

A Narrative Report of the Asian American Population and Asset-building Trends in **California**

Prepared for the Ford Foundation's
Building Economic Security Over a Lifetime Initiative



UCLA

Asian American
Studies Center
Bridging Research with Community

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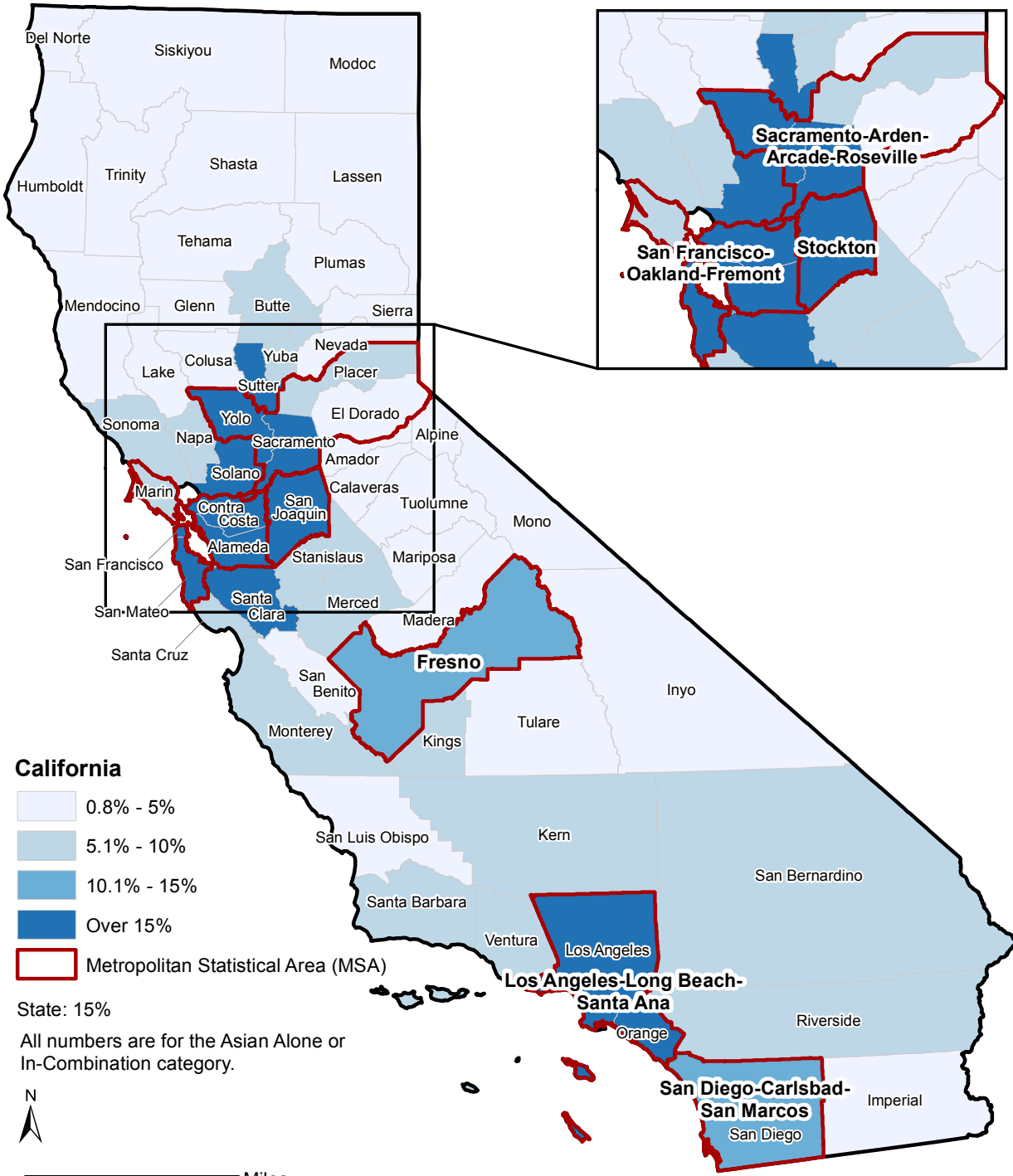
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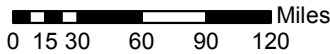
The **Technical Report** with this demographic profile's methodology, definitions, and detailed data charts and tables is available to download at: www.aasc.ucla.edu/besol.



California

- 0.8% - 5%
- 5.1% - 10%
- 10.1% - 15%
- Over 15%
- Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

State: 15%
 All numbers are for the Asian Alone or In-Combination category.



C.Pech | August 2012
 Data Source: 2010 Decennial Census SF-1, Table QTP-5

Scale: 1:4,974,459
 Projection: NAD 1983 California Teale Albers

Background

This California profile is part of a set of demographic profiles developed to generate critical socioeconomic quantitative information and statistics on Asian Americans for state and regional asset building coalitions that are part of the Ford Foundation's Building Economic Security over a Lifetime Initiative. The profiles provide data at the state level and the major Metropolitan Statistical Areas with significant Asian American populations in: California, Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma, and the Southeast Region (Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi), from the 2007-2009 3-Year American Community Survey (ACS) sample, 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census data sets (subject to the availability of data).¹

Moreover, a separate intensive case study report was produced on the East San Gabriel Valley, in Los Angeles County, a neighborhood that has a mix of large population concentrations of Asian Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites. The report examines the impact of the foreclosure crisis on Asian American asset building, in particular the gains and losses through homeownership. Similar to other racial groups, homeownership makes up a large share of assets, and any changes may indirectly help us understand overall declines in net worth for racial minorities. The East San Gabriel Valley case study analysis utilized data from Los Angeles County assessor's office (parcel data), American Community Survey (PUMS sample), DataQuick (purchases, defaults, and foreclosures), and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (lending information).

