

# ASIAN AMERICANS IN METRO BOSTON: Growth, Diversity, and Complexity

Prepared for the Metro Boston Equity Initiative of The Harvard Civil Rights Project

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## Introduction

In the introduction to *The New Face of Asian Pacific America: Numbers, Diversity and Change in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the book's editors Eric Lai and Dennis Arguelles observe that: "Far too often and for far too long, statistics have been used to paint an inaccurate portrait of the Asian Pacific American community, often to its detriment. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, immigration statistics were used to foment fears of a 'yellow peril,' justify restrictive quotas, and discourage Asian workers from settling in the United States. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, statistics were used to portray Asian Pacific Americans as a monolithic Model Minority, a community in which everyone was well-educated and well-off, a concept that is often used to drive a wedge between minority communities."<sup>1</sup> Mindful of the potential of statistics to perpetuate myths and misunderstandings about Asian Americans, we are determined in this report to utilize data drawn from the 2000 U.S. Census to paint as accurately as possible a portrait of the often ignored and misrepresented Asian American community in Metro Boston.<sup>2</sup>

Our primary focus, consequently, is on description rather than on detailed analysis or even informed speculation. In writing about many groups this emphasis might seem relatively insignificant. In the case of Asian Americans, however, there have been few efforts to describe them fully and of the descriptions that have emerged many have been simplistic, stereotypical, and devoid of critical nuances. Furthermore, in many studies where race has been a critical consideration, Asian Americans have either been simply excluded or lumped indiscriminately in a similarly simplistic fashion either with majority whites or with other minorities. Certainly seeking answers to the "why" questions are critical undertakings with regard to Asian Americans. Nevertheless, we maintain that it is an important contribution and an essential preliminary component for effective analysis

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<sup>1</sup> Eric Lai and Dennis Arguelles, eds., *The New Face of Asian Pacific America: Numbers, Diversity and Change in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Berkeley, CA: *Asian Week* with UCLA Asian American Studies Center Press, 2003), 1.

<sup>2</sup> For purposes of this report, Metro Boston entails the census geographical area defined as the "Massachusetts (part); Boston-Worcester-Lawrence-Lowell-Brockton, MA-NH New England county metropolitan area." This area includes Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester counties, and 192 cities and towns. The source of the data in this paper is U.S. Census Data 2000 Summary File (SF-4) Sample Data unless otherwise indicated.

to describe what the Asian American community looks like and to capture accurately three essential components - its growth, diversity, and enormous complexity.

The stunning growth of the Asian American population, fed significantly by immigration, has been dramatic. As in an earlier time, some might even now regard this expansion as perilous, particularly if statistics on growth rates are all that are considered. A fuller understanding of Asian Americans in Metro Boston, therefore, requires an appreciation of the diversity that exists within that population. Far from the monolithic characterization that Lai and Arguelles refer to, the Asian American community is incredibly diverse in its characteristics and socio-economic condition. Furthermore, an accurate portrait requires a full recognition of the ways in which rapid growth and diversity contribute to complexity. On numerous dimensions – educational attainment, income, employment, etc., it is unwise and impossible to portray in any simple way what is happening in the Asian American community.

We must not lose sight of the fact that race has been and remains a critical factor in the lives and destinies of Asian Americans. We are mindful as well that the complexity that accompanies diversity has potentially important policy implications when dealing with Asian Americans. When considered collectively Asian Americans run the gamut. They are rich and poor, well and poorly educated, city and suburban dwellers, professionals and manual laborers. Individual Asian subgroups often occupy different locations on these divides. Assuredly, given this situation, one size fits all policies in areas such as immigration, education, social welfare, housing, and employment may be inappropriate where Asian Americans are concerned. Especially due to the continuing importance of race, we must caution once again that as responses to this complexity and the difficulty of accounting for its sources and consequences, policy practitioners and analysts should not be tempted to ignore or oversimplify the situation of Asian Americans in Metro Boston and throughout the United States.

## **Size, Growth, and Geographical Distribution**

In 2000 the Metro Boston Asian American population was 223,424<sup>3</sup>, comprising over 4% of the total Metro Boston population (Table 1). The Asian American population grew by 70% in the 1990s. This compares to a growth rate for the overall population of less than 6%. Twenty cities and towns within Metro Boston in 2000 had at least 2000 Asian Americans (Table 2). These cities and towns are remarkably diverse – urban and suburban, well-to-do and struggling, racially heterogeneous and homogenous. Boston had the largest Asian American population followed by Lowell, Quincy, Cambridge, Worcester, Malden, Brookline, Newton, and Lynn. The large cities, therefore, generally

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<sup>3</sup> The data reported in this report includes those persons identified as selecting one race alone with the exception of instances where figures for “total population” are designated which include all persons. It is important to bear in mind some of the consequences of reporting statistics on single race persons. For example, by utilizing “Asian alone” when referring to Asian Americans, the numbers reported represent the minimum figures for Asian Americans. By not including persons who indicated Asian and at least one other race in our calculations, we do not account for multiracial individuals who might be regarded as “Asian Americans.” In 2000, 23,544 persons identified themselves as Asian in combination with one or more other races, meaning that 9.5% of all Asians (those reporting Asian alone and Asian in combination with one or more other race) were multiracial.

**Table 1. Population by Race**

|                                  | <b>1990</b> | <b>2000</b> | <b>% change</b> | <b>% of 2000 population</b> |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| White*                           | 4,480,028   | 4,439,861   | -0.9%           | 86.0%                       |
| Black or African American        | 256,969     | 295,106     | 14.8%           | 5.7%                        |
| Asian American                   | 131,453     | 223,424     | 70.0%           | 4.3%                        |
| Native American                  | 9,304       | 11,629      | 25.0%           | 0.2%                        |
| Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander | 1,061       | 2,224       | 109.6%          | 0.0%                        |
| Other Race                       | 121,032     | 189,895     | N/A**           | 3.7%                        |
| TOTAL ONE RACE                   | -           | 5,161,876   | N/A             | 97.6%                       |
| TOTAL TWO OR MORE RACES          | -           | 125,517     | N/A             | 2.4%                        |
| TOTAL POP                        | 4,999,847   | 5,287,393   | 5.8%            | 100.0%                      |
| Latino***                        |             | 347,242     |                 |                             |

\* 96.8% of Whites are non-Latino.

\*\* The change in the composition of the Other Race category between 1990 and 2000 does not allow for comparison.

\*\*\* Latinos may be of any race.

Data Sets: U.S. Census 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF 1) 100% Data and U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

**Table 2. Asian American Population in Cities and Towns with 2000 or More Asian Americans**

|            | <b>Asian Am. 1990</b> | <b>Asian Am. 2000</b> | <b>Absolute Change</b> | <b>Percent Change</b> |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Boston     | 30,388                | 44,284                | 13,896                 | 45.7%                 |
| Lowell     | 11,493                | 17,371                | 5,878                  | 51.1%                 |
| Quincy     | 5,577                 | 13,546                | 7,969                  | 142.9%                |
| Cambridge  | 8,081                 | 12,036                | 3,955                  | 48.9%                 |
| Worcester  | 4,770                 | 8,402                 | 3,632                  | 76.1%                 |
| Malden     | 2,815                 | 7,882                 | 5,067                  | 180.0%                |
| Brookline  | 4,585                 | 7,325                 | 2,740                  | 59.8%                 |
| Newton     | 3,760                 | 6,434                 | 2,674                  | 71.1%                 |
| Lynn       | 3,003                 | 5,730                 | 2,727                  | 90.8%                 |
| Somerville | 2,824                 | 4,990                 | 2,166                  | 76.7%                 |
| Waltham    | 2,055                 | 4,318                 | 2,263                  | 110.1%                |
| Framingham | 1,904                 | 3,527                 | 1,623                  | 85.2%                 |
| Lexington  | 1,876                 | 3,310                 | 1,434                  | 76.4%                 |
| Randolph   | 1,675                 | 3,151                 | 1,476                  | 88.1%                 |
| Burlington | 1,040                 | 2,436                 | 1,396                  | 134.2%                |
| Shrewsbury | 904                   | 2,408                 | 1,504                  | 166.4%                |
| Medford    | 1,152                 | 2,157                 | 1,005                  | 87.2%                 |
| Revere     | 1,571                 | 2,146                 | 575                    | 36.6%                 |
| Arlington  | 1,351                 | 2,107                 | 756                    | 56.0%                 |
| Brockton   | 1,589                 | 2,066                 | 477                    | 30.0%                 |

Data Sets: U.S. Census 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF 1) 100% Data and U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

speaking did have the largest Asian American populations. By and large, the greatest increases in Asian American populations, however, were recorded in suburban cities and towns – Malden 180%, Shrewsbury 166.4%, Quincy 142.9%, Burlington 134.2%, and Waltham 110.1%. The communities that experienced relatively more modest growth were Brockton 30%, Revere 36.6%, Boston 45.7%, Cambridge 48.9%, and Lowell 51.1%.

The themes of diversity, complexity, and growth are amply demonstrated in the broad range of Asian ethnic groups represented among Metro Boston’s Asian American population. Fifteen Asian ethnic groups each had at least 500 persons (Table 3). The histories and experiences of these groups are as diverse as their number, and much too difficult to ably summarize in a short space. The Chinese, for example, have been a presence in this region for several decades, and they have been influenced by several immigration regimes stretching back prior to the Chinese exclusion period well over a century ago. Indians immigrated to this region in significant numbers only after passage of the Hart-Cellar Act in 1965. Southeast Asian groups, including Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians, Thai, and Hmong, began arriving in substantial numbers, many as refugees, less than thirty years ago. The Japanese and Korean communities are each comprised of a large number of college and graduate students.

