

A Profile of Asian Americans in Massachusetts

*Data from the 2005—2007
American Community Survey
Three-Year Estimates*



**A Profile of Asian Americans in Massachusetts:
Data from the 2005–2007 American Community
Survey Three-Year Estimates**

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**About the Institute for Asian American Studies
at the University of Massachusetts Boston**

The Institute for Asian American Studies utilizes resources and expertise from the University and the community to conduct research on Asian Americans; to strengthen and further Asian American involvement in political, economic, social, and cultural life; and to improve opportunities and campus life for Asian American faculty, staff, and students and for those interested in Asian Americans.

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Notes on understanding the data in this report:

The data in this profile is derived from the 2005–2007 American Community Survey (ACS) 3-Year Estimates. The ACS, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, is a nationwide survey that collects information on the U.S. population every year. While annual information is the most current, small sample sizes make it difficult to obtain accurate data on smaller population groups such as Asian American subgroups, or for smaller geographical areas.

The 3-year estimates are based on data collected in three consecutive years and have larger sample sizes than the 1-year estimates; however, there is still limited data on Asian American subgroups. Thus, there is data available only for the five largest Asian subgroups in Massachusetts: Chinese, Indians, Vietnamese, Cambodians and Koreans, and limited disaggregated data for certain variables. In addition, the margin of errors on certain statistics for smaller population groups may be quite large. For more information on margin of errors, visit www.census.gov.

More detailed data will be available with the release of 5-year estimates in 2010. It should be remembered that multiyear estimates are less timely than 1-year data represent an average of the data over a period of time.

I. Population

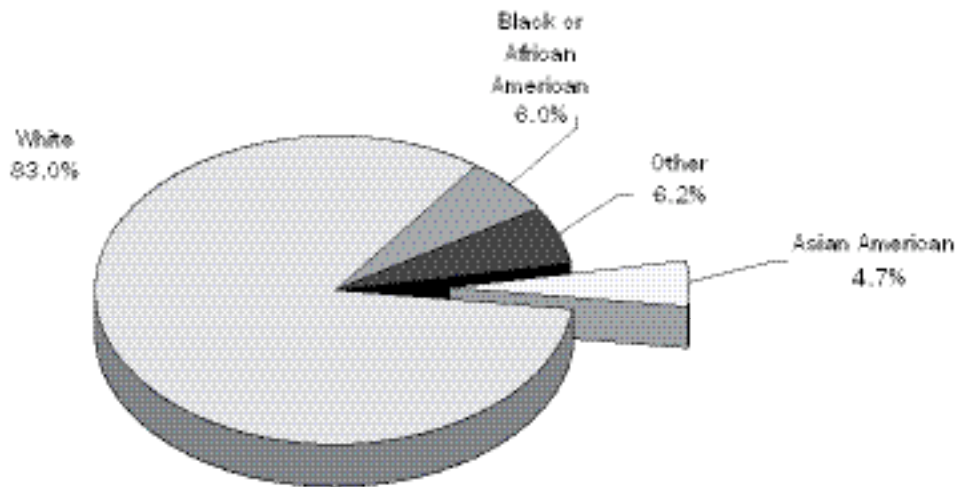


Figure 1. Population by Race

Asian Americans in Massachusetts increased to 4.7% of the total population during the 2005–2007 period from 3.8% in 2000. Asian Americans remain the fastest growing racial /ethnic group¹ in the state by percent.

Table 1. Population by Race and Latino Origin

	2000	2005–2007 Est.	% Change
Asian American	238,124	305,057	28.1%
White	5,367,286	5,344,015	-0.4%
Black or African American	343,454	386,533	12.5%
Native American	15,015	13,447	-10.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2,489	2,222	-10.7%
Other Race	236,724	279,208	17.9%
TOTAL ONE RACE	6,203,092	6,330,482	2.1%
TOTAL TWO OR MORE RACES	146,005	107,277	-26.5%
TOTAL POPULATION	6,349,097	6,437,759	1.4%
Latino	428,729	513,252	19.7%

¹Refers to racial groups and Latinos.

Chinese are the largest Asian subgroup in Massachusetts, constituting 36.6% of Asian Americans in the state. The fastest growing Asian subgroup is Filipinos, whose population increased by more than 50% from 2000 to 2005–2007. Filipinos have replaced Japanese as the sixth largest Asian subgroup in the state. The population of the largest three Asian subgroups, Chinese, Indians and Vietnamese, all increased by about one-third from 2000 to 2005–2007.

