

SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMERICANS AT A GLANCE



**Statistics on Southeast Asians adapted
from the American Community Survey**

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Table of Contents

POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, & NATURALIZATION

Southeast Asian Americans Reporting One or More Ethnic/Racial Designation	5
Percentages of People in Age Groups by Population.....	6
By Age Category and Sex	6
Refugee Arrivals to the U.S. from Southeast Asia	7
People from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, Naturalized as U.S. Citizens	8
Percentages of Foreign-Born People, Naturalized as U.S. Citizen & Not a Citizen	9
People Reporting Southeast Asian Heritage, Born in the United States.....	9

EDUCATION

Educational Attainment of People Aged 25 and Over	11
Language Characteristics by Percentage of Population 5 Years and Older	11
Percentages of Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School	11

INCOME & EMPLOYMENT

Poverty Rates	13
Occupation for the Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over	14
Median Income & Per Capita Income	15
Public Assistance Income for Households in Selected Communities.....	15
Health Insurance Coverage	16

HOUSING

Percentage of Housing Units by Tenure	18
Average Household Size and Family Size	18
Households by Type	19
Average Household Size.....	19

GLOSSARY OF KEY TERMS.....	20
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About the Statistics Used in this Report:

All statistics, unless otherwise specified, are from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). The ACS is a relatively new product from the U.S. Census Bureau that replaces the old long-form from the 2000 decennial census. It collects information such as age, race, income, commute time to work, home value, veteran status, and other data.

Data are collected throughout the year to produce 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates. The statistics reported here are from the 2010 ACS 1-year estimates, (accessed September 27, 2011 through the American FactFinder website). These estimates are based off a sample of the population collected throughout the year, and thus contain a certain margin of error.¹ For this report, the margins of error have been omitted, but can be accessed via the FactFinder website.

For the purposes of this statistical report, "Southeast Asian Americans" include people from the following countries: Vietnam (Vietnamese, Khmer Kampuchea Krom, Montagnards), Cambodia (Khmer, Cham, Khmer Loeu), and Laos (Hmong, Lao, Lu Mien, Khmu, Tai Dam, Tai Leu, and many other ethnic groups). In accordance with the Census Bureau, statistics for the Hmong population are disaggregated and treated separately in this report, rather than aggregating them with other Laotian groups.

In this report, statistics for the category of "Asian overall" corresponds to the ACS category of "Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races." Similarly, each of the Southeast Asian American subpopulations listed in this report corresponds to the respective ACS category of "alone or in any combination." This means, for example, that the category "Cambodian" corresponds to the ACS category of "Cambodian alone or in any combination."

¹ The margin of error provides an interval for which the population's true measure is likely to fall between. For example, if a sample of the male population reports that the average height is 5 feet 8 inches, with a margin of error of plus or minus 3 inches, this means that the true average height of the male population is in the range of 5 feet 5 inches and 5 feet 11 inches. Margins of error depend on sample size and a pre-defined confidence level.