**Table 3. Population by Asian Subgroup**

|                             | <b>1990</b> | <b>2000</b> | <b>% Change</b> | <b>% AAs in 2000</b> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Bangladesh alone            | –           | 544         | –               | 0.2%                 |
| Cambodian                   | 13,405      | 18,890      | 40.9%           | 8.5%                 |
| Chinese                     | 50,713      | 78,415      | 54.6%           | 35.1%                |
| Filipino                    | 5,523       | 7,415       | 34.3%           | 3.3%                 |
| Hmong                       | 228         | 1,038       | 355.3%          | 0.5%                 |
| Indian                      | 17,978      | 41,240      | 129.4%          | 18.5%                |
| Indonesian                  | –           | 670         | -               | 0.3%                 |
| Japanese                    | 7,912       | 9,699       | 22.6%           | 4.3%                 |
| Korean                      | 10,107      | 15,615      | 54.5%           | 7.0%                 |
| Laotian                     | 3,797       | 3,576       | -5.8%           | 1.6%                 |
| Malaysian                   | –           | 199         | –               | 0.1%                 |
| Pakastani                   | –           | 1,821       | –               | 0.8%                 |
| Sri Lankan                  | –           | 602         | –               | 0.3%                 |
| Taiwanese                   | –           | 2,208       | –               | 1.0%                 |
| Thai                        | 1,314       | 1,969       | 49.8%           | 0.9%                 |
| Vietnamese                  | 14,502      | 31,511      | 117.3%          | 14.1%                |
| Other Asian                 | –           | 533         | –               | 0.2%                 |
| Other Asian, not specified  | –           | 3,655       | –               | 1.6%                 |
| Total Asian (one ethnicity) | –           | 219,600     | –               | 98.3%                |
| Total Asian*                | 131,453     | 223,424     | 70.0%           | 100.0%               |

Data Sets: U.S. Census 1990 Summary Tape File 1 (STF 1) 100% Data and U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

\* This total reflects Asians who identified themselves as one or more Asian subgroups.

As in 1990 and, indeed, throughout most of the history of Asian Americans in Metro Boston, the Chinese in 2000 remained the largest Asian American group. Their share of the total Asian American population, however, dropped from 39% in 1990 to 35% in 2000. Indians and Vietnamese remained the second and third largest Asian American groups, but unlike the Chinese their shares of the population increased in the 1990s. The Indian portion of the Asian American population increased in 2000 to 19% from 14% in 1990. The Vietnamese share also grew, from 11% in 1990 to 14% in 2000. For certain Asian ethnic groups their growth rates were even more dramatic than the 70% increase for the overall Asian American population. The Hmong population, for example, grew by a whopping 355.3%, Indians by 129.4%, and Vietnamese by 117.3%.

Diversity is clearly apparent as well in the distribution of Asian ethnic groups in Metro Boston's cities and towns. The larger cities and towns in Metro Boston with Asian American populations greater than 2000, including Boston, Lowell, Cambridge, Worcester, were most likely to include persons from a broad array of Asian ethnic groups (Table 4).

**Table 4. Population of Asian Subgroups in Cities and Towns with 2000 or More Asian Americans**

|            | Cambodian | Chinese | Filipino | Hmong | Indian | Japanese | Korean | Laotian | Pakistani | Thai | Vietnamese |
|------------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|--------|----------|--------|---------|-----------|------|------------|
| Boston     | 528       | 19,638  | 1,405    | -     | 4,442  | 2,384    | 2,564  | 114     | 267       | 378  | 10,818     |
| Lowell     | 9,850     | 661     | 106      | -     | 2,424  | -        | 147    | 1,541   | -         | 108  | 1,598      |
| Quincy     | -         | 9,184   | 517      | -     | 1,127  | 146      | 241    | -       | -         | 102  | 1,679      |
| Cambridge  | -         | 4,854   | 265      | -     | 2,720  | 943      | 1,901  | -       | 125       | 156  | 235        |
| Worcester  | 250       | 1,181   | 147      | -     | 1,021  | 191      | 224    | 120     | -         | -    | 4,764      |
| Malden     | 144       | 4,504   | 157      | -     | 962    | -        | 249    | -       | -         | -    | 1,343      |
| Brookline  | -         | 3,509   | 143      | -     | 932    | 1,302    | 861    | -       | -         | -    | 109        |
| Newton     | -         | 4,047   | 161      | -     | 769    | 352      | 530    | -       | -         | -    | 181        |
| Lynn       | 3,050     | 204     | -        | -     | 353    | -        | -      | 262     | -         | -    | 1,112      |
| Somerville | -         | 1,862   | 161      | -     | 1,363  | 289      | 462    | -       | -         | -    | 329        |
| Waltham    | -         | 1,472   | 115      | -     | 1,580  | 129      | 355    | -       | -         | -    | 301        |
| Framingham | -         | 1,215   | 101      | -     | 1,488  | 152      | 208    | -       | -         | -    | 137        |
| Lexington  | -         | 1,692   | -        | -     | 672    | 214      | 431    | -       | -         | -    | -          |
| Randolph   | -         | 1,516   | 232      | -     | 439    | -        | -      | -       | -         | -    | 718        |
| Burlington | -         | 529     | -        | -     | 1,570  | -        | -      | -       | -         | -    | -          |
| Shrewsbury | -         | 720     | -        | -     | 1,148  | -        | -      | -       | -         | -    | 212        |
| Medford    | -         | 886     | -        | -     | 411    | -        | 159    | -       | -         | -    | 319        |
| Revere     | 847       | 271     | -        | -     | 251    | -        | -      | -       | -         | -    | 397        |
| Arlington  | -         | 860     | -        | -     | 470    | 246      | 223    | -       | -         | -    | -          |
| Brockton   | 162       | 530     | 249      | 197   | 220    | -        | -      | -       | -         | -    | 283        |

Data Set: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

On the other hand, suburban communities such as Burlington, Shrewsbury, Revere, Medford, and Randolph largely drew their Asian populations from two or three Asian subgroups. In thirteen of the cities and towns, the Chinese were the largest group. In certain places, however, the Chinese population lagged considerably behind that of other Asian groups. In Lowell and Lynn, for example, the Chinese were the fifth largest group. Cambodians were the largest group in Lowell, Lynn, and Revere. Indians were the largest group in four suburban communities outside of Boston-Waltham, Framingham, Burlington, and Shrewsbury. In Worcester, whose total population was the second largest in the region, the Vietnamese were the largest group.

The patterns of residence for individual Asian groups also reflect considerable diversity. The Chinese, for example, are heavily concentrated in Boston and in towns and cities touching or closely adjacent to Boston (Table 5).

**Table 5. Cities and Towns with Largest Population for Asian Subgroups**

| <b>Cambodian</b> |       | <b>Chinese</b>  |        | <b>Filipino</b> |       | <b>Hmong</b>      |        |
|------------------|-------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|-------|-------------------|--------|
| Lowell           | 9,850 | Boston          | 19,638 | Boston          | 1,405 | Fitchburg         | 629    |
| Lynn             | 3,050 | Quincy          | 9,184  | Quincy          | 517   | Brockton          | 197    |
| Fall River       | 1,225 | Cambridge       | 4,854  | Cambridge       | 265   | Leominster        | 100    |
| Revere           | 847   | Malden          | 4,504  | Brockton        | 249   |                   |        |
| Attleboro        | 541   | Newton          | 4,047  | Randolph        | 232   |                   |        |
| Boston           | 528   | Brookline       | 3,509  | Newton          | 161   | <b>Laotian</b>    |        |
| Lawrence         | 497   | Somerville      | 1,862  | Somerville      | 161   | Lowell            | 1,541  |
| Chelsea          | 250   | Lexington       | 1,692  | Malden          | 157   | Fitchburg         | 368    |
| Worcester        | 250   | Randolph        | 1,516  | Worcester       | 147   | Lynn              | 262    |
| Brockton         | 162   | Waltham         | 1,472  | Brookline       | 143   | Leominster        | 194    |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Southbridge       | 130    |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Worcester         | 120    |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Boston            | 114    |
| <b>Indian</b>    |       | <b>Japanese</b> |        | <b>Korean</b>   |       | <b>Pakistani</b>  |        |
| Boston           | 4,442 | Boston          | 2,384  | Boston          | 2,564 | Boston            | 267    |
| Cambridge        | 2,720 | Brookline       | 1,302  | Cambridge       | 1,901 | Cambridge         | 125    |
| Lowell           | 2,424 | Cambridge       | 943    | Brookline       | 861   |                   |        |
| Waltham          | 1,580 | Newton          | 352    | Newton          | 530   |                   |        |
| Burlington       | 1,570 | Somerville      | 289    | Somerville      | 462   |                   |        |
| Framingham       | 1,488 | Arlington       | 246    | Lexington       | 431   |                   |        |
| Somerville       | 1,363 | Lexington       | 214    | Waltham         | 355   | <b>Vietnamese</b> |        |
| Shrewsbury       | 1,148 | Belmont         | 212    | Andover         | 286   | Boston            | 10,818 |
| Quincy           | 1,127 | Worcester       | 191    | Wellesley       | 266   | Worcester         | 4,764  |
| Worcester        | 1,021 | Framingham      | 152    | Malden          | 249   | Quincy            | 1,679  |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Lowell            | 1,598  |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Malden            | 1,343  |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Lynn              | 1,112  |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Chelsea           | 870    |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Lawrence          | 722    |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Randolph          | 718    |
|                  |       |                 |        |                 |       | Everett           | 674    |
| <b>Thai</b>      |       |                 |        |                 |       |                   |        |
| Boston           | 378   |                 |        |                 |       |                   |        |
| Cambridge        | 156   |                 |        |                 |       |                   |        |
| Lowell           | 108   |                 |        |                 |       |                   |        |
| Quincy           | 102   |                 |        |                 |       |                   |        |

Data Set: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

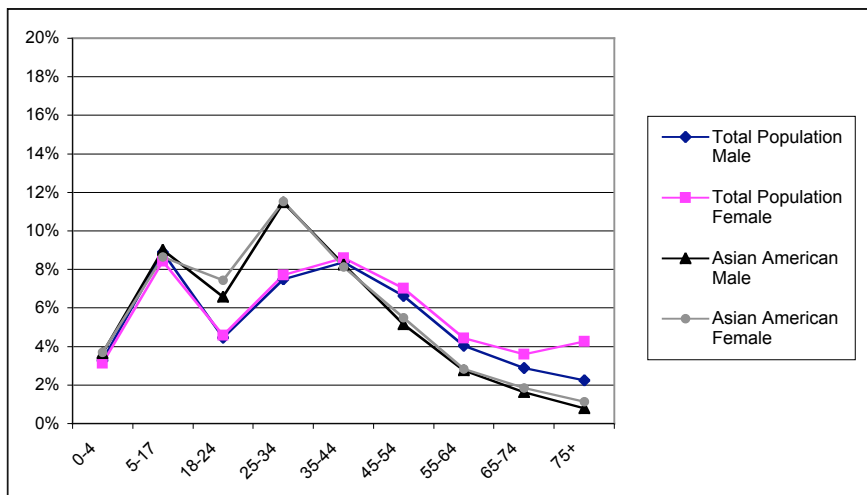
The patterns of Filipino, Japanese, and Korean settlement are similar to that of the Chinese. The Cambodian community is heavily concentrated in Lowell with significant communities in Lynn, Fall River, and Revere. Fitchburg has by far the area's largest number of Hmong residents. Vietnamese tend to live largely in the areas larger cities and towns – Boston, Worcester, Quincy, Lowell, Malden, and Lynn. Indians, in contrast, are distributed broadly throughout the region in cities and towns-large and small, urban and suburban.

