



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS & PACIFIC ISLANDERS (WHIAAPI)

FACT SHEET:

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS (NHPI'S)

CLASSIFICATION

- In 1997, the Office of Management and Budget revised Statistical Policy Directive No. 15, Race and Ethnic Standards for Federal Statistics and Administrative Reporting and separated the 1976 racial category of “Asian and Pacific Islander” into two groups: “Asian” and “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander”ⁱ
- In February 2010, the President issued a statement recognizing that Native Hawaiians are a vital part of the nation’s cultural fabric. He supported the Substitute Amendment to H.R. 2314, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2009, legislation crafted to formally extend a federal policy of self-governance and self-determination to Native Hawaiians achieving parity in U.S. treatment of its indigenous peoples – American Indians and Alaska Nativesⁱⁱ.
- In May 2010, the Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander Alliance (NHPI) and the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) issued joint guidance advocating that the preferred and appropriate reference to these communities should be Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders (NHPI)ⁱⁱⁱ.
- The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is conducting outreach efforts to include all Pacific Islander Americans including Native Hawaiians, Chamoru, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, Palauan, Pohnpeian, Chuukese, Yapese, Kosraen and others in the Micronesian, Melanesian and Polynesian Pacific Islander groupings.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

- Native Hawaiians, Samoans and Chamoru are indigenous peoples to the State of Hawaii, the U.S. Territory of American Samoa and the U.S. Territory of Guam respectively.
- 8 out of 10 Pacific Islanders in the U.S. are native to the United States^{iv}.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- Pacific Islanders include diverse populations who differ in language and culture. They are of Polynesian, Micronesian and Melanesian backgrounds^v.
- The Polynesian group is the largest and includes Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Tongans and Tahitians^{vi}.
- The Micronesian group, which is the second largest, includes primarily Chamoru from Guam but also includes other Chamoru and Carolinian from the Mariana Islands, Marshallese, Palauans and various others which include but is not limited to Pohnpeian, Chuukese, Kosraen, and Yapese from the Federated States of Micronesia^{vii}.
- Of the Melanesian group, which would include Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Fiji, Fijian-Americans are the largest in this group^{viii}.

MIGRATION

- ❑ Including the State of Hawaii, 73% of the NHPI populations lived in the West, predominantly in the states of Hawaii and California. These two states had more than 500,000 Pacific Islanders combined. Washington was the only other State that had more than 15,000 Pacific Islanders^{ix}.

POPULATION

- ❑ According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 874,000 reported Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders, which account for 0.3% of the entire U.S. population^x.
- ❑ Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, as a group, experienced 2.4% growth between 2007 and 2008, third overall among race groups; Asians and Hispanics were second and first respectively^{xi}.
- ❑ Native Hawaiians are the largest Pacific Islander group in the U.S. followed by Samoan, and Guamanian or Chamoru. These three groups account for 74% of the total respondents who reported belonging to a single Pacific Islander group^{xii}.

AGE

- ❑ The Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population is much younger than the U.S. population as a whole. The median age for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in 2008 was 27.7, compared with 26.8 of the total U.S. population. Median age for Asians by comparison was 34.2^{xiii}.
- ❑ In 2008, almost 34% of the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population was under 18, while 8% was 65 or older. By comparison, 26% of the Asian population was under 18, while 9% was older; corresponding figures for the entire U.S. population were 24% and 13%^{xiv}.

LANGUAGE

- ❑ There are at least 39 different Pacific Island languages spoken as a second language in the American home^{xv}.
- ❑ 14% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have Limited English Proficiency compared to 9% of the general U.S. population^{xvi}.

MILITARY SERVICE

- ❑ Proportionally, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are overrepresented in the U.S. Army by 249%, compared to 43% of blacks, 44% of whites and American Indians/Alaskan Natives 53%^{xvii}.
- ❑ In 2005, the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Palau, as a percentage of their islands' population, had a casualty rate of 36 deaths per million which exceeded that of any U.S. state. Vermont came closest with 16 deaths per million. The national rate is about 5 per million^{xviii}.
- ❑ According to the 2005 U.S. Census Bureau Facts for Features there were 25,000 single-race Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander military veterans^{xix}.
- ❑ A greater proportion of Micronesians age 16 and older work or are in the military^{xx}.

HEALTH

- ❑ Native Hawaiians are over 5 times as likely to experience diabetes between the ages of 19-35 (11% vs. 2%) compared to non-Hawaiians^{xxi}.
- ❑ Native Hawaiians have the highest rate of deaths due to cancer compared to any other ethnic group in Hawaii (229 per 100,000) and the third highest rate in the country^{xxii}.
- ❑ In California, Pacific Islander children have the highest rates among all children who are overweight or obese, putting these children at heightened risk for cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, and some types of cancers^{xxiii}.
- ❑ Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders generally experience poorer health than the American population as a whole: they are more at risk for developing and dying from cancer, heart disease, diabetes and other diseases^{xxiv}.
- ❑ According to the CDC, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders have the second highest rate of diagnoses of HIV infection and the second shortest AIDS survival rate of all Americans^{xxv}.

