

Asian Outlook™

A PUBLICATION OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC FUND

BAY AREA PEOPLE IN NEED: UNEMPLOYED, YOUTH, & THE ELDERLY • FALL/WINTER 2003

Introduction:

We have known for two decades that the growth in the Asian American population in the Bay Area has been very dynamic, doubling between 1980 and 1990 alone. Although our growth slowed between 1990 and 2000, the Asian population still grew nearly four times faster than the general Bay Area population.

Asian Outlook is the first report on Bay Area¹ Asian Americans to be issued based on analysis of data recently released by the US Census Bureau. It includes new information about children

and the elderly and takes a more careful look at individual ethnic groups in areas that are good indicators of success and of need. This information is especially important for Asians, who vary greatly in size and economic well-being by ethnic group.

Census 2000 gave respondents for the first time the ability to indicate specific mixed races. Asian Outlook reports the importance of this population for future policy and planning.

ABOUT ASIANS IN THE BAY AREA

Finding on Total Population: 23% of the people in the Bay Area are Asian (even higher than previously reported), the highest concentration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States.²

Census 2000 previously reported that 1,307,151 of Bay Area residents (6,200,867) are Asian, or 21%. From [Exhibit 1](#), we know that there are 120,473 additional people who are Asian mixed with one other race for a revised total of 1,427,624, or 23%.

Ethnic Group	Bay Area Population
Chinese	465,192
Filipino	316,877
South Asian	148,767
Vietnamese	144,762
Japanese	72,455
Korean	55,432
Other Asian	38,420
Other Southeast Asian	30,152
Asian alone total	1,272,057
NHPI alone total	35,094
Total Asian (Asian alone + NHPI alone)	1,307,151
Asian or NHPI with one other race	120,473
Total Asian and Asians mixed with one other race	1,427,624
General Population	6,200,867

Information about mixed race is difficult to interpret; in fact, one respondent could report as many as six racial backgrounds, and the system did not preclude duplicate reporting. Interestingly, 79% of the respondents in the mixed race category reported only two races. These are highly likely

to be more accurate, unduplicated responses. Accordingly, we report them here as part of the Asian population growth.

To retain a higher level of accuracy and consistency throughout the report, we have based most of our findings on the data generated from “Asian alone” figures and therefore have not included Asians of mixed races into the rest of our findings. We report the finding here to more accurately report the size of the Asian population as well as the greater diversity and complexity of Asian populations and communities.

For background, we have included baseline Census 2000 information about Asians in the Bay Area on the last page of this report (see [Exhibits A and B](#) on back panel). Santa Clara County has more Asians than any other county (33% of the regional Asian population). Alameda County has the second largest (23%), and San Francisco County the third (19%). Between 1990 and 2000, the Asian population grew at a much faster pace than the general population, 44.6% compared to 12.2% from 1990 to 2000 ([Exhibit 2](#)). Although Chinese continue to be the largest Asian subgroup, making up 36% of the total, Asian Indians are the fastest growing of the larger ethnic groups, increasing at a rate of 171.2% from 1990 to 2000.

	1990	2000	% Increase
Total Asian	904,071	1,307,151	44.6%
General Population	5,524,590	6,200,867	12.2%

1. Please see the Glossary for a list of counties in the Bay Area.

2. With the exception of Hawaii. Los Angeles County is 12.2% Asian. New York City is 9.9% Asian.

LOOK OUT FOR THESE KEY ISSUES

The number of very elderly Asian people (75 years and older) doubled in the past decade.

This population grew three times faster than the very elderly in the general population. New resources will be required to ensure adequate care as our grandparents and parents need more help.

The level of poverty in some Asian communities reaches 30% to 54%.

In large numbers, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Cambodian have high levels of poverty (from 30% to 54%), and Filipinos and South Asians have pockets of deep poverty among certain groups as well. Services provided by Asian organizations and supported by private charity will be even more important.

Asian unemployment doubled in the past seven years.