This report begins with a state level analysis comparing the total population by major racial and ethnic groups: African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Non-Hispanic Whites (subject to data availability). A comparative analysis with American Indians/Alaskan Natives at the state level was only conducted for the Oklahoma demographic profile. The profiles then include a Metropolitan Statistical Area level analysis comparing demographic trends for the total population, total Asian population, and by Asian ethnic subgroups (subject to data availability).² The report provides detailed data on the following characteristics: Population, Nativity, Language, Education, Economic Status (income, poverty, and other public and private income sources), and Housing Trends (homeownership, housing burden, and home property values).

For more information on this demographic profile's methodology, definitions, and detailed data charts and tables, please see Technical Report at: www.aasc.ucla.edu/besol.

Introduction

The Asian American population is a diverse one, with many ethnic, cultural, language, and religious subgroups, each with its unique history and experience. This report provides a snapshot of demographic and socioeconomic trends in California. In particular, this profile looks at the challenges, issues, and opportunities facing Asian Americans as they relate to higher education, homeownership, and asset building.

Data were analyzed for Asian subgroups in the following Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs or metro areas): Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Stockton. In Fresno, subgroup data were only available for Hmong.³ In Stockton, data were only available for Filipinos. In San Diego, data were available for Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. In San Francisco, data were available for Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. In Sacramento, data were available for Japanese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Chinese. In Los Angeles, data were available for Asian Indian, Cambodian, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese.

¹ The ACS 3-Year estimate provides detailed Asian ethnic subgroup data if the subgroup has an estimated population of 20,000 or more.

² For 2010 national demographic information, see the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, "A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans in the United States 2011" at: http://www.advancingjustice.org/pdf/Community_of_Contrast.pdf For 2000 Census data with the most comprehensive look at the demographic and cultural changes sweeping the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, see the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, "New Face of Asian Pacific America" at: <http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/aascpress/toocs/newface.asp>

³ If the Metropolitan Statistical Area has only one Asian ethnic subgroup, this subgroup was compared to the Asian American population as a whole.

Population

The Asian American population in California was growing. The Asian subgroups that experienced the most population growth in the last decade were South Asians.

From 2000-2010, the Asian American population in California grew by 34% approximately from 4.3 million to 5.7 million. Among the Asian ethnic subgroups, the Bangladeshi population had the most growth (157%), followed by Pakistanis (92%), and Sri Lankans (65%). In 2010, the three largest Asian subgroups were Filipinos, Chinese, and Vietnamese.⁴

All of the six MSAs experienced Asian American population growth during the past decade. Bangladeshis and Pakistanis were the two Asian ethnic subgroups with the fastest growth rate in most areas.

- >>> **San Francisco:** the population size of Asian American had increased 30% from 896,000 to over 1.2 million from 2000 to 2010. The three subgroups with the largest percent population growth were Taiwanese (138%), Bangladeshis (134%), and Hmong (97%). In 2010, the three largest subgroups were Chinese, followed by Filipinos and Asian Indians.
- >>> **Stockton:** the population size of Asian American had increased 53% from 79,000 to over 121,000 from 2000 to 2010. The three subgroups with the largest percent population growth were Sri Lankans (392%), Pakistanis (156%), and Asian Indians (137%). In 2010, the three largest subgroups were Filipinos, followed by Asian Indians and Cambodians.
- >>> **San Diego:** the population size of Asian American had increased 39% from 303,000 to over 422,000 from 2000 to 2010. Between 2000 and 2010, the Bangladeshi population experienced the largest growth (245%), followed by Pakistanis (134%), and Asian Indians (129%). The largest Asian subgroups were Filipinos, Chinese, and Vietnamese in 2010.
- >>> **Sacramento:** the population size of Asian American had increased 60% from 199,000 to over 320,000 from 2000 to 2010. The three subgroups with the largest percent population growth were Bangladeshis (578%), Taiwanese (175%), and Sri Lankans (132%). In 2010, the three largest subgroups were Filipinos, followed by Chinese and Asian Indians.
- >>> **Los Angeles:** the population size of Asian American had increased 26% from about 1.7 million to 2.2 million from 2000 to 2010. The three subgroups with the largest percent population growth were Bangladeshis (121%), Pakistanis (62%), and Sri Lankans (51%). In 2010, the three largest subgroups were Chinese, followed by Filipinos and Koreans.
- >>> **Fresno:** the population size of Asian American had increased 38% from 75,000 to over 103,000 from 2000 to 2010. The three subgroups with the largest percent population growth were Bangladeshis (338%), Pakistanis (129%), and Asian Indians (82%). In 2010, the three largest subgroups were Hmong, Asian Indians, and Filipinos.

Nativity

In California, the majority of Asians were foreign-born (with the exception in Fresno). Among subgroups, Asian Indians were more likely to be foreign-born and Japanese were less likely to be foreign-born.

The majority of Asians in California were foreign-born (65%). The percentage was much higher than the total population (27%) and Latinos (40%).

