



2018

# A COMMUNITY OF CONTRASTS

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and  
Pacific Islanders in the San Gabriel Valley



ASIAN AMERICANS  
ADVANCING  
JUSTICE  
LOS ANGELES

SAN GABRIEL  
VALLEY



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Founded in 1983 as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Advancing Justice – LA) is the nation’s largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). Through direct services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, leadership development, and capacity building, Advancing Justice – LA focuses on the most vulnerable members of Asian American and NHPI communities while also building a strong voice for civil rights and social justice.

All photos were taken by M. Jamie Watson unless otherwise noted. Data design and layout were provided by SunDried Penguin. Please email any questions regarding the report to askdemographics@advancingjustice-la.org.

Advancing Justice – LA is based in downtown Los Angeles, with offices in Orange County and Sacramento as well as a community center in the San Gabriel Valley. Visit [advancingjustice-la.org](http://advancingjustice-la.org).

Our affiliates include Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC (Washington, DC), Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Atlanta, and Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago.

# INTRODUCTION

The SGV.

The 626.

The Asian American community in the San Gabriel Valley is one of the most iconic in the United States. Located in Los Angeles County just south of the San Gabriel Mountains, the region is home to over half a million Asian Americans, more than in Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Chicago. It is known for its vibrant Chinese American community and, of course, its food.

Yet both the history and current reality of the San Gabriel Valley challenge this simplistic view, drawing attention to its diversity and ongoing struggles for racial justice.

Perhaps its most recognizable landmark, the San Gabriel Mission stands in testament to the colonization of the region’s indigenous Tongva people. The valley’s subsequent agricultural history fostered the growth of large Mexican American communities that now make up nearly half of the San Gabriel Valley’s total population. After the elimination of discriminatory federal immigration policies in 1965, the region’s Asian American population grew dramatically and faced considerable backlash from residents. Monterey Park, recognized as the first majority Asian American city in the continental United States following the 1990 Census, required business signs to include English and attempted to establish English as its official language.

Today, the region hosts considerable social and economic diversity. It is home to some of the highest poverty rates among Asian Americans countywide. There are large Filipino and Vietnamese American populations, and Alhambra is home to the largest number of Burmese Americans countywide outside the city of Los Angeles. Yet this diversity often goes unrecognized. As a result, community needs go unmet. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the San Gabriel Valley* attempts to address that.

This report does two things. First, it provides key characteristics of Asian American communities

disaggregated by ethnic group. Recognizing significant social and economic diversity among Asian Americans, it includes data on immigration, language, education, income, housing, health, and environmental justice for eight ethnic groups. Second, this report makes the data accessible to community organizations, community members, policy makers, foundations, businesses, and others looking to better understand and serve Asian American communities. By soliciting feedback on content from key stakeholders, consolidating important data from disparate government and academic sources, and presenting them in a way that is easy to digest, the report makes a valuable contribution to our understanding of one of the largest Asian American communities in the country.

We would like to thank the sponsors who made this report possible, including Bank of America, AARP, and the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation.

We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to this report, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles staff Jeffer Giang, Daniel Ichinose, Joanna Lee, Shelly Chen, Povi-Tamu Bryant, Kimberly Wu, Natalie Bui, Deanna Kitamura, Anthony Ng, Li’i Furumoto, Nikki Dominguez, Nicole Ochi, and Heng Foong, as well as the community partners, community members, policy makers, and corporate leaders who contributed to and provided critical feedback on its content. Community partners included API Forward Movement, Asian Pacific Health Care Venture, Asian Youth Center, California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative, East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, Pilipino Workers Center, Restaurant Opportunities Center of Los Angeles, and the Wilderness Society. Policy makers included Anthony Duarte, Mike Eng, Henry Lo, Jason Pu, and Calvin Sung. Finally, Stephanie Lomibao, Gilbert Tong, Vinh Ngo, and Millie Yamaki from Bank of America provided additional guidance from a business perspective.

*The statements and views expressed in this report are solely the responsibility of the authors.*



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over half a million Asian Americans and 7,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) live in the San Gabriel Valley: its Asian American population alone is larger than it is in 42 states and the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago. *A Community of Contrasts: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the San Gabriel Valley* provides community organizations, policy makers, foundations, businesses, and others with essential data on these diverse communities. Highlights include the following:

**The San Gabriel Valley’s large Asian American population continues to grow.**

The region’s total population grew only 2% between 2000 and 2010. In contrast, its Asian American population grew 22%, significantly faster than any other racial group. Among Asian American and NHPI ethnic groups, South Asians are among the region’s fastest growing, mirroring trends countywide. Despite this growth, Asian Americans remain second to Latinos in number.

**Asian Americans own nearly 82,000 businesses in the San Gabriel Valley and play a critical role in the region’s economy.**

Asian American–owned businesses in the region, together issue over \$2.7 billion in payroll. Yet the average Asian American–owned business is small, employing 5.3 workers per business. Economic development efforts in the region should support small businesses, ensuring Asian American small-business owners have access to critical training and counseling programs by making them culturally and linguistically accessible.

**While Asian Americans and NHPI are becoming citizens, registering to vote, and casting ballots, coalition building with Latino communities around issues of mutual concern remains important.**

During the 2016 presidential election, Asian American voter registration exceeded the margin of victory in United States Congressional Districts 27 and 39, California State Senate District 29, and California State Assembly Districts 49 and 55. Yet Asian Americans and NHPI remain minorities in most legislative districts in the San Gabriel Valley and benefit from coalition building around immigrant rights issues. More culturally and linguistically tailored naturalization, voter registration, and get-out-the-vote efforts would help increase civic engagement among communities of color in the region.

**The Asian American population in the region is overwhelmingly immigrant, including an estimated 58,000 who are undocumented.**

Over 67% of Asian Americans and 28% of NHPI are immigrants. Disproportionately immigrant and undocumented, Asian Americans and Latinos share many similar experiences in the San Gabriel Valley. Addressing anti-immigrant discrimination as well as supporting both immigrant integration programs and federal immigration reform provide opportunities to work in solidarity on issues of mutual concern.

**Language barriers prevent Asian Americans and NHPI from accessing critical services.**

Almost half of Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are limited English proficient. Among Asian American seniors in the region, 73% are limited English proficient. Written and oral translations into Asian and Pacific Island languages would help ensure access to critical services, while ESL classes would prepare limited English proficient residents for long-term success.

**Educational outcomes vary greatly among Asian Americans and NHPI.**

Chinese American adults in the San Gabriel Valley are less likely than Whites to hold both high school and college degrees; Vietnamese American adults have some of the lowest educational attainment among Asian American ethnic groups. Over 14,300 English language learner students in the region’s K–12 public schools speak an Asian or Pacific Island language. Despite prevailing stereotypes about Asian American success in education, disparities risk being overlooked when disaggregated data are not collected. The growing number of immigrant students and parents require more culturally and linguistically appropriate curricula, programs, and parent engagement.

**Nearly a third of Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are low-income.**

Over 66,700 Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are living in poverty, including 15% of Asian American seniors and 17% of Vietnamese Americans. Despite model-minority myths that characterize Asian Americans as monolithically successful, many remain economically vulnerable and would benefit from efforts aimed at improving their standard of living, including the enforcement and increase of a minimum wage.

**Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are employed in both white- and blue-collar jobs.**

Approximately 16% of Asian Americans in the region work in various service occupations, including food preparation and service, health care support, and personal care and service. The extent of low-wage work among Asian American and NHPI workers suggests that they may be at higher risk for wage theft and workplace health hazards. Culturally and linguistically appropriate programs would help educate Asian American and NHPI workers of their rights.

**As housing costs in the San Gabriel Valley increase dramatically, more affordable housing is needed.**

Average rental rates in the region increased 4.9% between the fourth quarters of 2015 and 2016, and vacancy rates were at 2.7% at the end of 2016. Nearly 69,000 Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are housing-cost burdened, spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs. More affordable housing would mitigate vulnerable groups’ continuing struggle with rising housing costs.

**While Asian Americans and NHPI in the San Gabriel Valley are disproportionately impacted by disease, many lack access to health insurance and culturally and linguistically appropriate care.**

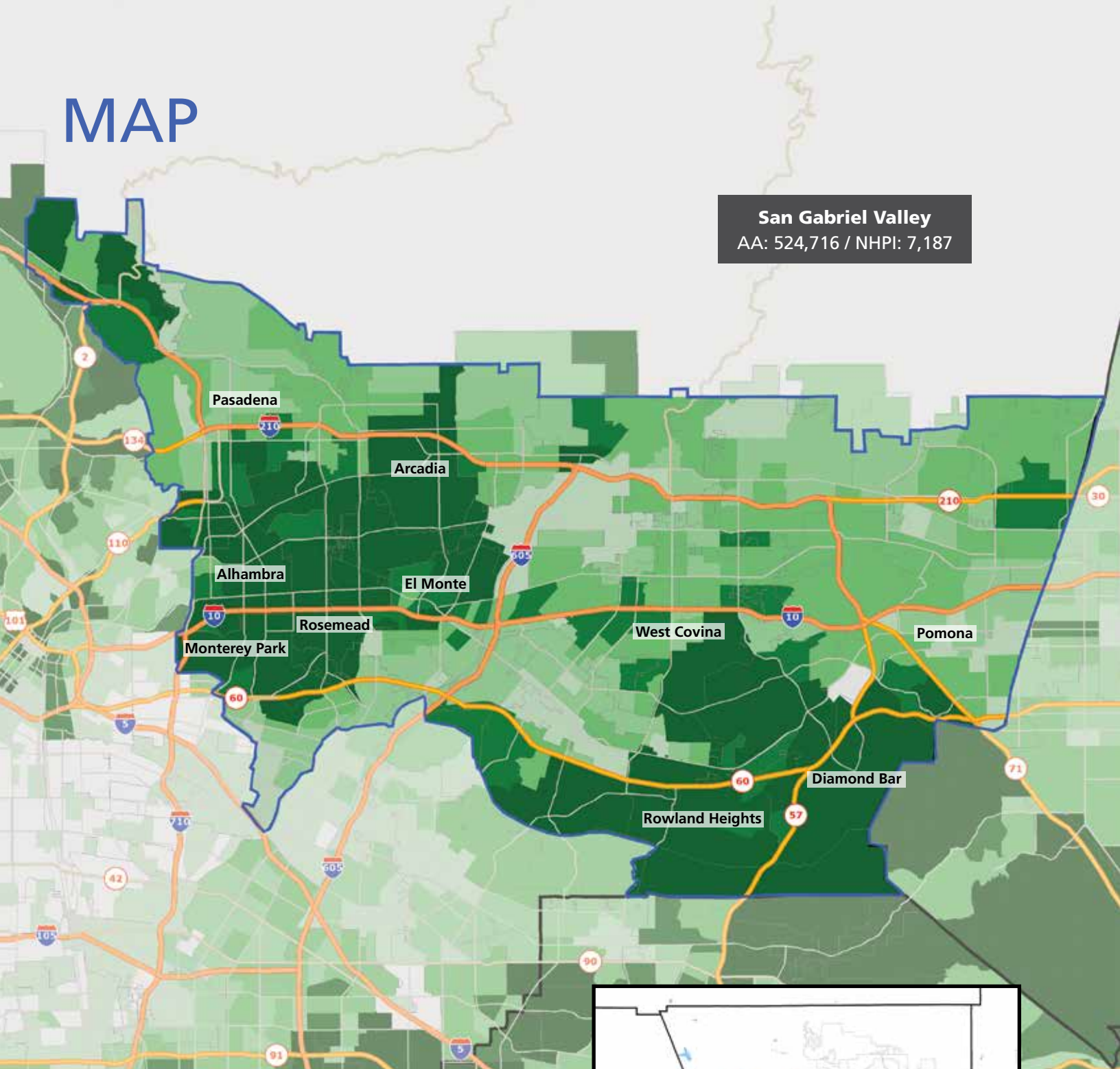
Asian Americans are more likely to die of cancer than any other racial group in the San Gabriel Valley; influenza is the third leading cause of death among Chinese Americans. Yet one in five Asian Americans in the region do not have a usual source of care when sick or requiring health advice. Culturally and linguistically appropriate care would improve health outcomes and lessen the stigma around discussing topics such as mental health.