The number of unemployed Asians in California doubled in the past six years, and we estimate that 50,350 are in the Bay Area. During the same period of time, the number of unemployed in the State declined by 4.7%.

Asian youth make up 15% of the Bay Area high school dropouts.

In San Francisco County, Asians make up 28.9% of the dropouts, 14.0% in Alameda, 15.5% in San Mateo, and 12.7% in Santa Clara, even though the number of dropouts decreased in the past 5 years.



WHAT IS AsianOutlook?

A project of the Asian Pacific Fund, *Asian Outlook* begins with new Census 2000 data and is supplemented by data from the California Department of Education and the California Employment Development Department. The impetus for the report is the recent release of the final Census 2000 data set, finally allowing analysis that combines income, geography, and Asian ethnic subgroups.

As a community foundation established to increase Asian American philanthropy in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Asian Pacific Fund is a unique resource to bring issues and information to public attention. Past reports issued by the Fund reported on the capacity of local organizations to keep pace with growing needs and on health issues that were particularly important to Asian Americans. Sometimes the information belied the stereotypes, sometimes the information affirmed them. The purpose of this report is to intensify focus on the problems and resources in the Bay Area Asian community.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cora M. Tellez (*Chairman*)
John H. Chung (*Treasurer*)
Joan M. Haratani (*Secretary*)
Bill Ong Hing
Charlotte K. Ito
Canh V. Le
Robert Lee
Gilman G. Louie
Andrew Cuyugan McCullough
Raymond L. Ocampo Jr.
Arun Sarin
Gail Tsukiyama
Sam Yamada
Jerry Yang
Emerald Yeh
Kyung H. Yoon
Mona Lisa Yuchengco

Gail M. Kong
President & Executive Director

Finding on Children & Youth: The number of Asian children grew almost twice as fast as the general population.

From 1990 to 2000, the total number of children in the Bay Area increased by 14.9% while the number of Asian children increased by 23.4% (Exhibit 3). Only the Japanese have a disproportionately low number of children.

EXHIBIT 3	Growth in Number of Children (0-18 years old) in Bay Area, 1990 to 2000			
	1990	2000	% Increase	
	Total Asian	253,592	312,985	23.4%
	General Population	1,335,742	1,534,060	14.9%



Finding on the Elderly: The number of Asians 75 years and older doubled between 1990 and 2000

From 1990 to 2000, the total elderly population (75 years and older) increased by 33.8% while the Asian elderly population increased by 100.3% (Exhibit 4). This rate of growth was faster than for the elderly population of all races, which increased by only a third. Within the Asian ethnic groups, the distribution of the elderly population varied greatly. Exhibit 5 shows that Japanese have the highest percentage of elderly, while South Asians have the lowest.

EXHIBIT 4	Growth in Number of Elderly (75+ years old) in Bay Area, 1990 to 2000			
	1990	2000	% Increase	
	Total Asian	25,204	50,476	100.3%
	General Population	244,531	327,096	33.8%



EXHIBIT 5	Percentage of Elderly in each Ethnic Group		
	Ethnic Group	Elderly Population	% of Elderly in each Ethnic Group
	Japanese	5,855	8.1%
	Chinese	24,255	5.2%
	Filipino	12,579	4.0%
	Korean	1,417	2.6%
	Other Asian	760	2.0%
	Vietnamese	2,808	1.9%
	Other Southeast Asian	490	1.6%
	South Asian	1,715	1.2%
	Asian alone	49,879	3.9%
	NHPI alone	597	1.7%
	Total Asian	50,476	3.9%
	General Population	327,096	5.3%

Finding Economic Well-Being: Bay Area Asians do not live by great financial success.

Many people believe the stereotype that all Asian Americans have arrived by great financial success. Closer inspection reveals a different picture when ethnic group in combination. Exhibit 6 reports both median family income. This table shows that the Bay Area Asian median family income (\$74,700) is higher than the general population (\$71,333), but, by looking at per capita income, we see a different picture. Bay Area Asians have a per capita income of \$26,601 vs. \$30,769). This is mostly explained by the fact that Asian

Finding: Some Asian groups have incomes that are much lower than the general population.

