

# **Asian American and Pacific Islander Boys and Men:** The Risk of Being Missed in the U.S. 2020 Census



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**RISE**  
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# Introduction

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution for purposes of congressional apportionment, census data are used for many purposes—from redistricting to the allocation of more than \$600 billion in federal funding annually to states, localities, and families.<sup>1</sup> As such, the count must be accurate, both numerically and geographically. Accuracy is measured by the number of duplicate responses (resulting in overcounts) and omissions or missed persons (resulting in undercounts) in a decennial census, with the net undercount or net overcount resulting from subtracting overcounts from undercounts.

A “differential undercount”<sup>2</sup> for certain population groups exists in every census. People of color are missed more often than non-Hispanic Whites (who actually were overcounted in the 2010 Census). Males are generally missed at higher rates than females, especially for certain age groups.<sup>3</sup> Children, especially those younger than five, are also significantly undercounted, with the undercount of children of color even more disproportionate.<sup>4</sup> Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) boys and men are susceptible to not being fully counted in the 2020 Census, especially in light of innovations to the census and the current political climate. Being missed would mean AAPI boys and men will not get their fair share of resources and political power. These omissions will also exacerbate the “barriers that are too often underreported, overlooked, and misrepresented through empirical research,” making AAPI boys and men more susceptible to the lack of access to “opportunities for educational success and upward mobility.”<sup>5</sup> Fortunately, there are opportunities to help ensure a fair and accurate count of AAPI boys and men if there is the will—and the funding—to make it happen.

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## 1 Importance of Census Data to AAPIs

An accurate count of AAPIs is important as it allows communities to track how children, families, and the elderly are doing; determine where to locate schools and hospitals; show a large corporation that a town has the clientele and workforce needed; and indicate where to provide language support (and in what languages). Without an accurate count of AAPIs, all of these decisions will be made without a thorough understanding of the cultural needs and perspectives of these communities and will not be responsive to the needs of growing AAPI communities.

Even more important, census data provide the most comprehensive set of socioeconomic data points on AAPI communities, particularly for subgroups. Most data sets or surveys developed by private, academic, and other governmental entities underrepresent AAPIs by lumping them into the “Other” category or providing only aggregated data. Because AAPI communities are composed of many distinct ethnic groups, aggregated data often mask problems and concerns for particular subgroups not broken out in the broader data sets. While as a whole AAPIs are often seen as wealthy and well educated, disaggregated data reveal a wide array of incomes, poverty rates, and levels of educational attainment for subgroups—from those doing very well to those struggling on multiple fronts. For example, more than half of all Hmong (57 percent), Laotian (52 percent), Guamanian (56 percent), Native Hawaiian (56 percent), and Samoan (62 percent) men leave college without earning a degree.<sup>6</sup> The U.S. Census Bureau is one of the few entities that collects and reports disaggregated AAPI data.

Unfortunately, AAPIs have been historically undercounted. The 1990 Census resulted in the highest differential undercounts ever recorded, with AAPIs undercounted at a rate of 2.36 percent.<sup>7</sup> While the 2000 Census showed an improvement in overall accuracy, there were still differential undercounts for communities of color. The 2000 Census yielded a slight overcount nationally for Asian Americans and a 2.12 percent undercount for the Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) community.<sup>8</sup> Of course, even a net national overcount-undercount of around zero masks a much larger counting problem, with some AAPI subgroups believing they are undercounted.

Evaluations from the 2010 Census showed a relatively “accurate” count for AAPIs, with a net undercount rate of 0.08 percent for Asian Americans and 1.34 percent for NHPIs.<sup>9</sup> While the net undercounts of AAPIs were statistically insignificant, the 2010 Census, in fact, missed hundreds of thousands of AAPIs—a problem offset at the national level by double counting or other mistaken enumerations.<sup>10</sup> The proportion of AAPIs who should have been counted but were not during the last census was higher than that of Whites,<sup>11</sup> with 5.3 percent of Asian Americans and 7.9 percent of NHPIs not counted compared with 3.8 percent of Whites.<sup>12</sup> Therefore, we can accurately describe many AAPIs as “hard to count.”

## 2 Challenges to an Accurate Count of AAPI Men and Boys<sup>13</sup>

Despite issues with undercounting, census data remain the gold standard for providing information about AAPIs, particularly smaller subgroups. The 2010 Census and subsequent surveys show that the AAPI population is larger than it has ever been in our nation's history and is among the fastest-growing communities.<sup>14</sup>

The Census Bureau has extensively studied which communities tend to be hard to count and the factors that contribute to people being missed. Variables have been identified that correlate with being harder to reach or enumerate, or both.<sup>16</sup> The following factors indicate the potential difficulties in obtaining a fair and accurate count of AAPI boys and men. (In addition to AAPI data, subgroup data are provided to show which subgroups are particularly susceptible to being missed.)