POVERTY

- ❑ Almost 20% of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders Live in poverty while, over 16% lack health coverage^{xxvi}.
- ❑ Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders living below poverty: 18% (U.S. average living below poverty: 12%)^{xxvii}.
- ❑ Poverty rates are higher among Pacific Islanders who have a per capita income 27% below the national average^{xxviii}.
- ❑ Nearly 18% of all Micronesians in the U.S. live in poverty, compared to just over 13% of the general population. In California, the poverty rates are comparable, but in Hawaii, Micronesians have nearly three times the poverty rates of the general population across all categories except the elderly^{xxix}.

EDUCATION

- ❑ 15% of single-race Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders hold at least a bachelor's degree compared to 28% for the entire population and 5% hold a graduate or professional degree compared to 10% of the entire population^{xxx}.
- ❑ Pacific Islanders are half as likely to have a bachelor's degree in comparison with 27% for the total population and 49% of the Asian American population^{xxxi}.
- ❑ Only 29% of Pacific Islanders between the ages of 18 and 24 are enrolled in a college or university, which is comparable to African Americans. In contrast, 39% of non-Hispanic whites and 57% of Asians in the age range are enrolled in college^{xxxii}.
- ❑ In 2005, 47.3% of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI's) were enrolled in community colleges. Between 1990 and 2000, AAPI enrollment in community colleges increased by nearly 73.3% compared to 42.2% in public four-year institutions^{xxxiii}.
- ❑ Research has found that AAPI's with higher socio-economic status (SES) were three times more likely to begin college at a selective institution than those in lower SES, with Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders less likely than Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans to begin college at a selective institution^{xxxiv}.
- ❑ The importance of disaggregation of data within the AAPI community can be seen in bachelor degree attainment rates among ethnic sub-groups from a high of 69.1% for Asian Indians to a low of 9.4% for Samoans^{xxxv}.

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

- ❑ Pacific Islanders were more likely to be in service occupations than the total Asian and Pacific Islander group, but less likely to be in managerial or professional occupations^{xxxvi}.
- ❑ Pacific Islander families are less likely than all other ethnicities to have no workers in the home (9% compared to 13% for the total population)^{xxxvii}.

HOUSING

- ❑ Between the years 2007-2009, Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islanders (628) have the third highest foreclosure rate per 10,000 loans to owner-occupants which originated in 2005-2008.^{xxxviii}
- ❑ While Non-Hispanic whites represent the majority of at risk borrowers, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders also show an increased likelihood of being at-risk^{xxxix}.
- ❑ Pacific Islander renters experience *consistent adverse treatment* at the rate of 21.5 percent, which is about the same as the level for African American and Hispanic renters^{xl}.
- ❑ Most Americans reside in an owner occupied home while most Micronesians rent. This difference is especially pronounced in Hawaii^{xli}.

- ⁱ "Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity." *The White House*. 30 Oct. 1997. Web. 17 June 2010. <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/rewrite/fedreg/ombdir15.html>>.
- ⁱⁱ <http://akaka.senate.gov/issue-native-hawaiian-federal-recognition.cfm>
- ⁱⁱⁱ *Guidance on the Classification of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders*. NH&PI Alliance and APIAHF, <http://www.apiahf.org/images/stories/Documents/publications_database/NHPI%20Classifications.pdf>. May 11, 2010.
- ^{iv} UC AAPI Policy Initiative/UCLA Asian American Studies Center. Census Information Center.
- ^v Grieco, E. M. (n.d.). *The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2000* (p. 1, Issue brief No. C2KBR/01-14). doi: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-14.pdf>
- ^{vi} Grieco, E. M. (p. 9)
- ^{vii} Paisano, Edna L. *We the American: Pacific Islanders*. Rep. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1993. W. U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census, Sept. 1993. (p.3) <<http://www.census.gov/apsd/wepeople/we-4.pdf>>.
- ^{viii} Grieco, E. M. (p. 9)
- ^{ix} Grieco, E. M. (p. 4,5)
- ^x Grieco, E. M. (p. 1)
- ^{xi} U.S. Census Bureau. *Census Bureau Estimates Nearly Half of Children Under Age 5 Are Minorities*. *U.S. Census Bureau Newsroom*. 14 May 2009. <<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb09-75.html>>.
- ^{xii} Grieco, E. M. (p. 8)
- ^{xiii} U.S. Census Bureau. <<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb09-75.html>>.
- ^{xiv} U.S. Census Bureau. <<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb09-75.html>>.
- ^{xv} *Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 2006-2008 Community Survey*. (2008). Retrieved from U.S. Census Bureau Selected Population Profile in the United States.
- ^{xvi} *Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 2006-2008 Community Survey*. (2008). Retrieved from U.S. Census Bureau Selected Population Profile in the United States.
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- ^{xix} Newsroom: Facts for Features & Special Editions: Facts for Features: Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: May 2006.
- ^{xx} U.S. Census Bureau, Data Set: 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Micronesians alone or in any combination.
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- ^{xxii} Papa Ola Lokahi, Native Hawaiian Epidemiology Center publication: Indigenous Principles Redefining Science.
- ^{xxiii} Papa Ola Lokahi, Native Hawaiian Epidemiology Center publication: Indigenous Principles Redefining Science.
- ^{xxiv} Papa Ola Lokahi, Native Hawaiian Epidemiology Center publication: Indigenous Principles Redefining Science.
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- ^{xxviii} Papa Ola Lokahi, Native Hawaiian Epidemiology Center publication: Indigenous Principles Redefining Science.
- ^{xxix} U.S. Census Bureau, Data Set: 2006-2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, Micronesians alone or in any combination
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