In fact, six of the ten ethnic groups in Exhibit 6 have per capita incomes ranging from 27% to 63%. The poorer ethnic groups are: Southeast Asian, Vietnamese, Thai, and Filipino.

EXHIBIT 6	Median Family Income and Per Capita Income by Ethnic Group		
	Ethnic Group	Median Family Income	% Difference from Total Population
	Cambodian	39,167	-45
	Laotian	45,833	-36
	Vietnamese	60,230	-16
	Korean	64,429	-10
	Thai	64,712	-9
	Chinese	74,285	4
	Filipino	75,557	6
	Pakistani	78,480	10
	Japanese	84,109	18
	Asian Indian	88,540	24
	Asian alone	74,700	5
	NHPI alone	59,969	-16
	General Population	71,333	

Finding: Among households with incomes of \$150,000+...

Among all Bay Area households, 14.9% have incomes of \$150,000+ and Asians are underrepresented in this group, since Asians make up 23% of all Bay Area households. Among upper-income families by Asian ethnic group. There are significant differences in size in the general population, Filipinos and Vietnamese are underrepresented in the upper-income group.

EXHIBIT 7	Percentage of Families with Incomes of \$150,000+ by Ethnic Group		
	Ethnic Group	% of Total Asian Families with \$150K+ Income	% of Total Asian Families
	Chinese	43.8%	38.8%
	Filipino	14.4%	22.5%
	South Asian	19.5%	12.6%
	Vietnamese	7.5%	10.2%
	Japanese	7.9%	6.1%
	Korean	3.3%	4.2%
	Other Southeast Asian	0.7%	1.8%
	Other	2.0%	1.6%
	Asian alone	99.1%	97.8%
	NHPI alone	0.9%	2.2%
	Total Asian	100.0%	100.0%

Exhibit 7 Note:
 - Data based on samples of population.
 - South Asian and Southeast Asian categories included only ethnic subgroups for which data was available. Ethnic subgroups which did not meet the required population threshold were not included. For example, no data was available for ethnic subgroups with under 100 families in a given county.

have higher incomes than other people in the Bay Area.

an extremely high level of educational achievement that is accompanied re. In this report, we are able to look more carefully at income and income and per capita income from Census 2000 by ethnic group. \$4,700) is higher than that of the general Bay Area population (\$71,333), Bay Area Asians actually make 18.6% less than the general population and generally have larger families.

in lower than the general population.

comes that are markedly lower than the general population, by amounts Asian (i.e., Cambodian, Laotian) Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander,

Group	Per Capita Income	% Difference from Total Population
Other Southeast Asian	11,434	-63
Vietnamese	11,566	-62
Korean	18,907	-39
Chinese	25,608	-17
Other Asian	21,384	-31
South Asian	28,743	-7
Japanese	22,369	-27
Filipino	25,862	-16
Asian alone average	38,451	25
NHPI alone	35,370	15
Total Asian	26,601	-14
General Population	17,349	-44
Other	30,769	

Exhibit 6 Note
 - In this table only, data is for the Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area of San Francisco - Oakland - San Jose, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, which includes Napa and Sonoma counties. In addition to the seven counties defined as "Bay Area" elsewhere in the report.
 - Only the ten largest ethnic subgroups are displayed in this table.

Asians are underrepresented.

Of that group, 19.3% are Asian, which means that we are Bay Area households. Exhibit 7 reports the distribution of these differences among Asian ethnic groups. When compared to their overrepresented while Chinese and South Asians overrepresented in the

Glossary:

- Asian/Total Asian: includes Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander combined
- Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Solano counties
- Chinese: includes Chinese and Taiwanese
- NHPI: Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
- Other Asian: includes respondents who listed a) two or more Asian ethnic groups, b) an Asian ethnic group that is too small to be reported as a separate category, and c) Asian but did not specify which Asian ethnic group
- Other Southeast Asian: includes Cambodian, Hmong, Indonesian, Laotian, Malaysian, and Thai
- South Asian: includes Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, and Sri Lankan

Finding on Poverty: About 20% of the people in the Bay Area live in poverty including Asians.