**TABLE 1: Population Count for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders**

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Total Population	Total Male Population	Percentage of Population That Is Male (%)
<b>Asian</b>	<b>16,235,305</b>	<b>7,702,678</b>	<b>47.4%</b>
Asian Indian	3,303,512	1,709,759	51.8%
Bangladeshi	153,234	80,868	52.8%
Burmese <sup>15</sup>	126,590	64,898	51.3%
Cambodian	263,396	123,251	46.8%
Chinese	3,852,099	1,800,310	46.7%
Filipino	2,717,844	1,197,656	44.1%
Hmong	267,009	134,942	50.5%
Indonesian	71,451	32,390	45.3%
Japanese	779,637	330,541	42.4%
Korean	1,460,214	653,556	44.8%
Laotian	207,999	103,301	49.7%
Nepalese	103,526	54,901	53.0%
Pakistani	414,880	216,537	52.2%
Thai	188,673	72,441	38.4%
Vietnamese	1,710,547	827,044	48.3%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander</b>	<b>546,255</b>	<b>273,551</b>	<b>49.3%</b>
Polynesian	344,487	175,270	50.9%
Native Hawaiian	174,460	88,263	50.6%
Samoan	109,455	55,959	51.1%
Micronesian	138,360	67,429	48.7%
Guamanian or Chamorro	73,088	36,094	49.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B01003: "Total Population"; U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B01001: "Sex by Age" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).

- **LANGUAGE BARRIERS:**<sup>17</sup> A respondent's lack of English proficiency can be a major barrier to participation in the census. Asian Americans have high levels of limited English proficiency (LEP), especially among specific subgroups. The Asian American LEP rate is almost twenty-two times, and for NHPIs more than eight times, that of Whites (1.6 percent). There are over 2.4 million more AAPIs than Whites who are LEP. Further, Asian American households are twenty-five times, and NHPI households almost seven times, more likely to be limited English speaking households.<sup>18</sup> This is important because it means all adults in the household are LEP, which makes participating in the census even more difficult.

**TABLE 2: Language Barriers Among Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders**

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Number of LEP Persons 5 Years and Older	Percentage of Population 5 Years and Older That Is LEP
<b>Asian</b>	<b>5,331,938</b>	<b>34.8%</b>
Burmese	80,668	72.5%
Vietnamese	842,230	51.8%
Nepalese	48,963	51.7%
Chinese	1,688,986	45.9%
Bangladeshi	62,687	44.4%
Thai	79,069	43.2%
Korean	600,928	42.9%
Cambodian	101,877	41.1%
Laotian	76,340	38.7%
Hmong	88,833	37.3%
Indonesian	24,043	35.5%
Pakistani	106,476	27.9%
Japanese	175,304	23.1%
Filipino	584,495	22.4%
Asian Indian	630,261	20.7%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander</b>	<b>68,442</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
Micronesian	28,956	22.8%
Samoan	14,030	13.8%
Polynesian	27,675	8.7%
Guamanian or Chamorro	4,987	7.2%
Native Hawaiian	4,325	2.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B16008: "Citizenship Status by Age by Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).

**TABLE 3: Limited English Speaking Households in the United States\***

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Number of Limited English speaking Households	Percentage of Households that are Limited English speaking
<b>Asian</b>	<b>1,138,957</b>	<b>22.5%</b>
Burmese	18,459	61.2%
Vietnamese	173,971	36.1%
Chinese	429,032	32.9%
Korean	167,570	32.8%
Nepalese	8,544	31.9%
Thai	17,331	29.9%
Bangladeshi	10,481	26.7%
Cambodian	15,334	22.9%
Laotian	12,761	22.4%
Indonesian	4,872	22.0%
Hmong	10,324	19.3%
Japanese	56,546	17.0%
Pakistani	11,955	11.5%
Filipino	74,421	9.7%
Asian Indian	100,843	9.5%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander</b>	<b>8,705</b>	<b>6.0%</b>
Micronesian	4,003	11.3%
Samoan	1,696	6.6%
Polynesian	3,062	3.4%
Guamanian or Chamorro	673	3.0%
Native Hawaiian	595	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B16002: "Household Language by Household Limited English Speaking Status" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).  
 \*Previous Census Bureau data products have referred to these households as "linguistically isolated" and "households in which no one 14 and over speaks English only or speaks a language other than English at home and speaks English 'very well.'" This table is directly comparable to tables from earlier years that used these labels.