Table 2. Asian American Population by Subgroup

	2000	2005–2007 Est.*	% Change	% of AA Pop
Chinese	82,028	111,749	36.2%	36.6%
Indian	43,801	59,455	35.7%	19.5%
Vietnamese	33,962	45,178	33.0%	14.8%
Cambodian	19,696	24,507	24.4%	8.0%
Korean	17,369	20,985	20.8%	6.9%
Filipino	8,273	12,891	55.8%	4.2%
Japanese	10,539	9,030	-14.3%	3.0%
Thai	2,141	3,221	50.4%	1.1%
Laotian	3,797	2,636	-30.6%	0.9%
Taiwanese	2,364	2,293	-3.0%	0.8%
Pakistani	2,145	2,065	-3.7%	0.7%

*Population groups under 2,000 not listed because of high margins of error.

On average, Asian Americans are younger than the general population, with an especially large percentage in the 25–34 age category.

Figure 2. Age for Asian Americans and Total Population

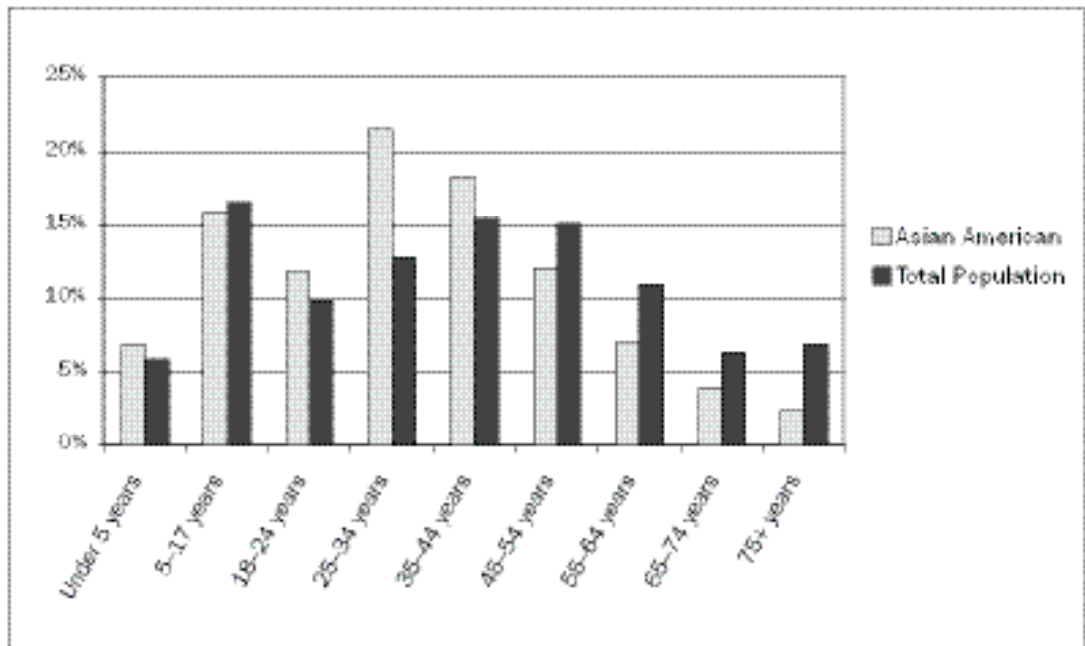


Table 3. Age and Sex for Asian Americans

	Male	Female
Under 5 years	10,775	10,403
5–17 years	24,320	24,254
18–24 years	17,011	19,241
25–34 years	32,391	33,281
35–44 years	28,225	27,604
45–54 years	17,994	18,743
55–64 years	10,153	11,186
65–74 years	5,756	6,241
75+ years	3,245	4,234
TOTAL	149,870	155,187

The sex ratio for Asian Americans is quite well-balanced overall with only slightly more females (50.9%) than males (49.1%).

The percentage of the Asian American population 65 years or older is 6.4%, an increase from 5.2% in 2000.

Of the five largest Asian subgroups in Massachusetts, Cambodians have the greatest percentage under 18 years old while Chinese have the largest percentage of retirement age (65 years or older), at 9.1%.

Table 4. Age by Asian Subgroup

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Under 5 years	6.4%	8.6%	7.5%	7.7%	5.5%
5–17 years	15.7%	12.6%	18.5%	24.8%	13.8%
18–24 years	11.0%	10.4%	8.6%	14.8%	19.1%
25–34 years	16.8%	32.4%	17.9%	15.6%	27.8%
35–44 years	18.8%	17.9%	19.1%	15.7%	16.8%
45–54 years	14.1%	9.3%	13.0%	9.7%	8.8%
55–64 years	8.2%	4.3%	9.5%	7.1%	3.6%
65–74 years	5.2%	2.9%	4.0%	2.7%	3.1%
75+ years	3.9%	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	1.5%
TOTAL	100.1%	100.0%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%
	(111,749)	(59,455)	(45,178)	(24,507)	(20,985)

Column percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Eight of ten Asian Americans over the age of five speak a language other than English at home. Nearly one in five Asian Americans over the age of five are not proficient in English (speak English “not well” or “not at all.”)

