

Asian and Pacific Islander Population by State: 1980

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

PC80-S1-12

Issued December 1983



U.S. Department of Commerce
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Acknowledgments

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1980 Census of Population

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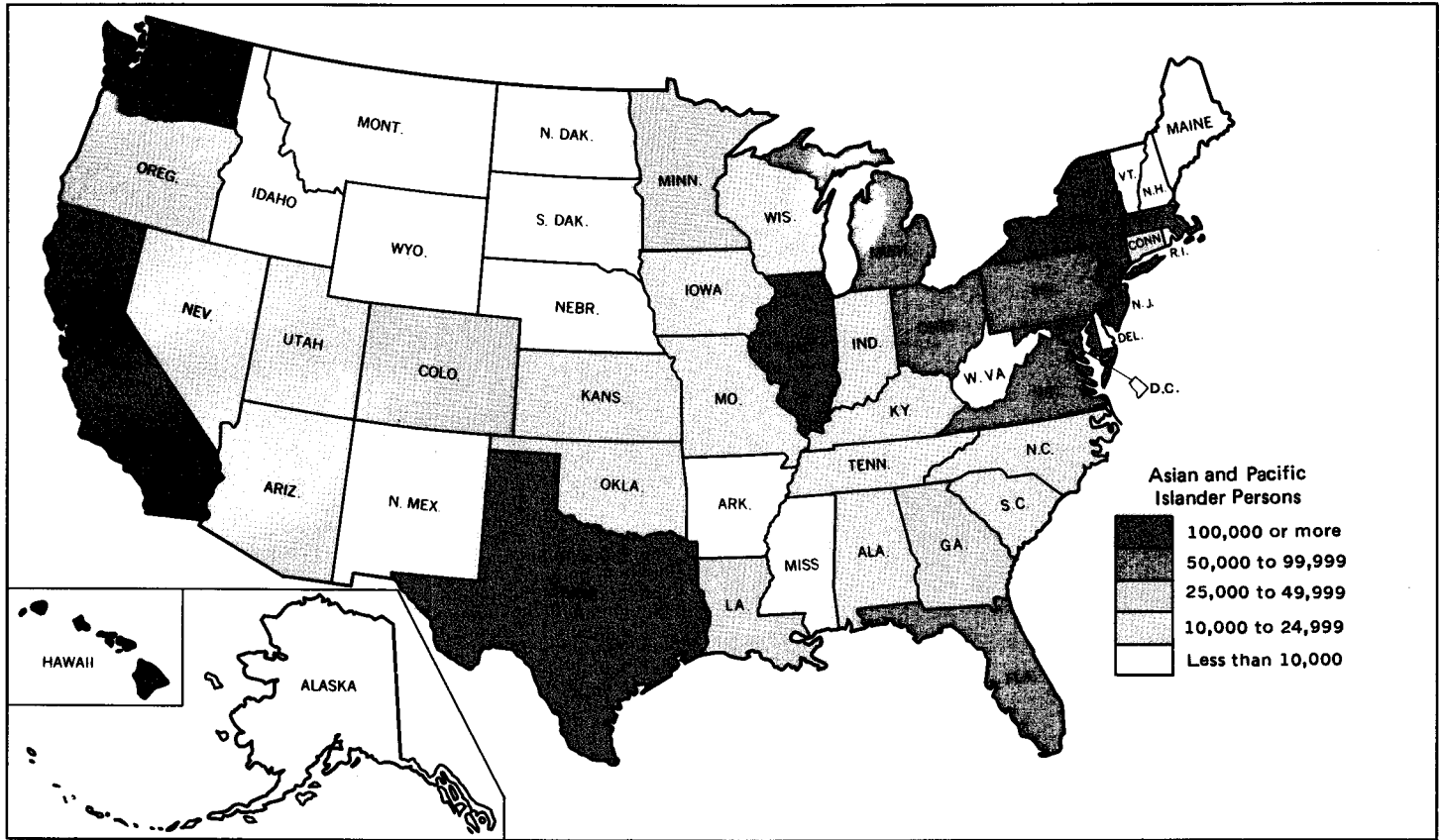
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Number of Asian and Pacific Islander Persons by State: 1980



U.S. Department of Commerce

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Introduction

GENERAL

This report presents 1980 census data on the geographic distribution of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Information on the total Asian and Pacific Islander population is shown for the United States, regions, divisions, and States. Data for the same areas are also presented for the Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Korean, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, and "Other Asian and Pacific Islander" populations. In addition, the report identifies and presents figures for the groups comprising "Other Asian and Pacific Islander." This is the first census to identify the total Asian and Pacific Islander population and its subgroups.