**Local jurisdictions should better understand and address environmental hazards to ensure the health of San Gabriel Valley residents.**

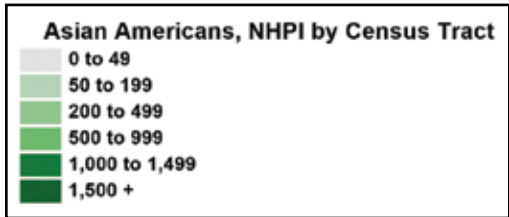
Over 25% of the San Gabriel Valley is severely polluted with toxic chemicals released from industrial facilities, drinking water contamination, and exhaust from traffic along freeway corridors, presenting major challenges. Several cities in the San Gabriel Valley have “very high” or “high” needs for parks and green space. In order to ensure the well-being of Asian American and all San Gabriel Valley residents, efforts to improve public health should address environmental hazards and access to green space.



MAP



U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census SF1, Tables P6 and P8.



DEMOGRAPHICS

The Asian American population in the San Gabriel Valley is larger than it is in 42 states.



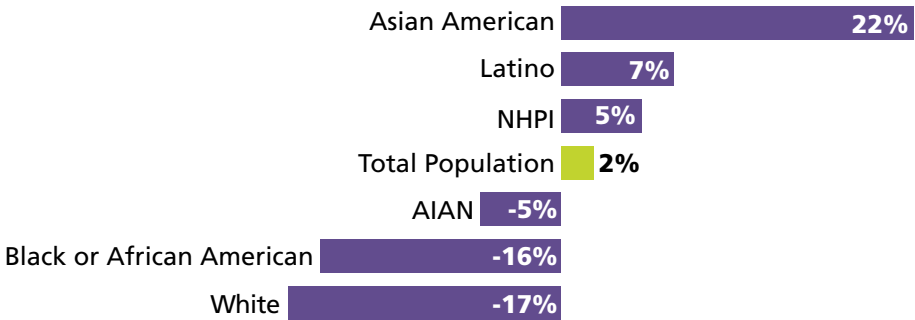
- Over half a million Asian Americans live the San Gabriel Valley (SGV), making them the region’s second largest racial group after Latinos. Over one third of Los Angeles County’s Asian American population lives here.<sup>1</sup>
- Its Asian American population is larger than it is in 42 states and in the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago.<sup>2</sup>
- Despite its size, the San Gabriel Valley’s Asian American population continues to grow. Between 2000 and 2010, its Asian American population grew 22%, a rate at least three times as fast as any other racial group in the region.<sup>3</sup>
- Its Asian American older adults population (50 and over) grew even faster, increasing 71% between 2000 and 2010.<sup>4</sup>
- The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) population grew over twice as fast as the total population between 2000 and 2010.<sup>5</sup>
- Approximately 2% of Asian Americans in the SGV identify as gay, lesbian, or bisexual.<sup>6</sup>

**POPULATION BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN**  
San Gabriel Valley 2010, Ranked by Population

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	NUMBER	%
Latino	855,755	46%
Asian American	524,716	28%
White	398,740	22%
Black or African American	81,607	4%
AIAN	26,061	1%
NHPI	7,187	0.4%
Total Population	1,846,796	100%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, SF1, Tables P5 and P6. Note: Figures for each racial group include both single race and multi-racial people, except for White, which is single race, non-Latino. Figures do not sum to total.

**POPULATION GROWTH BY RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN**  
San Gabriel Valley 2000 to 2010



U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census SF1, Tables P8 and P9; 2010 Census SF1, Tables P5 and P6.

AIAN: Native American(s) and Alaska Native(s)  
NHPI: Native Hawaiian(s) and Pacific Islander(s)





Between 2000 and 2010, the number of majority Asian American cities grew from **6** to **12**.

- Among cities, Alhambra has the largest Asian American population (45,395) in the SGV, while Monterey Park is proportionally the most Asian American (68%). Pomona has the largest NHPI population.<sup>7</sup>
- Between 2000 and 2010, the number of majority Asian American incorporated or unincorporated cities in the region grew from 6 to 12. Majority Asian American cities include Monterey Park (68%), Walnut (66%), San Gabriel (62%), Rosemead (62%), Rowland Heights (61%), Arcadia (61%), Temple City (57%), San Marino (56%), Diamond Bar (55%), Alhambra (55%), East San Gabriel (52%), and South San Gabriel (52%).<sup>8</sup>

ASIAN AMERICAN POPULATION, GROWTH  
by Top 15 Cities, San Gabriel Valley 2000 to 2010,  
Ranked by Population

CITY	NUMBER	%	GROWTH
Alhambra	45,395	55%	8%
Monterey Park	41,284	68%	8%
Arcadia	34,416	61%	38%
Rosemead	33,107	62%	24%
Diamond Bar	30,478	55%	21%
Rowland Heights	30,088	61%	18%
El Monte	29,188	26%	31%
West Covina	29,177	28%	14%
San Gabriel	24,672	62%	23%
Pasadena	22,513	16%	49%
Hacienda Heights	20,891	39%	4%
Temple City	20,412	57%	52%
Walnut	19,258	66%	11%
Pomona	14,312	10%	17%
Baldwin Park	11,190	15%	20%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census SF1, Table QT-P6; 2010 Census SF1, Table QT-P6.

NHPI POPULATION, GROWTH  
by Top 15 Cities, San Gabriel Valley 2000 to 2010,  
Ranked by Population

CITY	NUMBER	%	GROWTH
Pomona	681	0.5%	2%
West Covina	520	0.5%	0.4%
Pasadena	476	0.3%	14%
Diamond Bar	335	0.6%	29%
Alhambra	308	0.4%	4%
Hacienda Heights	290	0.5%	16%
El Monte	282	0.2%	1%
Rowland Heights	271	0.6%	-28%
Covina	255	0.5%	5%
Glendora	222	0.4%	25%
Altadena	214	0.5%	60%
Azusa	202	0.4%	-6%
Arcadia	191	0.3%	-24%
Montebello	190	0.3%	31%
Baldwin Park	178	0.2%	-12%

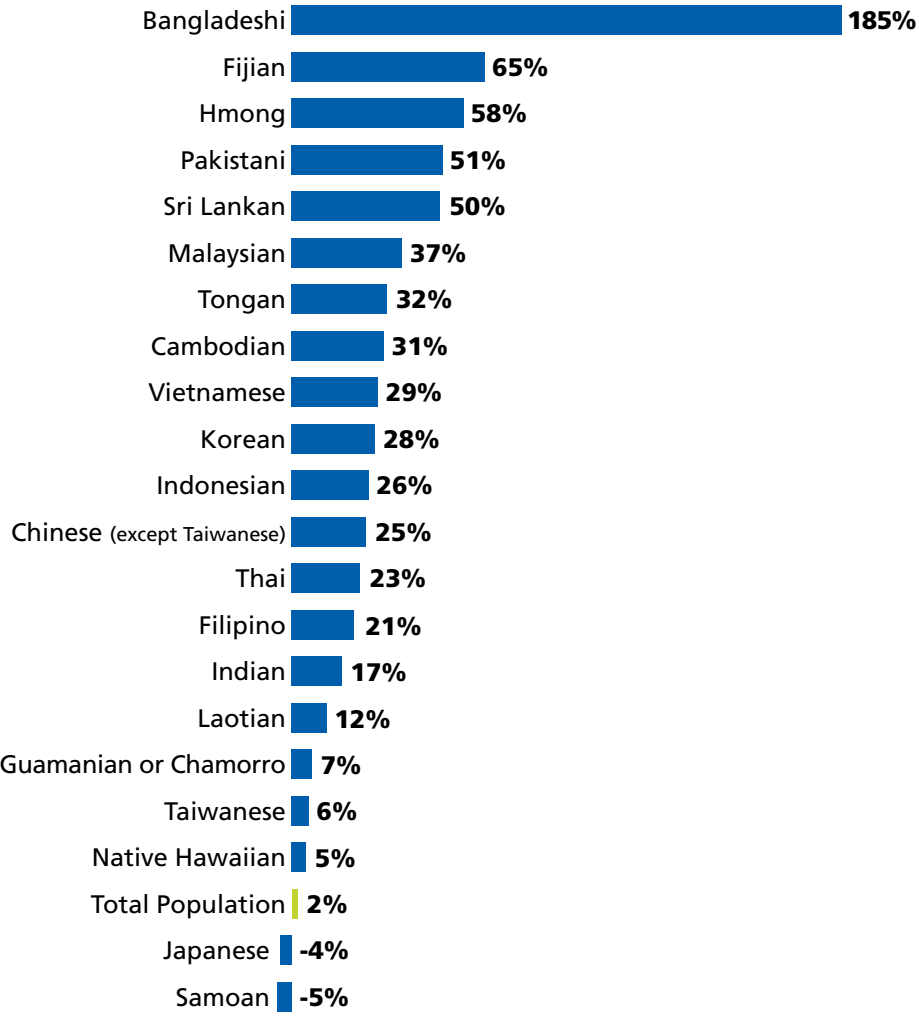
The region’s Asian American and NHPI populations are becoming more *diverse*.

POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUP  
San Gabriel Valley 2010

ETHNIC GROUP	NUMBER
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	266,701
Filipino	72,272
Vietnamese	54,647
Korean	37,804
Taiwanese	32,450
Japanese	29,276
Indian	17,584
Thai	6,763
Cambodian	6,224
Indonesian	6,192
Burmese	3,589
Native Hawaiian	2,132
Pakistani	2,048
Laotian	1,384
Samoaan	1,141
Sri Lankan	1,100
Malaysian	779
Guamanian or Chamorro	650
Bangladeshi	461
Nepalese	214
Tongan	172
Fijian	132
Hmong	131
Marshallese	13

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 SF1, Table PCT7 and PCT10; 2010 Census SF2, Table PCT1.

POPULATION GROWTH BY ETHNIC GROUP  
San Gabriel Valley 2000 to 2010



U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census SF1, Tables PCT7 and PCT10; 2010 Census SF1, Tables PCT7 and PCT10; 2010 Census SF2, Table PCT1.

- The Asian American population is growing significantly outside cities such as Alhambra and Monterey Park. Among cities in the San Gabriel Valley with more than 10,000 Asian Americans, the Asian American populations in Temple City (52%), Pasadena (49%), Arcadia (38%), and El Monte (31%) experienced the fastest growth from 2000 to 2010.<sup>9</sup>
- The Asian American population in the SGV is becoming more ethnically diverse. Making up over half of the total Asian American population, Chinese Americans remain the region’s largest Asian American ethnic group. The SGV is also home to large Filipino, Vietnamese, and Korean American populations.<sup>10</sup>
- Over half of the county’s Chinese, Vietnamese, Taiwanese, and Burmese American populations live in the SGV.<sup>11</sup>
- South Asians are among the region’s fastest-growing Asian American groups. Fijian and Tongan Americans are the fastest-growing NHPI groups.<sup>12</sup>

# ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Asian American–owned businesses in the San Gabriel Valley employ over **91,000** people.

**BUSINESSES**  
by Race and Hispanic Origin, San Gabriel Valley 2012,  
Ranked by Number of Businesses

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	ALL BUSINESSES	REVENUES (\$1,000s)	EMPLOYEES (NUMBER)	ANNUAL PAYROLL (\$1,000s)
Asian American	81,654	\$26,357,891	91,160	\$2,740,156
Latino	52,504	\$4,162,994	13,720	\$403,202
White	52,345	\$33,786,656	156,889	\$6,066,708
Black or African American	5,581	\$252,936	968	\$35,545
AIAN	1,252	\$32,989	—	—
NHPI	147	\$145	—	—
Total	194,650	\$74,588,294	306,720	\$10,844,851

U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Survey of Business Owners, Table SB1200CSA01. Note: Some business owners did not report a race. Businesses are categorized based on the race of the majority owner(s). Majority owners who report more than one race or ethnicity are counted more than once. Figures do not sum to total. Total includes publicly held businesses. Some data are not reported due to suppression or large standard error.

- In 2012, Asian Americans owned nearly 82,000 businesses in the San Gabriel Valley, a greater number than any other racial group. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) owned nearly 150 businesses.<sup>13</sup>
- Asian American–owned businesses in the region employ over 91,000 people, paying out over \$2.7 billion in payroll.<sup>14</sup>
- The average Asian American–owned business is small, employing 5.3 workers per business with employees.<sup>15</sup>
- Asian American–owned businesses are most commonly in professional, scientific, and technical services; real estate and rental and leasing; retail trade; health care and social assistance; and wholesale trade.<sup>16</sup>
- Although only 8% of all Asian American–owned businesses are in wholesale trade, these businesses produce 38% of all revenue generated by Asian American–owned businesses in the region.<sup>17</sup>



# CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Asian American voters are the **margin of victory** in legislative districts throughout the region.

- Approximately 76% of Asian Americans old enough to vote in the San Gabriel Valley are citizens of the United States.<sup>18</sup>
- Approximately 172,000 Asian Americans are registered to vote, making up 20% of the region’s total voter registration.<sup>19</sup>
- During the 2016 presidential election, Asian American voters made up 26% of all registered voters in United States Congressional District 27, 26% of all registered voters in California State Senate District 22, and 44% of all registered voters in California State Assembly District 49.<sup>20</sup>
- During the same election, Asian American voter registration exceeded the margin of victory in United States Congressional Districts 27 and 39, California State Senate District 29, and California State Assembly Districts 49 and 55.<sup>21</sup>

**ASIAN AMERICAN INFLUENCE IN LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS**  
San Gabriel Valley, 2016 General Election,  
Ranked by Asian American Voter Registration as a Percent of Margin of Victory

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	WINNER	LOCATION	MARGIN OF VICTORY (MOV)	AA VOTER REG	AA VOTER REG/MOV
39	Royce	Diamond Bar/Fullerton	38,098	76,418	201%
27	Chu	Monterey Park/Pasadena	87,322	100,991	116%
32	Napolitano	El Monte/West Covina	43,206	38,495	89%
38	Sanchez	Whittier/Montebello	95,066	40,742	43%
35	Torres	Pomona/Ontario	76,735	14,779	19%

STATE SENATE DISTRICT	WINNER	LOCATION	MARGIN OF VICTORY (MOV)	AA VOTER REG	AA VOTER REG/MOV
29	Newman	Diamond Bar/Fullerton	2,498	90,054	3,605%
25	Portantino	Pasadena/Monrovia	59,228	53,005	89%

STATE ASSEMBLY DISTRICT	WINNER	LOCATION	MARGIN OF VICTORY (MOV)	AA VOTER REG	AA VOTER REG/MOV
55	Chen	Diamond Bar/Yorba Linda	26,489	53,327	201%
49	Chau	Monterey Park/Alhambra	47,431	90,557	191%
57	Calderon	Whittier/Hacienda Heights	37,762	22,704	60%
52	Rodriguez	Pomona/Ontario	19,971	11,920	60%
41	Holden	Pasadena/Monrovia	41,816	24,869	59%

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles. 2017. “Asian Americans at the Ballot Box: The 2016 General Election in California.”

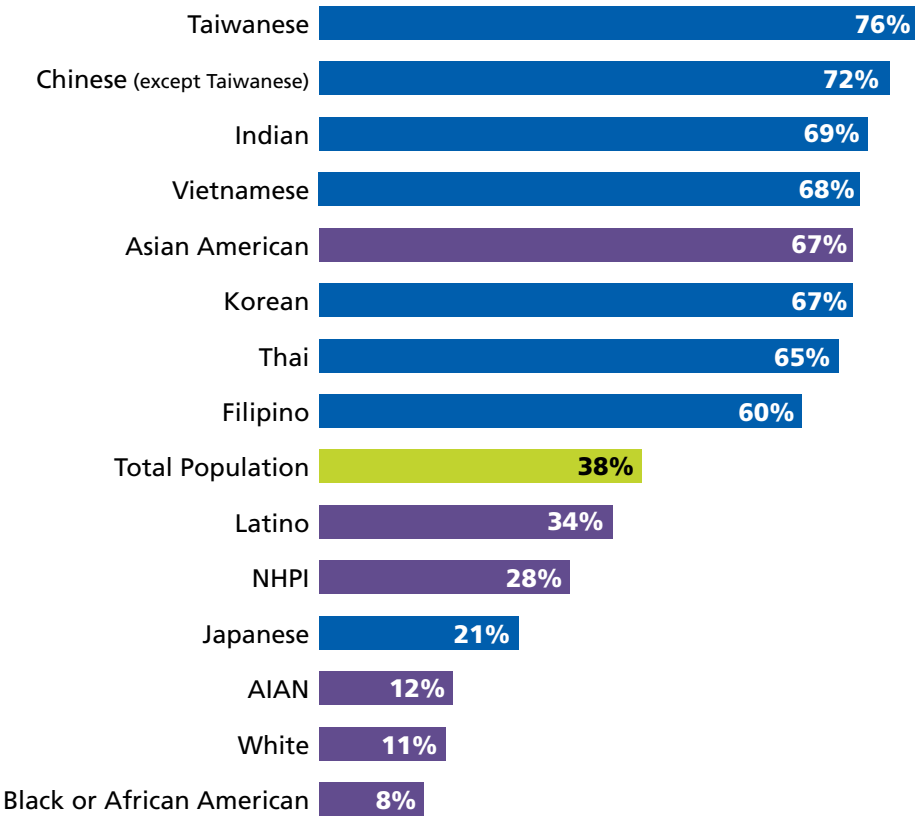


# IMMIGRATION

Approximately **58,000** undocumented Asian Americans live in the San Gabriel Valley.

### FOREIGN-BORN

by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Ethnic Group, San Gabriel Valley 2011–2015



U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B05003.

