

ASIAN POPULATION

Census 2000 Figures Show Asian American Populations Experience Greatest Growth

Asian American populations in Ohio grew 48% between 1990 and 2000, according to figures reported by the U.S. Census Bureau. Asian Americans represent 5% of the total population in the country and 1.2% in Ohio. Asian Indians accounted for the largest single population increase, growing by more than 106%. Other impressive increases were found within the Korean American population (35% nationally), and within the Vietnamese American population, which grew by more than 84%.

Reports by the US Department of Commerce in 1997 and 1998 show that although Asian Americans have the highest median household income of all groups, there are also more members per family in Asian households. Thus, individual Asian Americans have lower average incomes and a disproportionately larger number of Asian Americans live in poverty. Asian Americans were the only group who did not experience a statistically significant increase in real, median or inflation adjusted household income between 1996 and 1997. They also have not experienced any real reduction in poverty when figures are compared with the 1990 census. Poverty levels for families within Asian American populations are shown in the table.

Because of the dramatic rise in Asian populations in the last decade and high poverty levels which run contrary to the myth of an across-the-board affluent Asian community, more national and local resources must be directed to the unmet needs of Asians. Decisions makers must be convinced that the enormous growth in Asian communities requires immediate attention in terms of where funding and other resources must be directed. Most Asian American social and human service organizations have witnessed a decrease in available resources while the need in our communities has steadily increased.

POVERTY RATE OF ASIAN AMERICAN FAMILIES BY ETHNICITY

PERCENT IN POVERTY	
All Asian Families	17.9%
FIRST GENERATION BY ETHNICITY	
Asian Indian	11.2%
Chinese	24.4%
Filipino	10.1%
Japanese	15.1%
Korean	20.9%
Vietnamese	25.0%
Laos/Cambodian	61.5%
Other Asian Populations	29.8%

Source: S.M. Lee (1994) *Poverty and the US Asian Population*. *Social Science Quarterly*, 75(3), 541-559