The statistics in this report differ from those published in 1980 Census of Population, *Characteristics of the Population, General Population Characteristics, PC80-1-B* and *Supplementary Reports, "Race of the Population by States: 1980," PC80-S1-3*. These earlier publications provided information based on 100-percent tabulations for the nine Asian and Pacific Islander groups listed in the race item on the 1980 census questionnaire. The 1980 data presented in the tables of this report are for the total Asian and Pacific Islander population and all its subgroups based on sample tabulations. (See appendix A for a discussion of the sampling.) Information for the Asian and Pacific Islander population was derived from answers to the 1980 census race item. (See facsimile of race item in the section "Definitions and Explanations."¹) The concept of race as used by the Census Bureau reflects self-identifica-

tion by respondents; it does not denote any clear-cut scientific definition of biological stock. Furthermore, it is recognized that the categories of the race item included both racial and national origin or sociocultural groups. In the census, data on race were collected separately from ethnicity (ancestry) and country of birth. Since Asians and Pacific Islanders may be of any ethnic group or from any country, the information derived from the race item may differ from data collected on ancestry or country of birth which are presented in other 1980 census reports.

Table 1 shows the 1980 census distribution of the Asian and Pacific Islander population and its subgroups for the United States, and each region, division, and State. The percent distribution, based on the data in table 1, is shown in table 2. Table 3 provides the 1980 and 1970 distributions and population ranks by State of the total Asian and Pacific Islander population. In table 4, 1980 figures on the Asian population and the component groups are shown for selected States. Comparable statistics for the Pacific Islander population are presented in table 5 for States with 400 or more Pacific Islanders.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER POPULATION

The Asian and Pacific Islander population numbered more than 3.7 million in 1980 showing a considerable increase over the 1970 figure of 1.5 million. Factors accounting for most of this increase are immigration of groups from Asia and the Islands of the Pacific during the last decade and changes in the census definition to include new groups immigrating to this country. As a consequence, the Asian and Pacific Islander population emerged as one of the

fastest growing groups during the 1970's.

During the decade, the Asian and Pacific Islander population increased their proportion of the total population from 0.8 percent in 1970 to 1.6 percent in 1980. Regionally, in 1980, Asians and Pacific Islanders constituted 5 percent of the total population in the West, 1 percent in the Northeast, and less than 1 percent in both the South and North Central regions.

Seven States had 100,000 or more Asian and Pacific Islander persons in 1980. California, as in the 1970 census, ranked first in the number of Asians and Pacific Islanders (1.3 million) followed by Hawaii with nearly 600,000 and New York with over 330,000. Illinois, Texas, Washington, and New Jersey followed in rank order (tables A and 3).

Approximately 60 percent of the Asian and Pacific Islander population in the United States lived in three States: California, Hawaii, and New York. More than 35 percent lived in California, approximately 16 percent in Hawaii, and about 9 percent in New York. Other States with high proportions were Illinois (5 percent), Texas (4 percent), and Washington and New Jersey (each 3 percent).

The Asian and Pacific Islander population was the largest racial group in one State—Hawaii—where they comprised 61 percent of the total population. California with 6 percent was the only other State where Asian and Pacific Islander persons constituted more than 3 percent of the total population.

COMPOSITION AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE ASIAN POPULATION

Composition

In 1980, the Asian population numbered 3,466,421 persons and was more than 90

¹The category "Asian and Pacific Islander" is included as a racial classification in Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, which provides standards on ethnic and racial categories for statistical reporting to be used by Federal agencies.

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Table A. Distribution of the Asian and Pacific Islander Population by Region: 1980

(Data based on sample, see appendix. For meaning of symbols, see Introduction. For definition of terms, see Definitions and Explanations)

United States Regions States with 100,000 or more Asians and Pacific Islanders	Total population	Asian and Pacific Islander		
		Asian	Pacific Islander	Asian
United States (number)....	226 545 805	3 726 440 ¹	3,466 421	259 566
United States (percent)...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
West.....	19.1	58.5	56.4	86.2
California.....	10.4	35.2	36.0	25.5
Washington.....	1.8	3.0	3.0	2.7
Hawaii.....	0.4	15.9	13.1	53.0
Northeast.....	21.7	16.1	17.1	2.9
New York.....	7.8	8.9	9.4	1.3
New Jersey.....	3.3	2.9	3.1	0.4
South.....	33.3	13.8	14.2	7.4
Texas.....	6.3	3.6	3.7	1.7
North Central.....	26.0	11.7	12.3	3.5
Illinois.....	5.0	4.6	4.9	0.6

¹Includes 453 persons who provided Asian and Pacific Islander write-in entries which could not be specifically classified as either "Asian" or "Pacific Islander."

