



## Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States Aged 55 Years and Older: Population, Nativity, and Language

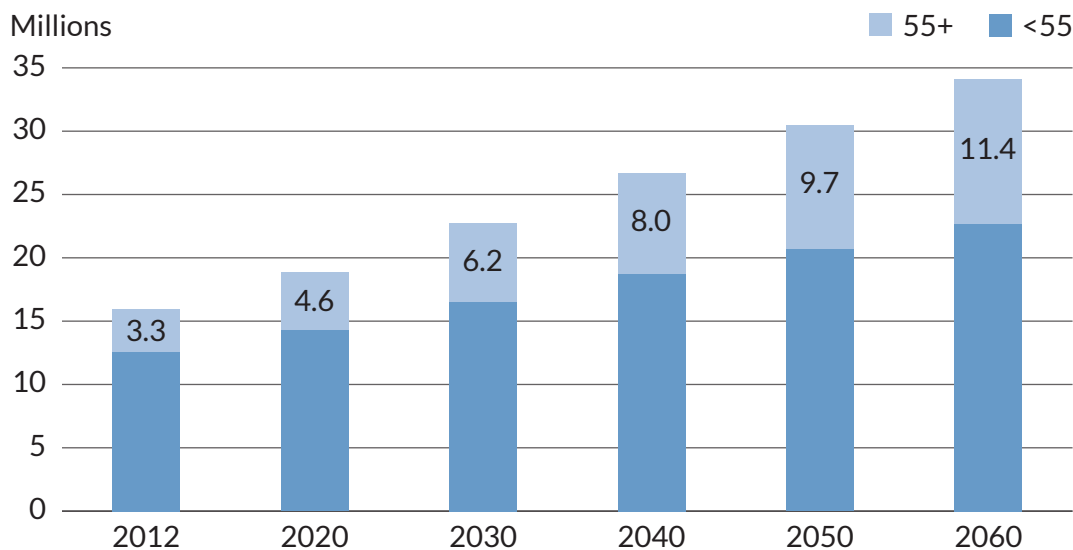
Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are one of the fastest growing populations of older adults in the United States. California, New York, and Hawaii have the largest AAPI older adult populations. The most recent statistics reveal that AAPIs aged 55 years and older make up about 4% of the total older adult U.S. population, and about 20% of the total AAPI population. The five largest ethnic groups among Asian elders are Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, and Korean. Approximately 85% of AAPIs aged 55 and older are foreign-born, and 64% are naturalized citizens.

AAPIs speak over 40 different languages and dialects. Only 15% of AAPIs aged 55 years and older speak English at home, and over half (56%) have limited English proficiency. Additionally, a significant proportion (27%) of AAPIs aged 55 years and older are linguistically isolated, which means that all members of the household speak English less than “very well.” These data indicate the need for linguistically appropriate services for Asian elders.

### Population Statistics by Race and Hispanic Origin

Approximately 3.3 million AAPIs, or 21% of the total AAPI population, were aged 55 years and older in 2012. Over the next 50 years, the number of AAPIs aged 55 and older is expected to grow 240% to 11.4 million, making up about 33% of the total AAPI population in 2060. The older Asian population is one of the fastest growing older populations in the United States.

Figure 1: U.S. AAPI Population Projection, 55 Years and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2012), based on 2010 Census

Between 2000 and 2010, there was an 85% growth in the Asian older adult population (aged 55+), and a 67% growth in the Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) older population (aged 55+).

**Table 1: U.S. Populations by Race and Hispanic Origin (Alone), 55 Years and Older**

Race/Hispanic Origin (Alone)	2000 Estimated Count	2000 Percent of U.S. Population 55+	2010 Estimated Count	2010 Percent of U.S. Population 55+	Percent Growth
Asian	1,577,339	2.7	2,920,717	3.8	85
NHPI*	44,391	0.1	74,046	0.1	67
White	50,458,627	85.0	63,394,758	82.6	26
Hispanic	3,444,031	5.8	5,995,441	7.8	74
Black	5,193,060	8.8	7,330,912	9.6	41
AIAN**	296,159	0.5	479,742	0.6	62
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,266,437</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>76,750,713</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>30</b>

\* Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, \*\* American Indian/Alaska Native.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census