POPULATION, IMMIGRATION, & NATURALIZATION



Southeast Asian Americans Reporting One or More Ethnic/Racial Designation²

State	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese	Total
Alabama	827	122	1,551	8,488	10,988
Alaska	328	3,534	2,121	1,446	7,429
Arizona	2,635	229	2,388	27,872	33,124
Arkansas	230	2,143	4,614	6,302	13,289
California	102,317	91,224	69,303	647,589	910,433
Colorado	2,803	3,859	2,576	23,933	33,171
Connecticut	3,308	225	3,964	10,804	18,301
Delaware	113	3	208	1,688	2,012
District of Columbia	97	26	69	1,856	2,048
Florida	6,267	1,208	6,152	65,772	79,399
Georgia	5,423	3,623	6,638	49,264	64,948
Hawaii	705	87	2,620	13,266	16,678
Idaho	199	44	941	2,154	3,338
Illinois	4,366	651	7,102	29,101	41,220
Indiana	1,019	218	1,466	8,175	10,878
Iowa	1,057	534	5,744	9,543	16,878
Kansas	1,409	1,732	5,406	16,074	24,621
Kentucky	910	71	567	5,813	7,361
Louisiana	735	49	1,902	30,202	32,888
Maine	1,691	7	172	2,170	4,040
Maryland	3,137	76	1,420	26,605	31,238
Massachusetts	28,424	1,080	4,530	47,636	81,670
Michigan	2,219	5,924	3,380	19,456	30,979
Minnesota	9,543	66,181	12,009	27,086	114,819
Mississippi	302	50	285	7,721	8,358
Missouri	1,328	1,329	1,180	16,530	20,367
Montana	28	253	51	481	813
Nebraska	243	188	1,130	8,677	10,238
Nevada	1,630	254	2,581	12,366	16,831
New Hampshire	807	27	673	2,907	4,414
New Jersey	1,667	83	973	23,535	26,258
New Mexico	154	28	673	5,403	6,258
New York	5,114	296	4,471	34,510	44,391
North Carolina	4,345	10,864	6,562	30,665	52,436
North Dakota	79	33	67	791	970
Ohio	4,570	589	4,183	15,639	24,981
Oklahoma	504	3,369	1,469	18,098	23,440
Oregon	3,934	2,920	5,792	29,485	42,131
Pennsylvania	14,118	1,021	3,280	44,605	63,024
Rhode Island	5,961	1,015	3,380	1,615	11,971
South Carolina	1,617	1,218	1,432	7,840	12,107
South Dakota	125	94	511	1,002	1,732
Tennessee	1,949	400	7,276	11,351	20,976
Texas	14,347	920	15,784	227,968	259,019
Utah	2,328	426	3,189	9,338	15,281
Vermont	117	1	121	1,206	1,445
Virginia	7,306	188	3,980	59,984	71,458
Washington	22,934	2,404	11,568	75,843	112,749
West Virginia	65	5	72	1,104	1,246
Wisconsin	1,294	49,240	4,562	6,191	61,287
Wyoming	39	8	42	283	372
Totals	276,667	260,073	232,130	1,737,433	2,506,303

² Source: 2010 Census

Percentages of People in Age Groups by Population

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Total population	309,349,689	17,242,278	307,888	256,436	251,424	1,799,632
Male	49.20%	47.8%	47.9%	50.6%	49.7%	49.3%
Female	50.8%	52.2%	52.1%	49.4%	50.3%	50.7%
Under 5 years	6.5%	7.4%	9.1%	11.6%	9.9%	7.4%
5 to 17 years	17.5%	18.3%	21.5%	30.7%	22.6%	19.5%
18 to 24 years	10.0%	10.7%	13.5%	19.4%	12.0%	10.2%
25 to 34 years	13.2%	16.3%	17.5%	16.9%	15.3%	13.9%
35 to 44 years	13.3%	15.8%	13.3%	8.6%	15.2%	18.5%
45 to 54 years	14.5%	13.1%	11.0%	5.7%	12.6%	12.9%
55 to 64 years	11.9%	9.7%	8.4%	4.3%	6.8%	9.9%
65 to 74 years	7.1%	5.2%	4.0%	2.0%	4.1%	4.9%
75 years and over	6.0%	3.5%	1.7%	0.9%	1.6%	2.8%

