

**Some Demographic Information on
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Michigan**

(Compiled by Paul Wong, Dean, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn and Kathy Tran, Graduate Student, School of Social Work, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. For Distribution on the visit of the U.S. President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the Detroit Area on July 26, 2002)

Introduction

The Census 2000 reports that 12.78 million United States residents identify as Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs)¹, of which 1.45 million or 11.34% of the national APIA population reside in the Midwest region². With 215,296 APIA residents, Michigan has the second largest population of APIAs in the Midwest and the 13th largest such population in the nation. The APIA population comprises 2.17% of Michigan's population.

Between 1990 and 2000, the APIA population in the United States grew by 75.61%. To contrast, in the Midwest region, this population grew by 88.56% during the same period. Within this decade, the APIA population in the state of Michigan grew by 105.37%, far superceding the national and regional growth rates.

While the APIA community in Michigan is a growing and thriving community, it still faces significant challenges to its well-being. This introduction uses information from the 1990 and 2000 Census, the 1997 Economic Census, and educational statistics to provide an introduction to the characteristics of the APIA community in Michigan.

This report contains some of the data that we are compiling for a study on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Michigan. The purpose of the study is to examine important issues – such as education, civil rights, political participation, economic status, health and mental health, as well as community development – that affect the well-being of APIAs in this state.

Basic Demographic Information

Age

The Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander population in Michigan is a relatively young population. Approximately 71,000 or 39.50% of this population are school aged youth between the ages of 0 and 24. Of this group, nearly 49,000 residents are ages 0-17 or “school aged” youth, while over 22,000 residents are between the ages of 18 – 24 or “college aged” young adults. Nearly 8,000 or 4.25% of the total Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander population are 65 years or older. In comparison, the 1990 Census reported that 45.05% of the state's APIA population was between the ages of 0 and 24, while residents 65 and older comprised 3.17% of the Asian Pacific American population.

¹ The term “Asian Pacific Islander Americans” is defined by the Census 2000 racial categories of “Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races” and “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more other races.” The authors will note statistics that apply only to residents who identify as “Asian alone” or “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone.” When used in relation to data from the 1990 Census, the term “Asian Pacific Islander American” is defined as “Asian or Pacific Islander” on the Census racial identification category.

² The Census 2000 defines “Midwest Region” as the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The median ages of males and females who identified as Asian alone with one race or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander alone with one race in Michigan is slightly lower than the median age of their counterparts in the Midwest region and nationwide.

Language Background

The 1990 Census, 59,426 Michigan residents ages 5 and over reported speaking an Asian Pacific Island language at home and also reported on their abilities to speak English. Of those reporting, 81.50% stated they spoke English “very well” or “well” compared to 18.50% who reported speaking English “not well” or “not at all.” Of those speakers who reported in the latter categories, 15.68% were school-aged youth between the ages of 5-17. The number of school-aged youth whose English abilities ranked as “not well” or not at all” was slightly higher than that of their peers nationwide. Since 1990, there is an estimated decline in the number of youth who speak English “not well” or “not at all” – the 2000 Census estimates that 14.14% of Michigan youth ages 5 – 17 who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language at home speak English “not well” or “not at all.”

Additionally in 1990, over 57,000 Michigan residents ages 5 and over who spoke an Asian or Pacific Island language in the home reported whether or not they were linguistically isolated. Nationwide, 33.81% of those who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language in the home were linguistically isolated, while 28.97% of Michigan residents who speak one of these languages in the home were linguistically isolated. Furthermore, 17.88% of these linguistically isolated Michigan residents were school-aged youth between the ages 5 – 17. The 2000 Census estimates that 28.09% of residents who speak an Asian or Pacific Island language in the home are linguistically isolated.

Citizenship

The 1990 Public Use Microdata Sample revealed that nationwide, 58.37% of the APIA population were citizens by birth or naturalization and 41.60% of this population did not hold U.S. citizenship. In comparison, in Michigan, 59.89% of the APIA population held U.S. citizenship by birth or naturalization while 40.10% of the population were not citizens. Also, of Michigan’s APIA population, 40.42% of the Asian population does not have U.S. citizenship compared to 18.09% of the Pacific Islander population.

Household Information

The 2000 Census reports that Michigan has nearly 56,000 Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander only households, totaling nearly 164,000 residents. Asian only households have an average size of 2.93 residents, and Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander only households have an average size of 2.97 residents. Michigan’s Asian and Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander only household averages are less than their counterparts nationally and regionally. In Michigan, 19.50% of Asian or Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander only families live in households with 5 or more

persons, while 1.06% of Asian or Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander non-families live in households with 5 or more persons.

As reported in the 2000 Census, both Michigan's Asian only and Native Hawaiian / Other Pacific Islander only family size averages, at 3.48 and 3.34 individuals per family respectively, are smaller than their counterparts nationally and regionally.