## Age and Sex

The age and sex distribution of Asian Americans differed significantly from that of the general population in several categories (Figure 1 and Table A-1). The percentage of Asian Americans in the age groups 45 years old and older, for example, was much lower than that of the total population. This discrepancy was particularly pronounced in the oldest age groups. On the other hand, in the 18-24 and especially in the 25-44 year old age groups, a considerably higher percentage of Asian Americans were found compared to the total population. The overall gender distribution of Asian Americans was 49.2% male and 50.8% female.

In examining the distribution of age and sex for specific Asian American groups, there were some notable variations (Figure 2 and Table A-2). Pakistanis and Indians, for example, had considerably higher percentages of males compared to females, 56.4% to 43.6% for Pakistanis and 53.8% to 46.2% for Indians. In contrast, the Filipino and Japanese groups were disproportionately female. For Filipinos the gender distribution was 41.3% male and 58.7% female; for Japanese, 42.1% male and 57.9% female.

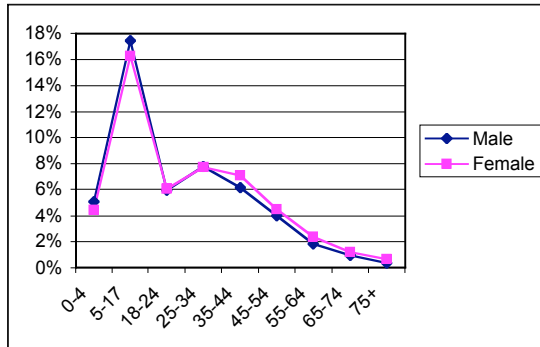
**Figure 1. Age and Sex for Asian Americans and Total Population**



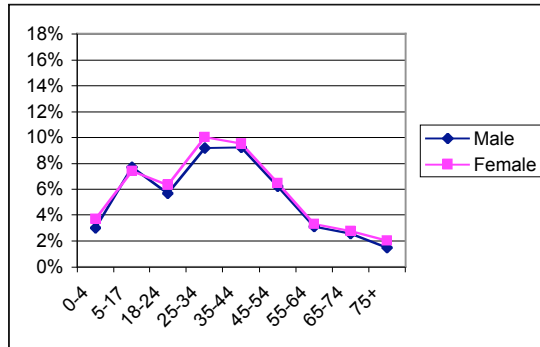
Data Set: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

**Figure 2. Age and Sex for Selected Asian Subgroups**

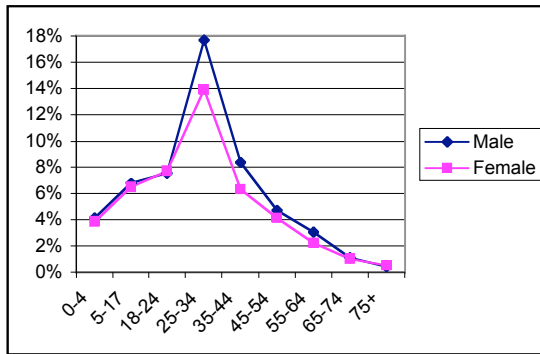
**Cambodian**



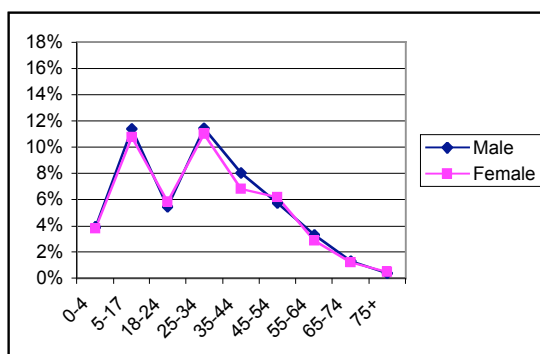
**Chinese**



**Indian**



**Vietnamese**



Data Set: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

There was little uniformity in the patterns of age distributions among various Asian ethnic groups. For instance, compared with other Asian American groups, an especially large percentage of Cambodians and Hmong were in the two youngest categories. At the other end of the age spectrum a higher percentage of Chinese were in the two oldest age groups compared with other Asian American groups. This may reflect the fact that the Chinese have been established for the longest time of any Asian group in Metro Boston. A comparatively higher percentage of Indians was in the 25-34 years old category.

**Nativity, Citizenship, and English Language Proficiency**

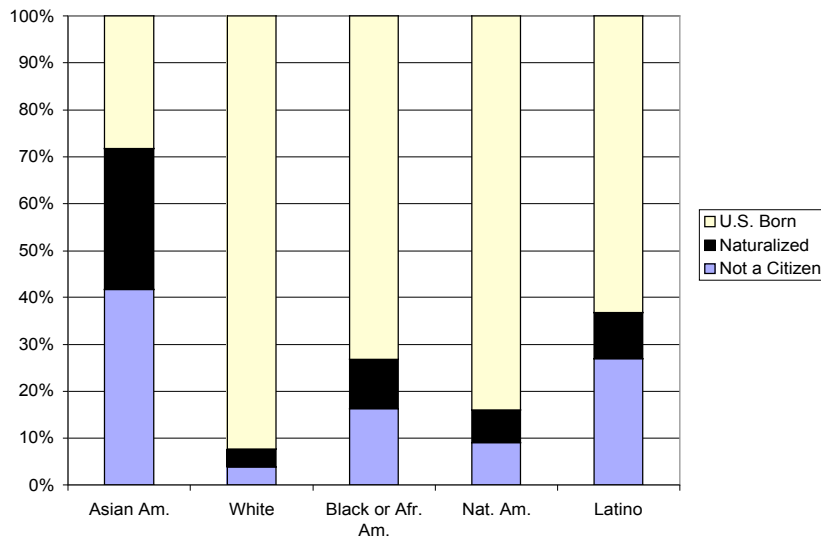
In order to fully understand and analyze the circumstances of Asian Americans in Metro Boston, we maintain that it is absolutely essential to understand the interplay of immigration policies and immigrant experiences. As we have indicated, it is not possible within the scope of this report to adequately account for these policies and experiences. We simply want to reiterate the fact that the diversity and complexity that are reflected



throughout much of the information in this portrait of Asian Americans are linked to the varied policies, time periods, and political, social, and economic realities that accompanied the arrival and reception of each of the Asian ethnic groups.

Data on nativity and citizenship readily reflect the immigrant foundations of the Asian American population. Furthermore, this information is extremely useful in providing a context for analyzing policies and strategies as they influence Asian Americans in diverse domains – social welfare, education, political participation, housing, employment, and community development. One can imagine, for example, myriad political and strategic implications accompanying the fact that over 70% of Asian Americans in Metro Boston were foreign-born, by far the highest percentage of any group in the region (Figure 3 and Table 6). Fewer than 60% of all Asian Americans were United States citizens, the smallest percentage of any group. Among the groups with large percentages of foreign born populations, however, Asian Americans had 42.1% of its foreign-born population become citizens compared with Blacks or African Americans with 39.2% and Latinos with 26.6% naturalized.

**Figure 3. Nativity and Citizenship by Race and Latino Origin**



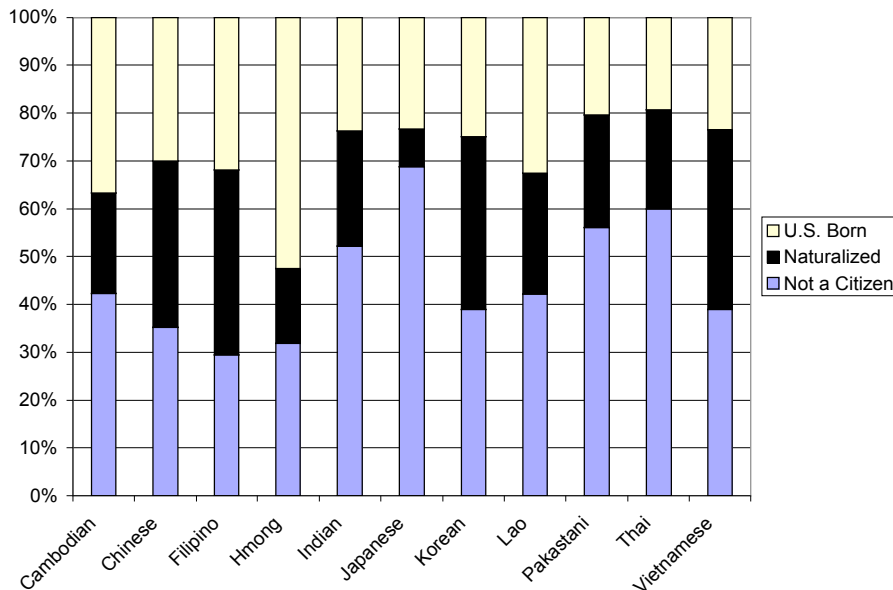
**Table 6. Nativity and Citizenship by Race and Latino Origin**

|               | Asian Am. | White | Black or Afr. Am. | Nat. Am. | Latino |
|---------------|-----------|-------|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Foreign Born  | 71.8%     | 7.7%  | 26.8%             | 15.9%    | 36.8%  |
| Not a Citizen | 41.6%     | 3.8%  | 16.3%             | 9.0%     | 27.0%  |
| Naturalized   | 30.2%     | 3.9%  | 10.5%             | 6.9%     | 9.8%   |
| U.S. Born     | 28.2%     | 92.3% | 73.2%             | 84.1%    | 63.2%  |

When examining specific Asian American groups there was some variation with regard to nativity and citizenship (Figure 4 and Table 7). Although all of the Asian groups, with the exception of the Hmong at 47.6%, had foreign-born populations greater than 60%, the Pakistanis and Thais had foreign-born populations of 79.7% and 80.7% respectively. Stated in another way, only the Hmong had a U.S.-born population greater than 40%.