Significant percentages of Vietnamese, Cambodians, and Chinese in particular speak English less than “very well.” Only one in three Vietnamese speaks English “very well.”

Indians have a high rate of English proficiency although over 80% speak a language other than English at home.

Table 5. Language Spoken at Home and English Proficiency for the Population 5 Years and Over for Asian Americans

Speak only English	53,524	18.9%
Speak a language other than English:		
Speak English "very well"	121,978	43.0%
Speak English "well"	56,132	19.8%
Speak English "not well"	38,619	13.6%
Speak English "not at all"	13,626	4.8%
TOTAL	283,879	100.0%

Table 6. Language Spoken at Home and English Proficiency for the Population 5 Years and Over by Asian Subgroup

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Speak English only	15.8%	19.5%	14.0%	7.8%	34.3%
Speak a language other than English:					
Speak English "very well"	41.2%	62.4%	29.5%	42.7%	33.8%
Speak English less than "very well"	43.0%	18.1%	56.5%	49.5%	31.9%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	(104,647)	(54,328)	(41,808)	(22,622)	(19,821)

Asian Americans have the highest percentage of foreign-born individuals of any racial/ethnic group² in Massachusetts. About 70% of Asian Americans were not born in the U.S. About half of these individuals have naturalized.

Approximately one in three Chinese, Vietnamese, and Cambodians are native-born and about one in four Indians and Koreans are native-born. Of the five largest Asian subgroups, Vietnamese have the highest percentage of citizens as well as the highest rate of naturalization. Indians have the lowest percentage of citizens and the lowest rate of naturalization.

Table 7. Nativity and Citizenship Status by Race and Latino Origin

	Asian American	White	Black or African Am.	Latino
Native	29.9%	91.6%	68.8%	66.5%
Foreign born:				
Naturalized U.S. citizen	33.8%	4.2%	13.9%	11.0%
Not a U.S. citizen	36.3%	4.2%	17.2%	22.5%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	(305,157)	(5,344,015)	(386,533)	(513,252)

Table 8. Nativity and Citizenship Status by Asian Subgroup

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Native	31.0%	24.9%	32.5%	32.1%	25.5%
Foreign born:					
Naturalized U.S. citizen	35.7%	25.7%	48.2%	30.7%	36.7%
Not a U.S. citizen	33.3%	49.3%	19.4%	37.2%	37.8%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	(111,749)	(59,455)	(45,178)	(24,507)	(20,985)

²Refers to racial groups and Latinos.

