

# DATA PROFILES OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER IMMIGRANTS

Demographics

Economic Opportunity

Education

Health

Housing

This is part of a data series on immigrants in the District of Columbia to help the Mayor's Office and its partners better understand and serve DC's immigrant community. The city's immigrant population has grown steadily, from 33,600 to 95,400 people between 1970 and 2012–16 estimates. Today, immigrants make up 15 percent of DC's population and have contributed to the demographic, economic, and cultural growth of our nation's capital. The series highlights four major groups, Latinos, Asians and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Africans, and Caribbean Islanders, who collectively represent 3 out of 4 immigrants living in DC.

The main sources of data used in these fact sheets were microdata from the 2000 Decennial Census long form and 2012–16 American Community Survey, obtained from IPUMS-USA.<sup>1</sup> Immigrants are defined as people who were born outside of the US, excluding people born overseas to parents who were US citizens and people born in most US territories. Populations included in the analysis were determined by the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs according to places of origin that the offices felt aligned best with the populations they served. Asian and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) include immigrants from countries in east, southeast, and south Asia.

<sup>1</sup> Steven Ruggles, Katie Genadek, Ronald Goeken, Josiah Grover, and Matthew Sobek, *Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 7.0 [dataset]* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2017), <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V7.0>.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

DECEMBER 2018

DC’s Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) population is growing and is part of a booming and diverse AAPI community in the region. AAPI immigrants grew from 11,800 to 14,400 between 2000 and 2012–16, an increase of 22 percent.

Half of AAPI immigrant households are married couples. Very few AAPI immigrants (fewer than 2 percent) were in households consisting of single people with related children. In contrast, 24 percent of AAPI immigrants were single people living alone, a higher share than the overall DC rate of 20 percent.

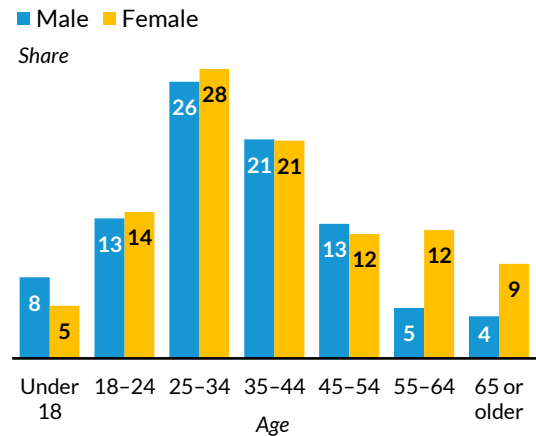
Though a quarter of AAPI immigrants reported that they spoke English at home, AAPI immigrants speak many other languages as well:

- 25 percent speak Chinese at home, including Cantonese, Mandarin and other dialects, comparable to 2000.
- 11 percent speak Filipino, Tagalog, which is down from 14 percent in 2000.
- 8 percent speak Hindi, more than doubled since 2000.
- 5 percent speak Vietnamese, dropping sharply from 14 percent in 2000.

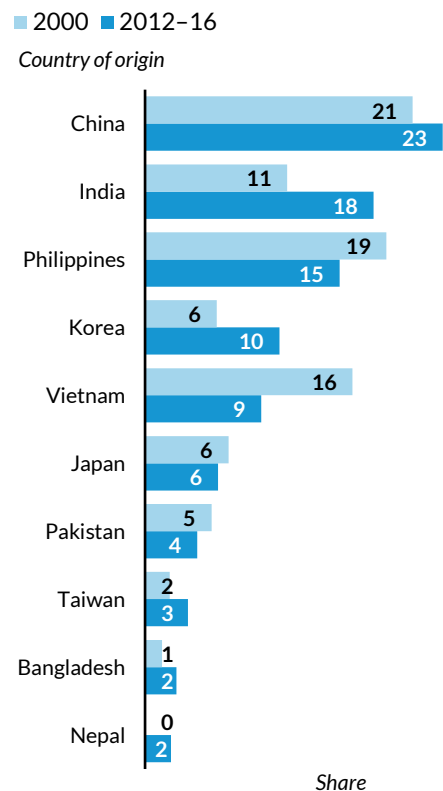
English proficiency of AAPI immigrants in DC increased notably since 2000. Nearly three quarters of AAPI immigrants (73 percent) said that they spoke English very well or that they speak only English, up from 51 percent in 2000. 27 percent of AAPI immigrants are limited English proficient (LEP), meaning they report not speaking English, speaking English but not well, or speaking English well.