- Over 67% of Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) are immigrants, the highest rate among racial groups. In comparison, only 34% of Latinos in the region are foreign-born.<sup>22</sup>
- Over 370,000 Asian Americans and over 2,400 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) living in the SGV are immigrants.<sup>23</sup>
- Among Asian Americans in the region, Taiwanese (76%) and Chinese Americans (72%) are proportionately most foreign-born. Japanese Americans are the only Asian American ethnic group that is majority native-born.<sup>24</sup>
- About 28% of Pacific Islanders in the SGV are foreign-born, a rate much higher than Pacific Islanders nationwide (17%).<sup>25</sup>
- There are over 1.7 million undocumented Asian Americans in the country.<sup>26</sup> While there are no official estimates of the number of undocumented Asian Americans in the SGV, the number could approach 58,000 if we assume the nation’s undocumented immigrants from Asia are geographically distributed in ways consistent with the Asian American foreign-born population.<sup>27</sup>

# LANGUAGE

## ENGLISH-ONLY EFFORTS AND A HISTORY OF ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT

As immigration in the 1970s and 1980s drove dramatic growth in the San Gabriel Valley’s Asian American and Latino populations, these new communities experienced considerable backlash from local residents.

In 1985, a group of Monterey Park residents attempted to establish English as city’s official language. A manifestation of anti-immigrant sentiment, the proposal was opposed by both Asian American and Latino Monterey Park city councilmembers, including Lily Lee Chen, David Almada, and Rudy Peralta. In an election the following year, all three were removed from office by a predominantly White electorate.

In comments made to the *Los Angeles Times* shortly after his defeat, Almada commented, “(t)he attack on ethnic communities, especially the Asian community, was very strong.”<sup>28</sup>

Opposition to English-only efforts was led by the Coalition for Harmony in Monterey Park, established by Congressmember Judy Chu and former California State Assemblymember Mike Eng.

The debate resurfaced as recently as 2013, when a multiracial coalition of community members and civil rights groups defeated attempts to keep a Monterey Park city ordinance that required businesses to use some English in signage.<sup>29</sup>



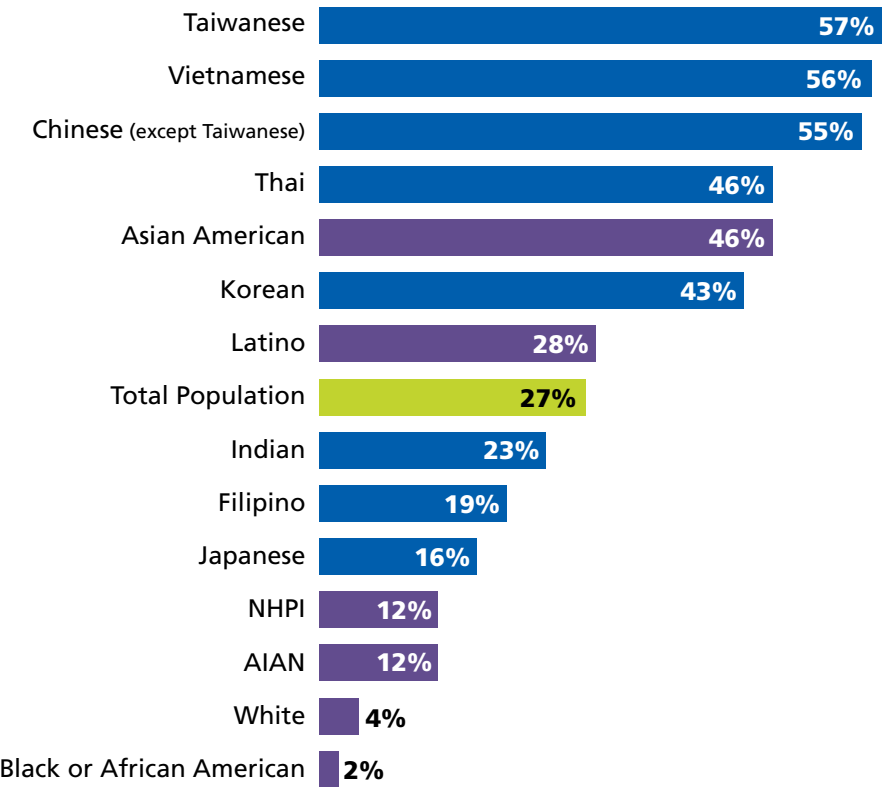




*Almost half of Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are limited English proficient.*

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY FOR THE POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OLDER

by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Ethnic Group, San Gabriel Valley 2011–2015



U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B16004.

- Almost half of Asian Americans (46%)—over 242,000—in the San Gabriel Valley are limited English proficient (LEP).<sup>30</sup>
- Among seniors, Asian Americans (73%) have a higher rate of limited English proficiency than any other racial group. Almost 92% of Vietnamese American seniors are LEP.<sup>31</sup>
- Taiwanese (57%), Vietnamese (56%), and Chinese Americans (55%) have the highest rates of limited English proficiency.<sup>32</sup>
- Approximately 12% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) are limited English proficient.<sup>33</sup>

ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLAND LANGUAGE SPEAKERS

San Gabriel Valley 2011–2015

LANGUAGE	NUMBER
Chinese	261,480
Tagalog	46,693
Vietnamese	43,310
Korean	28,974
Japanese	9,401
Other Asian Languages	8,932
Pacific Island Languages	8,543
Khmer	5,424
Thai	4,127
Hindi	3,915
Gujarati	2,185
Urdu	1,547

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B16001. Note: Chinese includes Mandarin, Cantonese, and other Chinese dialects. Because the U.S. Census Bureau classifies some languages beyond those spoken by NHPI as “Pacific Island Languages,” the number of people speaking Pacific Island languages may exceed the number of NHPI persons.

- Nearly 416,000 people in the San Gabriel Valley speak an Asian language.<sup>34</sup>
- While over 260,000 San Gabriel Valley residents speak Chinese, nearly 47,000 speak Tagalog, over 43,000 speak Vietnamese, and nearly 29,000 speak Korean.<sup>35</sup>
- Nearly 9,000 people in the region speak a Pacific Island language.<sup>36</sup>

Nearly **416,000** people in the region speak an Asian language.

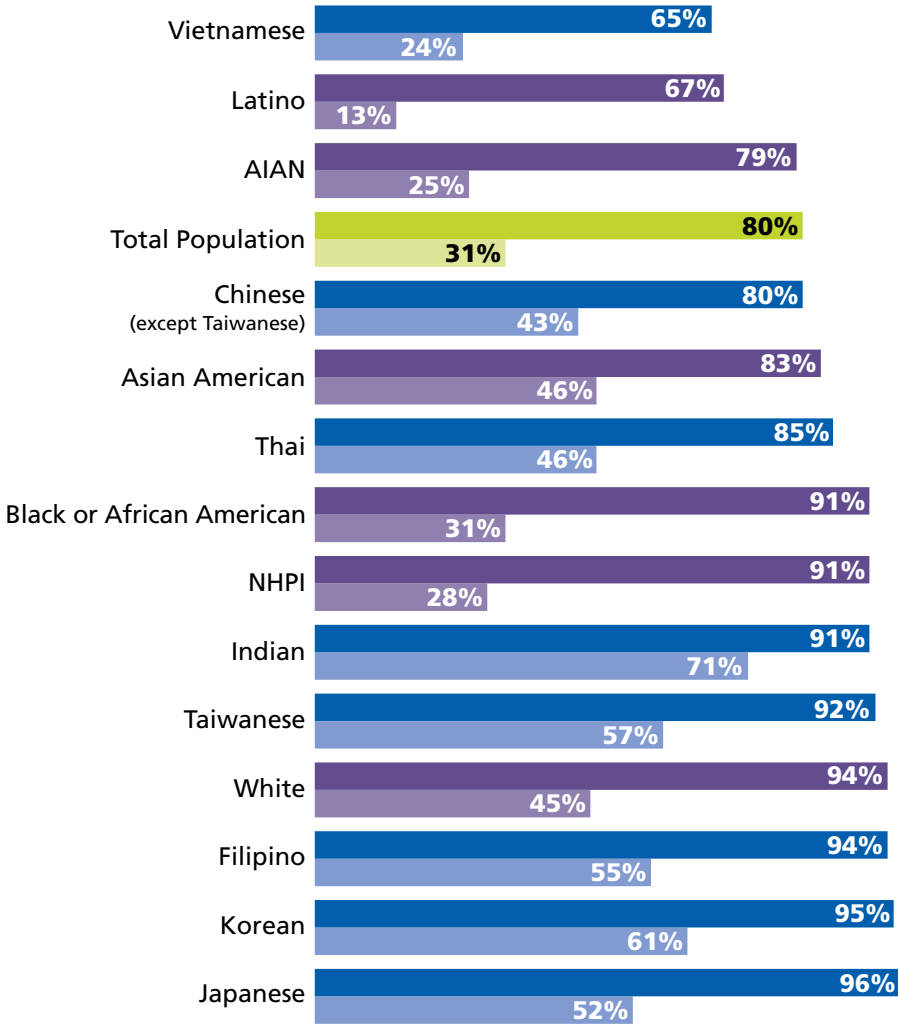




# EDUCATION

Over **14,300** English language learner students speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.

**EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR THE POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OLDER**  
by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Ethnic Group, San Gabriel Valley 2011-2015,  
Ranked by Percent Holding a High School Degree or Higher



U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B15002.

