

AAPI History & Timeline

Did you know?

May marks the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. It is an opportunity for us to celebrate the generations of Asian Americans who hail from the Asian continent and from the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia, who each have their own history, culture, and languages.

In June 1977, two prominent U.S. House of Representatives, Frank Horton (New York) and Normal Mineta (California) introduced a U.S. House of Representative resolution to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian-Pacific Heritage week. In July 1977, two Hawaii State Senators, Daniele Inouye and Spark Matsunaga also introduced a similar bill. The proposed resolutions designated May due to the first Japanese immigrant arriving in the United States on May 7, 1843. In addition, May 10, 1869, or “Golden Spike Day”, recognizes the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the U.S., which had significant contributions from Chinese workers. President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution for the celebration on October 5, 1978 and President Barack Obama signed Proclamation 8369, recognizing the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islander Pioneers Throughout History

Recognizing Asian American Pioneers in HealthCare

Min Chueh Chang, PhD – Chinese American reproductive biologist that pioneered in vitro fertilization, with his research leading to the birth of the first “test-tube baby” in 1978.



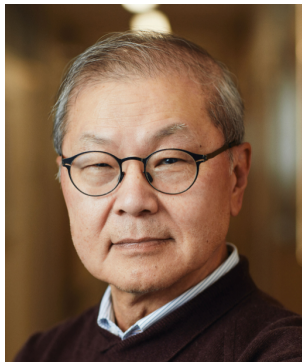
Margaret Chung, MD – Graduated from the University of Southern California Medical School in 1916, becoming the first American-born Chinese female doctor. In the early 1920’s, she helped establish the first Western hospital in San Francisco’s Chinatown.



Li-Rong Lilly Cheng – The First certified speech-language pathologist of Chinese origin in the United States. She was part of a group of SLPs who made presentations on the AAPI population, which led to the establishment of the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, a group of speech-language and hearing professionals who have an interest in promoting speech, language, and hearing health in Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities.



David Ho, MD - Taiwanese American physician who was named Time's Man of the Year in 1996 for his pioneering research in HIV/AIDS.

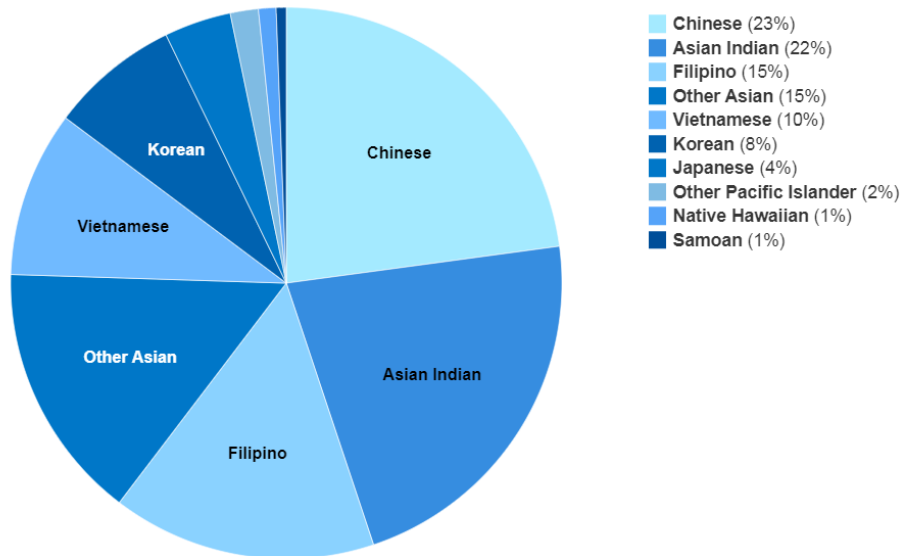


Health Disparity Amongst AAPI Communities

Today's AAPI Statistics and Tomorrow's Call to Action

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) are the fastest growing racial group according to the 2019 United States Census, accounting for 19 million or roughly 5% of United States. Asian American ethnic groups are not accurately represented in today's research. Individuals under the AAPI category is often lumped into a single category. This methodology does not identify the health disparities that exist within the specific subgroups.

There are Over 19 million Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Other Pacific Islander People with Diverse Backgrounds Residing in the U.S.



AAPI Statistics:

- 19.4% of Asian adults in-comparison to whites (12.9%) report not having regular access to healthcare provider. Vietnamese and Cambodians are three times more likely to skip doctor visits due to costs.
- Asian American women (California) in-comparison to the general population have lower rates of cervical cancer screening. 86.2% of all women in California received pap smears in-comparison to 60.5% of Vietnamese women.
- Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians receive less prenatal care in the first trimester and have higher infant mortality rates.
- Breast cancer from 1990 to 2001, increased from 87.0 to 97.8 cases per 100,000 which indicates a faster growth rate than any other ethnic group.

With the current challenges and barriers, we as members of ACHE and healthcare leaders should address the unique needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander population to support better access to care, increase prevention, and improve population health management.