⁴ Population data include 19 Asian ethnic subgroups (and Other Asian, specified and Other Asian, not specified). Other indicators have data available for a fewer number of subgroups. For ethnic groups with a small population in the base year, a small change in population absolute number can result in a large percentage change. All population size figures for the Chinese subgroup exclude Taiwanese.

- >>> **San Francisco:** 60% of Asians were foreign-born compared to 29% for the total population. Asian Indians (68%) and Vietnamese (64%) had the highest proportion of foreign-born, while Japanese had the lowest (28%).
- >>> **Stockton:** 50% of Asians were foreign-born compared to 23% for the total foreign-born population. Forty-eight percent of Filipinos were foreign-born.
- >>> **San Diego:** 57% of Asians were foreign-born compared to 23% for the total population. Asian Indians (67%) had the highest proportion of foreign-born, while Japanese had the lowest at 37%.
- >>> **Sacramento:** 51% of Asians were foreign-born compared to 17% for the total population. Asian Indians (66%) had the highest proportion of foreign-born, while Japanese had the lowest at 16%.
- >>> **Los Angeles:** 64% of Asians were foreign-born compared to 34% for the total population. Taiwanese (74%) had the highest proportion of foreign-born, while Japanese had the lowest at 30%.
- >>> **Fresno:** 48% of Asians were foreign-born compared to 22% for the total population. Forty-four percent of Hmong were foreign-born.

Language

Compared to the total population, Asian Americans were more likely to have Limited English Proficiency (LEP); albeit their rate was slightly less than for Latinos. Foreign-born Asians had lower proportions of persons who reported that they did not speak English very well compared to the total foreign-born population. This may be because the total foreign-born population includes Latinos and Asians, two groups that have rapidly grown due to immigration and have high LEP rates. Native-born Asian Americans had higher proportions of those who did not speak English very well compared to the total native-born population. Among the subgroups, Vietnamese and Hmong had higher LEP rates. Japanese, Asian Indians, and Filipinos had the lower rates.

In California, Asian Americans had Limited English Proficiency (LEP) at higher rate than the total population (37% versus 20%). The foreign-born Asian American population in California had lower proportions of persons who reported that they did not speak English very well (50%) when compared to the total foreign-born population (59%). However, native-born Asian Americans had higher proportions of those who did not speak English very well than the total native-born population (9% and 4% respectively). The LEP rates for Latinos were slightly higher (38%) than Asian Americans. A large majority (72%) for the foreign-born Latinos and 11% native-born Latinos reported that they did not speak English very well, the highest of all major racial and ethnic groups.

- >>> **San Francisco:** 34% of Asian Americans had LEP, which was higher than the total population (18%). Among the Asian subgroups, Vietnamese and Chinese (exclusive or inclusive of Taiwanese) had the highest rate (48% and 47% respectively) and Japanese had the lowest rate at 16% with LEP.
- >>> **Stockton:** 34% of Asian Americans had LEP, which was much higher than the rate of total population (19%). Twenty-two percent of Filipinos had LEP.
- >>> **San Diego:** 29% of Asian Americans had LEP, which was much higher than the rate of total population (16%). Vietnamese had the highest rate at 51% and Asian Indians had the lowest rate at 19%.
- >>> **Sacramento:** 30% of Asian Americans had LEP, almost three times higher than the total population (11%). Hmong had the highest rate at 50% and Japanese had the lowest rate at 11%.
- >>> **Los Angeles:** 39% of Asian Americans had LEP, which was much higher than the rate of total population (26%). Among the Asian subgroups Koreans had

the highest rate (56%), followed by Vietnamese (55%), and Taiwanese (50%). Japanese (22%), Asian Indians (22%), and Filipinos (21%) had the lowest rate.

- >>> **Fresno:** 35% of Asian Americans had LEP, which was much higher than the rate of total population (19%). Nearly half of Hmong population (49%) had LEP.

Education

Asian Americans were more likely to have at least a high school diploma compared to Non-Hispanic Whites. Among subgroups, Vietnamese and Hmong tended to have a higher proportion with less than a high school diploma. Japanese tended to have a lower proportion with less than a high school diploma.

Statewide, Asian Americans over the age of 25 had a lower proportion of population (14%) with less than a high school diploma compared to the total population (20%) but a higher proportion compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (7%).

- >>> **San Francisco:** 16% of Asian Americans had less than a high school diploma as opposed to 13% for the total population, and 4% for Non-Hispanic Whites. Among the subgroups, Vietnamese had the highest (26%) proportion of population with less than a high school diploma, while Japanese had the lowest (4%).
- >>> **Stockton:** 24% of Asian Americans had less than a high school diploma. This number was similar to that of the total population (24%) but less than Non-Hispanic Whites (12%). Filipinos had a rate of 13%.
- >>> **San Diego:** 12% of Asian Americans had less than a high school diploma, which was lower than the total population (15%) but higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (5%). Vietnamese had the largest proportion (29%) with less than a high school diploma, and Asian Indians had the smallest at 4%.
- >>> **Sacramento:** the rate for all Asian Americans was 18%, which was higher than total population (13%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (7%). Hmong had the largest proportion of population (43%) that had less than a high school diploma; Filipinos and Japanese had the smallest proportion (7%).
- >>> **Los Angeles:** the rate for total Asian Americans was 13% which was less than the total population (23%) and greater than Non-Hispanic Whites (6%). Cambodians had the largest proportion (41%) that had less than a high school diploma. Taiwanese had the lowest at 4%.
- >>> **Fresno:** Asian Americans (28%) had a larger percentage of population that had less than a high school than the total population (27%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (9%). Almost half of Hmong (49%) had less than a high school diploma.