The Asian subgroups with the largest portions of their foreign-born populations naturalized were the Filipinos, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Koreans. The communities with the highest overall percentages of U.S. citizens were the Filipinos, Hmong, and Chinese. The Japanese with 31.2% had by far the lowest citizenship rate. One can speculate that this reflects the relatively large number of Japanese residents of the region who were students (Table A-3).

**Figure 4. Nativity and Citizenship by Asian Subgroup**



**Table 7. Nativity and Citizenship by Asian Subgroup**

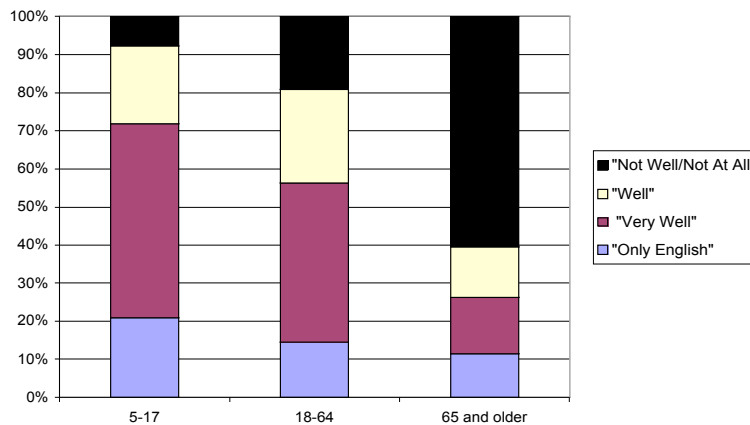
|               | <b>Cambodian</b> | <b>Chinese</b> | <b>Filipino</b> | <b>Hmong</b> | <b>Indian</b> | <b>Japanese</b> |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Foreign Born  | 63.3%            | 70.1%          | 68.1%           | 47.6%        | 76.3%         | 76.6%           |
| Not a Citizen | 42.3%            | 35.3%          | 29.4%           | 31.9%        | 52.2%         | 68.8%           |
| Naturalized   | 21.0%            | 34.8%          | 38.7%           | 15.7%        | 24.1%         | 7.8%            |
| U.S. Born     | 36.7%            | 29.9%          | 31.9%           | 52.4%        | 23.7%         | 23.4%           |

|               | <b>Korean</b> | <b>Laotian</b> | <b>Pakastani</b> | <b>Thai</b> | <b>Vietnamese</b> |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Foreign Born  | 75.1%         | 67.4%          | 79.7%            | 80.7%       | 76.5%             |
| Not a Citizen | 39.0%         | 42.1%          | 56.1%            | 60.0%       | 38.9%             |
| Naturalized   | 36.1%         | 25.3%          | 23.6%            | 20.7%       | 37.6%             |
| U.S. Born     | 24.9%         | 32.6%          | 20.3%            | 19.3%       | 23.5%             |

An important accompaniment of information about the citizenship and nativity of Asian Americans is data on their English language proficiency. Language issues are of strong importance to Asian Americans. The diverse countries of origin of Asian Americans mean that many Asian Americans concomitantly speak a broad range of languages adding to the complex relationships among Asian American groups. In contrast to the large foreign-born Latino population, for example, who mostly share the Spanish language, Asian groups do not have a corresponding non-English language that ties them together. Asian American immigrants from a range of Asian subgroups, therefore, have a considerable stake in the development of their English language capabilities for personal and, to the extent that they exist or are germane, larger group interests. English, in short, must serve as a tie that binds many Asian Americans together as well as a vehicle for facilitating their participation in the economic, political, and social life of American society.

For Asian Americans in Metro Boston, English language proficiency is strongly associated with age (Figure 5). Fewer than 10% of Asian Americans in the youngest age group (5-17 years old) were described as “not well or not at all well” proficient in English. Between the ages of 18 and 64 years old, approximately 20% reported that level of proficiency. In the oldest age group, over 60% were described as “not well or not at all well” proficient.

**Figure 5. English Proficiency by Age Among Asian Americans**



### Household and Per Capita Income, Poverty Status, and Public Assistance

The median household income of Asian Americans was less than that of whites and considerably greater than that of other groups (Table 8). In the case of Asian Americans, however, the aggregate income figure, as was true for several other variables, masked the wide diversity among specific Asian subgroups where the range of incomes was substantial (Table 9). At the high end, Indians had a median household income in 2000 of nearly \$72,000. Filipinos and Chinese also had incomes above the median for all Asian

Americans. Cambodians with approximately \$38,000 had the lowest median family income of any Asian American group. Their income was the closest to those of Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans. Japanese, Koreans, Vietnamese, Thais, Hmong, and Laotians had incomes below the Asian American median.

**Table 8. Median Household Income by Race and Latino Origin**

| Asian Am. | White    | Black or Afr. Am. | Nat. Am. | Latino   | TOTAL POP |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| \$51,830  | \$54,976 | \$34,680          | \$37,547 | \$29,294 | \$52,154  |

**Table 9. Median Household Income by Asian Subgroup**

| Cambodian | Chinese  | Filipino | Hmong    | Indian   | Japanese |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| \$37,295  | \$52,121 | \$60,524 | \$46,875 | \$71,771 | \$38,033 |

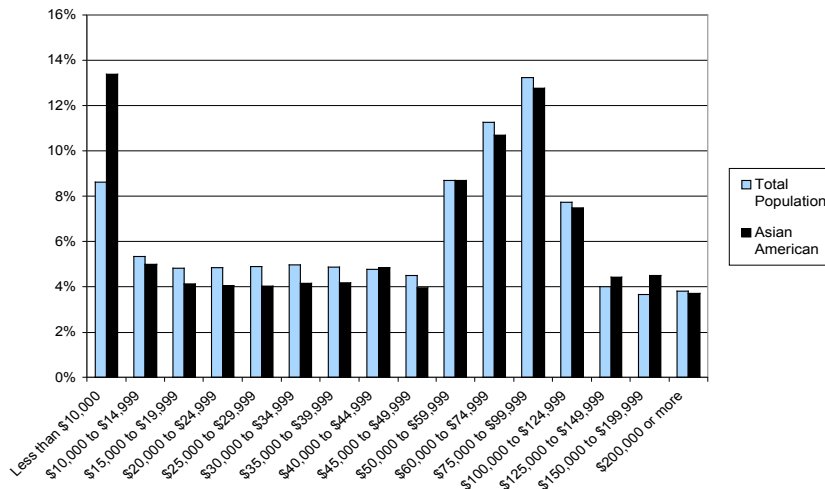
  

| Korean   | Laotian  | Pakistani | Thai     | Vietnamese |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|
| \$40,408 | \$50,893 | \$45,174  | \$44,167 | \$42,402   |

A factor that might help to account for the relatively lower income levels of Japanese, Koreans, and some other groups might be the large number of college students within their ranks (Table A-3). For example, 34.3% of Japanese and 33.4% of Koreans in Metro Boston were enrolled in college or graduate schools.

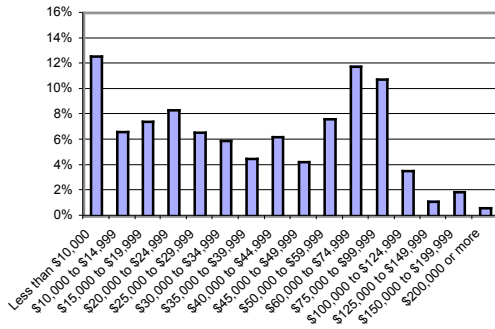
Generally speaking, the distribution of Asian American household incomes approximated that of the total population with one very notable exception (Figure 6). Nearly 14% of Asian Americans were in the lowest income category (those making less than \$10,000) compared with just over 8% of the total population. Indeed the largest number of Asian American households was in the lowest income category. For the total population the category with the largest number of households was \$75,000 to \$99,999.

