PewResearchCenter

Social & Demographic Trends

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The Rise of Asian Americans

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT

Pew Social & Demographic Trends

Tel (202) 419-4372

1615 L St., N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

www.pewsocialtrends.org

PREFACE

In 1965, the Asian-American share of the U.S. population stood at less than 1 percent—having been held down by a century's worth of exclusionary policies explicitly based on race. That was the year—at the height of the civil rights movement and in the heat of a roaring economy—that the U.S. government opened the gates to immigration from all parts of the world, Asia included. The effect has been transformative for the nation and for Asian Americans. Today they make up nearly 6% of the U.S. population. And in an economy that increasingly relies on highly skilled workers, they are the best-educated, highest-income, fastest-growing race group in the country.

This report sets out to draw a comprehensive portrait of Asian Americans. It examines their demographic characteristics; their social, political and family values; their life goals, their economic circumstances and language usage patterns; their sense of identity and belonging; their attitudes about work, education and career; their marriage and parenting norms; their views on intermarriage and filial obligation; their perceptions about discrimination and intergroup relations; and the nature of their ties to their countries of origin. It makes comparisons on most of these measures with the attitudes and experiences of the U.S. general public—and, where relevant, with those of other major race and ethnic groups in this country. It also explores similarities and differences among Asian Americans themselves, a diverse population with distinctive languages, religions, cultures, histories and pathways to the United States. The analysis makes comparisons between Asian immigrants and U.S.-born Asians, as well as among the six largest Asian American country of origin subgroups—Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Indian Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Korean Americans and Japanese Americans.

The report is based on a Pew Research Center telephone survey of a nationally representative sample of 3,511 Asian Americans conducted from Jan. 3 to March 27, 2012, in English and seven Asian languages. The sample was designed to enable findings to be reported about each of the six largest country of origin subgroups as well as about the Asian-American population as a whole. The report combines these survey findings with a detailed analysis of economic and demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other official sources.

Next month our colleagues at the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life will issue a second report based on the same survey; it will focus on the religious affiliations, beliefs and practices of Asian Americans. In the months ahead, the Center will release additional reports on other topics related to Asian Americans.

Immigration is the engine that makes and remakes America. It is also a riveting personal and societal drama, one that unfolds in a complex interplay of social, economic, religious, political and cultural transformations—among the immigrants and their descendants, and within the nation as a whole.

At the end of the first decade of the 21st century, Asians have become the largest stream of new immigrants to the U.S.—and, thus, the latest leading actors in this great American drama. The fact that they are coming at a time when a rising Asia is flexing its economic and political muscles on the international stage only adds to the richness of their unique American journey. We hope this research helps to illuminate their story.

Paul Taylor
Executive Vice President, Pew Research Center

About the Authors

The survey was undertaken jointly by two sister projects of the Pew Research Center: Pew Social & Demographic Trends (SDT) and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life (the Pew Forum). This report was edited by Paul Taylor, executive vice president of the Pew Research Center and director of its Social & Demographic Trends project, who also wrote the overview. Senior writer D'Vera Cohn and research associate Wendy Wang co-wrote Chapter 1 with assistance from senior demographer Jeffrey S. Passel, associate director of research Rakesh Kochhar and senior research associate Richard Fry. Kim Parker, associate director of SDT, wrote Chapters 2 and 5 and supervised copy-editing of the report. Cary Funk, senior researcher, wrote Chapters 3 and 6 and supervised number-checking of the report. Gretchen M. Livingston, senior researcher, wrote Chapter 4. Wang contributed to all aspects of the research project, particularly on the demographic analysis in Chapter 1 and on survey analysis in Chapter 5. Research assistants Eileen Patten and Seth Motel assisted with all aspects of report production, including compiling and checking the topline of findings, preparing charts, number-checking the report and formatting the final report. Research associate Ana Gonzalez-Barrera number-checked Chapter 1.

The survey questionnaire was drafted jointly by the staffs of SDT and the Pew Forum, with Funk taking the lead on coordinating this aspect of the research project. Janelle Wong, a faculty member and director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, served as a special external adviser and was a source of expertise through all stages of the survey development. The Pew Research Center's director of survey research, Scott Keeter, and senior researchers Leah Christian, Greg Smith and Funk worked to design the

sampling strategy with sampling statisticians from Abt SRBI, particularly Courtney Kennedy, senior methodologist and vice president of the advanced methods group. Christian wrote the methodology report that appears in Appendix 1 with assistance from the staff of the Forum and Abt SRBI. Data collection on the survey was deftly managed by Dean Williams of Abt SRBI. Center President Andrew Kohut provided research and editorial guidance throughout all phases of the project, as did Mark Hugo Lopez, associate director of the Pew Hispanic Center, Kochhar and Fry. The report was copy-edited by Marcia Kramer of Kramer Editing Services.

Acknowledgments

The Pew Research Center was fortunate to be able to draw on guidance from advisers from many segments of the Asian-American scholarly community: Wendy Cadge, Hien Duc Do, Diana Eck, Yen Le Espiritu, Joaquin Jay Gonzalez III, Jane Naomi Iwamura, Khatyi Joshi, Rebecca Y. Kim, Pyong Gap Min, Jerry Z. Park, Karthick Ramakrishnan, Sharon A. Suh, Fenggang Yang and Min Zhou. (See Appendix 3 for a description of their academic credentials.)

Although the survey was guided by the counsel of our advisers, consultants and contractors, the Pew Research Center is solely responsible for the execution of the research and the analysis and reporting of the findings.

The Center also thanks the Pew Charitable Trusts, our parent organization and primary funder, for making possible this research and report.

Roadmap to the Report

Chapter 1, *Portrait of Asian Americans*, includes a detailed demographic analysis of Asian Americans based primarily on U.S. Census Bureau and government economic data—highlighting their socio-economic, educational and household characteristics. The analysis includes comparisons across racial and ethnic groups (Asian American, white, black, Hispanic) as well as comparisons across the six largest U.S. Asian groups. In addition, the chapter provides a profile of each of those six U.S. Asian groups, including a brief history, key demographic characteristics and key attitudinal findings from the survey.

Chapters 2 through 6 draw on the results of the survey of Asian Americans. Chapter 2, *Life in the United States*, looks at how Asian Americans view the country, their lives and their economic progress. It also explores the issues of identity and assimilation. Chapter 3, *Intergroup Relations*, looks at how Asian Americans interact with other racial and ethnic

groups and their views on intermarriage. It also looks at their perceptions of and experiences with discrimination. In Chapter 4, *Immigration and Transnational Ties*, Asian Americans assess conditions in the U.S. compared with their countries of origin on issues ranging from economic opportunity to the strength of family ties. It also explores Asian Americans' connections to their countries of origin, including the share sending remittances to family and friends outside of the U.S.

Chapter 5, *Family and Personal Values*, looks at the priorities and life goals of Asian Americans and how they compare with those of the general public. It also explores attitudes about proper parenting styles and how far into adulthood a parent's influence should extend. Finally, Chapter 6, *Political and Civic Life*, focuses on the political attitudes, affiliations and ideologies of Asian Americans. It also looks at community involvement and voter participation.

Following the survey chapters is a detailed survey methodology, as well as a topline questionnaire that shows each survey question with results for all Asian Americans, the six largest U.S. Asian groups and the general public (where available).

About the Survey

The Pew Research Center's 2012 Asian-American Survey is based on telephone interviews conducted by landline and cell phone with a nationally representative sample of 3,511 Asian adults ages 18 and older living in the United States. The survey was conducted in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia. The survey was designed to include representative subsamples of the six largest Asian groups in the U.S. population: Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese. The survey also included Asians from other Asian subgroups.

Respondents who identified as "Asian or Asian American, such as Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese" were eligible to complete the survey interview, including those who identified with more than one race and regardless of Hispanic ethnicity. The question on racial identity also offered the following categories: white, black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

Classification into U.S. Asian groups is based on self-identification of respondent's "specific Asian group." Asian groups named in this open-ended question were "Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, or of some other Asian background." Respondents self-identified with more than 22 specific Asian groups. Those who identified with more than one Asian group were classified based on the group with which "they identify most." Respondents

who identified their specific Asian group as Taiwanese or Chinese Taipei are classified as Chinese-Americans for this report.

The survey was conducted using a probability sample from multiple sources. The data are weighted to produce a final sample that is representative of Asian adults in the United States. Survey interviews were conducted under the direction of Abt SRBI, in English and Cantonese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog and Vietnamese. For more details on the methodology, see Appendix 1.

- The survey was conducted Jan. 3-March 27, 2012 in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia.

- 3,511 interviews including 728 interviews with Chinese Americans, 504 interviews with Filipino Americans, 580 interviews with Indian Americans, 515 interviews with Japanese Americans, 504 interviews with Korean Americans, 504 interviews with Vietnamese Americans and 176 interviews with Asians of other backgrounds.

- Margin of error is plus or minus 2.4 percentage points for results based on the total sample at the 95% confidence level. Margins of error for results based on subgroups of Asian Americans, ranging from 3.1 to 7.8 percentage points, are included in Appendix 1.

Notes on Terminology

Unless otherwise noted, survey results for "Asian Americans" and "U.S. Asians" refer to adults living in the United States, whether U.S. citizens or not U.S. citizens and regardless of immigration status. Both terms are used interchangeably. Adults refers to those ages 18 and older.

U.S. Asian groups, subgroups, heritage groups and country of origin groups are used interchangeably to reference respondent's self-classification into "specific Asian groups." This self-identification may or may not match a respondent's country of birth or their parent's country of birth.

Unless otherwise noted, whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks. Hispanics are of any race. Asians can also be Hispanic.

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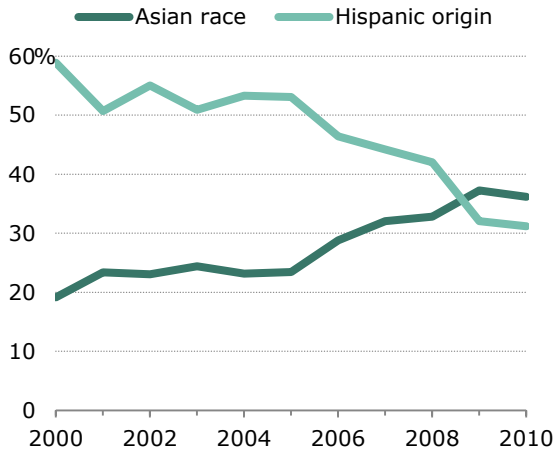
OVERVIEW

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.

A century ago, most Asian Americans were low-skilled, low-wage laborers crowded into ethnic enclaves and targets of official discrimination. Today they are the most likely of any major racial or ethnic group in America to live in mixed neighborhoods and to marry across racial lines. When newly minted medical school graduate Priscilla Chan married Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg last month, she joined the 37% of all recent Asian-American brides who wed a non-Asian groom.[1]

Meet the New Immigrants: Asians Overtake Hispanics

% of immigrants, by year of arrival, 2000-2010



Note: Based on total foreign-born population, including adults and children. Asians include mixed-race Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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These milestones of economic success and social assimilation have come to a group that is still majority immigrant. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Asian-American adults were born abroad; of these, about half say they speak English very well and half say they don't.

Asians recently passed Hispanics as the largest group of new immigrants to the United States. The educational credentials of these recent arrivals are striking. More than six-in-ten (61%) adults ages 25 to 64 who have come from Asia in recent years have at least a bachelor's degree. This is double the share among recent non-Asian arrivals, and almost surely makes the recent Asian arrivals the most highly educated cohort of immigrants in U.S. history.

[1] The share for recent Asian-American grooms is lower (17%). Overall, 29% of recent Asian newlyweds between 2008 and 2010 married a non-Asian.

Compared with the educational attainment of the population in their country of origin, recent Asian immigrants also stand out as a select group. For example, about 27% of adults ages 25 to 64 in South Korea and 25% in Japan have a bachelor's degree or more.[2] In contrast, nearly 70% of comparably aged recent immigrants from these two countries have at least a bachelor's degree.

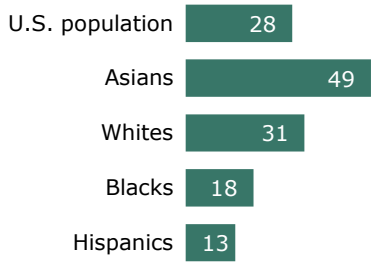
Recent Asian immigrants are also about three times as likely as recent immigrants from other parts of the world to receive their green cards—or permanent resident status—on the basis of employer rather than family sponsorship (though family reunification remains the most common legal gateway to the U.S. for Asian immigrants, as it is for all immigrants).

The modern immigration wave from Asia is nearly a half century old and has pushed the total population of Asian Americans—foreign born and U.S born, adults and children—to a record 18.2 million in 2011, or 5.8% of the total U.S. population, up from less than 1% in 1965.[3] By comparison, non-Hispanic whites are 197.5 million and 63.3%, Hispanics 52.0 million and 16.7% and non-Hispanic blacks 38.3 million and 12.3%.

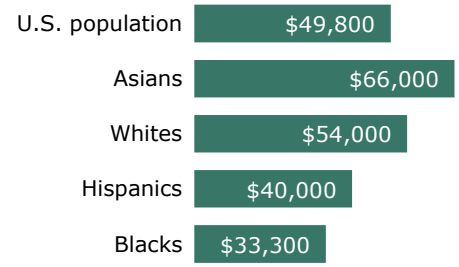
Asian Americans trace their roots to any of dozens of countries in the Far East, Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent. Each country of origin subgroup has its own unique history, culture, language, religious beliefs, economic and demographic traits, social and political values, and pathways into America.

Asian Americans Lead Others In Education, Income

% with a bachelor's degree or more, among ages 25 and older, 2010



Median household income, 2010



Note: Asians include mixed-race Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race. Household income is based on householders ages 18 and older; race and ethnicity are based on those of household head.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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[2] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Education at a Glance 2011: OECD Indicators. Based on 2009 data.

[3] This is the first official estimate of the size of the Asian-American population produced by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census; it was released in May 2012. Throughout the remainder of this report, population counts are based on the 2010 Census, which counted 17.3 million Asian Americans. Totals for Asian Americans include Hispanics and those of mixed race; totals for whites and blacks include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

But despite often sizable subgroup differences, Asian Americans are distinctive as a whole, especially when compared with all U.S. adults, whom they exceed not just in the share with a college degree (49% vs. 28%), but also in median annual household income ($66,000 versus $49,800) and median household wealth ($83,500 vs. $68,529).[4]

They are noteworthy in other ways, too. According to the Pew Research Center survey of a nationally representative sample of 3,511 Asian Americans, conducted by telephone from Jan. 3 to March 27, 2012, in English and seven Asian languages, they are more satisfied than the general public with their lives overall (82% vs. 75%), their personal finances (51% vs. 35%) and the general direction of the country (43% vs. 21%).

They also stand out for their strong emphasis on family. More than half (54%) say that having a successful marriage is one of the most important things in life; just 34% of all American adults agree. Two-thirds of Asian-American adults (67%) say that being a good parent is one of the most important things in life; just 50% of all adults agree.

Their living arrangements align with these values. They are more likely than all American adults to be married (59% vs. 51%); their newborns are less likely than all U.S. newborns to have an unmarried mother (16% vs. 41%); and their children are more likely than all U.S. children to be raised in a household with two married parents (80% vs. 63%).

They are more likely than the general public to live in multi-generational family households. Some 28% live with at least two adult generations under the same roof, twice the share of whites and slightly more than the share of blacks and Hispanics who live in such households. U.S. Asians also have a strong sense of filial respect; about two-thirds say parents should have a lot or some influence in choosing one's profession (66%) and spouse (61%).

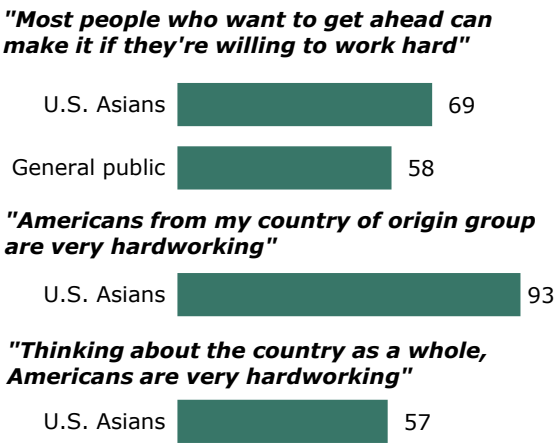
[4] The college data are for adults ages 25 and older. Household income is based on householders ages 18 and older and comes from Pew Research Center analysis of the Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey. Household wealth is based on householders ages 15 and older and comes from Pew Research Center analysis of Wave 7 of the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation panel, conducted from September-December 2010.

Asian Americans have a pervasive belief in the rewards of hard work. Nearly seven-in-ten (69%) say people can get ahead if they are willing to work hard, a view shared by a somewhat smaller share of the American public as a whole (58%). And fully 93% of Asian Americans describe members of their country of origin group as "very hardworking"; just 57% say the same about Americans as a whole.

By their own lights, Asian Americans sometimes go overboard in stressing hard work. Nearly four-in-ten (39%) say that Asian-American parents from their country of origin subgroup put too much pressure on their children to do well in school. Just 9% say the same about all American parents. On the flip side of the same coin, about six-in-ten Asian Americans say American parents put too little pressure on their children to succeed in school, while just 9% say the same about Asian-American parents. (The publication last year of "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," a comic memoir about strict parenting by Yale Law Professor Amy Chua, the daughter of immigrants, triggered a spirited debate about cultural differences in parenting norms.)

The Asian-American Work Ethic

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q12b, 21, 70. Those who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "Asian Americans."

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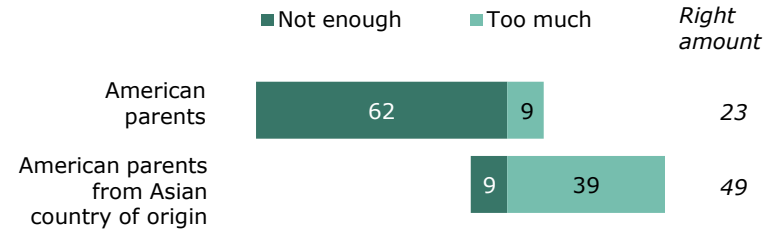
Who's a "Tiger Mom"?

% of U.S. Asians saying (American parents/Asian-American parents) put ... pressure on their children to do well in school



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q17, 53. In Q53 respondents were asked about parents from their country of origin group (Chinese-American parents, Korean-American parents, etc.). Those who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "Asian-American parents." Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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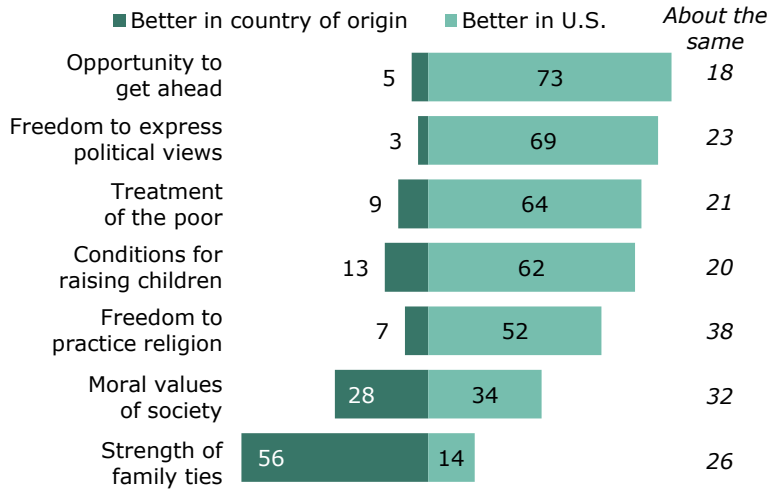
The immigration wave from Asia has occurred at a time when the largest sending countries have experienced dramatic gains in their standards of living. But few Asian immigrants are looking over their shoulders with regret. Just 12% say that if they had to do it all over again, they would remain in their country of origin. And by lopsided margins, Asian Americans say the U.S. is preferable to their country of origin in such realms as providing economic opportunity, political and religious freedoms, and good conditions for raising children. Respondents rated their country of origin as being superior on just one of seven measures tested in the survey—strength of family ties.

For Most Asians, U.S. Offers a Better Life

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54a-g. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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(The survey was conducted only among Asian Americans currently living in the U.S. As is the case with all immigration waves, a portion of those who came to the U.S. from Asia in recent decades have chosen to return to their country of origin. However, return migration rates are estimated to be lower for immigrants from Asia than for other immigrants, and naturalization rates—that is, the share of eligible immigrants who become U.S. citizens—are higher. For more details, see Chapter 1.)

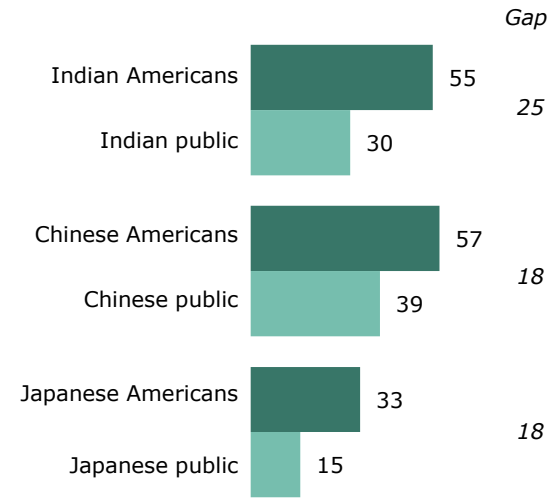
Asians in the U.S. and in Asia

When findings from this survey are compared with recent surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project among Asians in major Asian countries, a mixed picture emerges. For example, adults living in China are more satisfied with the way things are going in their country than Chinese Americans are with the way things are going in the United States. By contrast, the publics of India and Japan have a more downbeat view of the way things are going in their countries than their counterpart groups do about the U.S.

Across the board, however, U.S. Asians are more likely than Asians in Asia to say their standard of living is better than that of their parents at a similar stage of life. U.S. Asians also exceed Asians in their belief that hard work leads to success in life. And while many U.S. Asians say that Asian-American parents place too much pressure on their children to do well in school, even more Chinese and Japanese say this about parents in their countries. (For more details on these and other cross-national comparisons, see Chapter 4.)

Intergenerational Mobility among Asians in the U.S. and in Asia

% saying their current standard of living is "much better" than their parents' was at a comparable age



Data for Indian Americans, Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans are from the 2012 Asian-American survey. Q10. Data for the Indian, Chinese and Japanese publics are from surveys conducted in those countries in 2012 by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project.

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Differences among Asian-American Subgroups

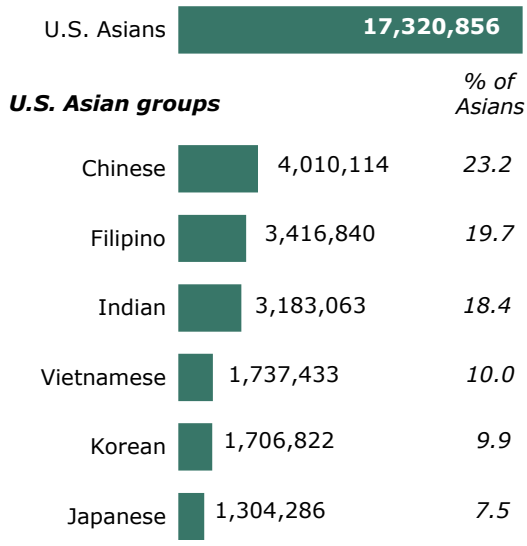
The Pew Research Center survey was designed to contain a nationally representative sample of each of the six largest Asian-American groups by country of origin—Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans, Indian Americans, Vietnamese Americans, Korean Americans and Japanese Americans. Together these groups comprise at least 83% of the total Asian population in the U.S.[5]

The basic demographics of these groups are different on many measures. For example, Indian Americans lead all other groups by a significant margin in their levels of income and education. Seven-in-ten Indian-American adults ages 25 and older have a college degree, compared with about half of Americans of Korean, Chinese, Filipino and Japanese ancestry, and about a quarter of Vietnamese Americans.

On the other side of the socio-economic ledger, Americans with Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and "other U.S. Asian"[6] origins have a higher poverty rate than does the U.S. general public, while those with Indian, Japanese and Filipino origins have lower rates.

The Largest U.S. Asian Groups

The six largest country of origin groups each number more than a million people



Note: Based on the total Asian-race population, including adults and children. There is some overlap in the numbers for the six largest Asian groups because people with origins in more than one group—for example, "Chinese and Filipino"—are counted in each group to which they belong.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis based on Elizabeth M. Hoeffel et al., *The Asian Population: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, March 2012.

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Their geographic settlement patterns also differ. More than seven-in-ten Japanese and two-thirds of Filipinos live in the West, compared with fewer than half of Chinese, Vietnamese and Koreans, and only about a quarter of Indians.

[5] This figure includes almost all Asians with origins in the six major country groups, but is not a complete count. The available 2010 ACS data from which it is drawn include specific counts only for Asians with origins in one major group or with origins in the most common combinations of race or country group.

[6] "Other U.S. Asians" are a diverse population that includes numerous subgroups of less than a million people. Seven of these subgroups number more than 100,000 people—Bangladeshis, Burmese, Cambodians, Hmong, Laotians, Pakistanis and Thais.

The religious identities of Asian Americans are quite varied. According to the Pew Research survey, about half of Chinese are unaffiliated, most Filipinos are Catholic, about half of Indians are Hindu, most Koreans are Protestant and a plurality of Vietnamese are Buddhist. Among Japanese Americans, no one group is dominant: 38% are Christian, 32% are unaffiliated and 25% are Buddhist. In total, 26% of Asian Americans are unaffiliated, 22% are Protestant (13% evangelical; 9% mainline), 19% are Catholic, 14% are Buddhist, 10% are Hindu, 4% are Muslim and 1% are Sikh. Overall, 39% of Asian Americans say religion is very important in their lives, compared with 58% of the U.S. general public.

There are subgroup differences in social and cultural realms as well. Japanese and Filipino Americans are the most accepting of interracial and intergroup marriage; Koreans, Vietnamese and Indians are less comfortable. Koreans are the most likely to say discrimination against their group is a major problem, and they are the least likely to say that their group gets along very well with other racial and ethnic groups in the U.S. In contrast, Filipinos have the most upbeat view of intergroup relations in the U.S.

The Japanese are the only group that is majority U.S. born (73% of the total population and 68% of adults); all other subgroups are majority foreign born.

Their pathways into the U.S. are different. About half of all Korean and Indian immigrants who received green cards in 2011 got them on the basis of employer sponsorship, compared with about a third of Japanese, a fifth of Chinese, one-in-eight Filipinos and just 1% of Vietnamese. The Vietnamese are the only major subgroup to have come to the U.S. in large numbers as political refugees; the others say they have come mostly for economic, educational and family reasons.

Asian Americans have varying degrees of attachment to relatives in their home countries—likely reflecting differences in the timing and circumstances of their immigration. For example, though they are among the least well-off financially, Vietnamese Americans are among the most likely (58%) to say they have sent money to someone in Vietnam in the past year. About half of Filipinos (52%) also say they sent remittances home in the past year. By contrast, Japanese (12%) and Koreans (16%) are much less likely to have done this.

They have different naturalization rates. Fully three-quarters of the foreign-born Vietnamese are naturalized U.S. citizens, compared with two-thirds of Filipinos, about six-in-ten Chinese and Koreans, half of Indians and only a third of Japanese.

History

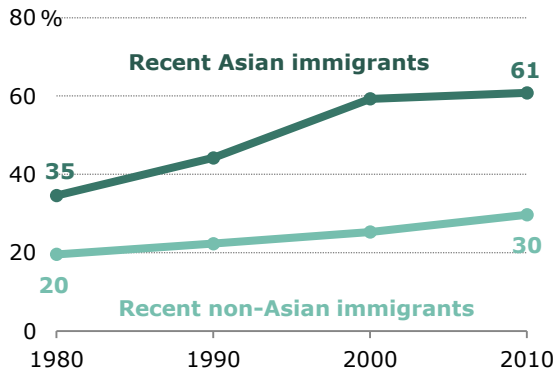
Asian immigrants first came to the U.S. in significant numbers more than a century and a half ago—mainly as low-skilled male laborers who mined, farmed and built the railroads. They endured generations of officially sanctioned racial prejudice—including regulations that prohibited the immigration of Asian women; the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which barred all new immigration from China; the Immigration Act of 1917 and the National Origins Act of 1924, which extended the immigration ban to include virtually all of Asia; and the forced relocation and internment of about 120,000 Japanese Americans after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Large-scale immigration from Asia did not take off until the passage of the landmark Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. Over the decades, this modern wave of immigrants from Asia has increasingly become more skilled and educated. Today, recent arrivals from Asia are nearly twice as likely as those who came three decades ago to have a college degree, and many go into high-paying fields such as science, engineering, medicine and finance. This evolution has been spurred by changes in U.S. immigration policies and labor markets; by political liberalization and economic growth in the sending countries; and by the forces of globalization in an ever-more digitally interconnected world.

These trends have raised the education levels of immigrants of all races in recent years, but Asian immigrants exceed other race and ethnic

The Immigrant Education Gap

% with at least a bachelor's degree, ages 25-64, 1980-2010



Note: Except for 1980, "recent immigrants" refers to those who came to live in the U.S. in the past three years prior to the survey. In 1980, the reference period was 1975-1980.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of the 1980, 1990 and 2000 Decennial Censuses and 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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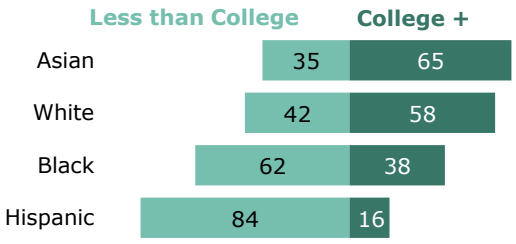
Education Characteristics of Recent Immigrants, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

% among adults



Note: Recent immigrants refer to those who came to the U.S. in the past three years prior to the survey date (since 2007). "College +" includes those who are either currently in a four-year college or graduate school or have completed their bachelor's degree or advanced degrees. Asian includes mixed-race Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. White and black include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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groups in the share who are either college students or college graduates.

Native Born and Foreign Born

Throughout the long history of immigration waves to the U.S., the typical pattern has been that over time the second generation (i.e., the children of immigrants) surpasses the immigrant generation in key measures of socio-economic well-being and assimilation, such as household income, educational attainment and English fluency.

It is not yet possible to make any full intergenerational accounting of the modern Asian-American immigration wave; the immigrants themselves are still by far the dominant group and the second generation has only recently begun to come into adulthood in significant numbers. (Among all second-generation Asians, the median age is just 17; in other words, about half are still children.)

But on the basis of the evidence so far, this immigrant generation has set a bar of success that will be a challenge for the next generation to surpass. As of now, there is no difference in the share of native- and foreign-born Asian Americans ages 25 and older who have a college degree (49% for each group), and there is only a modest difference in the median annual earnings of full-time workers in each group ($50,000 for the native born; $47,000 for the foreign born). The two groups also have similar poverty rates and homeownership rates. Not surprisingly, when it

Characteristics of Native- and Foreign-born Asian-American Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Asians	Native born	Foreign born
Share of Asian population	100.0	25.9	74.1
Citizen	69.6	100.0	58.9
Median age *(in years)*	41	30	44
Married	59.0	34.9	67.4
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	6.8	4.8	7.7
Of these, % unmarried	14.6	31.1	9.6
College educated (ages 25+)	49.0	49.4	48.9
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$48,000	$50,000	$47,000
Household annual income			
Median	$66,000	$67,400	$65,200
Average household size (*persons*)	3.1	2.6	3.2
Homeownership rate	58.1	57.4	58.3
In poverty	11.9	11.1	12.2
Speaks English very well	63.5	94.7	52.5

Note: Asians include mixed-race Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Surveys, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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comes to language fluency, there are significant differences between the native- and foreign-born adults. Only about half (53%) of the foreign born say they speak English very well, compared with 95% of the U.S. born.

Family formation patterns are also quite different. The U.S. born are much less likely than the foreign born to be married (35% vs. 67%), a difference largely driven by the fact that they are a much younger group. (Among adults, the median age is 30, versus 44 for the foreign born.)

There are also differences between the native born and foreign born in the share of recent mothers who are unmarried. About three-in-ten (31%) U.S.-born Asian women who had children recently are unmarried, compared with just 10% of all recent foreign-born Asian-American mothers. Among the U.S. population as a whole, about four-in-ten recent American mothers are unmarried. Even as births to single mothers have become more widespread in recent decades, Pew Research surveys find that a sizable majority of Americans believe this growing phenomenon has been bad for society. So in the eyes of the public, this appears to be a case of "downward assimilation" by second generation and later generations of Asian Americans to an increasingly prevalent—but still frowned upon—U.S. pattern of behavior.[7]

On a more positive note, U.S.-born Asians are more upbeat than the foreign born about their relations with other racial and ethnic groups, and they are more receptive to the growing practice of racial and ethnic intermarriage.

[7] See Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project. 2010. "The Decline of Marriage and Rise of New Families." Washington, D.C.: November.

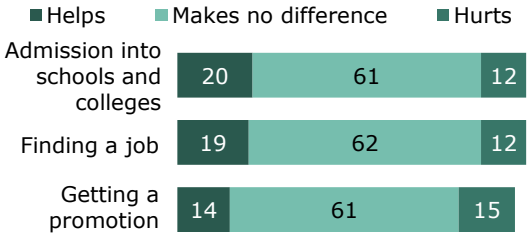
Perceptions of Discrimination

For the most part, today's Asian Americans do not feel the sting of racial discrimination or the burden of culturally imposed "otherness" that was so much a part of the experience of their predecessors who came in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

About one-in-five Asian Americans say they have personally been treated unfairly in the past year because they are Asian, and one-in-ten say they have been called an offensive name. Older adults are less likely than young and middle-aged adults to report negative personal experience with bias.

Does Being Asian American Help or Hurt with College, Career?

% saying being of their U.S. Asian group helps, makes no difference or hurts when it comes to ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q46a-c. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Compared with the nation's two largest minority groups—Hispanics and blacks—Asian Americans appear to be less inclined to view discrimination against their group as a major problem.[8] Just 13% of Asian Americans say it is, while about half (48%) say it is a minor problem, and a third (35%) say it is not a problem.

About six-in-ten say that being Asian American makes no difference when it comes to getting a job or gaining admission to college. Of those who do say it makes a difference, a slightly higher share say that members of their group are helped rather than hurt by their race. Those with less education are more prone than those with more education to say that being an Asian American is an advantage.

[8] For more details on how Asian Americans' perceptions of discrimination compare with those of other minority groups, see Chapter 3.

Group Relations

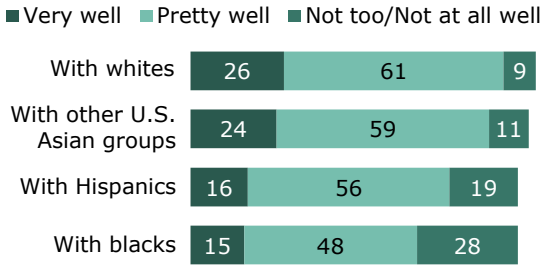
Overall, more than eight-in-ten Asian Americans say their group gets along either very or pretty well with whites; roughly seven-in-ten say the same about relations with Hispanics and just over six-in-ten say that about their relations with blacks. Korean Americans stand out for their negative views on their group's relations with blacks. Fully half say these two groups don't get along well; while 39% say they get along pretty well and just 4% say they get along very well. In several cities across the country, there has been a history of tension between Koreans and blacks, often arising from friction between Korean shopkeepers and black customers in predominantly black neighborhoods.

About four-in-ten Asian Americans say their circle of friends is dominated by Asians from the same country of origin, while 58% say it is not. Among U.S.-born Asians, however, just 17% say that all of most of their friends are from their same country of origin group.

Asian-American newlyweds are more likely than any other major racial or ethnic group to be intermarried. From 2008 to 2010, 29% of all Asian newlyweds married someone of a different race, compared with 26% of Hispanics, 17% of blacks and 9% of whites. There are notable gender differences. Asian women are twice as likely as Asian men to marry out. Among blacks, the gender pattern runs the other way—men are more than twice as likely as women to marry out. Among whites

Getting Along across Group Boundaries

% saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Intermarriage Rates for Asians

% of Asian newlyweds (2008-2010) married to …

Notes: "Newlyweds" refers to people ages 15 and older who got married in the year prior to the survey, and their marital status was "married, spouse present." U.S. Asians and each U.S. Asian group include non-Hispanic single-race Asians who are from only one group; "Non Asian" includes Hispanics and single- or multiple-race non-Hispanics except single-race Asians; "Other Asian" includes non-Hispanics from other single-Asian or multiple-Asian groups. "Net" was computed prior to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008-2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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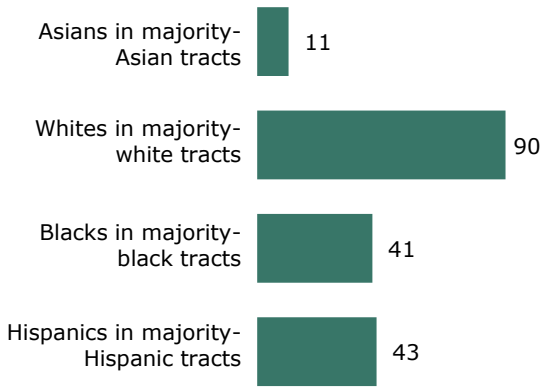
and Hispanics, there are no differences by gender.

Among Asian-American newlyweds, Japanese have the highest rate of intermarriage and Indians have the lowest. More than half of recent Japanese newlyweds married a non-Asian; among recent Indian newlyweds, just one-in-eight did.

Asian Americans were once highly concentrated into residential enclaves, exemplified by the establishment of "Chinatowns" and other Asian communities in cities across the country. Today, however, Asian Americans are much more likely than any other racial group to live in a racially mixed neighborhood. Just 11% currently live in a census tract in which Asian Americans are a majority.[9] The comparable figures are 41% for blacks, 43% for Hispanics and 90% for whites. (This comparison should be treated with caution: Each of the other groups is more numerous than Asians, thereby creating larger potential pools for racial enclaves.)

Residential Segregation, 2010

% from each group living in census tracts where the majority of residents are from their racial/ethnic group



Note: Based on total population, including adults and children. Asians, whites and blacks are single-race, non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. See footnote on this page for definition of census tract.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 2010 Decennial Census SF1 data

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[9] A census tract is a small, relatively permanent subdivision of a county that often follows generally accepted neighborhood boundaries and has an average of 4,200 residents. The Census Bureau delineated about 73,000 tracts for the 2010 Census.

Identity

Despite high levels of residential integration and out-marriage, many Asian Americans continue to feel a degree of cultural separation from other Americans. Not surprisingly, these feelings are highly correlated with nativity and duration of time in the U.S.

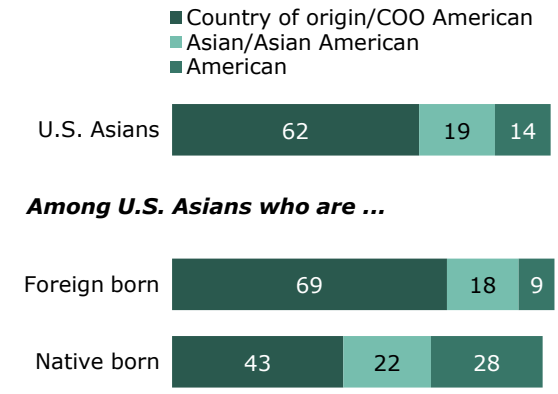
Among U.S.-born Asian Americans, about two-thirds (65%) say they feel like "a typical American." Among immigrants, just 30% say the same, and this figure falls to 22% among immigrants who have arrived since 2000.

The Asian-American label itself doesn't hold much sway with Asian Americans. Only about one-in-five (19%) say they most often describe themselves as Asian American or Asian. A majority (62%) say they most often describe themselves by their country of origin (e.g., Chinese or Chinese American; Vietnamese or Vietnamese American, and so on), while just 14% say they most often simply call themselves American. Among U.S.-born Asians, the share who most often call themselves American rises to 28%.

In these identity preferences, Asian Americans are similar to Hispanics, the other group that has been driving the modern immigration wave. Hispanics are more likely to identify themselves using their country of origin than to identify as a Hispanic or as an American.[10]

"Asian-American" Label Doesn't Stick

% saying they most often describe themselves as ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q42. Only respondents who identified a country of origin (COO) were asked this question; percentages shown here are based on total sample. Responses of "Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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[10] Taylor, Paul, et al. 2012. "When Labels Don't Fit: Hispanics and Their Views of Identity." Washington, D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, April. The question wording differed slightly from the Asian-American survey; see Chapter 2 for a fuller explanation.

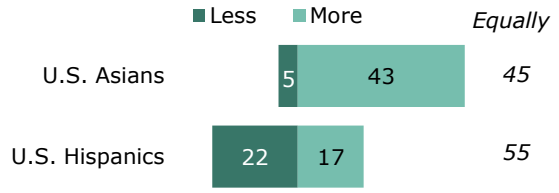
Perceptions of Success

About four-in-ten Asian Americans (43%) say Asian Americans are more successful than other racial and ethnic minorities in the U.S. A similar share of Asian Americans (45%) say they are about as successful, and just 5% say they are less successful.

Native-born and foreign-born Asian Americans have similar views about their groups' success relative to other minorities. Recent immigrants, however, tend to be somewhat less upbeat in these assessments than are immigrants who came before 2000: 36% of the former versus 48% of the latter say their group has been more successful than other minority groups in the U.S.

Asian Americans and Hispanics: How Well Are We Doing Compared with Other Minorities?

% of group saying, compared with other racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S., Asian Americans/ Hispanic Americans have been ... successful



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q47. Responses of "Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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Members of the nation's other large immigrant group—Hispanics—are less than half as likely as Asian Americans to say their group is more successful than other racial and ethnic minorities, and they are four times as likely to say they are less successful.[11]

On a personal level, Asian Americans are more satisfied than the general public with their financial situations and their standard of living. When measured against how well their parents were doing at the same stage of life, about half (49%) say they are doing much better, and a quarter say they are doing somewhat better. By contrast, only about a third of all Americans say they are doing much better than their parents at a similar stage of life.

There are only minor differences between Asian Americans and the general public in their expectations about the upward mobility of their children. Some 31% of Asian Americans believe that when their children are the age they are now, their children will have a much better standard of living, 22% say somewhat better, 19% say about the same, and 19% say somewhat or much worse.

[11] Ibid.

On this measure, there are sizable differences among U.S. Asian subgroups. Nearly half of Vietnamese Americans (48%) say they expect their children eventually to have a much better standard of living than they themselves have now. About a third of Koreans and Indians feel this way, as do one-in-four Chinese and Filipinos, and just one-in-five Japanese. Overall, the foreign born are more optimistic than the native born about their children's future standard of living relative to their own at the present.

Political and Social Attitudes

Compared with the general public, Asian Americans are more likely to support an activist government and less likely to identify as Republicans. Half are Democrats or lean Democratic, while only 28% identify with or lean toward the GOP. Among all American adults, 49% fall in the Democratic camp and 39% identify with or lean toward the Republican Party. Indian Americans are the most heavily Democratic Asian subgroup (65%), while Filipino Americans and Vietnamese Americans are the most evenly split between the two parties.

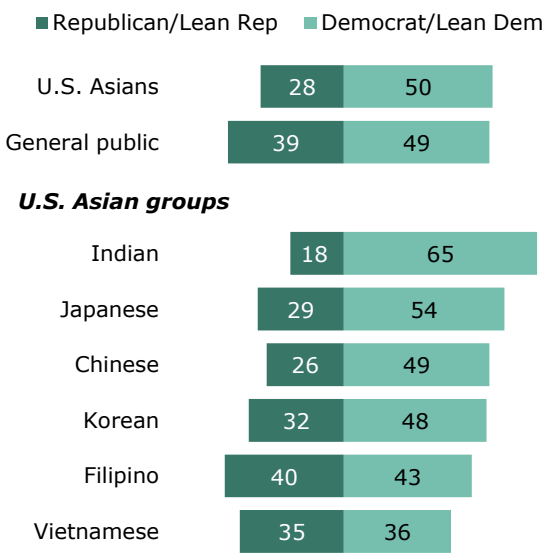
President Obama gets higher ratings from Asian Americans than from the general public —54% approve of the way he is handling his job as president, compared with 44% of the general public. In 2008, Asian-American voters supported Obama over Republican John McCain by 62% to 35%, according to Election Day exit polls.[12]

On balance, Asian Americans prefer a big government that provides more services (55%) over a smaller government than provides fewer services (36%). In contrast, the general public prefers a smaller government over a bigger government, by 52% to 39%.

While they differ on the role of government, Asian Americans are close to the public in their opinions about two key social issues. By a ratio

Asian Americans Lean Democratic

% saying their party identification is ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. PARTY, PARTYLN. Those who refused to lean are not shown. General public results from February 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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[12] 2008 national exit polls conducted by Edison Media Research for the National Election Pool.

of 53% to 35%, Asian Americans say homosexuality should be accepted by society rather than discouraged. And on the issue of abortion, 54% of Asian Americans say it should be legal in all or most cases, while 37% say it should be illegal.

Sampler of Key Demographic and Survey Findings

% of adults (unless otherwise noted)

	Median household income	College degree or higher*	Foreign born	Recent inter-marriage rate	Majority or plurality religion	Satisfied with life	Satisfied with direction of country	Personal finances (Excellent/ Good)	Belief in hard work**
U.S. Asians	$66,000	49	74	29	Christian	82	43	51	69
General public	$49,800	28	16	15	Christian	75	21	35	58
U.S. Asian groups									
Chinese	$65,050	51	76	26	Unaffiliated	84	41	55	61
Filipino	$75,000	47	69	48	Catholic	82	30	50	72
Indian	$88,000	70	87	12	Hindu	84	47	67	75
Vietnamese	$53,400	26	84	18	Buddhist	82	56	29	83
Korean	$50,000	53	78	32	Protestant	83	48	45	64
Japanese	$65,390	46	32	55	*No plurality*	81	36	57	59

* ages 25 and older
** share that agrees that "most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard"

Source: The four items to the left are from Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files. The five items to the right are from the Pew Research Center 2012 Asian-American Survey.

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CHAPTER 1: PORTRAIT OF ASIAN AMERICANS

I. Overall Characteristics

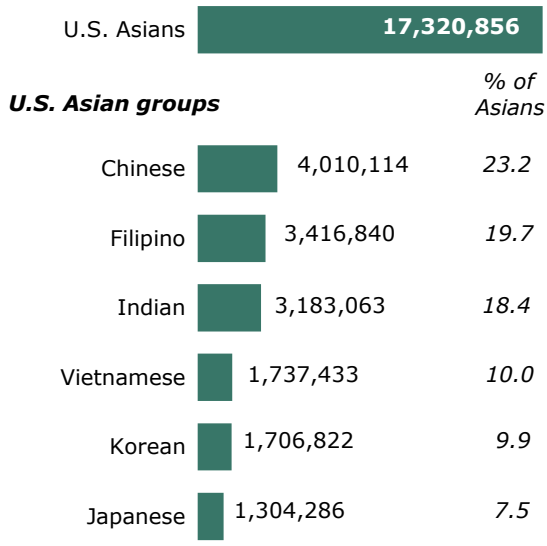
The 2010 Census counted more than 17 million Asian Americans, or 5.6% of the U.S. population (and 5.5% of U.S. adults ages 18 and older).[13] The Asian-American population grew faster than any other race group from 2000 to 2010 (46%) and its numbers roughly quadrupled from 1980 to 2010.[14]

Included in this population are 2.6 million U.S. mixed-race residents who are Asian and at least one additional race, accounting for 15% of all Asian Americans. The share of Asians of more than one race is higher than the comparable share of whites (3%), blacks (7%) and Hispanics (6%).[15] This mixed-race group, most of whom identify as Asian and white, grew by 60% from 2000 to 2010, even faster than the Asian-American population.

Asian Americans either are immigrants from Asia (59%) or are descendants of immigrants (41%). The vast majority of the Asian-American population (at least 83%)[16] trace their roots to only six countries—China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Vietnam. As the accompanying chart shows, Chinese are the

The Largest U.S. Asian Groups

The six largest country of origin groups each number more than a million people



Note: Based on the total Asian-race population, including adults and children. There is some overlap in the numbers for the six largest Asian groups because people with origins in more than one group—for example, "Chinese and Filipino"—are counted in each group to which they belong.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis based on Elizabeth M. Hoeffel et al., *The Asian Population: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, March 2012.

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[13] This report uses the 2010 Census and other decennial censuses for population counts and trends, including by race. The 2010 American Community Survey is used for social and economic characteristics. Totals may differ slightly. See text box for more details.

[14] On May 17, 2012, the Census Bureau released its first population estimates since the 2010 Census, showing an Asian-American population of 18.2 million as of July 1, 2011. Its 3.0% growth rate since the 2010 Census was the largest among race groups; Hispanics, whose numbers grew 3.1%, were the fastest-growing minority group.

[15] The multiple-race share is higher for two smaller race groups: 56% for Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders and 44% for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

[16] This figure includes almost all Asians with origins in the six major country groups, but is not a complete count. The available 2010 ACS data from which it is drawn include specific counts only for Asians with origins in one major group or with origins in the most common combinations of race or country group.

most numerous of these six groups, Japanese the least.

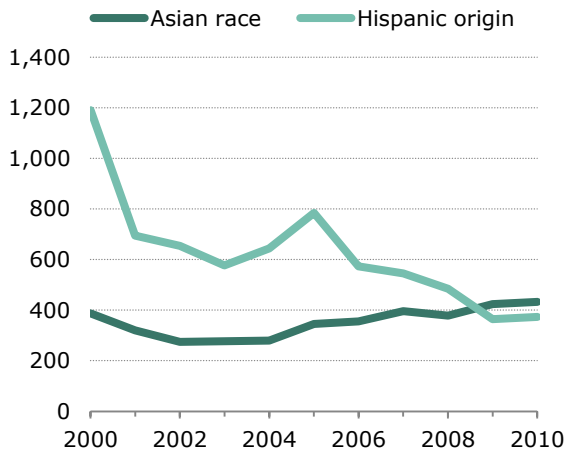
Asian Americans have a long history in the United States, dating to the early 19th century, when thousands came to work in agriculture, construction and other low-wage jobs. The Asian-American population grew slowly for more than a century because severe restrictions or outright prohibitions were imposed on most immigration from Asia. Most Asian Americans now living in the U.S. arrived as a result of passage of 1965 immigration legislation that opened admission to people from a wider range of countries.

As new opportunities to immigrate became available, the foreign-born Asian-American population, which numbered only 2.2 million in 1980, grew by 2.3 million over the 1980s and 2.9 million in the 1990s. From 2000 to 2010, the Asian-American immigrant population increased by an additional 2.8 million.

The Asian-American immigrant population has grown rapidly over the past decade as a result of continued large flows from Asia. By contrast, new immigration from Latin America, while still significant, has fallen considerably since the middle of the last decade. As a result, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of Census Bureau data, the number of newly arrived Asian-American immigrants has surpassed the number of newly arrived Hispanic immigrants since at least 2009.

