



# BULLYING/HARASSMENT ISSUES IN THE ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

White House Initiative on Asian Americans & Pacific  
Islanders

# Introductions

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# White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders



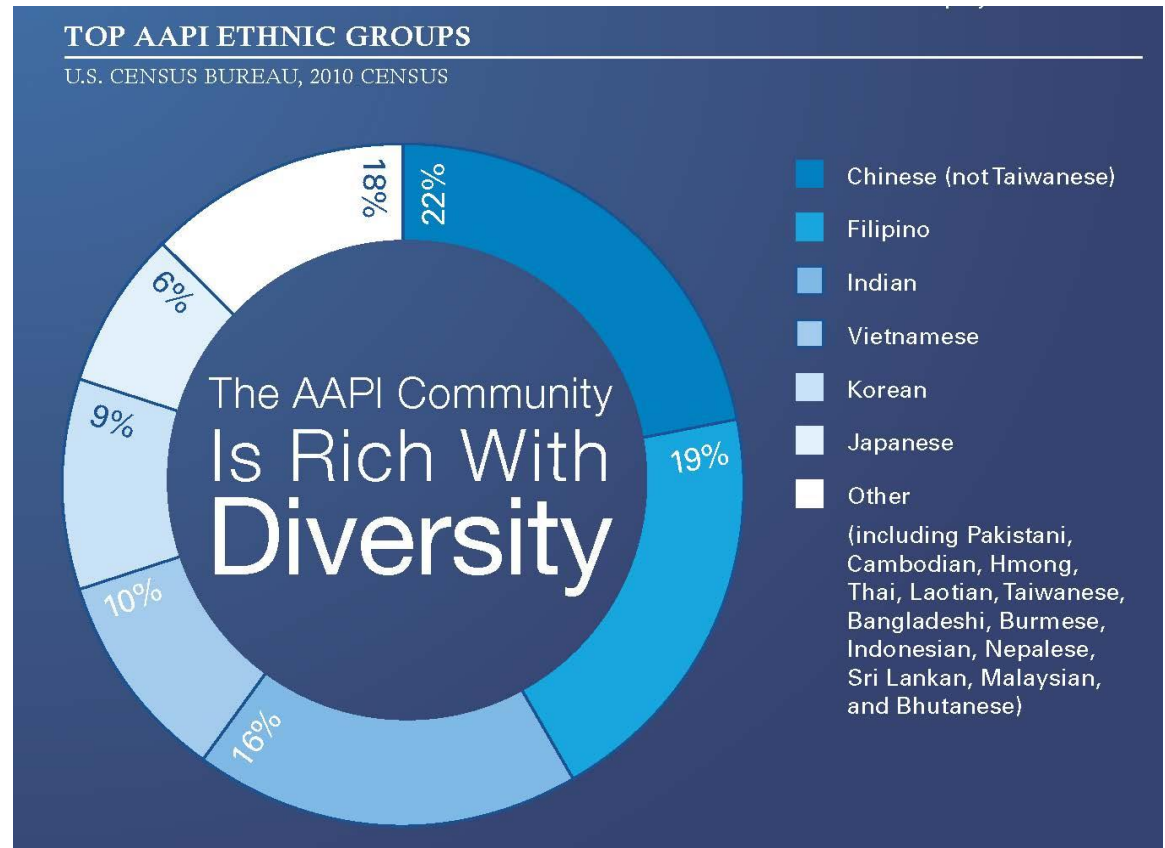
For more information, please see our website at: [www.whitehouse.gov/aapi](http://www.whitehouse.gov/aapi)



# Background on Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders (AAPIs)

# AAPI Demographics

- 18 million
- 30 countries
- 50 ethnicities
- >100 languages
- > 2/3 foreign-born