**Population Growth by Race Alone-or-in-Combination**

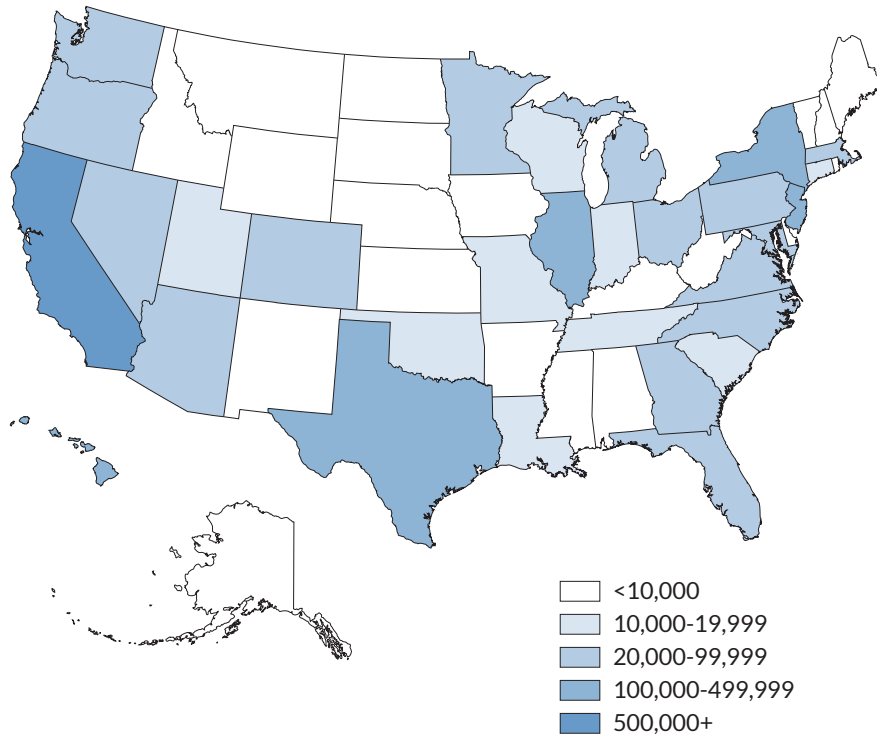
- Between 2000 and 2010, there was an 85% growth in the older Asian alone-or-in-combination population, from 1,700,199 to 3,139,986.
- Between 2000 and 2010, there was a 71% growth in the older NHPI alone-or-in-combination population, from 90,793 to 155,250.

**Table 2: States with the Highest Growth of AAPIs from 2000 to 2010, 55 Years and Older**

State	2000 Population	2010 Population	Percent Growth
Nevada	16,876	49,441	193
North Carolina	11,151	28,699	157
Georgia	18,646	47,622	155
Arizona	13,105	31,999	144
Texas	65,592	159,151	143
Florida	39,048	92,274	136
South Carolina	4,428	10,384	135
New Hampshire	1,594	3,708	133
Vermont	453	1,037	129
Alabama	3,651	8,353	129
Arkansas	2,363	5,393	128
Tennessee	6,391	13,990	119
Delaware	2,162	4,712	118
Virginia	34,737	74,991	116
Indiana	6,273	13,245	111

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census

**Figure 2: AAPI Population by State, 55 Years and Older**



- Approximately 55% of the AAPI population aged 55 years and older live in California, New York, and Hawaii.
- Illinois, New Jersey, Texas, Hawaii, New York, and California have AAPI older adult populations over 100,000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

**Table 3: States with Largest AAPI Populations, 55 Years and Older**

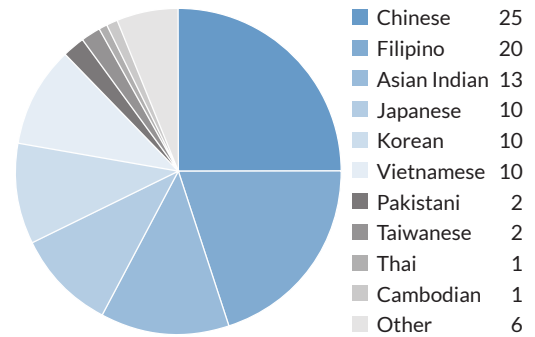
State	Number	Percent of AAPI 55+ Population
<b>Total AAPI 55+ Population</b>	<b>2,994,763</b>	<b>100</b>
California	1,150,397	38
New York	281,412	9
Hawaii	216,988	7
Texas	159,151	5
New Jersey	129,116	4
Illinois	113,054	4
Washington	99,780	3
Florida	92,274	3
Virginia	74,991	3
Maryland	62,367	2
Pennsylvania	56,130	2
Massachusetts	52,710	2
Nevada	49,441	2
Georgia	47,622	2
Michigan	36,240	1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