Asian Americans were more likely to earn a Bachelor's degree compared to all other major racial and ethnic groups. Among subgroups, Filipinos tended to have a higher proportion with a Bachelor's degree. Vietnamese and Hmong tended to have lower proportions.

In California, Asian Americans over the age of 25 had a larger proportion of population (32%) with Bachelor's degree, compared to the total population (19%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (24%).

- >>> **San Francisco:** the rate for all Asian Americans was higher (32%) compared to total population (27%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (31%). Japanese (40%) and Filipinos (39%) had the largest proportion of population with a Bachelor's degree; Vietnamese had the smallest at 23%.

- >>> **Stockton:** Asian Americans had a larger proportion of population (21%) with a Bachelor's degree, compared to total population (12%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (14%). Filipinos had a rate of 28%.
- >>> **San Diego:** the rate for all Asian Americans was higher (30%) compared to total population (22%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (26%). Koreans had the largest proportion of population (40%) with a Bachelor's degree; Vietnamese had the smallest at 22%.
- >>> **Sacramento:** the rate for all Asian Americans was 26%, which was higher than total population (20%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (22%). Filipinos had the largest proportion of population (35%) with a Bachelor's degree; Hmong had the smallest at 10%.
- >>> **Los Angeles:** the rate for total Asian Americans was 34%, which was larger than total population (20%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (27%). Filipinos had the largest proportion (45%) with a Bachelor's degree. Cambodians had the lowest at 11%.
- >>> **Fresno:** Asian Americans (22%) also had a larger proportion with a Bachelor's degree than total population (13%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (19%). Hmong had a smaller proportion at 9%.

Asian Americans were more likely to earn a graduate or professional degree compared to total population. Among subgroups, Asian Indians tended to have higher proportions with a graduate or professional degree. Filipinos and Hmong tended to have lower proportions.

Statewide, the proportion of Asian Americans over the age of 25 with a graduate or professional degree (16%) was higher than the proportion for total population (11%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (15%).

- >>> **San Francisco:** the proportion of Asian Americans with a graduate or professional degree was similar to the proportion for the total population, with both at 17%. Non-Hispanic Whites had a higher proportion at 23%. Among Asian subgroups, both Asian Indians and Koreans had the highest proportion at 37% and 25% respectively. Eight percent of Filipinos had a graduate degree, the lowest of the subgroups.
- >>> **Stockton:** Asian and Non-Hispanic Whites had the highest proportion with a graduate degree with both at 7%. This number was slightly higher when compared to overall total population (5%). Filipinos had a rate of 4%.
- >>> **San Diego:** the proportion of Asian Americans with a graduate degree (15%) was higher than the overall total population (13%), but slightly lower when compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (16%). Among the Asian subgroups, Asian Indians and Chinese (exclusive or inclusive of Taiwanese) had the highest proportions at 50% and 33% respectively. Six percent of Filipinos had a graduate degree, the lowest of the subgroups.
- >>> **Sacramento:** the proportion of Asian Americans with a graduate degree was slightly higher than the proportion for both the overall population (10%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (11%). Among the subgroups, Asian Indians had the highest proportion (25%) with a graduate degree and Hmong had the lowest (4%).
- >>> **Los Angeles:** 14% of Asian American had a graduate degree compared to 10% for the overall total population. At 17%, Non-Hispanic Whites had a higher proportion with a graduate degree. Roughly a third of Asian Indians (35%) and Taiwanese (33%) had graduate degrees, the highest of all of the Asian American subgroups. Vietnamese and Cambodians had proportions lower than that of the total population (7% and 3% respectively), the lowest for the subgroups.

>>> **Fresno**: the proportion of Asian Americans with a graduate degree (9%) was higher than the overall total population (6%), but slightly lower when compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (10%). At 3%, Hmong had a lower proportion with a graduate degree.

Economic Status

Asian Americans had higher median household incomes than total households. Among subgroups, Asian Indians tended to have higher median incomes. Vietnamese and Hmong tended to have lower median incomes. Per capita, Asian Americans generally earned less than Non-Hispanic Whites. This may be due to Asian Americans' larger average household sizes.⁵ Asian Indians tended to earn more per capita, and Vietnamese, Hmong, and Cambodian tended to earn less per capita.

In California, Asian American households had a higher median income (\$74,000) than total households (\$60,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$70,000). Statewide, Asian Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites had a lower percentage of Very Low-Income households (21% both) compared to total households (25%). Per capita income, Asian Americans (\$31,000) earned more than the total population (\$29,000), but were not earning as much as Non-Hispanic Whites (\$41,000). This discrepancy may be due to the larger average household sizes of Asian Americans (3.2) compared to total households (2.9) and Non-Hispanic Whites (2.4).

>>> **San Francisco**: the median household income for Asian Americans was \$82,730, which was higher than total households (\$75,000) but lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$88,000). Asian Indians had the highest median household income at \$108,000 and Vietnamese had the lowest at \$60,000. The per capita income for Asian Americans (\$33,283) was lower than the total population (\$40,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$55,000). Asian Indians had the highest at \$44,000, while Vietnamese had the lowest at \$25,000. The average household size for Asian Americans was 3.1, which was larger than total households (2.7) and Non-Hispanic Whites (2.3).