By Age Category and Sex

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Median age	37.2	33.3	27.8	20.4	28.4	34.4
Under 18 years	74,165,365	4,437,966	94,111	108,417	81,774	484,751
Male	51.2%	50.8%	52.9%	52.7%	51.0%	51.9%
Female	48.8%	49.2%	47.1%	47.3%	49.0%	48.1%
18 years and over	235,184,324	12,804,312	213,777	148,019	169,650	1,314,881
Male	48.5%	46.8%	45.6%	49.2%	49.0%	48.3%
Female	51.5%	53.2%	54.4%	50.8%	51.0%	51.7%
18 to 34 years	71,867,474	4,650,679	95,399	93,004	68,557	432,932
Male	50.6%	48.5%	47.1%	48.5%	49.1%	47.9%
Female	49.4%	51.5%	52.9%	51.5%	50.9%	52.1%
35 to 64 years	122,883,325	6,655,257	100,813	47,683	86,771	743,259
Male	49.1%	46.5%	45.1%	50.3%	49.5%	48.6%
Female	50.9%	53.5%	54.9%	49.7%	50.5%	51.4%
65 years and over	40,433,525	1,498,376	17,565	7,332	14,322	138,690
Male	43.1%	43.0%	40.9%	50.2%	46.0%	48.1%
Female	56.9%	57.0%	59.1%	49.8%	54.0%	51.9%

Refugee Arrivals to the U.S. from Southeast Asia Fiscal Years 1975-2010³

Fiscal Year	Cambodia	Laos	Vietnam	Total
1975	4,600	800	125,000	130,400
1976	1,100	10,200	3,200	14,500
1977	300	400	1,900	2,600
1978	1,300	8,000	11,100	20,400
1979	6,000	30,200	44,500	80,700
1980	16,000	55,500	95,200	166,700
1981	38,194	19,777	65,279	123,250
1982	6,246	3,616	27,396	37,258
1983	13,041	2,907	22,819	38,767
1984	19,727	7,218	24,856	51,801
1985	19,175	5,195	25,222	49,592
1986	9,845	12,313	21,700	43,858
1987	1,786	13,394	19,656	34,836
1988	2,897	14,597	17,571	35,065
1989	2,162	12,560	21,924	36,646
1990	2,329	8,715	27,797	38,841
1991	179	9,232	28,396	37,807
1992	163	7,285	26,795	34,243
1993	63	6,944	31,401	38,408
1994	15	6,211	34,110	40,336
1995	6	3,682	32,250	35,938
1996	5	2,203	16,107	18,315
1997	9	915	6,612	7,536
1998	7	9	10,266	10,282
1999	0	19	9,622	9,641
2000	0	64	2,839	2,903
2001	23	22	3,109	3,154
2002	0	18	2,855	2,873
2003	4	13	1,354	1,371
2004	7	6,005	979	6,991
2005	3	8,517	2,009	10,529
2006	3	830	3,039	3,872
2007	9	117	1,500	1,626
2008	15	59	1,112	1,186
2009	8	14	1,486	1,508
2010	9	36	873	918
Totals	145,230	257,587	771,834	1,174,651

³ Sources: (1) Office of Refugee Resettlement. 1982-2001. Annual Reports to Congress (Fiscal Years 1981-2000). Washington, DC: Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2) FY 2000-2010 are from the 2010 Yearbook Immigration Statistics, Office of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. (3) Refugee Arrival statistics for FY 1975-1980 are from Rumbaut (2000: 182).

People from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, Naturalized as U.S. Citizens⁴
Fiscal Years 1987-2010

Fiscal Year	Cambodia	Laos	Vietnam	Total
1987	2,816	3,159	25,469	31,444
1988	3,132	3,480	21,636	28,248
1989	3,234	3,463	19,357	26,054
1990	3,525	3,329	22,027	28,881
1991	4,851	3,887	30,078	38,816
1992	2,713	3,080	18,422	24,215
1993	3,102	3,994	22,520	29,616
1994	4,132	5,630	29,555	39,317
1995	3,319	4,315	31,728	39,362
1996	5,202	10,621	51,910	67,733
1997	5,180	8,630	36,178	49,988
1998	5,348	7,734	30,185	43,267
1999	7,140	9,188	53,316	69,644
2000	5,275	7,129	55,769	68,173
2001	3,460	6,469	41,462	51,391
2002	3,113	8,363	36,757	48,233
2003	3,135	5,841	25,933	34,909
2004	3,975	5,678	27,480	37,133
2005	4,806	5,261	32,926	42,993
2006	4,778	4,114	29,917	38,809
2007	4,197	3,787	27,921	35,905
2008	5,869	5,553	39,584	51,006
2009	4,673	3,081	31,168	38,922
2010	3,756	2,743	19,313	25,812
Totals	100,731	129,542	760,611	989,871