Despite gains in English proficiency, about 14 percent of AAPI immigrants lived in linguistically isolated households, in which no one 14 years or older in the home speaks English at least very well. This is a decrease from over one-third in 2000.

Most AAPI Immigrants Were Ages 25 to 34



Shares of Chinese, Indian, and Korean Immigrants Have Increased Most Since 2000



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# ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

DECEMBER 2018

In 2012–16, 9,600 Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants (AAPI) were part of DC’s labor force. Between 2000 and 2012–16, the unemployment rate of AAPI immigrants increased from 1.7 to 3.3 percent, though it remained lower than the overall DC unemployment rate of 8.7 percent.

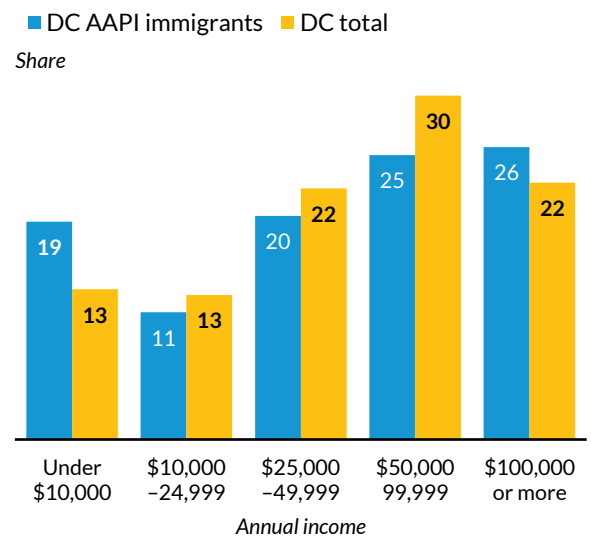
One out of five AAPI workers ages 16 and older earned less than \$10,000 a year in annual worker wages in 2012–16, up from 14 percent in 2000. The share of AAPI workers earning at least \$100,000 in annual wages increased from 15 percent to 26 percent.

Annual household incomes also reflect this dichotomy in annual earnings. Though 28 percent of AAPI immigrants live in households with incomes below \$50,000, 50 percent have incomes of \$100,000 or more.

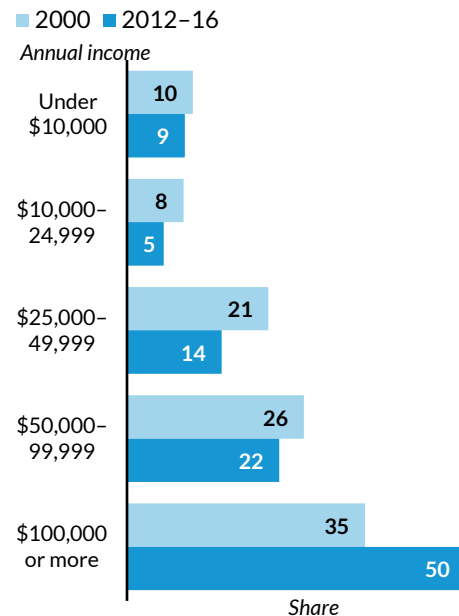
Among the top occupations for AAPI immigrants in 2012–16, the most frequently held jobs were in the census job category for management, business, science, and arts (17 percent of AAPI workers). The share of jobs in this category was much higher than other occupations.

- 7 percent of AAPI immigrant workers were in food preparation and serving.
- 7 percent were in computer and mathematical jobs.
- 7 percent were business operations specialists.
- 7 percent were in office and administrative support.

Share of AAPI Workers Earning Less than \$10,000 per Year in 2012–16 Was Higher than DC Overall



AAPI Immigrants Are Represented at Both the High and Low Ends of Income Range



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# EDUCATION

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The Washington region is one of the most highly educated in the country, and many well-paying jobs with good benefits require a level of education beyond a high school diploma.