Asians Surpass Hispanics Among New Arrivals

Immigrants (in thousands), by year of arrival, 2000-2010



Note: Based on total foreign-born population, including adults and children. Asians include mixed-race Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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About 36% of new immigrants in 2010 were Asian, compared with 31% who were Hispanic. About 430,000 Asian immigrants arrived in the U.S. in 2010, compared with about 370,000 Hispanics. As recently as 2007, the numbers were about 390,000 (Asians) and 540,000 (Hispanics). These totals include arrivals with both legal and unauthorized status, as well as

those arriving with work, student or other temporary visas.[17]

Unauthorized Asian-American immigrants account for about 10-11% of the U.S. unauthorized population and about 13-15% of the Asian immigrant population during the 2000-2010 decade, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of government data.[18] In contrast, Hispanic unauthorized immigrants account for about three-quarters of the U.S. unauthorized population and about 45% of Hispanic immigrants.

Most Asian immigrants who obtain green cards—that is, permanent resident status—do so via sponsorship by family members, as is true of all immigrants. But Asian immigrants are notably more likely than immigrants from other nations to be admitted with employment visas.

In 2011, according to Department of Homeland Security statistics,[19] 62% of immigrants from the six largest Asian source countries received green cards based on family members already in the U.S., compared with 66% of other immigrants who did so. Among immigrants from these Asian nations, 27% received green cards based on employer sponsorship, compared with 8% of other immigrants who did so. The share has varied throughout the past decade but has been markedly higher for Asian immigrants than for others.

However, considerable variation exists among the top six countries of origin. In 2011, the shares of immigrants granted green cards for employment reasons were about half or more for those from Korea (55%) and India (49%), as well as 33% for Japan and 21% for China. The shares were far lower for immigrants from the Philippines (13%) and Vietnam (1%).

Geographically, Asian Americans are disproportionately likely to live in Western states (46% did in 2010, compared with 23% of the U.S. population overall).[20] This residential pattern reflects historic ports of arrival for most Asian Americans, as well as the immigrant pattern of moving to established enclaves.

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[17] An important reason for the switchover is that immigration from Mexico—the largest single country source of U.S. immigrants—has plummeted since mid-decade. A total of 1.4 million Mexicans immigrated to the U.S. from 2005 to 2010, down by more than half from the 3 million who came a decade earlier. Most immigrants from Mexico are unauthorized, and a reduction in unauthorized immigration accounts for most of the diminished flow from Mexico to the U.S. Meanwhile, recent immigration from Asia, most of which is legal, has been steady or even up slightly. See Passel, Jeffrey S., D'Vera Cohn and Ana Gonzalez-Barrera. 2012. "Net Migration from Mexico Falls to Zero—and Perhaps Less." Washington, D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, April.

[18] Data source is the U.S. Census Bureau's March Current Population Surveys. For details of methodology, see Passel, Jeffrey S., and D'Vera Cohn. 2011. "Unauthorized Immigrant Population: National and State Trends, 2010." Washington, D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, February.

[19] Yearbook of Immigration Statistics, various years (2000-2011), Table 10 (2005-2011), Table 8 (2000-2004). Source countries are China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan), India, Japan, Korea (North and South), Philippines and Vietnam.

[20] California had the largest Asian-American population, nearly 5.6 million. For state totals, see Hoeffel, Elizabeth M., et al. 2012. *"The Asian Population: 2010."* Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau, March.

According to projections by the Pew Research Center,[21] the nation's Asian-American population will continue to grow more rapidly than the U.S. population overall, and it will be less dominated by immigrants than it now is. The Asian population will grow to 41 million in 2050, nearly tripling in size. Nearly all of the future growth in the Asian population (94%) will be due to immigrants arriving after 2005 and their descendants. But arrivals of new immigrants will play a declining role in Asian population change, and births in the United States to immigrants and their descendants will play a growing role. In 2005, most Asians in the United States (58%) were foreign born; by 2050, fewer than half (47%) will be foreign born.

Within the Asian-American population are diverse histories, languages, cultures and characteristics, which are discussed later in this chapter in separate sections for each of the six largest countries of origin. Asian Americans also share distinct economic and demographic characteristics as a group, especially in the realms of nativity, educational attainment, income and family structure.

Who Are Asian Americans?

Asian Americans are a diverse group in the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, "Asian" refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia or the Indian subcontinent. The Asian population includes people who indicated their race(s) as "Asian Indian," "Chinese," "Filipino," "Japanese," "Korean." "Vietnamese" or "Other Asian," or wrote in entries such as "Pakistani," "Thai," "Cambodian" or "Hmong."

In this report, the terms "group" or "subgroup" or "country of origin group" are used interchangeably to refer to populations who indicated their race as "Asian Indian," "Chinese," "Filipino," and so forth. "Country of origin" does not necessarily mean birth country but can refer to ancestry or family heritage.

With growing diversity in the nation's population, the Census Bureau has changed the wording of questions about race and ethnicity over time. Since Census 2000, respondents could select one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities. (About 15% of the Asian population reported multiple races in Census 2010.) In addition, since Census 2000, the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population, formerly included with the totals for the Asian population, has been counted as a separate race group. Because of these changes, caution is advised in historical comparisons on racial composition of Asians.

In this report, **"**Asian American" includes all Asians living in the United States, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. It includes foreign citizens living in the United States for study, work or other purposes, but not those on short-term visits. Unless otherwise noted, the maximum number of Asians is counted for the overall Asian population and for Asian subgroups in the report. This includes single-race Asians *as well as* mixed-race Asians. Asian Americans do not include Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders, but (except where specified) do include some Asians of Hispanic ethnicity, who were approximately 1.4% of the Asian population in 2010.

Throughout the report, data from Census 2010 and earlier decennial censuses are used for basic population counts and trends, as well as for analysis of the mixed-race Asian population. Estimates from the 2010 American Community Survey are used for social and economic characteristics of Asian Americans and their subgroups. In most cases, characteristics are reported for the adult population.

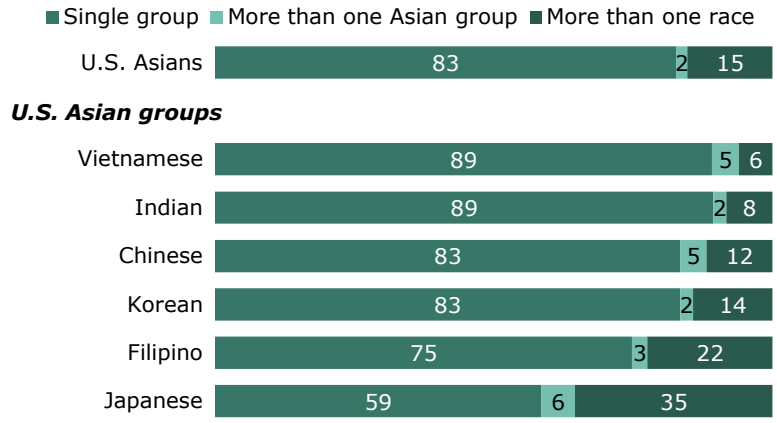
[21] Passel, Jeffrey S., and D'Vera Cohn. 2008. "U.S. Population Projections: 2005-2050." Washington, D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, February. In this report, Asians are non-Hispanic and include Pacific Islanders.

Race and Nativity

The six major country groups vary markedly in the shares that are only one race. More than a third (35%) of Japanese Americans identify themselves as multiracial, and an additional 6% are of mixed-Asian heritage. By contrast, only 6% of Vietnamese report being of mixed race and an additional 5% report a mixed-Asian background. The difference is in part a reflection of assimilation and of the Japanese-American population's longer history in the U.S.

Asian Groups in Detail

%



Note: Based on total population, including adults and children. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis based on Elizabeth M. Hoeffel et al., *The Asian Population: 2010*, U.S. Census Bureau, March 2012.

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Most Asian Americans are foreign born—59%, compared with 13% of the U.S. population overall in 2010.[22] (The share is even higher for adults—74%, compared with 16%.) The share varies by country of origin, from a low of 38% for single-race Japanese to 75% for single-race Koreans. These differences largely reflect the timing of each group's major influx of immigration.

The Asian-American native-born adult population is evenly split between males and females, but the foreign-born Asian population has more females than males—54% of women versus 46% of men. Among foreign-born Japanese-American adults, the female-to-male ratio is more than 2-to-1. The exception is foreign-born Indian-American adults; there are slightly more men than women in this group.

[22] Data about immigrant generation can be calculated from another source, the Current Population Survey. CPS totals differ slightly from the ACS because the CPS includes only the household population and because of weighting differences. According to the 2011 CPS, 56% are foreign born (first generation), 32% are children of immigrants (second generation), and 11% are third generation and higher.

Just over half of foreign-born Asian-American adults either speak only English at home or speak English very well (53%), a standard measure of language proficiency. (That share from the Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey is similar to the 49% of foreign-born Asian-American adults in the 2012 Pew Research Center Asian-American survey who say they speak English very well.) The share of Asian-American adults who speak only English or speak English very well is modestly higher than for other U.S. foreign-born adults (45%), according to census data.

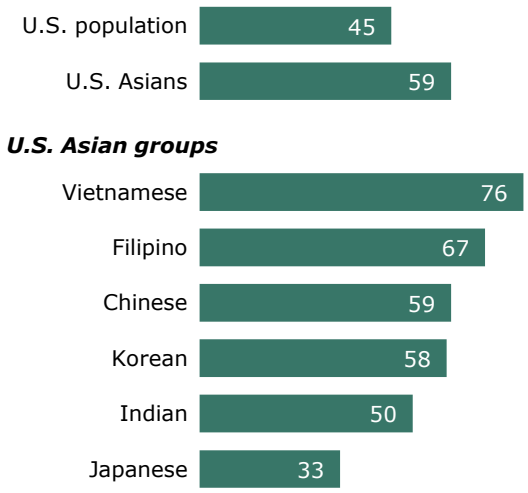
Looking at two measures of attachment to the U.S.—emigration and naturalization—Asian immigrants are less likely to leave than other groups and more likely to become citizens.

Emigration from the U.S. by former immigrants is difficult to measure precisely. However, various estimates of overall emigration generally are in the range of 1% to 1.5% per year, and Asian emigration appears to be a bit lower than average.[23]

As for citizenship, 59% of foreign-born Asian adults in the U.S. are naturalized citizens, compared with 45% of all foreign-born adults. The share varies notably among different subgroups. Only a third of immigrant Japanese adults (33%) are citizens, compared with three-quarters (76%) of Vietnamese immigrant adults.

Vietnamese Most Likely, Japanese Least Likely to Be Citizens

% of foreign-born adults who are citizens



Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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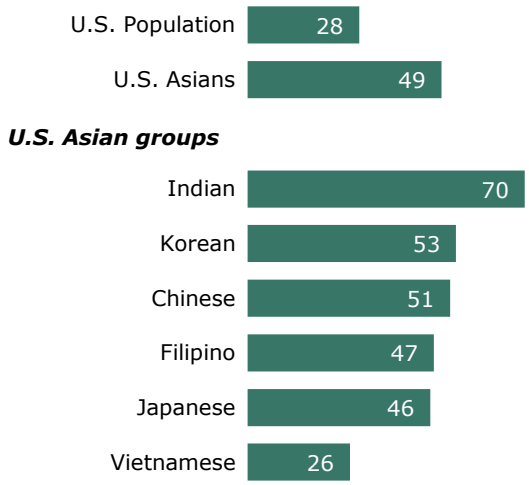
[23] For a summary of recent research, see Schwabish, Jonathan A. 2009. "Identifying Rates of Emigration in the United States Using Administrative Earnings Records." Washington, D.C.: Congressional Budget Office, March.

Education

Educational attainment among Asian Americans is markedly higher than that of the U.S. population overall. Among those ages 25 and older, 49% hold at least a college degree, compared with 28% of the U.S. population overall. As with nativity, the share among those ages 25 and older varies by country of origin: Vietnamese (26%) are the only group below the U.S. share, and Indians (70%) are much higher.

College Education, Ages 25 and Older, 2010

% with a bachelor's degree or more



Note: All Asians (and each subgroup) include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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Educational attainment is especially notable among recent immigrants from Asia, those who arrived in the three years prior to the 2010 American Community Survey. In 2010, 61% of those ages 25 to 64 held a college degree (compared with 30% of other recent immigrants ages 25 to 64).[24]

Recent Indian immigrants ages 25 to 64 are most likely to hold a college degree (81%), but more than half of comparably aged new immigrants from China, the Philippines, Korea and Japan also are college-educated. Only 17% of recent immigrants ages 25 to 64 from Vietnam are college-educated, however.

Compared with the educational attainment of the population of their country of origin, recent Asian immigrants are a select group. For example, about 27% of adults ages 25 to 64 in South Korea and 25% in Japan have a bachelor's degree or more.[25] In contrast, nearly 70% of comparably aged recent immigrants from these two countries have at least a bachelor's degree.

Using a broader measure—the share enrolled in college or holding a college degree—the educational characteristics of recent Asian immigrants also compare favorably with those of other races.

[24] For more details, see "Additional Tables" at the end of this chapter.
[25] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Education at a Glance 2011: OECD Indicators. Based on 2009 data.

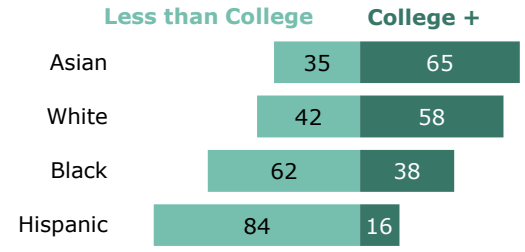
Among Asian immigrant adults ages 18 and older who arrived in 2007-2010, nearly two-thirds (65%) were enrolled in college or graduate school, or held a college degree. This share was higher than for comparable white recent immigrants (58%) and markedly higher than for black (38%) or Hispanic (16%) recent immigrants.

Young adults from Asian countries are overrepresented among current students, accounting for more than six-in-ten of all foreign students studying at U.S. institutions. China, India and South Korea are the top three countries whose students are studying in the U.S., with Taiwan ranking fifth (behind Canada) and Japan and Vietnam ranking seventh and eighth (behind Saudi Arabia).

Asian students, both foreign born and U.S. born, also are heavily overrepresented in the awarding of U.S. advanced degrees. In 2010, Asian students accounted for 25% of the 48,069 research doctorates granted at U.S. universities. They collected a plurality (45%) of all engineering Ph.D.s awarded that year, as well as 38% of doctorates in math and computer sciences; 33% of doctorates in the physical sciences; 25% of those in the

Education Characteristics of Recent Immigrants, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

% among adults



Note: "Recent immigrants" refers to those who came to live in the U.S. in the three years prior to the survey date. "College +" includes those either currently in a four-year college or graduate school or holding a bachelor's degree or advanced degree. "Asian" includes mixed-race and mixed-group Asian populations, regardless of Hispanic origin. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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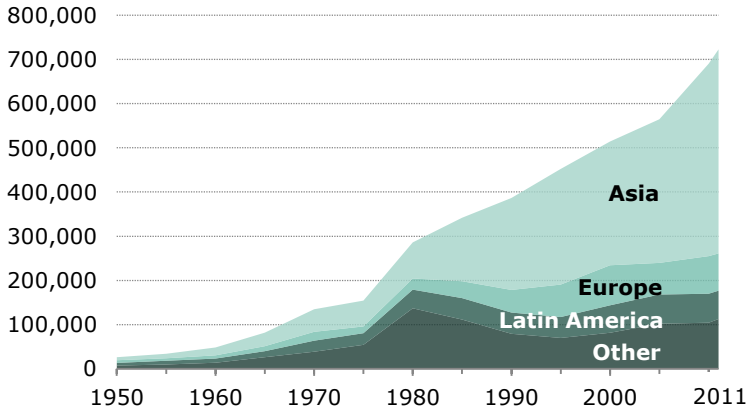
International Students in the U.S., by Top Regions of Origin, 1950-2011



Note: Based on students at U.S. colleges and universities that grant associate degrees or higher.

Source: Institute of International Education, Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange

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life sciences; and 19% of those in the social sciences.[26]

Employment

One reflection of their high level of educational attainment is that half of employed Asian Americans (50%) are in management, professional and related occupations, a higher share than the roughly 40% for employed Americans overall. Many of these occupations require advanced degrees.

However, the proportion in these occupations varies by group. Among Indians, two-thirds hold such jobs, as do more than half of Chinese and Japanese. Slightly less than half of Filipinos and Koreans hold management and professional jobs. Among Vietnamese, only about a third do.

These high levels of educational attainment are a factor in the occupational profile of Asian Americans, especially their concentration in the fields of science and engineering. Among adults, 14% of Asian Americans hold these types of jobs, compared with 5% of the U.S. population overall. The share among Indians is 28%.

Another facet of the Asian-American occupational profile is the high share of immigrants from Asian countries who are in the U.S. under the H1-B visa program. These visas were authorized under the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1990 to increase the inflow of highly skilled "guest workers" from abroad. Asian countries are now the source of about three-quarters of such temporary visas. In 2011, India alone accounted for 72,438 of the 129,134 H1-B visas granted, or 56%; China was responsible for 10,849, or 8%.

H-1B Visas Issued, by Top Nationalities, FY 2011

India	72,438
China-mainland	10,849
U.K.	3,660
South Korea	3,501
Mexico	2,647
Philippines	2,369
France	2,069
Japan	2,054
China-Taiwan	1,705
Germany	1,627
Other	*26,215*
Total	**129,134**

Source: Bureau of Consular Affairs, U.S. Department of State

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A somewhat lower share of Asian Americans, compared with all employed Americans, are in jobs that include labor, maintenance and transportation—11%, compared with 15%. However, the shares for country groups are all below the national share except for Vietnamese—20% of employed Vietnamese Americans hold these types of jobs.

[26] National Science Foundation. "Survey of Earned Doctorates." Washington, D.C.

Looking at recent unemployment statistics, Asian Americans were somewhat less likely to be unemployed than the national average for the first quarter of 2012 (6% compared with 7% for workers ages 25 and older).[27] However, the gap differs by educational attainment. Less educated Asian Americans, those with no college education, had lower unemployment than comparably educated workers overall. But Asian Americans with some college or a college degree had about the same level of unemployment as comparably educated workers overall.

Unemployment Rate and Duration, by Race and Ethnicity, Ages 25 and Older, First Quarter 2012

% unemployed

	All	Asian	White	Hispanic	Black
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	7.4	6.0	6.2	9.8	11.8
Among those who have …					
Less than H.S. diploma	14.5	9.5	14.3	13.5	22.8
H.S. diploma or equivalent	9.1	7.9	8.0	9.8	14.3
Some college	7.5	7.7	6.6	7.8	11.0
Bachelor's degree or more	4.2	4.4	3.8	5.8	6.4

Median duration of unemployment (in weeks)

Total	22	28	21	17	31
Among those who have …					
Less than H.S. diploma	16	22	18	14	24
H.S. diploma or equivalent	22	26	20	24	31
Some college	26	30	21	21	39
Bachelor's degree or more	25	30	22	24	35

Note: Asian includes mixed race and mixed-group Asian populations, regardless of Hispanic origin. White and black include only single-race non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations from 2012 Current Population Survey data

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One defining feature of the recent recession and slow economic recovery has been a high level of long-term unemployment. On this measure, Asian Americans have fared worse than workers overall, and most other race groups. Among workers ages 25 and older who were unemployed in the first quarter of 2012, the median duration of unemployment for Asian Americans was 28 weeks, second only to black workers among the major race and ethnic groups. The median duration of unemployment was worse for Asian Americans than for all workers at each level of educational attainment.

[27] Among workers ages 16 and older, the total unemployment rate for the period was 8.6%, compared with 6.7% for Asian Americans.

Income

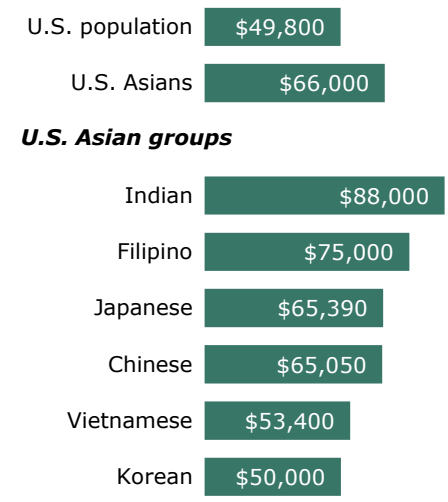
Educational attainment and occupational patterns are key factors in explaining the above-average household incomes for Asian Americans as a whole—a median $66,000 in 2010, vs. $49,800 for the U.S. population—and for most country of origin groups.

Median income may also be viewed in the context of number of earners per household and household size. Asian-American households have more earners on average than U.S. households overall—1.6 compared with 1.4. Additional earners help boost overall household income.

In addition, the average Asian-American household (3.1 people) is larger than the average U.S. household (2.6), and larger households mean that income must be divided among a larger number of people.

Household Income, 2010

Median



Note: Based on householders ages 18 and older. Race and Asian subgroup based on those of household head. All Asians (and each subgroup) include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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To add another perspective to the analysis, the Pew Research Center adjusted median household incomes for household size differences and standardized income to a household size of three.[28] Based on that adjustment, the median household income for all U.S. households is 82% of the median household income of Asian Americans, compared with 75% when household incomes are not adjusted.

Geography may also be a factor in explaining these income differences. According to some analysts,[29] higher incomes can be linked to the geographic concentration of Asian Americans in states with higher incomes and higher costs of living.

[28] For a description of methodology, see Kochhar, Rakesh, and D'Vera Cohn, 2011. "Fighting Poverty in a Bad Economy, Americans Move in with Relatives." Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project, October.
[29] Takaki, Ronald, 1998. "Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans." Updated and revised edition. New York, NY: Back Bay Books, Little, Brown and Company.

Wealth and Poverty

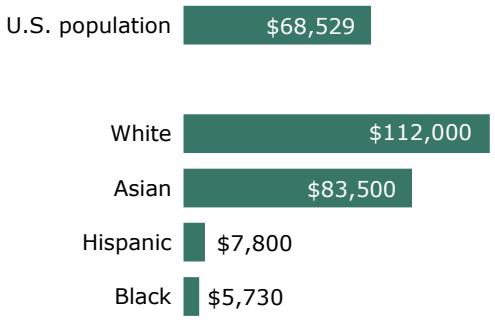
Median household wealth for Asian Americans was $83,500 in 2010, according to a Pew Research Center analysis of data from the Census Bureau's Survey of Income and Program Participation, considered the most comprehensive source of information about wealth by race and ethnicity. Wealth is defined as net worth, or the sum of assets (such as cars, homes, savings and retirement accounts) minus debts (such as mortgages, auto loans and credit card debt).

Asian-American wealth in 2010 was higher than the median net worth for households overall ($68,529). Compared with other race or ethnic groups, Asian Americans had lower median household wealth than non-Hispanic whites ($112,000). But Asian-American wealth was notably higher than it was for Hispanics ($7,800) or for blacks ($5,730).

Asian-American adults overall are somewhat less likely to be poor than U.S. adults overall (11.9% for Asian Americans, compared with 12.8% for the U.S.). Poverty rates vary widely by country of origin, ranging from 6.2% for Filipino adults to 15.1% for Korean adults.

Household Wealth, 2010

Median



Note: Based on householders ages 15 and older. Race and ethnicity are based on household head. White, black and Asian are single race only and non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center Analysis of Survey of Income and Program Participation data (Wave 7 of the 2008 panel conducted from September 2010 to December 2010)

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Poverty Rate, Adults, 2010

% in poverty

Note: All Asians (and each subgroup) include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin. For detailed information on how poverty status is determined, see http://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/variables/POVERTY#_description_tab. These data will differ from those provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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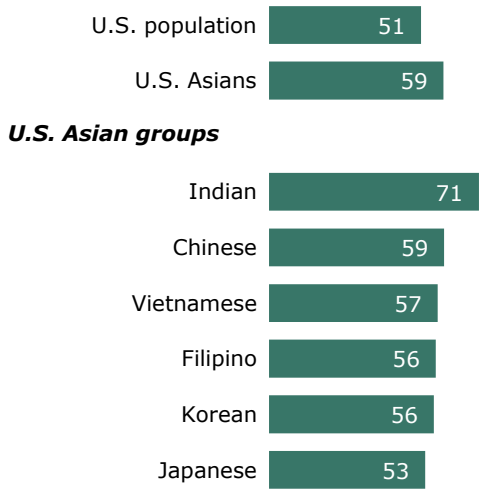
Family Structure

In terms of family structure, Asian Americans are more likely to be currently married than U.S. adults overall and to have lower rates of birth outside of marriage. The current differences reflect in large part the heavy immigrant presence among Asian Americans. As a group, Asian-American adults are more likely to be married than the U.S. population overall—59%, compared with 51%. Among foreign-born Asian-American adults, two-thirds (67%) are married. Among U.S.-born Asian-American adults, 35% are married, in part because they are younger.

Marital Status, Adults, 2010

% currently married



Note: "Currently married" excludes separated. All Asians (and each subgroup) include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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According to the 2010 American Community Survey, among women ages 18 to 44 who gave birth in the previous year, only 15% of Asian Americans were unmarried, compared with 37% for the population overall. Among foreign-born Asian-American mothers ages 18 to 44, only 10% were unmarried, illustrating the strong influence of the immigrant population on the overall Asian-American data.

According to another data source, the National Center for Health Statistics, Asian-American and Pacific Islander women of childbearing age (15-44) are about as likely as other women to have given birth in the past year. But only 16% of births to Asian-American and Pacific Islander women in 2009 were to unmarried mothers, compared with 41% for the overall population. Among foreign-born Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, only 12% of births were to unmarried women.[30]

One result of these marriage and birth status profiles is that Asian-American children are notably more likely than U.S. children overall to live with two married parents—80% to

[30] The differences in results from the two data sources can be attributed in part to the larger age range in the NCHS data. In addition, the NCHS data come from birth certificates that record the mother's marital status at the time of birth. The ACS data asks women whether they have given birth in the past year and records the mother's marital status at the time of the survey, so they could include those who married after giving birth.

63%, according to the 2010 ACS. Some variation exists by subgroup, from 74% of Filipino children to 92% of Indian children.

There are differences among Asian-American subgroups in the share of newlyweds marrying someone of a different race. Among all recent Asian-American newlyweds (2008-2010), 29% married someone of another race and 6% married someone from another Asian group.[31]

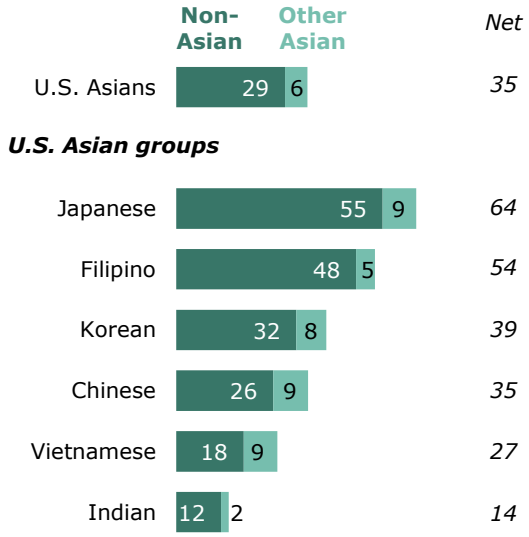
The majority of recent Japanese-American newlyweds married someone of another race (55%) or Asian subgroup (9%). The same was true for Filipino Americans; 48% married someone who was not Asian American, and 5% married someone from another Asian group. Koreans (39%), Chinese (35%) and Vietnamese (27%) were somewhat less likely to marry outside their race or subgroup.

Indian Americans are the least likely among Asian-American groups to marry out—only 12% married someone of another race, and 2% married someone from another Asian group.

For more about attitudes toward intermarriage from the 2012 Asian-American survey, see Chapter 3.

Asian Intermarriage

% of Asian newlyweds (2008-2010) married to ...



Note: "Newlyweds" refers to people ages 15 and older who got married in the year prior to the survey, and their marital status was "married, spouse present." U.S. Asians and each U.S. Asian group include non-Hispanic single-race Asians who are from only one group; "Non-Asian" includes Hispanics and single- or multiple-race non-Hispanics except single-race Asians; "Other Asian" includes non-Hispanics from other single-Asian or multiple-Asian groups. "Net" was computed prior to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008 and 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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Multi-generational families—those with two or more adult generations (or a grandchild and grandparent) living under one roof—are more common in households headed by Asian Americans than those headed by a member of other race and ethnic groups. Multi-generational homes in 2010 accounted for more than a quarter (28%) of all people living in households headed by non-Hispanic Asians. That is somewhat higher than for households headed by non-Hispanic blacks (26%) and Hispanics (25%) and notably higher than for non-Hispanic whites (14%).

[31] For more information about intermarriage, see Wang, Wendy. 2012. "Rise of Intermarriage: Rates, Characteristics Vary by Race and Gender." Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project, February.

The likelihood of multi-generational living varies markedly by Asian-American group. Residents of households headed by someone who is Vietnamese (34%) or Filipino (33%) are most likely to be in multi-generational families. People in households with Korean (20%) or Japanese (18%) heads are least likely to be in multi-generational families. In between are residents of households with heads who are Chinese (26%) or Indian (23%).

Region of Residence

Nearly half of Asian-American adults (47%) live in Western states, double the share of U.S. residents overall. This largely reflects historic immigration patterns.

The Northeast and South each are home to about a fifth of Asian-American adults. Asian Americans are least likely to live in the Midwest; only 11% of adults do.

Residential settlement patterns vary greatly among different country of origin groups. The West is home to most Japanese-American adults (71%) and most Filipino-American adults (66%). Among adults, Chinese Americans, Vietnamese Americans and Korean Americans also are more likely to live in the West than in any other region.

Region of Residence, Adults, 2010

%

	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
U.S. population	18	22	37	23
U.S. Asians	20	11	21	47
U.S. Asian groups				
Chinese	27	9	15	49
Filipino	10	9	16	66
Indian	31	17	29	24
Vietnamese	10	8	32	49
Korean	21	11	23	45
Japanese	9	8	12	71

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. All Asians (and each subgroup) include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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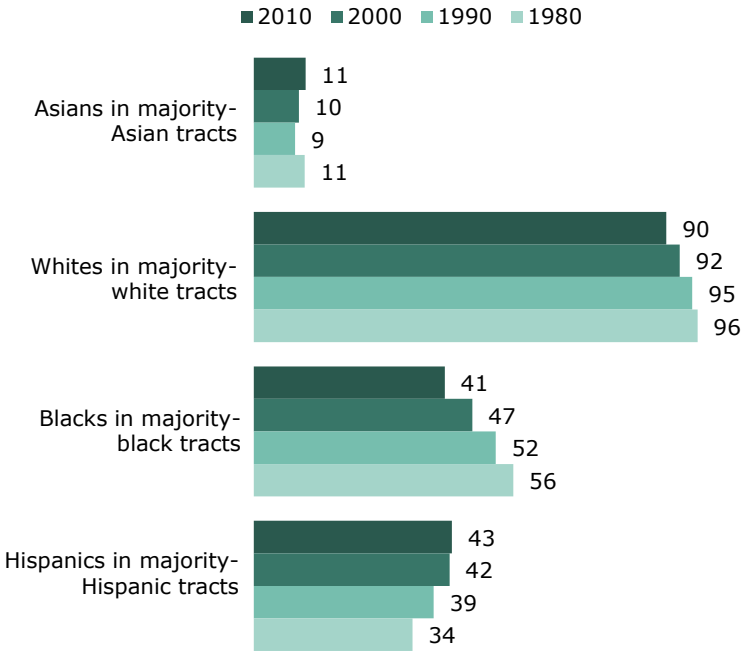
However, Indian-American adults are more evenly distributed around the country, and the West is not their first choice of residential region. The largest share of Indian-American adults (31%) live in the Northeast, followed by the South (29%), West (24%) and Midwest (17%).

Residential Segregation

By several measures of residential segregation, Asian Americans[32] are less isolated than either blacks or Hispanics. In 2010, the typical Asian American lived in a census tract with a lower share of his or her own race and a higher share of non-Hispanic whites than did the typical black or Hispanic; Asian Americans also are less segregated than whites. However, looking at long-term trends, Asian Americans (and Hispanics) are at least as segregated as they were in 1980, while black segregation has declined somewhat.

Residential Segregation Trends for Racial and Ethnic Groups, 1980 to 2010

% from each group living in census tracts where the majority of residents are from their racial/ethnic group



Note: Based on total population, including adults and children. Asians, whites and blacks are single-race, non-Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1980 to 2010 Decennial census SF1 data

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In 2010, the average Asian American lived in a census tract in which Asians were 20% of the tract's residents.[33] By comparison, the typical black lived in a tract that was 45% black and the typical Hispanic lived in a tract that was 45% Hispanic. (This comparison should be treated with caution: Other race and Hispanic groups are more numerous than Asians, and so they have greater potential to cluster).

[32] In contrast to other parts of this report, this section defines each race group as including only a single race, not that race in combination with any others. In addition, all race groups are non-Hispanic, whereas other sections of this report include Hispanic Asians in the total Asian American population.

[33] Because the typical 2010 census tract was 5% Asian, Asian Americans were not randomly distributed throughout the nation's census tracts but were concentrated in particular tracts. A census tract is a small, relatively permanent subdivision of a county that often follows generally accepted neighborhood boundaries and has an average of 4,200 residents. The Census Bureau delineated about 73,000 tracts for the 2010 Census.

Asian Americans also are likely to have a higher share of non-Hispanic whites in their neighborhoods than do blacks or Hispanics. In 2010 the typical Asian American resided in a tract in which non-Hispanic whites were 48% of the tract's population, compared with 36% for the typical non-Hispanic black and 37% for the typical Hispanic.

Asian Americans are less segregated than other groups under another often-used measure of residential segregation—the dissimilarity index, which captures the degree to which a population is unevenly spread among census tracts of a metropolitan area. It ranges between 0 and 1, with higher values revealing that a group is more highly concentrated, or segregated. In 2010, Asian-white dissimilarity was 0.41, compared with 0.59 for black-white dissimilarity and 0.48 for Hispanic-white dissimilarity.[34]

Looking at change from 1980 to 2010, the Asian-American population is at least as segregated today as it was three decades ago, although the level of segregation between those years varies depending on the measure used.[35]

In 2010, 11% of Asian Americans lived in a census tract in which at least half of the tract's residents were Asian, the same share as in 1980. By comparison, in 2010, 43% of Hispanics lived in a majority-Hispanic tract, compared with 34% in 1980. Both groups grew rapidly during this period.

The black population grew more slowly, and African Americans are markedly less likely to live in majority black census tracts in 2010 (41%) than in 1980 (56%). Non-Hispanic whites are also less likely to reside in majority white tracts in 2010 (90%) than in 1980 (96%).

[34] Logan, John R., and Brian J. Stults. 2011. "The Persistence of Segregation in the Metropolis: New Findings from the 2010 Census." Census Brief prepared for Project US2010. March. In the data cited from this report, Asian Americans include single-race Pacific Islanders.
[35] Iceland, John, Daniel H. Weinberg, and Erika Steinmetz. 2002. "Racial and Ethnic Residential Segregation in the United States: 1980-2000." Washington, D.C.: US Census Bureau, May.

U.S. Immigration Laws and Asian Americans

Although Asian Americans have immigrated to the U.S. since at least the mid-1800s, it was not until 60 years ago that foreign-born Asian Americans were permitted to become U.S. citizens (those born in the U.S. were granted birthright citizenship by a Supreme Court ruling in 1898). In addition, immigration from Asia was severely restricted for many years as a result of many state and national laws that had the effect of limiting immigration and naturalization. For example, some states prohibited non-citizen Asians from owning land, barred Asians from marrying whites or imposed extra taxes on non-citizen Asians.

Among the major laws, court cases and other government actions affecting immigration or immigrants from Asia:

- 1790: Naturalization Act, which limited citizenship to "free white persons."
- 1882: Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese immigrants for 10 years (later extended). This law also prohibited Chinese immigrants from naturalizing. Provisions repealed in 1943.
- 1907: Gentlemen's Agreement, in which Japan and the U.S. agreed to stop issuance of passports for new Japanese laborers to come to the U.S., but the U.S. allowed immigration of family members of Japanese residents already in the country.
- 1917: Immigration Act, which barred immigration from most countries in Asia.
- 1923: A U.S. Supreme Court ruling, which said Indians from Asia were not white, reversing previous court decisions allowing them to become citizens.
- 1924: National Origins Act, which extended earlier prohibitions on Asian immigration but exempted Filipinos, who lived in an American territory.
- 1942: A presidential order during World War II that allowed the secretary of war to remove Japanese Americans from certain areas; eventually, 120,000 were interned in camps.
- 1945: The War Brides Act, which allowed the entry, with no quotas, of foreign-born women married to U.S. servicemen.
- 1952: McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act, which allowed Asian Americans to become naturalized U.S. citizens.
- 1965: Immigration and Nationality Act, which opened the doors for new immigration from Asia. Spouses, children under 21 and parents of U.S. citizens could be admitted without quotas. The law allowed up to 20,000 immigrants per country and 170,000 from the Eastern Hemisphere; family members and some categories of skilled workers were favored.
- 1980: Refugee Act, which redefined refugees more broadly, thus granting asylum to boat people escaping Vietnam.
- 1990: Immigration Act, which increased the ceiling on new immigrant visas, especially for family members of U.S. citizens and for skilled foreigners requested by U.S. employers.

Much of the information in this box, as well as the history throughout this chapter, is drawn from the following: Fong, Timothy R., 2008. "The Contemporary Asian American Experience: Beyond the Model Minority." Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall; Takaki, Ronald, 1998. "Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans." Updated and revised edition. New York, NY: Back Bay Books, Little, Brown and Company; and Xie, Yu and Kimberly A. Goyette, 2004. "A Demographic Portrait of Asian Americans." Washington, D.C.: Population Reference Bureau.

II. Characteristics of Major Asian-American Subgroups

Chinese Americans

History

Chinese were among the first Asian immigrants to the United States. The California gold rush that began in 1848 attracted Chinese merchants and sailors initially, and larger scale immigration began in 1852 when 52,000 Chinese arrived. Chinese laborers made up 90% of the workforce for the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad.

As early as 1870, Chinese were 9% of California's population and 25% of its workforce. (The first Asian response category in the decennial census—"Chinese"—was added in California in 1860, and in other states the following decade.) Most were young single men who intended to work a few years and then return to China. Those who stayed seldom married because of laws severely limiting the immigration of Chinese women and prohibiting intermarriage with white women.

Characteristics of U.S. Chinese Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asians	U.S. Chinese
Foreign born	15.8	74.1	76.2
Citizen	91.4	69.6	68.7
Median age *(in years)*	45	41	43
Married	51.4	59.0	59.2
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	7.1	6.8	5.8
Of these, % unmarried	37.1	14.6	11.3
College educated (ages 25+)	28.2	49.0	51.1
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$40,000	$48,000	$50,000
Household annual income			
Median	$49,800	$66,000	$65,050
Average household size *(persons)*	2.6	3.1	2.9
Homeownership rate	65.4	58.1	61.9
In poverty	12.8	11.9	13.7
Language			
Speaks English very well	90.4	63.5	51.9
Speaks English less than very well	9.6	36.5	48.1
Region of residence			
Northeast	18.3	20.1	27.4
Midwest	21.6	11.3	8.8
South	37.0	21.5	15.1
West	23.0	47.1	48.7

Note: Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home. U.S. Asians and U.S. Chinese include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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As gold became harder to find and railroad construction was completed, animosity toward the Chinese and other foreigners increased. After being forcibly driven from the gold mines, most Chinese settled in enclaves in cities, mainly San Francisco, and took up low-wage labor. Often brought in to factories after white workers went on strike over labor practices, Chinese workers were blamed by labor leaders for the depressed wage levels in the 1870s and were a frequent target of hatred and racial violence. A succession of laws, including the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, prohibited Chinese people from naturalizing or immigrating.

The Chinese population reached its 19th-century peak in 1890 at about 107,000 people. Because of anti-Chinese laws, the highly imbalanced male-to-female ratio and the thousands of immigrants returning to China, the Chinese population in the U.S. fell to less than 50,000 in 1920.[36]

Later on, immigration of all Asians, except Filipinos who were residents of a U.S. territory at that time, was prohibited by immigration laws, including the 1917 Immigration Act and the National Origins Act of 1924.

Large-scale immigration of Chinese started again after 1965, following passage of the landmark Immigration and Nationality Act. Many Chinese came as students and later obtained permanent resident visas. In contrast to earlier waves of immigrants, those of the past four decades are more likely to include educated professionals.

In 2010, an estimated 3 million adult Chinese Americans were in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Chinese Americans are the largest group among Asian Americans and represent about 24% of the adult Asian population in the U.S.

Characteristics (2010 ACS)

- *Nativity and citizenship*. Three-quarters (76%) of adult Chinese Americans in the United States are foreign born, similar to the share among all Asian adults (74%) and higher than the 16% share of all U.S. adults. The majority of Chinese adults are U.S. citizens (69%), similar to the share among the adult Asian population (70%) but lower than the national share (91%).

[36] Gibson, Campbell, and Kay Jung. 2006. "Historical Census Statistics on the Foreign-Born Population of the United States: 1850 to 2000." Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau, February.

- *Language*. More than half of Chinese Americans (52%) speak English proficiently,[37] compared with 63% of Asian Americans in general and 90% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Age*. The median age of adult Chinese Americans is 43, slightly higher than among adult Asian Americans (41) and slightly lower than the national median (45).

- *Marital status*. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) adult Chinese Americans are married, a share equal to that among Asian Americans overall and higher than the national share (51%).

- *Fertility*. The share of Chinese-American women ages 18 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months before the 2010 ACS was 5.8%; this is lower than the comparable share among Asian-American women overall (6.8%) and the national share (7.1%). About 11% of Chinese-American women who gave birth in the previous 12 months were unmarried, slightly lower than among all Asian-American women (15%) and much lower than the national share (37%).

- *Educational attainment*. Among Chinese Americans ages 25 and older, more than half (51%) have obtained at least a bachelor's degree; this is higher than the Asian-American share (49%) and much higher than the national share (28%).

- *Income*. Median annual personal earnings for Chinese-American full-time, year-round workers are $50,000, higher than for Asian Americans overall ($48,000) and for U.S. adults overall ($40,000). For households, the Chinese median annual income ($65,050) is somewhat lower than that for all Asians ($66,000) but higher than that among U.S. households overall ($49,800).

- *Homeownership*. More than six-in-ten Chinese Americans (62%) own a home, compared with 58% of Asian Americans overall and 65% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Poverty status*. The share of adult Chinese Americans who live in poverty is 14%, slightly higher than the rate for all Asian Americans (12%) and the national rate (13%).

- *Regional dispersion*. Nearly half of adult Chinese Americans (49%) live in the West, compared with 47% of Asian Americans and 23% of the U.S. population overall.

[37] Adults ages 18 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

Attitudes

Here are a few key findings from the 2012 Asian-American survey about Chinese Americans compared with other major U.S. Asian groups:

- Compared with other U.S. Asian groups, Chinese Americans are among the most likely to say discrimination against people from their country of origin is a major (16%) or minor (56%) problem. A quarter (24%) say discrimination is not a problem.

- Chinese Americans are less upbeat than most other U.S. Asian groups about their relationships with other major racial and ethnic groups. Only about two-in-ten say Chinese Americans and whites get along very well. And even fewer say Chinese Americans get along very well with blacks or Hispanics.

Filipino Americans

History

Filipino immigration to the U.S. began after the United States acquired the Philippines in 1898 as a result of the Spanish-American War. A large number of Filipinos went directly to Hawaii to work on plantations before coming to the U.S. mainland.[38]

Filipinos were the only Asian group who lived on American territory and were therefore exempted from the 1917 and 1924 laws that prohibited Asian immigration to the country. Filipinos began to move to the U.S. mainland following the passage of the immigration law that excluded other Asians, amid increasing need for agricultural and service labor.

Characteristics of U.S. Filipino Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asians	U.S. Filipinos
Foreign born	15.8	74.1	69.1
Citizen	91.4	69.6	77.4
Median age *(in years)*	45	41	43
Married	51.4	59.0	56.3
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	7.1	6.8	6.5
Of these, % unmarried	37.1	14.6	26.5
College educated (ages 25+)	28.2	49.0	47.0
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$40,000	$48,000	$43,000
Household annual income			
Median	$49,800	$66,000	$75,000
Average household size *(persons)*	2.6	3.1	3.4
Homeownership rate	65.4	58.1	61.8
In poverty	12.8	11.9	6.2
Language			
Speaks English very well	90.4	63.5	77.7
Speaks English less than very well	9.6	36.5	22.3
Region of residence			
Northeast	18.3	20.1	9.7
Midwest	21.6	11.3	8.6
South	37.0	21.5	15.8
West	23.0	47.1	65.9

Note: Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home. U.S. Asians and U.S. Filipinos include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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However, severe limits were placed on Filipino immigration when the Philippines was established as a commonwealth of the U.S. in 1934. The Filipino population in the U.S. dropped from about 108,000 to 98,000 in the decade that

[38] According to Fong (2008), more than 28,000 Filipinos were actively recruited to work on sugar plantations in Hawaii between 1907 and 1919.

followed. The Philippines became an independent nation in 1946. After passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, many Filipinos came to the U.S. to escape the Ferdinand Marcos regime and find more opportunities for employment.

In 2010, an estimated 2.3 million adult Filipino Americans lived in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Filipinos are the second-largest group among Asian Americans and represent about 18% of the adult Asian population in the U.S.

Characteristics (2010 ACS)

- *Nativity and citizenship*. Nearly seven-in-ten (69%) adult Filipino Americans in the United States are foreign born, compared with about 74% of adult Asian Americans and 16% of the overall adult U.S. population. Three-quarters of Filipino adults are U.S. citizens (77%), higher than the share among all Asian adults (70%) but lower than the national share (91%).

- *Language*. More than three-quarters of Filipino Americans (78%) speak English proficiently,[39] compared with 63% of Asian Americans overall and 90% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Age*. The median age of adult Filipino Americans is 43, slightly higher than for adult Asian Americans (41) and slightly lower than the national median age (45).

- *Marital status*. More than half of adult Filipino Americans (56%) are married, a share slightly lower than that among Asian Americans overall (59%), but higher than the national share (51%).

- *Fertility*. The share of Filipino-American women ages 18 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the 2010 American Community Survey was 6.5%; this is similar to the comparable share among Asian-American women overall (6.8%) and lower than the national share (7.1%). About 27% of Filipino-American women who gave birth in the previous 12 months were unmarried, nearly double the share for all Asian-American women (15%) but lower than the national share (37%).

- *Educational attainment*. Among Filipino Americans ages 25 and older, close to half (47%) have obtained at least a bachelor's degree; this is slightly lower than the Asian-American share (49%) but much higher than the national share (28%).

[39] Adults ages 18 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- *Income.* Median annual personal earnings for Filipino-American full-time, year-round workers are $43,000, lower than for all Asian Americans in general ($48,000) but higher than for U.S. adults overall ($40,000). Among households, median annual income for Filipinos is $75,000, higher than for all Asians ($66,000) and all U.S. households ($49,800).

- *Homeownership.* More than six-in-ten Filipino Americans (62%) own a home, compared with 58% of all Asian Americans and 65% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Poverty status.* The share of adult Filipino Americans who live in poverty is 6%, lower than the rate for Asian Americans in general (12%) and the national rate (13%).

- *Regional dispersion.* A majority of adult Filipino Americans (66%) live in the West, compared with 47% of Asian Americans and 23% of the U.S. population overall.

Attitudes

Here are a few key findings from the 2012 Asian-American survey about Filipino Americans compared with other major U.S. Asian groups:

- Filipino Americans stand out among U.S. Asian groups for their low levels of social trust: 73% say you can't be too careful in dealing with people, while only 23% say most people can be trusted.

- Compared with most other U.S. Asian groups, Filipino Americans have a more positive view of the job parents from their country of origin are doing raising their children. Roughly six-in-ten (64%) say parents who share their Filipino heritage put about the right amount of pressure on their children to do well in school; 22% say Filipino American parents put too much pressure on their children; and 13% say they don't put enough pressure on children.

Indian Americans

History

The arrival of more than 6,000 Indians from Asia between 1904 and 1911, mainly to work as farmhands, marked the first major influx of this population into the United States. Indians from Asia in the U.S. were first classified in court decisions of 1910 and 1913 as Caucasians, and therefore could become citizens as well as intermarry with U.S.-born whites. However, the decisions were reversed by the Supreme Court in 1923, when Indians from Asia were legally classified as non-white and therefore ineligible for citizenship.

That court decision prevented Indian immigrants from naturalizing. New immigration from India already had been prohibited by a 1917 law.

Characteristics of U.S. Indian Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asians	U.S. Indians
Foreign born	15.8	74.1	87.2
Citizen	91.4	69.6	56.2
Median age *(in years)*	45	41	37
Married	51.4	59.0	70.9
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	7.1	6.8	8.4
Of these, % unmarried	37.1	14.6	2.3
College educated (ages 25+)	28.2	49.0	70.0
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$40,000	$48,000	$65,000
Household annual income			
Median	$49,800	$66,000	$88,000
Average household size *(persons)*	2.6	3.1	3.1
Homeownership rate	65.4	58.1	56.7
In poverty	12.8	11.9	9.0
Language			
Speaks English very well	90.4	63.5	76.2
Speaks English less than very well	9.6	36.5	23.8
Region of residence			
Northeast	18.3	20.1	31.1
Midwest	21.6	11.3	16.8
South	37.0	21.5	28.5
West	23.0	47.1	23.5

Note: Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home. U.S. Asians and U.S. Indians include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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The restrictions were lifted after passage of comprehensive immigration legislation in 1965. Since then, a large influx of highly educated professionals from India has immigrated to the U.S. for skilled employment.

In 2010, an estimated 2.2 million adult Indian Americans lived in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Indians are the third-largest group among Asian Americans and represent about 17% of the U.S. adult Asian population.

Characteristics (2010 ACS)

- *Nativity and citizenship*. Nearly nine-in-ten (87%) adult Indian Americans in the United States are foreign born, compared with about 74% of adult Asian Americans and 16% of the adult U.S. population overall. More than half of Indian-American adults are U.S. citizens (56%), lower than the share among overall adult Asian population (70%) as well as the national share (91%).

- *Language*. More than three-quarters of Indian Americans (76%) speak English proficiently,[40] compared with 63% of all Asian Americans and 90% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Age*. The median age of adult Indian Americans is 37, lower than for adult Asian Americans (41) and the national median (45).

- *Marital status*. More than seven-in-ten (71%) adult Indian Americans are married, a share significantly higher than for all Asian Americans (59%) and for the nation (51%).

- *Fertility*. The share of Indian-American women ages 18 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the 2010 American Community Survey was 8.4%, higher than the comparable share for Asian-American women overall (6.8%) and the national share (7.1%). The share of these mothers who were unmarried was much lower among Indian Americans (2.3%) than among all Asian Americans (15%) and the population overall (37%).

- *Educational attainment*. Among Indian Americans ages 25 and older, seven-in-ten (70%) have obtained at least a bachelor's degree; this is higher than the Asian-American share (49%) and much higher than the national share (28%).

- *Income*. Median annual personal earnings for Indian-American full-time, year-round workers are $65,000, significantly higher than for all Asian Americans ($48,000) as well as for all U.S. adults ($40,000). Among households, the median annual income for Indians is $88,000, much higher than for all Asians ($66,000) and all U.S. households ($49,800).