II. Income

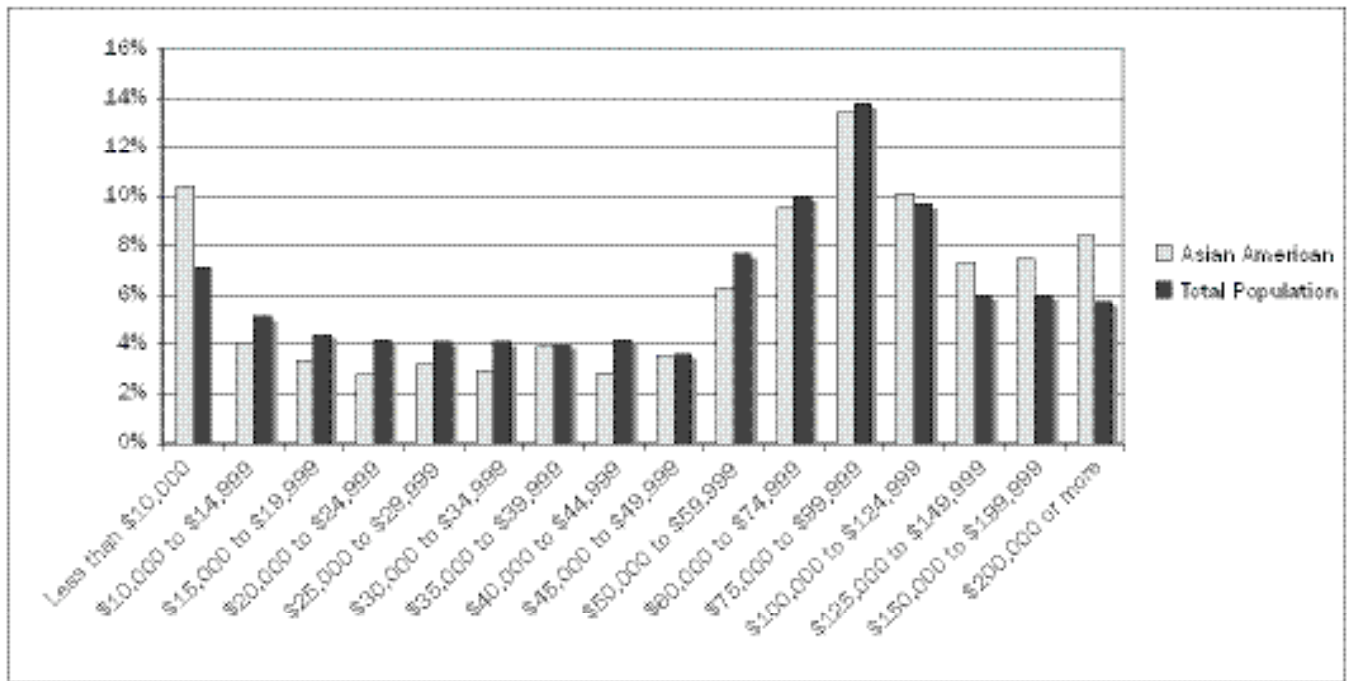


Figure 3. Household Income Distribution for Asian Americans and Total Population

The household income distribution for Asian Americans shows a bimodal trend with the largest differences from that of the total population in the highest and lowest income categories.

Table 9. Median Household Income* by Race and Latino Origin

Asian American	\$69,552
White	\$64,818
Hispanic or Latino	\$31,075
Black or African American	\$39,917
TOTAL POPULATION	\$61,785

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

Asian American	\$30,498
White	\$34,448
Hispanic or Latino	\$15,553
Black or African American	\$18,582
TOTAL POPULATION	\$32,113

Table 11. Median Household Income* by Asian Subgroup

Chinese	\$71,610
Indian	\$92,473
Vietnamese	\$57,082
Cambodian	\$53,404
Korean	\$57,726

Table 12. Per Capita Income* by Asian Subgroup

Chinese	\$31,209
Indian	\$42,099
Vietnamese	\$23,128
Cambodian	\$16,146
Korean	\$29,086

While in 2000 the median household income for Asian Americans was slightly below that of Whites, the median household income of Asian Americans for the period 2005–2007 surpassed that of Whites. However, the per capita income of Asian Americans remains lower than that of Whites. This discrepancy may be explained by the fact that Asian Americans households are on average larger than White households (see Figure 8) and may have more wage earners per household.

Indians have the highest median household income, significantly higher than that for Chinese who have the second highest household income. The household incomes of Vietnamese, Koreans, and Cambodians all trail that of Chinese. (Note that Cambodians also have the largest average household size, see Figure 9.) Cambodians have a much lower per capita income than all four of the other Asian subgroups.

*For the period 2005–2007 in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars.

The family poverty rate of Asian Americans in Massachusetts is more than twice that of Whites while the individual poverty rate of Asian Americans is nearly twice that of Whites. Both family and individual poverty rates for Asian Americans statewide have declined since 2000.

Cambodians and Vietnamese have the highest poverty rates, with Koreans not far behind.

The changes in poverty rates for Asian subgroups since 2000 vary: the family poverty rates for Vietnamese, Cambodians and Indians have dropped while the rates for Chinese and Koreans have increased. As for individual poverty rates, all the rates for Asian subgroups decreased except for Chinese, which increased.

Table 13. Family Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin

	2000	2005–2007
Asian American	12.4%	10.9%
White	4.6%	5.1%
Hispanic or Latino	28.5%	28.5%
Black or African American	18.3%	18.6%
TOTAL POPULATION	6.7%	7.2%

Table 14. Individual Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin

	2000	2005–2007
Asian American	16.2%	14.8%
White	7.0%	7.8%
Hispanic or Latino	29.8%	29.1%
Black or African American	21.2%	21.9%
TOTAL POPULATION	9.3%	10.1%

Table 15. Family Poverty Rate by Asian Subgroup

	2000	2005–2007
Chinese	9.9%	11.6%
Indian	5.4%	4.3%
Vietnamese	21.2%	16.4%
Cambodian	24.6%	18.0%
Korean	14.2%	15.0%

Table 16. Individual Poverty Rate by Asian Subgroup

	2000	2005–2007
Chinese	12.9%	14.4%
Indian	9.4%	7.9%
Vietnamese	24.2%	22.2%
Cambodian	25.6%	20.3%
Korean	18.8%	18.1%