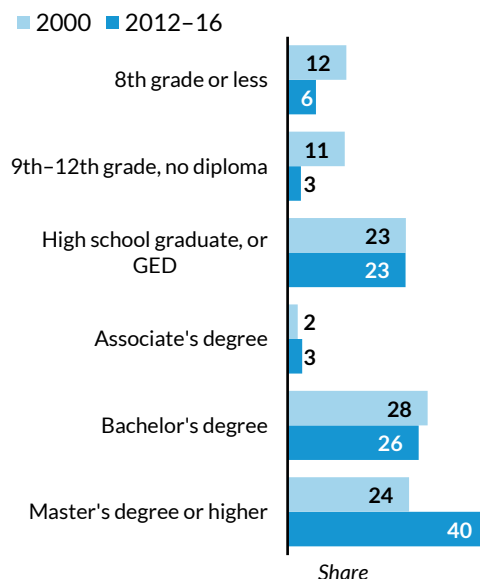
AAPI immigrants in DC are highly educated.

- 66 percent of AAPI immigrants had at least a four-year college education, compared with the 51 percent of all DC adults with a four-year college education or more.
- The share of AAPI immigrants with a master's degree or above increased from 24 percent to 40 percent between 2000 and 2012-16.
- However, approximately 1 in 10 AAPI immigrant adults have less than a high school diploma and 23 percent have only a high school diploma or a GED.

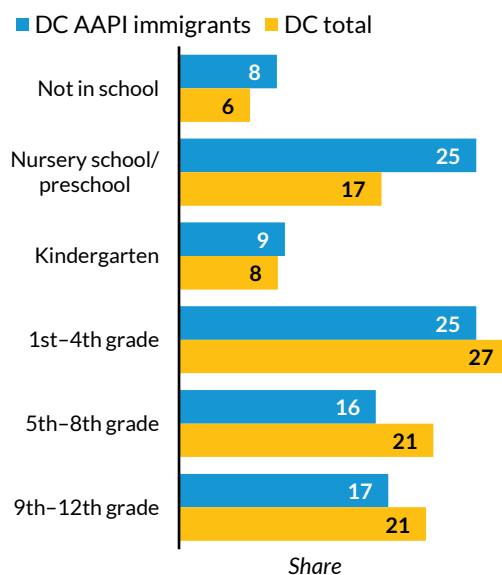
Children 3 to 17 years old born in Asia and the Pacific Islands and children 3 to 17 years old born to and living with AAPI immigrant parents were most represented in grades 1-4 and nursery school or preschool within the DC school system.

- Compared with DC overall trend, AAPI immigrants are more likely to be enrolled in the youngest grades.
- 8 percent of AAPI immigrant youth were not in school or early education, and most are under 5 years old (99 percent).

More AAPI Immigrant Adults Had a Master's Degree or Higher in 2012-16 than in 2000



92 Percent of School-Age AAPI Immigrants and AAPI Children of Immigrants Are in School



Note: Includes native-born children of AAPI immigrants ages 3 through 17 years who live with their parents.

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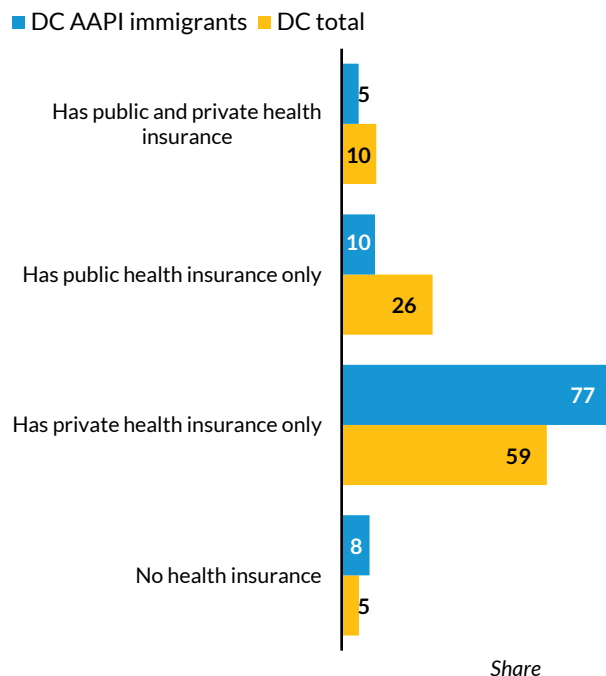
# HEALTH

DECEMBER 2018

DC’s health insurance marketplace, DC Health Link, has helped increase the rates of health insurance coverage for the city’s residents. Over 92 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) immigrants had some form of health insurance in 2012–16.