⁴ Source: 2010 Statistical Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Percentages of Foreign-Born People, Naturalized as U.S. Citizen & Not a Citizen

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Foreign born; naturalized U.S. citizen	17,476,082	5,849,847	111,646	63,437	86,626	856,059
Male	45.8%	45.2%	44.5%	54.3%	48.9%	49.3%
Female	54.2%	54.8%	55.5%	45.7%	51.1%	50.7%
Foreign born; not a U.S. citizen	22,479,772	4,376,915	55,356	38,608	44,854	305,051
Male	51.6%	46.8%	47.7%	49.0%	47.2%	44.0%
Female	48.4%	53.2%	52.3%	51.0%	52.8%	56.0%

People Reporting Southeast Asian Heritage, Born in the United States

	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Total	140,886	154,391	119,944	638,522
Male	50.6%	49.5%	51.1%	51.8%
Female	49.4%	50.5%	48.9%	48.2%

EDUCATION



Educational Attainment of People Aged 25 and Over

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Population 25 years and over	204,288,933	10,960,076	172,329	98,243	139,585	1,132,031
High school graduate or higher	85.6%	85.9%	66.7%	64.6%	67.5%	69.8%
Male, high school graduate or higher	84.8%	87.9%	72.3%	69.7%	68.4%	73.8%
Female, high school graduate or higher	86.3%	84.2%	62.2%	59.8%	66.6%	66.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	28.2%	48.9%	16.0%	14.8%	13.2%	25.5%
Male, bachelor's degree or higher	28.5%	51.3%	18.0%	14.1%	12.5%	27.1%
Female, bachelor's degree or higher	27.9%	46.8%	14.4%	15.6%	13.9%	23.9%

Linguistic Characteristics by Percentage of Population 5 Years and Older

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Population 5 years and over	289,215,746	15,958,242	280,013	226,669	226,486	1,665,786
English only	79.4%	29.7%	22.9%	11.3%	21.6%	15.0%
Language other than English	20.6%	70.3%	77.1%	88.7%	78.4%	85.0%
Speak English less than "very well"	8.7%	31.9%	39.2%	37.6%	38.4%	51.5%

Percentages of Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in School

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Total	82,724,222	5,519,276	100,853	113,603	81,341	578,181
Nursery school, preschool	6.0%	6.2%	2.6%	3.5%	4.0%	4.8%
Kindergarten	5.1%	4.9%	6.1%	4.4%	6.2%	5.2%
Elementary school (grades 1-8)	39.8%	35.0%	38.3%	41.2%	43.2%	37.3%
High school (grades 9-12)	20.8%	17.4%	23.8%	24.0%	20.0%	18.3%
College or graduate school	28.3%	36.7%	29.1%	27.0%	26.5%	34.4%

INCOME & EMPLOYMENT



Poverty Status

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
All families	11.3%	9.3%	18.2%	27.4%	12.2%	13.0%
With related children under 18 years	17.9%	11.2%	22.0%	29.9%	14.5%	15.0%
With related children under 5 years only	19.3%	9.5%	12.6%	30.7%	15.6%	10.5%
Married-couple family	5.6%	7.1%	9.7%	21.0%	10.6%	10.7%
With related children under 18 years	8.4%	8.1%	12.2%	22.6%	12.2%	11.7%
With related children under 5 years only	7.6%	6.6%	9.1%	21.6%	19.5%	8.5%
Female householder, no husband present, family	30.3%	20.7%	33.5%	49.6%	19.9%	23.1%
With related children under 18 years	39.6%	28.0%	37.2%	53.2%	21.6%	31.5%
With related children under 5 years only	47.7%	28.9%	22.2%	57.7%	12.8%	24.2%