- CULTURAL BARRIERS FOR IMMIGRANTS:** Immigrant communities have been hard to count for a number of reasons, including lack of awareness about the census, language barriers, and fears of engaging with the government. Undocumented immigrants, legal permanent residents, and even citizens who live in households where family members have varying immigration status are likely to be discouraged from answering the census in this current anti-immigrant climate.<sup>19</sup> This factor is particularly relevant for Asian American males, with a majority who are foreign born. The rate of Asian American males who are foreign born is seventeen times, and for NHPs five times, higher than for Whites (3.7 percent). Well over half of the male populations for thirteen subgroups are foreign born.

**TABLE 4: Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Who Are Immigrants**

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Percentage of Population That Is Foreign Born	Number of Foreign-Born Males	Percentage of Foreign-Born Males
<b>Asian</b>	<b>16,235,305</b>	<b>4,935,710</b>	<b>64.1%</b>
Nepalese	87.5%	48,613	88.5%
Burmese	85.7%	55,659	85.8%
Indonesian	77.3%	24,390	75.3%
Bangladeshi	74.5%	60,154	74.4%
Asian Indian	71.3%	1,226,626	71.7%
Korean	72.8%	452,392	69.2%
Thai	75.8%	48,722	67.3%
Pakistani	66.3%	145,359	67.1%
Chinese	69.4%	1,197,986	66.5%
Vietnamese	67.5%	540,910	65.4%
Filipino	65.8%	720,459	60.2%
Laotian	57.9%	58,569	56.7%
Cambodian	58.5%	68,109	55.3%
Hmong	39.2%	51,657	38.3%
Japanese	40.2%	103,189	31.2%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander</b>			
Micronesia	32.5%	21,273	31.5%
Samoa	12.1%	6,846	12.2%
Polynesian	11.2%	19,255	11.0%
Guamanian or Chamorro	6.7%	2,338	6.5%
Native Hawaiian	2.4%	1,942	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B05003: "Sex by Age by Nativity and Citizenship Status" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).

- **YOUNG BOYS:** In the 2010 Census, young children had the highest net undercount rate of all age groups—4.6 percent. There are almost half a million AAPI boys younger than five years old. Additionally, AAPI males tend to be younger than Whites, who have a median age of 41.5.<sup>20</sup> The males in every subgroup (except the Japanese) were younger than Whites, with Hmong and Burmese much younger. Thus, the undercounting of children disproportionately affects AAPIs.

**TABLE 5: Young Boys in the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders**

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Number of Boys under Five Years Old	Percentage of Population That Are Boys under Five Years Old	Median Age of Males in the Population (years)
<b>Asian</b>	<b>462,259</b>	<b>51.0%</b>	<b>35.1</b>
Japanese	11,078	51.1%	48.2
Chinese	85,024	50.3%	37.2
Filipino	55,973	51.7%	37.2
Vietnamese	43,456	51.3%	37.2
Thai	2,864	52.7%	36.3
Korean	31,517	52.1%	35.3
Indonesian	1,698	45.4%	34.5
Laotian	5,570	51.2%	34.0
Asian Indian	133,701	51.3%	33.5
Bangladeshi	6,372	52.6%	32.1
Cambodian	7,805	50.7%	31.0
Pakistani	16,798	50.8%	30.9
Nepalese	4,409	50.4%	29.1
Burmese	7,779	50.7%	27.1
Hmong	14,121	49.1%	22.2
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	<b>21,348</b>	<b>52.8%</b>	<b>29.8</b>
Native Hawaiian	5,799	54.2%	33.8
Guamanian or Chamorro	2,221	59.5%	31.7
Polynesian	13,253	53.1%	30.3
Micronesian	5,940	51.7%	28.2
Samoan	4,108	50.9%	28.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B01001: "Sex by Age" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).

- **LOWER EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:** Those who are not high school graduates are harder to count. Asian American males have higher rates (12 percent) than White males (8.7 percent) of those with educational attainment less than a high school diploma. Fifteen subgroups have higher rates of males older than twenty-five with less than a high school diploma than Whites, and those groups are particularly vulnerable to being missed in the census count.