We examined poverty³ in each Asian ethnic group and then receipt of public assistance income (from government sources). Asians, in the aggregate, have the same level of poverty as the general population, but by looking more closely, it was clear that some individual ethnic groups have very deep levels of poverty. For example Exhibit 8 shows that 30.5% of Vietnamese and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders live in poverty, and fully 39.5% of other Southeast Asian households are in this very low-income group. Exhibit 8a shows more detailed information about the Southeast Asian group. Two of the sizable communities—Cambodian and Laotian—have poverty rates of 54.5% and 49.9% respectively.

Depth of Poverty by Ethnic Group	
Ethnic Group	% Living in Poverty
Other Southeast Asian	39.5%
Vietnamese	30.5%
Korean	23.8%
Chinese	21.1%
Other Asian	18.5%
South Asian	14.4%
Japanese	13.0%
Filipino	12.6%
Asian alone average	19.4%
NHPI alone	30.5%
Total Asian	19.7%
General Population	20.5%

Depth of Poverty in Other Southeast Asian Groups	
	% Living in Poverty
Hmong	96.4%
Cambodian	54.5%
Laotian	49.9%
Indonesian	25.1%
Thai	22.0%
Malaysian	20.7%

Exhibit 8 Note
 - Data based on samples of population.
 - South Asian and Southeast Asian data were calculated using only ethnic subgroups for which data was available. Ethnic subgroups which did not meet the required population threshold were not included. For example, no data was available for ethnic subgroups with under 100 families in a given county.

³ A standard form of reporting is to look at the number of people who live under 200% of the poverty level, which is determined by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and not adjusted for regional differences, resulting in a likely understatement of need in the high-cost Bay Area.

Public Assistance Finding: Only 12.9% of Asians who are living below the poverty level are receiving public assistance.

Exhibit 9 shows that only 12.9% of Asians who are living below the poverty line actually receive public assistance, a level that is consistent with the general population.

Ethnic Group	%
Other Asian (Specified only)	0.0%
Japanese	1.0%
Korean	3.1%
South Asian	3.3%
Filipino	6.2%
Chinese	9.6%
Vietnamese	37.7%
Other Southeast Asian	38.5%
Asian alone	12.9%
NHPI alone	17.5%
Total Asian	13.0%
General Population	13.2%

The Asians who are living in poverty and are receiving public assistance are found most often among Vietnamese and other Southeast Asians (37.7% and 38.5% respectively). Even with this income assistance, these two groups remain at high risk. It has been reported in the daily newspapers that the vast majority (over 60%) of Bay Area residents affected by the new five year lifetime limit on federal welfare are Asian. These people are mostly from intact families with both parents working, yet with wages so low that they still qualify for welfare.

Unemployment Finding: The number of unemployed Asians in California doubled in the past seven years, at the same time that there was a statewide decrease in unemployment for all groups.