## Population Statistics by AAPI Ethnic Sub-groups

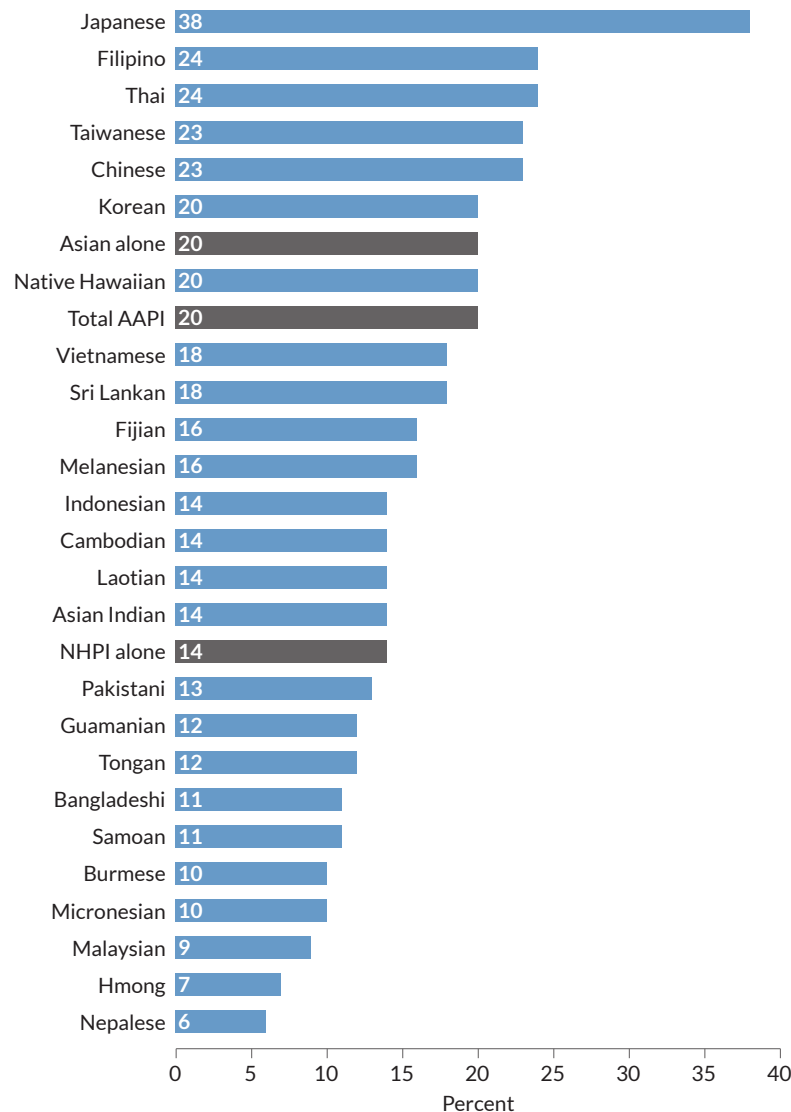
**Figure 3: Percent of AAPI Population by Ethnic Group, 55 Years and Older**

- AAPIs 55+ make up about 4% of the total U.S. elderly population, and about 20% of the total AAPI population.
- Chinese are the largest Asian American ethnic group aged 55 years and older (25% of AAPI elders), with a population of 758,125.
- “Other” includes: Native Hawaiians, Laotians, Hmong, Bangladeshi, Micronesians, Samoans, Guamanians, Indonesians, Burmese, and Sri Lankans.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

**Figure 4: Percent of AAPI Ethnic Group Aged 55 Years and Older**

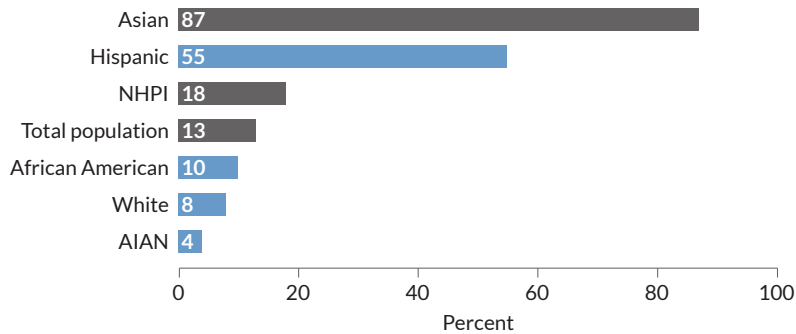


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

- Approximately 20% of the total AAPI population and 20% of Asians alone are aged 55 years and older.
- About 14% of NHPIs are aged 55 years and older.
- Among Asian ethnic groups, the Japanese have the largest percentage of older persons aged 55 years and older (38%).
- Almost one quarter of Filipinos, Thai, Taiwanese, and Chinese are 55 years and older.
- Ethnic groups such as Nepalese, Hmong, Malaysian, Micronesians, Burmese, Samoan, and Bangladeshi Americans tend to be younger ethnic populations with less than 12% of their populations aged 55 and over.