Table B. Asian Population: 1980 and 1970

(Data based on sample, see appendix. For meaning of symbols, see Introduction. For definition of terms, see Definitions and Explanations)

United States	Number		Percent	
	1980	1970	1980	1970
Total Asian population.....	3 466 421	1 426 148	100.0	100.0
Chinese.....	812 178	431 583	23.4	30.3
Filipino.....	781 894	336 731	22.6	23.6
Japanese.....	716 331	588 324	20.7	41.3
Asian Indian.....	387 223	(NA)	11.2	...
Korean ¹	357 393	69 510	10.3	4.9
Vietnamese.....	245 025	(NA)	7.1	...
Other Asians.....	166 377	(NA)	4.8	...
Laotian.....	47 683	(NA)	1.4	...
Thai.....	45 279	(NA)	1.3	...
Cambodian (Kampuchea).....	16 044	(NA)	0.5	...
Pakistani.....	15 792	(NA)	0.5	...
Indonesian.....	9 618	(NA)	0.3	...
Hmong.....	5 204	(NA)	0.2	...
All other.....	26 757	(NA)	0.8	...

¹The 1970 data on the Korean population excluded the State of Alaska.

percent of the total Asian and Pacific Islander population. Asians include a number of diverse groups who differ in language, culture, and recency of immigration. More than 20 Asian populations were reported in the 1980 census; the eight largest groups in rank order were Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Asian Indian, Korean, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Thai. The composition of the Asian population changed considerably between 1970 and 1980 because of immigration. The adoption of the Immigration Act of 1965 dramatically increased the number of Asians eligible to enter the United States; prior to 1965, Asian immigration was small. As a result of this law, Asians annually comprised a

substantial portion of the total immigrant population during the 1970 decade. The increased immigration was from countries such as the Philippines, Korea, China, India, Pakistan, and Thailand. In addition, more than 400,000² Southeast Asian refugees came to this country between 1975 and 1980, entering primarily under a series of parole authorizations granted by the Attorney General under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

²These data are limited to persons legally admitted as refugees. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Report to Congress, "Refugee Resettlement Program," January 1981, page 5.

As shown in table B below, the Chinese population was the largest Asian group (812,178) and Filipinos ranked second (781,894). Both groups surpassed the Japanese population, which was the largest group in 1970, but fell to third in 1980 with 716,331 persons. Each of these groups comprised more than one-fifth of the Asian population. Asian Indians ranked fourth with 387,223 persons, followed by Koreans with 357,393 persons and Vietnamese with 245,025 persons; both Asian Indians and Koreans constituted approximately 10 percent and Vietnamese 7 percent of the Asian population. The "Other Asian" population numbered 166,377 and comprised about 5 percent of the total Asian population. The largest "Other Asian" groups were Laotian (47,683) and Thai (45,279). Other groups with sizeable numbers were Cambodian (16,044), Pakistani (15,792), Indonesian (9,618) and Hmong (5,204).

Distribution

Although the Asian population was more geographically dispersed in 1980 than in 1970, they remained highly concentrated in the West. In 1980, 56 percent of the Asian population lived in the West compared with 70 percent from the 1970 census. All other regions experienced increases between 1970 and 1980; especially notable was the increase in the South where more than 14 percent of Asians lived in 1980 compared to only 7 percent in 1970.³ Among the six largest Asian groups—Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Korean, and Vietnamese—the heaviest population concentrations were found in the West for each group with the notable exception of the Asian Indian population who were primarily in the Northeast. However, the degree of concentration in the West varied among the groups. For instance, about 8 of 10 Japanese, but only about 4 of 10 Koreans were residing in the West in 1980. In contrast, only about 2 of every 10 Asian Indians resided in the West (table 4).

In three States the Asian population had more than 300,000 persons: Cali-

³The 1970 census regional distribution for Asians was 70 percent in the West, 14 percent in the Northeast, 9 percent in the North Central, and 7 percent in the South.

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ifornia (1,246,654), Hawaii (452,951), and New York (327,499). The concentration of Asian subgroups varied somewhat from the total Asian population. For example, California ranked first in the number of Chinese, Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans, and Vietnamese. The second highest ranking State was New York for both Chinese and Koreans, Hawaii for Filipinos and Japanese, and Texas for Vietnamese. In contrast, among Asian Indians, New York and California held the first and second places, respectively.