**Figure 6. Household Income Distribution for Asian Americans and Total Population**

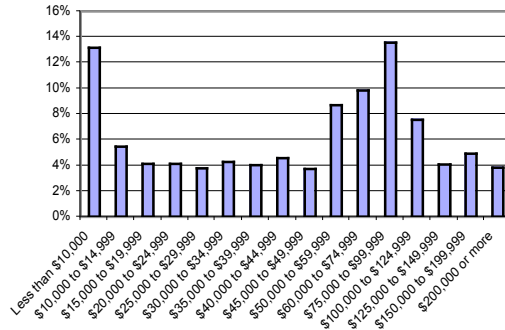


**Figure 7. Household Income Distribution for Selected Asian Subgroups**

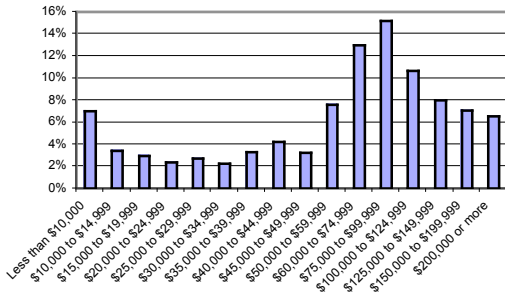
**Cambodian**



**Chinese**



**Indian**



**Vietnamese**

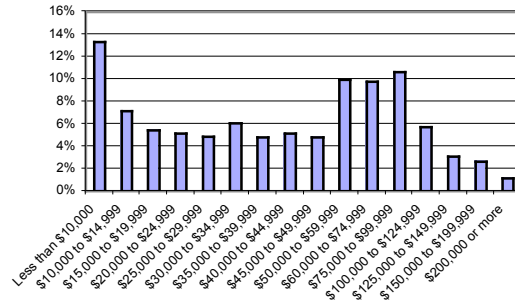


Figure 7 shows that when considering the four largest Asian American groups there are some significant disparities in their income distributions. For example, almost half of all Indian households had incomes over \$75,000 while fewer than 20% of Cambodian households had incomes over \$75,000. About 13% of Indian households had incomes below \$20,000 compared to approximately 25% of Cambodian and Vietnamese households.

The mean per capita income of Asian Americans, \$21,712, was substantially lower than that of whites, \$28,822, and higher than that of Latinos, \$12,546, Native Americans, \$16,214, and Blacks or African Americans, \$16,230 (Table 10).

**Table 10. Per Capita Income by Race and Latino Origin**

| Asian Am. | White    | Black or Afr. Am. | Nat. Am. | Latino   | TOTAL POP |
|-----------|----------|-------------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| \$21,712  | \$28,822 | \$16,230          | \$16,214 | \$12,546 | \$26,821  |

**Table 11. Per Capita Income by Asian Subgroup**

|                  |                |                  |              |                   |                 |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cambodian</b> | <b>Chinese</b> | <b>Filipino</b>  | <b>Hmong</b> | <b>Indian</b>     | <b>Japanese</b> |
| \$10,363         | \$23,455       | \$26,434         | \$8,130      | \$31,940          | \$22,891        |
| <b>Korean</b>    | <b>Laotian</b> | <b>Pakistani</b> | <b>Thai</b>  | <b>Vietnamese</b> |                 |
| \$20,654         | \$14,611       | \$14,765         | \$20,743     | \$13,643          |                 |

With per capita income as in the case of household income, broad variability could be found among Asian subgroups (Table 11). The per capita income in 2000 of the Hmong population, for example, was barely \$8,000 and the Cambodian population was just over \$10,000. In contrast, Indian per capita income was nearly four times higher than Hmong and three times higher than Cambodian.

For all non-white groups, including Asian Americans, poverty is an especially significant challenge and a dramatic reflection of inequality. The percentage of Asian American families in poverty, 12.3%, was nearly double that of the total population, 6.4%, and nearly three times that of whites, 4.4% (Table 12).

Poverty rates varied substantially among Asian subgroups (Table 13). Notably, however, in every Asian subgroup the poverty rate was higher than that of the white population. Nearly one-fourth of Cambodian and Pakistani families were in poverty. The Asian groups with the lowest poverty rates were the Indians and Laotians where about one in twenty of their families were in poverty.

**Table 12 . Poverty Status of Families by Race and Latino Origin**

| <b>Asian Am.</b> | <b>White</b> | <b>Black or Afr. Am.</b> | <b>Nat. Am.</b> | <b>Latino</b> | <b>TOTAL POP</b> |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
| 12.3%            | 4.4%         | 17.7%                    | 18.7%           | 26.2%         | 6.4%             |

**Table 13. Poverty Status of Families by Asian Subgroup**

|                  |                |                  |              |                   |                 |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cambodian</b> | <b>Chinese</b> | <b>Filipino</b>  | <b>Hmong</b> | <b>Indian</b>     | <b>Japanese</b> |
| 23.9%            | 9.9%           | 7.4%             | 17.4%        | 5.3%              | 13.0%           |
| <b>Korean</b>    | <b>Laotian</b> | <b>Pakistani</b> | <b>Thai</b>  | <b>Vietnamese</b> |                 |
| 14.6%            | 5.0%           | 23.3%            | 10.6%        | 21.2%             |                 |

Comparing poverty status and public assistance figures yields some interesting results (Table 14). For example, the percentage of white households receiving public assistance, 2.1%, was about half the percentage of white families in poverty. For Asian Americans the percentage receiving public assistance income, 4.4%, was only about one third of the percentage of Asian American families in poverty.

For specific Asian subgroups several discrepancies can be found (Table 15). Cambodians, for example, as was noted earlier had a large number of families and households in poverty and a large percentage, 16.9%, receiving public assistance.

Pakistanis, however, had a large number of families in poverty, but none who reported receiving public assistance. The differences in public assistance utilization may be another area that is influenced by the specific immigration status and experiences of the various Asian groups. Individuals who arrived as refugees, students, or under employment related programs, for example, would be in some areas have differential eligibility for certain government assistance programs.

**Table 14. Percentage of Households Receiving Public Assistance Income by Race and Latino Origin**

| Asian Am. | White | Black or Afr. Am. | Nat. Am. | Latino | TOTAL POP |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 4.4%      | 2.1%  | 6.8%              | 6.9%     | 11.4%  | 2.7%      |

**Table 15. Percentage of Households Receiving Public Assistance Income by Asian Subgroup**

| Cambodian | Chinese | Filipino | Hmong | Indian | Japanese |
|-----------|---------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| 16.9%     | 3.0%    | 1.1%     | 11.0% | 1.4%   | 0.5%     |

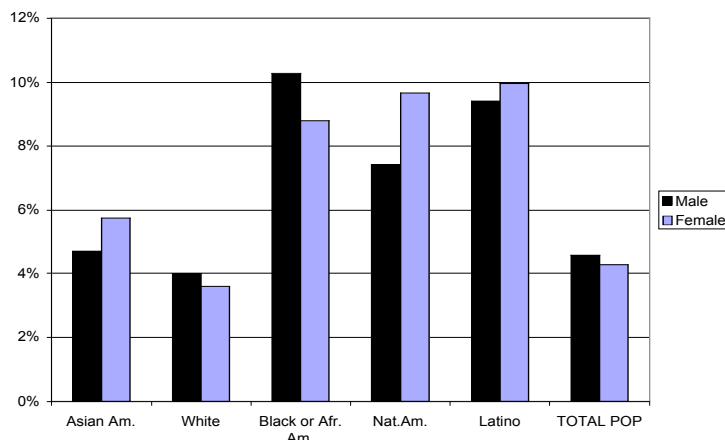
  

| Korean | Laotian | Pakistani | Thai | Vietnamese |
|--------|---------|-----------|------|------------|
| 1.4%   | 4.9%    | 0.0%      | 2.0% | 12.7%      |

## Employment Status and Occupations

The Asian American unemployment rate was greater than that of whites and significantly less than that of other groups (Figure 8 and Table A-4). In comparing Asian American unemployment with the total population, Asian Americans differed in that for them the female unemployment rate exceeded the male rate whereas in the total population the male rate was higher than the female.

**Figure 8. Unemployment Rate for the Population 16 Years and Older by Sex, Race, and Latino Origin**



Over one half of Asian Americans, 52.9% were in occupations categorized as management, professional, and related occupations (Table 16). Asian Americans were especially well-represented compared to the total population in professional and related occupations such as computing, mathematics, architecture, engineering, and the sciences. Production, transportation, and material moving occupations included a higher percentage of Asian Americans compared to the total population. Asian Americans trailed the total population in service, sales, construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations.

**Table 16. Detailed Occupation of Employed Civilians 16 Years and Older for Asian Americans and Total Population**

|   | Asian Am.    | Total Pop    |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Management, professional, and related occupations:</b>           | <b>52.9%</b> | <b>42.3%</b> |
| Management, business, and financial occupations:                    | 13.7%        | 16.4%        |
| Management  | 7.8%         | 10.7%        |
| Business and Financial  | 5.9%         | 5.7%         |
| Professional and related occupations:                               | 39.2%        | 25.9%        |
| Computer & Mathematical   | 13.6%        | 4.2%         |
| Architecture & Engineering  | 5.1%         | 2.8%         |
| Life, physical, social sciences                                     | 5.9%         | 1.7%         |
| Community and social services                                       | 0.8%         | 1.7%         |
| Legal   | 0.6%         | 1.5%         |
| Education, Training & Library                                       | 4.7%         | 6.3%         |
| Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media                         | 1.4%         | 2.4%         |
| Healthcare  | 7.1%         | 5.5%         |
| <b>Service occupations:</b>   | <b>11.8%</b> | <b>13.5%</b> |
| Healthcare support  | 1.3%         | 2.1%         |
| Protective service  | 0.4%         | 2.0%         |
| Food preparation and serving  | 6.9%         | 4.3%         |
| Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance                       | 1.1%         | 2.6%         |
| Personal care & service   | 2.1%         | 2.5%         |
| <b>Sales and office occupations:</b>                                | <b>18.3%</b> | <b>25.9%</b> |
| Sales   | 7.6%         | 10.5%        |
| Office & administrative support                                     | 10.7%        | 15.4%        |
| <b>Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations:</b>                  | <b>0.1%</b>  | <b>0.2%</b>  |
| Agricultural  | 0.1%         | 0.1%         |
| Fishing, hunting, and forestry                                      | 0.0%         | 0.1%         |
| <b>Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations:</b>       | <b>2.5%</b>  | <b>7.2%</b>  |
| Construction and extraction   | 1.2%         | 4.3%         |
| Installation, maintenance & repair                                  | 1.4%         | 2.9%         |
| <b>Production, transportation, and material moving occupations:</b> | <b>14.5%</b> | <b>10.9%</b> |
| Production  | 12.7%        | 6.6%         |
| Transportation and material moving                                  | 1.7%         | 4.4%         |



An examination of the distribution of occupations among Asian subgroups in 2000 makes it clear that wide differences existed (Table 17). Indians with 72.6% and Japanese with 67%, for example, were heavily concentrated in management, professional, and related occupations. On the other hand, only 11.9% of Laotians and 16.3% of Cambodians were in these occupations. Markedly higher percentages of Laotians, 61.6%, and Cambodians, 51.6%, compared with other Asian Americans were in occupations categorized as production, transportation, and material moving. In contrast fewer than 7% of Japanese, Pakistanis, and Indians were in these occupations.