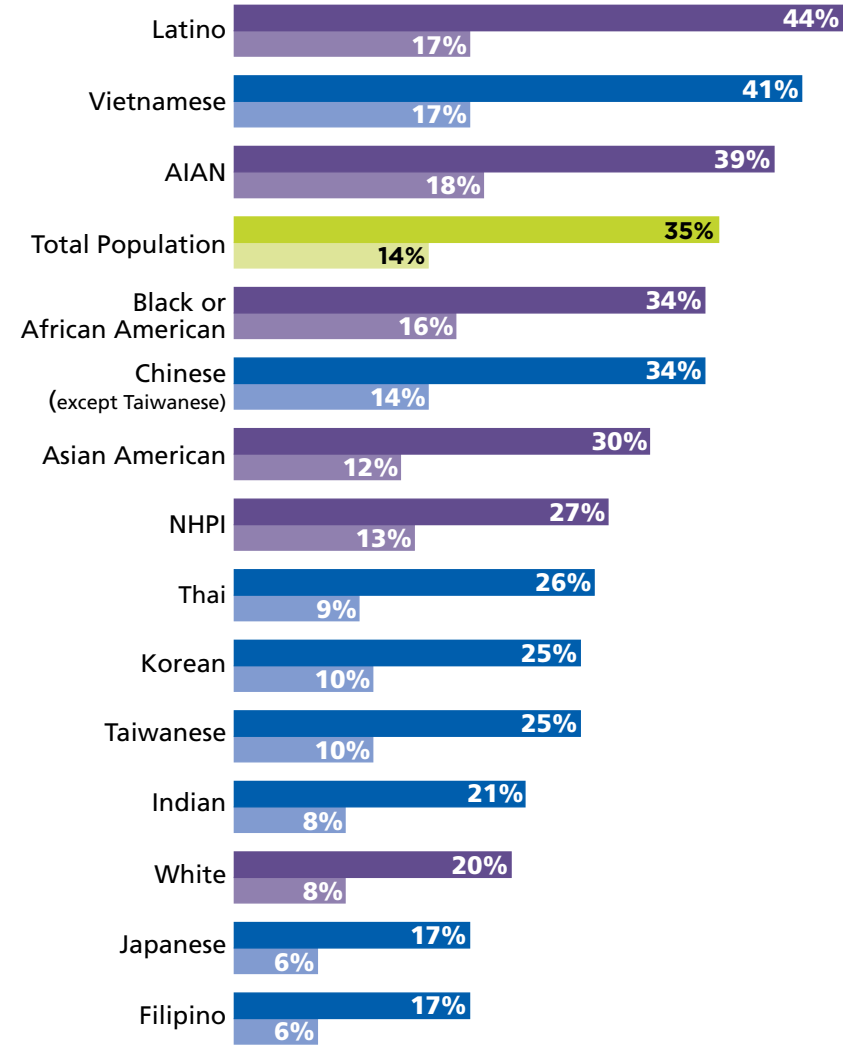
Top: High school degree or higher  
Bottom: Bachelor's degree or higher

- Chinese American adults age 25 years and older in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) are less likely than Whites to hold high school or college degrees.<sup>37</sup>
- Vietnamese Americans are less likely than any racial group to hold a high school degree and least likely among Asian American ethnic groups to hold a college degree.<sup>38</sup>
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) are less likely than average to hold a bachelor's degree.<sup>39</sup>
- Over 14,300 English language learner (ELL) students in the SGV speak an Asian or Pacific Island language.<sup>40</sup>
- The top three languages spoken by ELL students are Mandarin, Cantonese, and Vietnamese.<sup>41</sup>

# INCOME

Over **66,700** Asian Americans and nearly **1,000** NHPI in the San Gabriel Valley are living in poverty.

**POVERTY AND LOW-INCOME**  
by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Ethnic Group, San Gabriel Valley 2011-2015,  
Ranked by Percent Low-Income



U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table C17002.

Top: Low-income  
Bottom: Poverty

- Over 66,700 Asian Americans and nearly 1,000 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in the San Gabriel Valley are living in poverty.<sup>42</sup>
- Almost 15% of Asian American seniors in the San Gabriel Valley are living in poverty, a rate higher than the average for all seniors (11%) in the region.<sup>43</sup>
- Asian Americans in the region have a higher poverty rate than Whites (12% versus 8%), a greater proportion who are low-income (30% versus 20%),<sup>44</sup> and a lower per capita income (\$28,800 versus \$46,384).<sup>45</sup>
- Approximately 17% of Vietnamese Americans live below the poverty line, a rate that is highest among Asian American ethnic groups and comparable to that of Latinos.<sup>46</sup>
- Over one third of Chinese Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are low-income, and 14% live below the poverty line.<sup>47</sup>
- Approximately 27% of NHPI are low-income and 13% live below the poverty line.<sup>48</sup>





# EMPLOYMENT

## THE CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED BY LOW-WAGE WORKERS IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY

Andrew K. (pseudonym) works as a busboy at a restaurant in Alhambra.

He is single without family in the U.S., sending money home to help support his mom in China. While he’s picked up more English working at the restaurant, he’s much more comfortable speaking Chinese.

In his five years working there, he has never received a meal or rest break. When he and his coworkers take more than a few minutes to use the bathroom, their manager yells at them and tells them to get back to work. Despite working the overnight shift 10 hours a day, five days a week for minimum wage, his employer doesn’t pay him the overtime wages required by state law. Although all California workers earn at least 24 hours of paid sick leave per year, Andrew was never told about paid sick days or allowed to take them.

He learned about his workplace rights through the Restaurant Opportunities Center of Los Angeles and is in the process of filing a wage claim for his unpaid overtime, meal breaks, and rest breaks.

- Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) are employed in both white- and blue-collar jobs. Over 45% of Asian Americans and 37% of NHPI in the region work in management, business, science, and the arts, but a majority work in other occupations.<sup>49</sup>
- Approximately 16% of Asian Americans and 18% of NHPI work in service-related occupations. These include low-wage workers such as those in the restaurant, nail salon, and home health care industries.<sup>50</sup>
- Across the four county subdivisions that make up the San Gabriel Valley, median earnings for service industry workers fell between \$17,476 and \$18,576 and were lowest among major occupational categories.<sup>51</sup>
- Approximately 11% of Asian Americans in the SGV work in health care-related occupations.<sup>52</sup>
- The unemployment rate for Asian Americans in 2015 was 7%.<sup>53</sup>

*Approximately **16%** of Asian Americans and **18%** of NHPI work in service-related occupations.*

**OCCUPATIONS FOR THE CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER**  
San Gabriel Valley 2011–2015

OCCUPATIONS	% ASIAN AMERICAN	% AIAN	% BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	% LATINO	% NHPI	% WHITE	% TOTAL POPULATION
MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS, SCIENCE & ARTS	45%	33%	40%	22%	37%	53%	37%
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE	3%	7%	4%	11%	4%	6%	7%
PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION & MATERIAL MOVING	9%	15%	10%	18%	8%	6%	12%
SALES AND OFFICE	27%	25%	26%	26%	34%	24%	26%
SERVICE	16%	21%	19%	22%	18%	11%	18%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1%	5%	3%	7%	3%	1%	4%
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	6%	5%	4%	7%	4%	3%	6%
Healthcare Support	2%	1%	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%
Personal Care & Service	6%	5%	6%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Protective Service (Law Enforcement & Fire Fighting)	1%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Population Table, Table C24010. Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. See Appendix C for comprehensive occupations table.



# HOUSING

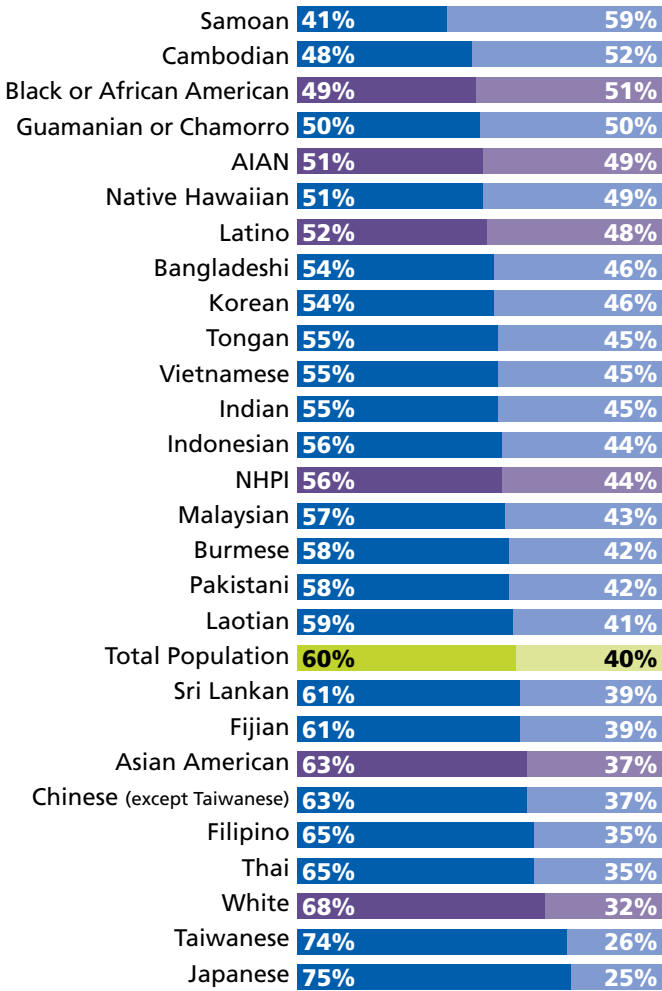
Nearly **69,000** Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are burdened by the high cost of housing.



Photo by SunDried Penguin

## HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Ethnic Group, San Gabriel Valley 2010



U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census SF2, Table HCT2.

Left: Homeowner  
Right: Renter

- Between 2015 and 2016, the average rent in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) increased 4.9%. Vacancy rates were at 2.7% during this same time, compared to 3.3% countywide.<sup>54</sup>
- The median home price in the SGV rose to \$662,400 in 2016, compared to \$559,000 countywide. The greatest increases in the SGV occurred in Azusa, San Dimas, and Alhambra.<sup>55</sup>
- Nearly 69,000 Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are burdened by the high cost of housing, spending 30% or more of their household income on housing costs.<sup>56</sup>
- Over 52% of Asian American renters in the SGV are housing cost burdened. Among renters, Vietnamese Americans (61%) have a higher housing cost burden than all racial groups.<sup>57</sup> Among homeowners with a mortgage, 49% of Asian Americans in the region are housing cost burdened, a rate higher than Asian Americans countywide (47%).<sup>58</sup>
- Asian Americans (63%) have lower homeownership rates than Whites (68%), while only 56% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) are homeowners.<sup>59</sup>
- Although only 1% of the Asian Americans and NHPI population in the SGV experiences homelessness, from 2015 to 2017 the number of homeless Asian Americans and NHPI more than tripled.<sup>60</sup>

# HEALTH

Nearly **82,000** Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley do not have health insurance.



## LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH

by Race and Ethnic Group, San Gabriel Valley 2015

RACE AND ETHNIC GROUP	LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH					
	NO. 1 CAUSE % OF TOTAL FOR GROUP		NO. 2 CAUSE % OF TOTAL FOR GROUP		NO. 3 CAUSE % OF TOTAL FOR GROUP	
Asian American	Cancer	31%	Heart disease	23%	Stroke	8%
Cambodian	Cancer	39%	Heart disease	33%	Multiple causes	11%
Chinese	Cancer	33%	Heart disease	20%	Influenza	8%
Filipino	Cancer	31%	Heart disease	29%	Stroke	8%
Indian	Heart disease	28%	Cancer	24%	Multiple causes	6%
Japanese	Heart disease	27%	Cancer	22%	Alzheimer's disease	10%
Korean	Heart disease	30%	Cancer	27%	Stroke	7%
Thai	Cancer	35%	Heart disease	17%	Stroke	13%
Vietnamese	Cancer	26%	Heart disease	18%	Stroke	14%
NHPI	Heart disease	26%	Cancer	21%	Multiple causes	5%
Total Population	Heart disease	25%	Cancer	25%	Stroke	6%

California Department of Public Health, Tabulated California Vital Records Data, 2015. Note: Chinese figures include Taiwanese. Data are suppressed for groups with fewer than 10 persons in the geography. "Multiple causes" is listed if more than one cause of death is tied in ranking.

- Cancer is the leading cause of death for Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV); 31% of Asian American deaths in 2015 were attributed to the disease, a rate higher than any other racial group. Asian Americans and Latinos are the only racial groups for which cancer is the leading cause of death.<sup>61</sup>
- Among Chinese Americans in the San Gabriel Valley, influenza is the third leading cause of death. In 2015, over 97% of Chinese Americans who died from the flu were seniors age 65 and over.<sup>62</sup>
- Among Japanese Americans, over 10% of deaths were caused by Alzheimer's disease, a rate higher than all racial and ethnic groups.<sup>63</sup>
- Over 5% of Asian Americans have had suicidal ideation.<sup>64</sup>
- Vietnamese American seniors age 65 and older in the SGV are more likely than seniors in any racial group to have a disability (40% compared to 35% on average).<sup>65</sup>
- Nearly 82,000 Asian Americans and over 1,000 NHPI in the SGV are uninsured.<sup>66</sup>
- One in five Korean Americans in the SGV are uninsured, a rate higher than the total population.<sup>67</sup>
- Nearly 20% of Asian Americans in the region do not have a usual source of care when sick or in need of health advice, compared to approximately 6% of Whites.<sup>68</sup>



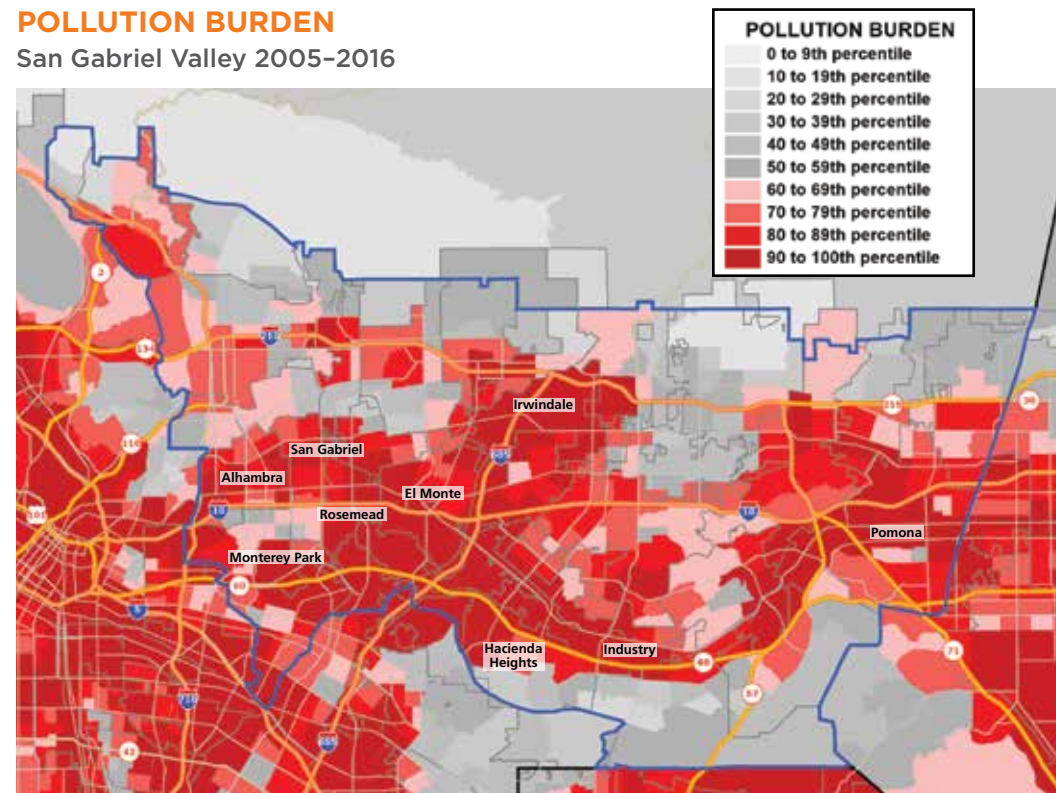
# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

*The San Gabriel Valley is home to some of the **most** polluted parts of California.*



## POLLUTION BURDEN

San Gabriel Valley 2005–2016



California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), CalEnviroScreen 3.0, January 2017. Pollution Burden scores measure the aggregate level of pollution in a census tract relative to others statewide and are derived from the average percentiles across seven exposure and five environmental effects indicators. The darkest shade represents census tracts whose pollution burden is higher than 90% of census tracts statewide.

- The San Gabriel Valley is home to some of the most polluted parts of California. According to the California Environmental Protection Agency's CalEnviroScreen 3.0 data, over 25% of the region is severely polluted, with one in four census tracts at or above the 90th percentile for pollution burden statewide.<sup>69</sup>
- Among cities with the largest Asian American populations, 70% of El Monte, 46% of Rosemead, 40% of San Gabriel, 31% of Hacienda Heights, 30% of Alhambra, 29% of Temple City, and 27% of Monterey Park are severely polluted.<sup>70</sup>
- Particular pollution challenges include the release of toxic chemicals from industrial facilities south of the 10 Freeway; drinking-water contamination in Alhambra, Arcadia, Irwindale, Monterey Park, Temple City, and West Covina; and exhaust from vehicle traffic along the 10, 60, 210, and 605 Freeway corridors.<sup>71</sup>

- In its 2016 *Los Angeles County-wide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment*, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation classified Baldwin Park and

El Monte as having a “very high” need for parks and green space, while Alhambra, La Puente, and Temple city were classified as having “high” need.<sup>72</sup>

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The needs of Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) in the San Gabriel Valley are often rendered invisible by model-minority stereotypes of unwavering success and data aggregated by racial group. Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources, this report documents Asian American and NHPI poverty and low-wage work, persistent language barriers, and environmental hazards that impact the health of all residents.

These policy recommendations serve as a starting point for improving the delivery of services to two of the region's most diverse racial groups.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

During the 2016 presidential election, Asian American voters were the margin of victory in legislative districts throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Yet our communities have yet to realize their potential as participants in the political process. Policy makers, foundations, and others can promote the civic engagement of Asian Americans and NHPI by:

- Providing funding to community organizations that offer culturally and linguistically competent naturalization assistance, voter registration, and voter education to Asian Americans and NHPI. Because civic engagement work is most effective when conducted on an ongoing basis, funding should be provided for multiyear periods.
- Increasing awareness of language assistance available to voters under Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act and California Elections Code Section 14201; promoting the Secretary of State's voter registration website, available in eight Asian languages; and educating voters about the county's new voting system to be adopted in 2020.

## IMMIGRATION

Over two-thirds of Asian Americans and one-quarter of NHPI in the region are immigrants and an estimated 58,000 Asian Americans are undocumented. Policy makers, foundations, and others can better serve all immigrants by:

- Ensuring local implementation of state laws and adopting local ordinances that prohibit discrimination against immigrants in employment, housing, education, and public services, particularly the use of retaliation against undocumented immigrants for asserting their rights. They should also work to

ensure local implementation of SB 54, which curtails the use of state and local resources to enforce federal immigration law.

- Adequately funding the Los Angeles County Office of Immigrant Affairs and the L.A. Justice Fund to meet the needs of diverse immigrant communities countywide.

## LANGUAGE

An overwhelmingly immigrant population, almost half of Asian Americans in the San Gabriel Valley are limited English proficient (LEP) and face some challenges communicating in English, which impacts their ability to access basic city or county services. Policy makers, foundations, and others can better address language barriers facing immigrant communities by:

- Enacting language access ordinances that improve local governments' ability to serve all residents. The cities of Oakland and San Francisco have adopted ordinances to improve access to services through bilingual assistance, translated materials, and other means.
- Increasing government funding for free and low-cost adult English language programs.

## EDUCATION

In schools serving immigrant communities, language access is critical to both student achievement and parental engagement. Policy makers, foundations, and others can better address the educational needs of Asian Americans and NHPI by:

- Increasing funding for public K–12, adult, and higher education to ensure education is accessible and affordable. Financial aid programs, targeted outreach, and in-language resources for parents are critical.
- Supporting opportunities for meaningful parental involvement, including providing LEP parents with translation of school documents and interpretation at school meetings and events. Schools should be encouraged to voluntarily translate materials into languages that do not meet the 15% threshold for mandatory translation.
- Supporting after-school and other youth programs that provide academic and cultural enrichment, leadership development, social justice education, and community engagement.



INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Despite stereotypes of monolithic success, thousands of Asian Americans and NHPI in the San Gabriel Valley work in blue-collar jobs. Approximately 16% of Asian Americans and 18% of NHPI work in service-related occupations. With over 66,700 Asian Americans and nearly 1,000 NHPI in the region living below the poverty line, policy makers, foundations, and others should address the needs of low-wage workers by:

- Ensuring a minimum wage and overtime pay for all workers, including those employed as caregivers and in the nail salon and restaurant industries. Cities should develop minimum wage enforcement ordinances or “opt in” to those developed by Los Angeles County. The enforcement of labor laws requires meaningful sanctions against employers who break the law.
- Improving the engagement of Asian Americans and NHPI around workers’ rights issues. Funding should support community organizations that educate Asian American and NHPI workers about their rights; organize them; and help victims of wage theft, overtime, and other labor law violations file claims. Funding should also support the ability of government agencies to engage workers in commonly spoken Asian and Pacific Island languages through public websites, educational materials, forms, and assistance hotlines.
- Ensuring access to quality, affordable, and culturally and linguistically appropriate child care.