[40] Adults ages 18 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- *Homeownership*. More than half of Indian Americans (57%) own a home, compared with 58% of Asian Americans overall and 65% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Poverty status*. The share of adult Indian Americans who live in poverty is 9%, lower than the rate for all Asian Americans (12%) as well as the national rate (13%).

- *Regional dispersion*. Indian Americans are more evenly spread out than other Asian Americans. About 24% of adult Indian Americans live in the West, compared with 47% of Asian Americans and 23% of the U.S. population overall. More than three-in-ten (31%) Indian Americans live in the Northeast, 29% live in the South, and the rest (17%) live in the Midwest.

Attitudes

Here are a few key findings from the 2012 Asian-American survey about Indian Americans compared with other major U.S. Asian groups:

- Indian Americans stand out from most other U.S. Asian groups in the personal importance they place on parenting; 78% of Indian Americans say being a good parent is one of the most important things to them personally.

- Indian Americans are among the most likely to say that the strength of family ties is better in their country of origin (69%) than in the U.S. (8%).

- Compared with other U.S. Asian groups, Indian Americans are the most likely to identify with the Democratic Party; 65% are Democrats or lean to the Democrats, 18% are Republican or lean to the Republicans. And 65% of Indian Americans approve of President Obama's job performance, while 22% disapprove.

Vietnamese Americans

History

Vietnamese immigration to the U.S. is largely a result of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War. During and after that war, Vietnamese and other Southeast Asian refugees fled the threat of political persecution and physical danger in their home countries and were resettled in the U.S. as part of an international resettlement effort.

Vietnamese immigration to the U.S. can be divided into four distinct waves. The first left in the early and mid-1970s, including about 130,000 refugees evacuated to the U.S. as a result of the fall of Saigon in 1975. Some were airlifted out in U.S. military helicopters. Most could speak some English, came from urban areas and were economically better off than the population as a whole. The second wave of Vietnamese refugees, who left the country in the late 1970s, was larger, less educated and poorer than the first wave, often leaving without capital or possessions. Many fled by boat and spent months or years in refugee camps before being resettled in the U.S. under sponsorship of churches, social agencies or families.

Characteristics of U.S. Vietnamese Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asians	U.S. Vietnamese
Foreign born	15.8	74.1	83.7
Citizen	91.4	69.6	79.5
Median age *(in years)*	45	41	41
Married	51.4	59.0	57.0
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	7.1	6.8	6.6
Of these, % unmarried	37.1	14.6	12.4
College educated (ages 25+)	28.2	49.0	25.8
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$40,000	$48,000	$35,000
Household annual income			
Median	$49,800	$66,000	$53,400
Average household size *(persons)*	2.6	3.1	3.6
Homeownership rate	65.4	58.1	63.5
In poverty	12.8	11.9	14.7
Language			
Speaks English very well	90.4	63.5	40.5
Speaks English less than very well	9.6	36.5	59.5
Region of residence			
Northeast	18.3	20.1	10.1
Midwest	21.6	11.3	8.4
South	37.0	21.5	32.0
West	23.0	47.1	49.4

Note: Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home. U.S. Asians and U.S. Vietnamese include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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The third wave of Vietnamese immigrants entered the U.S. after 1980, many under a formal immigration process that resulted from an agreement between Vietnam and the U.S. The fourth wave, which dates from the mid-1990s, includes a growing number of immigrants who arrive under family unification visas—the result of an established community in the U.S.

In 2010, an estimated 1.31 million adult Vietnamese Americans were in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Vietnamese Americans are the fourth-largest group among Asian Americans and represent about 10% of the adult Asian-American population in the U.S.

Characteristics (2010 ACS)

- *Nativity and citizenship*. More than eight-in-ten (84%) adult Vietnamese Americans in the United States are foreign born, compared with about 74% adult Asian Americans and 16% of the adult U.S. population overall. A majority of Vietnamese adults are U.S. citizens (80%), higher than the share among the overall adult Asian population (70%) and lower than the national share (91%).

- *Language.* Less than half of Vietnamese Americans (41%) speak English proficiently,[41] compared with 63% of all Asian Americans and 90% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Age*. The median age of adult Vietnamese Americans is 41, the same as for adult Asian Americans (41) and lower than the national median (45).

- *Marital status*. More than half (57%) of adult Vietnamese Americans are married, a share slightly lower than for Asian Americans overall (59%), but higher than for the nation (51%).

- *Fertility*. The share of Vietnamese-American women ages 18 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months before the American Community Survey was 6.6%; this is similar to the comparable share for Asian-American women overall (6.8%) and lower than the national share (7.1%). About 12% of Vietnamese-American women who gave birth in the previous 12 months were unmarried, a lower share than for all comparable Asian-American women (15%) and for all comparable women (37%).

- *Educational attainment*. Among Vietnamese Americans ages 25 and older, about a quarter (26%) have obtained at least a bachelor's degree; this is significantly lower than the Asian-American share (49%) and slightly lower than the national share (28%).

[41] Adults ages 18 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- *Income.* Median annual personal earnings for Vietnamese-American full-time, year-round workers are $35,000, lower than the median earnings for all Asian Americans ($48,000) and all U.S. adults ($40,000). Among households, the median annual income for Vietnamese Americans is $53,400, lower than for all Asian Americans ($66,000) but higher than for all U.S. households ($49,800).

- *Homeownership.* More than six-in-ten Vietnamese Americans (63%) own a home, compared with 58% of all Asian Americans and 65% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Poverty status.* The share of adult Vietnamese American who live in poverty is 15%, higher than the rate for Asian Americans in general (12%) as well as the national rate (13%).

- *Regional dispersion.* Nearly half of adult Vietnamese Americans (49%) live in the West, compared with 47% of Asian Americans and 23% of the U.S. population overall.

Attitudes

Here are a few key findings from the 2012 Asian-American survey about Vietnamese Americans compared with other major U.S. Asian groups:

- Compared with other U.S. Asian groups, Vietnamese Americans are especially likely to see conditions in the U.S. as better than in their country of origin. More than nine-in-ten (94%) of Vietnamese Americans say the opportunity to get ahead is better in the U.S. than in Vietnam; 87% say the freedom to practice one's religion is better in the U.S.; 86% say treatment of the poor is better in the U.S.; and 84% say conditions for raising children are better in the U.S.

- Among the U.S. Asian groups, Vietnamese Americans are the most upbeat about their children's futures. Fully 48% expect their children's standard of living to be much better than theirs is, when their children reach a comparable age.

- Vietnamese Americans are the most likely among U.S. Asian groups to believe in the value of hard work. More than eight-in-ten (83%) agree that most people can get ahead if they work hard, while only 15% say hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people.

Korean Americans

History

Early Korean immigrants mostly began their journey to the U.S. in Hawaii. Between 1903 and 1905, more than 7,000 Koreans were recruited for plantation labor work there. Korean immigrants, about 40% of whom were Christians, built many churches in Hawaii.

Korean immigration to the mainland U.S. was sparse through World War II. The arrivals included about a thousand workers who came from Hawaii, about a hundred Korean mail-order "picture brides" and perhaps 900 students, many of whom fled because of their opposition to the Japanese annexation of their nation in 1910.

A relatively small number of Koreans arrived in the U.S. in mid-century as brides of service members in the Korean War, orphans adopted by U.S. couples, or professionals and students. The majority of the present Korean population in the U.S. came after the 1965 immigration act was implemented. Educational attainment increased in Korea in the 1960s and 1970s, but few job opportunities for skilled

Characteristics of U.S. Korean Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asians	U.S. Koreans
Foreign born	15.8	74.1	78.5
Citizen	91.4	69.6	67.3
Median age *(in years)*	45	41	40
Married	51.4	59.0	55.7
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	7.1	6.8	5.2
Of these, % unmarried	37.1	14.6	9.3
College educated (ages 25+)	28.2	49.0	52.6
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$40,000	$48,000	$45,000
Household annual income			
Median	$49,800	$66,000	$50,000
Average household size *(persons)*	2.6	3.1	2.6
Homeownership rate	65.4	58.1	48.1
In poverty	12.8	11.9	15.1
Language			
Speaks English very well	90.4	63.5	54.0
Speaks English less than very well	9.6	36.5	46.0
Region of residence			
Northeast	18.3	20.1	21.3
Midwest	21.6	11.3	11.3
South	37.0	21.5	22.8
West	23.0	47.1	44.6

Note: Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home. U.S. Asians and U.S. Koreans include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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workers were available. Skilled professionals moved to U.S. and many other countries. Some immigrants founded small businesses; Koreans have the highest self-employment rate among U.S. Asian groups.

In 2010, an estimated 1.26 million adult Koreans Americans were in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Koreans are the fifth-largest group among Asian Americans and represent about 10% of the adult Asian population in the U.S.

Characteristics (2010 ACS)

- *Nativity and citizenship*. Nearly eight-in-ten (79%) adult Korean Americans in the United States are foreign born, compared with 74% of adult Asian Americans and 16% of adults in the U.S. A majority of Korean adults are U.S. citizens (67%), lower than the share among overall adult Asian population (70%) and the national share (91%).

- *Language*. Slightly more than half of Korean Americans (54%) speak English proficiently,[42] compared with 63% of all Asian Americans and 90% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Age*. The median age of adult Korean Americans is 40, similar to that of all adult Asian Americans (41) and lower than the national median (45).

- *Marital status*. More than half of adult Korean Americans (56%) are married, a share slightly lower than for all Asian Americans (59%) but higher than the national share (51%).

- *Fertility*. The share of Korean-American women ages 18 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months before the 2010 American Community Survey was 5.2%, lower than the comparable share among Asian-American women overall (6.8%) and the national share (7.1%). About 9% of Korean-American women who gave birth in the previous 12 months were unmarried, a share lower than for all comparable Asian-American women (15%) and all comparable U.S. women (37%).

- *Educational attainment*. Among Korean Americans ages 25 and older, more than half (53%) have obtained at least a bachelor's degree; this is higher than the Asian-American share (49%) as well as the national share (28%).

[42] Adults ages 18 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- *Income.* Median annual personal earnings for Korean-American full-time, year-round workers are $45,000, lower than for all Asian Americans ($48,000) but higher than for all U.S. adults ($40,000). Among households, the median annual income for Koreans is $50,000, lower than for all Asians ($66,000) but slightly higher than for the U.S. population ($49,800).

- *Homeownership.* Close to half of Korean Americans (48%) own a home, compared with 58% of all Asian Americans and 65% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Poverty status.* The share of adult Korean Americans who live in poverty is 15%, higher than the poverty rate for Asian Americans in general (12%) as well as the national rate (13%).

- *Regional dispersion.* More than four-in-ten (45%) adult Korean Americans live in the West, compared with 47% of Asian Americans and 23% of the U.S. population overall.

Attitudes

Here are a few key findings from the 2012 Asian-American survey about Korean Americans compared with other major U.S. Asian groups:

- Across U.S. Asian groups, Korean Americans seem to be more strongly connected to their intra-ethnic communities. They are the most likely to say that all or most of their friends share the same ethnic heritage (58%).

- Compared with other U.S. Asian groups, Korean Americans are among the most likely to say that it is very important to them that future generations of Koreans living in the U.S. speak their ancestral language (62%).

- Korean Americans are more likely than U.S. Asians from other groups to say that parents from their country of origin put too much academic pressure on their children (60%); only 30% say Korean American parents put the right amount of pressure on their children; and 5% say they do not put enough pressure on children.

- Korean Americans stand out for their negative views on their group's relations with blacks. Fully half say these two groups don't get along well; while 39% say they get along pretty well and just 4% say they get along very well.

Japanese Americans

History

Japanese immigrants first came to Hawaii in the 19th century and became plantation workers; they did not come in large numbers to the United States until the 1890s. After the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Japanese immigrants were sought by industrialists to replace Chinese immigrants who were barred from entry. In 1890, only about 2,000 Japanese lived on the U.S. mainland, but by 1910, the Japanese-American population of more than 72,000 exceeded the number of Chinese Americans.

In contrast to its policy toward Chinese immigrants, the U.S. government allowed immigration of Japanese women (as spouses) into the U.S., because of the "Gentlemen's Agreement" between President Theodore Roosevelt and the Japanese government in 1907. This allowed many Japanese Americans to start families and establish stable communities.

Characteristics of U.S. Japanese Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asians	U.S. Japanese
Foreign born	15.8	74.1	31.8
Citizen	91.4	69.6	78.6
Median age *(in years)*	45	41	47
Married	51.4	59.0	52.7
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	7.1	6.8	6.0
Of these, % unmarried	37.1	14.6	20.3
College educated (ages 25+)	28.2	49.0	46.1
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$40,000	$48,000	$54,000
Household annual income			
Median	$49,800	$66,000	$65,390
Average household size *(persons)*	2.6	3.1	2.4
Homeownership rate	65.4	58.1	63.8
In poverty	12.8	11.9	8.3
Language			
Speaks English very well	90.4	63.5	81.8
Speaks English less than very well	9.6	36.5	18.2
Region of residence			
Northeast	18.3	20.1	8.6
Midwest	21.6	11.3	8.0
South	37.0	21.5	12.2
West	23.0	47.1	71.1

Note: Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home. U.S. Asians and U.S. Japanese include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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After Japan's attack of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 that triggered the U.S. declaration of war against Japan and entry into World War II, the FBI arrested thousands of Japanese Americans who were considered potential security threats. An estimated 120,000 Japanese Americans were relocated and placed in internment camps by the U.S. government. In many cases, interned Japanese-American families lost their land.

Japanese Americans were the largest Asian-American group from 1910 to 1960. Unlike other Asian immigrant groups during those years, much of the population lived in family groups so grew through births. Relatively few Japanese entered the U.S. after the major overhaul of immigration laws in 1965, in part because there were fewer factors (such as lack of jobs in their home country) to push them out.

In 2010, an estimated 900,000 adult Japanese Americans were in the U.S., according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey. Japanese Americans are the sixth-largest Asian-American group and represent about 7% of the adult Asian population in the U.S.

Characteristics (2010 ACS)

- *Nativity and citizenship*. Nearly a third (32%) of adult Japanese Americans in the United States are foreign born, compared with 74% of adult Asian Americans and 16% of the adult U.S. population overall. A majority of Japanese adults are U.S. citizens (79%), higher than the share among overall adult Asian population (70%) and lower than the national share (91%).

- *Language*. A substantial majority of Japanese Americans (82%) speak English proficiently,[43] compared with 63% of all Asian Americans and 90% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Age*. The median age of adult Japanese Americans is 47, higher than for all adult Asian Americans (41) and the national median (45).

- *Marital status*. Slightly more than half of adult Japanese Americans (53%) are married, a share lower than for all Asian Americans (59%) but slightly higher than for the nation (51%).

[43] Adults ages 18 and older who report speaking only English at home or speaking English very well.

- *Fertility*. The share of Japanese-American women ages 18 to 44 who gave birth in the 12 months prior to the American Community Survey was 6.0%; this is lower than the comparable share among Asian-American women overall (6.8%) and the national share (7.1%). About 20% of Japanese-American women who gave birth in the previous 12 months were unmarried, a higher share than for all comparable Asian-American women (15%) but lower than the national share (37%).

- *Educational attainment*. Among Japanese Americans ages 25 and older, more than four-in-ten (46%) have obtained at least a bachelor's degree. This is slightly lower than the Asian-American share (49%) and significantly higher than the national share (28%).

- *Income*. Median annual personal earnings for Japanese-American full-time, year-round workers are $54,000, higher than for all Asian Americans ($48,000) and for all U.S. adults ($40,000). Among households, the median annual income for Japanese Americans is $65,390, slightly lower than for all Asian-American households ($66,000) but higher than for all U.S. households ($49,800).

- *Homeownership*. More than six-in-ten Japanese Americans (64%) own a home, compared with 58% of all Asian Americans and 65% of the U.S. population overall.

- *Poverty status*. The share of adult Japanese Americans who live in poverty is 8%, lower than the rate for Asian Americans in general (12%) as well as the national rate (13%).

- *Regional dispersion*. Japanese Americans are highly concentrated in the Western states. More than seven-in-ten (71%) adult Japanese Americans live in the West, compared with 47% of Asian Americans and 23% of the U.S. population overall.

Attitudes

Here are a few key findings from the 2012 Asian-American survey about Japanese Americans compared with other major U.S. Asian groups:

- Compared with other U.S. Asian groups, Japanese Americans are among the most comfortable with intergroup marriage: 71% of Japanese Americans say they would be "very comfortable" if their child married someone from another country of origin group, and 67% would be "very comfortable" if their child married a non-Asian. In addition, among Asian newlyweds, Japanese Americans have the highest rate of intermarriage.

- Japanese Americans are more accepting of homosexuality than U.S. Asians from most other groups; 68% of Japanese Americans say homosexuality should be accepted by society; 22% say it should be discouraged. They also are among the most supportive of legal abortion: 68% of Japanese Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases; 20% say it should be illegal in all or most cases.

- Across U.S. Asian groups, Japanese Americans are among the most likely to say parents from their own country of origin put about the right amount of pressure on their children to do well in school. Six-in-ten (60%) Japanese Americans say parents from their group take the right approach with their children, 25% say they put too much pressure and 7% say they do not put enough pressure on children to do well in school.

Other Asian Americans

Asian Americans are a diverse group, and they differ in language, culture, and length of residence in the U.S. In addition to the six major Asian groups (each with overall population more than 1 million), there are numerous other smaller Asian groups. Together, they represent 1.9 million adults.

Looking at the total population, including children, the 2010 Census counted seven additional Asian groups that each include more than 100,000 people. They are Bangladeshis, Burmese, Cambodians, Hmong, Laotians, Pakistanis and Thais. (Another group, Indonesians, numbered 95,000 in the 2010 Census.)

Characteristics of Other Asian American Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Total	U.S. Asians	U.S. Other Asians
Foreign born	15.8	74.1	70.8
Citizen	91.4	69.6	68.5
Median age *(in years)*	45	41	37
Married	51.4	59.0	53.9
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	7.1	6.8	7.9
Of these, % unmarried	37.1	14.6	23.2
College educated (ages 25+)	28.2	49.0	36.8
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$40,000	$48,000	$36,600
Household annual income			
Median	$49,800	$66,000	$50,400
Average household size *(persons)*	2.6	3.1	3.5
Homeownership rate	65.4	58.1	50.0
In poverty	12.8	11.9	16.6
Language			
Speaks English very well	90.4	63.5	64.0
Speaks English less than very well	9.6	36.5	36.0
Region of residence			
Northeast	18.3	20.1	19.4
Midwest	21.6	11.3	15.4
South	37.0	21.5	26.3
West	23.0	47.1	38.9

Note: Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home. U.S. Asians and U.S. Other Asians include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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Although variation exists among these subgroups, as a combined population other Asians are somewhat younger and less well off than other Asian Americans. The share in poverty—nearly 17%—is markedly higher than for all Asians.

Their median age is 37, compared with 41 for all Asian Americans. Their personal earnings, median household income and homeownership rate are lower than for all Asian Americans;

their likelihood of poverty and unemployment is higher. However, their citizenship and English proficiency rates are similar.

Additional Tables

I. Trend for Overall and Foreign-born Asian Population, 1980-2010

Asian-American Population by Major Group, 1980-2010

Numbers in thousands (unless otherwise noted)

	1980		1990		2000		2010		% increase	
		%		%		%		%	1980-2010	2000-2010
U.S. population	226,862	100	248,108	100	281,422	100	309,350	100	36	10
U.S. Asians	3,602	1.6	6,860	2.8	11,876	4.2	17,246	5.6	379	45
U.S. Asian groups										
Chinese	814	23	1,648	24	2,437	21	3,460	20	325	42
Filipino	802	22	1,417	21	1,870	16	2,515	15	214	35
Indian	396	11	781	11	1,645	14	2,779	16	602	69
Vietnamese	253	7	587	9	1,108	9	1,636	9	546	48
Korean	363	10	796	12	1,076	9	1,438	8	296	34
Japanese	720	20	868	13	794	7	784	5	9	-1
Other Asian	254	7	763	11	1,049	9	1,757	10	592	68
Mixed-group Asian	---	---	---	---	213	2	354	2	---	66
Mixed-race Asian	---	---	---	---	1,684	14	2,522	15	---	50
		100		100		100		100		

Notes: Based on total population, including adults and children. Data for total "U.S. Asians" in 2000 and 2010 include mixed-group and mixed-race counts not available for earlier years. In 1980, the total "U.S. Asians" and "other Asian" category include a small fraction of Pacific Islanders. The six major Asian subgroups and the "other Asian" category consist of single-race, single-group Asians. "Mixed-group Asian" consists of single-race Asians from two or more Asian subgroups; "mixed-race Asian" consists of all Asians who report at least one other race, some of whom may belong to more than one Asian subgroup. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. The 2010 population totals are from the ACS (see source) and differ slightly from 2010 Census totals used elsewhere in the report.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of decennial censuses and 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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Foreign-born Asian-American Population, by Major Group, 1980-2010

Numbers in thousands (unless otherwise noted)

	1980		1990		2000		2010		% increase	
	Foreign born	% foreign born	Foreign born	% foreign born	Foreign born	% foreign born	Foreign born	% foreign born	1980-2010	2000-2010
U.S. population	14,079	6	19,682	8	31,133	11	39,917	13	184	28
U.S. Asians	2,209	61	4,506	66	7,460	63	10,219	59	363	37
U.S. Asian groups										
Chinese	517	64	1,141	69	1,734	71	2,389	69	362	38
Filipino	514	64	914	65	1,267	68	1,652	66	221	30
Indian	280	71	591	76	1,239	75	1,979	71	608	60
Vietnamese	228	90	471	80	846	76	1,115	68	389	32
Korean	297	82	576	72	840	78	1,073	75	261	28
Japanese	206	29	282	32	314	40	298	38	45	-5
Other Asian	167	67	531	70	701	67	1,140	65	580	63
Mixed-group Asian	---	---	---	---	101	47	140	40	---	39
Mixed-race Asian	---	---	---	---	419	25	432	17	---	3

Notes: Based on total foreign-born population, including adults and children. Data for total foreign-born "U.S. Asians" in 2000 and 2010 include mixed-group and mixed-race counts not available for earlier years. In 1980, the total foreign-born "U.S. Asians" and "other Asian" category include a small fraction of Pacific Islanders. The six major Asian subgroups and the "other Asian" category consist of single-race, single-group Asians. "Mixed-group Asian" consists of single-race Asians from two or more Asian subgroups; "mixed-race Asian" consists of all Asians who report at least one other race, some of whom may belong to more than one Asian subgroup. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of decennial censuses and 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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II. Education Characteristics of Recent Immigrants

College Education of Recent Immigrants Ages 18 and Older, by Race and Ethnicity, 2010

%

	----In school----		--Not in school--		----------College or more----------		
	In college	In graduate school	College degree	Grad degree	In college or college degree	In grad school or grad degree	**Total**
All recent immigrants	10.1	6.1	16.4	10.1	26.5	16.2	**42.7**
Recent non-Asian immigrants	8.0	3.4	11.8	7.6	19.8	11.0	**30.8**
All recent immigrants by race							
Asian	13.9	11.3	25.0	14.7	38.9	26.1	**65.0**
Hispanic	3.9	1.1	7.2	3.6	11.1	4.7	**15.8**
White	11.8	7.6	21.3	17.8	33.1	25.3	**58.4**
Black	18.0	3.9	12.2	4.3	30.2	8.1	**38.3**
Recent Asian immigrants by group							
Chinese	21.1	18.7	14.3	12.5	35.3	31.2	**66.5**
Filipino	5.8	1.8	41.8	5.7	47.6	7.5	**55.1**
Indian	4.4	12.8	34.4	29.6	38.7	42.4	**81.1**
Vietnamese	22.4	2.0	8.0	2.3	30.4	4.3	**34.7**
Korean	23.8	15.3	26.9	11.7	50.7	26.9	**77.6**
Japanese	16.1	5.5	33.1	17.6	49.2	23.1	**72.3**
Other Asian	12.9	7.7	21.4	7.4	34.3	15.1	**49.4**

Note: "Recent immigrants" refers to those who came to live in the U.S. in the three years prior to the survey date (since 2007). "Asian" includes mixed-race and mixed-group Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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International Students in the U.S., by Top Places of Origin, 2011

China	157,558
India	103,895
South Korea	73,351
Canada	27,546
Taiwan	24,818
Saudi Arabia	22,704
Japan	21,290
Vietnam	14,888
Mexico	13,713
Turkey	12,184
Other	*251,330*
Total	**723,277**

Note: Based on students at U.S. colleges and universities that grant associate degrees or higher.

Source: Institute of International Education, Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange

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Share of Recent Asian Immigrants Ages 25-64 with at Least a College Degree, by Major Group, 1980-2010

Numbers in thousands (unless otherwise noted)

	1980		1990		2000		2010	
	All	% with college degree+	All	% with college degree+	All	% with college degree+	All	% with college degree+
Recent immigrants	1,532	24.8	1,473	29.7	2,454	34.5	2,293	40.1
Recent non-Asian immigrants	1,002	19.6	975	22.3	1,787	25.3	1,469	29.7
Recent Asian immigrants	530	34.6	498	44.2	668	59.3	825	60.8
Major Asian immigrant groups								
Chinese	106	33.9	144	44.2	157	58.8	185	56.1
Filipino	101	45.4	82	48.1	61	52.8	97	57.8
Indian	74	52.4	66	56.3	181	76.6	229	81.0
Vietnamese	84	11.4	34	7.9	41	12.0	57	16.7
Korean	76	29.5	68	39.9	79	59.3	71	69.5
Japanese	43	49.1	59	60.6	61	63.6	43	67.6
Other Asian	46	20.8	45	31.8	49	51.2	101	47.0

Note: Except for 1980, "recent immigrants" refers to those who came to live in the U.S. in the three years prior to the survey date. In 1980, the reference period was from 1975 to 1980. Data for total "recent Asian immigrants" in 2000 and 2010 include mixed-group and mixed-race counts (not shown separately) not available for earlier years. In 1980, the total "recent Asian immigrants" and "other Asian" category may include a small fraction of Pacific Islanders. The six major Asian immigrant subgroups and the "other Asian" category consist of single-race, single-group Asians.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of decennial censuses and 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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III. Native- vs. Foreign-born Asian Americans

Characteristics of Native- and Foreign-born Asian-American Adults, 2010

% (unless otherwise noted)

	U.S. Asians	Native born	Foreign born
Share of Asian population	100	25.9	74.1
Citizen	69.6	100.0	58.9
Median age *(in years)*	41	30	44
Married	59.0	34.9	67.4
Fertility (women ages 18-44)			
Had a birth in the past 12 months	6.8	4.8	7.7
Of these, % unmarried	14.6	31.1	9.6
College educated (ages 25+)	49.0	49.4	48.9
Median annual personal earnings			
Full-time, year-round workers	$48,000	$50,000	$47,000
Household annual income			
Median	$66,000	$67,400	$65,200
Average household size *(persons)*	3.1	2.6	3.2
Homeownership rate	58.1	57.4	58.3
In poverty	11.9	11.1	12.2
Language			
Speaks English very well	63.5	94.7	52.5
Speaks English less than very well	36.5	5.3	47.5
Region of residence			
Northeast	20.1	13.9	22.3
Midwest	11.3	10.0	11.8
South	21.5	17.3	23.0
West	47.1	58.9	42.9

Note: Asians include mixed-race Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. Unmarried women include those who are divorced, separated, widowed or never married. "Speaks English very well" includes those who speak only English at home.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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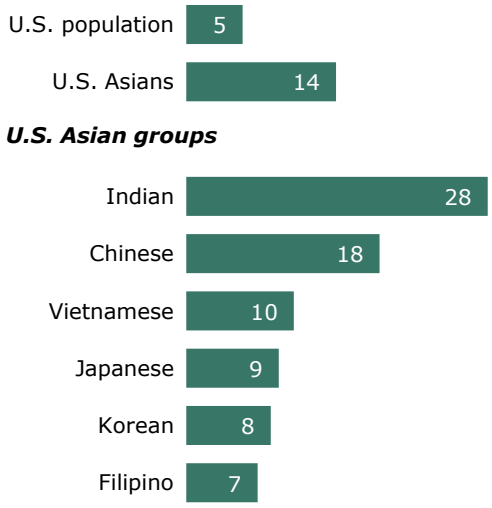
IV. Employment and Family Structure

Asians in Science and Engineering Fields, Adults, 2010

% employed in science and engineering fields



Notes: Based on currently employed civilians. All Asians (and each subgroup) include mixed-race and mixed-group population, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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Children's Living Arrangements, 2010

% of children living with two married parents

Note: Children are younger than 18. All Asians (and each subgroup) include mixed-race and mixed-group population, regardless of Hispanic origin.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files

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CHAPTER 2: LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES

Most Asian Americans feel good about their lives in the U.S. They see themselves as having achieved economic prosperity on the strength of hard work, a character trait they say is much more prevalent among Asian Americans than among the rest of the U.S. population. Most say they are better off than their parents were at a comparable age. And among the foreign born, very few say that if they had to do it all over again, they would stay in their home country rather than emigrate to the U.S.

As is customary for an immigrant group, their sense of identity in their new country is evolving. Roughly three-in-four adult Asian Americans were born outside of the U.S.; among this group, 60% say they see themselves as "very different" from the typical American. However, among Asian Americans who were born in the U.S., the pattern reverses: Roughly two-thirds (65%) say they consider themselves to be typical Americans.

Meanwhile, the "Asian American" label has not been embraced by any group of U.S. Asians, be they native born or foreign born. Most describe themselves by their country of origin, such as "Chinese American," "Filipino American" or "Indian American," rather than by a pan-Asian label. Overall, just one-in-five (19%) say they most often describe themselves as Asian or Asian American and even fewer (14%) say they describe themselves as just plain American.

This section examines how satisfied Asian Americans are with their lives—both personal and financial—and the extent to which they value hard work. It also looks at the topics of identity, language and assimilation. And it explores similarities and differences on these measures among the six major U.S. Asian groups.

Upward Mobility, Widespread Satisfaction

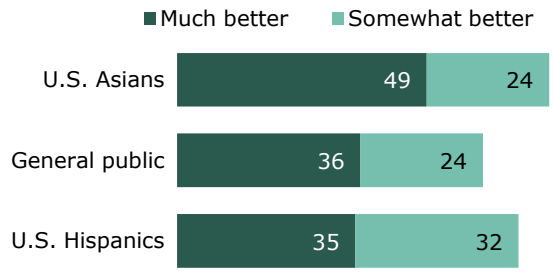
More than eight-in-ten Asian Americans (82%) say they are satisfied with the way things are going in their lives; only 13% are dissatisfied. When compared with the general public, Asian Americans are slightly more satisfied with their lives. In a July 2011 Pew Research survey, 75% of all American adults said they were satisfied with the way things were going in their lives.

There is little variance in this measure across gender, age and education attainment. And Asian Americans from the six major country of origin groups express roughly equal levels of satisfaction.

This high level of satisfaction may be tied in part to a shared experience of upward mobility. Nearly three-quarters of Asian Americans (73%) say they enjoy a better standard of living than their parents did at a comparable age. An additional 15% say their standard of living is about the same as that of their parents. Only one-in-ten say their standard of living is worse than their parents' standard of living had been at a comparable age.

Asian Americans and Upward Mobility

% saying their standard of living is ... than their parents' was at a comparable age



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q10. General public results from December 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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Moreover, about half of Asian Americans (49%) say their current standard of living is "much better" than their parents' was at a comparable age. In this regard, Asian Americans are much more upbeat than the general public or Hispanics. In a 2011 Pew Research Center survey, only 36% of all American adults said their standard of living was much better than their parents' standard of living had been at a comparable age. According to a 2011 Pew Hispanic Center survey, among Hispanics—the other major group of recent immigrants—a similar share (35%) said their standard of living was much better than their parents' had been.

Asian immigrants are somewhat more likely than U.S.-born Asians to say their standard of living exceeds that of their parents. Among all foreign-born Asian Americans, 52% say their standard of living is much better than their parents' had been. This compares with 42% of U.S.-born Asians. There is no significant difference between the most recent immigrants and those who arrived in the U.S. before 2000. Among Japanese Americans, the pattern is different: Japanese immigrants are less likely than those born in the U.S. to say their standard of living is much better than their parents' had been at their age.

Education is not strongly linked to assessments of upward mobility. Asian Americans who are college graduates and those with less education are equally likely to say their current standard of living is much better than their parents' standard of living had been at a comparable age.

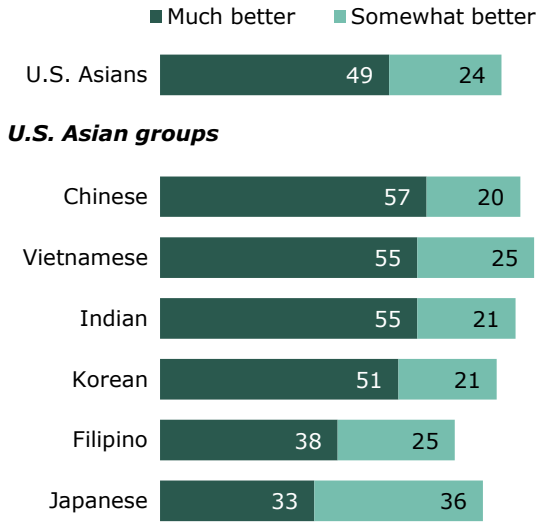
There is some variance in this measure across U.S. Asian groups. About half or more Americans of Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian and Korean origins say they enjoy a much better standard of living than their parents did at a comparable age. Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans are somewhat less likely to say that.

Respondents were also asked to predict how their children's future standard of living will compare with their own. Overall, roughly half of all Asian Americans (53%) believe that when their children reach the age they are now, they will enjoy a better standard of living (31% say much better, 22% somewhat better). About one-in-five (19%) expect their children's standard of living will be about the same as theirs is now. And the same share believes their children's standard of living will be worse than theirs is now.

While Asian Americans are more likely than Hispanics to say their own standard of living exceeds that of their parents at a comparable age, Hispanics are more upbeat than Asian Americans about their children's future well-being. Fully two-thirds of Hispanics (66%) believe their children will enjoy a better standard of living when they reach their parents' age. Four-in-ten expect their children's standard of living will be much better, and 26% believe it will be somewhat better. The general public is more in sync with Asian Americans on this measure—according to a December 2011 Pew Research survey, some 28% believe their children's standard of living will be much better than theirs is.

Upward Mobility across U.S. Asian Groups

% saying their standard of living is ... than their parents' was at a comparable age



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q10.

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Asians, Hispanics and Children's Upward Mobility

% saying their children's standard of living will be "much better" than their parents' was when they reach a comparable age

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q11. General public results from December 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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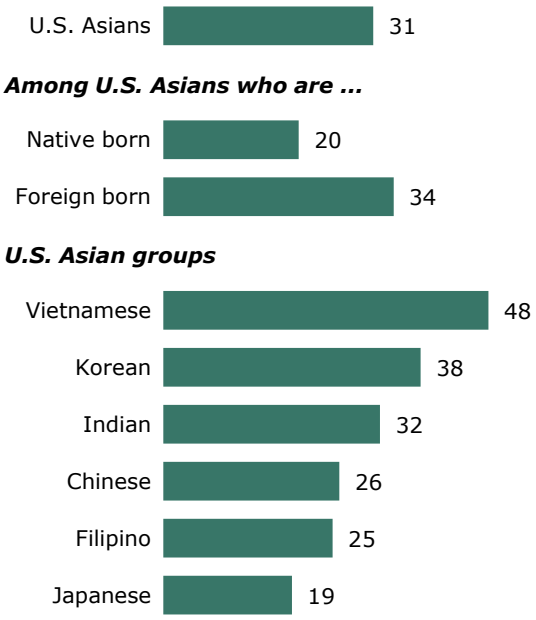
On average, Hispanics have lower household incomes and lower educational attainment than do Asian Americans. In addition, their ratings of their current standard of living compared with their parents' standard of living at a similar age are lower than those of Asians. When it comes to the future, however, expectations tend to have an inverse relationship to socio-economic status—meaning that those at the lower end of the income and educational ladder have higher expectations for their children's futures relative to their own current circumstances.

Among Asian Americans, immigrants are somewhat more likely than those who were born in the U.S. to say their children will enjoy a much better standard of living than their parents currently do (34% vs. 20%).

In addition, there is some variance on this measure across socio-economic groups. Asian Americans without a college degree are somewhat more likely than those who have graduated from college to say they expect their children to have a much higher standard of living than they currently do (37% vs. 26%). In addition, Asian Americans with annual household incomes of less than $30,000 are more likely than middle-income and upper-income Asians to say their children will have a much higher standard of living (42% of those making less than $30,000 a year vs. 29% of those making between $30,000 and $74,999 and 24% of those making $75,000 or more).

U.S. Asians, Children and Upward Mobility

% saying their children's standard of living will be "much better" than theirs when they reach a comparable age



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q11.

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Among the U.S. Asian groups, Vietnamese Americans are the most upbeat about their children's futures. Fully 48% believe their children's standard of living will be much better than theirs is when their children reach a comparable age. Vietnamese Americans' attitudes about their children's futures may be tied in part to their own socio-economic standing. Of the six major Asian-Americans groups, Vietnamese are the least likely to have a college degree, and, aside from Korean Americans, they have the lowest median annual household income.

Americans of Japanese, Filipino and Chinese origins are among the least likely to say their children will enjoy a much better standard of living (19%, 25% and 26%, respectively). Among Korean Americans, 38% believe their children will be better off; among Indian Americans, 32% say the same.

Asian Americans Prospering in the U.S.

Even in these tough economic times, Asian Americans are relatively satisfied with their own personal financial situations. When asked whether they are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially, about half of all Asian Americans say they are in excellent (12%) or good (40%) shape. Slightly less than half say they are in only fair (36%) or poor (11%) shape.

Overall, Asian Americans have a much more positive outlook on their personal finances than the general public or Hispanics. Only 35% of all American adults say they are in excellent or good shape financially, and an even smaller share of Hispanics (24%) say the same.

Asian Americans and Financial Prosperity

% rating their personal financial situation as ...

	U.S. Asians	General Public	U.S. Hispanics
	%	%	%
Excellent	12	6	5
Good	40	29	19
Only fair	36	42	51
Poor	11	22	25

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q87. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown. General public results from January 2012 survey by Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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Asian Americans' upbeat assessment of their personal finances is most likely linked to their overall affluence. As a group, Asian Americans have a significantly higher median annual income than all American adults. According to data from the Census Bureau's 2010 American Community Survey (ACS), the median household income for all Asian Americans in 2010 was $68,000. This compares with $50,000 for all adults, regardless of race or ethnicity. In addition, Asian Americans have a lower unemployment rate than members of the general public.

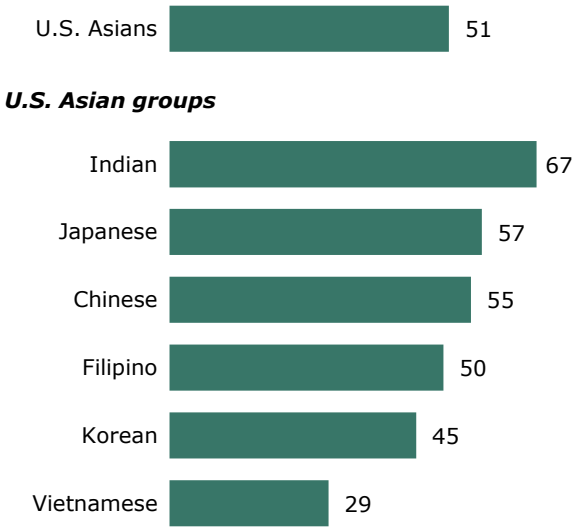
Among Asian Americans, those who were born in the U.S. are only slightly more likely than those born outside of the U.S. to describe their personal financial situation as excellent or good (56% vs. 50%). This is a sharp contrast to the pattern seen among Hispanics. According to a

2011 Pew Hispanic Center survey, U.S.-born Hispanics are nearly twice as likely as the foreign born to say their finances are in excellent or good shape (33% vs. 17%). Among foreign-born Hispanics, fully 83% describe their personal financial situation as only fair or poor.[44]

Personal financial ratings vary widely across U.S. Asian groups. Indian Americans are the most likely to describe their personal financial situation as excellent or good (67%). Indian Americans also have the highest median income of the six largest U.S. Asian groups. Among Japanese Americans and Chinese Americans, more than half say their finances are in excellent or good shape (57% of Japanese and 55% of Chinese). Korean Americans are somewhat less likely to rate their finances as excellent or good (45%). Half of Filipino Americans rate their finances as excellent or good. Vietnamese Americans are the least likely to do so (29%).

Personal Finances across U.S. Asian Groups

% rating their personal financial situation as "excellent" or "good"



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q87.

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Who's Hardworking?

In general Americans tend to value hard work and believe that it can lead to success. Asian Americans are no exception. In fact, they appear to be even bigger proponents of hard work when compared with all American adults. The survey asked respondents which of the following two statements came closer to their view: Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard, or hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people. Roughly two-thirds of Asian Americans (69%) chose the first statement (most people can get ahead if they're willing to work hard), while 27% chose the second statement (hard work is no guarantee of success).

The general public also leans toward the first statement, but by a somewhat less decisive margin. Among all American adults, 58% agree that most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard, while 40% say hard work is no guarantee of success. For

[44] Throughout this section, Puerto Ricans are classified as foreign-born Hispanics.

their part, Hispanics come closer to Asian Americans in this regard. Three-in-four Hispanics say most people can get ahead with hard work; 21% say hard work doesn't guarantee success.

While solid majorities of each of the U.S. Asian groups agree that hard work pays off, there is some variation across groups. Vietnamese Americans are the most likely to agree that most people can get ahead if they work hard (83%). Americans of Japanese, Chinese and Korean origins are somewhat less likely to agree.

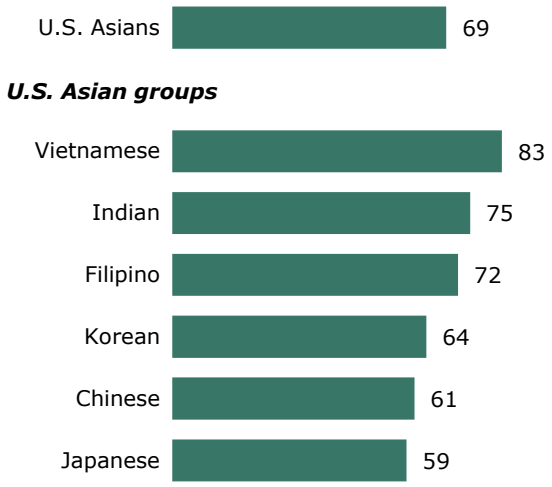
Overall, there is no significant gap in views on hard work between native-born and foreign-born Asian Americans. However, Japanese Americans born in the U.S. are much more likely than those born overseas to say hard work pays off.

Perhaps more interesting than Asian Americans' views on the value of hard work are their views about *who* is hardworking. Asian-American survey respondents were asked whether Americans in general are very hardworking and whether people from their own country of origin are very hardworking. To avoid having respondents make a direct comparison between Americans in general and their own native or ancestral group, one question was asked near the beginning of the survey, and the other question was asked near the end of the survey.

On balance, most Asian Americans see Americans in general as hardworking. Thinking about the country as a whole, some 57% say they would describe Americans as very hardworking; 35% say they would not describe Americans this way.

Most Say Hard Work Pays Off

% saying "Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard"



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q12b. Responses of "Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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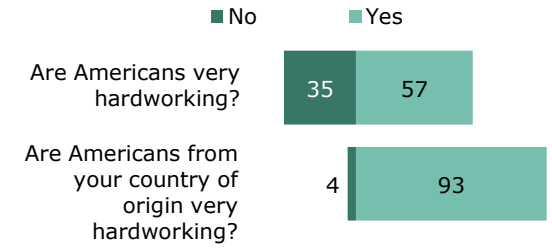
The Work Ethic Gap

% of all Asian Americans



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q21, 70. Respondents were asked about their own country of origin group (such as Chinese Americans or Korean Americans). Those who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "Asian Americans." Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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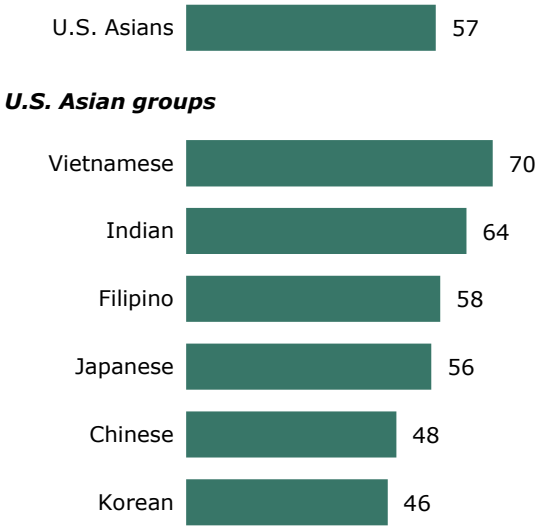
However, Asian Americans' views about their own group's work ethic are dramatically different. Respondents were asked whether they would describe their own ethnic group or country of origin group as very hardworking. For example, Chinese Americans were asked how they would describe Chinese Americans, and Filipino Americans were asked how they would describe Filipino Americans.[45] Overall, 93% of Asian Americans said they would describe their own group as very hardworking. Only 4% said they would not describe their own group this way.

Findings on this measure are very consistent across the U.S. Asian groups. Majorities of roughly 90% or more of the six major Asian groups say their individual group is very hardworking (97% of Vietnamese say this).

There is more variance in views about how hardworking most Americans are. Korean Americans and Chinese Americans are the least likely to say that Americans in general are very hardworking (46% of Koreans and 48% of Chinese). Vietnamese Americans and Indian Americans are among the most likely to say Americans in general are very hardworking (70% of Vietnamese and 64% of Indians).

How Asian Americans View the Work Ethic of All Americans

% saying, thinking about the country as a whole, Americans are very hardworking



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q21.

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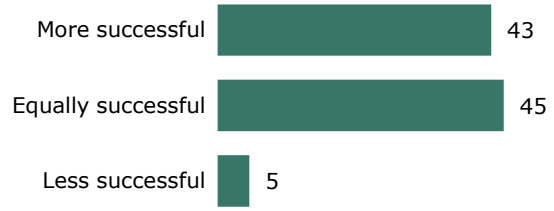
[45] Respondents who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "Asian Americans."

Are Asian Americans a "Model Minority"?

As a group, Asian Americans have sometimes been described as a "model minority." The term, first used by sociologist William Petersen in a 1966 New York Times Magazine article to describe Japanese Americans, implies that Asian Americans have been more successful than other racial or ethnic minority groups in the U.S.[46] This perception is based in part on demographic indicators such as educational attainment and income, and in part on perceptions about Asians' values and work ethic.

How Do Asians Compare with Other U.S. Minority Groups?

% saying, compared with other racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S., Asian Americans have been ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q47. Responses of "Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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However, there is no clear consensus among Asian Americans regarding how they measure up to other minority groups. Some 45% say that Asian Americans, when compared with other racial and ethnic minority groups, have been about equally successful. Roughly the same share (43%) say Asian Americans have been more successful than other minority groups. Very few (5%) say Asian Americans have been less successful.

Opinion about the relative success of Asian Americans varies somewhat by age. Among young Asian-American adults (ages 18 to 34), 51% say as a group Asian Americans have been about as successful as other minority groups, while 37% say they have been more successful. By contrast, those ages 35 and older are more evenly divided on the issue: 47% say Asian Americans have been more successful than other minority groups, while 42% say Asian Americans have been equally successful.

Asian Americans with a higher annual household income are somewhat more likely than others to say, on the whole, that Asian Americans have been more successful than other minority groups in the U.S. Among those with incomes of $75,000 or higher, 53% say Asian Americans have been more successful than other groups. This compares with 39% of those with annual incomes of less than $75,000.

[46] Petersen, William. "Success Story, Japanese-American Style." *New York Times Magazine*, Jan. 9, 1966.

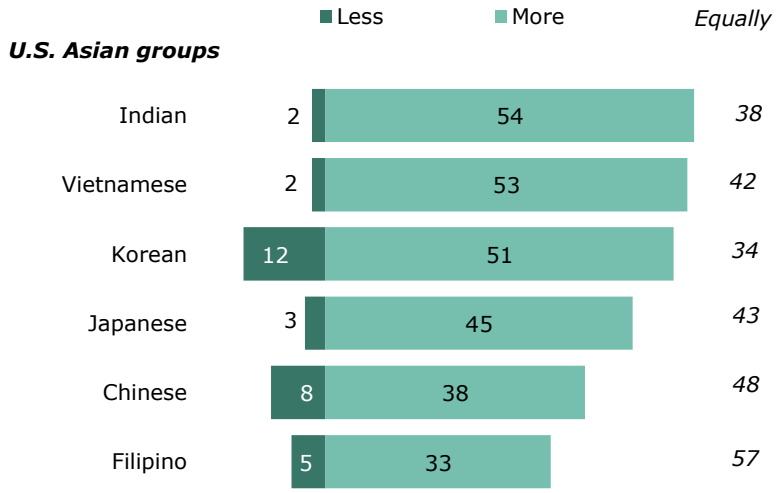
U.S.-born and foreign-born Asian Americans do not differ significantly in their views on this issue. Among the native born, 48% say Asian Americans have been about equally successful as other minority groups, while 40% say they have been more successful. Among Asian immigrants, 45% say Asian Americans have been equally successful, and 44% say they have been more successful.

However, when the foreign-born group is divided into those who arrived in the U.S. in the past 12 years and those who came to the U.S. before 2000, significant differences emerge. Newer immigrants to the U.S. tend to think Asian Americans are just as successful as other minority groups (51%) rather than more successful (36%). Immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before 2000 are more inclined to say Asian Americans have had greater success in the U.S. than other minority groups (48%), than they are to say Asian Americans have been equally successful (42%).

In addition, there are significant differences of opinion across U.S. Asian groups. Indian Americans and Vietnamese Americans are among the most likely to say Asian Americans have been more successful than other U.S. minority groups. Chinese Americans and Filipino Americans are among the least likely to express this view. Among Filipino Americans, 57% say Asian Americans have been about as successful as other minority groups (the highest share among the six U.S. Asian groups).

Views on Asian-American Success Differ across Groups

% saying, compared with other racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S., Asian Americans have been ... successful



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q47. Responses of "Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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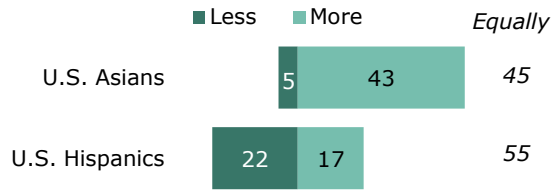
Korean Americans (12%) are more likely than other Asian Americans to say Asians have been less successful than other minority groups in the U.S. Japanese Americans are evenly divided over how successful Asian Americans have been: 45%

say they have been more successful than other minority groups, and a similar share (43%) say they have been about as successful as other minority groups.

The Asian-American immigrant experience has been different in many ways from the experience of Hispanic Americans. As the demographic data illustrate, Hispanics overall have struggled more than Asians economically, and they lag behind in terms of educational attainment. In addition, a larger share of Hispanic immigrants are in the U.S. illegally. When Hispanics themselves are asked to evaluate their success relative to other racial and minority groups in the U.S., they paint a much less positive picture than do Asian Americans.