The most common source of coverage was private insurance—held by 78 percent of AAPI immigrants. Another 10 percent of AAPI immigrants had public insurance, and 5 percent had some combination of public and private coverage. Another 8 percent of AAPI immigrants had no health insurance at all, slightly higher than DC’s total of 5 percent.

## The Most Common Insurance Source for AAPI Immigrants Was Private Insurance in 2012–16



92 percent of AAPI immigrants had some form of health insurance.

Health insurance coverage is not evenly distributed across demographics and socioeconomic status.

- Language barriers tended to be associated with health insurance status, with 34 percent of AAPI immigrants who do not speak English lacking health insurance.
- Among AAPI immigrants living in households with annual incomes less than 100,000, 12 percent did not have health insurance. In comparison, only 2 percent of AAPI immigrants in households with incomes \$100,000 or higher were uninsured.

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# HOUSING

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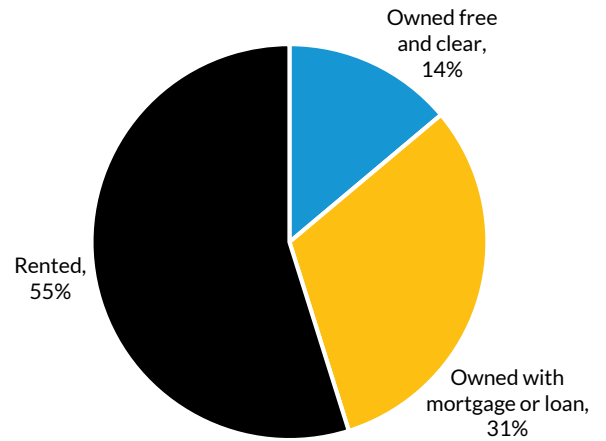
In 2012–16, a little over half of AAPI immigrants rented, and 45 percent owned their own home.

- Of the 45 percent who owned their home, 14 percent owned had no home loan or mortgage.
- Rates of homeownership increased between 2000 and 2012–16. In 2000, 31 percent owned their own home compared with 45 percent in 2012–16.

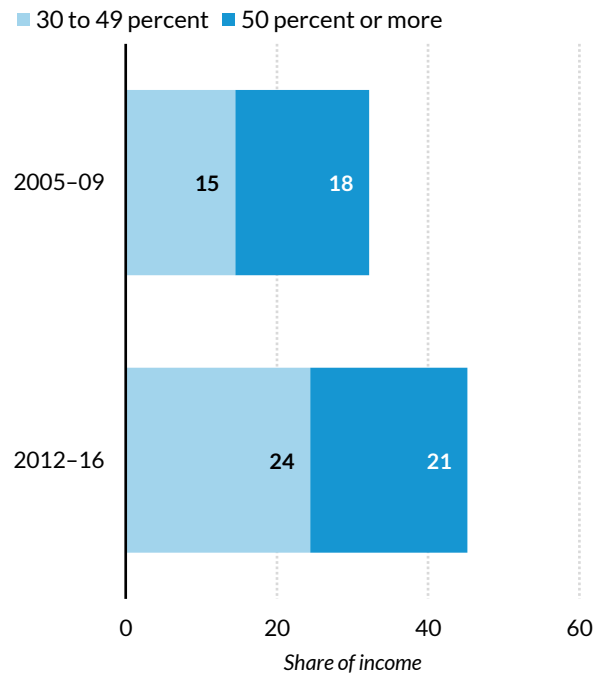
In 2012–16, nearly half of AAPI immigrant renters were rent burdened (spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing), and one in five spent more than half of their income on housing. These figures are up from 33 percent and 18 percent in 2005–09, respectively.

However, the rates of rent burden for AAPI immigrants in 2012–16 were similar to the rates for DC residents overall. Forty-six percent of DC residents spent 30 percent or more of their income on rent, and 25 percent spent 50 percent or more.

Over Half of AAPI Immigrants Rent Their Homes



Rent Burden for AAPI Immigrants Increased between 2005–09 and 2012–16



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