The geographical dispersion of the "Other Asian" groups was greater than that of the larger Asian groups. For example, a substantial proportion (33 percent) of the Pakistani population lived in the Northeast; about 53 percent of the Hmong population resided in the North Central region; and more than 40 percent of both Laotians and Thais were residing in the West (table 4).

Four States had more than 10,000 "Other Asians" in 1980. The largest number of "Other Asians" was found in California with 45,986 followed by New York with 13,120. Illinois and Texas followed in rank order with 10,942 and 10,264, respectively (table 1). Among "Other Asian" groups, California ranked first in the number of Laotians, Thais, Cambodians, and Indonesians. The second highest ranking State was New York for Thais and Indonesians; Washington for Cambodians; and Illinois and Minnesota for Laotians. In contrast, New York ranked first for the Pakistani population and Minnesota for the Hmong population; California was the second ranking State for each of these groups (table 4).

RECENT ARRIVALS FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA

Since 1975, substantial numbers of Vietnamese, Laotians (including Hmong), and Cambodians have entered this country under the Refugee Resettlement Program.⁴ The vast majority of Southeast

⁴The Office of Refugee Resettlement reports that 415,225 Southeast Asian refugees, primarily from Vietnam, have entered the Nation between the spring of 1975 and September 1980. These data are limited to persons legally admitted as refugees. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Report to Congress, "Refugee Resettlement Program," January 1981, page 5.

Asians included in the 1980 census entered the United States as refugees; however, refugees cannot be directly identified from the census questionnaire. Detailed cross tabulations on race by country of birth and year of immigration needed to identify all the recent Southeast Asian refugee groups (e.g., the Chinese from Vietnamese), will be available in subsequent 1980 census reports. These data will allow for more accurate estimation of the size of the Southeast Asian refugee population.

The Asian groups that are likely to be predominantly recent refugees are: Vietnamese (245,025), Laotians (47,683), Cambodians (16,044), Hmong (5,204), and Indochinese (427). These identified groups numbered 314,383 comprising 8.4 percent of the total Asian and Pacific Islander population (table C).

Through the policy of sponsorship established by the Federal government,

the Southeast Asian refugee population initially was dispersed throughout the country. The census showed that by 1980 most groups were concentrated in geographic areas with a sizable total Asian population. Forty-six percent of the identified recent arrivals from Southeast Asia lived in the West. The South was the second most populous region with 28 percent followed by the North Central (16 percent) and Northeast (9 percent) regions. The largest population concentrations were found in the West for each identified group with the exception of the Hmong population whose heaviest concentration was in the North Central region.

There has been a tendency for Southeast Asian refugees to cluster in selected States. As shown in table D, in 1980, 80 percent of the identified recent arrivals from Southeast Asia resided in 16 States. The highest concentrations were in

Table C. **Recent Arrivals From Southeast Asia: 1980**

(Data based on sample, see appendix. For meaning of symbols, see Introduction. For definition of terms, see Definitions and Explanations)

United States	Number	Percent distribution	Percent of total Asian and Pacific Islander population
Identified recent arrivals from Southeast Asia.....	314 383	100.0	8.4
Vietnamese.....	245 025	77.9	6.6
Laotian.....	47 683	15.2	1.3
Cambodian (Kampuchea).....	16 044	5.1	0.4
Hmong.....	5 204	1.7	0.1
Indochinese ¹	427	0.1	-

¹Persons who reported Indochinese may have come from Vietnam as well as Thailand or Burma.

Table D. **Recent Arrivals From Southeast Asia for Selected States by Population Rank: 1980**

(Data based on sample, see appendix. For meaning of symbols, see Introduction. For definition of terms, see Definitions and Explanations)

States with largest number of recent arrivals from Southeast Asia	Rank	Number	Percent distribution
United States.....	...	314 383	100.0
Total, selected States.....	...	251 551	80.0
California.....	1	103 623	33.0
Texas.....	2	31 695	10.1
Washington.....	3	13 260	4.2
Louisiana.....	4	11 115	3.5
Virginia.....	5	10 517	3.3
Illinois.....	6	10 360	3.3
Minnesota.....	7	10 218	3.3
Pennsylvania.....	8	10 017	3.2
Oregon.....	9	8 821	2.8
Florida.....	10	7 982	2.5
New York.....	11	7 740	2.5
Michigan.....	12	5 894	1.9
Colorado.....	13	5 469	1.7
Oklahoma.....	14	5 123	1.6
Hawaii.....	15	4 882	1.6
Kansas.....	16	4 835	1.5