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
All people	15.3%	12.4%	21.6%	27.3%	16.4%	15.2%
Under 18 years	21.6%	12.5%	26.0%	34.0%	21.3%	16.1%
Related children under 18 years	21.2%	12.1%	25.4%	33.9%	20.4%	15.8%
Related children under 5 years	25.0%	11.6%	18.3%	30.3%	20.1%	12.4%
Related children 5 to 17 years	19.8%	12.3%	28.4%	35.3%	20.6%	17.1%
18 years and over	13.3%	12.4%	19.6%	22.4%	14.0%	14.8%
18 to 64 years	14.2%	12.2%	19.4%	22.4%	13.6%	14.4%
65 years and over	9.0%	13.3%	22.1%	22.7%	18.4%	17.9%
People in families	12.8%	9.3%	19.1%	26.2%	13.9%	12.6%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	26.2%	32.1%	43.1%	43.3%	37.4%	36.8%

Occupation for the Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over

Occupation	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	139,033,928	7,989,888	123,781	90,989	108,452	817,533
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	35.9%	47.3%	22.3%	18.9%	21.5%	30.2%
Service occupations	18.0%	17.3%	19.2%	20.1%	15.2%	30.4%
Sales and office occupations	25.0%	22.5%	25.7%	28.4%	21.1%	16.7%
Far Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	9.1%	3.5%	5.9%	3.9%	6.9%	5.0%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	11.9%	9.5%	26.9%	28.8%	35.4%	17.6%

Occupation	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Male civilian employed population 16 years and over	72,375,441	4,121,348	61,139	46,649	55,335	414,700
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	32.8%	48.4%	23.1%	17.5%	20.4%	31.1%
Service occupations	15.0%	14.5%	15.7%	16.1%	13.2%	22.2%
Sales and office occupations	17.8%	18.7%	18.9%	23.5%	14.4%	14.9%
Far Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	16.7%	6.2%	11.1%	6.4%	12.2%	9.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	17.7%	12.2%	31.2%	36.4%	39.9%	22.5%

Occupation	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Female civilian employed population 16 years and over	66,658,487	3,868,540	62,642	44,340	53,117	402,833
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	39.4%	46.1%	21.5%	20.2%	22.6%	29.3%
Service occupations	21.3%	20.4%	22.5%	24.2%	17.2%	38.8%
Sales and office occupations	32.7%	26.4%	32.4%	33.5%	28.0%	18.5%
Far Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	1.2%	1.3%	0.8%
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	5.7%	6.6%	22.7%	20.8%	30.8%	12.6%

Median Income & Per Capita Income

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Median household income	\$50,046	\$66,201	\$48,691	\$45,776	\$52,212	\$52,511
Median family income	\$60,609	\$75,964	\$49,210	\$46,898	\$52,817	\$56,958
Per capita income	\$26,059	\$27,284	\$15,012	\$10,605	\$16,305	\$19,987

Public Assistance Income for Households in Selected Communities

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Households	114,567,419	5,111,161	75,363	45,697	59,713	476,988
Median household income	\$50,046	\$66,201	\$48,691	\$45,776	\$52,212	\$52,511
With earnings	78.3%	88.0%	89.0%	91.8%	90.8%	89.9%
<i>Mean earnings</i>	\$69,506	\$88,402	\$58,755	\$55,073	\$61,096	\$72,189
With Social Security income	28.4%	16.5%	14.2%	11.3%	16.3%	15.8%
<i>Mean Social Security income</i>	\$16,236	\$14,446	\$10,704	\$11,058	\$9,982	\$11,672
With Supplemental Security Income	5.1%	5.1%	16.3%	18.1%	13.0%	9.3%
<i>Mean Supplemental Security Income</i>	\$8,775	\$8,827	\$10,824	\$10,536	\$9,746	\$9,622
With cash public assistance income	2.9%	2.7%	8.1%	13.0%	5.4%	4.4%
<i>Mean cash public assistance income</i>	\$3,936	\$5,156	\$4,480	\$4,877	\$5,424	\$4,719
With retirement income	17.5%	8.3%	3.2%	2.0%	5.4%	5.4%
<i>Mean retirement income</i>	\$22,006	\$22,240	\$9,668	\$14,425	\$10,252	\$14,990
With Food Stamp/SNAP benefits	11.9%	6.9%	20.9%	32.7%	16.3%	11.9%