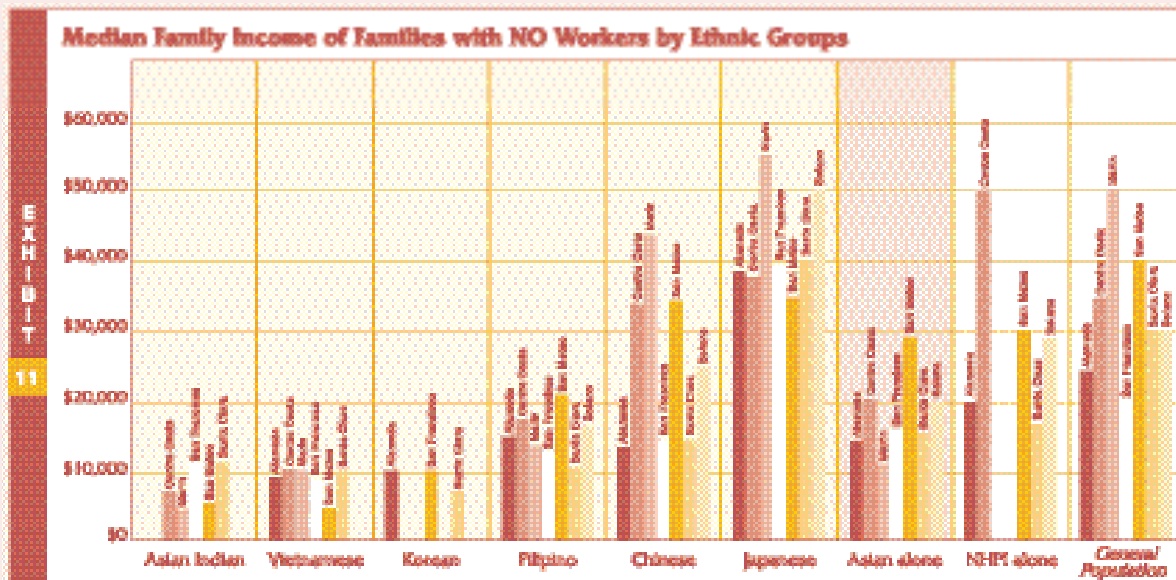
The number of unemployed Californians decreased by 4.7% between 1995 and 2002 (Exhibit 10). In contrast to the statewide trend, the number of unemployed Asians grew during the same seven year period from 70,700 to 146,900, an increase of 107.8%. In the Bay Area, which represents 34% of all Asians in California, we estimate 50,350 Asians are currently unemployed.

This high number of unemployed Asians can be partially explained by rapid growth in the Asian labor force as a whole, corresponding with an increase in the overall Asian population, both in the Bay Area and throughout the State of California. The total statewide Asian labor force grew by 81.6% compared to the total general population labor force, which grew by 13.5%.

	Unemployment		
	1995	2002	% Change
California Asian or Pacific Islander	70,700	146,900	107.8%
California General Population	1,245,100	1,186,700	-4.7%
	Labor Force		
	1995	2002	% Change
California Asian or Pacific Islander	1,135,200	2,061,800	81.6%
California General Population	15,503,300	17,597,800	13.5%

Finding on Pockets of Poverty: Some Asian Indians, Vietnamese, Koreans, and Filipinos have extremely low family incomes of \$9,000 to \$15,000 in a specific category with no one in the home working.

Exhibit 11 reports the median family incomes by ethnic group for those with no employed worker in the household. These are likely families that are not eligible for income assistance or are eligible but do not want to apply. This might also include immigrants who have not worked long enough to qualify for social security. Exhibit 11 looks only at families where no one is working and it compares Asians with the general population. The Asian median income is generally lower than the general population for this category of families. For Asian Indians, Vietnamese, Koreans, and Filipinos the income is extremely low in this category often ranging from \$7,000 to \$10,000.



Youth and Education Finding: 28.9% of the drop-outs in San Francisco are Asian, as are 15.5% of the dropouts in San Mateo counties, 14.0% in Alameda and 12.7% in Santa Clara.

Ensuring that children have full educational opportunities remains one of the most highly valued priorities among Asian Americans. We compared the high school records for Bay Area youth for 1998 and 2002, and we looked at high school dropouts and at graduating seniors who are college bound.

Based on data from the California Department of Education's Dataquest, we compared Asian and all high school drop-outs in the Bay Area for 1998 and 2002. Exhibit 12 shows that high school dropout rates declined across the Bay Area for all students, including Asians, while enrollments increased slightly. Even with this encouraging news, however, Asians remain 28.9% of all high school dropouts in San Francisco and 15.0% of all high school dropouts in San Mateo Counties.

Percent of all High School Dropouts who are Asian, 1998 and 2002		
	1998	2002
Alameda	17.1%	14.0%
Contra Costa	7.4%	8.1%
Marin	7.4%	4.4%
San Francisco	30.0%	28.9%
San Mateo	19.1%	15.9%
Santa Clara	18.6%	12.7%
Solano	10.1%	8.2%
Total Bay Area	18.1%	15.0%



Note: Educational data was only reported for Asians, Filipinos and Pacific Islanders. The Asian category is so broad that it combines high income and low income ethnic groups, making it impossible to pinpoint the problem areas.

