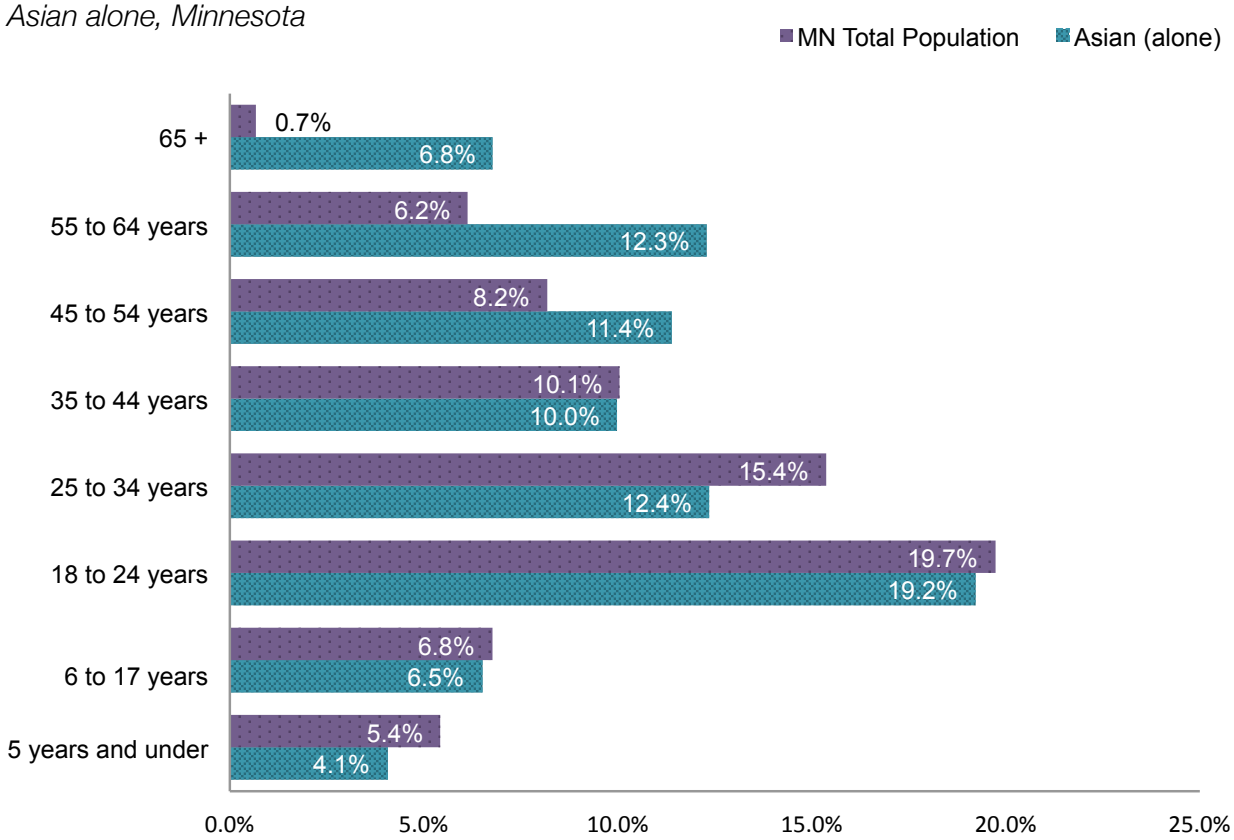
Health insurance may influence health outcomes, the probability of having seen a doctor, access to hospital care and health status of individuals.

Nationwide, the number of uninsured increased in the past decade. **In Minnesota, nearly one in five of Minnesota's Asians is not insured.**

- Minnesota's Asian ages 45 and older are more likely to be uninsured compared to the rest of the state.
- In contrast, Asian children 5 years and under are more likely to be insured compared to Minnesota's total population.

Percent Unisured by Age Category

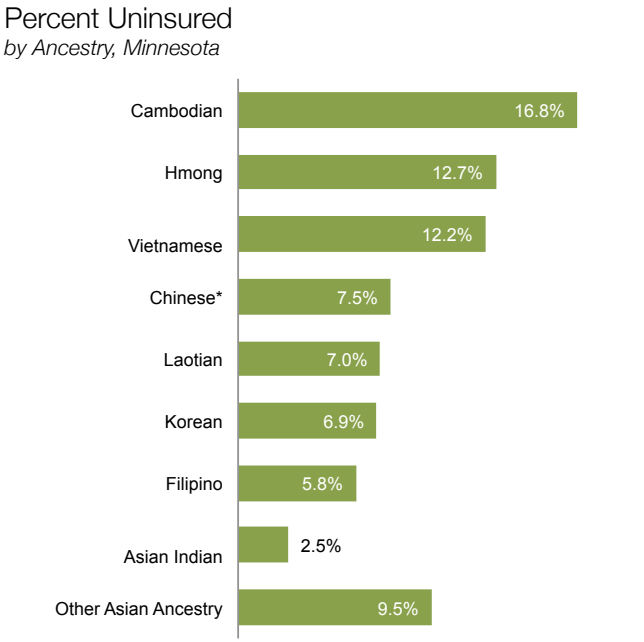
Asian alone, Minnesota



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey

A closer look at the uninsured by ancestry indicates variation between Asian ancestry groups.

- Cambodian, Hmong and Vietnamese have the highest percent of uninsured.
- One in six Cambodians do not have health insurance.
- One in eight Hmong and Vietnamese do not have health insurance.
- In contrast, over 90% of Chinese, Laotian, Korean, Filipino and Asian Indians do have health insurance.



Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series from U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2010 American Community Survey
**except Taiwanese*

Appendix

U.S. Asian Pacific Population, 1900-2010			
Year	Total U.S. Population	Total U.S. Asian Pacific Population	Asian Pacific Islander, Percent of Total
1900	76,212,168	114,189	-
1910	92,228,531	146,871	0.2%
1920	106,021,568	182,137	0.2%
1930	123,202,660	264,766	0.2%
1940	132,165,129	254,918	0.2%
1950	151,325,798	321,033	0.2%
1960	179,323,175	980,337	0.5%
1970	203,211,926	1,538,721	0.8%
1980	226,545,805	3,500,439	1.5%
1990	248,709,873	7,273,662	2.9%
2000	281,421,906	10,641,833 (12,773,242)	3.7% (4.5%*)
2010	308,745,538	15,254,265 (18,546,051)	5.0% (6.0%*)

Source: U.S. Census
(Numbers in parenthesis indicate individuals that self-identified as alone or in combination)

Acknowledgements

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans would like to thank community partners for their assistance in census data collection. Without their work and support this report would not be possible.

Asian American Pacific Islander Complete Count Committee:
Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women
Asian Pacific Cultural Center
Burmese Community of Minnesota
Chinese Service Center
Fil-Minnesotans
Hmong American Mutual Assistance Association
Hmong American Partnership
Karen Community of Minnesota
Korean Social Services
Lao Advancement Organization of Minnesota
Lao Assistance Center
Lao Family Incorporated of Minnesota
SEWA Asian Indian Family Wellness
Vietnamese Social Services
United Cambodian Association of Minnesota

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