# AAPI Growth

## The AAPI Community: *Demographics*

U.S. MINORITY POPULATION BY RACE

### Legend

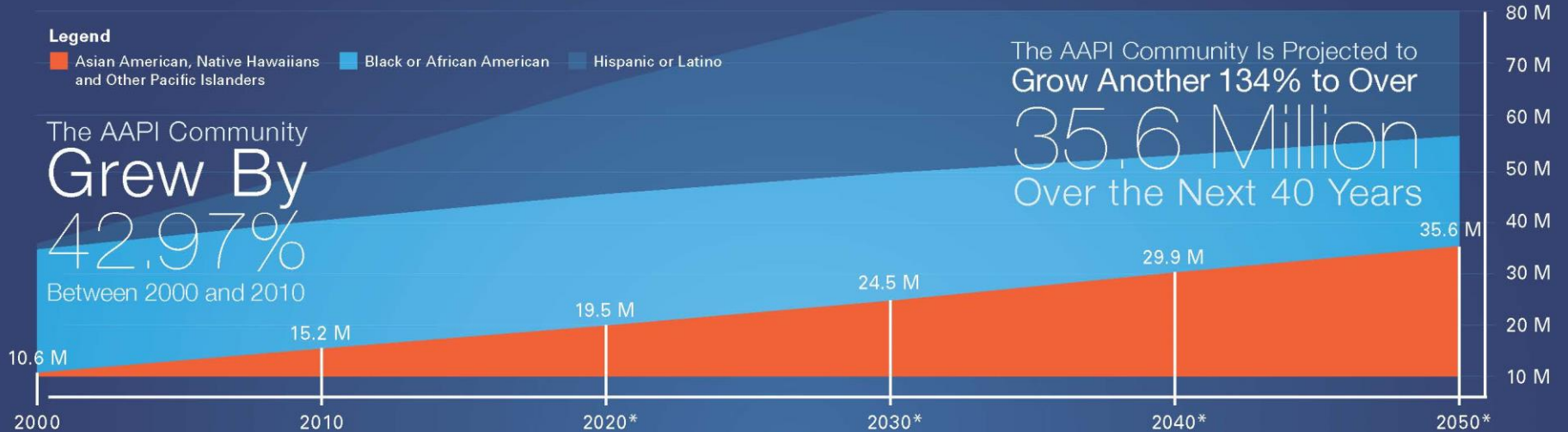
- Asian American, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino

The AAPI Community  
Grew By  
**42.97%**  
Between 2000 and 2010



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Population



The AAPI Community Is Projected to  
Grow Another 134% to Over  
**35.6 Million**  
Over the Next 40 Years

\*Denotes projected estimates

# States with the Greatest Growth of Asian Americans (2000-2010)

	Percentage of Asian alone population based on 2000 Census data	Percentage of Asian alone population based on 2010 Census data	Percentage growth
<b>Nevada</b>	5.6%	7.2%	↑116.5%
<b>Arizona</b>	2.3%	2.8%	↑91.6%
<b>North Dakota</b>	0.8%	1.0%	↑91.6%
<b>North Carolina</b>	1.7%	2.2%	↑83.8%
<b>Georgia</b>	2.4%	3.2%	↑81.6%
<b>Arkansas</b>	1.0%	1.2%	↑78.5%
<b>New Hampshire</b>	1.6%	2.2%	↑78.3%
<b>Delaware</b>	2.4%	3.2%	↑75.6%
<b>South Dakota</b>	0.8%	0.9%	↑73.8%
<b>Indiana</b>	1.2%	1.6%	↑73.3%
<b>Texas</b>	3.1%	3.8%	↑71.5%
<b>Alabama</b>	0.9%	1.1%	↑71%
<b>Florida</b>	2.1%	2.4%	↑70.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Summary File 1

# States with the Greatest Growth of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (2000-2010)

State	Percentage Growth of NHPI population from 2000-2010
<b>Arkansas</b>	↑251.5%
<b>Alaska</b>	↑123.9%
<b>Alabama</b>	↑117.0%
<b>Nevada</b>	↑100.2%
<b>Iowa</b>	↑98.5%
<b>Missouri</b>	↑97.0%
<b>Arizona</b>	↑87.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Summary File 1



# For More Census Data

## Visit the U.S. Census website:

- Asian Americans:

[http://www.census.gov/newsroom/minority\\_links/asian.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/minority_links/asian.html)

- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders:

[http://www.census.gov/newsroom/minority\\_links/hawaiian.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/minority_links/hawaiian.html)

- Asian American Heritage Month:

[http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\\_for\\_features\\_special\\_editions/cb13-ff09.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts_for_features_special_editions/cb13-ff09.html)

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# Overview of AAPI Bullying Issues

# School Bullying Statistics

- Inside the Classroom
  - ▣ Over half of Asian American students who reported being bullied at school indicated that it occurred in the classroom
- Outside the Classroom
  - ▣ Asian Americans reported being bullied outside on school grounds at a rate 20% higher than whites and 10% higher than the next closest racial group
- Cyber-Bullying
  - ▣ Asian American students reported being cyber-bullied once or twice a month at a rate 40% higher than other racial groups

# History

- 1982 – Vincent Chin was attacked and killed in Detroit due to anti-Japanese sentiment
- 2004 – Students regularly threw food, cans, and combination locks at Asian-American students, while shouting ethnic slurs, at Brooklyn’s Lafayette High School
- 2009 – Approximately 30 Asian American students were attacked due to their race by fellow classmates at South Philadelphia High School, sending 13 students to the emergency room
- 2013 – Sikh student regularly called “Aladdin,” “terrorist,” and told to “go back to his country” by fellow students in DeKalb County, Georgia

# AAPI Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

- Nearly 1 in 6 AAPI students is LEP
- The AAPI community has the second highest percentage of ELL students among all racial groups
- Highest AAPI LEP populations:
  - ▣ Bhutanese (71%)
  - ▣ Burmese (63%)
  - ▣ Vietnamese (53%)

# Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (NHPI) Youth

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- 21% of NHPI students reported being in a physical fight on school property at least once during the previous 12 months, compared to 16% of African American students, 14% of Hispanic students, and 10% of white students

# Muslim & Sikh Youth

- Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, South Asian Americans, particularly Muslim and Sikh Americans, have been victims of increased numbers of bias-related assaults and threats
- Hate crimes against Muslim and Sikh Americans have increased 17-fold since 2001

# Reporting Issues

- Many harassment and discrimination cases amongst AAPIs go largely unreported
  - ▣ In FY2011, 447 race-based complaints were filed with OCR, and of those, only 16 were by the AAPI community
- How researchers ask a question also determines how students will respond



# Lack of Action

- Lack of school implementation of harassment prevention measures
- Lack of school investigation and follow-up after reported bias-based harassment
  - ▣ Of the students who reported harassment to their schools, only 34% said that their parents were notified by the school and only 15.8% said that school officials prepared a written report with investigation results

# Consequences of Bullying

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- Health and mental issues
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Decreased academic achievement
- School drop outs



# Legal Responsibilities

# Office for Civil Rights

- Federal laws enforced by OCR prohibit discrimination, including harassment, in education programs and activities based on:
  - Race, color, or national origin
  - Sex
  - Age
  - Disability

# Examples of Prohibited Discrimination under Title VI

- ❑ Disciplining students differently on the basis of race, color or national origin
- ❑ Assigning a student to an educational program or class on the basis of the student's race
- ❑ Providing inadequate educational resources to limited English proficient students
- ❑ Failing to appropriately respond to harassment on the basis of race, color, or national origin

# What is Harassment?

- Unwelcome conduct such as:
  - Verbal abuse, such as name-calling, epithets, slurs
  - Graphic or written statements
  - Threats
  - Physical assault
  - Other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating
- Based on a protected class (race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or religion)
- That creates a hostile environment

# Hostile Environment

- Totality of the circumstances
- Harassment may create a “hostile environment” when the conduct is sufficiently serious that it interferes with or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability.



# Schools' Legal Obligations

- A school is responsible for addressing harassment incidents about which it knows or reasonably should have known.
- Inquiry must be prompt, thorough, and impartial.
  - ▣ Interview targeted students, offending students, and witnesses, and maintain written documentation of investigation
  - ▣ Communicate with targeted students regarding steps taken to end harassment
  - ▣ Check in with targeted students to ensure that harassment has ceased



# Schools' Legal Obligations

- When an investigation reveals that harassment has occurred, a school should take steps reasonably calculated to:
  - end the harassment,
  - eliminate any hostile environment,
  - prevent harassment from recurring, and
  - prevent retaliation against the targeted student(s) or complainant(s).

# Possible Responses

- Develop, revise, and publicize:
  - ▣ policy prohibiting harassment and discrimination
  - ▣ grievance procedures for students to file harassment complaints
  - ▣ contact information for Title IX/Section 504/Title VI coordinators
- Implement training for staff and administration on identifying and addressing harassment
- Provide monitors or additional adult supervision in areas where harassment occurs

# Possible Responses



- Discipline harassers.
- Limit interaction between harassers and target.
- Provide counseling to harassed students or harassers.
- Provide harassed student an additional opportunity to obtain a benefit that was denied (e.g., retaking a test/class).
- Provide services to a student who was denied a benefit (e.g., academic support services).

# Possible Responses

- Publicize statements that the school will not tolerate harassment and will respond to any student who reports such conduct.
- Incorporate harassment awareness and cultural tolerance training into curriculum and other education programs for staff, students, and parents.
- Conduct school climate surveys.
- Involve parents and community groups in preventing future harassment.

# Civil Rights Division

- Federal laws enforced by the Civil Rights Division's Educational Opportunities Section prohibit discrimination, including harassment, in education programs and activities based on:
  - Race, color, or national origin
  - Sex
  - Religion
  - Disability

# Differences Between OCR and CRD

- Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
  - Complaint resolution
  - Compliance reviews
  - Policy guidance
  - Technical assistance
  - Interagency coordination
- Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division (CRD)
  - Investigations
  - Out-of-court settlements
  - Litigation in federal courts
  - Collaboration with OCR and other agencies



# Resources



# StopBullying.gov

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- Bullying Overview
- Cyber-Bullying
- Risk Factors
- Bullying Prevention
- Bullying Response



# Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

- U.S. Department of Education  
Office for Civil Rights  
Lyndon B. Johnson Department of Education Building  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20202-1100
- Telephone: (800) 421-3481  
Fax: (202) 453-6012
- Email: [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov)
- Website: [www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr](http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr)

# Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities Section

- U.S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division, Educational Opportunities  
Section  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20530
- Telephone: (202) 514-4092  
Fax: (202) 514-8337
- Email: [education@usdoj.gov](mailto:education@usdoj.gov)
- Website: [www.justice.gov/crt/about/edu](http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/edu)

# White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

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Questions?