Asian Americans More Positive than Hispanics about Their Success in U.S.

% of group saying, compared with other racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S., Asian Americans/ Hispanic Americans have been ... successful



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q47. Responses of "Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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In a 2011 Pew Hispanic Center survey of Hispanic Americans nationwide, a narrow majority (55%) said, compared with other U.S. minority groups, Hispanics have been about equally successful. However, only 17% said they have been more successful than other minority groups (compared with 43% of Asian Americans). And 22% of Hispanics said, as a group they have been less successful than other minorities (compared with only 5% of Asian Americans).

How Do Asian Americans Describe Themselves?

The U.S. Census Bureau defines "Asian" as "having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent."[47] This is a broad definition and encompasses groups with vastly different backgrounds—geographically, culturally and linguistically. Asian Americans are much more likely to identify themselves by their country of origin than by the broader label of Asian American.

Overall, 62% of Asian Americans say they most often describe themselves by using the country where they or their family originated (e.g., Chinese or Chinese American). One-in-five (19%)

[47] For a more detailed discussion of how the U.S. Census Bureau defines "Asian," see http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-11.pdf.

most often describe themselves as Asian or Asian American, and 14% most often describe themselves as American.[48]

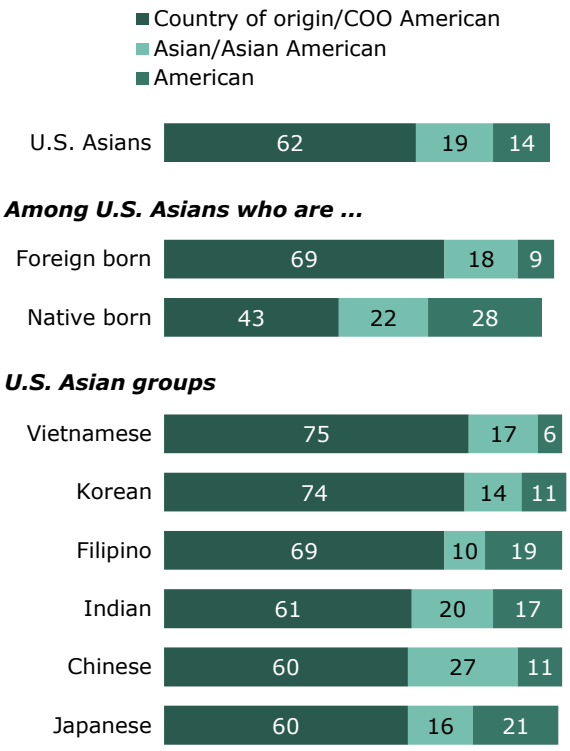
There is broad consistency across U.S. Asian groups on this measure. Majorities of each group say they describe themselves most often using their country of origin. Americans of Vietnamese, Korean and Filipino origins are more likely than other Asians to use their country of origin most often when describing themselves. Chinese Americans are slightly more likely than all other Asian Americans to say they describe themselves as Asian or Asian American (27% vs. 16% of all other Asian Americans).

The fact that so many Asian Americans identify with their home countries is not surprising, given that such a large share were born outside of the U.S. Among foreign-born Asian Americans, fully 69% say they describe themselves most often using a term that incorporates the country from which they emigrated, as in Korean American or Indian American.

Some 18% of foreign-born Asian Americans describe themselves using the Asian or Asian American label. Only 9% describe themselves most often as American. There is little difference in this regard between newer immigrants to the U.S. and those who arrived before 2000. Roughly seven-in-ten from each group say they most often describe themselves using the country from which they emigrated.

Most Asian Americans Describe Themselves Using Their Country of Origin

% saying they most often describe themselves as ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q42. Only respondents who identified a country of origin (COO) were asked this question; percentages shown here are based on total sample. Responses of "Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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The pattern is much different among American-born Asian Americans. Fewer than half (43%) describe themselves most often using

[48] Three percent of all Asian Americans surveyed were not asked this question because they did not identify a country of origin earlier in the survey. Percentages are based on the total sample.

their ancestral country of origin, 22% describe themselves as Asian or Asian American, and 28% describe themselves as American. The identity gap between foreign-born and native-born Asian Americans can be seen within specific groups as well. For example, among Filipino Americans, 77% of the foreign born most often identify themselves as Filipino American, while only 51% of the native born identify themselves that way. Similarly among Chinese Americans, 67% of the foreign born most often identify themselves as Chinese American, compared with 35% of those born in the U.S.[49]

Among the U.S. Asian groups, Japanese Americans (21%) and Filipino Americans (19%) are the most likely to describe themselves simply as American. Vietnamese Americans are among the least likely to describe themselves that way (6%). For the other major U.S. Asian groups, between 11% and 17% describe themselves most often as American.

When Hispanic Americans were asked a question with similar wording, they too tended to identify more with their country of origin than with the broader "Hispanic" label. In the 2011 Pew Hispanic Center survey, 51% of Hispanic Americans said they most often describe themselves using their country of origin (e.g. Mexican or Salvadoran).[50] Roughly a quarter (24%) said they describe themselves most often as Latino or Hispanic, and 21% said they describe themselves as American.

Typical American or Very Different?

Asian Americans were asked if they think of themselves as a typical American or very different from a typical American. On balance, they are more likely to see themselves as very different (53%) than as typical (39%).

Few Asians Use the Term "American" to Describe Themselves

% saying they describe themselves most often as "American" alone

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q42. Only respondents who identified a country of origin were asked this question; percentages shown here are based on total sample.

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[49] Subsample sizes did not allow for foreign born vs. native born comparisons for three of the six major U.S. Asian groups (Indian, Korean and Vietnamese).

[50] In the 2011 Pew Hispanic Center survey, the first response category for this question included only country of origin. For example, respondents who had identified their country of origin as Mexico were asked if they most often describe themselves as Mexican (not Mexican American). In addition, respondents who had not identified a country of origin were not skipped out of the question as they were in the Asian-American survey. Instead they were asked whether they described themselves most often as "the term used to describe people of your heritage" or "people from the country you came from."

Views on this question are fairly consistent across major demographic variables. Both Asian-American men and women are more likely to see themselves as very different from the typical American than they are to see themselves as typical Americans. Similarly, young and old Asian Americans see themselves as more different than typical.

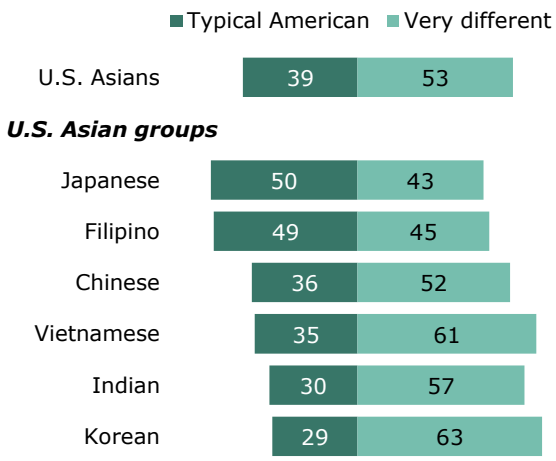
In addition, among Asian Americans who have a college degree and those who do not, about half say they see themselves as very different from the typical American, while about four-in-ten see themselves as a typical Americans. Opinion differs somewhat by income. Asian Americans with annual household incomes of less than $30,000 are more likely than middle- and high-income Asian Americans to say they see themselves as very different from the typical American (61%, compared with 50% of those with annual incomes of $30,000 or more).

Asian Americans who live in the West, the region with the highest concentration of Asians, are more likely than those living in other parts of the U.S. to think of themselves as typical Americans (44% vs. 34%). Still, 49% of Asian Americans living in the West say they are very different from typical Americans.

The extent to which Asian Americans feel like typical Americans varies across U.S. Asian groups. Japanese and Filipino Americans are more likely than Americans of Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian or Korean origins to say they think of themselves as typical Americans. About half of Japanese and Filipino Americans say they are typical Americans, compared with 36% or less of each of the other groups.

Are You a Typical American?

% saying they think of themselves as ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q24. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Whether an individual was born in the U.S. or outside of the U.S. is strongly linked to these attitudes. Native-born Asian Americans are much more likely than those who were born outside the U.S. to see themselves as typical Americans (65% vs. 30%).

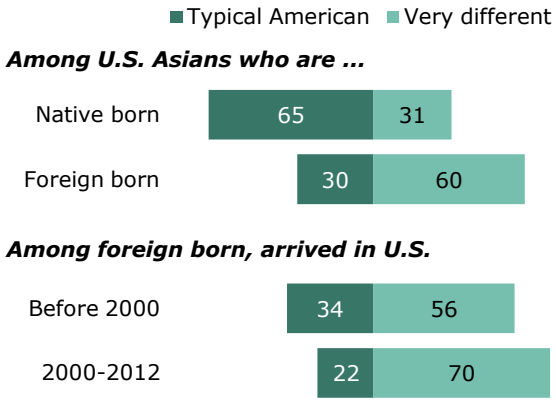
This pattern holds across U.S. Asian groups as well. Among Japanese Americans, 70% of those born in the U.S. say they think of themselves as typical Americans. This compares with only

20% of Japanese immigrants. Similarly, among Chinese Americans, 66% of the native born consider themselves typical Americans, compared with 26% of the foreign born.

The most recent immigrants are among the least likely to say they see themselves this way. Among those who came to the U.S. between 2000 and 2012, only 22% say they see themselves as typical Americans (70% say they are very different from typical Americans). Among those who immigrated to the U.S. before 2000, 34% see themselves as typical Americans (56% very different).

Views on Identity Differ by Nativity

% saying they think of themselves as ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q24. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Some of the group differences on this measure are most likely related to nativity. Indian Americans are among the least likely to see themselves as typical Americans, and they are among the most likely to be recent immigrants to the U.S. Fully one-third of the Indian Americans surveyed arrived in the U.S. within the past 12 years; only 11% were born in the U.S. At the other extreme, Japanese Americans are among the most likely to see themselves as typical Americans, and they are by far the most likely to have been born in the U.S. Roughly six-in-ten Japanese Americans surveyed were born in America; only 6% arrived in the U.S. in 2000 or later.

Overall, Asian Americans are somewhat less likely than Hispanics to see themselves as typical Americans (39% vs. 47%). However, this is likely due to the fact that more Asian Americans than Hispanics were born outside the U.S. After controlling for nativity, the responses of Asian Americans and Hispanics are quite similar. Among Hispanics who were born in the U.S., 66% see themselves as typical Americans. An almost identical share of U.S.-born Asian Americans (65%) say the same. Among Hispanics who were born outside of the U.S., only three-in-ten (31%) see themselves as typical Americans; 30% of foreign-born Asian Americans say the same.

The Importance of Language

For most immigrants, an important part of assimilating to the U.S. is learning to speak English. Many immigrants must balance the need to adapt to the language and culture of the

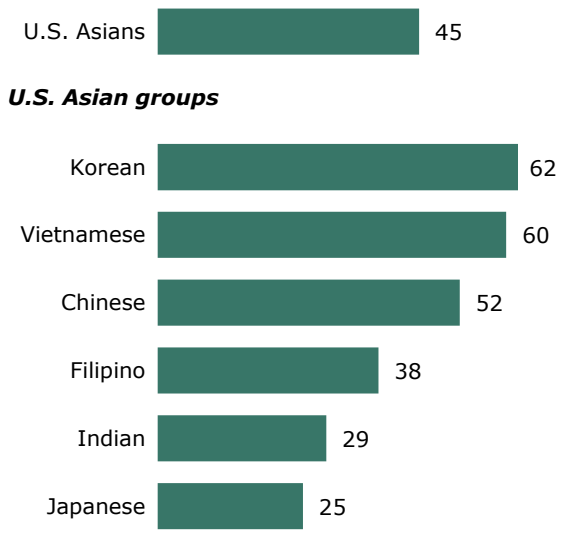
U.S. with their desire to maintain ties to their native country. A strong majority of Asian Americans (80%) say it is at least somewhat important to them that future generations of Asians living in the U.S. be able to speak their native or ancestral language. However, less than half (45%) say this is "very important," and there is quite a bit of variation across U.S. Asian groups. In addition, relatively few U.S.-born Asian Americans are proficient in their ancestral language. Only 14% say they can carry on a conversation in that language very well.

In thinking about the importance of language preservation, respondents were asked specifically about future generations of Asians from their own country of origin. For example, Chinese Americans were asked how important it is to them that future generations of Chinese living in the U.S. be able to speak Chinese.[51] The survey finds that maintaining ties to their native language is more important to Americans of Korean, Vietnamese and Chinese origins than it is to those of Filipino, Indian and Japanese origins.

Among Korean Americans, 62% say that it is very important to them that future generations of Koreans living in the U.S. speak Korean. Roughly the same proportion of Vietnamese Americans (60%) say it is very important to them that future generations speak Vietnamese. And 52% of Chinese Americans say it is very important that future generations speak Chinese.

The Importance of Native Languages

% saying it is very important to them that future generations speak their native language



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q67.

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The three remaining groups place less value on maintaining ties to their native language. Among Filipino Americans, only 38% say it is very important that future generations of Filipinos speak Tagalog or another Filipino language. While the Philippines became a sovereign country in 1946, U.S. control over the islands from 1898 to 1946 greatly influenced

[51] Filipinos were asked about "Tagalog or another Filipino language." Indians were asked about "Hindi or another Indian language." Respondents who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "the native language of the country you, your parents or ancestors came from."

the way that language developed. Many Filipino Americans spoke English long before they came to the U.S. As a result, they may be less wedded to a native Filipino language.

Only three-in-ten Indian Americans (29%) say it is very important to them that future generation of Indians living in this country speak Hindi or another Indian language. There is a great diversity of languages spoken in India. Hindi is the principal official language, and English is a secondary official language. The Constitution of India recognizes more than 20 major languages. In addition, there are hundreds of dialects. Given this diversity of language, many Indians who immigrate to the U.S. may see limited utility in maintaining ties to a language that is not widely spoken in this country.

Among all U.S.-born Asian Americans, only 32% say it is very important to them that future generations speak their native tongue. By contrast, among foreign-born Asian Americans, 49% say this is very important to them. Japanese Americans are among the least likely to place a high level of importance on keeping the Japanese language alive in the U.S. Only one-in-four say it is very important to them that future generations of Japanese living in the U.S. be able to speak Japanese. This may be related in part to the fact that relatively few Japanese Americans were born outside of the U.S. (32%).

Mastering English and Keeping Native Languages Alive

Foreign-born survey respondents were asked to assess their own English proficiency. Half of all foreign-born Asian Americans (49%) say they can carry on a conversation in English "very well"—both understanding and speaking. Some 26% say they can do this pretty well. An additional 25% can do this just a little or not at all. Not surprisingly, immigrants who arrived in the U.S. more recently are less proficient in English. Among those who emigrated within the past 12 years, only 39% say they can carry on a conversation in English very well. This compares with 52% who came to the U.S. before 2000.

The American Community Survey includes a question about English proficiency for all Asian Americans, whether native born or foreign born. According to the 2010 ACS, 53% of foreign-born Asian Americans either speak only English at home or speak another language at home but say they speak English "very well."

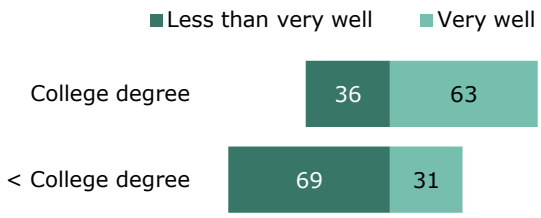
Among the Pew Research survey respondents, older foreign-born Asian Americans are somewhat less likely than their younger counterparts to be proficient in English. Among those ages 55 and older, 35% say they can carry on a conversation in English very well. This compares with 56% of those under age 55. There is a large education gap as well. More than six-in-ten Asian-American immigrants (63%) who have graduated from college say they can carry on a conversation in English very well, compared with only 31% of those with less education.

Among the foreign born, there is wide variation across U.S. Asian groups. Immigrants from India and the Philippines—both countries where English is widely spoken—give themselves the highest marks for their ability to converse in English. Roughly seven-in-ten foreign-born Indian Americans (72%) say they can carry on a conversation in English very well, as do 66% of foreign-born Filipinos.

Chinese, Japanese and Korean immigrants are less likely than Indians or Filipinos to say they can converse fluently in English. Roughly four-in-ten Chinese (43%) and Japanese (39%) immigrants say they can carry on a conversation in English very well, as do 30% of Koreans. Vietnamese immigrants are among the least likely to say they are fluent in English. Only 21% of foreign-born Vietnamese Americans say they can carry on a conversation in English very well.

Education and Language Assimilation

% of foreign-born Asian Americans saying they can carry on a conversation in English ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q80. Based on all foreign-born respondents, n=2,684. Less than very well includes "Pretty well," "Just a little" and "Not at all." Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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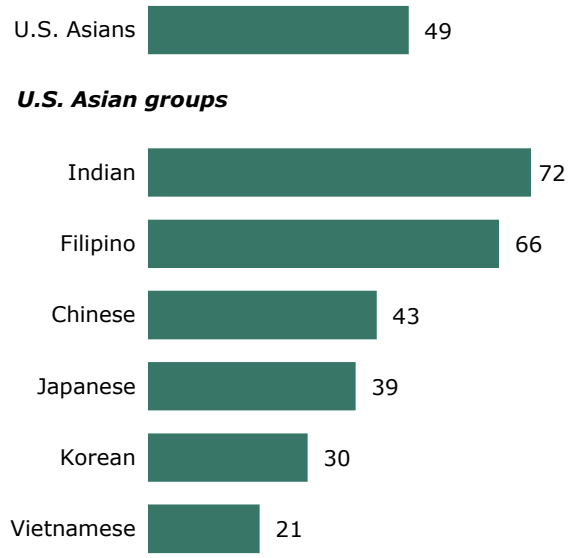
English Proficiency among Asian Immigrant Groups

% of foreign born saying they can carry on a conversation in English "very well"



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q80. Based on all foreign-born respondents, n=2,684.

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Among all Asian immigrants, those who are less fluent in English are somewhat more likely to place a high value on maintaining their native language. Fully 57% of those who say they cannot carry on a conversation in English very well say it is very important that future generations of their ethnic or country of origin group who live in the U.S. be able to speak their native language. By contrast, among Asian immigrants who say they can converse very well in English, only 41% place a high value on future generations continuing to speak their native language.

For native-born Asian Americans, the challenge is not mastering English, but rather maintaining some connection to the language spoken in their country of origin. Relatively few U.S.-born Asian Americans are fluent in their native or ancestral language. Asian Americans who were born in the U.S. were asked to assess their ability to converse in the language most closely identified with their country of origin. For example, Chinese Americans were asked how well they can carry on a conversation in Chinese, both understanding and speaking.[52] Overall, only 14% of respondents said they can carry on a conversation in the language of their country of origin very well, and 19% said they can carry on a conversation in that language pretty well. Fully two-thirds said they can carry on a conversation in their native or ancestral language "just a little" (32%) or "not at all" (34%).

Do U.S.-Born Asians Speak the Language of Their Ancestors?

% saying they can carry on a conversation in the language of their country of origin …

Very well	14
Pretty well	19
Just a little	32
Not at all	34

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q81. Based on all U.S.-born respondents, n=815. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Younger, native-born Asian Americans are more likely than their older counterparts to say they can carry on a conversation in the language spoken in their family's country of origin. Among those under age 55, 37% say they can converse very well or pretty well. Among those ages 55 and older, only 16% say the same.[53]

Asian Americans, Hispanics and Language

When compared with Hispanics, Asian Americans place much less emphasis on maintaining ties to their native or ancestral languages. While a strong majority say it is at least somewhat important to them that future generations be able to speak the languages of their Asian

[52] As in the previous question, Filipinos were asked about "Tagalong or another Filipino language." Indians were asked about "Hindi or another Indian language." Respondents who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "the native language of the country you, your parents or ancestors came from."
[53] There were too few U.S.-born respondents to analyze differences across U.S. Asian groups.

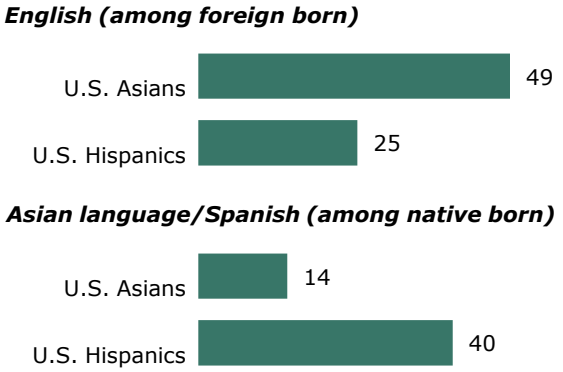
countries of origin, only 45% say this is very important. Among Hispanics, fully 75% say it is very important to them that future generations be able to speak Spanish.

Hispanics are more united in their views on this topic, just as they are more united in their linguistic history. Though Hispanics come to the U.S. from more than 20 different nations, all of those nations are Spanish-speaking. This common bond is something Asian-American immigrants do not share—coming from a host of countries with their own unique linguistic traditions.

Among foreign-born immigrants, Asians are much more likely than Hispanics to speak fluent English. Roughly half of Asian immigrants (49%) say they can carry on a conversation in English very well. Only 25% of Hispanic immigrants say the same. Among Hispanic immigrants, a solid majority (62%) say they can carry on a conversation in English just a little or not at all (compared with 25% of Asian immigrants).

Asians Conversant in English, Hispanics Maintain Spanish Proficiency

% of U.S. Asians/U.S. Hispanics saying they can carry on a conversation in … very well



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q80, 81. For foreign-born Asians n=2,684; for native-born Asians n=815. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center. For foreign-born Hispanics (including Puerto Ricans) n=784; for native-born Hispanics n=436.

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While relatively few U.S.-born Asians say they can speak the language of their ethnic heritage, U.S.-born Hispanics remain closely connected to their Spanish-language origins. Four-in-ten U.S.-born Hispanics say they can carry on a conversation in Spanish very well (compared with only 14% of U.S.-born Asians who can do so in the language of their country of origin).

CHAPTER 3: INTERGROUP RELATIONS

Asian Americans report a generally positive set of attitudes and experiences on a wide range of measures that track how they interact with other racial and ethnic groups. Their most distinctive pattern comes in the most intimate realm of intergroup relations: marriage. Fully 28% of Asian-American newlyweds in 2010 married a non-Asian, the highest rate of "out marriage" among the four major racial and ethnic groups in the U.S.

Asian Americans also reach across racial lines in other ways. For example, just four-in-ten (41%) say that a majority of their friends share their same Asian heritage. This figure rises to nearly half (49%) among Asians who are immigrants but drops to just 17% among those who were born in the United States.

Asked to assess how well they believe Asians and other racial or ethnic groups in the U.S. get along, survey respondents offer a mixed evaluation. Asian Americans are most positive about relations with whites and other U.S. Asian groups. They are less positive about relations with Hispanics and most negative about relations with blacks. Korean Americans have an especially negative view of group relations with blacks—50% say the two groups do not get along well; just 4% say they get along "very well" and 39% say they get along "pretty well."

Native-born Asian Americans tend to see intergroup relations in a more positive light than do foreign-born Asian Americans. The same pattern holds for attitudes toward intermarriage; foreign-born Asian Americans have mixed views about this phenomenon, while overwhelming shares of the native born say they would be "very comfortable" if a child of theirs married someone outside their own Asian group.

In general, Asian Americans register fairly low levels of concern about group discrimination. Only about one-in-eight (13%) say they consider discrimination against their Asian group to be a major problem, while 48% say it is a minor problem and 35% say it isn't a problem. (While question wording differs somewhat, findings from other Pew Research surveys suggest that blacks and Hispanics are much more inclined than Asians to see discrimination against their group as a problem.) Also, about six-in-ten Asian Americans say that being a member of their racial group makes no difference when it comes to getting into college or finding a job. Of the remainder who believe it does make a difference, slightly more say it helps than say it hurts.

The rest of this chapter examines attitudes about intergroup relations from multiple perspectives. It provides breakdowns among the six largest Asian country of origin groups;

among the native born and the foreign born; and wherever relevant by age and levels of education.

Social Integration

About four-in-ten (41%) Asian Americans say that all (6%) or most (35%) of their friends in the U.S. are from the same Asian country of origin, while 58% say that some, hardly any or none of their friends share their Asian country of origin.

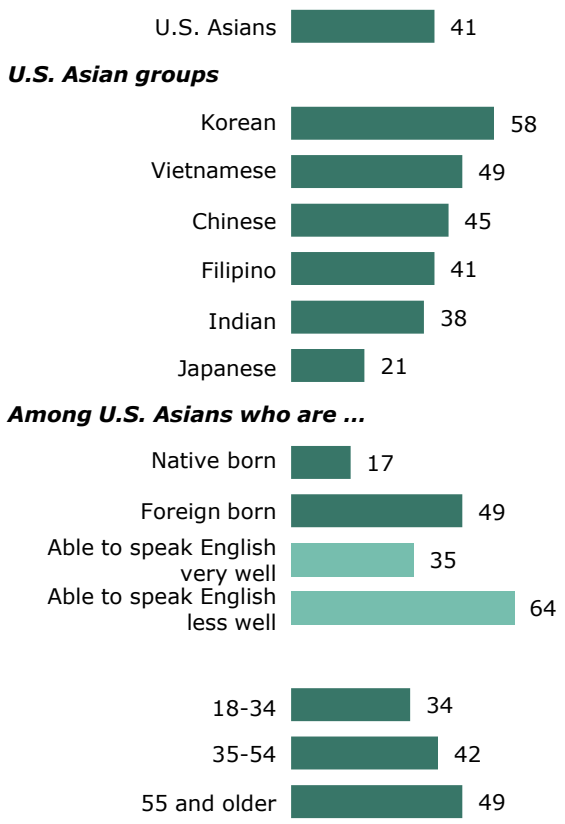
Immigrants are more likely than those born in the U.S. to report that all or most of their friends are from their same Asian country of origin group. About half (49%) of foreign-born Asian Americans say all or most of their friends share their Asian country of origin, compared with 17% among those born in the U.S.

Those with better English skills have a more mixed social circle. Among the foreign born who speak English very well, 35% say that all or most of their friends share their country of origin; this compares with 64% among those with weaker English skills.

Older Asian Americans more so than younger adults have all or most of their friends within the same country of origin group. About half (49%) of Asian Americans ages 55 and older say all or most of their friends share their country of origin. This compares with 34% among younger adults (ages 18 to 34).

Friendships within U.S. Asian Groups

% saying all or most of their friends in the U.S. are of their same Asian country of origin



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q44.

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There are no differences between men and women in this regard.

There is some variance across U.S. Asian groups in the composition of their social networks. Korean Americans are especially likely to have all or most of their friends from the same heritage (58%); by contrast, just a fifth (21%) of Japanese Americans—a majority of whom are native born—say that all or most of their friends share the same heritage. Chinese Americans fall in the middle, with 45% having all or most of their friends of Chinese heritage. There are large differences between native- and foreign-born Chinese Americans, however. Among the native born, 14% say that all or most of their friends are Chinese American; this compares with 55% among Chinese immigrants. The same pattern occurs for native- and foreign-born Filipino Americans and to a lesser degree among native- and foreign-born Japanese Americans. Other U.S. Asian groups do not have a large enough sample of native-born respondents for analysis.

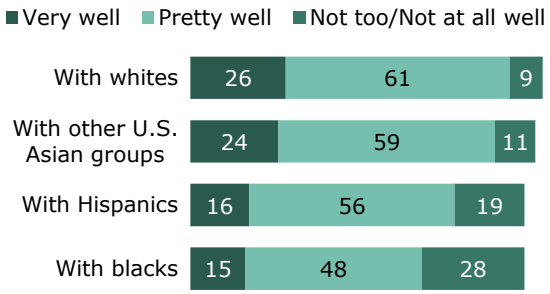
Intergroup Relations

Do Asian Americans get along with other racial and ethnic groups? The Pew Research survey asked respondents to rate how well members of their Asian group (such as Vietnamese Americans, Korean Americans) get along with each of four groups: whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asian Americans from different countries.

Asian Americans are most positive about relations with whites and other U.S. Asian groups. They are less positive about relations with Hispanics and most negative about relations with blacks.

Getting Along across Group Boundaries

% saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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About a quarter (26%) of Asian Americans say their Asian country of origin group gets along "very well" with whites, 61% say their group gets along "pretty well" and 9% say their group gets along "not too" or "not at all" well. Relations across U.S. Asian groups are seen in similar terms: a quarter (24%) say their group gets along very well with Asian Americans from different countries, 59% say pretty well and 11% say not too well or not at all well.

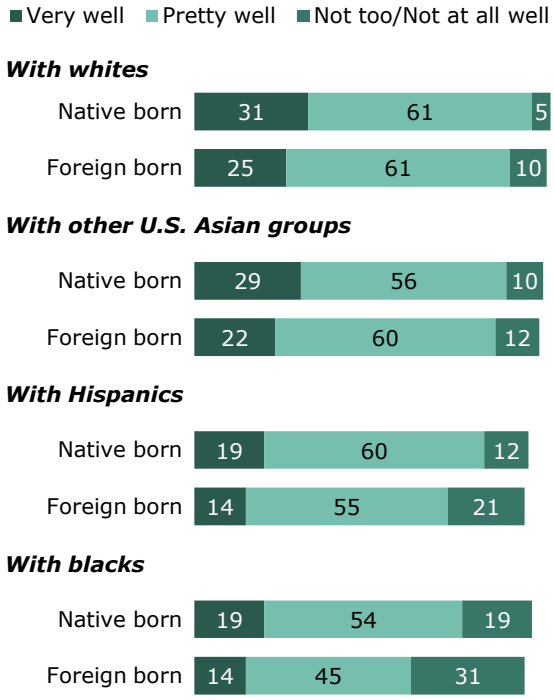
Intergroup relations with Hispanics are a bit less positive. A 56% majority of Asian Americans see their group and Hispanics as getting along pretty well while roughly equal proportions see relations more positively (16%) or more negatively (19%) than that.

Relations with blacks are considered the most negative of the set. A plurality (48%) of Asian Americans says their group gets along with blacks pretty well, 15% say very well, and about three-in-ten (28%) say not too well or not at all well.

U.S.-born Asians tend to give more positive assessments than the foreign born about the relationship between their country of origin group and other racial and ethnic groups. For example, 31% of native-born Asian Americans say their country of origin group gets along "very well" with whites, compared with 25% of foreign-born Asian Americans who say the same.

Getting Along across Group Boundaries, by Nativity

% saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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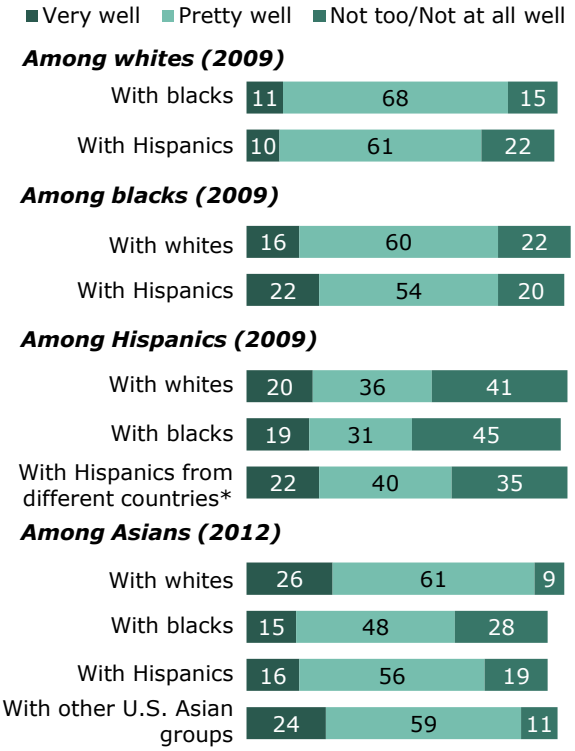
A 2009 Pew Research survey among whites, blacks and Hispanics in the general public asked a similar set of questions. A majority of whites and blacks in the general public consider their racial group as getting along "pretty well" with the other racial group (either blacks or whites, respectively).[54] Among those who don't say "pretty well," the balance of opinion is slightly more negative than more positive for both whites' assessment of their relationship with blacks and blacks' assessment of their relationship with whites.

Hispanics' views of relations with both whites and blacks are more negative, however. Among Hispanics, two-in-ten say their ethnic group gets along very well with whites, 36% say the two groups get along pretty well, and four-in-ten (41%) say the two groups get along not too well or not at all well.

A sizable minority of Hispanics are negative in their assessments of relations within the Latino community. About a fifth (22%) say Hispanics from different countries get along very well, four-in-ten (40%) say pretty well and 35% say Hispanics from different countries get along not too well or not at all well. By comparison, Asian Americans are more upbeat in their assessments of relations across Asian groups.

Comparisons with the General Public

% of each racial or ethnic group in general public saying their group gets along ...



Asian ratings from 2012 Asian-American survey. White, black and Hispanic ratings from October-November 2009 surveys by the Pew Research Center. Hispanic ratings with Hispanics from different countries from August-September 2009 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown. Asians include mixed-race Asian population, regardless of Hispanic origin. Hispanics are of any race. Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics.

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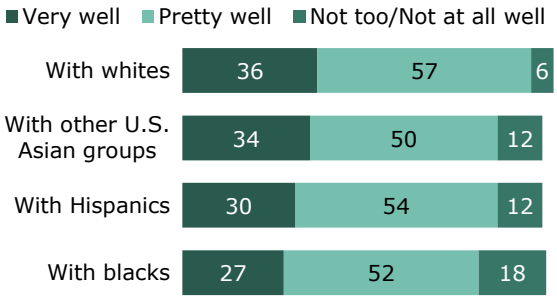
[54] Whites and blacks include only non-Hispanics. Hispanics are of any race.

Six U.S. Asian Subgroups

Turning to intergroup relations among each of the six largest U.S. Asian groups, Filipino Americans tend to be more positive about their group's relations with the four other groups. Korean Americans and Vietnamese Americans are the most negative in their assessments of relations with whites, blacks and Hispanics.

Filipino Americans and Intergroup Relations

% of U.S. Filipinos saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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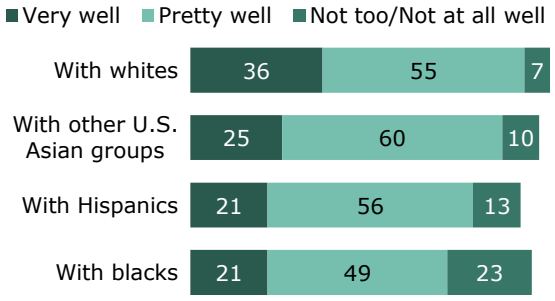
Among Filipino Americans, about a third (36%) see their group as getting along very well with whites, 57% say the two groups get along pretty well and just 6% say not too well or not at all well. Evaluations of relations among Filipino Americans and other U.S. Asian groups are similarly positive (34% very well, 50% pretty well and 12% not too well or not at all well). About three-in-ten Filipino Americans say their group gets along very well with Hispanics and blacks (30% and 27%, respectively).

Indian Americans are more positive about relations between their group and whites than they are about relations with other racial or ethnic groups. About a third (36%) say Indian Americans get along with whites very well, and an additional 55% say the two groups get along pretty well; just 7% say not too well or not at all well. Indian Americans are less likely to rate relations with other groups as strongly positive. A quarter (25%) say Indian Americans get along with other Asian groups very well, 21% say the same about relations with Hispanics and with blacks. Indian Americans are more negative in their assessments of Indian-black relations than they are about Indian-white relations. About a fifth (23%) says Indian Americans and blacks get along not too well or not at all well; 7% say the same about Indian Americans and whites.

Indian Americans and Intergroup Relations

% of U.S. Indians saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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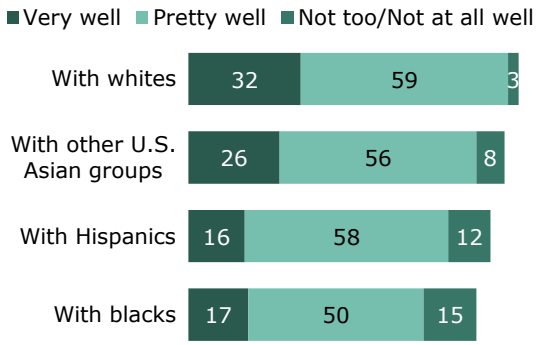
Among Japanese Americans, about a third (32%) say their country of origin group gets along with whites very well, 59% say the groups get along pretty well and just 3% say not too well or not at all well. A quarter (26%) say Japanese Americans get along with other Asian groups in the U.S. very well, 56% say pretty well and 8% say not too well or not at all well. About one-in-six (17%) Japanese Americans say their group gets along with blacks very well, half (50%) say pretty well and 15% say not too well or not at all well. The remainder of 17% gave no rating. Similarly, 16% say Japanese Americans and Hispanics get along very well, about 58% say pretty well and 12% say the two groups get along not too well or not at all well, with the remainder of 15% giving no rating.

Japanese Americans and Intergroup Relations

% of U.S. Japanese saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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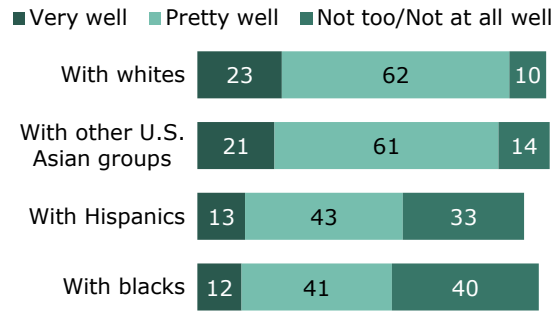
Among Vietnamese Americans, about twice as many say their country of origin group and whites get along very well (23%) as not too well or not at all well (10%); 62% say the groups get along pretty well. Similar percentages say the same about how well Vietnamese Americans get along with other Asian groups in the U.S. (21% very well, 61% pretty well, 14% not too well or not at all well). Vietnamese Americans are more negative about relations with both Hispanics and blacks. Roughly one-in-ten (13%) Vietnamese Americans say their group gets along with Hispanics very well, 43% say pretty well and a third (33%) say not too well or not at all well. Similarly, 12% say Vietnamese Americans and blacks get along very well, about four-in-ten (41%) say they get along pretty well and a roughly equal portion (40%) say the two groups get along not too well or not at all well.

Vietnamese Americans and Intergroup Relations

% of U.S. Vietnamese saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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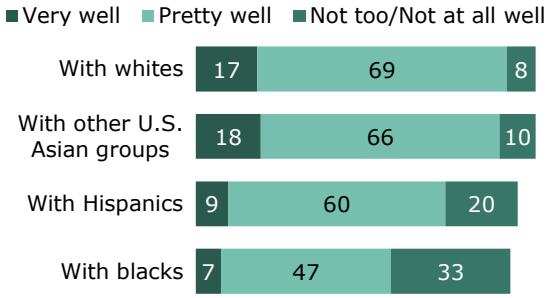
Chinese Americans are more positive in their assessments of relations with whites and with Asian Americans from different countries than with either Hispanics or blacks. Roughly two-thirds of Chinese Americans say their group gets along with whites pretty well (69%), an additional 17% say very well and just 8% say not too well or not at all well. Similarly, 66% say Chinese Americans get along with other Asian groups in the U.S. pretty well, 18% say very well and 10% say not too well or not at all well. Chinese Americans are less positive about relations with Hispanics and blacks. More say Chinese Americans and Hispanics get along not too well or not at all well than say they get along very well (20% and 9%, respectively); six-in-ten (60%) say these groups get along pretty well. And when it comes to relations between Chinese Americans and blacks, a 47% plurality say the two groups get along pretty well, a third (33%) say the groups get along not too well or not at all well and just 7% say the two groups get along very well.

Chinese Americans and Intergroup Relations

% of U.S. Chinese saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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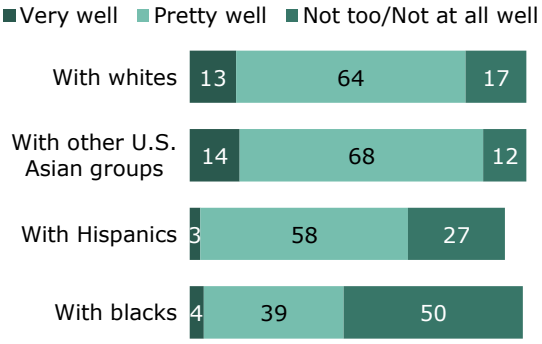
Compared with other U.S. Asian groups, Korean Americans have an especially negative view of relations with blacks. They (along with Vietnamese Americans) are more negative than other U.S. Asian groups in their assessments of relations with Hispanics. About two-thirds (68%) say Korean Americans get along with other U.S. Asian groups pretty well, 14% say very well and 12% say not too well or not at all well. Assessments of the relationship between Korean Americans and whites are similar; 13% say whites and Korean Americans get along very well, 64% say pretty well and 17% say not too well or not at all well. Just 3% say Korean Americans and Hispanics get along very well, 58% say pretty well and 27% say not too well or not at all well. Relations with blacks

Korean Americans and Intergroup Relations

% of U.S. Koreans saying their U.S. Asian group and each of the following get along …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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are seen in more negative terms. Just 4% say Korean Americans and blacks get along very well, four-in-ten (39%) say pretty well and half (50%) say the two groups get along not too well or not at all well.

Looking across these ratings, Filipino Americans give the most positive assessments about intergroup relations and Korean Americans give the least positive.

Who Is Getting Along "Very Well"?

% saying their U.S. Asian group gets along "very well" with each of the following

	with whites	with other U.S. Asian groups	with Hispanics	with blacks
	%	%	%	%
U.S. Asian groups				
Filipino	36	34	30	27
Indian	36	25	21	21
Japanese	32	26	16	17
Vietnamese	23	21	13	12
Chinese	17	18	9	7
Korean	13	14	3	4

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q49a-d.

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Intergroup Marriage

Another way to consider intergroup relations is by looking at the behaviors and attitudes of Asian Americans toward marriage across racial and ethnic lines. Pew Research analyses of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey data on interracial marriage find that Asian Americans are more likely to marry across racial and ethnic lines than are whites, blacks or Hispanics.[55]

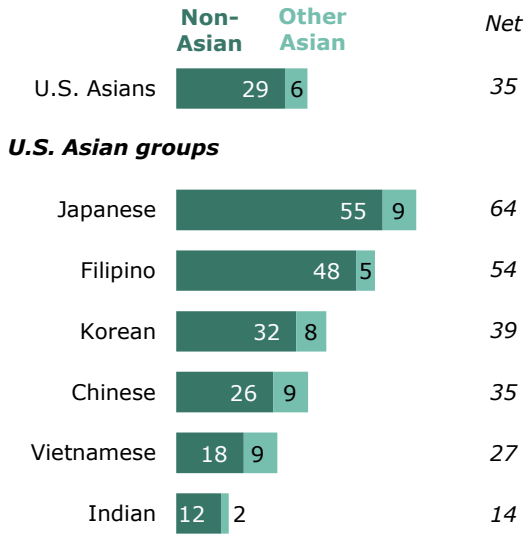
Among all Asian-American newlyweds from 2008 to 2010, 29% married someone who is not Asian and 6% married someone from a different Asian country of origin.[56]

The propensity to marry across Asian ethnic and racial lines varies widely among U.S. Asian groups. Indian Americans are least likely to marry someone outside their country of origin or racial group. Just 12% of new marriages with an Indian American are to someone of another race and 2% are to non-Indian Asians.

Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans are most likely to marry someone who is not Asian. Among new marriages with a Japanese American, more than half (55%) are to a non-Asian and 9% are to an Asian from a different country of origin. About half (48%) of new marriages of Filipino Americans are to a non-Asian; 5% are to an Asian from a different country of origin.

Intermarriage Rates for Asians

% of Asian newlyweds (2008-2010) married to ...



Note: "Newlyweds" refers to people ages 15 and older who got married in the year prior to the survey, and their marital status was "married, spouse present." U.S. Asians and each U.S. Asian group include non-Hispanic single-race Asians who are from only one group; "Non-Asian" includes Hispanics and single- or multiple-race non-Hispanics except single-race Asians; "Other Asian" includes non-Hispanics from other single-Asian or multiple-Asian groups. "Net" was computed prior to rounding.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2008-2010 American Community Survey, Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) files.

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[55] For more on intermarriage, see Wang, Wendy. 2012. "The Rise of Intermarriage: Rates, Characteristics Vary by Race and Gender." Washington, D.C.: Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project, February.
[56] In contrast to other parts of this report, this analysis is limited to those who identify as Asian alone (not in combination with another race or ethnic group).

Attitudes about Intergroup Marriage

Attitudes about intergroup marriage are mostly consonant with the higher interracial and interethnic marriage rates of Asian Americans. The Pew Research survey asked respondents to rate how comfortable they would be if a child of theirs married someone of a differing background.

About half (54%) of Asian Americans would be "very comfortable" if their child married someone outside of their country of origin, about three-in-ten (28%) would be somewhat comfortable with this and just 13% would be not too comfortable or not at all comfortable.

The findings are similar when considering a child's marriage to an Asian from a different country of origin. About half (52%) would be very comfortable with this, three-in-ten (31%) would be somewhat comfortable and 13% would be not too comfortable or not at all comfortable.

Comfort Level with Intergroup Marriage

% saying they would be "very comfortable" if a child of theirs married someone who is …

	Not same country of origin group	Asian, different country of origin group	Not Asian	All of these
	%	%	%	%
U.S. Asians	54	52	49	45
U.S. Asian groups				
Japanese	71	65	67	59
Filipino	65	62	58	53
Chinese	55	54	50	46
Indian	48	45	41	39
Vietnamese	48	50	42	38
Korean	40	39	36	31
Among U.S. Asians who are …				
Native born	79	76	74	68
Foreign born	46	45	41	37
18-34	61	58	53	50
35-54	54	53	49	46
55 and older	49	46	44	37
Number of friends in same U.S. Asian group				
All/most	34	34	28	25
Some/hardly any/none (VOL.)	69	66	64	59

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q68a-c. Figures for "all of these" is the percentage saying "very comfortable" to all three items.

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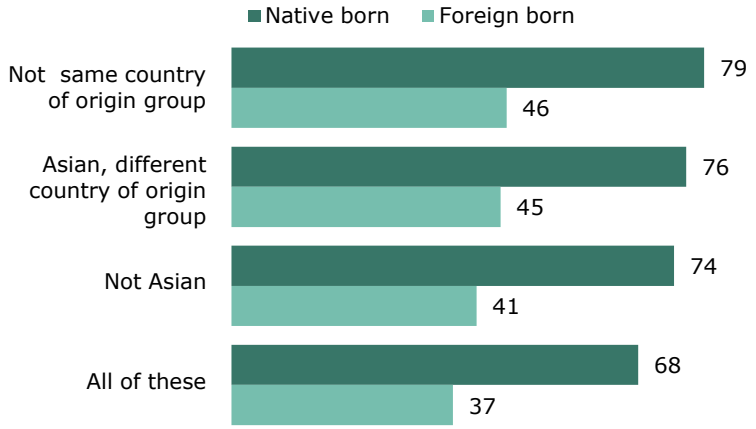
About half of Asian Americans (49%) would be very comfortable if their child married a non-Asian, 29% would be somewhat comfortable and 18% would be not too comfortable or not at all comfortable with this.

Taken together, 45% of Asian Americans would be "very comfortable" with all three of these situations: a child of theirs marrying someone who is not from their country of origin, Asian but from a different country of origin, and not Asian.

There is a strong association between nativity and age with views about intergroup marriage. Among Asian immigrants, 46% would be very comfortable with a child marrying someone from a different country of origin. Most native-born Asian Americans are comfortable with intergroup marriage; about eight-in-ten (79%) would be very comfortable with a child marrying someone from a different country of origin group. This pattern holds across the set. Taken together, 37% of Asian immigrants say they would be very comfortable in response to all three questions about intergroup marriage; 68% of the native born say the same.

Comfort with Intergroup Marriage, by Nativity

% saying they would be "very comfortable" if a child of theirs married someone who is …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q68a-c. Figures for "all of these" is the percentage saying "very comfortable" to all three items.

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Younger Asian Americans also tend to be more comfortable with intergroup marriage than older Asian Americans. Half (50%) of younger adults (ages 18 to 34) say they would be very comfortable in response to all three questions about intergroup marriage, 37% of those ages 55 and older say the same. Those with a social network that consists largely of others in the same Asian country of origin group are less comfortable with intergroup marriage than are those with a wider mix in their social circle.

Looking across Asian groups, Americans of Korean, Vietnamese and Indian origin are less comfortable with intergroup marriage. Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans are the

most likely of the six to be very comfortable with intergroup marriage by race and ethnicity. Among Japanese Americans, those who were born in the U.S. are more comfortable than the foreign born with intergroup marriage. For example, 75% of native-born Japanese Americans would be very comfortable if their child married someone who was not Asian; 56% of foreign-born Japanese Americans say the same. The same pattern occurs among other Asian subgroups with large enough samples of native and foreign born for analysis: Chinese Americans and Filipino Americans.

Views on Interracial Marriage in the General Public

The general public also tends to be broadly accepting of interracial and interethnic marriage. A Pew Research survey of the general public in 2009 included a similar series of questions.[57] When asked if an immediate family member married someone from each of four groups—African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and white Americans—respondents rated whether they would "be fine" with it, "would be bothered, but would come to accept it," or "would not be able to accept it."[58]

About six-in-ten adults (63%) in the general public said they would be fine with a family member marrying outside their racial group. Overall, blacks were more accepting than either whites or Hispanics of intermarriage—72% would be fine with a family member choosing to marry someone who was white, Hispanic or Asian American. About six-in-ten whites (61%) would be fine with a family member marrying someone who was African American, Hispanic American or Asian American, and 63 percent of Hispanics would be fine with a family member marrying someone who was African American, Asian American or white American.

Younger adults are more accepting than older adults of intermarriage; age differences are more pronounced among whites than among blacks in the general public.

Of the racial and ethnic groups considered, openness to a family member's marriage to a white ranks highest and marriage to an African American ranks lowest; openness to a marriage with an Asian American and with a Hispanic falls between these two. About eight-in-ten (81%) non-whites say they would be fine with a family member's marriage to a white American; three-quarters (75%) of non-Asians say the same about marriage to an Asian American and a similar percentage of non-Hispanics (73%) would be fine with a marriage to a Hispanic American.

[57] This survey did not include a large enough sample of Asian Americans for analysis.
[58] Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project. 2010. "Blacks Upbeat about Black Progress, Prospects." Washington, D.C.: January.

About two-thirds (66%) of non-blacks say they would be fine with a family member's marriage to an African American.

Discrimination

Perceptions of discrimination provide another lens through which to view intergroup relations. The Pew Research survey asked several questions about discrimination against respondents' Asian country of origin group (such as Chinese American, Filipino American and so forth) as well as questions about personal experience with discrimination.