III. Employment

Table 17. Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over by Race and Latino Origin

	Asian American	White	Black or African Am.	Latino	Total Pop
In labor force	67.0%	66.7%	66.9%	66.2%	66.9%
<i>Unemployed</i>	4.1%	3.6%	7.7%	7.2%	4.1%
Not in labor force	33.0%	33.2%	33.1%	33.8%	33.1%
TOTAL	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	(242,589)	(4,360,105)	(286,025)	(362,176)	(5,467,254)

Column percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 18. Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over by Asian Subgroup

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
In labor force	67.2%	71.5%	64.5%	64.1%	57.7%
<i>Unemployed</i>	3.7%	2.8%	4.9%	6.0%	3.5%
Not in labor force	32.8%	28.5%	35.5%	35.9%	42.3%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	(89,523)	(47,790)	(34,697)	(17,943)	(17,315)

The unemployment rate for Asian Americans is slightly higher than that of Whites for the period 2005–2007. Of the five largest Asian subgroups, Cambodians had the highest unemployment rate for the same period, Indians the lowest.

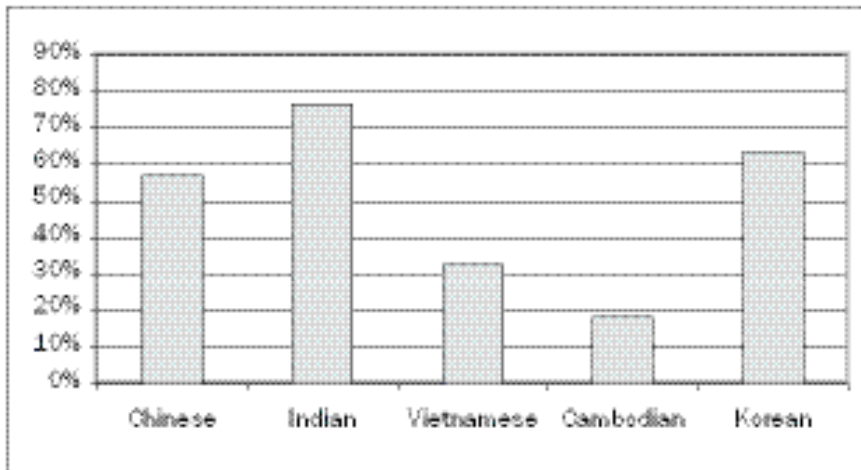
Table 19. Detailed Occupation by Sex for Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over for Asian Americans and Total Population

	Asian American		Total Population	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Management, professional, and related occupations	58.1%	51.2%	38.5%	44.6%
Management, business, and financial	14.1%	15.1%	16.8%	14.4%
<i>Management occupations except farmers and farm managers</i>	9.0%	6.8%	12.0%	8.8%
<i>Farmers and farm managers</i>	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
<i>Business and financial</i>	5.2%	8.3%	4.8%	5.6%
Professional and related	44.0%	36.1%	21.7%	30.2%
<i>Computer and mathematical</i>	16.7%	7.2%	4.9%	1.9%
<i>Architecture and engineering</i>	7.5%	2.1%	3.9%	0.8%
<i>Life, physical, and social science</i>	5.5%	5.4%	1.7%	1.7%
<i>Community and social services</i>	0.9%	1.3%	1.2%	2.5%
<i>Legal</i>	0.8%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%
<i>Education, training, and library</i>	5.7%	7.7%	3.9%	10.0%
<i>Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media</i>	0.9%	1.7%	2.0%	2.5%
<i>Healthcare practitioner and technical</i>	5.8%	9.5%	2.7%	9.3%
Service occupations	11.7%	14.1%	14.1%	18.2%
Healthcare support	0.8%	2.1%	0.6%	4.0%
Protective service	1.0%	0.1%	3.3%	0.8%
Food preparation and serving related	7.6%	4.8%	4.5%	5.9%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	1.0%	2.3%	4.4%	2.4%
Personal care and service	1.2%	4.8%	1.4%	5.0%
Sales and office occupations	13.6%	24.1%	18.2%	31.9%
Sales and related	7.3%	9.6%	10.9%	11.0%
Office and administrative support	6.3%	14.5%	7.3%	20.9%
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.1%
Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair occupations	4.5%	0.4%	14.9%	0.5%
Construction and extraction	2.6%	0.3%	9.9%	0.3%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	1.9%	0.1%	4.9%	0.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11.9%	10.0%	14.1%	4.7%
Production	9.4%	9.6%	7.0%	3.3%
Transportation and material moving	2.5%	0.5%	7.1%	1.3%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	(81,561)	(71,103)	(1,671,371)	(1,569,964)

More than half of Asian American males and females are employed in management, professional, and related occupations—a rate higher than for males and females in the total population. The differential is particularly pronounced for Asian American males. On the

other hand, there is a higher rate of Asian American males in food services and a much higher concentration of Asian American females in production occupations than for males and females in the total population.