HOUSING

Nearly 69,000 Asian Americans in the region are burdened by the high cost of housing, spending 30% or more of their income on a place to live. As the cost of renting an apartment or buying a home continues to increase, policy makers, foundations, and others should improve access to affordable housing by:

- Establishing local rent controls and eliminating regulations like the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act that limit their effectiveness.
- Providing more resources and visibility to court mediation programs for homeowners facing foreclosure and ensuring language access in the court system for those facing eviction or foreclosure.

HEALTH

While Asian Americans and NHPI are disproportionately impacted by certain types of disease, many lack access to culturally and linguistically appropriate care. Policy makers, foundations, and others should work to improve the health of San Gabriel Valley residents by:

- Ensuring every health care provider has the capacity to engage patients in their primary language and in a manner compatible with their cultural beliefs. Doing so promotes effective, respectful communication between patients and providers.
- Expanding our health care system, supporting publicly funded health and social service programs, and shifting our health care system toward single-payer and/or universal coverage. This will increase access to health for all Californians, regardless of immigration status.
- Expanding the definition of health to include access to healthy and affordable foods, safe places to play, employment with fair wages, safe housing, and other social determinants of health. Residents should be able to access health-serving places without fear of intimidation or arrest.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Home to large Asian American and Latino populations, the region is also home to some of the most polluted places in California. Policy makers, foundations, and others should address environmental and environmental justice issues by:

- Developing a regional assessment of environmental assets and concerns and their impact on communities of color and mobilizing key stakeholders to address the considerable environmental challenges facing the area.
- Improving access to parks and other green space. By establishing more connections between existing bike paths, multiuse trails, parks, and open spaces, policy makers can create an interconnected network of recreational opportunities for park-poor communities.

DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

Both community contributions and challenges cannot be fully understood without access to good data. Policy makers, foundations, and others should increase the availability of local data on Asian Americans and NHPI by:

- Collecting and reporting data in ways consistent with 1997 revisions to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 15, which calls for data on Asian Americans and NHPI to be collected and reported on as two distinct racial groups.
- Collecting and reporting data on distinct Asian American and NHPI ethnic groups. City and county government agencies and local school districts should look to the U.S. Census Bureau and state law for best practices.

RESOURCES

ON THE ENVIRONMENT

- API Forward Movement (Transportation) [www.apifm.org](http://www.apifm.org)
- The Wilderness Society (Conservation) [www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org)

ON HEALTH

- API Forward Movement (Healthy Foods and Active Living) [www.apifm.org](http://www.apifm.org)
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Health Insurance) [www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/policy-and-research/health-justice](http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/policy-and-research/health-justice)
- Asian Pacific Health Care Venture (Health Care Services) [www.aphcv.org](http://www.aphcv.org)
- Chinese Christian Herald Crusade (Health and Dental Services) [www.cchcla.org/en/](http://www.cchcla.org/en/)
- Pacific Clinics (Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder Treatment) [www.pacificclinics.org](http://www.pacificclinics.org)
- Tzu Chi Clinics (Health and Dental Services) [www.tzuchiclinics.org](http://www.tzuchiclinics.org)

FOR RENTERS, HOMEOWNERS

- Housing Rights Center (Education, Advocacy, and Litigation) [www.hrc-la.org](http://www.hrc-la.org)
- Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (Renter, Homeowner Information) [www.dcba.lacounty.gov](http://www.dcba.lacounty.gov)
- Neighborhood Legal Services (Legal Help) [www.nlsla.org/services/housing](http://www.nlsla.org/services/housing)

FOR WORKERS

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Legal Help) [www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/impact-litigation/employment-and-workplace-issues](http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/impact-litigation/employment-and-workplace-issues)
- Bet Tzedek (Legal Help) [www.bettzedek.org](http://www.bettzedek.org)
- California Department of Industrial Relations, Labor Commissioner’s Office (Know Your Rights, Bilingual Resources) [www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/Know\\_Your\\_Rights.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/DLSE/Know_Your_Rights.html)
- California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative (Nail Salon Workers) [www.cahealthynailsalons.org](http://www.cahealthynailsalons.org)
- National Day Laborer Organizing Network (Day Laborers) [www.ndlon.org](http://www.ndlon.org)
- Pilipino Workers Center (Home Health Care Workers/Caregivers) [www.pwcsc.org](http://www.pwcsc.org)
- Pomona Economic Opportunity Center (Day Laborers) [www.pomonadaylabor.org](http://www.pomonadaylabor.org)

- Restaurant Opportunities Center of Los Angeles (Restaurant Workers) [www.rocunited.org/staff-and-locals/los-angeles](http://www.rocunited.org/staff-and-locals/los-angeles)
- Wage Justice Center (Wage Theft) [www.wagejustice.org](http://www.wagejustice.org)

TO VOTE

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Voting Rights Project) [www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/policy-and-research/voting-rights-0](http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/policy-and-research/voting-rights-0)
- California Secretary of State (New Voters, Bilingual Resources) [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/voting-california)
- Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters (Voting and Elections, Bilingual Resources) [www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections](http://www.lavote.net/home/voting-elections)

FOR YOUTH AND PARENTS

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles (Youth & Parent Leadership Development) [www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/leadership-development/youth-and-parent](http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/what-we-do/leadership-development/youth-and-parent)
- Asian Youth Center (Youth & Family Services) [www.asianyouthcenter.org](http://www.asianyouthcenter.org)
- East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center (Cultural Enrichment Classes; Youth and Senior Programs) [www.esgvjcc.org](http://www.esgvjcc.org)
- SGV Immigrant Youth Coalition (Immigration) [www.ciyja.org/affiliates](http://www.ciyja.org/affiliates)
- The Wilderness Society (San Gabriel Mountains Forever Leadership Academy) [www.lanatureforall.org/what-we-do/programs/leadershipacademy](http://www.lanatureforall.org/what-we-do/programs/leadershipacademy)

LEGAL HELP

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles Website [www.advancingjustice-la.org](http://www.advancingjustice-la.org)
- Chinese (800) 520-2356
- English (888) 349-9695
- Khmer (800) 867-3126
- Korean (800) 867-3640
- Tagalog (855) 300-2552
- Thai (800) 914-9583
- Vietnamese (800) 267-7395
- Other Languages (888) 349-9695

Advancing Justice – LA’s hotlines prioritize assistance to low-income persons in the following areas of law: family, immigration, consumer, public benefits, employment, housing, and civil rights.



GLOSSARY

**disability**  
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, includes hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, or independent living difficulties.

**housing cost burden**  
Households are considered to have a high burden when 30% or more of household income is spent on housing costs, which include rent and utilities.

**limited English proficient**  
Persons who speak English less than “very well.”

**low-income**  
People who fall below 200% of the income-to-poverty ratio, or those with income for the past 12 months that was less than twice the poverty threshold (e.g., the 2015 Census Bureau poverty threshold was \$24,036 for a family of four with two children under age 18).

**margin of victory**  
The difference between the number of votes cast for the winning candidate and votes cast for the second-place candidate.

**model-minority myth**  
A stereotype that depicts Asian Americans as monolithically successful. This stereotype masks disparities that exist among different Asian American ethnic groups, serves as a wedge between Asian Americans and other communities of color by creating a racial hierarchy, and downplays the effects of systemic racism.

**per capita income**  
The mean income computed for all individuals in a particular group in the past 12 months. It is derived by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population of that group.

**poverty**  
A measure of income relative to the federal poverty threshold (the poverty line). Adjusted for family size, the 2015 Census Bureau poverty threshold was less than \$24,036 annually for a family of four with two children under age 18.

**seniors**  
Persons age 65 years and over.

**unemployment rate**  
The percent of the civilian workforce age 16 years or older who have been actively looking for work over the previous four weeks but have yet to find a job.

APPENDIX A: Population & Population Growth

Ranked by 2010 Population

RACE AND HISPANIC ORIGIN	2000		2010		% Growth 2000 to 2010
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Latino	803,517	44%	855,755	46%	7%
Asian American	430,506	24%	524,716	28%	22%
White	481,255	26%	398,740	22%	-17%
Black or African American	97,075	5%	81,607	4%	-16%
AIAN	27,381	2%	26,061	1%	-5%
NHPI	6,839	0.4%	7,187	0.4%	5%
TOTAL POPULATION	1,817,026	100%	1,846,796	100%	2%

ASIAN AMERICAN ETHNIC GROUPS	2000		2010		% Growth 2000 to 2010
	Number	% of AA	Number	% of AA	
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	212,861	49%	266,701	51%	25%
Filipino	59,971	14%	72,272	14%	21%
Vietnamese	42,493	10%	54,647	10%	29%
Korean	29,496	7%	37,804	7%	28%
Taiwanese	30,651	7%	32,450	6%	6%
Japanese	30,426	7%	29,276	6%	-4%
Indian	15,026	3%	17,584	3%	17%
Thai	5,517	1.3%	6,763	1%	23%
Cambodian	4,748	1.1%	6,224	1%	31%
Indonesian	4,898	1.1%	6,192	1%	26%
Burmese	NR	NR	3,589	0.7%	NR
Pakistani	1,357	0.3%	2,048	0.4%	51%
Laotian	1,231	0.3%	1,384	0.3%	12%
Sri Lankan	731	0.2%	1,100	0.2%	50%
Malaysian	568	0.1%	779	0.1%	37%
Bangladeshi	162	0.04%	461	0.1%	185%
Nepalese	NR	NR	214	0.04%	NR
Hmong	83	0.02%	131	0.02%	58%
ASIAN AMERICAN	430,506	100%	524,716	100%	22%

NHPI ETHNIC GROUPS	2000		2010		% Growth 2000 to 2010
	Number	% of NHPI	Number	% of NHPI	
Native Hawaiian	2,030	30%	2,132	30%	5%
Samoaan	1,201	18%	1,141	16%	-5%
Guamanian or Chamorro	608	9%	650	9%	7%
Tongan	130	2%	172	2%	32%
Fijian	80	1%	132	2%	65%
Marshallese	NR	NR	13	0.2%	NR
NHPI	6,839	100%	7,187	100%	5%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census SF1 Tables P8, P9, PCT7, and PCT10; 2010 Census SF1 Tables P5, P6, PCT7, and PCT10. Note: Figures include both single race/ethnicity and multi-racial/multiethnic people, except for White, which is single race, non-Latino. Figures do not sum to total. NR = No report. Ethnic group did not meet 2000 Census population threshold for reporting.