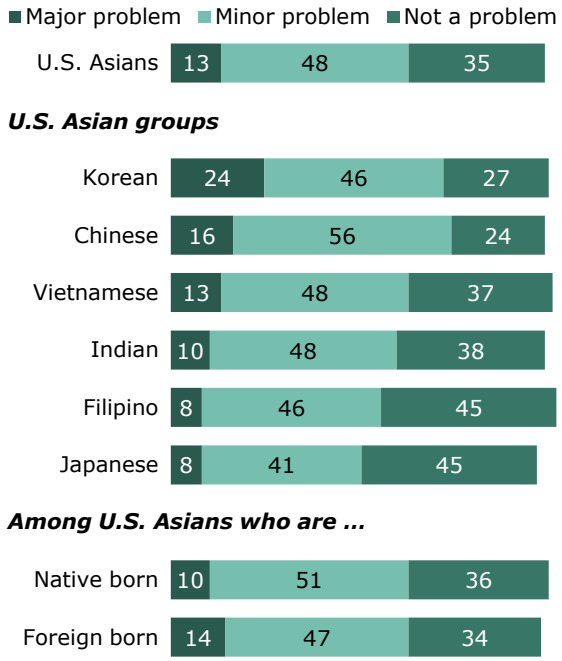
Just 13% of Asian Americans say discrimination against their country of origin group is a major problem, nearly half (48%) say it is a minor problem and 35% say discrimination is not a problem.

Slightly more foreign-born than native-born Asian Americans see discrimination against Asian Americans as a major problem.

Education is inversely related to perceptions of discrimination. Among those with a college degree, about half (52%) say discrimination against their country of origin group is a minor problem and 11% say it is a major problem. Among those with a high school education or less, 39% call discrimination a minor problem and 21% call it a major problem.

Rating Discrimination

% saying discrimination against their U.S. Asian group is a ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q50. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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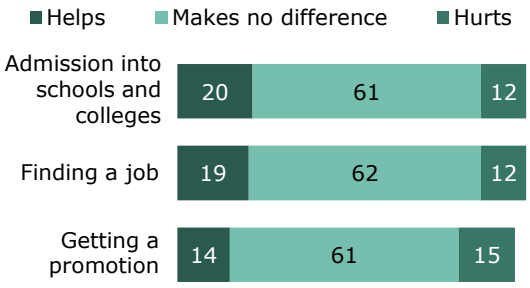
Perceptions of discrimination vary somewhat across U.S. Asian groups. Chinese and Korean Americans are more likely than other U.S. Asians to say that discrimination is either a major or minor problem. Korean Americans are more likely than other Asian groups to see discrimination as a major problem.

Further, a majority believe that being Asian American makes no difference when it comes to school admission or hiring and promotion decisions. About six-in-ten (61%) Asian Americans say being of their country of origin group (such as Japanese American, Indian American and so forth) makes no difference in admissions to schools and colleges; those with a different view are more likely to say that it helps (20%) than hurts (12%).[59]

Similar percentages say that being Asian makes no difference when it comes to finding a job (62%), while 19% say it helps and 12% say it hurts.

What Difference Does Being Asian American Make?

% saying being of their U.S. Asian group helps, makes no difference or hurts when it comes to ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q46a-c. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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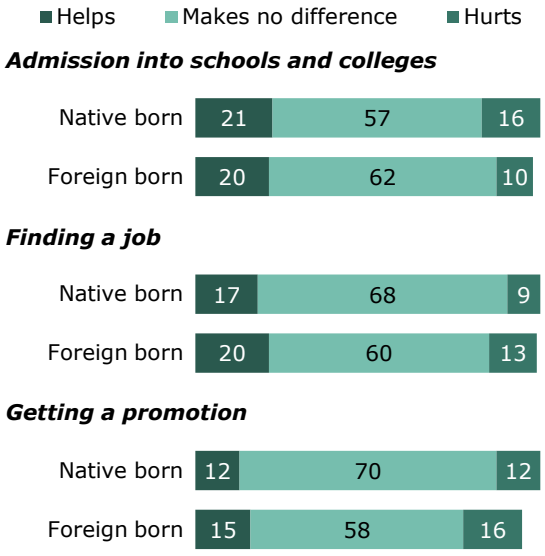
[59] The issue of affirmative action in the college admissions process has divided the Asian American community. Last month four Asian American organizations submitted a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in which they argued against affirmative action, arguing that race-neutral policies are the only way insure that high-achieving Asian American applicants are treated fairly. But other Asian American groups have long supported affirmative action, arguing that it is needed to insure diversity and fairness in the college applications process. For background on the case before the court, (Fisher v. University of Texas), and the views of different Asian-American organizations, see http://chronicle.com/blogs/innovations/asian-americans-and-affirmative-action/32649 and http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2012/05/30/asian-american-group-urges-supreme-court-bar-race-conscious-admissions

While some observers talk about a "bamboo ceiling" hindering the rise of Asian Americans to top positions, a majority of Asian Americans say that being Asian makes no difference when it comes to getting a promotion at work.[60] Among all U.S. Asians, 61% say being from their Asian group makes no difference in promotion decisions once on the job; roughly equal percentages say being from their Asian group helps in getting a promotion (14%) as say it hurts (15%).

Native-born Asian Americans are less likely than those who are foreign born to see their country of origin as a factor when seeking a job and especially for getting a promotion. A greater share of the native born say being of their country of origin group makes no difference when it comes to getting a job or a promotion. And the native born are less likely than the foreign born to say that being of their country of origin hurts for getting a job or a promotion. This pattern differs, however, when it comes to gaining admission to schools and colleges. Native-born Asian Americans, more so than those who are foreign born, say being of their country of origin group hurts their chances of admission.

School Admissions, Jobs, Promotions, by Nativity

% saying being of their U.S. Asian group helps, makes no difference or hurts when it comes to ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q46a-c. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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[60] See Jane Hyun's *Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Career Strategies for Asians*. New York: Harper Business, 2005.

Views about the effect of being Asian American on admission into schools and colleges tend to vary by education level. Those with less education are more inclined to say that being Asian is an advantage.

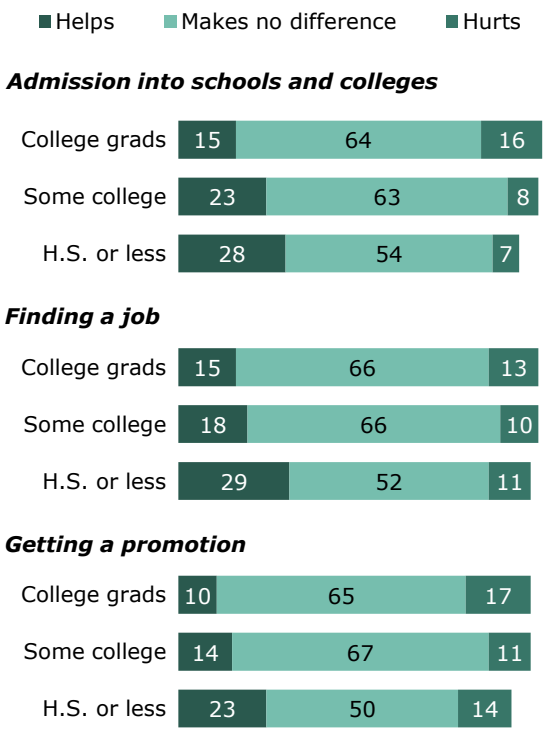
College graduates are about equally likely to say that being of their Asian group helps (15%) or hurts (16%) admission into schools. Asian Americans with a high school diploma or less are more likely to say being of their Asian group is an advantage (28%) rather than a disadvantage (7%) in admissions decisions. About half or more of Asian Americans at any education level believe it makes no difference either way.

A similar pattern occurs when it comes to finding a job. Among college graduates, about equal percentages say being from their Asian group helps (15%) as say it hurts (13%) in job decisions. Those with a high school diploma or less are more likely to say that being from their Asian group is an advantage (29%) than say it hurts (11%). However, about half or more of Asian Americans at any education level say that being from their Asian group makes no difference in getting a job.

When it comes to getting a promotion, college graduates are more likely to say that being of their U.S. Asian group hurts (17%) than helps (10%); 65% say it makes no difference. Among those with a high school diploma or less, 23% say being of their Asian group helps, 14% say it hurts and half (50%) say it makes no difference.

School Admissions, Jobs, Promotions, by Education

% saying being of their U.S. Asian group helps, makes no difference or hurts when it comes to ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q46a-c. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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About two-in-ten (19%) Asian Americans say they have personally experienced discrimination because of their Asian heritage within the past year. One-in-ten (10%) say they have been called offensive names in the past year because of their Asian heritage.

More younger adults (ages 18 to 34) than older adults (ages 55 and older) have experienced discrimination and been called offensive names in the past year.

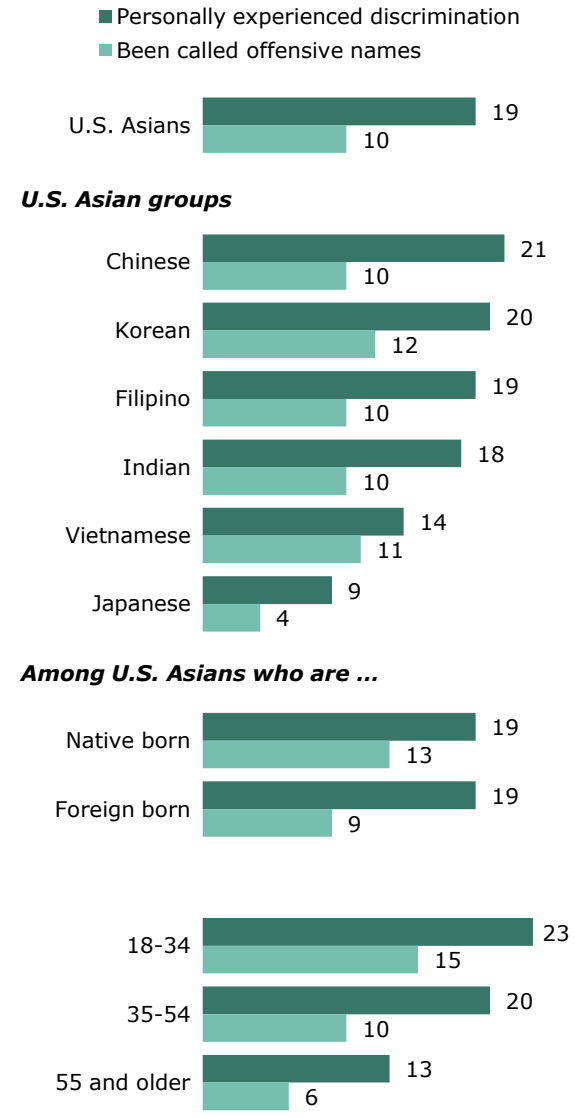
There is modest variation in experience with discrimination across Asian groups. About two-in-ten Chinese, Korean, Filipino and Indian Americans report experiencing discrimination in the past year; Japanese Americans are less likely to have experienced discrimination (9%). And about one-in-ten of each U.S. Asian group say they have been called offensive names because of their country of origin in the past year; among Japanese Americans, that share is even lower at 4%.

Native- and foreign-born Asian Americans are about equally likely to experience discrimination or to have been called offensive names.

The pattern of results across these measures—both perceptions of and personal experience with discrimination—suggests that discrimination is not a major concern among Asian Americans. While not precisely comparable, Pew Research surveys with other racial and ethnic minorities show greater concern about group discrimination.

Personal Experience with Discrimination

% saying they have experienced each because of their Asian country of origin in the past year



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q51, 52.

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Surveys by the Pew Research Center and others show strong concern about group discrimination among blacks. For example, in a 2009 Pew Research survey, 43% of blacks said there was "a lot" of discrimination against African Americans, 39% said there was some and 16% said there was little or no discrimination. While not directly comparable to the current survey, this suggests that, relative to blacks, discrimination is of less concern to Asian Americans.[61]

A similar, though not directly comparable question, asked on a 2010 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center also suggests that Asian Americans have less concern than Hispanics about group discrimination. The Pew Hispanic Center survey asked whether discrimination was a major problem, a minor problem or not a problem "in preventing Hispanics in general from succeeding in America." In 2010, 61% of U.S. Hispanics called discrimination a major problem, 24% said it was a minor problem and 13% said it was not a problem.[62] Direct comparisons across surveys rely on identical question wording due to the effect that sometimes even small variations in wording can have on responses. In this case, the additional qualifier that discrimination prevents Hispanics from succeeding in America may change the meaning of the question and so could account for some or all of the differences between Hispanics and Asian Americans.

As with perceptions of discrimination among Asian Americans, Hispanics immigrants are more likely than those born in the U.S. to say discrimination is a major problem in preventing Hispanics' success. Similarly, a majority of Hispanics say that discrimination against their group was a major problem in schools and in the workplace, according to a 2007 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.[63]

Personal experience with discrimination may also be more common among Hispanics than it is among Asian Americans. While not directly comparable, a 2010 Pew Hispanic Center survey found 34% of Hispanics reported that they, a family member or a close friend experienced discrimination over the previous five years because of their ethnic background. Looking at only personal experiences over a shorter time period, the Pew Research survey of Asian Americans finds about two-in-ten (19%) saying they have personally experienced discrimination or have been treated unfairly in the past 12 months because of their country of origin.

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[61] For more details, see Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends project. 2010. "Blacks Upbeat about Black Progress, Prospects." Washington, D.C.: January.
[62] Lopez, Mark Hugo, Rich Morin and Paul Taylor. 2010. "Illegal Immigration Backlash Worries, Divides Latinos." Washington, D.C.: Pew Hispanic Center, October.
[63] Pew Hispanic Center. 2007. "2007 National Survey of Latinos: As Illegal Immigration Issue Heats Up, Hispanics Feel a Chill." Washington, D.C.: December.

CHAPTER 4: IMMIGRATION AND TRANSNATIONAL TIES

One of the characteristics of the modern wave of Asian immigration to the United States is that it has gathered momentum in an era when the biggest sending countries have experienced dramatic economic growth and standard of living gains. Yet the Pew Research survey finds few Asian immigrants looking back over their shoulders with regret. A large majority (76%) say that if they had to do it all over again, they would still come to the U.S.; just 12% say they would stay in their home country and 6% say they would move somewhere else.

Many Asian Americans—both foreign born and native born—acknowledge the growing economic power of China and other Asian countries in relation to the U.S., but they overwhelmingly favor the U.S. over their country of origin on a wide range of measures. Among them is the "opportunity to get ahead"; fully 73% rate the U.S. better on this question, while just 5% rate their own country of origin better. By margins nearly as lopsided, Asian Americans also see the U.S. as offering more political and religious freedoms, providing better conditions for raising children, and doing a better job of caring for the poor.

On a question about which country has better moral values, survey respondents are evenly divided. The only measure on which they give the nod to their country of origin over the U.S. is "strength of family ties"—not surprising in light of the fact that 74% of Asian-American adults are themselves immigrants. Also, 59% of all Asian Americans report that they have immediate family residing in their country of origin, and 33% say they sent money to people living abroad in the past year.

Asian Americans born in the U.S. are even more likely than their foreign-born counterparts to rate the U.S. highly in terms of the opportunity it offers to get ahead; its guarantees of political and religious freedoms; and the conditions it provides for raising children. At the same time, the foreign born rank the U.S. more highly in its moral values and its treatment of the poor.

This chapter explores why Asian-American immigrants came to the U.S. and how they feel, in retrospect, about their decision to migrate. It looks at the share of respondents who still have close family living in their country of origin, and the share that sends money to family or friends in their country of origin. And it examines perceptions of how the U.S. compares with the respondent's country of origin across a number of realms, as well as attitudes regarding whether immigrants strengthen or burden the U.S.

Coming to the U.S.

While the decision to migrate is often fueled by a complex mix of motivations, when immigrant respondents were asked to name the main reason that they came to the U.S., some 31% say they came for family reasons, including family reunification. An additional 28% report that educational opportunity was their main reason for coming, and about one-fifth (21%) say it was economic opportunity. Smaller shares report migrating primarily to escape persecution (9%) or for some other reason (9%).

Women are far more likely than men to report coming to the U.S. for family reasons (40% vs. 22%), likely due to the fact that many women are migrating to reunite with family members already in the U.S. Men are more likely than women to report immigrating to the U.S. for economic reasons (26% vs. 17%) or educational reasons (31% vs. 25%).

Those most likely to say that they migrated for educational reasons are younger and better educated. Some 37% of respondents ages 18 to 34 say so, as do 38% of those with a college degree or more. This is not surprising, considering that those who migrate for educational purposes typically come for college, graduate school or professional school. And the relatively youthful profile of these educational migrants likely reflects that many are still in the midst of their academic training in the U.S.

Filipino immigrants are among the most likely to say they came to the U.S. primarily for family reasons (43%), while Indian immigrants are the least likely to say this (18%). About one-third of Chinese immigrants (36%), Indian immigrants (37%) and Korean immigrants (37%) report that they migrated primarily for educational reasons, but only about one-tenth of Vietnamese immigrants (10%) and

What Was the Main Reason You Came to the U.S.?

% saying ...

	Family reasons	Educational opportunities	Economic opportunities	Conflict/ persecution	N
	%	%	%	%	
Foreign born	31	28	21	9	2,684
Among foreign born who are ...					
Chinese	37	36	15	5	541
Filipino	43	10	34	1	374
Indian	18	37	34	2	517
Japanese	34	26	6	*	230
Korean	27	37	21	3	448
Vietnamese	34	10	11	38	455

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q65. Based on foreign born. Responses of "Other" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. Asterisk (*) indicates a share greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent.

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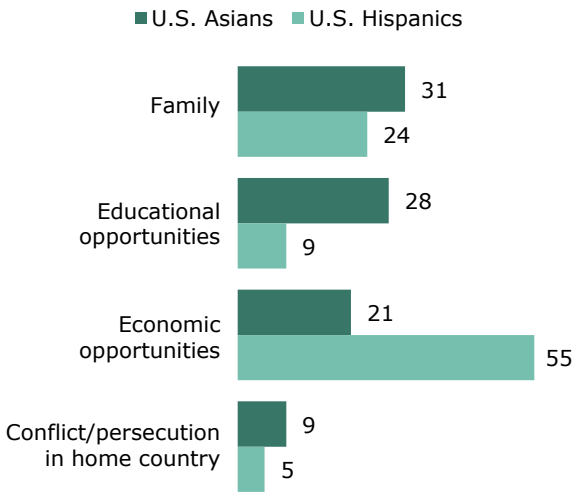
Filipino immigrants (10%) say so. Economic opportunity was the primary motivator for about one-third of Indian and Filipino immigrants (34% each), but it was important to only a handful of Japanese immigrants (6%). Among the Vietnamese, 38% cite the desire to escape persecution in their home country as the primary reason for migration.

A Pew Research Center survey conducted last year asked Hispanics a similar question. While family, education and economic opportunity all figured prominently in the reasons Asians migrated to the U.S., among Hispanic immigrants, the primary reason for migration was unequivocally economic. In the 2011 survey, more than half (55%) of Hispanic immigrants said as much. Only 9% of Hispanic immigrants came for educational reasons, compared with 28% of Asian-American immigrants. The share of Hispanics who migrated for family reasons (24%) was slightly lower than that among Asian-American immigrants. And 5% of Hispanic immigrants came to escape persecution or conflict in their home country.

Hispanics More Likely than Asians to Migrate for Economic Reasons

% saying main reason for coming to the U.S. was ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q65. U.S. Asians based on foreign born, n=2,684. Responses of "Other" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center and based on foreign born or born in Puerto Rico.

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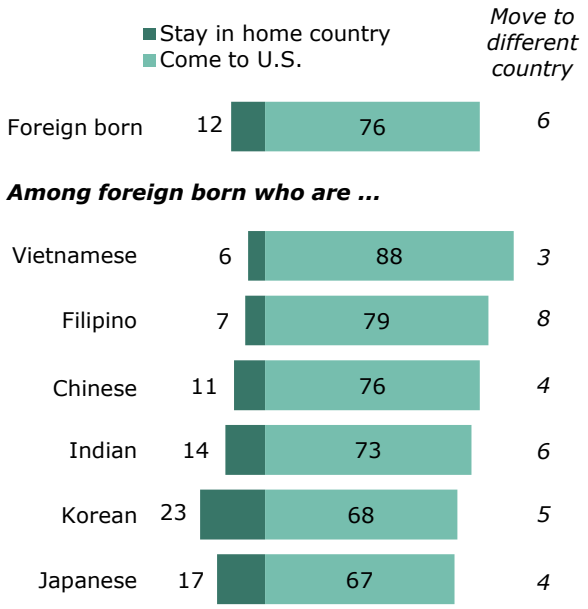
While their reasons for coming to the U.S. in the first place vary, a large majority of Asian-American immigrants share the same attitude about their migration—if they had to do it again, three-fourths (76%) would still come to the U.S. Some 12% report that they would have stayed in their home country, and 6% would have moved to another country.

Vietnamese immigrants are the most likely to say they would still move to the U.S. if they had to do it again, with 88% reporting so. At the other end of the spectrum, some 68% of Korean immigrants and 67% of Japanese immigrants report as much. Notable shares also report that they would have stayed in their home country (23% of Korean immigrants, 17% of Japanese immigrants).

Would You Come Again?

% saying if they could do it again they would ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q66. Based on foreign born, n=2,684. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Like Asian-American immigrants, Hispanic immigrants in the U.S. are extremely likely to report that, were they to do it all over again, they would still choose to migrate to the U.S. Some 79% say so, compared with 76% of Asian-American immigrants.

These results should be interpreted cautiously—since the survey was conducted only among those currently living in the U.S., it excludes past Asian immigrants who have chosen to return to their country of origin. However, return migration is estimated to be lower for Asians than for other immigrants, and the naturalization rate—that is, the share of eligible immigrants who become U.S. citizens—is relatively high. For more details see Chapter 1.

Ties to the Country of Origin

Large shares of all Asian Americans still have close family ties in their country of origin. Some 59% report that they have a spouse, children, parents or siblings residing in their country of origin. The foreign born are much more likely to say this—69% versus 28% for the native born.

Among all Asian Americans, at least 60% of Indian Americans (69%), Vietnamese Americans (65%), Korean Americans (63%) and Filipino Americans (61%) still have close family living in their country of origin. Just over half (56%) of Chinese Americans have immediate family still in China, Taiwan or another country of origin. Japanese Americans, the majority of whom were born in the U.S., are least likely to have close relatives in their country of origin, but a sizable minority—41%—do.

Ties to Country of Origin

	Has close family in country of origin (COO)	Sent money in past 12 months	
		All	*Among those w/close family in COO*
	%	%	%
U.S. Asians	59	33	43
U.S. Asian groups			
Indian	69	41	49
Vietnamese	65	58	70
Korean	63	16	21
Filipino	61	52	67
Chinese	56	23	30
Japanese	41	12	16
Among U.S. Asians who are …			
Native born	28	13	23
Foreign born	69	40	46

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q56, 57. "Close family" includes a spouse, parents, siblings or children. Respondents were asked if they sent money to anyone in the country they, their parents or their ancestors came from.

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Remittances, which are transfers of money sent back to the country of origin, are one way in which families remain linked transnationally. Overall, one-third (33%) of Asian Americans report sending remittances to anyone in their country of origin in the past year,[64] and among those Asian Americans who report having immediate family members still living in the country of origin, this share rises to 43%. Among the foreign born, 40% of all respondents, and 46% of respondents with close family living in their home country, remitted in the past year. In comparison, 13% of native-born respondents, and about one-fourth (23%) of native-born respondents with close family in the home country, did the same.

Vietnamese Americans with close family still in Vietnam are very likely to remit, with 70% reporting that they sent money in the past year. Filipino Americans are among the most likely

[64] This is similar to the share of U.S. Hispanics (36%) who remitted in the prior 12 months, according to a 2008 Pew Hispanic Center survey.

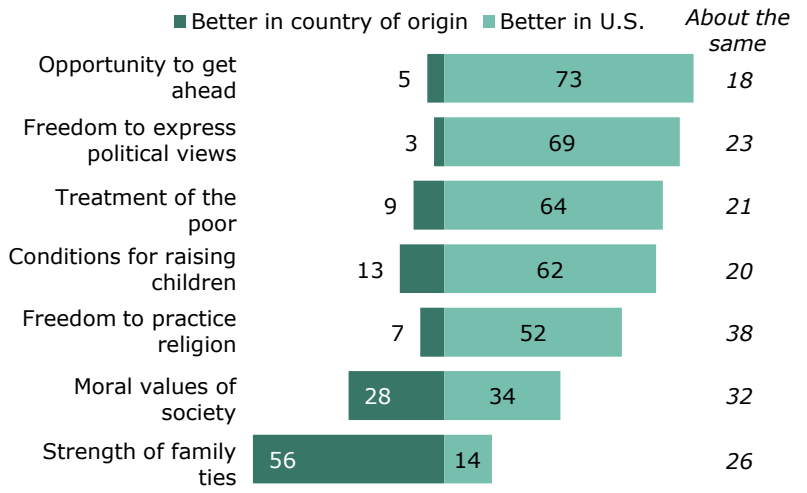
to report moving to the U.S. for economic reasons, and the majority (67%) who still have close relatives in the Philippines also report remitting money. Sending remittances is less prevalent among members of other Asian subgroups. Just 21% of Korean Americans with close family in the country of origin sent money in the past year, and 16% of comparable Japanese Americans did the same.

Comparing Conditions in the U.S. to Those in the Country of Origin

The survey asked a series of questions regarding whether certain conditions are better in the U.S. or in the respondent's country of origin.[65] On most of these measures, the U.S. fares quite well in comparison to the country of origin. This is particularly so in terms of the opportunity to get ahead. The U.S. also ranks well in terms of political freedoms. In terms of moral values, sizable shares of respondents favor both the U.S. and their country of origin. When it comes to the strength of family ties, a majority of respondents favor their country of origin, and only one-in-seven (14%) perceives family ties as stronger in the U.S.

Better in U.S. or in Country of Origin?

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54a-g. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Given the very different profiles of the countries of origin, and the different histories of the migration streams from those countries, it's no surprise that there are variations in the relative ratings of the U.S. among people from different countries of origin. For example, the Vietnamese Americans—many of whom came as refugees from a country gripped by conflict—rate the U.S. quite highly compared with Vietnam. In contrast, Filipino Americans, many of whom are fairly well

[65] Native-born Asian Americans were asked about the country of origin of their parents or ancestors.

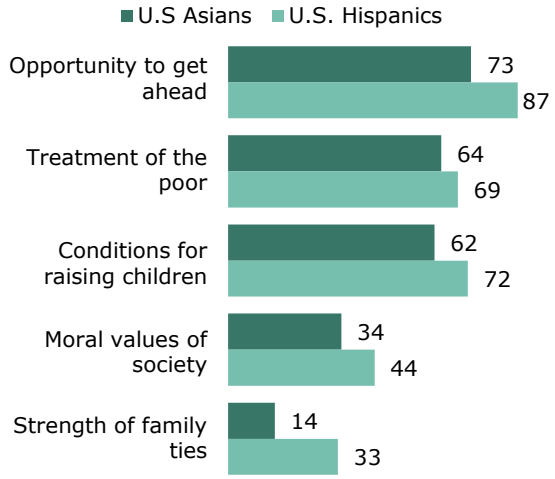
educated and who came to the U.S. for economic advancement, are less likely to state that the U.S. is better than the Philippines on these measures.

The native born are more likely than the foreign born to regard the opportunity to get ahead as better in the U.S. than in their families' country of origin. They also perceive the U.S. as offering more political and religious freedoms. By contrast, the foreign born are more likely than their native-born counterparts to see the U.S. as offering better moral values and better treatment of the poor.

Comparing results to a 2011 Pew Hispanic Center survey reveals that Hispanic Americans are more likely than Asian Americans to rate the U.S. higher than their country of origin on all comparable measures. This is true in terms of the opportunity to get ahead, moral values, strength of family ties, conditions for raising children and treatment of the poor.

Hispanic Americans More Positive About U.S. than Asian Americans

% saying ... "better in the U.S."



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54a-d, Q54g. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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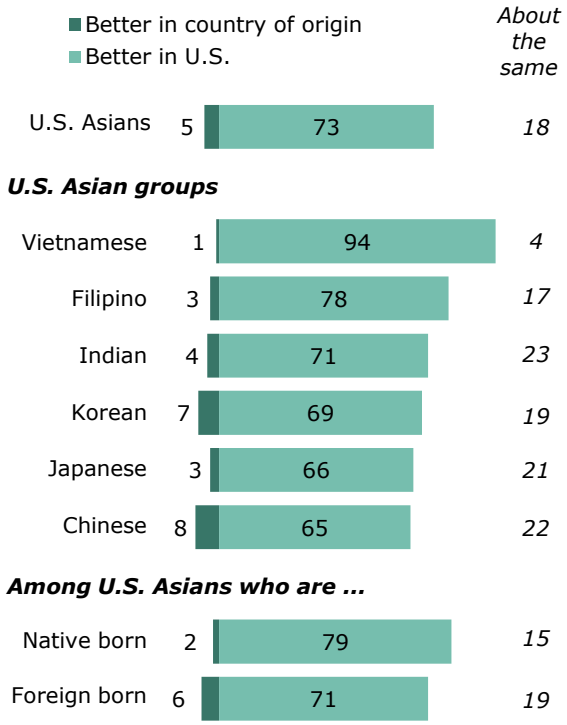
Economic Opportunity

When it comes to getting ahead economically, almost three-fourths (73%) of Asian Americans state that the U.S. offers better opportunities than their country of origin. An additional 18% state that the economic opportunities are similar in both places, while only 5% perceive better opportunities in their country of origin.

The majority of respondents from each Asian-American subgroup say that the U.S. offers more opportunities to get ahead than their country of origin. The prevalence of this opinion varies somewhat within these groups, from 94% of Vietnamese Americans who agree with the statement to about two-thirds of Korean Americans (69%), Japanese Americans (66%) and Chinese Americans (65%) who agree with it. About one-fifth of respondents in each of these groups say that opportunities are similar in the U.S. and their country of origin.

Majority Says Opportunity to Get Ahead Better in the U.S.

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54d. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Native-born respondents are somewhat more likely than the foreign born to perceive more opportunities in the U.S. than in their country of origin. Some 79% of Asian Americans born in the U.S. agree, compared with 71% of Asian Americans born outside of the U.S. This pattern is particularly notable among Chinese Americans; while 82% of the native born agree with this statement, the share drops to 61% among the foreign born. Significant nativity differences exist among Korean Americans (84% vs. 66%) and Indian Americans (86% vs. 70%) as well.

U.S. Hispanics are even more positive than their Asian-American counterparts about the opportunity to get ahead in the U.S. While some 73% of Asian Americans state that the opportunities to get ahead are better in the U.S. than in their country of origin, among Hispanics this share jumps to 87%. One-in-ten (10%) Latinos say the opportunity to get ahead is similar in both places, compared with 18% of Asian Americans.

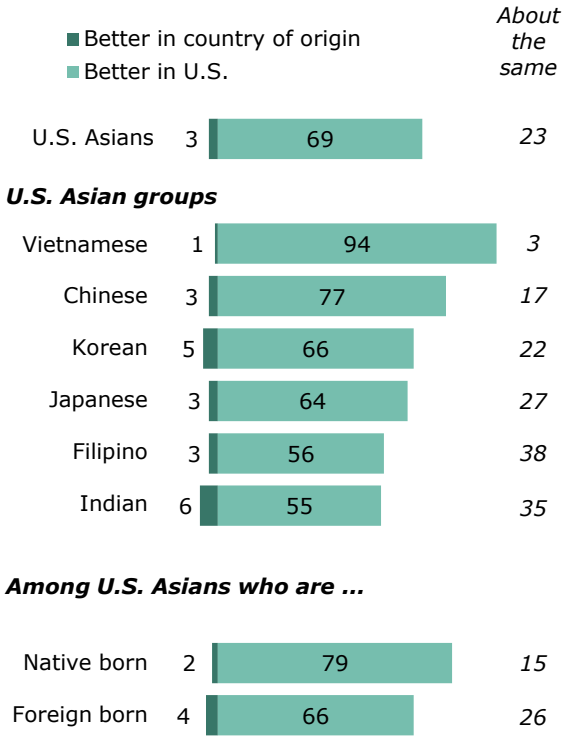
Political and Religious Freedoms

Asian Americans also rate the U.S. higher than their countries of origin in terms of providing freedoms to express political opinions. Almost seven-in-ten (69%) state that the U.S. offers a better environment for this than does their country of origin. An additional 23% state that the ability to express political views is similar in the U.S. and their country of origin. Just 3% say that freedom to express political views is better in their country of origin.

Vietnamese Americans are by far the most likely to state that the U.S. offers more political freedoms than their country of origin; fully 94% say as much. This is no great surprise given that many came to the U.S. as political refugees. At the other end of the spectrum are Indian Americans; some 55% think that political freedoms are better in the U.S. than in India, and 35% think that political freedoms in the two countries are similar. Filipino Americans have a comparable perspective—56% think the U.S. offers more political freedoms than their country of origin, and 38% think political freedoms are similar in the U.S. and the Philippines.

Freedom to Express One's Political Views

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54f. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Native-born Asian Americans are more likely than the foreign born to believe that the U.S. offers more freedom to voice political opinions (79% vs. 66%) than their country of origin. Conversely, the foreign born are more likely to believe that political freedoms are similar in both places (26% say so, compared with 15% among the native born). In the case of Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans, nativity differences are especially pronounced; three-fourths (75%) of native-born Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans agree that political freedoms are better in the U.S. than their country of origin, compared with about half (49%) of the foreign born in each of these groups. Among Chinese Americans, including those from Taiwan and other places, 85% of the native born and 75% of the foreign born say political

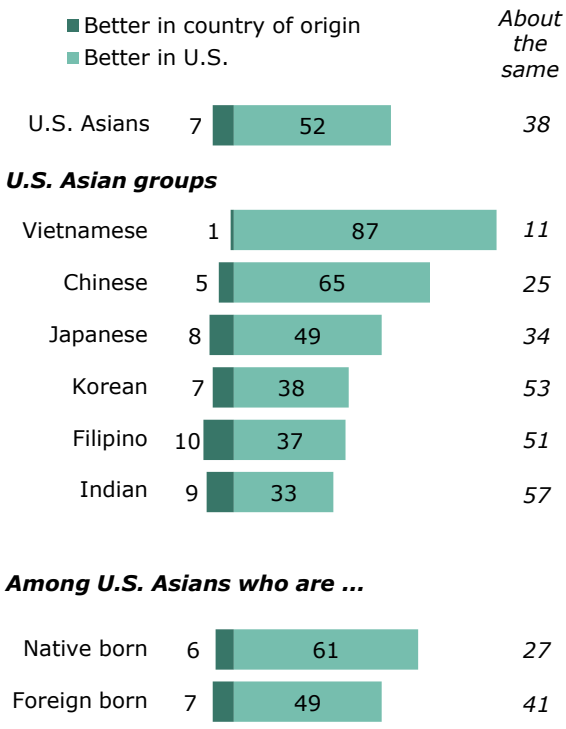
freedoms are better in the U.S. than their country of origin. Other U.S. Asian groups do not have a large enough sample of native-born respondents for analysis.

In terms of religious—as opposed to political—freedom, Asian Americans are a bit less likely to see the U.S. as offering liberties beyond those of their country of origin, though about half (52%) do. Some 38% perceive religious freedom to be similar in their country of origin and in the U.S.

Once again, Vietnamese Americans are the most likely to state that the U.S. offers more freedoms than their country of origin (87% do). Some 65% of Chinese Americans say the same. Korean, Filipino and Indian Americans are the least likely to say that religious freedoms are better in the U.S. than in their country of origin. Among Korean Americans, this share is 38%; it is 37% for Filipino Americans, and 33% for Indian Americans. At least half of respondents from each of these groups state that religious freedoms are about the same in the U.S. and their country of origin.

Freedom to Practice One's Religion

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54e. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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As is the case with political freedoms, the native born are more likely than the foreign born to say that religious freedoms are better in the U.S. than in their country of origin. Some 61% of Asian Americans born in the U.S. say as much, compared with about half (49%) of the foreign born.

Perceptions of religious freedom in the U.S. versus the country of origin are also associated with religious affiliation. This is likely due, in part, to the fact that religious affiliation is linked to Asian-American country of origin subgroup. For instance, the plurality (38%) of Asian-American Buddhists are Vietnamese Americans. And like Vietnamese Americans, Buddhists in the survey are very likely to say that religious freedoms are better in the U.S. than in their country of origin (63% say so). Some 59% of Asian Americans who are unaffiliated with

a certain religion—about half of whom are Chinese Americans—state that the U.S. has more religious freedoms than their country of origin. Some 55% of Protestant respondents agree that religious freedoms are better in the U.S. than in their home country. Almost half (48%) of Catholic respondents, 52% of whom are Filipino Americans, perceive religious freedoms as better in the U.S. than in their country of origin. Another 42% of Catholics think religious freedoms are similar in both the U.S. and their country of origin. And Hindu respondents, the vast majority of whom (93%) are Indian American, are the least likely to say that religious freedom is better in the U.S. than in their country of origin (26% do); this tracks closely with Indian-American opinion.

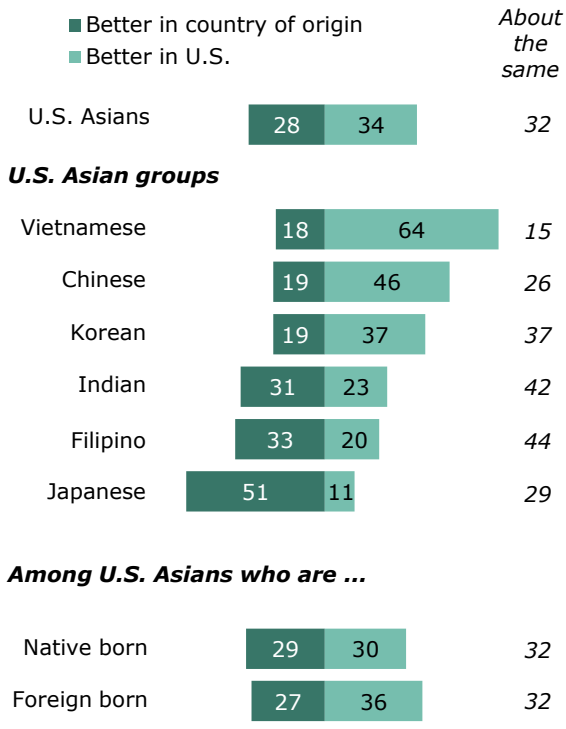
Moral Values and the Strength of Family Ties

When it comes to evaluating moral values, respondents are fairly evenly split as to whether they are better, worse, or the same in the U.S. versus their country of origin. About one-third (34%) think that the moral values of society are better in the U.S.; 28% think they are better in their country of origin; and 32% think they are about the same in both countries.

Once again Vietnamese Americans stand out, this time as the only subgroup in which a clear majority (64%) perceives moral values as better in the U.S. than in their country of origin. At the other end of the spectrum, only 11% of Japanese Americans feel this way, and about half (51%) perceive moral values as better in Japan. An additional 29% think moral values are similar in both places. Sizable minorities of Filipino Americans (33%) and Indian Americans (31%) also think that moral values are better in their country of origin, though for both groups large minorities (44% for Filipino Americans, 42% for Indian Americans) perceive moral values as similar in their country of origin and the U.S.

Moral Values of Society

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54b. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Foreign-born Asian Americans are somewhat more likely to regard moral values as better in the U.S. than their country of origin. Some 36% say as much, compared with 30% of native-born Asian Americans.

Hispanic Americans are more likely than Asian Americans to perceive the U.S. as offering better moral values than their country of origin. While 34% of Asian Americans say as much, for Hispanics, this share rises to 44%. Some 21% of Hispanics state that moral values are better in their home country, compared with 28% of Asian Americans.

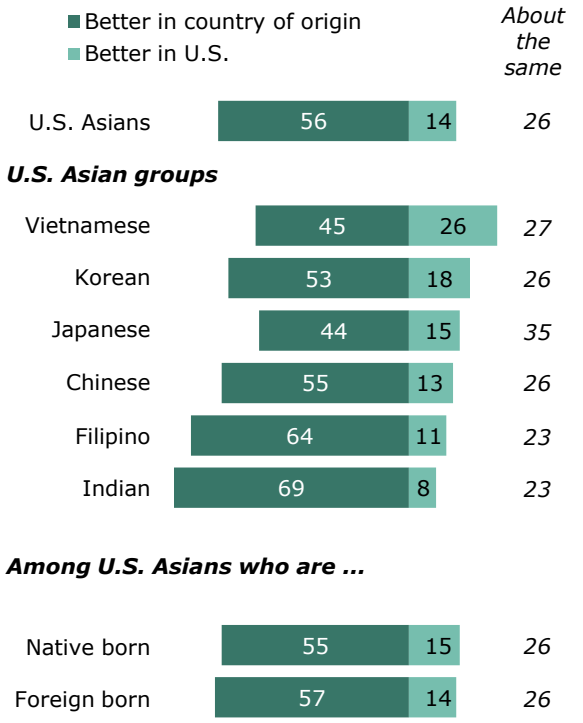
Of all the items that Asian-American respondents were asked about, it is in regard to the strength of family ties that they most favor their country of origin. More than half (56%) report that the strength of ties is better in their country of origin; this is hardly surprising, given that the majority (59%) of respondents still have close family members living there. About one-fourth (26%) feel that the strength of family ties is the same in both places, and only 14% report that the strength of ties is better in the U.S.

This is the only measure for which the plurality of Vietnamese Americans do not favor the U.S. Instead, some 45% state that the strength of family ties is better in Vietnam and 26% say it is better in the U.S. About one-fourth (27%) say the strength of ties is similar in both places. At the other end of the spectrum, only 8% of Indian Americans state that the U.S. is better for the strength of family ties, while 69% consider India better in that regard. Filipino Americans present similarly, with 11% perceiving the strength of family ties as better in the U.S. than the Philippines and 64% perceiving family ties as better in the Philippines.

There are no differences by nativity on this measure.

Strength of Family Ties

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54c. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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U.S. Hispanics are far more likely than their Asian-American counterparts to state that the U.S. is better in terms of the strength of family ties than their country of origin. While only 14% of Asian Americans agree with this statement, fully one-third (33%) of Hispanics do. And conversely, while over half (56%) of Asian Americans consider the strength of family ties to be better in their country of origin, this share is 39% for Hispanic Americans. The difference in response by these two groups likely reflects, in part, the fact that Hispanics have a more established history in the U.S. and include a lower share (37%) of foreign-born respondents. In contrast, Asian Americans are predominantly immigrants (59%).

Conditions for Raising Children

Despite some ambivalence about the U.S. context in terms of morals and family ties, the majority (62%) of Asian Americans consider the conditions for raising children to be better in the U.S. than in their country of origin. One-fifth (20%) say that conditions for raising children are similar in both places, while a smaller share—13%—thinks that conditions are better in their country of origin.

Vietnamese Americans are the most likely to state that the U.S. offers a better context to raise children than their country of origin. Some 84% say as much. The plurality (40%) of Japanese Americans perceive the U.S. as offering better conditions for raising children, but sizable minorities think that Japan provides a better environment for this (22%) or that the conditions are similar in the two countries (26%).

Native-born Asian Americans are particularly upbeat about the prospect of raising children in the U.S. Two-thirds (67%) feel that conditions are better in the United States than in their country of origin. Even among the foreign born, though, a majority (61%) perceives the context for raising children as

Conditions for Raising Children

% saying ...

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54g. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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better in the U.S. than in their home country. Among Filipino immigrants, this number falls to 37%, while 80% of native-born Filipino Americans are relatively upbeat about raising children in the U.S.

Hispanic Americans are even more positive than Asian Americans about the prospect of raising children in the U.S. While 62% of Asian Americans think the U.S. offers a better context than their country of origin for raising children, this share rises to 72% among Hispanics living in the U.S.

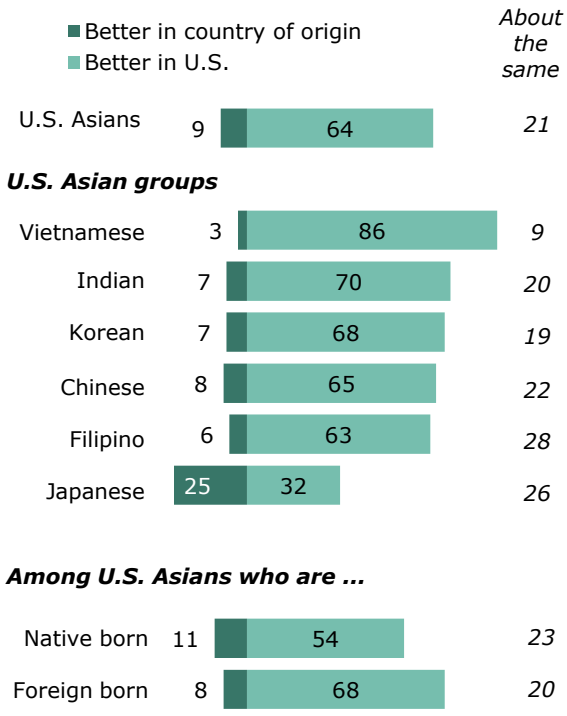
Treatment of the Poor

In terms of treatment of the poor, almost two-thirds (64%) of Asian Americans say that the situation is better in the U.S. than in their country of origin. About one-fifth (21%) perceive the treatment of the poor as similar in the U.S. and in their country of origin, and just 9% believe that treatment of the poor is better in their country of origin.

Once again, Vietnamese Americans are especially likely to perceive the U.S. more favorably than their country of origin, with 86% stating that the poor are treated better in the United States. In contrast, about one-third (32%) of Japanese Americans think that the poor are treated better in the U.S. than in Japan, one-fourth (25%) think they are treated better in Japan, and about one-fourth (26%) think they are treated equally in both places. The predominance of native-born Japanese Americans is likely contributing to their divergent views on how the U.S. compares to their country of origin.

Treatment of the Poor

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q54a. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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There are nativity differences on this measure, with 68% of the foreign born agreeing that the U.S. treats its poor better than their countries of origin do. In comparison, 54% of native-born Asian Americans say the same.

Hispanics are somewhat more positive than Asian Americans about the treatment of the poor in the U.S. versus their country of origin. Fully 69% of Hispanics state that treatment of the poor is better in the U.S.

Which Country Is the Rising Global Economic Power?

The survey also asked respondents who they think will be the world's leading economic power a decade from now. About four-in-ten (40%) Asian Americans say China will be the world's leading economic power 10 years in the future, while 41% say it will be the U.S. and 8% name some other country or economic power (such as the European Union, Germany, India, Japan and South Korea).

Respondents from most subgroups are fairly evenly split on whether they foresee China or the U.S. as leading the world's economy a decade from now. The exceptions are Japanese Americans and Vietnamese Americans. Japanese Americans are more likely to see China as the world's future economic power (47% say China, 31% say the U.S.), while Vietnamese Americans are more likely to hold the opposite opinion. Fully 61% expect that the world's leading economic power in the coming decade will be the U.S., while 23% expect that it will be China.

Who Will Be the Leading Economic Power in the Future?

% saying … will be the world's "leading economic power" 10 years from now

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q9. Responses of "None" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. General public results from April 2012 survey by Pew Research Center.

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There are no notable nativity differences on this measure. Native-born Asian Americans are more likely to view China as the world's future economic power (46% say so), while the largest share (44%) of the foreign born expect the U.S. to be the world's economic power 10 years from now. However, Chinese-American immigrants are more likely than those born in the U.S. to state that the U.S. will be the world's leading economic power a decade from now (42% versus 27%). This pattern holds for Korean Americans and Vietnamese Americans, as well.

The judgments of the general public of the United States about the world's leading economic power in 10 years are similar to those of Asian Americans. Among the general public, 42% believe China will be the top economic power, 37% say the U.S. and 10% cite other nations.

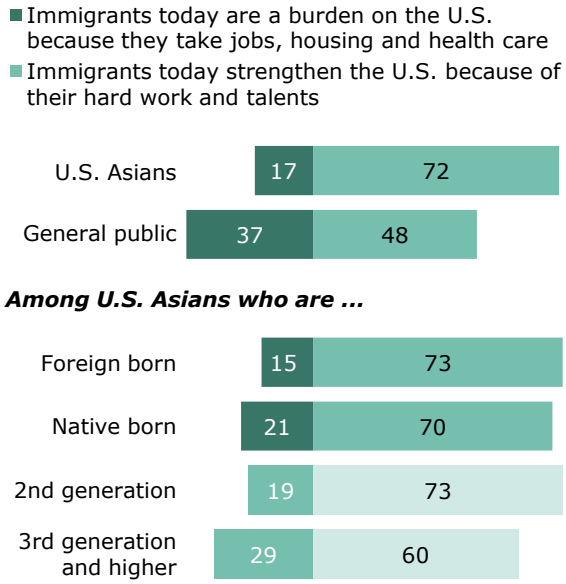
Do Immigrants Strengthen or Burden the U.S.?

When given two choices for describing the role of immigrants in the U.S., the vast majority of Asian Americans say that immigrants contribute to the U.S., while a much smaller share say immigrants are a drain. Seven-in-ten (72%) agree with the statement that "immigrants today strengthen the U.S. because of their hard work and talents," while only 17% agree with the statement that "immigrants today are a burden on the U.S. because they take jobs, housing and health care."[66]

These opinions are in stark contrast to those of the general population. In a recent Pew Research Center survey, about half (48%) of the U.S. adult population say that immigrants strengthen the U.S., and a somewhat smaller share (37%) agree with the statement that immigrants are a burden.

Asian Americans More Positive than General Public About Immigrants

% saying …



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q12a. General public results from January 2012 survey by Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. Responses of "Neither/Both equally" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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The gap in attitudes between Asian Americans and the general population is not simply driven by the fact that Asian Americans are far more likely to be foreign born. Both native-born and foreign-born Asian Americans tend to evaluate immigrants as important contributors to the U.S. Among the native born, 70% agree that immigrants strengthen the U.S., as do 73% of the foreign born. A difference of opinion emerges between the second generation (who have at least one immigrant parent) and the third generation (whose parents were born in the U.S.).

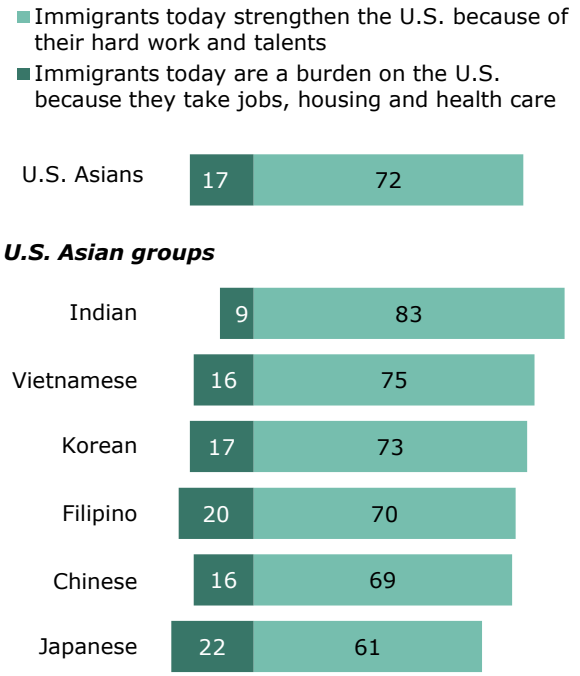
[66] In a 2010 Pew Hispanic Center survey, U.S. Hispanics, who like Asian Americans are composed largely of first- and second-generation Americans, reported very similar attitudes, with 78% agreeing that immigrants strengthen the U.S. and 13% stating that they are a burden.