Finding: Asian SAT test scores are comparable to the general population.

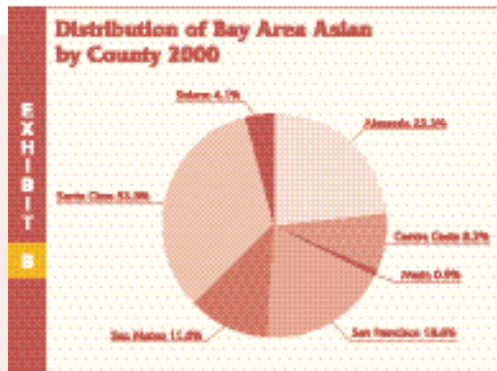
For students who are college bound we examined summary data on 64,550 seniors enrolled in Bay Area schools and 27,423 students taking the SAT. For all Bay Area students, the average verbal score was 504, and the average math score was 539. For Asian students the average scores were 490 and 561 respectively.

Publication Staff & Resources

The research team included Program Associates Christine Tran and Jessica Jung, three summer interns, Dianne Aquino-Chui and Adriel Luis (University of California, Davis) and Maggie Tursi (University of California, Santa Cruz), and Program Manager Anna Alves. Special thanks to the following individuals who helped us retrieve data, and provided advice regarding the analysis: Dennis Arguelles (UCLA Asian American Studies Center), Janet Austin (EDD Labor Market Information Division), Pam Chieu (Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus), David J. Dahlberg (EDD, CES Estimates and Survey Unit), Melany Dela Cruz (Asian Pacific American Community Development Data Center, UCLA Asian American Studies Center), and Cam McIntosh (US Census Bureau).

Comparison of Total Population in Bay Area by Ethnic Group, 1990 - 2000			
Ethnic Group	1990	2000	% Change
Chinese	321,568	465,192	44.7%
Filipino	255,666	316,877	23.9%
Vietnamese	84,253	144,762	71.8%
Asian Indian	52,186	141,524	171.2%
Japanese	74,218	72,455	-2.4%
Korean	40,655	55,432	36.3%
Other Asian*	19,332	49,526	156.2%
Other Southeast Asian	22,736	26,289	15.6%
Laotian	9,307	10,506	12.9%
Cambodian	9,407	9,542	1.4%
Thai	3,853	5,520	43.3%
Hmong	169	721	326.6%
Asian alone	870,614	1,272,057	46.1%
NHPI alone	33,457	35,094	4.9%
Total Asian	904,071	1,307,151	44.6%
General Population	5,524,590	6,200,867	12.2%

Exhibit A Notes
 Other Asian for 1990 includes Bangladeshi, Burmese, Indonesian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Amerasian, or Eurasian. *Other Asian* for 2000 includes Bangladeshi (528), Indonesian (3,418), Malaysian (445), Pakistani (5,935), Sri Lankan (780), Other Specified Asian alone (3,182), Other non-specified Asian alone (8,057), and Asians with two or more Asian categories (27,181).



- Sources:**
- Exhibit 1: US Census Bureau, Summary File 2 – 2000 (SF2/00)a
 - Exhibit 2,3,4: SF1/90, SF2/00
 - Exhibit 5: SF2/00
 - Exhibit 6: SF1/00, SF2/00, SF4/00
 - Exhibit 7,8,9,11: SF4/00
 - Exhibit 10: SF2/00, EDD Labor Market Information Division-Labor Force Status of Californians by Race
 - Exhibit 12: California Department of Education
 - Exhibit A: SF1/90, SF2/00
 - Exhibit B: SF2/00
- Complete supporting tables are posted on our website.



225 Bush Street, Suite 590
 San Francisco, CA 94104
 Tel: 415.433.6859
<http://www.asianpacificfund.org>