Figure 4. Percentage of Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations by Asian Subgroup



Of the five largest Asian subgroups, Indians, Koreans and Chinese have much higher concentrations in management and professional occupations, than Cambodians and Vietnamese. Vietnamese and Cambodians have high rates of participation in production, transportation, and material moving occupations. Cambodians in particular are underrepresented in professional occupations and overrepresented in production.

Table 20. Occupation for Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over by Asian Subgroup

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Management, professional, and related	57.2%	76.5%	32.8%	18.2%	63.6%
Service	16.6%	4.3%	19.1%	7.9%	9.6%
Sales and office	18.8%	15.2%	17.2%	24.1%	17.6%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.9%	0.1%
Construction, extraction, maintenance, and repair	1.4%	1.1%	7.1%	6.3%	1.4%
Production, transportation, and material moving	5.9%	2.9%	23.1%	42.6%	7.7%
TOTAL	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	(56,813)	(32,767)	(20,644)	(10,425)	(9,386)

Column percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 21. Industry for Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over for Asian Americans and Total Population

	Asian American	Total Population
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0.2%	0.4%
Construction	2.0%	6.6%
Manufacturing	16.7%	10.3%
Wholesale trade	1.9%	3.1%
Retail trade	8.4%	10.8%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	1.7%	3.8%
Information	3.1%	2.9%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	9.2%	8.4%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	17.0%	12.3%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	23.6%	25.3%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	9.3%	7.9%
Other services, except public administration	4.5%	4.4%
Public administration	2.3%	3.9%
TOTAL	99.9%	100.1%
	(152,664)	(3,241,335)

Column percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Asian Americans are more concentrated in manufacturing and professional services than the total population. They are less concentrated in construction, transportation, and public administration than the total population.

Table 22. Top Three Industries for Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over by Asian Subgroup

Chinese		
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	24.2%	
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	17.2%	
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	15.9%	
Indian		
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	27.2%	
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	25.7%	
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	12.1%	
Vietnamese		
Manufacturing	25.4%	
Other services, except public administration	15.8%	
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	13.2%	
Cambodian		
Manufacturing	44.7%	
Retail trade	13.0%	
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	8.6%	
Korean		
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	33.7%	
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	20.6%	
Other services, except public administration	9.7%	

Cambodians and Vietnamese contribute to Asian American overrepresentation in manufacturing while Indians and Koreans are primary contributors to overrepresentation in professional services.

IV. Education

Asian Americans have a much higher rate of college or graduate school enrollment than the total population.

Of the five Asian subgroups, Koreans have the highest rate of college or graduate school enrollment, while Cambodians have the lowest. Cambodians have the highest percentage of their population enrolled in elementary school.

Table 23. School Enrollment for the Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School for Asian Americans and Total Population

	Asian American	Total Population
Nursery school, preschool	5.9%	6.7%
Kindergarten	4.1%	4.5%
Elementary school (grades 1–8)	31.0%	37.6%
High school (grades 9–12)	15.9%	20.9%
College or graduate school	43.1%	30.3%
TOTAL	100.0% (96,968)	100.0% (1,706,541)

Table 24. School Enrollment for the Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School by Asian Subgroup

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Nursery school, preschool	6.5%	7.6%	5.6%	5.0%	4.0%
Kindergarten	4.1%	3.9%	7.1%	4.2%	1.3%
Elementary school (grades 1–8)	31.7%	27.9%	35.5%	48.6%	19.5%
High school (grades 9–12)	14.2%	11.3%	22.5%	29.5%	11.2%
College or graduate school	43.5%	49.4%	29.3%	12.6%	64.1%
TOTAL	100.0% (35,967)	100.1% (17,100)	100.0% (13,394)	99.9% (7,575)	100.1% (9,076)

Column percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Asian Americans have a bimodal distribution with respect to educational attainment as compared to the general population—about twice as many Asian Americans have graduate or professional degrees as compared to the total population, and twice as many have less than a 9th grade education.