While 73% of second-generation respondents see immigrants as strengthening the U.S., among the third generation, this share is 60%.

College graduates and those making $75,000 or more annually are the most likely to perceive immigrants as strengthening, as opposed to burdening, the U.S. More than three-fourths (78%) of respondents with a college degree or more think that immigrants strengthen the U.S. About two-thirds (68%) of those with some college education and 63% of those with a high school diploma or less share this opinion. An almost identical story plays out in terms of income. Nearly eight-in-ten (79%) of those with incomes of $75,000 or more think that immigrants strengthen the U.S., compared with 70% of those with incomes of $30,000 to $74,999. About two-thirds (67%) of respondents earning less than $30,000 annually think that immigrants strengthen the U.S.

Immigrants Seen as Strengthening U.S.

% saying ...



2012 Asian American Survey. Q12a. Responses of "Neither/Both equally" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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In all Asian-American subgroups, the majority agrees that immigrants strengthen the U.S. through their hard work and talents. Indian Americans are especially likely to agree with this statement, with 83% saying as much. Even among Japanese Americans, with their large share of native-born respondents, some 61% agree that immigrants strengthen the U.S.

Asians in the U.S. and in Asia

The Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project has done extensive polling throughout the world, including in some of the nations from which U.S. Asian immigrants have come. The results of this research provide a window into the attitudes and beliefs of Asians who have not emigrated and how they compare with those of Asians living in the U.S.[67]

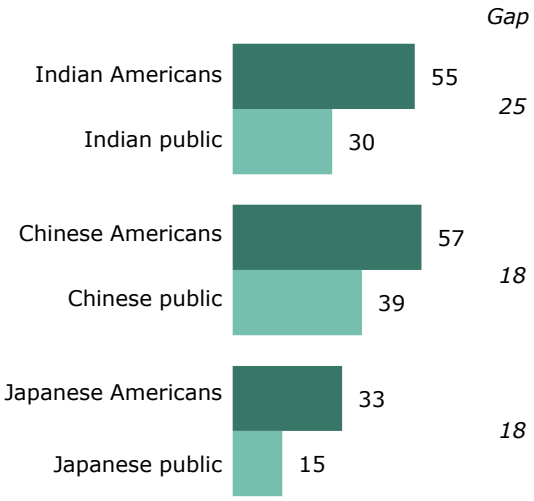
[67] For the 2012 Asian-American survey, classification into U.S. Asian groups (e.g., Indian American, Chinese American) is based on self-identification of each respondent's "specific Asian group." Those who identified with more than one Asian group were classified based on the group with which they said they "identify most."

Intergenerational Mobility: Polling in the U.S. and among Asian publics from 2012 suggests that Asian Americans have experienced greater economic mobility than their counterparts still living in their countries of origin. Respondents were asked to compare their current standard of living with that of their parents when they were at a comparable age.[68] Among Indian Americans, 55% say their standard of living is much better than their parents' was at a similar age. The share of adults living in India who say the same is much smaller (30%).

Similarly, while a majority of Chinese Americans (57%) say their standard of living is much better than their parents' was, only 39% of the Chinese public says the same.[69] A similar pattern can be seen when comparing Japanese Americans with Japanese adults in Japan. Japanese Americans are about twice as likely as Japanese adults to say their current standard of living is much better than their parents' was at a comparable age (33% vs. 15%).

Intergenerational Mobility among Asians in the U.S. and in Asia

% saying their current standard of living is "much better" than their parents' was at a comparable age



Data for Indian Americans, Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans are from the 2012 Asian-American survey. Q10. Data for the Indian, Chinese and Japanese publics are from surveys conducted in those countries in 2012 by the Pew Research Center's Global Attitudes Project.

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Belief in Hard Work: Asian Americans are strong proponents of hard work. Overall, 69% believe most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard, while only 27% say hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people. In this regard, Asian Americans express a stronger belief in the value of hard work than does the broader American public.

Looking at specific country of origin groups, the shares of Indian Americans, Chinese Americans and Japanese Americans who believe hard work can lead to success are somewhat

[68] There was a slight difference in question wording between the 2012 Asian-American survey and the 2012 Global Attitudes Survey. The Asian-American survey asked: "Compared to your parents when they were the age you are now …"; the Global Attitudes survey asked: "Compared to your parents when they were the same age as you are now …"

[69] Results from the Chinese survey are based on a disproportionately urban sample (the sample is 55% urban, China's population is 50% urban). The sample represents roughly 64% of the adult population.

higher than the shares of Indians, Chinese and Japanese living in those countries who say the same.[70] While 59% of Japanese Americans say hard work leads to success, only 40% of Japanese adults living in Japan agree. Among Chinese Americans, 61% say hard work leads to success, while only 45% of Chinese adults in China agree. Strong majorities of Indian Americans and Indian adults in India believe hard work is the key to getting ahead. Nonetheless there is a gap in opinion between the two groups: 75% of Indian Americans vs. 67% of Indian adults in India say hard work leads to success.

Parenting Styles: Whether it's a myth or a reality, Asian Americans have gained a reputation as strict and demanding parents. Overall, 62% of Asian Americans believe most American parents do not put enough pressure on their children to do well in school. Their views of their own approach to parenting are quite different. Very few Asian Americans (9%) say parents from their country of origin put too little pressure on their children to do well in school. Rather, they believe parents from their country of origin put about the right amount of pressure (49%) or too much pressure (39%) on their children.

The pressure on children to succeed may be even more intense in Asian countries. In 2011, 68% of adults in China said parents in that country put too much pressure on their children to do well in school. This compares with 42% of Chinese Americans who say Chinese-American parents put too much pressure on their children. Similarly, in 2006, 59% of Japanese adults said parents in Japan put too much pressure on their children to do well in school. This compares with 25% of Japanese Americans who say the same this year about Japanese-American parents.

Among Indians and Indian Americans, there is not a significant gap in the share saying that parents put too much pressure on their children to succeed. In 2011, 24% of adults in India said parents in their country do not put enough pressure on their children to do well in school. By contrast, 7% of Indian-American adults say the same about parents from their country of origin group.

Views on Homosexuality: Overall, the American public has become much more accepting of homosexuality in recent years. Currently, among all U.S. adults, 56% say homosexuality should be accepted by society, while 32% say it should be discouraged. The views of Asian Americans

[70] There was a slight difference in question wording between the 2012 Asian-American survey and the 2012 Global Attitudes survey. Both surveys asked respondents to choose the statement that came closer to their own views. For the Asian-American survey, the statements were "(1) Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard [OR] (2) Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people." For the Global Attitudes survey, the statements were "(1) Most people can succeed if they are willing to work hard [OR] (2) Hard work is no guarantee of success for most people."

are similar: 53% say homosexuality should be accepted by society, and 35% say it should be discouraged.

The balance of opinion on this issue is much different in several large Asian nations. In recent years, strong majorities in South Korea (77% in 2007), China (61% in 2011) and India (58% in 2011) have said homosexuality should be discouraged by society, while fewer than one-in-five in each of those countries said homosexuality should be accepted. The gaps between these Asian publics and their counterparts living in the U.S. are quite wide.[71]

The Japanese public expresses more tolerant views on homosexuality, and as a result their opinions are more closely aligned with those of Japanese Americans. In 2011, 55% of Japanese adults living in Japan said homosexuality should be accepted. This compares with 68% of Japanese Americans in the 2012 Asian-American survey.

National Conditions: Most Asian immigrants say they came to the U.S. for family reasons, educational opportunities and economic opportunities. Some 43% say they are satisfied with current conditions in the U.S.—a much higher share than the general public (21%).

Looking at Asian publics, satisfaction with national conditions varies widely. Adults living in China are highly satisfied with conditions in that country. In 2012, fully 82% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in their country today. Recent economic growth in China is undoubtedly tied to these high levels of satisfaction. By comparison, Chinese Americans are less satisfied overall with conditions in the U.S. (41% are satisfied with the way things are going in the U.S.).

India, too, has experienced dramatic economic change in recent years. The Indian public is less positive about conditions in India: 38% are now satisfied with the way things are going in their country, and 59% are dissatisfied. Among Indian Americans, 47% are satisfied with conditions in the U.S.

The Japanese public has a more negative view of conditions in their country. Only 20% of Japanese adults now say they are satisfied with the way things are going in Japan. By comparison, Japanese Americans are more satisfied with conditions in the U.S. (36% are satisfied).

[71] There was a slight difference in question wording between the 2012 Asian-American survey and the 2011 and 2007 Global Attitudes Surveys. Both surveys asked respondents to choose the statement that came closer to their own views. For the Asian-American survey, the statements were "Homosexuality should be accepted by society" and "Homosexuality should be discouraged by society." For the Global Attitudes survey, the statements were "Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society" and "Homosexuality is a way of life that should not be accepted by society."

The World's Leading Economic Power: When Asian publics are asked to name the world's leading economy, the U.S. generally comes out on top. According to the most recent Global Attitudes survey (2012), pluralities in China (48%) and India (37%) say the U.S. is now the world's leading economic power. The Japanese public is evenly split over which country has the world's leading economy: 45% point to the U.S., while 43% say China. Americans are similarly divided over which country is the world's leading economic power. In the same 2012 Pew Global Attitudes survey, 40% of all American adults say the U.S. is the leading economic power, and 41% say China is the leader. The views of the Japanese public and the American public have changed significantly in this regard. In 2008, 52% of Japanese adults said the U.S. was the leading economic power, while only 19% chose China. Among American adults, in 2008, 46% chose the U.S. and 26% chose China.[72]

In the 2012 Asian-American Survey, Asian Americans were asked to predict which country will be the world's leading economic power 10 years from now. Overall, they divide about equally between the U.S. (41%) and China (40%). Japanese Americans stand out in this regard: A plurality believes China will be the world's leading economic power in 10 years. Among Vietnamese Americans a majority believes the U.S. will be dominant.

The World's Leading Superpower: In 2011, global respondents were also asked about the potential for China to eventually replace the U.S. as the world's leading superpower. Opinion on this matter is divided across Asian publics. Chinese adults are the most likely to say their country will surpass the U.S. and become the leading superpower (57%). Adults in Japan are more skeptical about China's future. Among Japanese adults, 25% believe China will eventually replace the U.S. as the world's leading superpower, while 60% say this will never happen. In India, fully half of respondents had no opinion on this matter. Of those who did express a view, most say that China either would replace the U.S. as the leading superpower or that China had already done so.

This question was not included on the Asian-American survey, so no comparisons are available.

[72] For further analysis of the U.S. image abroad, see Pew Global Attitudes Project. 2012. "Global Opinion of Obama Slips, International Policies Faulted." Washington, D.C.: June.

CHAPTER 5: FAMILY AND PERSONAL VALUES

Asian Americans have a distinctive set of values and behaviors when it comes to parenthood, marriage and career. Compared with the U.S. population as a whole, they are more likely to be married, and Asian-American women are less likely to be unmarried mothers. They place greater importance than the general public on career and material success, and these values are evident in their parenting norms. About six-in-ten say most American parents don't place enough pressure on their children to do well in school; only 9% say the same about parents from their own Asian heritage group.

Marriage and family are of central importance to virtually all Americans, regardless of their ethnic or racial background. But in recent decades, sweeping social changes have transformed the institutions of marriage and parenthood. A smaller share of adults in the U.S. are married (51% now, down from 69% in 1970), more babies are being born outside of marriage (41% in 2009, up from 11% in 1970),[73] and fewer children are being raised by two married parents (63% in 2010, down from 82% in 1970). In most of these realms, today's Asian Americans—particularly the foreign born—represent something of a throwback; their behaviors resemble the patterns that prevailed before these changes in American society took hold.

Asian Americans and the overall American public are in broad agreement that parenthood and marriage are at the top of the list of "the most important things" in life; other priorities such as career success, homeownership and helping others in need trail far behind. However, while the rank order is similar, Asian Americans place a higher level of importance on each priority compared with the general public.

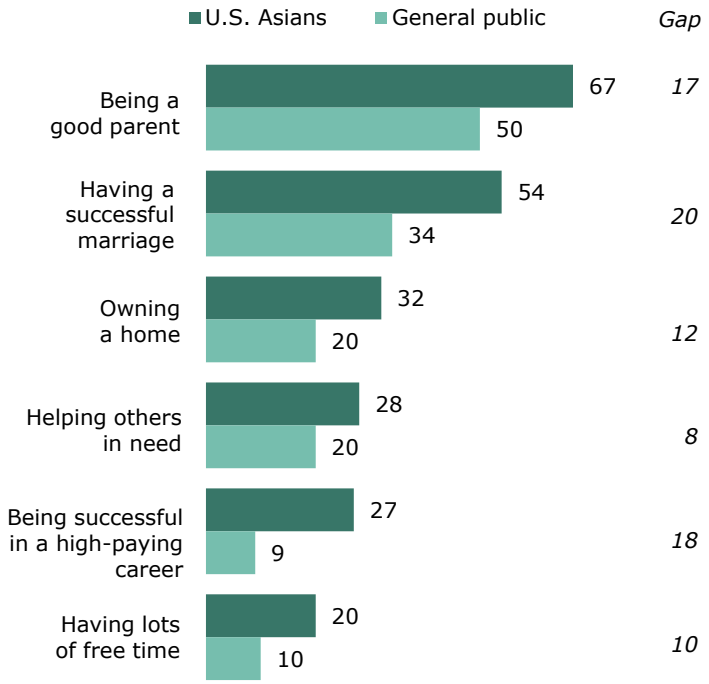
Within the Asian-American population, there are a few key differences between immigrants and those born in the U.S. Foreign-born Asians place a higher priority on marriage, homeownership and career success than do their native-born counterparts. Indian Americans stand out from other Asian Americans for the emphasis they place on being a good parent. Vietnamese Americans stand apart from other groups in the value they place on homeownership and career success.

[73] Chapter 1 reports that in 2010, 37% of all American women who gave birth in the previous year were unmarried. That figure is based on data from the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS). The 41% figure reported here represents the share of births to unmarried mothers and is based on data from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) for 2009. The discrepancy between the two numbers (37% vs. 41%) is attributable to at least two factors: The ACS data includes 18- to 44-year-old women, while the NCHS data includes 15- to 44-year-old women. In addition, NCHS derives its marital status data from birth certificates (recorded at the time of birth), while the ACS uses the mother's marital status at the time of the interview (some time after the birth).

In addition to exploring Asian Americans' values and priorities, this section will look at their views on appropriate parenting and the influence parents should have over their adult children. The image of the Asian American "tiger mom" may be overblown, but a majority of Asian Americans question whether most American parents put enough pressure on their children to do well in school. And a solid majority of Asian Americans say parents should have at least some influence over their adult children's choice of spouse and career.

Life Goals and Priorities: Asian Americans vs. General Public

% saying each is "one of the most important things" in their lives



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q19 a-g. "Gap" was computed after rounding. General public results from January 2010 survey by the Pew Research Center. The question wording varied slightly from one survey to the other.

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What Matters Most in Life?

Survey respondents were asked how important each of six aspects of live is to them personally.[74] Asian Americans place the highest priority on being a good parent. About two-thirds (67%) say this is "one of the most important things" in their lives, and an additional 27% say this is "very important but not one of the most important things." Only 5% say being a good parent is "somewhat important" or "not important" to them personally.

A similarly worded question was asked of the general public in a 2010 Pew Research survey. The public also ranked being a good parent the top priority. However, a smaller share (50%) said this was one of the most important things in their lives. An additional 44% of American adults said being a good parent was very important to them but not the most important thing.

[74] The full list in the Asian-American survey included seven items. The item that asked respondents how much importance they place on "living a very religious life" was held for future release.

There are similar gaps between U.S. Asians and the general public on all of these items. Part of this may be a result of slightly different question wording.[75] However, the gaps may also be attributable to cultural differences between Asian Americans and the general public that influence the way in which respondents from each group answer this type of question.

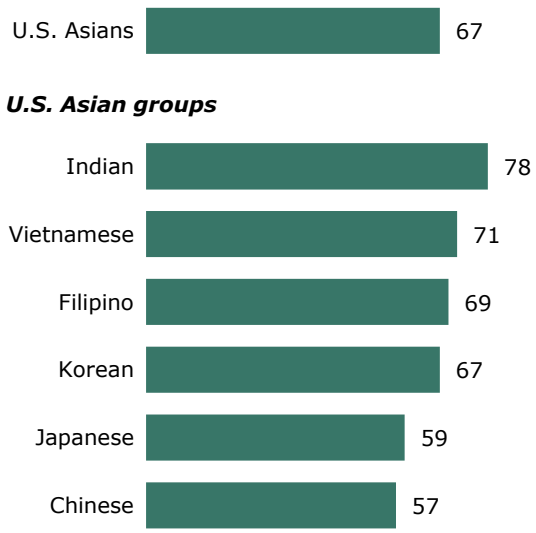
When it comes to marriage and parenthood, the gap in attitudes between Asian Americans and the general public may also reflect different patterns of behavior in these realms. Overall, Asian-American children are more likely than all American children to be growing up in a household with two married parents. According to data from the 2010 American Community Survey, 80% of Asian-American children age 17 or younger were living with two married parents. This compares with 63% of all American children. In addition, only 15% of the Asian-American women who gave birth in the previous year were unmarried. This compares with roughly 40% of women giving birth among the general public.

Among U.S. Asians, Indian Americans are more likely than others to say that being a good parent is one of the most important things in their lives (78%). Chinese Americans (57%) and Japanese Americans (59%) are somewhat less likely than other Asian Americans to rank this as a top priority.

Whether an Asian American was born in the U.S. or outside of the U.S. does not have a significant impact on the priority placed on parenthood. Asian immigrants and U.S.-born Asians are equally likely to say that being a good parent is one of the most important things in their lives.

Being a Good Parent

% saying being a good parent is "one of the most important things" in their lives



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q19d.

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[75] While these questions are comparable, they are not identical. There was a slight wording change between the version of the question that was asked in the 2010 Pew Research survey of the general public and the version asked on the 2012 Asian-American survey. For each item, Asian-American respondents were asked the following: "Is that one of the most important things in your life, or very important but not one of the most important things, or somewhat important, or not important?" In the 2010 general public survey, respondents were asked, "Is that one of the most important things in your life, very important but not the most, somewhat important, or not important?" The wording change is minor, but it may have affected the responses. Therefore, the gaps in opinion between Asian Americans and all American adults should be interpreted with caution.

After parenthood, Asian Americans place the highest priority on having a successful marriage. Just over half (54%) say this is one of the most important things in their lives. An additional 32% say this is very important but not one of the most important things to them. Among U.S. Asian groups, those of Indian, Korean and Vietnamese heritage place a higher value on marriage than do the other three U.S. Asian groups.

Asian immigrants place a greater degree of importance on marriage than do Asians born in the U.S. Fully 57% of foreign-born Asians rank having a successful marriage as one of their top priorities, while 47% of native-born Asians give it the same ranking.

How Important Is Marriage?

% saying having a successful marriage is "one of the most important things" in their lives

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q19b.

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Compared with all American adults, Asian Americans place more importance on marriage. Among the general public, only about one-third (34%) say having a successful marriage is one of the most important things in their lives. On average, Asian-American adults are more likely than all U.S. adults to be married. In 2010, 59% of all Asian-American adults were married, compared with 51% among the general public. Among U.S. Asian groups, Indian-American adults are the most likely to be married (71%), while Japanese Americans are the least likely (53%).

Homeownership, Career Success, Altruism and Leisure

Parenthood and marriage are the top two priorities for both Asian Americans and the general public. After those is a second tier of items outside of the realm of family: homeownership, career success and helping others in need. Roughly one-third of Asian Americans (32%) say that owning their own home is one of the most important things in their lives. An additional 36% say this is very important to them but not one of the most important things. One-quarter (26%) say this is somewhat important, and 6% say it is not very important.

When compared with the general public, Asian Americans are more likely to place homeownership near the top of their list of life goals. Among U.S. adults, 20% say that owning a home is one of the most important things in their lives.

Vietnamese Americans are more likely than any other U.S. Asian group to place a high priority on owning a home. Roughly half (49%) say owning their own home is one of the most important things to them. By contrast, only 21% of Japanese Americans and 24% of Chinese Americans say the same.

As a group, Asian Americans are less likely than all U.S. adults to own their own home (58% vs. 65%). Among Asian immigrants, those who arrived in the last decade are much less likely to be homeowners than those who emigrated before 2000. In spite of this gap in homeownership, these two groups of immigrants are equally likely to say that owning a home is a top priority for them.

The Value of Homeownership

% saying owning their own home is "one of the most important things" in their lives

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q19g.

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Many Asian Americans also value career success. Overall, 27% of U.S. Asians say being successful in a high-paying career is one of the most important things in their lives. Four-in-ten (39%) say this is very important but not one of the most important things. Some 27% say career success is somewhat important to them, and 6% say it is not important. The general public places significantly less importance on career success. Among all U.S. adults, only 9% say being successful in a high-paying career or profession is one of the most important things in their lives.

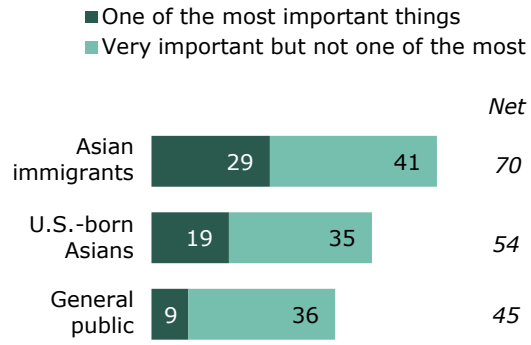
The drive for success is particularly strong among foreign-born Asian Americans. Roughly three-in-ten (29%) rank being successful in a high-paying career as a top priority, and 41% say this is very important to them though not one of the most important things in their lives. By comparison, 19% of U.S.-born Asians say career success is one of the most important things in their lives, and an additional 35% say it is very important.

Across U.S. Asian groups, Vietnamese Americans (42%) place the highest priority on career success. Japanese Americans are more in line with the general public on this measure: 12% rate being successful in a high-paying career as a top priority (as do 9% of all U.S. adults).

When it comes to helping others in need, 28% of Asian Americans say this is one of the most important things in their lives. An additional 44% say this is very important to them but not the most important thing, and 26% say this is somewhat important. Only 2% say this is not important to them. Compared with the general public, Asian Americans are somewhat more likely to place a high priority on helping others in need (20% of all American adults say this is one of the most important things in their lives).

Asian Americans and the Drive to Succeed

% saying being successful in a high-paying career or profession is ... in their lives



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q19a. General public results from January 2010 survey by the Pew Research Center. The question wording varied slightly from one survey to the other.

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Views on this are fairly consistent across U.S. Asian groups, with one exception. Chinese Americans are somewhat less likely than other Asian Americans to say helping other people in need is one of the most important things in their lives (17%).

Finally, respondents were asked how much importance they place on having lots of free time to relax or do things they want to do. Relative to the other five life goals included on the list, free time ranks at the bottom for Asian Americans (and near the bottom for the general public). One-in-five Asian Americans (20%) say this is one of the most important things in their lives, an additional 37% say this is very important but not one of the most important things, and 36% say it is somewhat important. Only 6% say having enough free time is not important to them.

Among all American adults, 10% say having lots of free time is one of the most important things in their lives and 43% say it is very important to them but not the most important.

There is some variance on this measure across U.S. Asian groups. Korean Americans (30%) and Vietnamese Americans (29%) are more likely than other Asian Americans to place a high value on having free time. By contrast, only 15% of Chinese Americans say having free time is

one of the most important things to them. Filipino (19%), Indian (19%) and Japanese Americans (18%) are closer to the Chinese in this regard.

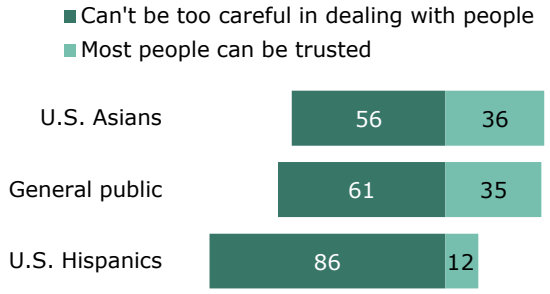
How Trusting Are Asian Americans?

When it comes to trusting other people, the views of Asian Americans are similar to those of the general public. Respondents were asked to answer a classic social science question: "Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?" Overall, 36% of Asian Americans say most people can be trusted, while a 56% majority says you can't be too careful. In a 2010 Pew Research survey of the general public, 35% of American adults said most people can be trusted and 61% said you can't be too careful in dealing with people (slightly higher than the share of Asian Americans who say that).

The views of Asian Americans regarding social trust are in sharp contrast to those of Hispanics. Among Hispanics, only 12% say they believe most people can be trusted. An overwhelming 86% majority says you can't be too careful in dealing with people. Within the Asian-American population, immigrants and those born in the U.S. express similar levels of trust. Within the Hispanic population, immigrants are less trusting than the native born. Fully 89% of Hispanic immigrants say you can't be too careful in dealing with people; 81% of U.S.-born Hispanics say the same.

Asians More Trusting than Hispanics

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q20. Responses of "Other/Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. General public results from August 2010 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. U.S. Hispanic results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Hispanic Center.

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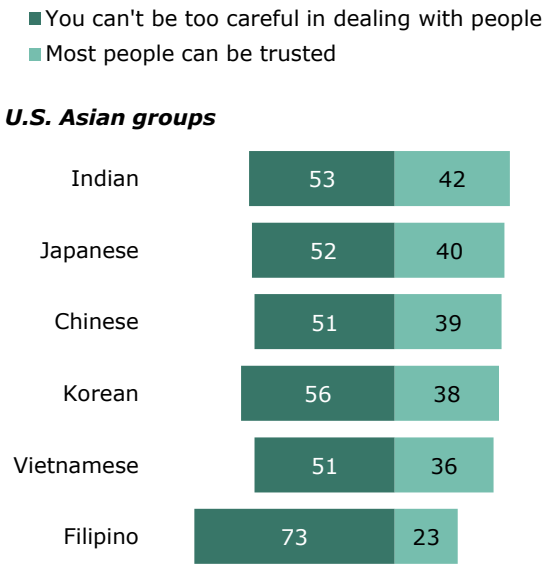
The level of social trust Asian Americans express is remarkably consistent across U.S. Asian groups, with one exception. Filipino Americans are less trusting than any other group. Only 23% say most people can be trusted, and 73% say you can't be too careful in dealing with people.

Asian Americans and Social Trust

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q20. Responses of "Other/Depends" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Parenting, Pressure and Children: How Much Is Too Much?

Amy Chua set off a swirl of controversy last year with her Wall Street Journal essay entitled, "Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior." The article was excerpted from Chua's book, "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," in which she details her strict approach to parenting and her unwillingness to accept anything short of academic excellence from her children. Chua contrasted her approach to parenting with the more nurturing, accepting approach taken by most Western parents.

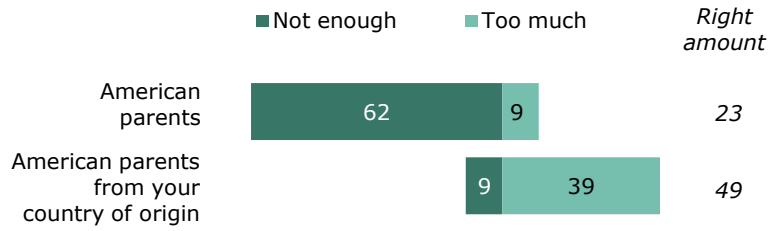
The opinions of Asian Americans suggest that they, too, see a major gap between their own approach to parenting and the approach taken by most American parents. Survey respondents were first asked whether, on the whole, they think American parents put too much pressure on their children to do well in school, not enough pressure, or about the right amount of pressure. A strong majority of Asian Americans (62%) say American parents do not put enough pressure on their children. An additional 23% say American parents put about the right amount of pressure on their children. Only 9% say they put too much pressure on their children to do well in school.

Later in the survey, respondents were asked about the approach taken by parents from their country of origin or ancestral background. Chinese respondents were asked about Chinese American parents, Koreans were asked about Korean American parents, and so on. While roughly half of all Asian Americans (49%) say that parents from their Asian group put about the right amount of pressure on their children to do well in school, a large minority (39%) says

Asian-American parents put too much pressure on their children. Only 9% say they put too little pressure on their children.

Asian Americans Say American Parenting Style Is Too Soft

% of U.S. Asians saying (American parents/Asian-American parents) put ... pressure on their children to do well in school



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q17, 53. In Q53 respondents were asked about parents from their country of origin group (Chinese-American parents, Korean-American parents, etc.). Those who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "Asian-American parents." Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Views on the parenting styles of Americans and Asian Americans do not differ significantly by gender or parental status. Attitudes do differ, however, by educational attainment. When thinking of the amount of pressure most American parents put on their children to do well in school, Asian Americans with a college degree are much more likely than those with no college education to say most American parents don't put enough pressure on their children (66% of Asian-American college graduates say this, compared with 50% of those with a high school diploma or less).

In addition, Asian-American college graduates are more likely than those who have not attended college to endorse the approach taken by parents from their own country of origin. While roughly half (51%) of Asian-American college graduates say parents from their country of origin put about the right amount of pressure on their children to do well in school, only 43% of Asian Americans with no college experience share this view.

U.S.-born Asian Americans are more critical of most American parents than are their foreign-born counterparts. Among Asian Americans who were born in the U.S., 71% say most American parents do not put enough pressure on their children to do well in school. This compares with 59% of foreign-born Asian Americans. And when it comes to their own parenting, U.S.-born Asian Americans have a somewhat more positive view of the approach taken by parents from their own Asian group than do those born outside the U.S. Some 56% of U.S.-born Asian Americans say parents from their ancestral background put the right amount of pressure on their children. Among foreign-born Asian Americans, that share is 46%.

Across U.S. Asian groups, opinion is fairly consistent with regard to the way Americans raise their children. About half or more of each group say most American parents do not put enough

pressure on their children to do well in school, while very few say American parents put too much pressure on their children. Indian Americans are more likely than other Asians to say American parents are too easy on their children (71%).

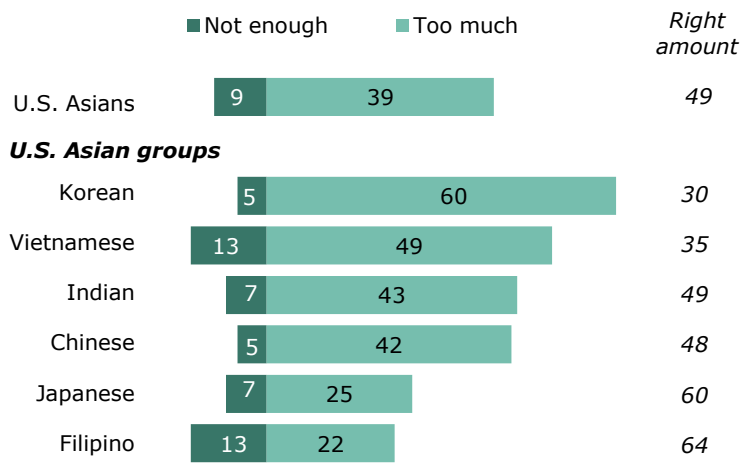
There is much less agreement about the pressure that Asian-American parents place on their children. Filipino Americans and Japanese Americans are more likely than other groups to say that parents from their own country of origin put about the right amount of pressure on their children to do well in school. In fact, majorities from each group (64% of Filipinos and 60% of Japanese) say parents from their group take the right approach with their children.

The balance of opinion is quite different among most other U.S. Asian groups. A solid majority of Korean Americans (60%) say Korean-American parents put too much academic pressure on their children; only 30% say they put the right amount of pressure on their children. Among Vietnamese Americans, 49% say Vietnamese-American parents put too much pressure on their children, while 35% say the amount of pressure is about right.

Indian Americans and Chinese Americans are more evenly divided. Roughly four-in-ten from each group say parents from their country of origin put too much pressure on their children. At the same time, roughly half from each group say these parents put about the right amount of pressure on their children.

Asian Americans Evaluate their Own Approach to Parenting

% saying parents from their country of origin put ... pressure on their children to do well in school



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q53. Respondents were asked about parents from their country of origin group (Chinese-American parents, Korean-American parents, etc.). Those who did not provide a country of origin were asked about "Asian-American parents." Responses of "Don't Know/Refused" not shown.

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The Scope of Parental Influence

For many Asian Americans, parental influence extends beyond pushing their young children to do well in school. Two-thirds of Asian Americans say parents should have at least some influence over a child's career choice and nearly as many (61%) say parents should have some influence over their child's choice of spouse.

Survey respondents were asked how much influence, if any, parents should have in choosing a child's profession or line of work. Overall, 17% of Asian Americans say the parents should have "a lot of influence" in this regard, and an additional 49% say parents should have "some influence." Roughly one-in-four say parents should not have too much influence in choosing a child's profession, and 9% say parents should have no influence at all.

Asian Americans with adult children, for whom this may be less of a hypothetical question, are more likely than those who do not have children to say parents should have some influence over career choices. About two-thirds (68%) of parents with children ages 18 and older say parents should have at least some influence over what profession a child chooses. This compares with 58% of those with no children.

Asian Americans who have graduated from college are somewhat more likely than those without a college degree to say parents should have some influence over the career choices their child makes—70% of colleges graduates and 62% of non-college graduates say parents should have a lot of influence or some influence over their child's career choices.

Should Parents Influence their Children's Career Choices?

% saying parents should have ... influence in choosing their child's profession or line of work

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q22a. "Net" was computed prior to rounding.

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Perhaps the biggest gap in opinion on this measure of parental influence is between foreign-born and native-born Asian Americans. Those who were born outside of the U.S. are much more likely than those born in the U.S. to say parents should have some influence on their child's choice of profession or line of work. Seven-in-ten Asian immigrants say parents should have a lot of (20%) or some (49%) influence. By contrast, 55% of U.S.-born Asian Americans say parents should have at least some influence in this regard (8% a lot, 47% some). This pattern is consistent within the Chinese-American community with a higher share of the foreign born saying parents should have some influence over their child's career choice. However, among Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans, there is no significant difference between the native born and foreign born on the question of parental influence over career decisions.[76]

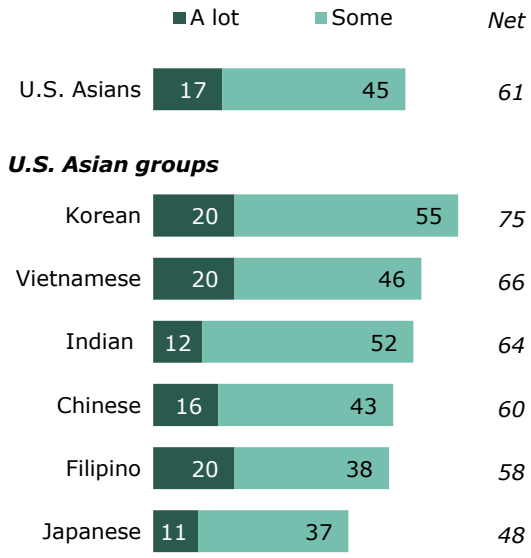
Across U.S. Asian groups, Korean Americans are more likely than other Asians to say parents should have at least some influence over their child's career choices. Three-quarters say parents should have a lot (22%) or some (53%) influence. Japanese Americans are less likely than other U.S. Asians to say parents should have influence over their children's career choices (8% say a lot, 51% say some).

Respondents were also asked how much influence parents should have in choosing a child's spouse. Overall, 61% of Asian Americans say parents should have at least some influence—17% say a lot of influence, and 45% say some influence. Women are somewhat more likely than men to say parents should have some influence over their child's choice of a spouse (65% of women vs. 58% of men).

Asian Americans who have grown children are more likely than those without children to say

Should Parents Influence their Children's Choice of a Spouse?

% saying parents should have ... influence in choosing their child's spouse



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q22b. "Net" was computed prior to rounding.

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[76] Subsample sizes did not allow for foreign born vs. native born comparisons for three of the six major U.S. Asian groups (Indian, Korean and Vietnamese).

a person should be influenced by his or her parents when it comes to choosing a spouse (66% vs. 54% say parents should have at least some influence). About one-in-five parents with children ages 18 and older say they should have a lot of influence. This compares with only 12% of those with no children.

Once again there is a substantial gap in opinion between foreign-born and native-born Asians regarding the scope of parental influence. Asian immigrants are much more likely than their U.S.-born counterparts to say that parents should have at least some influence over a child's choice of a spouse (65% of foreign born vs. 49% of native born).

There are significant differences across U.S. Asian groups as well. Korean Americans are more likely than other Asians to say parents should have some influence over their child's choice of a spouse (75% say a lot of or some influence). Japanese Americans are the least likely to say parents should have influence in this area; about half (48%) say parents should have a lot of influence or some influence.

CHAPTER 6: POLITICAL AND CIVIC LIFE

More so than the general public, Asian Americans prefer an activist government, approve of President Obama's job performance, are satisfied with the direction of the country and identify with the Democratic rather than the Republican Party. However, their political views are similar to those of the general public on two high-profile social issues—homosexuality and abortion.

When it comes to participation in the political process, Asian Americans are also distinctive—but for a different reason. Because about three-in-ten Asian American adults are not citizens and are therefore ineligible to vote, the group's voting rate falls well below that of the general public. According to the Pew Research survey, about half of Asian Americans say they voted in the 2008 presidential election. By contrast, 67% of all U.S. adults say they voted that year, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.[77]

This gap disappears, however, on non-electoral measures of civic and community engagement. Some 44% of Asian Americans say they have worked on a community problem over the past year, compared with 38% of the general public that says the same, according to Pew Research surveys.

This chapter explores attitudes about the direction of the country, the president's job performance, political affiliation and ideology. It also looks at participation of Asian Americans in voting and in civic life. It provides breakdowns among the six largest Asian country of origin groups; among the native born versus the foreign born; citizens versus non-citizens; and wherever appropriate by party affiliation and demographic characteristics.

[77] This figure excludes those who gave no response; all adults includes non-citizens and others ineligible to vote.

Direction of the Country

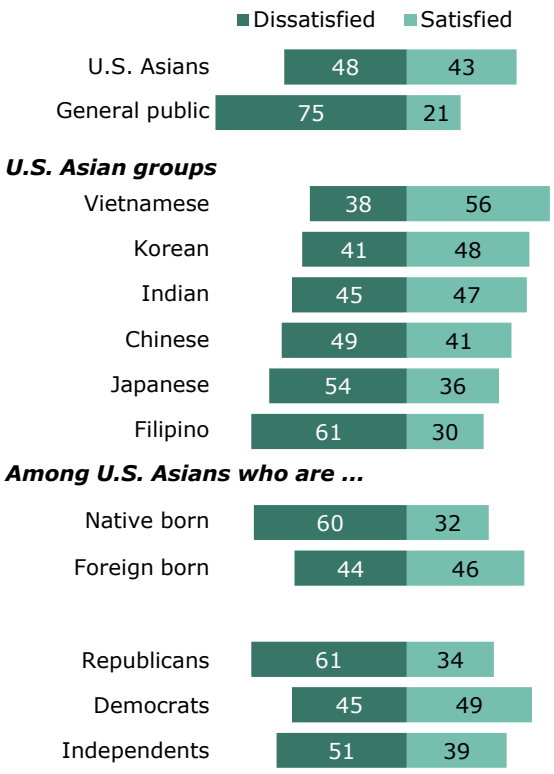
About four-in-ten (43%) Asian Americans are satisfied with the direction of the country, about half (48%) are dissatisfied and the remainder have no opinion. By contrast, just 21% of the U.S. general public are satisfied and three-quarters (75%) are dissatisfied, according to a January 2012 Pew Research survey.

Views about the direction of the country are strongly associated with partisanship. Asian-American Democrats are more satisfied than either Republicans or independents. The same pattern occurs among the general public.

On average, foreign-born Asian Americans are more likely than the native born to be satisfied with the direction of the country (46% vs. 32%). And recent immigrants are more likely than those who arrived before 2000 to be satisfied with the direction of the country (58% vs. 41%).

Satisfaction with Direction of U.S.

% saying they are ... with the way things are going in this country today



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q6. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown. General public results from January 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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Among the U.S. Asian groups, Vietnamese Americans are more satisfied with the direction of the country than are other U.S. Asian groups. Filipino Americans and Japanese Americans are less satisfied with the direction of the country than are other country of origin groups. Chinese Americans fall in the middle, with 41% satisfied and 49% dissatisfied with the direction of the U.S. As with Asian Americans as a whole, Chinese Americans who were born in the U.S. are less satisfied than Chinese immigrants with the direction of the country (28% to 44% among foreign-born Chinese Americans).

Presidential Job Approval

A 54% majority of Asian Americans approve of the job Barack Obama is doing as president, 29% disapprove and 17% have no opinion.

Compared with the general public, Asian Americans are more likely to approve of President Obama's job performance. Among the U.S. general public, 44% approve and 48% disapprove.

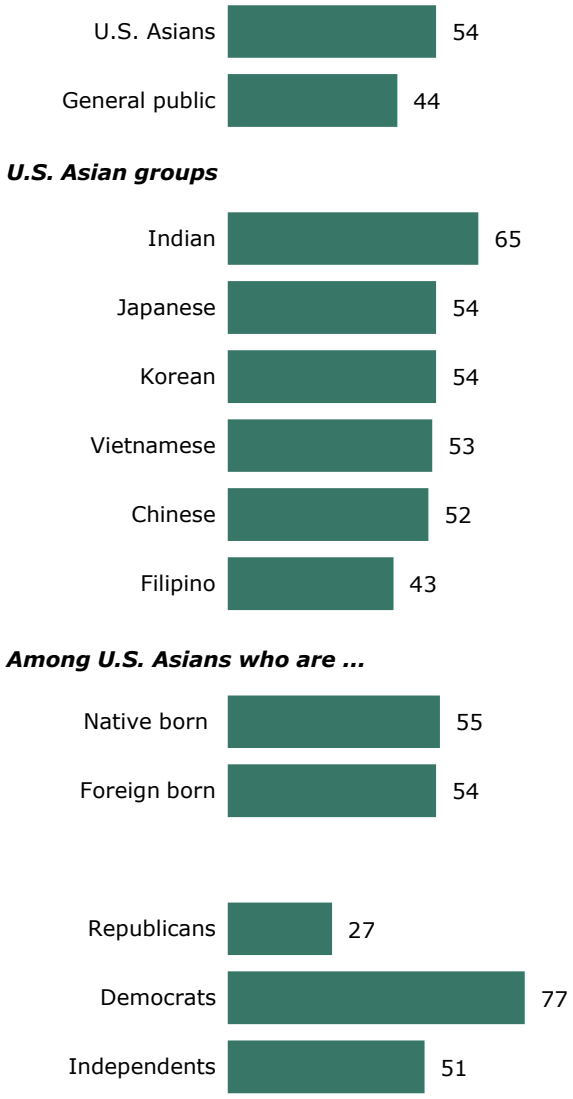
As expected, opinion about Obama's job performance is strongly associated with partisanship. About three-quarters (77%) of Asian-American Democrats approve of Obama's job performance, compared with 27% among Republicans and 51% among independents.

Differences across the six U.S. Asian groups are modest, with more approving than disapproving of Obama's job performance for all but one Asian group. Filipino Americans are split evenly with 43% approving and 43% disapproving of Obama's performance. Job approval is higher among Indian Americans (65% approve) than it is for the other five U.S. Asian groups.

Native- and foreign-born Asian Americans are about equally likely to approve of the president's job performance.

Obama Job Approval

% saying they approve of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q7. General public results from January 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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Political Party and Ideology

Asian Americans tilt more to the Democratic than the Republican Party. About half (50%) of Asian Americans identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party, 28% identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, and about a fifth (22%) do not lean to either party.

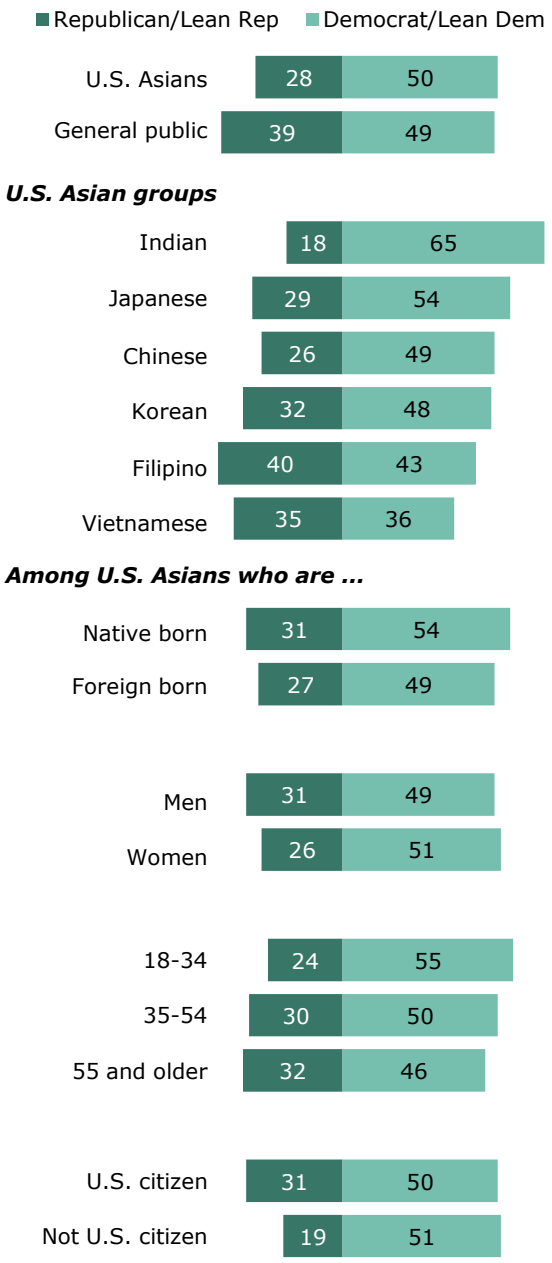
The general public also tilts toward the Democratic Party, but not as strongly. Among the general public, 39% are Republicans or Republican leaners, and 49% are Democrats or Democratic leaners.

There is some variation in partisan leanings among U.S. Asian groups. Filipino Americans and Vietnamese Americans are evenly divided in partisanship. Four-in-ten (40%) Filipino Americans are Republicans or independents who lean to the Republican Party, 43% are Democrats or independents who lean to the Democrats. However, as with U.S.-born Asians overall, native-born Filipino Americans tend to identify with or lean to the Democrats (52% do so, compared with 35% who identify with or lean to the Republicans).

Among Vietnamese Americans, 35% identify with or lean to the Republicans, 36% identify with or lean to the Democrats, and about three-in-ten (28%) do not lean to either party. Vietnamese Americans who are registered to vote are somewhat more likely to be Republican, however; among this group, 47% identify with or lean to the Republicans, 32% identify with or lean to the Democrats, and 21% do not lean to either party.

Party Identification

% saying their party identification is ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. PARTY, PARYLN. Those who refused to lean are not shown. General public results from February 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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Indian Americans are the most Democratic-leaning of the six U.S. Asian groups. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Indian Americans identify with or lean to the Democrats, while 18% identify with or lean to the Republicans.

The tendency to identify with the Democratic more so than the Republican Party is stronger among younger than older Asian Americans. Among those 18 to 34, 55% identify or lean to the Democrats and 24% to the Republicans. Among those 55 years and older, 46% identify with or lean to the Democrats, 32% to the Republicans.

On the other hand, younger Asian Americans are more likely than older adults to be independents, suggesting that partisan ties among younger Asian Americans are relatively weak. Among those 18 to 34 years old, 42% identify as independents, 31% as Democrats and 14% as Republicans. This compares with 24% identifying as independents among those 55 years and older, 36% as Democrats and 23% as Republicans.

Partisan affiliation is roughly the same for Asian-American registered voters as it is for all Asian Americans. Among the registered, 32% are Republican or independents who lean to the Republicans, 52% are Democrats or independents who lean to the Democrats. Among those who are not registered, 29% are Republican or lean to the Republicans and 44% are Democrats or lean to the Democrats.

In keeping with their partisan leanings, Asian Americans tilt more toward liberal than conservative. Among all U.S. Asians, 31% describe their political views as liberal, while 24% say they are conservative and 37% say they are moderate.

Among the general public, ideology tilts in the opposite direction; 34% are conservative, 24% liberal and 37% moderate.

Younger Asian Americans (18 to 34 years) are especially likely to be liberal (39%). Some 17% of younger Asian Americans are conservative, and 35% are moderate. Older Asian Americans, ages 55 and older, are split more evenly across ideological groups with 30% conservative, 25% liberal and 35% moderate.

Differences between men and women on ideology are modest.

There is some variation in ideological leanings among U.S. Asian groups. Those of Indian, Vietnamese and Chinese origin are more likely to be liberal than conservative. Japanese Americans and Korean Americans are split evenly between liberals and conservatives. Filipino Americans are more likely to be conservative (33%) than liberal (20%).

Political Ideology

% saying their political views are ...

	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
	%	%	%
U.S. Asians	24	37	31
General public	34	37	24
U.S. Asian groups			
Chinese	21	39	31
Filipino	33	42	20
Indian	18	39	37
Japanese	28	36	29
Korean	33	30	30
Vietnamese	19	34	34
Among U.S. Asians who are ...			
Native born	26	35	33
Foreign born	23	38	30
Men	24	40	29
Women	24	35	32
18-34	17	35	39
35-54	24	41	28
55 and older	30	35	25
U.S. citizens	26	37	30
Not U.S. citizens	17	38	34
Registered voter	28	36	31
Not registered	18	39	31

2012 Asian-American Survey. IDEO. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown. Registered includes those who say they are "absolutely certain" they are registered. Not registered includes responses of "Probably registered, but chance has lapsed," "Not registered," "Don't know/Refused" and those who are not citizens. General public results from February 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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In addition, a 55% majority of Asian Americans prefers a more activist government, meaning one that provides more services, while 36% prefer a smaller government that provides fewer services.

By contrast, 39% of adults in the general public prefer a government that provides more services, while 52% prefer a smaller government that provides fewer services.

Asian American men and women diverge in their views on this subject. About six-in-ten (61%) Asian-American women prefer an activist government, and 30% prefer a smaller government. Among men, about half (49%) prefer an activist government, 42% a smaller government. This pattern also occurs among the general public.

Among U.S. Asian groups, Japanese Americans are evenly divided in their views about the role of government (43% prefer a smaller government, 41% a more activist one). This pattern holds for both native- and foreign-born Japanese Americans. Vietnamese Americans and Korean Americans are the most lopsided in their preference for an activist government.

Views on Government

If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services or a bigger government providing more services?

	Smaller gov't, fewer services	Bigger gov't, more services
	%	%
U.S. Asians	36	55
General public	52	39
U.S. Asian groups		
Chinese	39	50
Filipino	36	58
Indian	40	49
Japanese	43	41
Korean	26	68
Vietnamese	22	69
Among U.S. Asians who are ...		
Native born	44	48
Foreign born	33	57
Men	42	49
Women	30	61
18-34	36	58
35-54	40	51
55 and older	29	57
U.S. citizens	38	52
Not U.S. citizens	27	64
Registered voter	39	50
Not registered	32	61

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q13. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown. Registered includes those who say they are "absolutely certain" they are registered. Not registered includes responses of "Probably registered, but chance has lapsed," "Not registered," "Don't know/Refused" and those who are not citizens. General public results from January 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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Civic Participation

More than four-in-ten (44%) Asian Americans say they have worked on a community problem in the past year. In the general population, 38% say they have done so.