Health Insurance Coverage

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Civilian Non-institutionalized Population	304,287,836	17,138,281	305,226	255,139	248,642	1,789,316
With private health insurance coverage	65.8%	70.1%	52.0%	47.2%	60.5%	57.0%
With public health coverage	29.7%	20.1%	31.0%	41.0%	25.8%	26.6%
No health insurance coverage	15.5%	15.1%	20.3%	17.1%	17.8%	19.7%

HOUSING



Percentage of Housing Units by Tenure

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Occupied housing units	114,567,419	5,111,161	75,363	45,697	59,713	476,988
Owner-occupied housing units	65.4%	57.8%	50.8%	41.3%	58.1%	63.5%
Renter-occupied housing units	34.6%	42.2%	49.2%	58.7%	41.9%	36.5%

Average Household Size and Family Size

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Average household size of owner occupied unit	2.70	3.38	4.27	6.89	4.32	3.91
Average household size of renter occupied unit	2.50	2.67	3.46	4.49	3.12	2.96

Households by Type

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Households	114,567,419	5,111,161	75,363	45,697	59,713	476,988
Family households	66.4%	73.3%	82.0%	87.9%	80.1%	80.1%
With own children under 18 years	29.7%	37.9%	46.3%	66.2%	47.0%	44.7%
Married-couple family	48.6%	58.7%	48.5%	58.3%	51.2%	60.8%
With own children under 18 years	20.0%	31.8%	29.1%	46.7%	29.3%	36.9%
Female householder, no husband present, family	13.1%	9.8%	23.2%	17.0%	19.0%	12.4%
With own children under 18 years	7.4%	4.6%	13.5%	11.9%	13.2%	5.7%
Nonfamily households	33.6%	26.7%	18.0%	12.1%	19.9%	19.9%
Male householder	15.5%	12.9%	10.3%	6.9%	10.6%	10.7%
Living alone	12.1%	9.2%	6.0%	3.0%	8.0%	7.9%
Not living alone	3.4%	3.7%	4.3%	3.9%	2.6%	2.8%
Female householder	18.0%	13.7%	7.6%	5.2%	9.3%	9.2%
Living alone	15.3%	10.6%	4.2%	2.2%	6.0%	7.0%
Not living alone	2.7%	3.1%	3.4%	3.0%	3.3%	2.2%

Average Household Size

	U.S. Overall	Asian Overall	Cambodian	Hmong	Laotian	Vietnamese
Average household size	2.63	3.08	3.87	5.48	3.82	3.56
Average family size	3.23	3.59	4.14	5.80	4.20	3.97

Glossary of Key Terms

(Adapted from U.S. Census Bureau's American FactFinder Glossary)

Civilian

Any persons not in the active-duty military.

Civilian Non-institutionalized Population

The portion of the resident population not in the active-duty military and not residing in institutions. Such institutions consist primarily of nursing homes, prisons, jails, mental hospitals, and juvenile correctional facilities.

Family

A group of two or more people who reside together and are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Family Household

A family includes a householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family in census tabulations. Thus, the number of family households is equal to the number of families, but family households may include more members than do families. A household can contain only one family for purposes of census tabulations. Not all households contain families since a household may comprise a group of unrelated people or one person living alone.

Household

A household includes all the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.

Median Income

The median income divides the income distribution into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and other having incomes below the median.

Per Capita Income

Average obtained by dividing aggregate income by total population of an area.

Poverty

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."



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