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Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander History and Health – What They Didn't Teach Us in School

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Facing Forward

ForumWorkplaceInclusion.org/2020

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MISSION AND VISION

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) **influences** policy, **mobilizes** communities, and **strengthens** programs and organizations to **improve the health** of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders.

APIAHF envisions a world where all people share responsibility and take action to ensure healthy and vibrant communities for current and future generations.

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Ask Yourself…

- What did you learn about Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and/or Pacific Islanders in school?
- What are the first thoughts and images that come to your mind when I say “Asian American”? “Native Hawaiian”? “Pacific Islander”?

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Projected U.S. Population Growth (2014 to 2060)

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Asian American Population in the U.S.

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Source: 2017 American Community Survey Data

States with ***Greatest Increase*** in State's Asian American Population (2010 to 2017)

1. Indiana (+48%)
2. Utah (+47%)
3. Texas (+43%)
4. North Carolina (+41%)
5. Oklahoma (+39%)
6. Georgia (+38%)
7. South Carolina (+37%)
8. Ohio (+35%)
9. Tennessee (+35%)
10. Arizona (+33%)

Source: Comparison of 2010 and 2017 American Community Survey Data

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A Brief History

- Chinese Exclusion Act of 1892
  - First time in U.S. history that a specific ethnic group was barred from immigration and naturalization
- 1965 Immigration Act
  - Quota for Asian immigrants increased

A Brief History

- US Presidential Executive Order 9066, February 19, 1942
  - Leads to internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans during World War II

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A Brief History

- Nuclear Testing in Pacific Islands
  - Between 1946 - 1958, 23 nuclear devices were detonated in Marshall Islands

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Model Minority Myth

The false perception that characterizes Asian Americans as a homogenous group that is universally successful and who are immune to the educational, economic, health, and other civic challenges faced by other minority groups.

Model Minority Myth

"Asian Americans are the highest-income, best-educated and fastest-growing racial group in the United States. They are more satisfied than the general public with their lives, finances and the direction of the country, and they place more value than other Americans do on marriage, parenthood, hard work and career success, according to a comprehensive new nationwide survey by the Pew Research Center.

Pew Research Center, Rise of Asian Americans, 2012

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Model Minority Myth

"The Asian/Pacific Island minority, in aggregate, is healthier than all racial/ethnic groups in the United States…"

Report of the Secretary's Task Force on

Black & Minority Health

Margaret M. Heckler
Secretary

The Perpetual Foreigner

Regardless of how long an individual, their family, or their community has lived in the U.S., immigrants broadly, their descendants, and those who are Asian American or Pacific Islander are viewed as un-American.

Diversity and (In)Visibility

All too often, the American public and policy-makers view AAs and NHPIs as a community that lacks sufficient population size, critical mass, and civic engagement. From data reports, policies (and the discussions to craft them) to the media, AAs and NHPIs are often rendered invisible.

Invisibility in Data

The Perpetual "Other"

Figure 5

Distribution of Poor Nonelderly Uninsured Adults in the Coverage Gap by Race/Ethnicity

Total In the Coverage Gap: 3.1 Million

SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis based on 2015 Medicaid eligibility levels and 2015 Current Population Survey.

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Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Source: 2017 American Community Survey Data

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Source: 2017 American Community Survey Data

Below Poverty

Source: 2017 American Community Survey Data

Below Poverty

Source: 2017 American Community Survey Data

Limited English Proficiency

Source: 2017 American Community Survey Data

Leading Causes of Death, All U.S. Adults vs. API Adults

Rank	Total U.S. Adults	% of total deaths	Asian or PI Adults	% of total deaths
1	Diseases of the Heart	24.6	Cancer	27.0
2	Cancer	23.3	Diseases of the Heart	23.1
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	5.6	Stroke	7.4
4	Stroke	5.3	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	4.2
5	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	4.8	Diabetes	3.8
6	Alzheimer's disease	3.2	Influenza and pneumonia	3.2
7	Diabetes	2.8	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	3.0
8	Influenza and pneumonia	2.2	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	2.2
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	2.0	Alzheimer's disease	2.1
10	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	1.5	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	2.0

Source: Heron M. Deaths: Leading causes for 2009. National vital statistics reports; vol 61 no 7. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2012.

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Health Disparities

- Stomach Cancer Incidence for Koreans
  - 9% in White Men vs. 39% in Korean Men
  - 4% in White Women vs. 22% in Korean Women
- Liver Cancer Incidence
  - 9% in White Men vs. 66% in Laotian Men
- Cervical Cancer Incidence
  - 7% in White Women vs. 13% in Cambodian Women

Health Disparities

- NHPI adolescents 50% more likely to be overweight than White adolescents
- Native Hawaiians 60% more likely to have high blood pressure than Whites
- Native Hawaiians 70% more likely to die from heart disease than Whites

Health Disparities

- Hepatitis B (HBV) is ***>50x*** more common in AANHPIs vs. general population
- The rate of liver cancer is ***5-11x higher*** for AANHPIs than for other groups

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