>>> **Stockton**: the median household income for Asian Americans was \$61,000, which was higher than total households at \$54,000 but lower than Non-Hispanic Whites at \$63,000. Filipinos had a much higher median household income at \$78,000. In terms of per capita income, Asian Americans had \$21,000, which was lower than total population (\$22,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$32,000). Filipinos had roughly the same with total population at \$23,000. Asian Americans had larger an average household size (3.7) compared to total households (3.1) and Non-Hispanic Whites (2.6).

>>> **San Diego**: Asian Americans had a higher median household income (\$75,000) than total households (\$63,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$71,000). Asian Indians had the highest at \$101,000 and Vietnamese had the lowest at \$56,000. Asian Americans had a lower per capita income (\$28,000) than total population (\$30,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$40,000). Asian Indians also had the highest at \$44,000, while Vietnamese had the lowest at \$22,000. The average household size for Asian Americans was 3.2, which was larger than total households (2.8) and Non-Hispanic Whites (2.4).

>>> **Sacramento**: Asian Americans (\$66,000) had a higher median household income compared to total households (\$60,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$65,000). Asian Indians had the highest at \$79,000 and Hmong had the lowest at \$48,000. Asian Americans (\$24,000) had a lower per capita income compared to total population (\$29,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$35,000).

⁵ Household size plays a significant factor in estimating wealth because household incomes are calculated by the income generated by all members of a household. If a household has multiple wage-earners contributing to the overall household income, the likelihood is greater for that household income to be larger. Analytically, per capita income is a more realistic measure of wealth than household income.

Japanese had the highest at \$32,000, while Hmong had the lowest at \$11,000. Asian Americans had a larger average household size (3.2) than total households (2.7) Non-Hispanic Whites (2.5).

>>> **Los Angeles:** the median household income for Asian Americans was \$68,000, which was higher than total households (\$59,000) and lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$75,000). Taiwanese had the highest at \$89,000, while Cambodians had the lowest at \$44,000. Asian Americans (\$29,000) had a slightly higher per capita income compared to total population (\$29,000), which was lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$47,000). Asian Indians had the highest per capita income at \$40,000, while Cambodians had the lowest at \$16,000. Asian Americans (3.1) had a larger average household size compared to total households (3.0) and Non-Hispanic Whites (2.4).

>>> **Fresno:** Asian Americans had a median household income at \$52,000, which was higher than total households (\$46,000) but lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$61,000). Hmong had a much lower median household income at \$33,000. Asian Americans had a lower per capita income at \$18,000 compared to total population (\$20,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$32,000). Hmong had a much lower per capita income at \$8,000. Asian Americans had a much larger average household size (3.9) compared to total households (3.2) and Non-Hispanic Whites (2.5).

The poverty rates for Asian Americans were lower than the rates for Non-Hispanic Whites. Among the subgroups, Hmong tended to have higher poverty rates. Asian Indians and Filipinos generally had lower poverty rates. Asian Americans had similar proportions of the population that received cash public assistance as Non-Hispanic Whites and the total households. Regarding subgroups, Vietnamese and Hmong were more likely to receive cash public assistance. Chinese and Japanese were less likely to receive cash public assistance.

In California, the poverty rate for Asian Americans (10%) was lower than the total population (13%) but larger than Non-Hispanic Whites (8%). The proportion of households who received cash public assistance was similar for Asian Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites (2%), which was slightly lower than total households (3%).

>>> **San Francisco:** the poverty rate for Asian Americans (8%) was higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (6%), but lower than the total population (10%). Vietnamese had the highest poverty rates at 15%. Asian Indians and Filipinos had the lowest poverty rates (4%). The proportion of households who received cash public assistance was similar for Asian Americans and total households (2%), which was slightly higher than that of Non-Hispanic Whites (1%). Vietnamese had a slightly larger proportion at 4%, while other subgroups had rates of about 2%.

>>> **Stockton:** the poverty rate for total population and Asian Americans was similar around 16%, which was much higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (9%). Filipinos had a lower poverty rate at 8%. Asian Americans had a larger proportion of households with cash public assistance (8%) compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (3%) and total households (5%). Filipinos had a rate of 5%.

>>> **San Diego:** Asian Americans (9%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (8%) had roughly the same poverty rate, which was less than total population (12%). Koreans had the highest poverty rates at 17%. Asian Indians had the lowest poverty rates (4%). The proportion of households who received cash public assistance was similar for Asian Americans, total households, and Non-Hispanic Whites (2%). Vietnamese had a slightly larger proportion at 3%, while Chinese (exclusive or inclusive of Taiwanese) had the lowest at 1%.

- >>> **Sacramento:** Asian Americans (15%) had higher poverty rate than total population (12%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (8%). The poverty rate for Asian ethnic subgroups spread from 28% for Hmong to 7% for Filipinos. Asian Americans had a slightly larger proportion of households with cash public assistance (5%) compared to total households (4%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (3%). The proportion of households who received cash public assistance ranged from 17% for Hmong to 2% for Japanese and Chinese (including Taiwanese).
- >>> **Los Angeles:** the poverty rate for Asian Americans was 10%, which was lower than total population (14%) but higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (7%). Cambodians had the highest poverty rates at 24%, while Filipinos and Asian Indians had the lowest (6% each). The proportion of households who received cash public assistance was similar for Asian Americans and Non-Hispanic Whites (2%), which was slightly lower than total households (3%). Among Asian ethnic subgroups, it ranged from 12% for Cambodians to 1% for Japanese.
- >>> **Fresno:** Asian Americans had roughly the same poverty rate with total population (22%), which was much larger than Non-Hispanic Whites (10%). Hmong had a higher poverty rate at 38%. Asian Americans had a larger proportion of households who received cash public assistance (10%) compared to total households (7%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (3%). The rate for Hmong was higher at 23%.