**TABLE 6: Educational Attainment Among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Males**

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Number of Males Older Than Twenty-Five with Less Than a High School Diploma	Percentage of Population That Are Males Older Than Twenty-Five with Less Than a High School Diploma
<b>Asian</b>	<b>620,996</b>	<b>12.0%</b>
Burmese	18,123	47.6%
Cambodian	21,812	28.3%
Laotian	18,880	27.7%
Hmong	14,452	24.7%
Vietnamese	132,378	24.3%
Nepalese	7,807	21.7%
Chinese	208,068	16.8%
Thai	5,650	11.0%
Bangladeshi	5,341	10.8%
Pakistani	12,954	10.0%
Filipino	52,901	6.4%
Asian Indian	70,117	6.0%
Indonesian	1,184	5.6%
Korean	18,104	4.1%
Japanese	8,597	3.2%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	<b>22,109</b>	<b>13.7%</b>
Micronesian	5,738	15.2%
Samoa	4,093	13.1%
Guamanian or Chamorro	2,845	12.7%
Polynesian	12,488	12.0%
Native Hawaiian	5,687	10.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B15002: “Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).

- **LOWER INCOME:** Lower income is another indicator of being hard to count. Pacific Islander males have higher rates (19.1 percent) of being below the poverty line than White males (9.8 percent), with NHPI males almost doubling the rate of White Males. Seventeen subgroups exceed the rate for White males and are at higher risk of being missed.

**TABLE 7: Lower Income Among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders Males**

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Number of Males with Incomes Below the Poverty Line	Percentage of Male Population with Incomes Below the Poverty Line
<b>Asian</b>	<b>926,683</b>	<b>12.3%</b>
Burmese	64,196	37.7%
Hmong	132,494	25.5%
Nepalese	54,023	25.2%
Bangladeshi	80,103	23.8%
Cambodian	120,798	18.2%
Thai	70,482	18.2%
Pakistani	213,879	16.7%
Indonesian	31,645	15.7%
Laotian	101,015	15.7%
Chinese	1,748,383	15.4%
Vietnamese	812,674	14.8%
Korean	631,302	13.7%
Asian Indian	1,685,072	7.8%
Japanese	324,295	7.6%
Filipino	1,180,128	6.2%
<b>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</b>	<b>50,311</b>	<b>19.1%</b>
Micronesian	65,004	22.3%
Polynesian	168,107	19.1%
Samoa	53,749	19.1%
Native Hawaiian	84,195	18.4%
Guamanian or Chamorro	34,517	12.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B17001: “Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Sex by Age” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).



## Homelessness and Incarceration

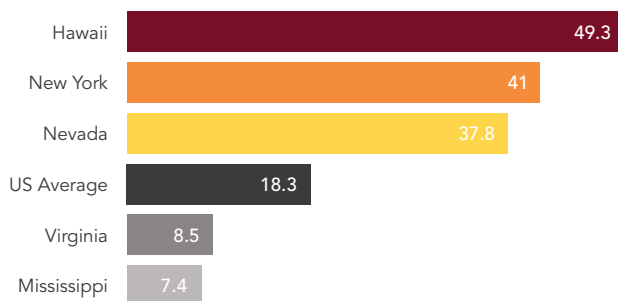
Homelessness and a history of incarceration are two more factors that make people harder to count. Since the census is a housing unit-based survey, those without a consistent residence or who live in complex households, including many parolees and probationers, are at greater risk for being overlooked. Gender plays a critical role, as males are more likely than females to be among the homeless and previously incarcerated populations. Age can also play a role. For example, in 2016, 60 percent of people experiencing homelessness were male, while 40 percent were female.<sup>21</sup> At the same time, more than one-fifth of people experiencing homelessness were children younger than eighteen.<sup>22</sup> In 2015, of the more than 6.7 million members of the correctional population, 81.4 percent were male and 18.6 percent were female.<sup>23</sup> Similar patterns exist for incarcerated young adults. In 2010, 92 percent of the eighteen- to twenty-nine-year-old prison population was male compared with 8 percent of females.

While these issues affect Asian American communities,<sup>25</sup> Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders are particularly hard hit by these issues, with the homeless and previously incarcerated segment of the NHPI population particularly vulnerable to an undercount. Hawaii has the highest rate of homelessness in the country, with Honolulu having more homeless people than any comparable city.<sup>26</sup> In Hawaii, data on homeless shelter use show that 30 percent of the shelter population was Hawaiian or part Hawaiian; 27 percent Micronesian, Marshallese, or other Pacific Islanders; and 26 percent White.<sup>27</sup>

In fact, many of the continuums of care with the largest numbers of people experiencing homelessness occurred in jurisdictions with significant AAPI populations.<sup>28</sup>

*Continued on page 10*

FIGURE 1: Homeless Residents Per 10,000 Inhabitants



↑ Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2015

→ Continuums of Care (CoC) Were Divided into Three Geographic Categories. Major city CoCs (n=48) cover the 50 largest cities in the United States. In two cases (Phoenix and Mesa, AZ, and Arlington and Fort Worth, TX), two large cities were located in the same CoC. Smaller city, county, and regional CoCs (n=311) are jurisdictions that are neither one of the 50 largest cities in the United States nor Balance of State and Statewide CoCs. Balance of State (BoS) and statewide CoCs (n=40) are typically composed of multiple rural counties or represent an entire state.