On average, those born in the U.S. are more likely than immigrants to have worked on a community problem in the past year. Asian-American immigrants who arrived before 2000 are more likely than recent immigrants to have done so.

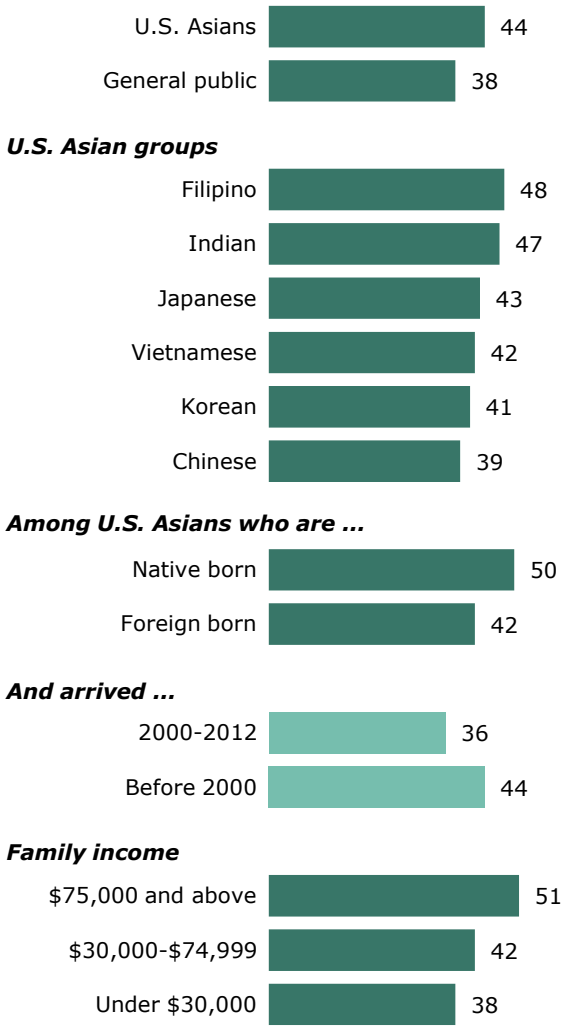
Asian Americans with higher family incomes are more likely than those with lower incomes to have worked on a civic problem (51% versus 38%).

Civic involvement is about the same across gender and age groups.

There are modest differences in civic involvement among U.S. Asian groups; nearly half of Filipino Americans and Indian Americans have worked on a civic problem (48% and 47%, respectively). While 39% of Chinese Americans have worked on a civic problem, there is a sizable difference in civic involvement between native- and foreign-born Chinese Americans; 48% of U.S.-born Chinese have worked on a civic problem, compared with 35% of Chinese immigrants.

Civic Involvement

% saying they have worked with other people from their neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in their community in the past year



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q26a. General public results from July 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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The survey also asked respondents to specify whether these kinds of civic activities come from involvement with civic or religious organizations or both. Their responses suggest a mix of involvement in both kinds of organizations. Overall, more Asian Americans report working on a community problem through a civic organization (22%) than through a religious organization (7%), while more than one-in-ten have done both (13%).

Civic Involvement by Religious Affiliation

In the past 12 months, have you worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community, or elsewhere, or haven't you done this?

		----------Have done through----------		
	Yes, have done	*Civic org. only*	*Relig. org. only*	*Both civic and relig.*
	%	%	%	%
U.S. Asians	44	22	7	13
Among U.S. Asians who are …				
Protestant	49	14	16	18
Evangelical	51	10	20	20
Mainline	48	18	11	16
Catholic	48	21	9	18
Buddhist	39	22	4	12
Hindu	43	24	5	13
Unaffiliated	38	28	1	6

2012 Asian-American Survey. Q26a-b. For "Have done through," responses of "Neither" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown.

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Christian Asians in the U.S. (including Protestants, Catholics and other Christians) are more likely than Buddhists or the religiously unaffiliated to have worked on a community problem.

For the most part, those who have worked on a community problem are more likely to have done so through a civic organization than exclusively through a religious organization. The exception to this pattern occurs among evangelicals. Among evangelical Protestants, 10% have worked through a civic organization, twice as many (20%) have worked through a religious organization, and an additional 20% have worked through both kinds of organizations.

Voting Participation

Citizenship is, of course, a prerequisite for formal participation in the U.S. political system. As noted earlier, 70% of adult U.S. Asians are either U.S.-born or naturalized citizens, according to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Among those who are foreign born, 59% of U.S. Asians are naturalized citizens.

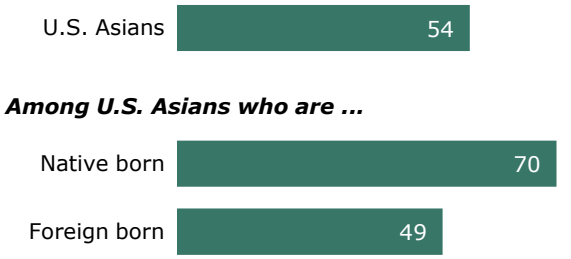
The Pew Research survey finds that 54% of Asian Americans are registered to vote and that half (50%) report voting in the 2008 presidential election.

Native-born Asian Americans are more likely than those who are foreign born to be registered to vote and to have voted in 2008.

Compared with the general public, fewer Asian Americans report being registered to vote or having voted in 2008, a difference that stems largely from lower rates of voter eligibility among Asian immigrants. Native-born Asian Americans are about equally likely as citizens in the general public to be registered. Seven-in-ten (70%) native-born Asian Americans say they are registered to vote. Among the general public, 71% are registered.[78]

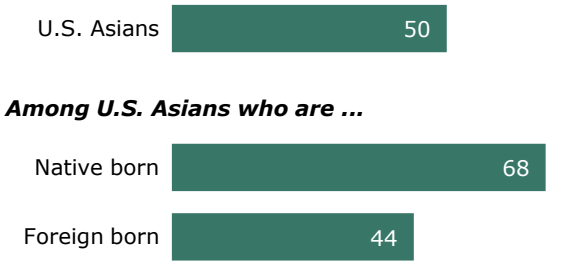
Registration

% saying they are registered to vote



Voting

% saying they voted in the 2008 presidential election



2012 Asian-American Survey. REGA, PVOTE08A. Only respondents who are native born or U.S. citizens were asked these questions (those less than age 20 were also excluded from "voting" because they were ineligible in 2008); percentages shown here are based on total sample. Registered includes those who say they are "absolutely certain" they are registered.

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[78] General public results from December 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center, Social & Demographic Trends project. Based on total.

Asian-American citizens, whether native born or foreign born, are about equally likely as citizens in the general public to be registered to vote. Fully 72% of Asian-American citizens are registered, compared with 75% of citizens in the general public.

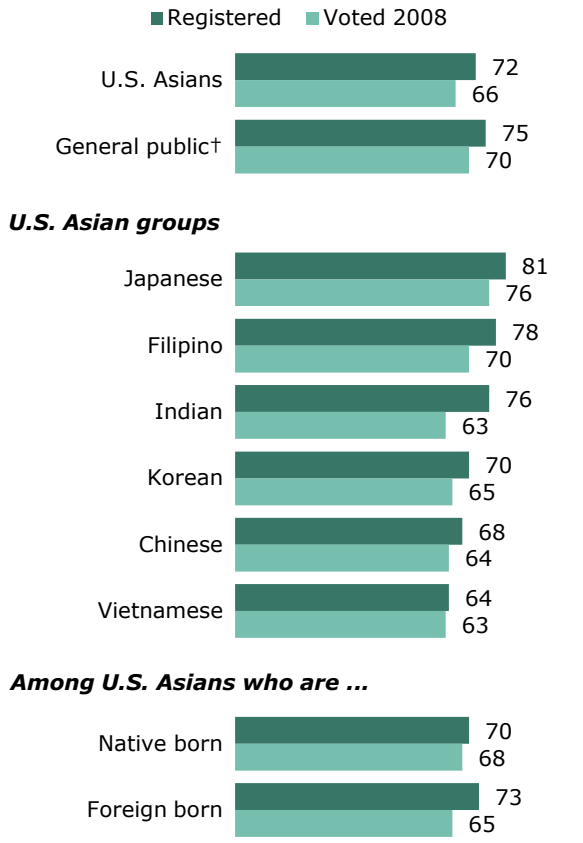
Asian-American citizens were a bit less likely than the general public to turn out for the 2008 presidential election, however. Among Asian-American citizens, two-thirds (66%) report having voted in the 2008 presidential election. Seven-in-ten (70%) of the general public said in other Pew Research surveys that they voted in the 2008 election.[79]

There is modest variation in voting participation across U.S. Asian groups. About three-quarters or more Japanese-American citizens, a majority of whom are native born, are registered and report having voted in 2008. Among Vietnamese-Americans citizens, nearly two-thirds are registered and report voting in 2008.

Among U.S. citizens, native-born and foreign-born Asian Americans are about equally likely to be registered and to have voted in 2008.

Voting Participation

% of U.S. citizens who are registered to vote, voted in 2008 presidential election



2012 Asian-American Survey. REGA, PVOTE08A. Based on those who are U.S. born or citizens, n=2,660. General public results for registered from December 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center and for voted 2008 from September 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

† General public figure for registered based on all U.S. citizens. General public figure for voted 2008 asked of all U.S. residents and therefore it includes non-citizens.

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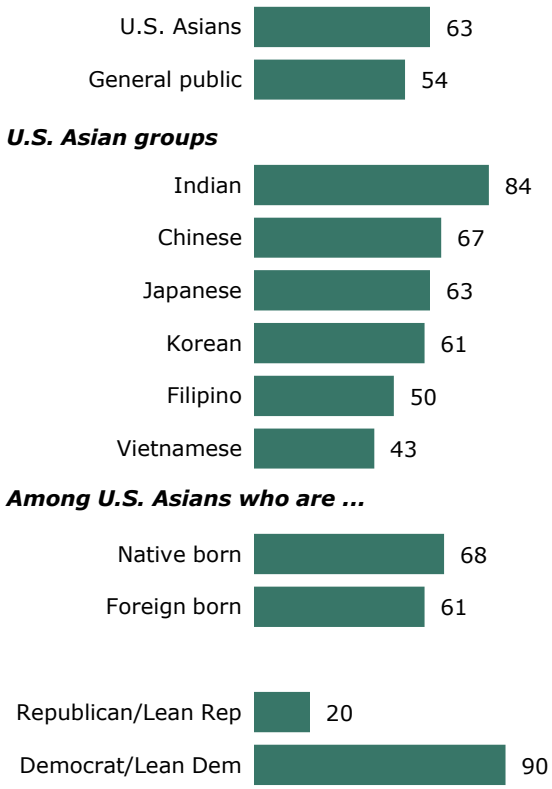
[79] The percentage of the general public that is registered to vote is based on all U.S. citizens. The percentage of the general public that voted in 2008 was asked of all U.S. residents and therefore includes some non-citizens. About 9% of adults in the general public are not U.S. citizens, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

In keeping with the Democratic leanings of Asian Americans, those voting in the 2008 election were more likely to have picked the Democratic Party candidate. In 2008, 63% of Asian Americans voted for Obama, 26% for Republican John McCain.[80] In the general public, 54% report voting for Obama, 35% for McCain.[81]

Obama's support was strongest among Indian Americans; 84% of Indian-American voters chose Obama, to just 6% who say they voted for McCain. A majority of voters of Chinese, Japanese and Korean heritage voted for Obama over McCain in 2008. Filipino-American voters were more closely split: 50% for Obama, 39% for McCain. McCain fared better among Vietnamese Americans; 48% voted for him to 43% for Obama.

Voted for Obama 2008

% of those voting in 2008 who report voting for Obama



2012 Asian-American Survey. PVOTE08B. Based on those who voted in 2008, n=1,772. General public results from September 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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[80] The exit polls conducted by Edison Media Research for the National Election Pool in 2008 found 62% of Asian Americans voted for Obama, 35% for McCain and 3% voted for some other candidate or gave no answer.
[81] The official vote tally was 53% for Obama, 46% for McCain.

Views on Social Issues

Asian Americans' views about homosexuality are similar to the views of the general public. Overall, 53% of Asian Americans say homosexuality should be accepted by society, and 35% say it should be discouraged.

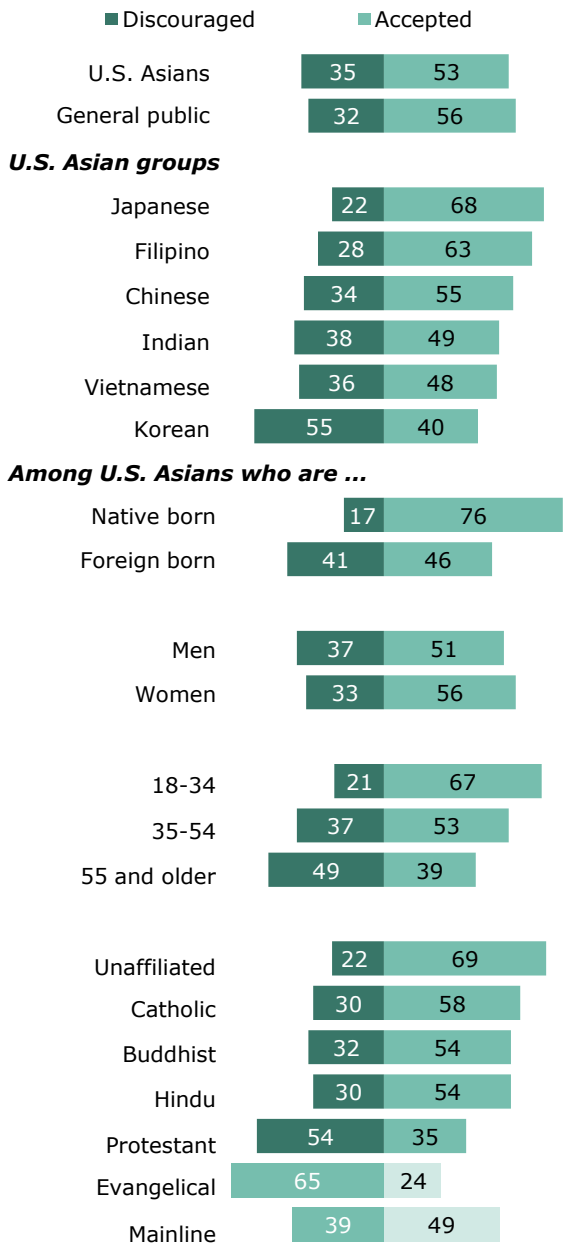
U.S.-born Asians are much more accepting of homosexuality than are Asian immigrants. Among the native born, 76% say homosexuality should be accepted. This compares with 46% of the foreign-born Asian Americans.

As is the case with the general public, young Asian Americans are more accepting of homosexuality than are older generations. Among Asian Americans ages 18 to 34, fully two-thirds (67%) say homosexuality should be accepted. Those ages 35 to 54 are less accepting (53% say homosexuality should be accepted). Among those ages 55 and older, 39% say homosexuality should be accepted, while half (49%) say it should be discouraged.

Views differ somewhat across U.S. Asian groups. Japanese Americans and Filipino Americans are the most accepting of homosexuality—more than six-in-ten of each group say homosexuality should be accepted. Korean Americans are the least accepting—40% say homosexuality should be accepted, while 55% say it should be discouraged. Chinese Americans fall in the middle. As with Asian Americans as a whole, however, Chinese Americans born in the U.S. are more accepting of homosexuality than are Chinese immigrants

Should Homosexuality Be Accepted or Discouraged by Society?

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q82. Responses of "Neither/Both equally" and "Don't know/Refused" not shown. General public results from January 2012 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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(85% of native-born and 46% of foreign-born Chinese Americans say homosexuality should be accepted by society).

Acceptance of homosexuality is also closely tied to religious affiliation. Asian Americans who are not affiliated with a religion are among the most accepting. Fully 69% of unaffiliated Asian Americans say homosexuality should be accepted. At the opposite end of the spectrum are evangelical Protestants, only 24% of whom say homosexuality should be accepted. A solid majority of evangelicals (65%) say homosexuality should be discouraged. Among Asian Americans who are Buddhist or Hindu, narrow majorities say homosexuality should be accepted. Among Catholics, the balance of opinion is more toward acceptance: 58% say homosexuality should be accepted, and 30% say it should be discouraged.

Views on Abortion

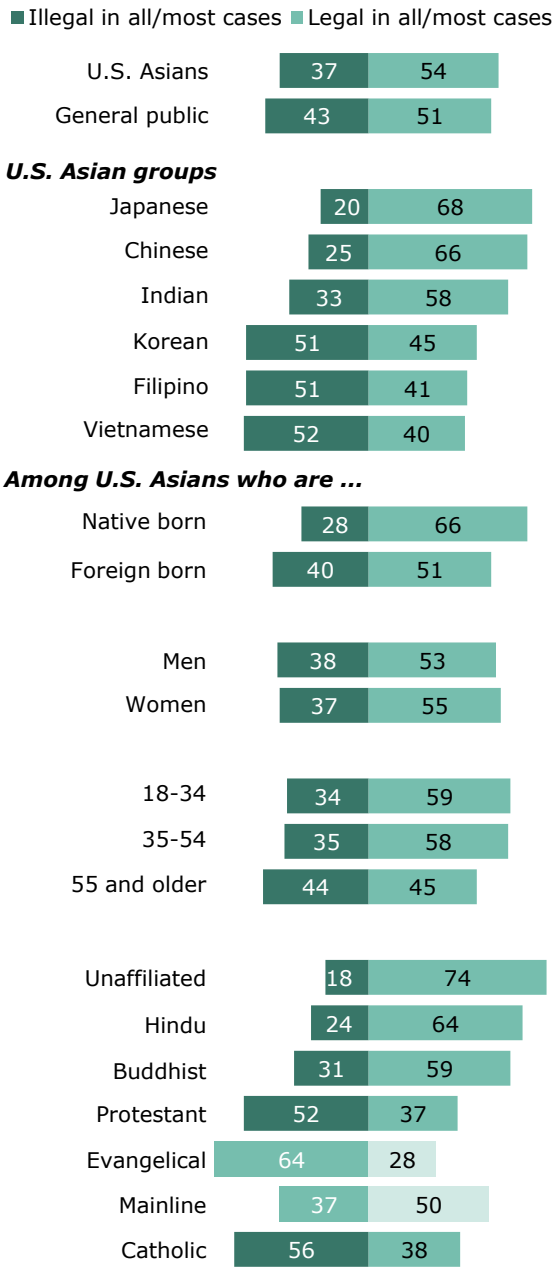
Survey respondents were also asked about their views on abortion. About half (54%) of Asian Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances, and 37% say it should be illegal. U.S. Asians' views on abortion are similar to those of the general public. Among all adults in the U.S., 51% say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and 43% say it should be illegal.

Younger Asian Americans are more likely than older Asian Americans to say abortion should be legal. And U.S.-born Asians are more likely than immigrant Asians to say abortion should be legal. Men and women hold similar views on abortion.

As is the case with views on homosexuality, opinion about abortion is closely linked to religious affiliation. Evangelical Protestant and Catholic Asian Americans are especially likely to say abortion should be illegal. (The same pattern is found among white evangelical Protestants in the general public.) A strong majority of Asian Americans who are Buddhist or Hindu or who have no religious affiliation say abortion should be legal in all or most circumstances.

Do You Think Abortion Should Be Legal or Illegal?

% saying ...



2012 Asian-American Survey. Q83. Responses of "Don't know/Refused" not shown. General public results from November 2011 survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

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APPENDIX 1: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Asian Americans constitute a growing, but still rare population. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, Asian Americans constitute 5.6% of the U.S. population (and 5.5% of adults 18 years of age and older). The Asian-American population is dispersed throughout the country, although about half live in the Western region. Many Asian Americans are recent immigrants from multiple countries with differing native tongues who likely have difficulty completing a public opinion survey in English. Although the Asian-American population is quite diverse, the six largest Asian subgroups—Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Vietnamese, Korean and Japanese—represent 84.9% of all U.S. Asian adults.[82]

Despite these challenges, the Pew Research Center 2012 Asian-American Survey was able to complete interviews with 3,511 Asian-American adults 18 years of age and older living in the United States from a probability sample consisting of multiple sample sources that provided coverage for approximately 95% of the Asian-American population. The survey was conducted in all 50 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and the District of Columbia. The survey was designed not only to represent the overall Asian-American population but also the six largest Asian subgroups (who each represent 0.4% to 1.3% of the adult U.S. population). Interviews were completed with 728 Chinese, 504 Filipinos, 580 Asian Indians, 515 Japanese, 504 Koreans, 504 Vietnamese and 176 Asians of other backgrounds.

Respondents who identified as "Asian or Asian American, such as Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese" were eligible to complete the survey interview, including those who identified with more than one race and regardless of Hispanic ethnicity. The question on racial identity also offered the following categories: white, black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander.

Classification into U.S. Asian groups is based on self-identification of respondent's "specific Asian group." Asian groups named in this open-ended question were "Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, or of some other Asian background." Respondents self-identified with more than 22 specific Asian groups. Those who identified with more than one Asian group were classified based on the group with which they identify most. Respondents who identified their specific Asian group as Taiwanese or Chinese Taipei are classified as Chinese-Americans for this report. See the questionnaire for more details.

[82] Based on the 2010 American Community Survey.

Interviewing was conducted from Jan. 3 to March 27, 2012 by Abt SRBI. Interviews were conducted in English as well as Cantonese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Tagalog and Vietnamese. After taking into account the complex sample design, the average margin of sampling error for the 3,511 completed interviews with Asian-Americans is plus or minus 2.4 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The following table shows the sample sizes and margins of error for different subgroups of Asians in the survey:

Margins of Error

Group	Sample size	Plus or minus percentage points
U.S. Asians	3,511	2.4
U.S. Asian groups		
Chinese	728	5.4
Filipino	504	6.7
Indian	580	6.4
Japanese	515	4.9
Korean	504	6.2
Vietnamese	504	5.8
Among U.S. Asians who are ...		
Men	1,697	3.5
Women	1,814	3.2
18-34	848	5.3
35-54	1,356	3.6
55 and older	1,215	3.8
College graduate+	2,070	3.1
Some college	522	6.9
H.S. or less	898	4.7
Native born	815	5.5
Foreign born	2,684	2.7
Arrived 2000-2012	733	5.3
Arrived before 2000	1,915	3.2
Religion		
Christian	1,599	3.5
Protestant	860	4.8
Evangelical Prot.	489	6.2
Mainline Prot.	369	7.3
Catholic	702	5.3
Buddhist	526	6.1
Hindu	333	7.8
Unaffiliated	844	5.2

2012 Asian-American Survey. The margins of error are reported at the 95% level of confidence and are calculated by taking into account the average design effect across 16 questions.

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Sample Design

The sample design aimed to address the low incidence and diversity of the Asian-American population while still achieving a probability-based sample by employing multiple sampling frames, including landline and cell phone random-digit-dial (RDD) samples and a sample of previously identified Asian households. In addition, to complete a sufficient number of interviews with the lowest incidence U.S. Asian groups, ethnic name based lists of "probable" Filipino, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese households maintained by Experian were used.[83]

RDD Geographic Strata

Since the number of Asian Americans in national landline and cell RDD frames is quite low, the landline and cell samples were geographically stratified to improve the efficiency of the interviewing, where phone numbers in areas with higher Asian-American incidence were selected at a higher rate than phone numbers in areas with lower incidence. The differential selection rates were taken into account in the weighting, which is described later in this section.

The landline and RDD frames were divided into six stratum according to their incidence of net Asian Americans and Asian American subgroups based on county-level estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (2007 to 2009 multi-year estimates). Counties were first grouped by the incidence of Asian Americans as follows: Highest Density (35% and above), Higher Density stratum (incidence 15% to 34.99%), High Density stratum (incidence 8% to 14.99%), Medium Density stratum (incidence 4% to 7.99%), Low Density stratum (incidence 1.5% to 3.99%) and Lowest Density stratum (incidence under 1.5%).

Sample Sources

	Number of interviews
Landline RDD sample	
Geographic strata	333
List strata	
Filipino	226
Japanese	324
Korean	338
Vietnamese	339
Cell phone RDD sample	466
Recontact samples	
Muslim American screening	881
Other Pew Research/Abt SRBI surveys	604
Total interviews	**3,511**

2012 Asian-American Survey.

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[83] Experian is a commercial database company that uses an analysis of first and last names to identify households likely to include a person or persons of a given ethnicity. For more see the section on list stratum below.

Then, an additional step was taken to see if counties should be reassigned to higher density strata if they have a relatively high density of one or more of the Asian subgroups. However, this step resulted in only minimal revisions to the initial stratification. Only four counties in the U.S. have Japanese incidence greater than 3% (they are all in Hawaii—Honolulu, Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii counties); these were assigned to the Highest Density stratum. Only three counties have Korean incidence greater than 3%; two were already in the Higher Density stratum (Fairfax Co., VA and Bergen Co., NJ) and the third (Howard Co., MD) was reassigned to the Higher Density stratum due to the relatively high incidence of Koreans. Two counties have Vietnamese incidence greater than 3% (Santa Clara Co. and Orange Co., CA); both of these were already in the Highest Density stratum. The Low, Medium, High, Higher, and Highest Density strata cover 95% of all net Asians in the United States.

Dual Frame RDD Geographic Strata and Coverage of the Asian American Population

	Net Asian Americans		Incidence
Stratum	N	%	%
Highest density	705,762	4.6	35% and above
Higher density	3,889,356	25.5	15 to 34.99%
High density	3,596,562	23.6	8 to 14.99%
Medium density	3,686,022	24.2	4 to 7.99%
Low density	2,650,525	17.4	1.5 to 3.99%
Lowest density	708,111	4.6	<1.5%
	15,236,338	100	

American Community Survey 2010.

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In the Lowest Density Stratum, the incidence of Asian Americans is less than 1.5%. In order to keep costs contained, counties in this stratum—which are home to approximately 4.6% of all Asian Americans—were excluded from the landline and cell RDD samples. Asian Americans living in the Lowest Density stratum were still partially covered by the recontact and list samples.

Based on previous Pew Research studies with English and Spanish interviewing, the incidence of self-identified Asian Americans is approximately 1.5% in national landline RDD samples and 3.1% in national cell RDD samples. To determine how best to allocate interviews across the landline and cell frames, these estimates along with additional analysis of Asians encountered in the screening for Pew Research's 2011 Muslim American Survey, were used to estimate the expected incidences of Asian Americans in each strata in both the landline and cell RDD frames. Based on these expected incidences, 60% of the RDD sample was allocated to the cell RDD frame and 40% to the landline RDD frame. In the final sample of completed RDD interviews, 58% were from the cell frame and 42% were from the landline frame.

List Strata

To reach the desired target of 500 completed interviews in each of the six largest U.S. Asian subgroups—Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese—the fresh RDD and recontact samples were supplemented with listed samples based on ethnic names. Because of the size of the U.S. Chinese and Asian Indian populations, list samples based on ethnic names were only needed for the other four subgroups—Filipinos, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese. In total, the list samples were used to complete interviews with 226 Filipinos, 324 Japanese, 338 Koreans and 339 Vietnamese.

The list samples were constructed from a commercial database of households where someone in the household has a name commonly found in that Asian subgroup. The lists were prepared by Experian, a commercial credit and market research firm that collects and summarizes data from approximately 113,000,000 U.S. households. The analysis of names was conducted by Ethnic Technologies, LLC, a firm specializing in multicultural marketing lists, ethnic identification software, and ethnic data appending services. According to Experian, the analysis uses computer rules for first names, surnames, surname prefixes and suffixes, and geographic criteria in a specific order to identify an individual's ethnicity and language preference.

Such listed samples are fairly common in survey research, but when used alone they do not constitute a representative sample of each Asian subgroup and the probability that a given household belongs to one of these lists is not known. By combining these lists with the landline RDD frame, however, the lists can be used as components of a probability sample using statistical procedures that have been developed to incorporate these types of listed samples into probability-based surveys. The procedure implemented for this study involves obtaining the entire list maintained by Experian for listed landline households for Filipinos (n=140,163), Japanese (n=211,672), Koreans (n=164,710) and Vietnamese (n=274,839). These four lists can be defined as four strata within the entire landline RDD frame for the U.S. All telephone numbers drawn for the geographic strata of the landline frame were compared to the entire Experian lists for each of the four subgroups. Any numbers that appeared on the Experian list frames were removed from the geographic RDD sample and were available to be released only as part of the list strata. This method makes it possible to determine the probability that any given Asian American has of being sampled, regardless of whether he or she is included in the Experian lists. It also permits estimation of the proportion of all Asian Americans who are covered by the Experian lists, which in turn makes it possible to give cases from the Experian samples an appropriate weight. The list strata also provide some coverage of households in the

Lowest Density stratum since numbers in counties belonging to that stratum and appearing on the Experian list were available to be sampled through the list samples.

In some cases, the person identified in a list sample did not belong to the nominal list group (i.e., either Filipino, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese). When this occurred, the interview was terminated and coded as ineligible. This protocol was motivated by considerations of weighting calculations and the overall design effect from weighting.

Recontact Frame

In order to obtain at least 500 interviews with each of the major Asian-American subgroups, the national dual frame RDD samples were supplemented with a sample of recontact cases. The recontact cases for this study came from several sources. In order to maintain the probability-based nature of the study, only recontact cases from prior national landline and cell RDD samples were used. Furthermore, additional steps were taken to account for the probabilities of selection in the original survey so that those could be reflected in the weighting for this survey.

All recontact numbers were checked against the Experian lists and the landline RDD and cell RDD samples and any numbers found were removed from those samples and only available to be released as part of the recontact sample. The recontact sample also provides some coverage of households in the Lowest Density stratum.

Two-fifths of the recontact interviews (604) came from self-identified Asian respondents from prior national dual frame RDD surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center or Abt SRBI since 2007. The remainder of the recontact sample came from the large, dual frame RDD telephone screening effort implemented for the 2011 Pew Research Muslim American Survey. All households identified as having a Muslim American in 2011 were excluded from the Asian American Survey sample in order to avoid the risk of context or conditioning effects. The 2011 Muslim American Survey entailed screening over 41,000 households, and of these 3,585 households were identified as likely having at least one Asian American adult and were not interviewed in the Muslim American survey.[84] Since it was known at the time that cases from the Muslim American Survey would be used for the Asian American Survey, data was also collected on the specific Asian languages encountered as well as the ethnic groups to which screened, self-identified Asian Americans belong. The 3,585 recontact cases were of two general types: self-identified Asian American households and Asian language barrier

[84] For more on the methodology of that survey see Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. 2011. "Muslim Americans: No Signs of Growth in Alienation or Support for Extremism." Washington, D.C.: August.

households. The former group was comprised of 2,180 households in which a respondent completed the screener, reported a religious affiliation other than Muslim, and self-identified as Asian American to a question about racial identification. The latter group was comprised of 1,405 households where the screener was not completed, but the interviewer recorded that an Asian language speaker was encountered. A total of 601 interviews were completed with self-identified Asians and 280 interviews were completed with Asian language barrier households from the 2011 Muslim American Survey.

Summary of Completions Across Sample Sources

	All Asian		Chinese		Filipino		Indian		Japanese		Korean		Vietnamese	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Cellular RDD														
Highest density	18	0.5	6	0.8	3	0.6	0	0.0	7	1.4	1	0.2	0	0.0
Higher density	191	5.4	54	7.4	30	6.0	42	7.2	18	3.5	18	3.6	12	2.4
High density	137	3.9	42	5.8	17	3.4	40	6.9	9	1.7	11	2.2	7	1.4
Medium density	67	1.9	12	1.6	10	2.0	22	3.8	3	0.6	9	1.8	4	0.8
Low density	53	1.5	14	1.9	3	0.6	15	2.6	5	1.0	5	1.0	4	0.8
Lowest density	*excluded*		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Landline RDD														
Highest density	12	0.3	2	0.3	6	1.2	0	0.0	4	0.8	0	0.0	0	0.0
Higher density	150	4.3	54	7.4	15	3.0	32	5.5	22	4.3	8	1.6	8	1.6
High density	95	2.7	28	3.8	19	3.8	17	2.9	9	1.7	10	2.0	3	0.6
Medium density	47	1.3	7	1.0	7	1.4	17	2.9	3	0.6	4	0.8	5	1.0
Low density	29	0.8	3	0.4	4	0.8	11	1.9	2	0.4	3	0.6	0	0.0
Lowest density	*excluded*		--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
List	1,227	34.9	4	0.5	224	44.4	0	0.0	321	62.3	338	67.1	336	66.7
Recontact														
Cell phone	678	19.3	224	30.8	73	14.5	187	32.2	30	5.8	51	10.1	65	12.9
Landline	807	23.0	278	38.2	93	18.5	197	34.0	82	15.9	46	9.1	60	11.9
	3,511	100	728	100	504	100	580	100	515	100	504	100	504	100

2012 Asian-American Survey. Figures shown are unweighted. Percents are percent of total within each group.

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Questionnaire Development and Testing

The questionnaire was developed by the Pew Research Center. The development of the questionnaire was informed by feedback and advice from the panel of external advisors. In order to improve the quality of the data, the English questionnaire was piloted and then pretested with respondents using the Experian list sample.

Pilot Test and Pretest

For the pilot test of selected questions from the survey, 100 interviews were completed with Asian American adults sampled from the Experian lists. The interviews were conducted October 6-11, 2011. Among households completing the screener, the Asian incidence was 48%. The completion rate among qualified Asians was 76%. The average length for Asian households was 18 minutes. Based on the results of the pilot test, a number of changes were made to the questionnaire and interviewer training procedures. There was no monetary compensation for respondents for pilot interviews.

The pretest of the full survey resulted in 15 completed interviews with Asian-American adults sampled from the Experian lists. The interviews were conducted November 14, 2011. Among households completing the screener, the Asian American incidence was 65%. The extended interview completion rate among qualified Asian Americans was 68%. The average interview length for Asian households was 32 minutes. Additional changes were made to the questionnaire and interviewer training procedures based on the results of the pretest.

Translation of Questionnaire

Abt SRBI used a professional translation service for all translations. The initial translation used a three-step process of translation by a professional translator, back translation to English by a second translator, followed by proofreading and review for quality, consistency and relevance. As an additional quality control, the translated questionnaires were reviewed by a linguist from an independent translation service on behalf of the Pew Research Center. The translated questionnaires were compared to the English source document for accuracy of translation in the vernacular language. Discrepancies and differences of opinion about the most appropriate translation were resolved using an iterative process, with the original translator taking responsibility for reconciling all comments and feedback into the final translation.

Survey Administration

A six call design was employed for both landline and cell phone numbers with no callback limit for qualified Asian households. One attempt was made to convert soft refusals in the landline sample with no refusal attempts for the cell phone sample. Screening was conducted in English, with the exception of the Korean and Vietnamese list samples which were conducted by bilingual (English and Korean/Vietnamese) interviewers. Respondents speaking a foreign language were asked what language they speak. Respondents identified as speaking Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Hindi or Tagalog were transferred to an appropriate foreign language interviewer or called back by an interviewer who speaks the language if one was not immediately available.

All Asian respondents were offered $20 for their participation. Interviews were conducted in English (2,338 interviews), Cantonese (86 interviews), Mandarin (130 interviews), Vietnamese (382 interviews), Tagalog (80 interviews), Japanese (123 interviews), Korean (360 interviews) and Hindi (12 interviews). This was achieved by deploying 262 English-speaking and 14 foreign language-speaking interviewers. Only Korean and Vietnamese bilingual interviewers were assigned to the Korean and Vietnamese Experian samples. Calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chance of making contact with potential respondents.

All qualified callbacks and refusal landline cases which could be matched to an address were sent a letter encouraging participation in the survey. All language-barrier cases with an address were mailed letters translated into the appropriate language (Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Hindi, Japanese or Tagalog). A total of 1,131 letters were mailed.

Multilingual interviewers on staff were utilized for the project as well as newly recruited multilingual interviewers. New foreign language hires were first tested by an accredited firm on their language proficiency then evaluated and scored before being interviewed and hired by Abt SRBI. All multilingual interviewers first went through the standard Abt SRBI training process that all interviewers complete. Bilingual interviewers with more proficiency and interviewing experience were given coaching/team leader roles and worked with the interviewers in their language monitoring surveys, assisting in training and debriefing.

The screening effort yielded a response rate of 23% for the geographic landline RDD sample, 13% for the cell RDD sample, 14 to 18% for the list samples and 54-79% for the recontact samples, using the Response Rate 3 definition from the American Association for Public Opinion Research. The recontact sample response rates do not incorporate the response rates

from the original surveys. Detailed sample disposition reports and response rates for each sample sources are provided in the supplemental tables.

The completion rate for qualified Asian respondents was 73% for the geographic landline RDD sample, 68% for the cell RDD sample, 84-92% for the list samples and 81-86% for the recontact samples.

Weighting

Several stages of statistical adjustment or weighting were needed to account for the complex nature of the sample design. The weights account for numerous factors, including (1) the geographic-based oversampling in the landline and cell RDD frames, (2) the selection rates in the four list strata, (3) the original probabilities of selection for the recontacts cases, (4) the presence of unresolved numbers in the sample (unknown eligibility), (5) nonresponse to the screener, (6) within household selection, (7) the overlap of the landline and cell RDD frames, (8) nonresponse to the extended interview, and (9) the limited coverage of the households in the Lowest Density stratum. Each of these adjustments is detailed below.

The first step in the weighting process was to account for the differential probabilities of selection of phone numbers sampled for the study. As discussed above, variation in the probabilities of selection came from several sources. In the landline and cell RDD geographic samples, numbers in counties with relatively high Asian American incidence were sampled at a higher rate than numbers in counties with lower incidence. Also, the numbers in the four list strata had selection probabilities higher than geographic RDD samples or the recontact sample. The probability of selection adjustment is computed as

$$\frac{N_h}{n_h}$$

where N_h is the number of telephone numbers in the frame in stratum h, and n_h is the number of telephone numbers from stratum h in the released replicates. For the landline and cell RDD geographic samples, stratum was defined by the cross-classification of frame (landline or cell) and geographic stratum (Low, Medium, High, Higher, Highest). For the four list samples, they each constituted their own stratum in the national landline RDD frame. For most of the recontact sample, stratum was defined as their sample (landline or cell) in the original survey. For the recontact cases from the 2011 Pew Muslim American Survey, stratum was defined by

the cross-classification of frame (landline or cell) and geographic stratum as specified for that survey.

At the end of interviewing, each number dialed in the cell and landline geographic samples plus the list strata was classified as eligible (working, residential and not a minor's phone), ineligible (non-working, business, or a minor's phone), or unknown eligibility (busy/no answer all attempts, fax/modem/computer tone, answering machine/voice mail, or call blocked). For the recontact cases, this information was available from archived disposition reports for the original surveys. The base weights of the eligible cases were adjusted for the fact that some of the "unknown eligibility" cases are likely to have been eligible. This adjustment was performed by first computing the ratio of known eligible cases in the stratum (E_h) to the sum of known eligible and known ineligible cases in the stratum (E_h+I_h). This ratio was then multiplied by the number of unknown eligibility cases in the stratum (U_h) to yield an estimate for the number of eligible cases among those with unknown eligibility ($\hat{E}_{Uh}$). The adjustment is then computed as

$$(E_h + \hat{E}_{Uh}) / E_h$$

The next step was to adjust for nonresponse to the screener. The adjustment was computed as

$$\frac{\hat{R}_h}{S_h}$$

where $\hat{R}_h$ is the total count of telephone numbers in stratum h that are estimated to be residential and Sh is the number of completed screener interviews in stratum h. Note that $\hat{R}_h = E_h + \hat{E}_{Uh}$ as suggested above.

Not all of the Asian-American adults identified in the screener completed the extended interview. An adjustment was performed by first computing the ratio of known qualified Asian-American cases in the stratum (A_h) to the sum of known qualified Asian American cases and screen-out (no Asian adults in household) cases in the stratum (A_h+B_h). This ratio was then multiplied by the number unscreened cases in the stratum (C_h) to yield an estimate for the number of qualified Asian American cases among those not screened ($\hat{A}_{Uh}$). The adjustment is then computed as

$$(A_h + \hat{A}_{Uh}) / A_h$$

The weights were then adjusted to reflect the fact that only one eligible adult in the household completed the screener interview. When landline numbers were dialed, interviewers asked to

speak with "the youngest male/female [randomized], 18 years of age and older, who is now at home." When cell phone numbers were dialed, the interviewer determined if the person answering the phone was 18 years of age and older and, if so, proceeded with the beginning of the screener interview. For both the landline and cell cases, if the initial screener respondent was not Asian but reported an Asian adult in the household, then ultimately an Asian adult became the final selected screener respondent. In this situation, interviewers then asked to speak with the youngest male/female [randomized], 18 years of age and older, who is Asian and is now at home." In order to ensure that Asian adults in households with multiple Asian adults are not under-represented in the survey, an adjustment was computed to weight cases up proportional to the number of Asian adults in the household. This adjustment was truncated at 4 to avoid excessive variance in the weights.

The base weights are the product of the aforementioned adjustments. The distribution of the base weights was examined for any extreme values. The distribution of base weight values for the recontact cases was noticeably different from the distribution of the base weight for the balance of the sample. The recontact cases had significantly larger base weights, on average, owing to smaller sampling fractions relative to the geographic RDD samples and list samples. Trimming of the base weights was, therefore, done separately for the recontact cases and the balance of the sample. In both instances, the threshold for trimming was the median + (6 x the interquartile range), which is common for major surveys with complex sample designs.

The next weighting step accounts for the overlap between the landline RDD frame and the cellular RDD frame. The dual service (landline and cell-only) respondents from the two frames were integrated in proportion to their effective sample sizes. The first effective sample size was computed by filtering on the dual service landline cases and computing the coefficient of variation (cv) of the final base weight. The design effect for these cases was approximated as $1+cv^2$. The effective sample size (n_1) was computed as the unweighted sample size divided by the design effect. The effective sample size for the cell frame dual service cases (n2) was computed in an analogous way. The compositing factor for the landline frame dual service cases was computed as $n_1/(n_1 + n_2)$. The compositing factor for the cellular frame dual service cases was computed as $n_2/(n_1 + n_2)$.

The survey sample was then balanced to population totals for the Asian-American adult population. The sample was balanced to match national net Asian American adult population parameters from the 2010 American Community Survey public use microdata sample (ACS PUMS) for gender by age, gender by education, education by age, region, ethnic group by nativity, ethnic group by gender by age, and ethnic group by gender by education. The ethnic group categories were Chinese alone, Filipino alone, Asian Indian alone, Japanese alone,

Korean alone, Vietnamese alone, and Other Asian, including those that identify with more than one Asian group. In addition, the sample was balanced to Asian-American adult telephone service estimates from an analysis of the January-June 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The distribution of the calibrated weights was examined for any extreme values. The distribution of the final weights was truncated at the median + (6 x the interquartile range). This trimming was performed in order to reduce extreme variance in the weights and ultimately improve the precision of the weighted survey estimates. The sum of the final weights was set to equal the total number of net Asian-American adults based on the 2010 ACS PUMS.

Due to the complex nature of the 2011 Asian-American Survey, formulas commonly used in RDD surveys to estimate margins of error (standard errors) are inappropriate. Such formulas would understate the true variability in the estimates. To account for the complex design, a repeated sampling technique—specifically jackknife delete two repeated replication, JK-2—was used to create replicate weights for this study. The subsamples (replicates) were created using the same sample design, but deleting a portion of the sample, and then weighting each subsample up to the population total. A total of 100 replicates were created by combining telephone numbers to reduce the computational effort. A statistical software package designed for complex survey data, Stata v12, was used to calculate all of the standard errors and test statistics in the survey.

Supplemental Tables

Landline RDD Geographic Strata Sample Disposition Report

	Geographic Stratum					
	Low density	**Medium density**	**High density**	**Higher density**	**Highest density**	**Total**
Total phone numbers used	44,804	34,994	30,610	29,384	774	140,566
Complete and Screen-out (1.0/1.1)	2,820	2,066	1,651	1,597	34	8,168
Partial interview (1.2)	3	13	7	27	1	51
Refusal and break off (2.1)	3,799	2,783	2,467	2,482	70	11,601
Non-contact (2.2)	2,837	2,107	1,924	1,824	33	8,725
Other (2.3)	280	178	205	218	9	890
Unknown household (3.1)	3,911	3,181	3,594	3,555	55	14,296
Unknown other (3.2, 3.9)	1,435	1,210	1,411	1,302	34	5,392
Not eligible (4.0)	29,719	23,456	19,351	18,379	538	91,443
e=Estimated proportion of cases of unknown eligibility that are eligible	24.7%	23.4%	24.4%	25.1%	21.5%	24.4%
Contact rate	62.4%	61.7%	57.9%	58.7%	68.6%	60.5%
Cooperation rate	42.6%	42.5%	40.0%	38.9%	32.4%	41.2%
Response rate	25.5%	25.3%	22.1%	21.7%	20.5%	23.9%

2012 Asian-American Survey. Rates computed according to American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) standard definitions for contact rate CON2, cooperation rate COOP3 and response rate RR3.

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Cellular RDD Geographic Strata Sample Disposition Report

	Geographic Stratum					
	Low density	**Medium density**	**High density**	**Higher density**	**Highest density**	**Total**
Total phone numbers used	26,052	20,179	23,247	18,029	480	87,987
Complete and Screen-out (1.0/1.1)	2,305	1,614	1,665	1,441	53	7,078
Partial interview (1.2)	12	14	47	33	3	109
Refusal and break off (2.1)	5,221	3,965	4,456	3,476	91	17,209
Non-contact (2.2)	5,149	4,115	4,722	3,755	80	17,821
Other (2.3)	130	97	178	141	5	551
Unknown household (3.1)	1,491	1,156	1,388	1,196	23	5,254
Unknown other (3.2, 3.9)	2,123	1,875	2,597	1,988	45	8,628
Not eligible (4.0)	9,621	7,343	8,194	5,999	180	31,337
e=Estimated proportion of cases of unknown eligibility that are eligible	57.1%	57.2%	57.5%	59.6%	56.3%	57.7%
Contact rate	51.5%	49.3%	47.5%	47.4%	56.2%	49.1%
Cooperation rate	30.6%	28.9%	27.0%	29.1%	36.1%	29.0%
Response rate	15.5%	14.0%	12.5%	13.4%	19.6%	13.9%

2012 Asian-American Survey. Rates computed according to American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) standard definitions for contact rate CON2, cooperation rate COOP3 and response rate RR3.

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List Sample Disposition Report

	U.S. Asian Group			
	Vietnamese	**Korean**	**Japanese**	**Filipino**
Total phone numbers used	3,664	4,302	4,170	4,800
Complete and Screen-out (1.0/1.1)	441	535	588	582
Partial interview (1.2)	42	9	32	14
Refusal and break off (2.1)	269	1,066	1,375	1,058
Non-contact (2.2)	1,471	970	784	978
Other (2.3)	34	74	83	56
Unknown household (3.1)	267	212	250	483
Unknown other (3.2, 3.9)	627	439	348	763
Not eligible (4.0)	513	997	710	866
e=Estimated proportion of cases of unknown eligibility that are eligible	81.5%	72.7%	80.1%	75.6%
Contact rate	26.3%	53.8%	62.2%	47.1%
Cooperation rate	58.6%	33.2%	29.5%	35.2%
Response rate	14.8%	17.1%	17.6%	16.0%

2012 Asian-American Survey. Rates computed according to American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) standard definitions for contact rate CON2, cooperation rate COOP3 and response rate RR3.

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Recontact Sample Disposition Report

	Muslim American Screening		*Language Barrier*		*Other Recontact*	
	Landline	**Cell Phone**	**Landline**	**Cell Phone**	**Landline**	**Cell Phone**
Total phone numbers used	1036	1144	759	646	1604	1326
Complete and Screen-out (1.0/1.1)	380	330	178	135	447	314
Partial interview (1.2)	27	36	19	26	26	25
Refusal and break off (2.1)	307	272	148	131	436	292
Non-contact (2.2)	43	129	80	100	97	148
Other (2.3)	3	1	63	11	18	10
Unknown household (3.1)	33	39	22	16	70	68
Unknown other (3.2, 3.9)	134	198	163	162	169	200
Not eligible (4.0)	109	139	86	65	341	269
e=Estimated proportion of cases of unknown eligibility that are eligible	87.5%	84.7%	85.0%	86.1%	75.0%	74.6%
Contact rate	79.1%	66.0%	63.2%	54.5%	77.0%	64.8%
Cooperation rate	53.2%	51.7%	51.6%	46.2%	49.2%	49.8%
Response rate	41.9%	34.1%	27.6%	24.3%	37.1%	31.8%

2012 Asian-American Survey. Rates computed according to American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) standard definitions for contact rate CON2, cooperation rate COOP3 and response rate RR3.

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Sample Demographics: Gender, Age, Education, Phone Use, Region

	Population	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender by Age			
Male, 18-34	17.57%	13.28%	17.40%
Male, 35-54	18.35%	19.25%	18.60%
Male, 55+	10.91%	15.82%	14.00%
Female, 18-34	18.66%	11.52%	15.80%
Female, 35-54	20.78%	20.42%	19.20%
Female, 55+	13.73%	19.71%	15.10%
Gender by Education			
Male, High school or less	13.28%	10.83%	12.50%
Male, Some college	12.07%	6.56%	9.00%
Male, College grad+	21.48%	30.97%	28.40%
Female, High school or less	17.13%	14.90%	15.10%
Female, Some college	13.07%	8.40%	9.90%
Female, College grad+	22.97%	28.34%	25.10%
Education by Age			
High school or less, 18-34	8.22%	4.82%	7.50%
High school or less, 35-54	10.95%	8.37%	8.60%
High school or less, 55+	11.25%	12.71%	11.60%
Some college, 18-34	12.42%	5.90%	9.60%
Some college, 35-54	8.28%	4.37%	5.40%
Some college, 55+	4.43%	4.90%	4.30%
College grad+, 18-34	15.58%	14.15%	16.20%
College grad+, 35-54	19.90%	26.89%	23.80%
College grad+, 55+	8.97%	17.88%	13.10%
*Phone use**			
Landline only	8.00%	7.72%	7.70%
Dual service	63.50%	77.87%	67.30%
Cell only	28.50%	14.41%	25.00%
Region			
Northeast	20.13%	19.88%	21.10%
Midwest	11.30%	9.23%	11.50%
South	21.50%	19.74%	20.20%
West	47.07%	51.15%	47.30%

Population parameters from American Community Survey 2010 (ACS) except where noted; Unweighted and weighted results from 2012 Asian-American Survey.

*Phone use population parameters from National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) Jan.-June 2011.

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Sample Demographics: U.S. Asian Group by Nativity

		Population	Unweighted	Weighted
Chinese	Born in US	4.28%	5.20%	5.62%
	Foreign born	17.39%	15.46%	18.57%
Filipino	Born in US	3.74%	3.69%	4.22%
	Foreign born	12.11%	10.69%	10.75%
Indian	Born in US	1.91%	1.74%	2.11%
	Foreign born	14.39%	14.78%	16.38%
Japanese	Born in US	3.27%	8.12%	5.71%
	Foreign born	2.16%	6.57%	3.93%
Korean	Born in US	1.50%	1.60%	1.69%
	Foreign born	7.64%	12.80%	9.24%
Vietnamese	Born in US	1.45%	1.40%	1.92%
	Foreign born	8.24%	13.00%	10.35%
Other/multiple	Born in US	9.75%	1.54%	3.08%
	Foreign born	12.17%	3.40%	6.43%

Population parameters are single-group Asians except where noted from the American Community Survey 2010 (ACS); Unweighted and weighted results from 2012 Asian-American Survey.