Fewer Asian Americans households had Social Security and retirement income compared to the total population and Non-Hispanic Whites. Among subgroups, Japanese were more likely to receive Social Security and retirement income. Asian Indians and Hmong were less likely to receive Social Security and retirement income.

In California, Asian American households (19%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (24%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (29%). Asian American households (9%) also had a lower proportion of population with retirement income compared to total households (15%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (20%).

- >>> **San Francisco:** Asian American households (20%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (23%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (26%). The proportion of households with Social Security income ranged from 24% for Japanese to 8% for Asian Indians. Asian American households (10%) also had a lower proportion of population with retirement income compared to total households (16%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (19%). The proportion of households with retirement income ranged from 17% for Japanese to 4% for Asian Indians.
- >>> **Stockton:** Asian American households (24%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (25%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (30%). The proportion of households with Social Security income for Filipinos was 23%. Asian American households (12%) also had a lower proportion of population with retirement income compared to total households (17%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (22%). The proportion of households with retirement income for Filipinos was 14%.
- >>> **San Diego:** Asian American households (19%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (23%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (28%). The proportion of households with Social Security income ranged from 26% for Japanese to 9% for Asian Indians. Asian American households (15%) also had a lower proportion of population

with retirement income compared to total households (17%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (21%). The proportion of households with retirement income ranged from 23% for Filipinos to 5% for Asian Indians.

- >>> **Sacramento:** Asian American households (18%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (24%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (28%). The proportion of households with Social Security income ranged from 33% for Japanese to 11% for Hmong and Vietnamese. Asian American households (11%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (20%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (23%). The proportion of households with retirement income ranged from 24% for Japanese to 3% for Hmong.
- >>> **Los Angeles:** Asian American households (19%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (22%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (27%). The proportion of households with Social Security income ranged from 29% for Japanese to 12% for Asian Indians. Asian American households (8%) also had a lower proportion of population with retirement income compared to total households (12%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (16%). The proportion of households with retirement income ranged from 17% for Japanese to 3% for Koreans.
- >>> **Fresno:** Asian American households (20%) had a lower proportion with Social Security income compared to total households (24%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (31%). The proportion of households with Social Security income for Hmong was 11%. Asian American households (9%) also had a lower proportion of population with retirement income compared to total households (15%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (20%). The proportion of households with retirement income for Hmong was even lower at 4%.

Housing Trends

Asian Americans had similar homeownership rates with the total population, which was lower than Non-Hispanic Whites. Compared to Non-Hispanic Whites, Asian Americans tended to have lower median home values. Asian American households had higher proportions of housing costs burdened compared to other major racial and ethnic groups.⁶ Among subgroups, Filipinos were more likely to be homeowners and Hmong were less likely. Asian Indians were more likely to have higher median home values and Hmong were more likely to have lower median home values. Koreans and Hmong had larger proportions of burdened households and Japanese had smaller proportions of burdened households.

In California, Asian Americans (58%) had roughly the same homeownership rate as the total households, which was lower than that of Non-Hispanic Whites (65%). Asian Americans had higher median home values (\$556,000) compared to total households (\$461,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$494,000). Over half of all California homeowners (53%) suffered from heavy housing burden. Asian Americans had a slightly higher proportion of burdened households (55%). Among all racial subgroups, only Non-Hispanic Whites had a lower proportion (48%) than the statewide average.

- >>> **San Francisco:** the homeownership rate for Asian Americans (58%) was higher than the total households (56%) but less than Non-Hispanic Whites (62%). Chinese (exclusive or inclusive of Taiwanese) and Filipinos had the highest at 61%, while Koreans had the lowest at 47%. The median home value for Asian Americans was \$655,000, which was lower than total

⁶ Homeowners paying 30% or more of household income on selected monthly housing costs are considered "cost burdened." Selected monthly owner costs are the sum of debt payments (e.g. mortgage or home equity loans), real estate taxes, insurance, utility, fuel, and condominium fees.

households (\$656,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$714,000). Koreans had the highest median home value (\$744,000), while Filipinos had the lowest at \$601,000. Asian American homeowners (54%) had a larger proportion of housing burdened households than total homeowners (52%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (47%). Korean homeowners had the highest proportion (66%) of burdened households, while Japanese had the lowest at 42%.