Educational Achievement

The 1990 Census reported that nationwide, 35.09% of the APIA population were students enrolled in preprimary schools through college. Of these students, 56.68% were enrolled in elementary through high school, and 38.12% were enrolled in college. In comparison, 42.52% of the APIA population in Michigan were students enrolled in preprimary schools through college. Michigan also had a higher average number of APIA students enrolled in elementary through high schools (53.20%) and colleges (40.62%) than the national averages. In reporting the school enrollment for the Asian with one race population in Michigan, the 2000 Census estimates that 40.41% of this population are enrolled in school. A slight majority or 51.56% of Asian with one race students are enrolled in preprimary through high while 48.43% are enrolled in college or graduate school.

Additionally, the 1990 Census reported that nationwide, 7.67% of APIAs completed less than a 9th grade education while 5.66% did not finish high school. In Michigan these rates (4.70% and 4.14% respectively) were slightly lower than the national rates. Nationally, 10.99% of the APIA population and 6.62% of Michigan's APIA population completed only high school. Additionally, 4.60% of the nation's APIA population and 3.68% of Michigan's APIA population completed an Associate's degree, while 13.45% of the nation's APIA and 13.61% of Michigan's APIA received a Bachelor's degree. Lastly, 8.25% of the nation's APIA population completed a graduate degree. The trend in Michigan is nearly double that of the national trend, with 15.03% of the APIA population having completed a graduate degree.

During the 2000 – 2001 school-year, 31,350 APIA students were enrolled in Michigan's public primary and secondary schools, comprising 1.8% of the total students enrolled in these institutions. APIA students graduating from these schools received 2.1% of the total number of awarded diplomas and 1.7% of the total number of high school equivalencies awarded.

Economic Well-Being

Income

The 2000 Census estimates that the median household income for all U.S. residents is approximately \$41,000. The Census estimates the median household income for the Asian only population nationwide is slightly greater than the overall median, while the estimated median household income for Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander only

population is slightly less than the general median. In Michigan, the estimated general median household income is a nearly \$44,000 whereas the estimated median household income for the Asian only population is comparable to the national estimated median household income for this population.

The estimated median family income for the general U.S. population is nearly \$50,000. Nationally, Asian only families have an estimated family income of \$60,000, higher than that of the general population. At the national level, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders only families are estimated to have a median family income of \$45,000, comparable to the general population. The estimated median family income for the general population of Michigan is almost \$53,000. The State's Asian only population is estimated to have a median family income of \$62,000.

For non-family households, the estimated median income for the general U.S. population is \$25,000. Nationwide, Asian only non-family households and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander only non-family households have an estimated median income of \$31,000 and \$21,000 respectively. In Michigan, non-family households have an estimated median income \$25,000, similar to that of the general U.S. population. Asian only non-family households in the State have an estimated median income of \$21,000, less than both the State general population and the national estimates.

Poverty Status

The 1990 Census reported that 12.34% of APIAs nationally lived in poverty while 13.07% of this population in Michigan lived in poverty. Of those APIAs living in poverty nationwide, 3.40% were school-aged youth between the ages of 0 – 17, 8.23% are ages 18 – 64, and 0.72% were ages 65 and older. Comparatively, of the APIAs living in poverty in Michigan, 3.24% were school-aged youth between the ages of 0 – 17, 9.43% were ages 18 – 64, and 0.40% were ages 65 and older.

Furthermore, the 1990 Census reported that 4.93% of APIA families nationwide were living below poverty. Female-headed households with no husband present accounted for 61.57% of APIA families living in poverty, followed by married-couple families (19.62%) and male-headed households with no wives present (18.82%). In Michigan, 12.76% of APIA families were living below poverty, nearly three times that of the national figure. The state trends differ significantly from the national trends, with married-couple families accounting for 71.24% of APIA families in poverty, female-headed households with no husband present accounting for 23.29% of families, and male-headed households with no wife present accounting for 5.46% of families in poverty.

Entrepreneurialship

The 1997 Economic Census reports that nationwide, minority-owned firms contribute 3.19% of sales of all firms, employ 4.37% of paid employees of all firms, and contribute 3.25% of total payroll paid by all firms. In Michigan, minority-owned firms contribute 1.78% of sales of all state firms, less than the national average. Minority-owned firms

with paid employees employ 2.59% of paid employees of all state firms, with an average of 10.36 employees per firm. These firms contribute 2.09% of the total payroll paid by state firms.

Michigan firms owned by APIAs contribute 43.13% of total sales of minority-owned firms. On average, the state's APIA firms with paid employees employ approximately 9.51 individuals each, and contribute 44.80% of the total payroll of minority-owned firms with employees. These figures are comparable to the national averages, which show that APIA owned firms with paid employees employ approximately 7.60 individuals each and contribute 48.34% to the total payroll of all minority owned firms.

In Michigan, service industries have the greatest number of minority-owned firms and minority-owned firms with employees. Minority-owned firms in this industry also employ the greatest number of individuals and contribute the most to the payroll of all minority-owned firms. Minority-owned retail trade firms report the greatest number of sales. For APIA owned firms in the state, those in the service industries not only number and employ the most, but they also report the highest sales. Japanese-owned firms average the greatest number of employees each, with approximately 12.49 individuals while Asian Indian-owned firms contribute the greatest percentage to the total payroll of minority-owned business in the state.