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Sample Demographics: U.S. Asian Group by Gender and Age

		Population	Unweighted	Weighted
Chinese	Male, 18-34	3.49%	3.54%	4.63%
	Male, 35-54	3.97%	4.12%	4.20%
	Male, 55+	2.80%	2.37%	2.95%
	Female, 18-34	3.58%	3.04%	4.00%
	Female, 35-54	4.61%	4.07%	4.34%
	Female, 55+	3.22%	2.87%	3.13%
Filipino	Male, 18-34	2.22%	1.55%	1.74%
	Male, 35-54	2.62%	2.08%	2.06%
	Male, 55+	1.85%	2.92%	2.43%
	Female, 18-34	2.48%	1.64%	2.77%
	Female, 35-54	3.72%	2.81%	3.06%
	Female, 55+	2.95%	3.60%	3.12%
Indian	Male, 18-34	3.45%	4.30%	4.81%
	Male, 35-54	3.34%	5.09%	4.88%
	Male, 55+	1.64%	1.67%	2.31%
	Female, 18-34	3.36%	2.16%	2.72%
	Female, 35-54	2.91%	2.52%	2.86%
	Female, 55+	1.58%	0.99%	1.18%
Japanese	Male, 18-34	0.50%	0.76%	0.76%
	Male, 35-54	0.93%	1.84%	1.40%
	Male, 55+	0.87%	3.07%	1.73%
	Female, 18-34	0.58%	0.70%	0.64%
	Female, 35-54	1.16%	2.84%	1.97%
	Female, 55+	1.40%	5.12%	2.97%
Korean	Male, 18-34	1.43%	0.70%	1.26%
	Male, 35-54	1.52%	1.96%	1.59%
	Male, 55+	0.90%	2.34%	1.70%
	Female, 18-34	1.76%	1.17%	1.40%
	Female, 35-54	2.15%	4.42%	2.72%
	Female, 55+	1.39%	3.95%	2.40%

Table continued on next page

Population parameters are single-group Asians except where noted from the American Community Survey 2010 (ACS); Unweighted and weighted results from 2012 Asian-American Survey.

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Sample Demographics: U.S. Asian Group by Gender and Age, Continued

		Population	Unweighted	Weighted
Vietnamese	Male, 18-34	1.50%	1.37%	1.79%
	Male, 35-54	2.11%	2.92%	2.43%
	Male, 55+	1.08%	2.95%	2.29%
	Female, 18-34	1.64%	1.78%	1.76%
	Female, 35-54	2.12%	2.92%	2.59%
	Female, 55+	1.25%	2.78%	1.67%
Other/multiple	Male, 18-34	4.99%	1.05%	2.45%
	Male, 35-54	3.86%	1.23%	2.00%
	Male, 55+	1.76%	0.50%	0.56%
	Female, 18-34	5.26%	1.02%	2.45%
	Female, 35-54	4.11%	0.85%	1.66%
	Female, 55+	1.94%	0.41%	0.59%

Population parameters are single-group Asians except where noted from the American Community Survey 2010 (ACS); Unweighted and weighted results from 2012 Asian-American Survey.

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Sample Demographics: U.S. Asian Group by Gender and Education

		Population	Unweighted	Weighted
Chinese	Male, High school or less	3.13%	2.35%	3.17%
	Male, Some college	2.01%	1.26%	1.89%
	Male, College grad+	5.12%	6.68%	7.00%
	Female, High school or less	3.92%	2.38%	2.89%
	Female, Some college	2.17%	1.43%	2.21%
	Female, College grad+	5.31%	6.56%	7.01%
Filipino	Male, High school or less	1.59%	1.35%	1.27%
	Male, Some college	2.46%	1.35%	1.68%
	Male, College grad+	2.64%	3.75%	3.25%
	Female, High school or less	2.14%	1.38%	2.02%
	Female, Some college	2.60%	1.55%	2.41%
	Female, College grad+	4.42%	5.01%	4.40%
Indian	Male, High school or less	1.32%	0.77%	1.17%
	Male, Some college	1.16%	0.72%	1.11%
	Male, College grad+	5.96%	9.51%	9.61%
	Female, High school or less	1.72%	0.57%	1.21%
	Female, Some college	1.24%	0.66%	0.89%
	Female, College grad+	4.89%	4.33%	4.53%
Japanese	Male, High school or less	0.47%	0.86%	0.76%
	Male, Some college	0.69%	0.97%	0.75%
	Male, College grad+	1.14%	4.01%	2.45%
	Female, High school or less	0.89%	2.29%	1.66%
	Female, Some college	0.99%	1.83%	1.23%
	Female, College grad+	1.26%	4.70%	2.76%
Korean	Male, High school or less	0.80%	0.83%	1.00%
	Male, Some college	1.04%	0.46%	0.99%
	Male, College grad+	2.01%	3.61%	2.47%
	Female, High school or less	1.60%	2.84%	2.23%
	Female, Some college	1.32%	1.26%	0.97%
	Female, College grad+	2.38%	5.27%	3.21%

Table continued on next page

Population parameters are single-group Asians except where noted from the American Community Survey 2010 (ACS); Unweighted and weighted results from 2012 Asian-American Survey.

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Sample Demographics: U.S. Asian Group by Gender and Education, Continued

		Population	Unweighted	Weighted
Vietnamese	Male, High school or less	2.07%	3.87%	3.29%
	Male, Some college	1.43%	1.38%	1.60%
	Male, College grad+	1.19%	1.86%	1.48%
	Female, High school or less	2.66%	4.81%	3.42%
	Female, Some college	1.23%	1.20%	1.22%
	Female, College grad+	1.11%	1.32%	1.25%
Other/multiple	Male, High school or less	3.91%	0.80%	1.80%
	Male, Some college	3.28%	0.43%	0.99%
	Male, College grad+	3.43%	1.55%	2.14%
	Female, High school or less	4.19%	0.63%	1.67%
	Female, Some college	3.52%	0.46%	0.94%
	Female, College grad+	3.59%	1.15%	1.97%

Population parameters are single-group Asians except where noted from the American Community Survey 2010 (ACS); Unweighted and weighted results from 2012 Asian-American Survey.

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APPENDIX 2: TOPLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
2012 ASIAN-AMERICAN SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
JAN. 3-MARCH 27, 2012

	Asian Americans	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
N	3,511	728	504	580	515	504	504

Note: All numbers are percentages. The percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 % are replaced by an asterisk (*). Columns/rows may not total 100% due to rounding. Percentages for sub-groups are not reported when n is less than 100. Selected trends for the general public are shown for comparison. General public trends for the United States come from various surveys by the Pew Research Center projects, and are noted as follows:

P-P—Pew Research Center for the People & the Press
SDT—Pew Social & Demographic Trends
Forum—Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life
GAP—Pew Global Attitudes Project
PHC—Pew Hispanic Center

Throughout the topline, *"[Country of Origin]"* indicates language customized to match the Asian group of the respondent. See code for COOGROUP at the end of the topline for more detail. Demographic questions are not shown. For more detail, see the questionnaire.

SCREENING INTERVIEW
NO QUESTION 1
ASK ALL
Q2 Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in your life today?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Jul 20-24, 2011
Satisfied	82	84	82	84	81	83	82	75
Dissatisfied	13	10	15	12	14	11	16	23
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	6	3	4	5	6	2	2

NO QUESTION 3

SCREENING INTERVIEW QUESTIONS NOT SHOWN INCLUDE: HISPANIC ORIGIN, RACE, SPECIFIC ASIAN GROUP, ALTERNATE RESPONDENT SELECTION QUESTIONS

ASK ALL
As mentioned before, this survey is being conducted for the Pew Research Center. We have some questions on a few different topics, and as a token of our appreciation for your time, we would like to send you $20 at the completion of this survey. The next question is,…

MAIN INTERVIEW BEGINS HERE

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q6 AND Q7
ASK ALL
Q6 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Jan 11-16, 2012
Satisfied	43	41	30	47	36	48	56	21
Dissatisfied	48	49	61	45	54	41	38	75
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	9	10	9	8	10	11	7	4

ASK ALL
Q7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH:** Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President? **IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Jan 11-16, 2012
Approve	54	52	43	65	54	54	53	44
Disapprove	29	27	43	22	29	26	30	48
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	17	21	14	12	17	20	16	8

NO QUESTION 8

ASK ALL

Q9 Ten years from now, which country do you think will be the world's leading economic power? **[OPEN END; DO NOT READ PRECODES; DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD ALL IN ORDER OF MENTION. IF MULTIPLE MENTIONS ONLY RECORD EXPLANATION IF NECESSARY FOR CLARIFICATION.]**

NOTE: BASED ON FIRST RESPONSE

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Apr 5-8 2012
The United States	41	38	32	45	31	42	61	37
China	40	46	41	35	47	45	23	42
Other **[NET]**	8	3	9	12	7	5	8	10
Japan	1	*	3	1	3	*	4	5
India	3	*	*	10	2	2	1	1
Africa, general	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asia, general	*	0	*	0	*	0	0	*
Australia	*	*	1	*	0	0	1	0
Bolivia	*	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Brazil	*	*	*	0	*	*	0	0
Canada	*	0	*	0	*	1	0	*
Cayman Islands	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Denmark	*	*	0	0	0	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	*	0	0	*	0	0	1	0
Europe/European Union, general	*	*	1	0	0	*	0	1
France	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0
Germany	*	1	*	*	*	0	0	1
Hong Kong	*	*	0	0	0	0	*	0
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Israel	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	*
Korea	*	*	2	*	1	1	0	*
Middle East, general	*	0	*	*	0	0	0	*
New Zealand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Philippines	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Russia	*	*	*	0	*	0	0	1
Saudi Arabia	*	0	*	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	*	*	*	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	*	0	0	*	0	0	0	0
South America, general	*	0	0	0	*	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	*
United Kingdom (includes England, Scotland, Wales)	*	*	*	*	0	0	0	0
Unspecified/unclear response	*	0	0	*	*	*	0	0
None/There is no leading economic power	1	1	2	1	*	*	*	1
Don't know/Refused	12	12	16	8	14	8	9	10

ASK ALL

Q10 Compared to your parents when they were the age you are now, do you think your own standard of living now is much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse than theirs was?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Dec 6-19, 2011
Much better	49	57	38	55	33	51	55	36
Somewhat better	24	20	25	21	36	21	25	24
About the same	15	14	21	15	14	16	8	23
Somewhat worse	7	5	9	5	11	7	6	10
Much worse	3	2	5	2	4	3	3	5
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	2	1	2	2	2	3	2

ASK ALL

Q11 When your children are at the age you are now, do you think their standard of living will be much better, somewhat better, about the same, somewhat worse, or much worse than yours is now?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Dec 6-19, 2011
Much better	31	26	25	32	19	38	48	28
Somewhat better	22	24	19	24	20	18	23	20
About the same	19	21	21	19	22	16	15	19
Somewhat worse	14	12	14	15	21	16	8	13
Much worse	5	5	9	5	7	4	2	10
No children **(VOL.)**	3	3	3	1	5	3	1	5
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	7	10	9	5	7	5	2	6

ASK ALL

Q12 As I read a pair of statements, tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is…/The next pair is… **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS, BUT DO NOT ROTATE WITHIN PAIRS; INTERVIEWER – PRECEDE THE FIRST STATEMENT IN EACH PAIR WITH "one" AND THE SECOND STATEMENT IN EACH PAIR WITH "two"]**

a. 1 - Immigrants today strengthen the U.S. because of their hard work and talents **[OR]**
2 - Immigrants today are a burden on the U.S. because they take jobs, housing and health care

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Jan 4-8, 2012[85]
Immigrants today strengthen the U.S. because of their hard work and talents **[OR]**	72	69	70	83	61	73	75	48
Immigrants today are a burden on the U.S. because they take jobs, housing, and health care	17	16	20	9	22	17	16	37
Neither/Both equally **(VOL.)**	7	10	7	5	7	7	7	8
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	5	4	2	10	3	2	8

b. 1 - Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard **[OR]**
2 - Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Dec 7-11, 2011
Most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard **[OR]**	69	61	72	75	59	64	83	58
Hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people	27	33	24	24	34	33	15	40
Neither/Both equally **(VOL.)**	2	3	2	*	4	1	1	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	4	2	1	3	2	*	2

[85] In 2012, general public question used the phrase "our country" instead of "the U.S."

ASK ALL

Q13 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese	General Public (P-P) Jan 4-8, 2012
Smaller government, fewer services	36	39	36	40	43	26	22	52
Bigger government, more services	55	50	58	49	41	68	69	39
Depends **(VOL.)**	4	5	3	5	8	3	2	2
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	5	6	3	5	8	2	6	7

NO QUESTION 14 THROUGH 16

ASK ALL

Q17 Thinking about the country as a whole, do you think American parents put too much pressure on their children to do well in school, not enough pressure, or about the right amount of pressure?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (GAP) Mar 25-Apr 14, 2011[86]
Too much pressure	9	6	13	5	8	14	11	11
Not enough pressure	62	65	57	71	59	53	59	64
Right amount of pressure	23	21	27	20	24	25	25	21
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	6	9	4	3	9	8	5	4

NO QUESTION 18

[86] In Mar/Apr 2011, the question read, "In general, do you think United States parents put too much pressure on their children to do well in school, not enough pressure, or about the right amount of pressure?"

ASK ALL

Q19 Here are some goals people value in their lives. Please tell me how important each of the following is to you personally. First **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE**], is that one of the most important things in your life, or very important but not one of the most important things, or somewhat important, or not important? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM**]? [**REPEAT AS NECESSARY** "Is that one of the most important things in your life, or very important but not one of the most important things, or somewhat important, or not important?"] **IF RESPONDENT SAYS "VERY IMPORTANT" PROBE**: "To clarify, would that be one of the most important things in your life OR very important but not one of the most important things OR somewhat important, OR not important."

a. Being successful in a high-paying career or profession

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Jan 14-27, 2010[87]
One of the most important things	27	17	25	34	12	21	42	9
Very important but not one of the most important things	39	42	39	39	36	44	35	36
Somewhat important	27	33	29	20	38	31	19	34
Not important	6	6	7	6	12	4	2	21
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	2	*	1	2	*	2	1

b. Having a successful marriage

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Jan 14-27, 2010
One of the most important things	54	44	51	64	46	64	61	34
Very important but not one of the most important things	32	39	34	31	33	24	28	51
Somewhat important	9	11	10	3	13	9	6	8
Not important	4	5	5	2	6	1	3	6
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	2	*	1	2	2	2	2

ITEM c. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE [88]

[87] In Jan 2010, the question stem read, "Here are some goals that people value in their lives. Some people say these things are very important to them. Others say they are not so important. Please tell me how important each is to you personally. First **[INSERT FIRST ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, is that one of the most important things in your life, very important but not the most, somewhat important, or not important? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY** "is that one of the most important things in your life, very important but not the most, somewhat important, or not important?"**].**"

[88] The item read, "Living a very religious life."

Q19 CONTINUED…

d. Being a good parent

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Jan 14-27, 2010
One of the most important things	67	57	69	78	59	67	71	50
Very important but not one of the most important things	27	36	26	19	32	25	25	44
Somewhat important	4	5	3	2	4	4	3	2
Not important	1	1	1	1	1	*	1	3
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	*	3	3	*	1

e. Having lots of free time to relax or do things you want to do

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Jan 14-27, 2010
One of the most important things	20	15	19	19	18	30	29	10
Very important but not one of the most important things	37	40	36	34	34	40	37	43
Somewhat important	36	38	34	41	44	25	30	37
Not important	6	6	11	6	4	4	3	9
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	1	1	1	*	1

f. Helping other people who are in need

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Jan 14-27, 2010
One of the most important things	28	17	34	32	23	34	28	20
Very important but not one of the most important things	44	45	44	45	44	39	45	60
Somewhat important	26	33	19	22	30	26	25	18
Not important	2	2	2	1	2	*	2	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	3	*	*	2	*	*	1

Q19 CONTINUED…

g. Owning your own home.

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (SDT) Jan 14-27, 2010
One of the most important things	32	24	35	36	21	28	49	20
Very important but not one of the most important things	36	39	35	36	42	30	29	53
Somewhat important	26	27	24	25	29	34	16	20
Not important	6	9	5	3	8	8	4	7
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	1	*	*	1	1

ASK ALL

Q20 Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010
Most people can be trusted	36	39	23	42	40	38	36	35
Can't be too careful	56	51	73	53	52	56	51	61
Other/Depends **(VOL.)**	6	5	4	5	5	5	13	3
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	4	1	1	3	1	1	2

ASK ALL

Q.21 Thinking about the country as a whole, would you describe Americans as very hardworking, or doesn't this describe Americans?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Yes, describes	57	48	58	64	56	46	70
No, does not describe	35	44	34	31	32	44	25
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	8	9	8	5	12	10	5

RANDOMIZE Q22A and Q22B
ASK ALL
Q22A How much influence, if any, would you say a person's parents should have in choosing one's profession or line of work-**[READ]?**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
A lot of influence	17	16	23	10	8	22	25
Some influence	49	49	44	58	51	53	36
Not too much influence	23	23	24	25	27	17	27
No influence at all	9	9	8	5	12	8	10
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	2	1	1	1	1	2

ASK ALL
Q22B How much influence, if any, would you say a person's parents should have in choosing one's spouse-- **[READ]?**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
A lot of influence	17	16	20	12	11	20	20
Some influence	45	43	38	52	37	55	46
Not too much influence	25	24	29	21	31	20	24
No influence at all	12	13	12	13	18	4	9
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	3	1	2	3	*	1

NO QUESTION 23

ASK ALL
Q24 Overall, do you think of yourself to be a typical American OR very different from a typical American?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Typical American	39	36	49	30	50	29	35
Very different from typical American	53	52	45	57	43	63	61
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	9	12	6	12	7	9	3

NO QUESTION 25

QUESTION 26A AND 26b HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTION 27 THROUGH 29

QUESTION 30 THROUGH 41 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK IF COOGROUP=1-29

On a different topic.

Q42 People sometimes use different terms to describe themselves. In general, which ONE of the following terms do you use to describe yourself MOST OFTEN **[READ; RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 THROUGH 3]**

BASED ON TOTAL:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
[*Country of Origin***]/[***Country of Origin***]** American	62	60	69	61	60	74	75
An Asian or Asian American	19	27	10	20	16	14	17
An American	14	11	19	17	21	11	6
Depends **(VOL.)**	1	2	2	*	1	*	2
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	*	*	1	1	1	0
Not asked-Other Asians (COOGROUP=30)	3	--	--	--	--	--	--

NO QUESTION 43

ASK ALL

Q44 How many of your friends in the U.S. are **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *[Country of Origin]*/**IF COOGROUP=30:** "from the same Asian background as you"**]**? Would you say **[READ]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
All of them	6	6	4	3	2	15	10
Most of them	35	38	36	35	18	43	39
Some of them	42	43	41	53	50	27	33
Hardly any of them	15	10	17	8	27	14	18
None of them **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	1	1	*	*
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	*	*	*	*	2	0	*

ASK IF Q44 = 2,3,4,5,9

Q45 How many of your friends in the U.S. have an Asian background **[IF COOGROUP=1-29: "**other than *[Country of Origin]"*/**IF COOGROUP=30:** "from different countries than yours"**]**? Would you say **[READ]**

BASED ON TOTAL:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
All of them	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
Most of them	16	13	22	14	11	17	16
Some of them	56	63	54	63	63	40	42
Hardly any of them	17	14	15	16	19	24	23
None of them **(VOL.)**	2	1	2	2	2	2	7
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	*	1	*	1
Not asked (Q44=all of them)	6	6	4	3	2	15	10

ASK ALL

Q46 In general, do you think being **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *[Country of Origin]*/**IF COOGROUP=30:** "*Asian*"**]** American helps, hurts, or makes no difference when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Next**, [INSERT ITEM]**

READ IF NECESSARY: In general, do you think being **[***Country of Origin/"Asian"***]** American helps, hurts, or makes no difference when it comes to **[INSERT ITEM]**?

ALL ASIAN AMERICANS	Helps	Hurts	Makes no difference	Don't know/ Refused **(VOL.)**
a. finding a job	19	12	62	7
b. getting a promotion	14	15	61	9
c. gaining admission into schools and colleges	20	12	61	7

a. finding a job

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Helps	19	18	15	8	19	24	39
Hurts	12	18	6	12	7	13	9
Makes no difference	62	54	76	74	62	58	48
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	7	10	3	6	12	6	5

b. getting a promotion

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Helps	14	11	14	8	17	13	32
Hurts	15	25	6	13	8	16	10
Makes no difference	61	53	75	70	62	56	52
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	9	11	5	9	13	14	6

c. gaining admission into schools and colleges

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Helps	20	16	22	13	15	19	38
Hurts	12	23	4	10	8	12	7
Makes no difference	61	52	71	70	65	60	48
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	7	9	2	6	12	9	7

ASK ALL

Q47 On the whole, do you think Asian Americans have been more successful than other racial and ethnic minority groups in the U.S., less successful, or about equally successful?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
More successful	43	38	33	54	45	51	53
Less successful	5	8	5	2	3	12	2
About equally successful	45	48	57	38	43	34	42
Depends **(VOL.)**	2	3	2	2	2	1	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	3	4	4	7	2	2

NO QUESTION 48

ASK ALL

Now I have some questions about how some groups in our society get along…

Q49 How well do you think **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS A-C; ITEM D ALWAYS LAST]** get along with each other these days – would you say very well, pretty well, not too well, or not at all well? What about how well **[NEXT ITEM]** get along? **[IF NECESSARY**: Do **[ITEM]** get along very well, pretty well, not too well, or not at all well these days?**] [FOR ITEMS A-C IF COOGROUP=1-29 INSERT [*Country of Origin],* IF COOGROUP=30 INSERT *"Asian"* FOR ITEM D, IF COOGROUP=1 THROUGH 13 OR 15 THROUGH 29, ASK "***[Country of Origin]*** Americans and Asian Americans from different countries**"; IF COOGROUP=14 OR 30, ASK "**Asian Americans from different countries**"]**

ALL ASIAN AMERICANS	Very well	Pretty well	Not too well	Not well at all	Don't know/ Refused **(VOL.)**
a. **[***Country of Origin/"Asian"***]** Americans and whites	26	61	8	*	4
b. **[***Country of Origin/"Asian"***]** Americans and blacks	15	48	25	4	9
c. **[***Country of Origin/"Asian"***]** Americans and Hispanics or Latinos	16	56	17	2	10
d. **[***Country of Origin***]** Americans and Asian Americans from different countries/Asian Americans from different countries	24	59	10	1	6

a. **[***Country of Origin/"Asian"***]** Americans and whites

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very well	26	17	36	36	32	13	23
Pretty well	61	69	57	55	59	64	62
Not too well	8	8	5	6	3	16	10
Not well at all	*	*	*	*	0	1	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	5	1	2	5	6	5

Q49 CONTINUED…

b. **[***Country of Origin/"Asian"***]** Americans and blacks

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very well	15	7	27	21	17	4	12
Pretty well	48	47	52	49	50	39	41
Not too well	25	28	17	18	14	45	36
Not well at all	4	5	1	4	2	5	3
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	9	13	3	8	17	7	8

c. **[***Country of Origin/"Asian"***]** Americans and Hispanics or Latinos

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very well	16	9	30	21	16	3	13
Pretty well	56	60	54	56	58	58	43
Not too well	17	19	12	11	10	25	31
Not well at all	2	2	*	3	2	2	2
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	10	11	3	10	15	11	10

ASK IF COOGROUP 1 THROUGH 13 OR 15 THROUGH 29:
d. **[***Country of Origin***]** Americans and Asian Americans from different countries
IF COOGROUP=14,30 ASK: Asian Americans from different countries

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very well	24	18	34	25	26	14	21
Pretty well	59	66	50	60	56	68	61
Not too well	10	8	12	9	8	12	13
Not well at all	1	1	1	1	*	*	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	6	6	4	6	9	5	4

Q49 CONTINUED…

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

General Public (P-P/SDT) Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	Very well	Pretty well	Not too well	Not well at all	Don't know/ Refused **(VOL.)**	
a. Whites and Hispanics[89]						
All adults	11	56	22	3	8	N=2,884
Whites	10	61	20	2	7	N=1,447
Blacks	14	43	26	6	11	N=812
Hispanics	20	36	36	5	3	N=376
b. Blacks and Hispanics						
All adults	9	39	24	6	22	N=2,884
Whites	5	37	25	6	28	N=1,447
Blacks	22	54	18	2	4	N=812
Hispanics	19	31	32	12	6	N=376
c. Blacks and Whites						
All adults	13	63	16	3	5	N=2,884
Whites	11	68	13	2	5	N=1,447
Blacks	16	60	20	2	2	N=812
Hispanics	20	35	30	10	5	N=376

ASK ALL

Q50 In general, do you think discrimination against **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *[Country of Origin]***/IF COOGROUP=30:** *"Asian"***]** Americans is a major problem, minor problem, or not a problem?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Major problem	13	16	8	10	8	24	13
Minor problem	48	56	46	48	41	46	48
Not a problem	35	24	45	38	45	27	37
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	3	4	1	4	6	4	3

ASK ALL

Q51 During the past twelve months, have you personally experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly because you are **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *[Country of Origin]***/IF COOGROUP=30:** *"Asian"***]** American, or not?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Yes	19	21	19	18	9	20	14
No	80	77	81	81	88	79	84
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	1	1	1	2	2	2

[89] In Oct/Nov 2009 questions a-c were rotated and read, a. "How well do you think whites and Hispanics get along with each other these days—would you say very well, pretty well, not too well, or not at all well?", b. "How well do you think blacks and Hispanics get along with each other these days…?" and c. "How well do you think blacks and whites get along with each other these days…?"

ASK ALL

Q52 In the past twelve months, have you been called offensive names because you are **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *[Country of Origin]*/**IF COOGROUP=30:** *"Asian"***]** American or not?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Yes, has happened	10	10	10	10	4	12	11
No, has not happened	89	89	90	90	94	87	89
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	*	*	2	1	*

ASK ALL

Q53 In general, do you think **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *[Country of Origin]*/**IF COOGROUP=30:** *"Asian"***]** American parents put too much pressure on their children to do well in school, not enough pressure, or about the right amount of pressure?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Too much pressure	39	42	22	43	25	60	49
Not enough pressure	9	5	13	7	7	5	13
Right amount of pressure	49	48	64	49	60	30	35
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	5	1	2	7	5	3

ASK ALL
A couple of questions for background purposes.
BIRTH In what country were you born? **[OPEN END; PRE-CODED; PROBE FOR COUNTRY IF CONTINENT OR REGION GIVEN]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012		Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012
U.S.	24	Nigeria	*
India	14	Panama	*
China (mainland China)	12	Qatar	*
The Philippines	11	Samoa	*
Vietnam	11	Singapore	*
Korea	9	South Africa	*
Japan	4	Sri Lanka	*
Taiwan (Chinese Taipei)	3	Suriname	*
Bangladesh	1	Tanzania	*
Cambodia	1	Trinidad and Tobago	*
Hong Kong	1	United Arab Emirates	*
Indonesia	1	United Kingdom (includes England, Scotland, Wales)	*
Laos	1	Yemen	*
Malaysia	1	Zambia	*
Nepal	1	Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	*
Pakistan	1		
Thailand	1		
Afghanistan	*		
Africa, general	*		
Bahrain	*		
Bhutan	*		
Burma/Myanmar	*		
Canada	*		
Caribbean, general	*		
Colombia	*		
Denmark	*		
Dominican Republic	*		
Egypt	*		
Fiji	*		
France	*		
Georgia	*		
Germany	*		
Ghana	*		
Guam	*		
Guyana	*		
Haiti	*		
Iran	*		
Jamaica	*		
Kenya	*		
Kuwait	*		
Macau	*		
Mexico	*		
Mongolia	*		
The Netherlands	*		
New Zealand	*		

ASK IF BORN IN U.S. (BIRTH=1)
FATHER In what country was your father born? **[OPEN END; IF "SAME", SELECT COUNTRY; PROBE FOR COUNTRY IF CONTINENT OR REGION GIVEN.]**
ASK IF BORN IN U.S. (BIRTH=1)
MOTHER In what country was your mother born? **[OPEN END: IF "SAME", SELECT COUNTRY; PROBE FOR COUNTRY IF CONTINENT OR REGION GIVEN.]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Foreign born/first generation	75	76	71	88	41	85	84
Native Born	24	23	28	11	59	15	16
Second generation	18	19	23	9	27	14	15
Third generation or higher	6	4	5	2	33	1	*
Native born, generation unknown	*	0	1	0	0	0	0
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	*	1	*	*	*	0	0

ASK ALL
Q54 Overall would you say **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE)** is/are better in the United States, better in the country **[IF BIRTH = 1 INSERT "**your parents or ancestors came from**"; IF BIRTH = 2-99 INSERT "**the country you came from**"]**, or about the same? How about **(INSERT ITEM)**?
READ IF NECESSARY: Overall, would you say (**ITEM**) is/are better in the United States, better in the country **[IF BIRTH = 1 INSERT "**your parents or ancestors came from**"; IF BIRTH = 2-99 INSERT "**the country you came from**"]**, or about the same?

a. Treatment of the poor

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Better in the U.S.	64	65	63	70	32	68	86
Better in country (your parents/you) came from	9	8	6	7	25	7	3
Same	21	22	28	20	26	19	9
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	6	6	3	3	18	6	1

b. The moral values of society

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Better in the U.S.	34	46	20	23	11	37	64
Better in country (your parents/you) came from	28	19	33	31	51	19	18
Same	32	26	44	42	29	37	15
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	6	9	3	3	10	7	4

Q54 CONTINUED…

c. The strength of family ties

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Better in the U.S.	14	13	11	8	15	18	26
Better in country (your parents/you) came from	56	55	64	69	44	53	45
Same	26	26	23	23	35	26	27
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	3	6	1	1	7	3	3

d. The opportunity to get ahead

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Better in the U.S.	73	65	78	71	66	69	94
Better in country (your parents/you) came from	5	8	3	4	3	7	1
Same	18	22	17	23	21	19	4
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	5	2	2	11	5	1

e. Freedom to practice one's religion

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Better in the U.S.	52	65	37	33	49	38	87
Better in country (your parents/you) came from	7	5	10	9	8	7	1
Same	38	25	51	57	34	53	11
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	5	2	2	9	2	1

f. Freedom to express one's political views

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Better in the U.S.	69	77	56	55	64	66	94
Better in country (your parents/you) came from	3	3	3	6	3	5	1
Same	23	17	38	35	27	22	3
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	3	3	3	6	7	2

Q54 CONTINUED…

g. The conditions for raising children

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Better in the U.S.	62	69	49	57	40	67	84
Better in country (your parents/you) came from	13	9	22	17	22	9	4
Same	20	17	25	23	26	21	11
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	4	4	3	11	3	1

NO QUESTION 55

ASK ALL

Q56 Do you have immediate family members, by which I mean a spouse, parents, siblings or children, who reside in the country you, your parents or ancestors came from, or not?[90]

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Yes	59	56	61	69	41	63	65
No	40	44	39	31	58	37	33
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	*	1	0	*	*	3

ASK ALL

Q57 Have you sent money to anyone in the country you, your parents or ancestors came from during the past 12 months, or not?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Yes	33	23	52	41	12	16	58
No	66	76	47	58	87	83	40
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	1	*	*	2

NO QUESTION 58

[90] The question wording added "siblings" starting Jan. 10, 2012.

ASK IF FOREIGN BORN (USGEN=1):

Q59 In what year did you come to live in the U.S.? **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE]**

BASED ON FOREIGN BORN [N=2,684]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
NET 2000-2012	29	30	27	38	16	22	26
2006-2012	14	16	8	20	8	5	11
2000-2005	16	14	19	18	8	16	15
1990-1999	25	27	15	26	19	18	38
Before 1990	44	41	57	34	64	60	36
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	2	1	2	1	*	*
	(N=2,684)	(N=541)	(N=374)	(N=517)	(N=230)	(N=448)	(N=455)

NO QUESTION 60 THROUGH 64

ASK IF FOREIGN BORN (USGEN=1):

Q65 What would you say is the MAIN reason you came to the United States? Was it **[READ LIST; INSERT; RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS; ITEM 5 ALWAYS COMES LAST] [INTERVIEW INSTRUCTION: RECORD ONE RESPONSE ONLY. IF RESPONDENT OFFERS MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE, PROBE ONCE FOR MAIN REASON. IF RESPONDENT STILL OFFERS MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE, CODE AS 5 (OTHER) AND RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE]**

BASED ON FOREIGN BORN [N=2,684]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japan-ese	Korean	Viet-namese
Educational opportunities	28	36	10	37	26	37	10
Economic opportunities	21	15	34	34	6	21	11
Conflict or persecution in your home country	9	5	1	2	*	3	38
For family reasons	31	37	43	18	34	27	34
For some other reason **[specify] [NET]**	9	5	11	8	31	10	5
Marital reasons **(VOL.)**	1	1	2	1	13	1	0
Job opportunity **(VOL.)**	1	*	3	2	4	0	0
Relocation/Just wanted to come to U.S. **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	1	3	1	0
Brought as a kid/adopted **(VOL.)**	1	1	2	1	6	2	0
Freedom **(VOL.)**	1	*	0	0	0	*	2
Generally for a better life **(VOL.)**	1	*	*	2	0	2	0
Religious/spiritual reason **(VOL.)**	*	*	1	*	0	1	0
Spouse's job opportunity **(VOL.)**	*	0	1	*	2	0	0
Military **(VOL.)**	*	0	*	0	2	*	0
Political reason **(VOL.)**	*	*	*	0	0	1	2
Weather **(VOL.)**	*	*	0	*	*	0	0
Culture **(VOL.)**	*	0	0	0	*	0	0
No choice **(VOL.)**	*	0	0	0	0	0	*
Miscellaneous **(VOL.)**	1	1	*	*	1	1	*
Mixed reasons **(VOL.)**	1	1	1	*	*	1	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	*	1	2	2	2
	(N=2,684)	(N=541)	(N=374)	(N=517)	(N=230)	(N=448)	(N=455)

ASK IF FOREIGN BORN (USGEN=1)

Q66 If you could do it again, would you **(READ LIST IN ORDER)**:

BASED ON FOREIGN BORN [N=2,684]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Come to the United States	76	76	79	73	67	68	88
Stay in the country where you were born	12	11	7	14	17	23	6
Move to a different country	6	4	8	6	4	5	3
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	7	8	7	7	12	4	3
	(N=2,684)	(N=541)	(N=374)	(N=517)	(N=230)	(N=448)	(N=455)

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

If you could do it again, would you choose to come to the United States, to stay in the country where you were born, or to pick a different country to live in?

	All Foreign Born[91] (Public Agenda Foundation) Apr 23-Jun7, 2009
Come to the United States	71
Stay in the country where you were born	19
Move to a different country	6
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	3

ASK ALL

Q67 How important is it to you that future generations of **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *Country of Origin*/**IF COOGROUP=30:** *"Asians"***]** living in the United States be able to speak **[IF CHINESE (COOGROUP=1) INSERT "CHINESE"; IF FILIPINO (COOGROUP=2) INSERT "TAGALOG OR ANOTHER FILIPINO LANGUAGE"; IF INDIAN (COOGROUP=3) INSERT "HINDI OR ANOTHER INDIAN LANGUAGE"; IF JAPANESE (COOGROUP=4) INSERT "JAPANESE"; IF KOREAN (COOGROUP=5) INSERT "KOREAN"; IF VIETNAMESE (COOGROUP=6) INSERT "VIETNAMESE"; IF COOGROUP=10-30 INSERT** "the native language of the country you, your parents or ancestors came from"**]**—very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very important	45	52	38	29	25	62	60
Somewhat important	35	34	35	40	44	28	30
Not too important	13	8	20	19	20	6	8
Not important at all	7	4	7	11	10	3	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	1	2	*	1	1	*	1

[91] In Public Agenda Foundation survey, foreign-born adults were only those who came to the U.S. at the age of five and older, and survey was conducted in English and Spanish only.

ASK ALL

Q68 How comfortable would you be if a child of yours married someone who **(INSERT ITEM; DO NOT RANDOMIZE)**? Would you be very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not too comfortable or not at all comfortable? What about **(INSERT)**? **READ IF NECESSARY:** Would you be very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, not too comfortable or not at all comfortable? **[FOR ITEMS A AND B, IF COOGROUP=30 INSERT "**from the country you, your parents or ancestors came from**"]**

a. Is NOT **[***Country of Origin/"from the country you, your parents or ancestors came from"***]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very comfortable	54	55	65	48	71	40	48
Somewhat comfortable	28	32	24	31	19	28	32
Not too comfortable	9	6	5	10	2	22	15
Not at all comfortable	4	2	1	7	2	8	3
Depends on situation/Depends if man or woman **(VOL.)**	2	3	4	2	2	1	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	2	1	2	3	*	2

b. Is Asian but NOT **[***Country of Origin/"from the country you, your parents or ancestors came from"***]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very comfortable	52	54	62	45	65	39	50
Somewhat comfortable	31	36	26	34	24	28	31
Not too comfortable	9	6	6	7	4	24	15
Not at all comfortable	4	1	1	9	2	7	1
Depends on situation/Depends if man or woman **(VOL.)**	2	3	3	2	2	1	*
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	1	2	3	4	1	2

c. Has NO Asian background

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very comfortable	49	50	58	41	67	36	42
Somewhat comfortable	29	33	24	32	22	23	33
Not too comfortable	12	8	9	11	4	24	17
Not at all comfortable	6	3	3	10	2	13	4
Depends on situation/Depends if man or woman **(VOL.)**	3	4	4	3	2	2	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	1	2	3	3	3	3

ITEM d. HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE [92]
NO QUESTION 69

[92] The item read, "Has different religious beliefs."

ASK ALL

Q70 Would you describe **[IF COOGROUP=1-29:** *Country of Origin*/**IF COOGROUP=30:** *"Asian"***]** Americans as very hardworking, or doesn't this describe **[***Country of Origin*/*"Asian"***]** Americans?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Yes, describes	93	93	92	93	90	92	97
No, does not describe	4	2	5	4	2	4	2
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	4	5	3	3	7	4	2

QUESTION 71 THROUGH 79 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FOREIGN BORN (USGEN=1)

Q80 Would you say you can carry on a conversation in English, both understanding and speaking--very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?

BASED ON FOREIGN BORN [N=2,684]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very well	49	43	66	72	39	30	21
Pretty well	26	28	24	24	38	25	22
Just a little	21	23	10	3	18	36	50
Not at all	4	6	*	0	5	8	6
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	*	0	*	1	*	*	0
	(N=2,684)	(N=541)	(N=374)	(N=517)	(N=230)	(N=448)	(N=455)

ASK US BORN (BIRTH=1)

Q81 Would you say you can carry on a conversation in **[IF CHINESE (COOGROUP=1) INSERT "CHINESE"; IF FILIPINO (COOGROUP=2) INSERT "TAGALOG OR ANOTHER FILIPINO LANGUAGE"; IF INDIAN (COOGROUP=3) INSERT "HINDI OR ANOTHER INDIAN LANGUAGE"; IF JAPANESE (COOGROUP=4) INSERT "JAPANESE"; IF KOREAN (COOGROUP=5) INSERT "KOREAN"; IF VIETNAMESE (COOGROUP=6) INSERT "VIETNAMESE"; IF COOGROUP=10-30 INSERT** "the native language of the country your parents or ancestors came from"**]** both understanding and speaking – very well, pretty well, just a little, or not at all?

BASED ON US BORN [N=815]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese
Very well	14	15	4		4		
Pretty well	19	29	9		14		
Just a little	32	31	44		37		
Not at all	34	25	41		46		
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	*	0	2		0		
	(N=815)	(N=182)	(N=129)		(N=284)		

ASK ALL
On another topic
Q82 Which statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right? **[READ]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Jan 4-8, 2012
Homosexuality should be accepted by society	53	55	63	49	68	40	48	56
Homosexuality should be discouraged by society	35	34	28	38	22	55	36	32
Neither/Both equally **(VOL.)**	4	3	4	4	3	1	8	4
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	8	8	6	9	7	4	9	7

ASK ALL
Q83 Do you think abortion should be **[READ; READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Nov 9-14, 2011
Legal in all cases	16	18	8	21	24	12	11	20
Legal in most cases	38	48	33	36	44	33	28	31
Illegal in most cases	23	20	29	21	15	27	23	26
Illegal in all cases	14	5	22	12	4	24	29	17
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	9	9	8	10	12	5	9	6

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS NOT SHOWN

NO QUESTION 84 THROUGH 85

QUESTION 86 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL
Q87 How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in excellent shape, good shape, only fair shape or poor shape financially?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Jan 11-16, 2012
Excellent shape	12	13	13	12	12	9	8	6
Good shape	40	41	37	55	46	36	21	29
Only fair shape	36	33	39	26	32	45	53	42
Poor shape	11	8	10	7	10	9	17	22
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	2	5	1	1	1	1	1	1

ASK IF BORN IN U.S. OR A CITIZEN OF U.S. (BIRTH=1 OR CITIZEN=1):

REGA Which of these statements best describes you? **[READ IN ORDER]** Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote at your current address, OR are you probably registered, but there is a chance your registration has lapsed, OR are you not registered to vote at your current address?

BASED ON US BORN/CITIZENS [N=2,660]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Oct 21-24, 2010[93]	All US Citizens (SDT) Dec 6-19, 2011[94]
Registered, certain	72	68	78	76	81	70	64	79	75
Not certain	9	9	7	7	4	12	11	4	5
Not registered	18	21	15	14	13	17	23	17	19
Don't know/ Refused **(VOL.)**	2	1	*	3	1	*	3	1	1
	(N=2,660)	(N=554)	(N=413)	(N=364)	(N=399)	(N=372)	(N=420)	(N=1,006)	(N=1,921)

[93] In Oct 2010, the question was asked of all respondents (survey did not ask place of birth or citizenship). Results shown are based on all respondents.

[94] In Dec 2011, there were two questions regarding voter registration. The first (REGIST) read, "These days, many people are so busy they can't find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don't get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district or haven't you been able to register so far?" The second (REGICERT) was asked of those respondents who said yes, they are registered, and read, "Are you absolutely certain that you are registered to vote, or is there a chance that your registration has lapsed because you moved or for some other reason?" The results shown here combine the responses from the two questions to make them more comparable to the question asked in the Asian Americans Survey (If a respondent said they were registered and they were certain of it, they are shown here as "absolutely certain." If a respondent said they were registered, but not certain or answered "don't know" or refused to answer the follow up question about certainty, they are shown here as "not certain." If a respondent said they were not registered, they are shown here as "not registered." If a respondent said they didn't know if they were registered or refused to answer the first question about registration, they are shown here as "Don't know/Refused."). Results shown are based on those who said they were born in the U.S. or are U.S. citizens. In the Asian-American Survey, citizenship was asked only of foreign born, whereas in Dec 2011 citizenship was asked of all respondents.

ASK ALL
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Feb 8-12, 2012
Republican	18	16	26	10	20	23	25	26
Democrat	33	25	30	44	43	36	24	32
Independent	34	39	33	34	24	28	37	36
No preference **(VOL.)**	7	12	4	6	8	5	6	4
Other party **(VOL.)**	*	1	1	*	*	*	0	1
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	7	8	7	5	5	8	9	2

ASK ALL
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

BASED ON TOTAL:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Feb 8-12, 2012
Republican/lean Republican	28	26	40	18	29	32	35	39
Democrat/lean Democrat	50	49	43	65	54	48	36	49
Do not lean	22	25	17	17	18	19	28	12

ASK ALL
IDEO In general, would you describe your political views as… **[READ]**

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Feb 8-12, 2012
Very conservative	3	3	4	2	4	5	2	6
Conservative	20	18	29	15	24	28	17	27
Moderate	37	39	42	39	36	30	34	37
Liberal	24	24	15	29	23	27	30	16
Very liberal	7	7	5	8	6	4	4	7
Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**	8	8	5	6	7	7	12	6

ASK IF BORN IN U.S. OR A CITIZEN OF U.S. (BIRTH=1 OR CITIZEN=1) AND AGE GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 20:

PVOTE08A In the 2008 presidential election between Barack Obama and John McCain, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote?

BASED ON US BORN/CITIZENS [N=2,660]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011[95]
Voted	66	64	70	63	76	65	63	70
Did not vote (includes too young to vote)	26	28	24	27	19	33	23	25
Not a citizen at the time of the 2008 election **(VOL.)**	2	2	1	5	*	*	1	--
Don't remember **(VOL.)**	2	1	1	1	1	0	6	*
Refused **(VOL.)**	1	1	*	1	1	*	2	*
Not asked (under age 20)	*4*	*4*	*3*	*3*	*2*	*2*	*5*	*5*
	(N=2,660)	(N=554)	(N=413)	(N=364)	(N=399)	(N=372)	(N=420)	(N=2,410)

ASK IF VOTED (PVOTE08A=1):

PVOTE08B Did you vote for Obama, McCain or someone else?

BASED ON THOSE WHO VOTED [N=1,772]:

	Asian Americans Jan 3-Mar27 2012	Chinese	Filipino	Indian	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	General Public (P-P) Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011
Obama	63	67	50	84	63	61	43	54
McCain	26	20	39	6	27	28	48	35
Other candidate	6	10	8	4	5	4	6	6
Don't remember **(VOL.)**	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	*
Refused **(VOL.)**	3	1	2	4	4	6	2	4
	(N=1,772)	(N=361)	(N=282)	(N=241)	(N=307)	(N=226)	(N=262)	(N=1,870)

[95] Asked of all respondents in Sep/Oct survey (survey did not ask citizenship or place of birth for all respondents).

COOGROUP (Country of Origin Group): Code based on summary variables of Asian group of the respondent, used for inserting customized language throughout the survey.

	Code
COOGROUP	
Chinese	1
Filipino(s)	2
Indian(s)	3
Japanese	4
Korean(s)	5
Vietnamese	6
Bangladeshi(s)	10
Bhutanese	11
Burmese	12
Cambodian(s)	13
Hmong	14
Indonesian(s)	15
Laotian(s)	16
Maldivian(s)	17
Malaysian(s)	18
Mongolian(s)	19
Nepali(s)	20
Pakistani(s)	21
Singaporean(s)	22
Sri Lankan(s)	23
Thai	24
Taiwanese	25
Other Asian	30
[if don't know/none/both or all equally/other in combined variable]	

APPENDIX 3: EXTERNAL ADVISERS

Wendy Cadge is an associate professor of sociology at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on religion in the U.S., especially its relationship to immigration, health care and sexuality. She is the author of the books “Heartwood: The First Generation of Theravada Buddhism in America” and “Paging God: Religion in the Halls of Medicine.”

Hien Duc Do is a professor of social science and Asian American studies at San Jose State University. His research focuses on Vietnamese Americans, race relations, immigration and the development of Asian-American communities. He is the author of the book “The Vietnamese Americans” and is an associate producer of the documentary film "Viet Nam: At the Crossroads.”

Diana Eck is a professor of comparative religion and Indian studies and the Fredric Wertham Professor of Law and Psychiatry in Society at Harvard University, where she also heads the Pluralism Project. Her research focuses on popular religion in India—especially temples and *tirthas* (pilgrimage sites)—and on religious pluralism in American society. She is the author of “India: A Sacred Geography” and “A New Religious America: How a ‘Christian Country’ Has Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation.”

Yen Le Espiritu is a professor of ethnic studies at the University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses on gender, race, immigration, refugees and Asian-American studies, specifically Southeast Asian Americans. She is the author of several books, including “Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries.”

Joaquin Jay Gonzalez III is a professor of politics at the University of San Francisco. His research focuses on Philippine and Filipino-American migration, political economy, public policy, government and development. He is the author of “Filipino American Faith in Action: Immigration, Religion, and Civic Engagement.”

Jane Naomi Iwamura is a visiting scholar in Asian-American studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. She has published and lectured widely on the topic of Asian Americans and religion. She is the author of the book “Virtual Orientalism: Asian Religions and American Popular Culture” and is co-editor of the volume “Revealing the Sacred in Asian & Pacific America.”

Khyati Joshi is an associate professor of education at Fairleigh Dickinson University. Her research focuses on cultural and religious pluralism, religion in schools, multicultural

education, immigrant communities and racialization of religion. She is the author of the book "New Roots in America's Sacred Ground: Religion, Race, and Ethnicity in Indian America."

Rebecca Y. Kim is the Frank R. Seaver Professor of Social Science and director of the ethnic studies program at Pepperdine University. She is the author of the book "God's New Whiz Kids? Korean American Evangelicals on Campus" and has published articles and book chapters on migration, religion, Asian Americans and global Christianity.

Pyong Gap Min is a distinguished professor of sociology at Queens College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. He also directs the Research Center for Korean Community at Queens College. His research focuses on immigration, ethnic identity, religion and gender roles among Asian Americans. He has written six books on Korean immigrants, including "Caught in the Middle: Korean Communities in New York and Los Angeles" and "Preserving Ethnicity through Religion in America: Korean Protestants and Indian Hindus across Generations."

Jerry Z. Park is an associate professor of sociology and an affiliate fellow of the Baylor Institute for Studies of Religion at Baylor University. His research interests include religion, race relations and civic engagement among Asian Americans. He has published articles on Asian-American civic participation, second-generation Asian-American pan-ethnic identity, Asian-American religiosity and attitudes toward racial inequality. He also has been a regular contributor to the multiphase Baylor Religion Survey.

Karthick Ramakrishnan is an associate professor of political science at the University of California, Riverside. His research focuses on civic participation, immigration policy and the politics of race, ethnicity and immigration in the U.S. He is the author of "Democracy in Immigrant America" and co-author of "Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and Their Political Identities." He has co-edited several volumes on immigrant politics and civic engagement.

Sharon A. Suh is an associate professor and department chair of theology and religious studies at Seattle University. Her research examines the intersection of Buddhism, gender, race, ethnicity, religion and immigration in the U.S. She is the author of "Being Buddhist in a Christian World: Gender and Community in a Korean American Temple."

Janelle Wong is the director of the Asian American Studies Program and a faculty member in the Department of American Studies at the University of Maryland. Her research focuses on political participation by Asian-American and Latino immigrants. She is the author of the book

"Democracy's Promise: Immigrants and American Civic Institutions" and co-author of "Asian American Political Participation: Emerging Constituents and Their Political Identities," which is based on a 2008 survey of Asian Americans.

Fenggang Yang is a professor of sociology and the director of the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University. His research focuses on religious change in China and immigrant religions in the United States. He is the author of the book "Chinese Christians in America: Conversion, Assimilation, and Adhesive Identities" and numerous journal articles on religion in China.

Min Zhou is the Walter and Shirley Wang Endowed Chair in U.S.-China Relations & Communications and a professor of sociology and Asian-American studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research interests include international migration, ethnic and race relations, and urban sociology. She has written several books, including "Chinatown: The Socioeconomic Potential of an Urban Enclave" and "The Transformation of Chinese America," and published more than 130 journal articles and book chapters.