**Table 17. Occupation for Asian American Employed Civilians 16 Years and Older by Subgroup**

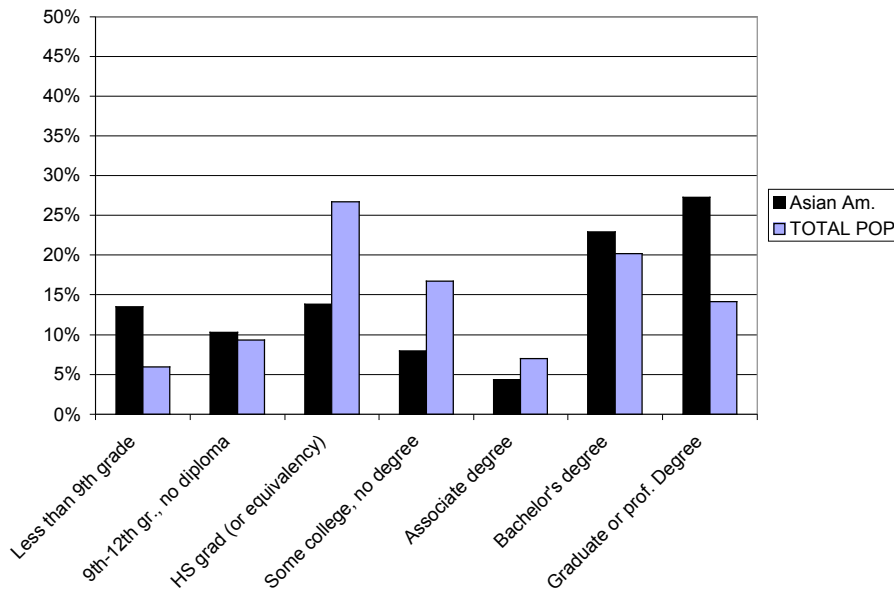
|   | <b>Cambodian</b> | <b>Chinese</b> | <b>Filipino</b> | <b>Hmong</b> | <b>Indian</b> | <b>Japanese</b> |
|---|------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Management, professional, and related occupations           | 16.3%            | 57.2%          | 53.2%           | 15.0%        | 72.6%         | 67.0%           |
| Service occupations   | 7.6%             | 15.1%          | 15.5%           | 4.0%         | 5.4%          | 9.2%            |
| Sales and office occupations                                | 20.5%            | 17.7%          | 20.1%           | 19.0%        | 14.0%         | 19.3%           |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations                  | 0.0%             | 0.0%           | 0.0%            | 0.0%         | 0.0%          | 0.0%            |
| Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations       | 4.1%             | 1.9%           | 2.7%            | 4.6%         | 1.3%          | 0.6%            |
| Production, transportation, and material moving occupations | 51.6%            | 8.0%           | 8.5%            | 57.5%        | 6.7%          | 3.8%            |

|   | <b>Korean</b> | <b>Laotian</b> | <b>Pakistani</b> | <b>Thai</b> | <b>Vietnamese</b> |
|---|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Management, professional, and related occupations           | 55.9%         | 11.9%          | 44.8%            | 39.9%       | 26.4%             |
| Service occupations   | 9.2%          | 7.1%           | 8.1%             | 27.7%       | 13.2%             |
| Sales and office occupations                                | 21.7%         | 13.9%          | 40.1%            | 18.3%       | 20.4%             |
| Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations                  | 0.0%          | 0.6%           | 0.0%             | 0.0%        | 0.3%              |
| Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations       | 0.8%          | 4.9%           | 1.1%             | 2.2%        | 7.2%              |
| Production, transportation, and material moving occupations | 12.3%         | 61.6%          | 5.9%             | 12.0%       | 32.5%             |

## Educational Attainment

The pattern of Asian Americans disproportionately occupying the low and high ends of various spectrums is again readily apparent in the data on levels of educational attainment for those 25 years old and older (Figure 9 and Table A-5). At the low end, the percentage of Asian Americans in 2000 with less than a ninth grade education was more than double that of the total population. Only Latinos had a higher percentage of their population in this category. At the high end, the percentage of Asian Americans with graduate or professional degrees was more than double that of the total population and was considerably larger than that of any group. Indeed, one out of two Asian Americans had earned a bachelor's degree or higher. Furthermore, while a slightly higher percentage of Asian Americans compared to the total population had a bachelor's degree, the percentage of Asian Americans whose highest level of educational attainment was graduating from high school, 13.8%, was nearly half that of the total population and was by far the lowest percentage of any group.

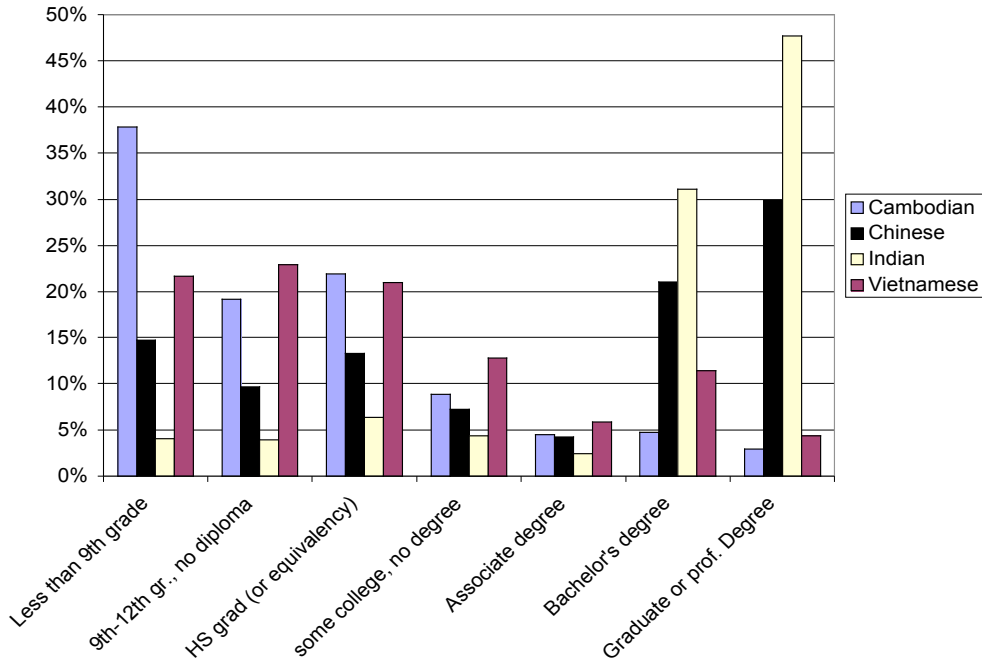
**Figure 9. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Older for Asian Americans and Total Population**



It is especially important to move beyond data on Asian American educational attainment as a group and instead examine individually specific subgroups. For example, in looking at the four largest Asian ethnic groups - Indians, Chinese, Cambodians, and Vietnamese, we found several notable differences (Figure 10 and Table A-6). Cambodians had considerably lower levels of educational attainment than Indians who had remarkably high levels of attainment. Nearly 40% of Cambodians had less than a ninth grade education compared to 4% of Indians, while 47.7% of Indians had a graduate or professional degree compared to just below 2.9% of Cambodians. The pattern of

Chinese attainment most closely resembled that of Indians, while the pattern for Vietnamese somewhat followed that of the Cambodians.

**Figure 10. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Older for Selected Asian Subgroups**



**Housing: Household Size, Tenure, and Rent**

Asian American households were second only to Latinos in their average size (Table 18). All of the non-white racial groups and Latinos had average household sizes larger than those of whites and the total population.

Among Asian subgroups, Hmong households with 6.5 members were by far the largest (Table 19). The Cambodians, Laotians, Vietnamese, and Pakistanis also had average household sizes greater than the Asian American average. The Japanese at 2 had the smallest average household size.

**Table 18. Average Household Size by Race and Latino Origin**

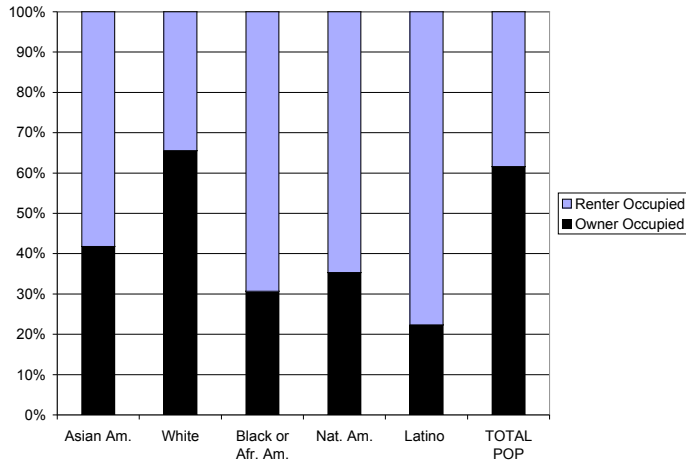
| Asian Am. | White | Black or Afr. Am. | Nat. Am. | Latino | TOTAL POP |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| 3.0       | 2.5   | 2.7               | 2.7      | 3.2    | 2.5       |