Figure 5. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over for Asian Americans and Total Population

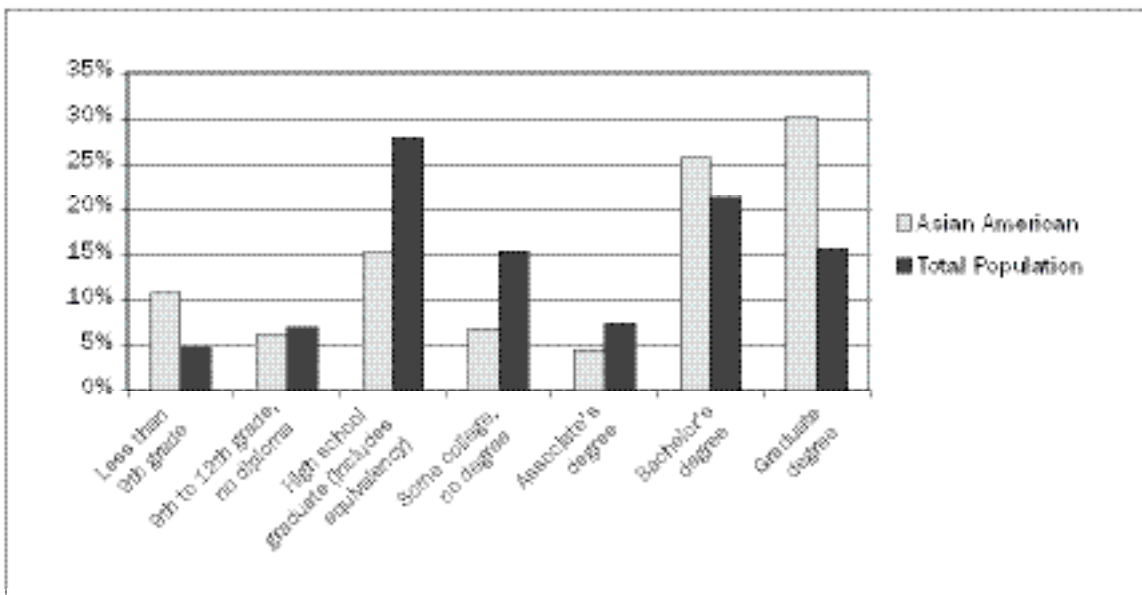


Table 25. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over by Race and Latino Origin

	Asian American	White	Black or African Am.	Latino	Total Pop
Less than high school diploma	17.2%	10.4%	18.2%	34.5%	12.1%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	15.2%	28.1%	31.8%	30.8%	27.9%
Some college or associate's degree	11.6%	23.3%	29.1%	18.8%	22.9%
Bachelor's degree	25.7%	22.2%	13.3%	9.7%	21.4%
Graduate or professional degree	30.3%	16.0%	7.6%	6.3%	15.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.1%	100.0%
	(199,053)	(3,721,604)	(255,920)	(275,814)	(4,355,378)

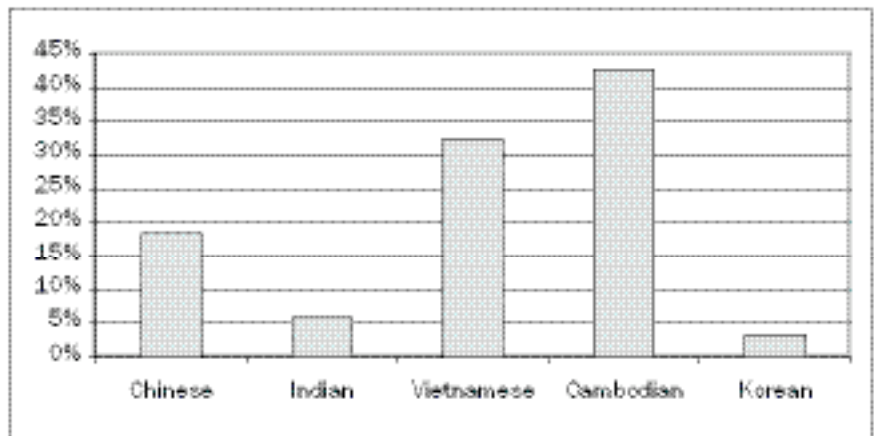
Column percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Table 26. Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over by Asian Subgroup

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Less than high school diploma	18.4%	5.9%	32.5%	42.8%	3.2%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	15.5%	6.6%	23.0%	26.7%	10.5%
Some college or associate's degree	9.4%	5.8%	16.9%	14.9%	10.7%
Bachelor's degree	23.0%	31.2%	20.2%	11.8%	34.5%
Graduate or professional degree	33.8%	50.5%	7.4%	3.9%	41.0%
TOTAL	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.1%	99.9%
	(74,827)	(40,691)	(29,558)	(12,918)	(12,935)

Column percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

Indians and Koreans have the highest rates of educational attainment of the five Asian subgroups, while the rates for Vietnamese and Cambodians are significantly lower. For example, one in three Vietnamese and one in four Cambodians over the age of 25 have less than a high school diploma.