- >>> **Stockton:** the homeownership rate for Asian Americans (63%) was higher than the total households (61%) but less than Non-Hispanic Whites (70%). Filipinos had a rate of 69%. The median home value for Asian Americans was \$330,000, which was higher than total households (\$315,000) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$327,000). Filipinos had higher at \$341,000. Asian American homeowners (64%) had a larger proportion of housing burdened households than total homeowners (55%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (45%). Filipinos had a rate at 63%.
- >>> **San Diego:** the homeownership rate for Asian Americans (59%) was higher than the total households (56%) but less than Non-Hispanic Whites (63%). Filipinos had the highest at 63%, while Asian Indians had the lowest at 50%. The median home value for Asian Americans was \$484,000, which was roughly the same with total households (\$485,000) but lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$522,000). Asian Indians had the highest median home value (\$591,000), while Japanese Americans had the lowest at \$462,000. Asian American homeowners (55%) had roughly the same proportion of housing burdened households as total homeowners (54%), which was a little larger than Non-Hispanic Whites (50%). Koreans had the highest proportion (63%) among Asian ethnic subgroups, while Asian Indians had the lowest at 41%.
- >>> **Sacramento:** the homeownership rate for Asian Americans (62%) was roughly the same with total households but less than Non-Hispanic Whites (68%). Japanese had the highest at 70%, while Hmong had the lowest at 35%. The median home value for Asian Americans was \$360,000, which was roughly the same with total households (\$356,000.) but lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$367,000). Asian Indians had the highest median home value (\$389,000), while Hmong had the lowest at \$268,000. Asian American homeowners (54%) had a larger proportion of housing burdened households compared to total homeowners (50%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (46%). Hmong had the highest proportion (64%), while Japanese Americans had the lowest at 43%.
- >>> **Los Angeles:** the homeownership rate for Asian Americans (53%) was roughly the same with total households but less than Non-Hispanic Whites (61%). Taiwanese had the highest at 69%, while Cambodians had the lowest at 32%. The median home value for Asian Americans was \$568,000, which was higher than total households (\$547,000) but lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$629,000). Taiwanese Americans had the highest median home value (\$690,000), while Cambodians had the lowest at \$456,000. Asian American and total homeowners (55%) had a larger proportion of housing burdened households compared to Non-Hispanic Whites (49%). Korean Americans had the highest proportion (64%) of burdened households, while Japanese Americans had the lowest at 44%.
- >>> **Fresno:** the homeownership rate for Asian Americans (55%) was roughly the same with total households but less than Non-Hispanic Whites (67%). Hmong had a lower rate at 32%. The median home value for Asian Americans was \$288,000, which was higher than total households (\$261,000) and but

lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$289,000). Hmong had a lower median home value at \$192,000. Asian American homeowners (55%) had a larger proportion of housing burdened households compared to total homeowners (47%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (39%). Hmong had a larger percentage of burdened households at 63%.

Conclusion

As pensions decline, health and educational costs rise, home values and savings accounts shrink, and benefits under Social Security continue to be severely threatened and limited, asset-building strategies are needed now more than ever to close the racial wealth gap. In the aftermath of the Great Recession and foreclosure crisis, the goal of this report was to provide critical socioeconomic quantitative information and statistics on Asian Americans that would be useful for the state and regional asset-building coalitions in: 1) Developing their policy agenda, 2) Assisting with outreach by identifying where Asian American populations are concentrated residentially and geographically, which can perhaps lead to the strengthening of coalition efforts, and 3) Understanding cultural and linguistic barriers unique to Asian Americans, especially the Asian ethnic subgroups that are most in need. The quantitative data is meant to be used in relation with other sources of knowledge (qualitative, historical, voices from community leaders etc.) in order to offer fuller and more nuanced explanations. It is vital that we use multiple frameworks (research, organizing, advocacy, etc.) as we think about how to improve access and knowledge of asset-building programs and practices for underserved communities of color and end the widening racial wealth divide.

Much of the literature on poverty indicates that Southeast Asians (primarily Vietnamese, Lao, Hmong, and Cambodian immigrants) are amongst those that have the highest disparities in higher education, housing burden, and wealth in the United States. Under the Indochina Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1975, the majority of Southeast Asian refugees who fled their homelands in the aftermath of the U.S. invasion of Vietnam and Cambodia were placed in federal welfare programs as a temporary and “adaptive” measure. They are now entering a fourth consecutive decade of welfare dependency, contrary to government officials’ predictions of a seamless transition into American labor markets (Tang, 2000). Due to data limitations, this report only provides Asian ethnic subgroup data for Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Stockton Metropolitan Statistical Areas. In Fresno, subgroup data were only available for Hmong. In Stockton, data were only available for Filipinos. In San Diego, data were available for Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. In San Francisco, data were available for Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese. In Sacramento, data were available for Japanese, Asian Indian, Filipino, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Chinese. In Los Angeles, data were available for Asian Indian, Cambodian, Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Thai, and Vietnamese. Thus, we are able to shed light on a number of Southeast Asian subgroups and other disadvantaged Asian American subgroups.

Similar to American Indians, Blacks or African Americans, and Latinos, the majority of Asian Americans (especially the foreign-born) carry their net worth in their home equity, such that the loss of this asset is particularly devastating to their financial security. A study by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center revealed how Asian Americans made considerable economic progress with whites through the rapid appreciation of home values from 2000 to 2005 (Patraporn, Ong, and Houston, 2009). The average value of homes for Asian Americans increased by 73 percent, compared to only 60 percent for whites nationwide (Patraporn, Ong, and Houston, 2009). However, many of these gains were lost during the housing market meltdown. A Pew report indicated the net worth of Asian Americans is estimated to have fallen by 54 percent in the four year period from 2005 to 2009 (Kochhar, Fry, and Taylor, 2011). This massive decimation of wealth is largely due to Asian Americans residing in Arizona, California, Florida, and Nevada—four of the five states with the steepest declines in home prices in 2005 (Michigan is fifth). As communities of color have less wealth and home equity, it will be more difficult to afford a college education, which leads to better jobs that are needed to start saving and building wealth.