**Table 19. Average Household Size by Asian Subgroup**

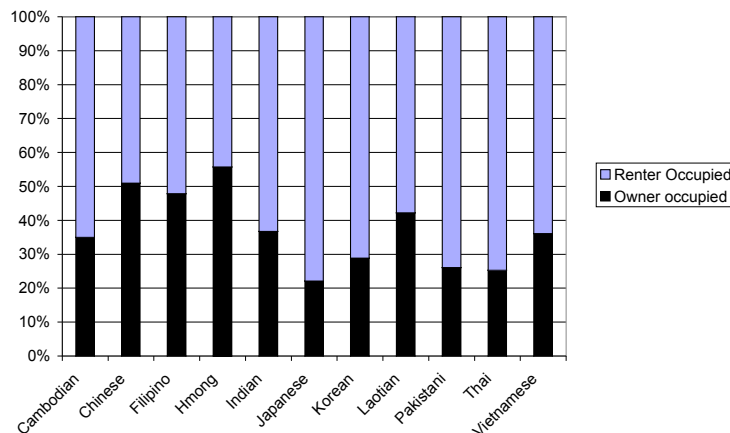
|                  |                |                  |              |                   |                 |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cambodian</b> | <b>Chinese</b> | <b>Filipino</b>  | <b>Hmong</b> | <b>Indian</b>     | <b>Japanese</b> |
| 4.6              | 2.9            | 2.7              | 6.5          | 2.7               | 2.0             |
| <b>Korean</b>    | <b>Laotian</b> | <b>Pakistani</b> | <b>Thai</b>  | <b>Vietnamese</b> |                 |
| 2.4              | 4.4            | 3.8              | 2.3          | 3.9               |                 |

While a majority of whites lived in owner occupied households, the majority of Asian Americans, Blacks or African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans lived in households where rents were paid (Figure 11). The Asian American owner occupancy rate was higher than that of Blacks or African Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos but about one-third less than that of the total population and of whites.

**Figure 11. Tenure by Race and Latino Origin**



**Figure 12. Tenure by Asian Subgroup**



Of the Asian subgroups, the Hmong had the highest owner occupancy rate and the Japanese the lowest (Figure 12). It is not readily apparent from the data why the Hmong have such a high rate. The concentration of Hmong in cities such as Fitchburg with relatively low home values may account for the high ownership rate. For some groups such as the Japanese, Koreans, and Thais, the relatively low owner occupancy rates might be a reflective of their high college student populations.

Asian Americans, according to Table 20, paid the highest median gross rents of any group. The median gross rent for the total population, for example, was \$711 while for Asian Americans the figure was \$855. For whites the figure was \$717, for Blacks or African Americans \$673, and for Latinos \$623.

There were several differences as well among Asian ethnic groups in the median gross rents they paid (Table 21). The Japanese at \$1,092 paid the highest rents. Koreans, Indians, Pakistanis, Filipinos, and Thais also had median gross rents over \$800. The gross rents for other Asian subgroups were less than \$800 with the Hmong having paid the least at \$587.

**Table 20. Median Gross Rent by Race and Latino Origin**

| Asian Am. | White | Black or Afr. Am. | Nat. Am. | Latino | TOTAL POP |
|-----------|-------|-------------------|----------|--------|-----------|
| \$855     | \$717 | \$673             | \$617    | \$623  | \$711     |

**Table 21. Median Gross Rent by Asian Subgroup**

| Cambodian | Chinese | Filipino | Hmong | Indian | Japanese |
|-----------|---------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| \$613     | \$793   | \$865    | \$587 | \$977  | \$1,092  |

| Korean | Laotian | Pakistani | Thai  | Vietnamese |
|--------|---------|-----------|-------|------------|
| \$990  | \$654   | \$922     | \$853 | \$701      |

## Conclusion

The themes of growth, diversity, and the attendant complexity that accompanies rapid change have been amply chronicled in the data presented here on Asian Americans in Metro Boston. On virtually every variable - size, growth, location, age, nativity, citizenship, English language proficiency, income, poverty rate, employment status, occupation, educational attainment, and housing – there are significant differences both between Asian Americans and certain other racial groups and also among the specific Asian groups that constitute the Asian American population.

This report, of course, should by no means be regarded as a final and comprehensive account of the socio-economic and demographic situation of Asian Americans. Indeed, any picture of the Asian American community can only capture a moment in a dynamic landscape. As we mentioned at the beginning of this paper, the tendency historically has been to depict Asian Americans simply and stereotypically resulting in attitudes, assumptions, and policies that often have been detrimental to them.

One lesson, therefore, is clear. Fresh and comprehensive information and analysis on the Asian American community and the resources needed to carry out these tasks are crucial in better understanding and fashioning policies that enhance the lives of Asian Americans and their neighbors who call Metro Boston home.

## Appendix

**Table A-1. Age and Sex for Asian Americans\***

| Years | Male    |       | Female  |       |
|-------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 0-4   | 8,130   | 3.6%  | 8,274   | 3.7%  |
| 5-17  | 20,117  | 9.0%  | 19,336  | 8.7%  |
| 18-24 | 14,692  | 6.6%  | 16,611  | 7.4%  |
| 25-34 | 25,622  | 11.5% | 25,728  | 11.5% |
| 35-44 | 18,422  | 8.2%  | 18,183  | 8.1%  |
| 45-54 | 11,482  | 5.1%  | 12,252  | 5.5%  |
| 55-64 | 6,176   | 2.8%  | 6,355   | 2.8%  |
| 65-74 | 3,608   | 1.6%  | 4,116   | 1.8%  |
| 75+   | 1,776   | 0.8%  | 2,544   | 1.1%  |
| Total | 110,025 | 49.2% | 113,399 | 50.8% |

\*Column percentages refer to percentages of total Asian American population.

Data Set: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

**Table A-2. Age and Sex by Asian Subgroups**

| Years | Cambodian |       |        |       | Chinese |       |        |       | Filipino |       |        |       |
|-------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
|       | Male      |       | Female |       | Male    |       | Female |       | Male     |       | Female |       |
| 0-4   | 962       | 5.1%  | 838    | 4.4%  | 2,437   | 3.0%  | 2,993  | 3.7%  | 165      | 2.2%  | 141    | 1.9%  |
| 5-17  | 3,298     | 17.5% | 3,076  | 16.3% | 6,211   | 7.7%  | 6,013  | 7.5%  | 524      | 7.1%  | 485    | 6.5%  |
| 18-24 | 1,132     | 6.0%  | 1,146  | 6.1%  | 4,578   | 5.7%  | 5,109  | 6.3%  | 519      | 7.0%  | 582    | 7.8%  |
| 25-34 | 1,476     | 7.8%  | 1,459  | 7.7%  | 7,415   | 9.2%  | 8,119  | 10.1% | 667      | 9.0%  | 1,045  | 14.1% |
| 35-44 | 1,162     | 6.2%  | 1,343  | 7.1%  | 7,473   | 9.3%  | 7,713  | 9.6%  | 496      | 6.7%  | 898    | 12.1% |
| 45-54 | 759       | 4.0%  | 849    | 4.5%  | 4,993   | 6.2%  | 5,219  | 6.5%  | 317      | 4.3%  | 591    | 8.0%  |
| 55-64 | 342       | 1.8%  | 449    | 2.4%  | 2,523   | 3.1%  | 2,680  | 3.3%  | 201      | 2.7%  | 361    | 4.9%  |
| 65-74 | 178       | 0.9%  | 230    | 1.2%  | 2,074   | 2.6%  | 2,235  | 2.8%  | 125      | 1.7%  | 169    | 2.3%  |
| 75+   | 65        | 0.3%  | 126    | 0.7%  | 1,202   | 1.5%  | 1,636  | 2.0%  | 45       | 0.6%  | 84     | 1.1%  |
| Total | 9,374     | 49.6% | 9,516  | 50.4% | 38,906  | 48.3% | 41,717 | 51.7% | 3,059    | 41.3% | 4,356  | 58.7% |

| Years | Hmong |       |        |       | Indian |       |        |       | Japanese |       |        |       |
|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|----------|-------|--------|-------|
|       | Male  |       | Female |       | Male   |       | Female |       | Male     |       | Female |       |
| 0-4   | 60    | 5.8%  | 70     | 6.7%  | 1,706  | 4.1%  | 1,591  | 3.9%  | 261      | 2.7%  | 275    | 2.8%  |
| 5-17  | 217   | 20.9% | 236    | 22.7% | 2,802  | 6.8%  | 2,669  | 6.5%  | 421      | 4.3%  | 415    | 4.3%  |
| 18-24 | 65    | 6.3%  | 67     | 6.5%  | 3,115  | 7.6%  | 3,189  | 7.7%  | 719      | 7.4%  | 1,239  | 12.8% |
| 25-34 | 72    | 6.9%  | 72     | 6.9%  | 7,288  | 17.7% | 5,730  | 13.9% | 1,163    | 12.0% | 1,597  | 16.5% |
| 35-44 | 47    | 4.5%  | 52     | 5.0%  | 3,462  | 8.4%  | 2,607  | 6.3%  | 929      | 9.6%  | 987    | 10.2% |
| 45-54 | 26    | 2.5%  | 17     | 1.6%  | 1,945  | 4.7%  | 1,699  | 4.1%  | 345      | 3.6%  | 415    | 4.3%  |
| 55-64 | 7     | 0.7%  | 11     | 1.1%  | 1,251  | 3.0%  | 910    | 2.2%  | 138      | 1.4%  | 289    | 3.0%  |
| 65-74 | 4     | 0.4%  | 7      | 0.7%  | 453    | 1.1%  | 419    | 1.0%  | 68       | 0.7%  | 307    | 3.2%  |
| 75+   | 3     | 0.3%  | 5      | 0.5%  | 184    | 0.4%  | 220    | 0.5%  | 43       | 0.4%  | 88     | 0.9%  |
| Total | 501   | 48.3% | 537    | 51.7% | 22,206 | 53.8% | 19,034 | 46.2% | 4,087    | 42.1% | 5,612  | 57.9% |