Figure 6. Percentage of Population 25 Years and Over with Less Than a High School Diploma by Asian Subgroup

V. Housing

Figure 7. Tenure by Race and Latino Origin

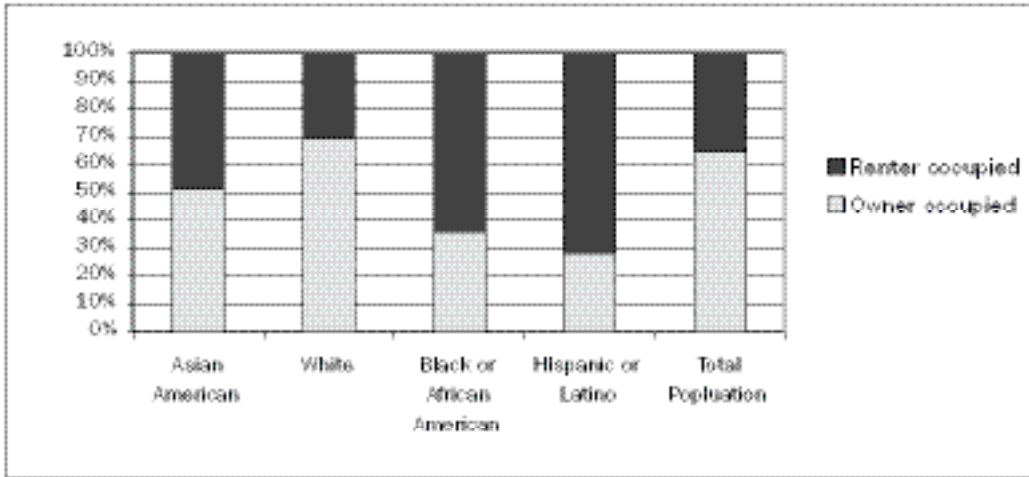
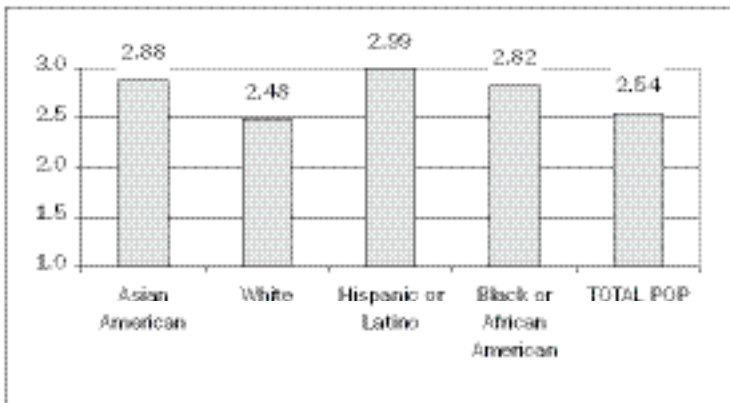


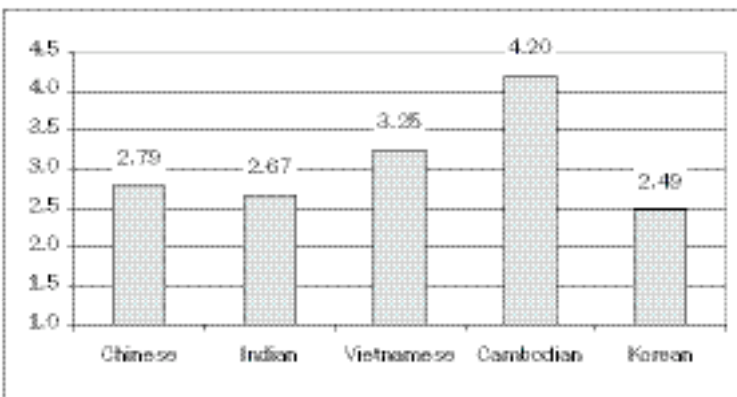
Figure 8. Average Household Size by Race and Latino Origin



The home ownership rate for Asian Americans for the period 2005–2007 (51.6%) is lower than that for Whites (69.3%), but higher than that for Blacks (35.6%) and Latinos (28.0%).

The average size of Asian American households is larger than that of White households, Blacks or African Americans, and the total population.

Figure 9. Average Household Size by Asian Subgroup



Households headed by Cambodians are significantly larger than those headed by members of the other four listed Asian subgroups.

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