## Nativity

**Figure 5: Percent of Population who are Foreign-Born\* by Race and Hispanic Origin, 55 Years and Older**



- Approximately 87% of older Asian Americans (55+) are foreign-born, more than any other racial group in the U.S.
- By comparison, 55% of Hispanics/Latinos and 8% of non-Hispanic Whites were born abroad.

\* According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the term “foreign-born” refers to anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth. An individual who is “native-born” was born in the United States, Puerto Rico, a U.S. Island Area (including American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands), or abroad to U.S. citizen parent(s).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 American Community Survey (ACS), 3-Year Estimates

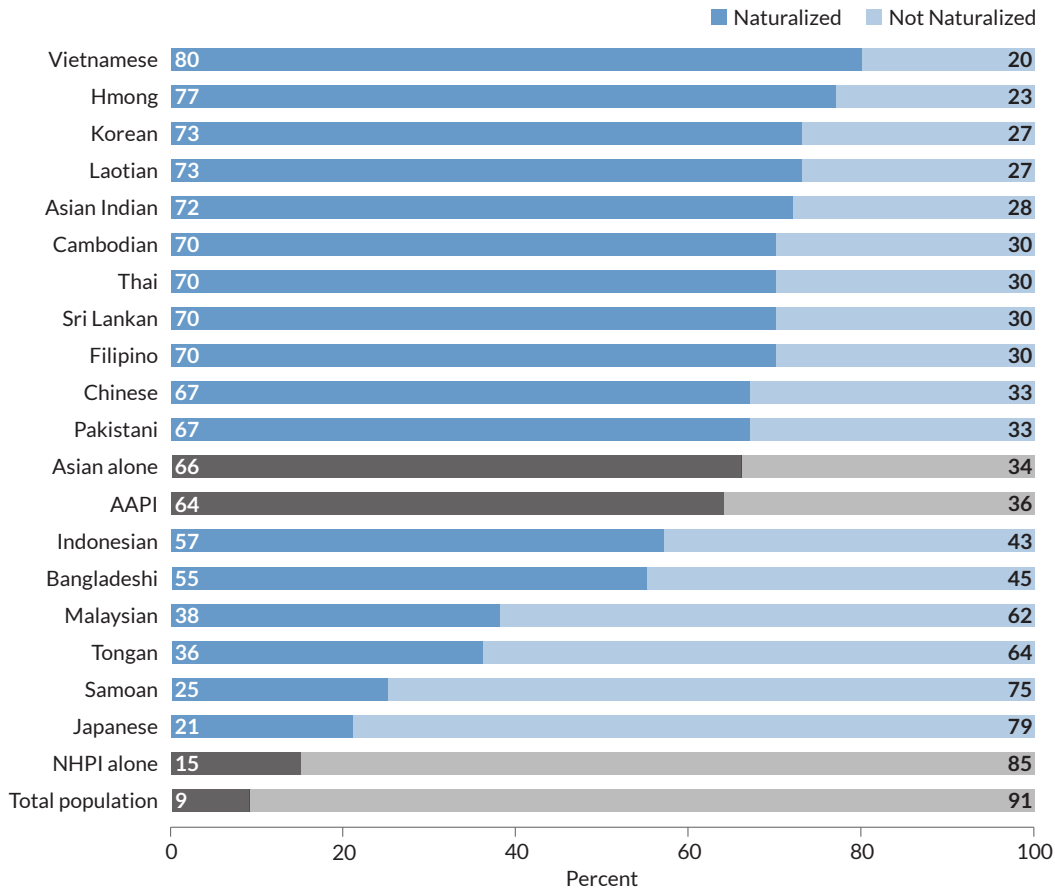
**Table 4: AAPI Ethnic Populations who are Foreign-Born, 55 Years and Older**