| Years | Korean |       |        |       | Laotian |       |        |       | Pakistani |       |        |       |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|
|       | Male   |       | Female |       | Male    |       | Female |       | Male      |       | Female |       |
| 0-4   | 554    | 3.5%  | 498    | 3.2%  | 135     | 3.8%  | 114    | 3.2%  | 125       | 6.9%  | 75     | 4.1%  |
| 5-17  | 1,298  | 8.3%  | 1,327  | 8.5%  | 469     | 13.1% | 470    | 13.1% | 166       | 9.1%  | 160    | 8.8%  |
| 18-24 | 1,368  | 8.8%  | 1,901  | 12.2% | 267     | 7.5%  | 263    | 7.4%  | 144       | 7.9%  | 141    | 7.7%  |
| 25-34 | 2,047  | 13.1% | 2,371  | 15.2% | 316     | 8.8%  | 333    | 9.3%  | 218       | 12.0% | 187    | 10.3% |
| 35-44 | 847    | 5.4%  | 1,104  | 7.1%  | 356     | 10.0% | 300    | 8.4%  | 212       | 11.6% | 115    | 6.3%  |
| 45-54 | 439    | 2.8%  | 705    | 4.5%  | 189     | 5.3%  | 141    | 3.9%  | 101       | 5.5%  | 65     | 3.6%  |
| 55-64 | 317    | 2.0%  | 396    | 2.5%  | 67      | 1.9%  | 63     | 1.8%  | 45        | 2.5%  | 35     | 1.9%  |
| 65-74 | 115    | 0.7%  | 166    | 1.1%  | 38      | 1.1%  | 34     | 1.0%  | 12        | 0.7%  | 15     | 0.8%  |
| 75+   | 43     | 0.3%  | 119    | 0.8%  | 7       | 0.2%  | 14     | 0.4%  | 4         | 0.2%  | 1      | 0.1%  |
| Total | 7,028  | 45.0% | 8,587  | 55.0% | 1,844   | 51.6% | 1,732  | 48.4% | 1,027     | 56.4% | 794    | 43.6% |

| Years | Thai |       |        |       | Vietnamese |       |        |       |
|-------|------|-------|--------|-------|------------|-------|--------|-------|
|       | Male |       | Female |       | Male       |       | Female |       |
| 0-4   | 39   | 2.0%  | 26     | 1.3%  | 1,238      | 3.9%  | 1,208  | 3.8%  |
| 5-17  | 102  | 5.2%  | 76     | 3.9%  | 3,586      | 11.4% | 3,398  | 10.8% |
| 18-24 | 223  | 11.3% | 220    | 11.2% | 1,717      | 5.4%  | 1,835  | 5.8%  |
| 25-34 | 257  | 13.1% | 275    | 14.0% | 3,606      | 11.4% | 3,473  | 11.0% |
| 35-44 | 125  | 6.3%  | 227    | 11.5% | 2,534      | 8.0%  | 2,144  | 6.8%  |
| 45-54 | 99   | 5.0%  | 167    | 8.5%  | 1,819      | 5.8%  | 1,940  | 6.2%  |
| 55-64 | 34   | 1.7%  | 66     | 3.4%  | 1,040      | 3.3%  | 909    | 2.9%  |
| 65-74 | 7    | 0.4%  | 13     | 0.7%  | 407        | 1.3%  | 385    | 1.2%  |
| 75+   | 5    | 0.3%  | 8      | 0.4%  | 115        | 0.4%  | 157    | 0.5%  |
| Total | 891  | 45.3% | 1,078  | 54.7% | 16,062     | 51.0% | 15,449 | 49.0% |

Data Set: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 2 (STF 2) 100% Data

**Table A-3. College or Graduate School Enrollment for the Population 15 Years and Over for Asian American Subgroups**

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Cambodian       | 7.9%  |
| Chinese         | 18.9% |
| Filipino        | 18.5% |
| Hmong           | 11.1% |
| Indian          | 19.5% |
| Japanese        | 34.3% |
| Korean          | 33.4% |
| Laotian         | 5.7%  |
| Pakastani       | 19.7% |
| Thai            | 29.5% |
| Vietnamese      | 14.1% |
| Total Asian Am. | 19.5% |
| Total Pop.      | 9.3%  |



**Table A-4. Labor Force Attachment for the Population 16 Years and Older by Sex, Race, and Latino Origin**

|                             | Asian Am.    | White        | Black /Afr. Am. | Nat.Am.      | Latino       | TOTAL POP    |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Males                       | 84,405       | 1,682,810    | 97,665          | 4,460        | 114,427      | 1,975,507    |
| In Labor Force              | 59,201       | 1,250,937    | 62,777          | 2,822        | 73,444       | 1,447,135    |
| In Armed Forces             | 22           | 2,631        | 192             | 34           | 200          | 3,000        |
| Civilian Employed           | 56,399       | 1,198,876    | 56,160          | 2,581        | 66,360       | 1,378,262    |
| Civilian Unemployed         | 2,780        | 49,430       | 6,425           | 207          | 6,884        | 65,873       |
| Not in Labor Force          | 25,204       | 431,873      | 34,888          | 1,638        | 40,983       | 528,372      |
| <b>Male Unempl. Rate*</b>   | <b>4.7%</b>  | <b>4.0%</b>  | <b>10.3%</b>    | <b>7.4%</b>  | <b>9.4%</b>  | <b>4.6%</b>  |
| <b>Participation Rate**</b> | <b>70.1%</b> | <b>74.3%</b> | <b>64.2%</b>    | <b>63.0%</b> | <b>64.1%</b> | <b>73.2%</b> |
| Females                     | 89,865       | 1,870,982    | 110,879         | 4,604        | 121,934      | 2,190,426    |
| In Labor Force              | 52,237       | 1,145,771    | 67,332          | 2,586        | 68,508       | 1,334,698    |
| In Armed Forces             | 11           | 559          | 132             | 10           | 35           | 761          |
| Civilian Employed           | 49,232       | 1,104,241    | 61,297          | 2,327        | 61,652       | 1,276,947    |
| Civilian Unemployed         | 2,994        | 40,971       | 5,903           | 249          | 6,821        | 56,990       |
| Not in Labor Force          | 37,628       | 725,211      | 43,547          | 2,018        | 53,426       | 855,728      |
| <b>Female Unempl. Rate*</b> | <b>5.7%</b>  | <b>3.6%</b>  | <b>8.8%</b>     | <b>9.7%</b>  | <b>10.0%</b> | <b>4.3%</b>  |
| <b>Participation Rate**</b> | <b>58.1%</b> | <b>61.2%</b> | <b>60.7%</b>    | <b>56.1%</b> | <b>56.2%</b> | <b>60.9%</b> |

\* Unemployment Rate = (Civilian Unemployed) / (Civilian Employed + Civilian Unemployed)

\*\* Participation Rate = (Civilian Employed + Civilian Unemployed) / (Civilian Employed + Civilian Unemployed + Not in labor Force)

**Table A-5. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Older by Race and Latino Origin**

|                          | Asian Am. | White     | Black or Afr. Am. | Nat.Am. | Latino  | TOTAL POP |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Less than 9th grade      | 18,564    | 148,384   | 12,366            | 901     | 39,308  | 212,855   |
|                          | 13.5%     | 4.8%      | 7.4%              | 12.3%   | 22.5%   | 6.0%      |
| 9th-12th gr., no diploma | 14,116    | 259,332   | 27,400            | 1,164   | 34,281  | 331,858   |
|                          | 10.3%     | 8.4%      | 16.4%             | 15.9%   | 19.6%   | 9.3%      |
| HS grad (or equivalency) | 19,019    | 837,621   | 47,449            | 1,860   | 42,764  | 948,376   |
|                          | 13.8%     | 27.2%     | 28.3%             | 25.4%   | 24.5%   | 26.6%     |
| Some college, no degree  | 10,945    | 523,351   | 34,116            | 1,376   | 24,363  | 594,204   |
|                          | 8.0%      | 17.0%     | 20.4%             | 18.8%   | 13.9%   | 16.7%     |
| Associate degree         | 5,970     | 223,137   | 12,450            | 548     | 7,840   | 250,089   |
|                          | 4.3%      | 7.2%      | 7.4%              | 7.5%    | 4.5%    | 7.0%      |
| Bachelor's degree        | 31,455    | 649,825   | 20,948            | 858     | 14,761  | 718,282   |
|                          | 22.9%     | 21.1%     | 12.5%             | 11.7%   | 8.4%    | 20.2%     |
| Graduate or Prof. Degree | 37,424    | 443,081   | 12,778            | 616     | 11,543  | 503,337   |
|                          | 27.2%     | 14.4%     | 7.6%              | 8.4%    | 6.6%    | 14.1%     |
| TOTAL                    | 137,493   | 3,084,731 | 167,507           | 7,323   | 174,860 | 3,559,001 |

**Table A-6. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Older by Selected Asian Subgroups**

|                          | <b>Cambodian</b> | <b>Chinese</b> | <b>Indian</b> | <b>Vietnamese</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|
| Less than 9th grade      | 3,375            | 7,854          | 1,026         | 4,084             |
|                          | 37.9%            | 14.7%          | 4.0%          | 21.7%             |
| 9th-12th gr., no diploma | 1,710            | 5,173          | 1,006         | 4,315             |
|                          | 19.2%            | 9.7%           | 3.9%          | 22.9%             |
| HS grad (or equivalency) | 1,958            | 7,089          | 1,612         | 3,947             |
|                          | 22.0%            | 13.3%          | 6.3%          | 21.0%             |
| Some college, no degree  | 790              | 3,850          | 1,123         | 2,411             |
|                          | 8.9%             | 7.2%           | 4.4%          | 12.8%             |
| Associate degree         | 401              | 2,274          | 628           | 1,105             |
|                          | 4.5%             | 4.3%           | 2.5%          | 5.9%              |
| Bachelor's degree        | 421              | 11,230         | 7,934         | 2,145             |
|                          | 4.7%             | 21.0%          | 31.1%         | 11.4%             |
| Graduate or prof. Degree | 261              | 15,930         | 12,160        | 820               |
|                          | 2.9%             | 29.8%          | 47.7%         | 4.4%              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>8,916</b>     | <b>53,400</b>  | <b>25,489</b> | <b>18,827</b>     |