# APPENDIX B: Selected Population Characteristics

by Race & Hispanic Origin

Homeownership		LEP		Foreign-Born		Per Capita Income		Poverty Rate		High School Degree or Higher	
SF2 HCT2		ACS 5-Year B16004		ACS 5-Year B05003		ACS 5-Year B19301		ACS 5-Year B17001		ACS 5-Year B15002	
Black or African American	49%	Asian American	46%	Asian American	67%	Latino	\$18,358	AIAN	18%	Latino	67%
AIAN	51%	Latino	28%	Latino	34%	NHPI	\$21,768	Latino	17%	AIAN	79%
Latino	52%	NHPI	12%	NHPI	28%	AIAN	\$25,836	Black or African American	16%	Asian American	83%
NHPI	56%	AIAN	12%	AIAN	12%	Black or African American	\$27,073	NHPI	13%	Black or African American	91%
Asian American	63%	White	4%	White	11%	Asian American	\$28,800	Asian American	12%	NHPI	91%
White	68%	Black or African American	2%	Black or African American	8%	White	\$46,384	White	8%	White	94%
Total Population	60%	Total Population	27%	Total Population	38%	Total Population	\$27,716	Total Population	14%	Total Population	80%

by Asian American & NHPI Ethnic Groups

Homeownership		LEP		Foreign-Born		Per Capita Income		Poverty Rate		High School Degree or Higher	
SF2 HCT2		ACS 5-Year B16004		ACS 5-Year B05003		ACS 5-Year B19301		ACS 5-Year B17001		ACS 5-Year B15002	
Samoan	41%	Taiwanese	57%	Taiwanese	76%	Vietnamese	\$21,021	Vietnamese	17%	Vietnamese	65%
Cambodian	48%	Vietnamese	56%	Chinese (except Taiwanese)	72%	Chinese (except Taiwanese)	\$27,923	Chinese (except Taiwanese)	14%	Chinese (except Taiwanese)	80%
Guamanian or Chamorro	50%	Chinese (except Taiwanese)	55%	Indian	69%	Thai	\$28,922	Korean	10%	Thai	85%
Native Hawaiian	51%	Thai	46%	Vietnamese	68%	Filipino	\$28,970	Taiwanese	10%	Indian	91%
Bangladeshi	54%	Korean	43%	Korean	67%	Korean	\$32,171	Thai	9%	Taiwanese	92%
Korean	54%	Indian	23%	Thai	65%	Taiwanese	\$32,422	Indian	8%	Filipino	94%
Tongan	55%	Filipino	19%	Filipino	60%	Japanese	\$37,110	Japanese	6%	Korean	95%
Vietnamese	55%	Japanese	16%	Japanese	21%	Indian	\$43,119	Filipino	6%	Japanese	96%
Indian	55%	SHADED = Fairing below Non-Hispanic Whites BOLD = Fairing below the area average BLUE = Fairing below all major racial and ethnic groups									
Indonesian	56%										
Malaysian	57%										
Burmese	58%										
Pakistani	58%										
Laotian	59%										
Sri Lankan	61%										
Fijian	61%										
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	63%										
Filipino	65%										
Thai	65%										
Taiwanese	74%										
Japanese	75%										

For homeownership, data are from the 2010 Decennial Census Summary File 2. For all other variables, data are from the 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Fewer ethnic groups are available from the American Community Survey because of data instability and smaller sample size.

# APPENDIX C: Occupations for Civilian Employed

Population 16 Years and Over, by Ethnic Group, San Gabriel Valley, 2011–2015

OCCUPATION	Asian American	Indian	Chinese (except Taiwanese)	Filipino	Japanese	Korean	Taiwanese	Thai	Vietna-mese
MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS, SCIENCE & ARTS	45%	68%	43%	50%	57%	55%	53%	40%	32%
Computer, Engineering & Science	9%	22%	8%	7%	10%	6%	9%	9%	8%
Architecture & Engineering	3%	6%	3%	3%	5%	1%	3%	4%	3%
Computer & Mathematical	4%	13%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%
Life, Physical & Social Science	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Education, Legal, Community Service, Arts & Media	9%	12%	8%	7%	17%	16%	9%	7%	6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	3%	3%	2%	2%	5%	4%	2%	1%	2%
Community & Social Service	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	1%
Education, Training & Library	4%	7%	4%	3%	8%	7%	5%	4%	3%
Legal	1%	0.3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0.4%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical Occupations	9%	11%	6%	21%	7%	9%	8%	6%	6%
Health Diagnosing & Treating Practitioners & Other Technical Occupations	7%	10%	5%	15%	5%	8%	7%	5%	4%
Health Technologists & Technicians	2%	2%	1%	6%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Management, Business & Financial	19%	22%	20%	15%	22%	24%	27%	19%	12%
Business & Financial Operations	9%	7%	9%	7%	10%	8%	12%	5%	6%
Management	10%	15%	10%	8%	12%	16%	15%	14%	6%
NATURAL RESOURCES, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE	3%	1%	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%
Construction & Extraction	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0.4%	2%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	0.1%	NR	0.02%	0.1%	NR	NR	0.1%	NR	12%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	2%	0.1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	3%
PRODUCTION, TRANSPORTATION & MATERIAL MOVING	9%	4%	9%	7%	5%	5%	3%	6%	15%
Material Moving	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0.2%	1%	0.5%	2%
Production	5%	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%	2%	2%	11%
Transportation	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%
SALES & OFFICE OCCUPATIONS	27%	21%	28%	25%	24%	27%	35%	29%	23%
Office & Administrative Support	14%	14%	14%	17%	14%	9%	22%	14%	13%
Sales & Related Occupations	12%	7%	14%	8%	10%	18%	13%	15%	10%
SERVICE OCCUPATIONS	16%	7%	17%	16%	12%	10%	6%	24%	24%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	1%	0.1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0.3%	1%	1%
Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations	6%	3%	7%	4%	3%	4%	1%	15%	4%
Healthcare Support	2%	1%	2%	5%	1%	1%	1%	4%	2%
Personal Care & Service	6%	1%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%	4%	16%
Protective Service	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0.4%	0.2%	1%	1%
Fire Fighting & Prevention & Other Protective Service Workers Including Supervisors	0.5%	1%	0.4%	1%	1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%
Law Enforcement Workers Including Supervisors	0.3%	NR	0.2%	0.3%	1%	0.2%	NR	0.5%	0.2%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Population Table, Table C24010. Note: Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. NR = No report. Occupation did not meet threshold for reporting.



NOTES

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TECHNICAL NOTES

**Geographies used in the report**  
Since the U.S. Census Bureau does not recognize the San Gabriel Valley as a discrete geography, cen- sus data on the region must be aggregated using four Census County Divisions (CCD): Pasadena CCD, Upper San Gabriel CCD, East San Gabriel CCD, and Southwest San Gabriel CCD. In other instances where cities within the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) are used for a particular data point, cities located within these four CCDs as well as those listed on the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership’s website are used. An aggregation of these cities is used for data from the California Department of Education. Data from the California Health Interview Survey used Service Planning Area 3 (San Gabriel Valley) as the geo- graphical boundary, while data from the California Department of Public Health is based on zip codes.

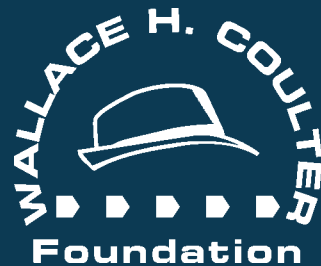
**Measuring the characteristics of racial and ethnic groups**  
Since 2000, the United States Census Bureau has allowed those responding to its questionnaires to report one or more racial or ethnic backgrounds. While this better reflects America’s diversity and improves data available on multiracial populations, it complicates the use of data on racial and ethnic groups. Data on race are generally available from the Census Bureau in two forms: for those of a single racial background (referred to as “alone”) with multiracial people captured in an independent category, and for those of either single or multiple racial backgrounds (referred to as “alone or in combination with one or more other races”). Similarly, data on ethnic groups are generally avail- able as “alone” or “alone or in any combination.” In this report, population, population growth, and population characteristics by racial and ethnic group are measured for the “alone or in combination” pop- ulation unless otherwise noted. Exceptions include the measurement of the White population, which is defined here as non-Latino White “alone” unless otherwise noted. Also, “Latino” is used consistently to refer to Hispanics or Latinos. While the 2010 Census Summary File 1 includes counts of the population and housing units, some ethnic groups are suppressed in other Census Bureau products. For example, the

2010 Census Summary File 2 suppresses groups with fewer than 100 persons in a geography; the American Community Survey also suppresses groups due to sampling sizes. To help ensure that the housing char- acteristics presented in the report accurately reflect an ethnic group, for the 2010 Summary File 2 tables we include groups with 200 or more households and more than 100 persons in the geography. For the 2011–2015 5-Year Estimates from the American Community Survey, several ethnic groups are excluded due to data stability concerns. Groups that were available from the American Community Survey but were not included in the report for this reason include Burmese Americans, Cambodian Americans, Indonesian Americans, Laotian Americans, Pakistani Americans, Samoan Americans, and Native Hawaiians.

**Sources of data used in this report**  
Most of the data included in this report are drawn from the United States Census Bureau, including the 2000 and 2010 Decennial Census, American Community Survey (ACS) 2011–2015 Estimates, and 2012 Survey of Business Owners. Other data in the report come from Beacon Economics, the California Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Public Health, California Department of Education, California Secretary of State, California Health Interview Survey, Center for Migration Studies, Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.

Publications are available in print or on the Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles website ([www.advancingjustice-la.org/demographics](http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/demographics)), where they can be downloaded or printed free of charge. For questions about ordering reports, please call (213) 977-7500. Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles, 1145 Wilshire Blvd., 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017.





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