Ethnic Group	Number Foreign-Born	Percent Foreign-Born
Bangladeshi	12,051	98.5
Cambodian	35,989	98.4
Vietnamese	294,669	98.4
Sri Lankan	7,001	98.0
Thai	39,451	97.7
Hmong	16,060	97.6
Laotian	27,386	97.5
Asian Indian	397,433	97.4
Pakistani	45,138	97.0
Korean	280,687	96.9
Indonesian	8,784	96.3
Malaysian	1,520	96.0
Filipino	577,446	91.4
Tongan	5,016	91.0
Chinese	697,268	88.6
Japanese	101,221	34.4
Samoan	4,194	33.5

- Bangladeshis, Cambodians, Vietnamese, Sri Lankans, Thais, Hmong, Laotians, Asian Indians, and Pakistanis have the largest percentage (over 97%) of foreign-born, as almost all of these older adults (55+) were born outside the U.S.
- Among Asians, Japanese is the only ethnicity with mostly native-born elders.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 ACS, 3-Year Estimates

**Figure 6: Percent of Foreign-Born Population who have Naturalized by AAPI Ethnic Groups, 55 Years and Older**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 ACS, 3-Year Estimates

- Naturalized citizens are foreign nationals who have become citizens of the U.S. after fulfilling requirements established by Congress in the Immigration and Nationality Act.
- About two-thirds (66%) of foreign-born Asian Americans aged 55 years and older are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- More than 70% of Asian Indians, Laotians, Koreans, Hmong, and Vietnamese aged 55 years and older are naturalized U.S. citizens.
- A majority of foreign-born AAPIs aged 55 years and older have been in the United States for 21 or more years. For example, about 90% of Japanese, 88% of Laotians, 86% of Cambodians, and 83% of Thais came to the U.S. in 1990 or earlier. In contrast, 34% of Bangladeshis, 31% of Malaysians, and 22% of Sri Lankans have been in the U.S. for 0-10 years.

## Language

**Table 5: Languages Spoken at Home by AAPIs, 55 Years and Older**

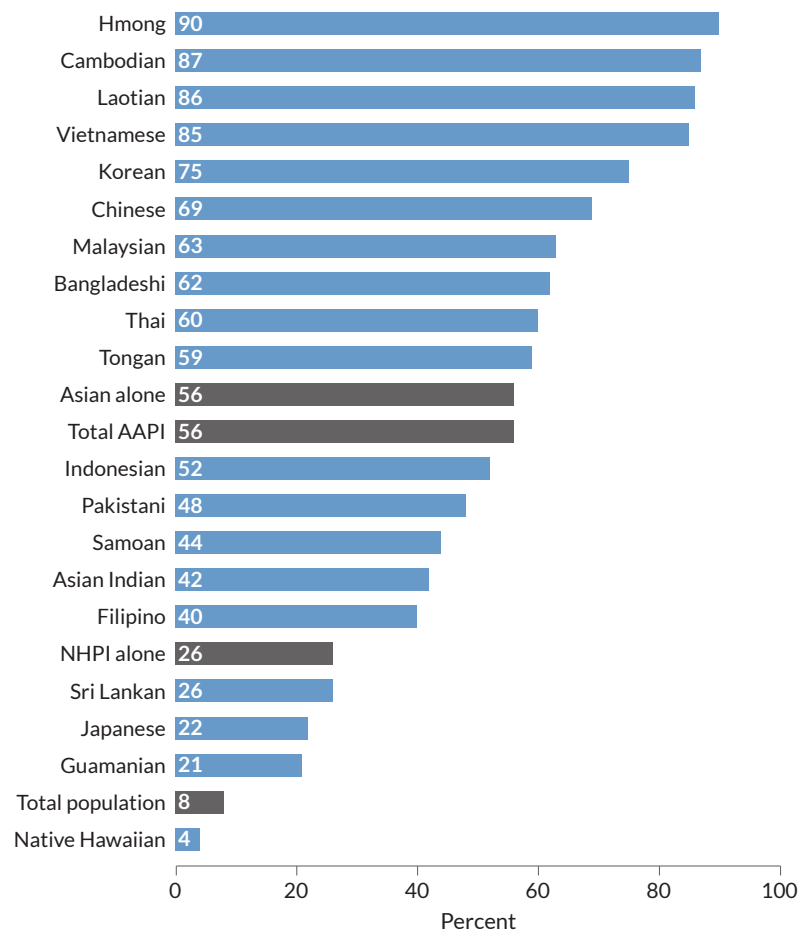
Language	Number of Speakers
Chinese	676,628
Tagalog	530,658
Vietnamese	291,717
Korean	273,139
Japanese	127,991
Hindi	99,037
Gujarati	91,315
Urdu	64,026
Punjabi	56,671
Thai	41,183
Cambodian	37,558
Ilocano	36,826
Formosan	31,634
Bengali	29,030
Malayalam	27,488
Other*	203,295