Currently, the majority of research articles and policy briefs on asset-building and wealth report aggregate socioeconomic data on Asian Americans, which often claim Asian Americans are doing well because of high educational attainment rates or high incomes. However, the lumping of all Asian American ethnic groups under the aggregate “Asian” category masks a high degree of variation in social and economic status across these subgroups. Thus, it is important to examine demographic trends below the surface, in order to serve real disadvantaged groups that are being completely neglected by mainstream asset-building and financial institutions. Although, Asian ethnic subgroup data was only provided for the Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Stockton metro areas, the report highlights the following key findings for Asian Americans:

Population Growth: South Asians were the fastest growing in California. The three largest groups in each metro area were: 1) Fresno—Bangladeshis (338%), Pakistanis (129%), and Asian Indians (82%); 2) Los Angeles—Bangladeshis (121%), Pakistanis (62%), and Sri Lankans (51%); 3) Sacramento—Bangladeshis (578%), Taiwanese (175%), and Sri Lankans (132%); 4) San Diego—Bangladeshis (245%), Pakistanis (134%), and Asian Indians (129%); 5) San Francisco—Taiwanese (138%), Bangladeshis (134%), and Hmong (97%), and 6) Stockton—Sri Lankans (392%), Pakistanis (156%), and Asian Indians (137%).

Citizenship & Language: The majority of Asians in California were foreign-born (65%). The percentage was much higher than the total population (27%) and Latinos (40%).

Among subgroups, Asian Indians were more likely to be foreign-born and Japanese were less likely to be foreign-born. Asians also had higher rates of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) than the total population. In San Francisco, Vietnamese (48%) and Chinese (47%) had the highest rates of persons, who did not speak English very well compared with the 18% of the total population. In Stockton, Filipinos had a LEP rate of 22% compared with 19% of the total population. In San Diego, Vietnamese (51%) had the highest rates of LEP compared with 16% of the total population. Hmong in Sacramento had the highest LEP rate at 50% versus 11% of the total population. In Los Angeles, Koreans had the highest rate (56%), followed by Vietnamese (55%), and Taiwanese (50%). In Fresno, nearly half of the Hmong population (49%) was Limited English Proficient.

Education: Asian Americans were more likely to have at least a high school diploma compared to the total population and Non-Hispanic Whites. Among subgroups, Vietnamese and Hmong tended to have a higher proportion with less than a high school diploma. Filipinos and Koreans largely held a Bachelor’s degree. Asian Indians and Chinese tended to have a higher proportion of those with a Graduate or professional degree.

Income: Household size plays a significant factor in estimating wealth because household incomes are calculated by the income generated by all members of a household. If a household has multiple wage-earners contributing to the overall household income, the likelihood is greater for that household income to be larger. Analytically, per capita income is a more realistic measure of wealth than household income. Asian American households tended to have higher median household incomes than other major racial and ethnic groups. Asian Indians had the highest median incomes. Vietnamese and Hmong had the lowest median income. In contrast, Asian Americans generally earned less per capita income than Non-Hispanic Whites. Vietnamese, Hmong, and Filipinos earned the lowest per capita income.

Poverty: The poverty rate for Asian Americans was generally lower than the total population, but higher than Non-Hispanic Whites. Among the subgroups, Hmong, Vietnamese and Cambodians had higher poverty rates, while Asian Indians and Filipinos had lower rates. Asian Americans had similar proportions of the population that received cash public assistance as Non-Hispanic Whites and the total households. Regarding subgroups, Vietnamese and Hmong were more likely to receive cash public assistance. Chinese and Japanese were less likely to receive cash public assistance.

Social Security and Retirement Income: Fewer Asian Americans households had Social Security and retirement income compared to the total population and Non-Hispanic Whites. Among subgroups, Japanese were more likely to receive Social Security and retirement income. Asian Indians and Hmong

were less likely to receive Social Security and retirement income. This underutilization of Social Security and retirement programs may be due to language barriers and foreign-born status. As immigrants, there is a greater likelihood that they are unfamiliar, unaware or ineligible for Social Security and retirement programs because of cultural barriers. Many times, even if an Asian immigrant is deemed eligible for a benefit or service, being able to “navigate the system” is a huge hurdle for many in order to actually obtain the benefit or service.

Housing: Asian Americans had lower homeownership rates and home values compared to Non-Hispanic Whites. Taiwanese, Japanese, and Filipinos had the highest homeownership rate, and Hmong, Cambodians, and Koreans had the lowest. Asian Indians were more likely to have higher median home values and Hmong were more likely to have lower median home values. In addition, the majority of Asian Americans had higher housing costs burden than Non-Hispanic Whites and the total population. Koreans and Hmong had larger proportions of burdened households and Japanese had smaller proportions of burdened households. This may be due to the high self-employment rates of Asian Americans, which prevent them from accessing conventional mortgage lending products. As a result, they must often find non-traditional or alternative mortgage credit products with higher loan rates or amounts (Asian Real Estate Association of America, 2012).

In conclusion, in order to be effective in strengthening asset-building opportunities for communities of color, it is critical to provide cultural and linguistically appropriate materials, services, and education, in particular to underserved immigrant populations. Moreover, future research must collect data on smaller Asian ethnic group populations, in which no data is available because of data suppression practices associated with confidentiality requirements when the sample sizes are too small. A few foundations, such as the Ford Foundation, have responded to addressing these needs, but much more can be done in terms of technical assistance, outreach, advocacy, data collection, capturing voices and stories at the local level, in order to offer fuller and more nuanced explanations and close the racial wealth gap.

The **Technical Report** with this demographic profile’s methodology, definitions, and detailed data charts and tables is available to download at: www.aasc.ucla.edu/besol.

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