\* Includes Pacific Islander languages.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 ACS, 3-Year Estimates

- Asian Americans speak many languages. Only 15% of AAPIs (55+) speak English at home, and 72% speak an Asian or Pacific Islander language.
- The largest group of languages spoken by older AAPIs (55+) is comprised of languages from China (676,628 speakers). This includes Cantonese (128,845 speakers) and Mandarin (92,321 speakers).
- A significant number of Asian elders speak Vietnamese, Korean, or a language from India (Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Urdu, and Malayalam).

**Figure 7: Percent of AAPI Population who are Limited English Proficient\*, 55 Years and Older**

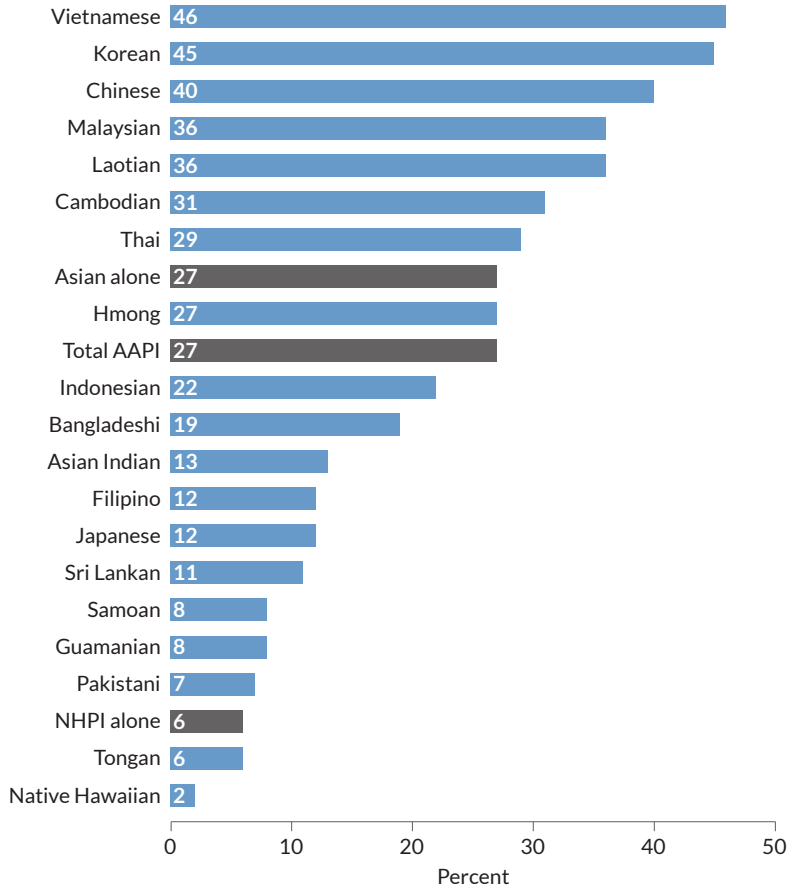


\* An individual who is limited English proficient is one who speaks English less than "very well."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 ACS, 3-Year Estimates

- Approximately 56% of Asian elders are limited English proficient, more than Hispanics/Latinos (53%), AIANs (11%), Whites (5%), and African Americans (3%). By comparison, about 26% of NHPI older adults are limited English proficient.
- Over 85% of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian, and Hmong older Americans are limited English proficient.
- Over two-thirds of Korean and Chinese elders are limited English proficient.
- Among the most English proficient Asian ethnic groups, about one in four Sri Lankans and one in five Japanese older adults are limited English proficient.

**Figure 8: Percent of AAPI Older Adults who Reside in Linguistically Isolated Households\*, 55 Years and Older**



\* A linguistically isolated household is one in which all members 14 years of age and older speak English less than “very well.”

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009-2011 ACS, 3-Year Estimates

- Approximately 27% of Asian elders (55+) live in linguistically isolated households.
- Almost half of Vietnamese (46%) and Korean American older adults (45%) are linguistically isolated.
- About a third or more of Cambodian, Laotian, Malaysian, and Chinese elders are linguistically isolated.
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander elders have lower rates of linguistic isolation (6%) overall.

## Acknowledgements

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Data brief compiled by Karen Blacher, NAPCA Research Associate. Design by Debbie Louie. Printed September 2013.

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