FIGURE 2: Continuums of Care (CoCs) with the Largest Numbers of People Experiencing Homelessness (by Continuum of Care Category, 2016)

Major City CoCs	
COC	Total Homeless
New York City, NY	73,523
Los Angeles City & County, CA	43,854
Seattle/King County, WA	10,730
San Diego City and County, CA	10,730
District of Columbia	8,350
San Francisco, CA	6,996
San Jose/Santa Clara City & County, CA	6,524
Boston, MA	6,240
Las Vegas/Clark County, NV	6,208
Philadelphia, PA	6,112

Smaller City, County, and Regional CoCs	
COC	Total Homeless
Honolulu, HI	4,940
Santa Ana/Anaheim/Orange County, CA	4,319
Nassau, Suffolk Counties/Babylon/Islip/Huntington, NY	3,960
Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties, CA	3,022
Santa Rosa/Petaluma/Sonoma County, CA	2,906
St. Petersburg/Clearwater/Largo/Pinellas Count, FL	2,777
Eastern Pennsylvania	2,599
Springfield, MA	2,385
Fort Pierce/St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin Counties, FL	2,382
Ft. Lauderdale/Broward County, FL	2,302

Balance of State and Statewide CoCs	
COC	Total Homeless
Texas Balance of State	6,048
Oregon Balance of State	5,710
Georgia Balance of State	5,575
Washington Balance of State	5,294
Indiana Balance of State	3,711
Colorado Balance of State	3,520
Wisconsin Balance of State	3,445
Ohio Balance of State	3,032
Connecticut Balance of State	3,016
Hawaii Balance of State	2,981

The high rate of incarceration of Native Hawaiians is a factor for homelessness. Native Hawaiians may become homeless upon release, as many leave prison without access to reentry services or a place to live.<sup>29</sup> Native Hawaiians make up nearly 21 percent of the total statewide population but are 40 to 60 percent of the prison population in both Hawaii and Arizona (where two private prisons built specifically for Native Hawaiian inmates are located).<sup>30</sup>

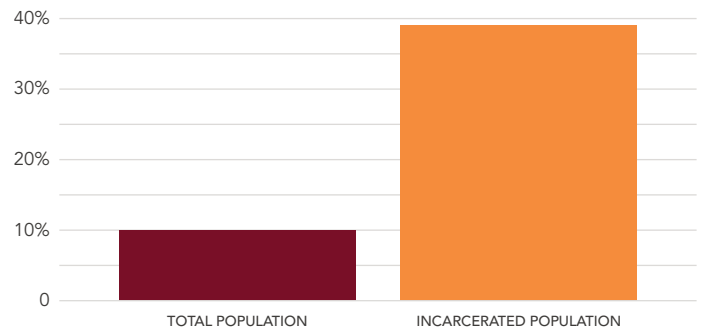
More generally, while the AAPI prisoner population is not a large proportion of the incarcerated population as a whole, it grew by a troubling 250 percent during the 1990s. Nationally, arrests of AAPI youth increased 726 percent between 1977 and 1997. High arrest rates of AAPI youth were seen in cities such as Oakland, where Samoans had the highest arrest rate of 140 per 1,000, followed by Cambodians with 63 per 1,000 and Laotians with 52 per 1,000.<sup>31</sup> In San Francisco County, the highest arrest rates for youth were of Samoans and Vietnamese, with a large number of arrests of Chinese youth. The overall greatest increase in arrest rates between 1998 and 2006 were of Laotian youth, who eventually represented 50 percent of the AAPI arrests in Oakland but only 22 percent of the AAPI population.<sup>32</sup> This is a small but growing population that is particularly vulnerable to being missed in the census count.

### Lack of Awareness and Understanding

A significant portion of AAPIs face both linguistic and cultural challenges to participation in the census. The Census Bureau's Asian American focus groups prior to the 2010 Census found that many AAPIs lacked awareness about the census and had not heard of the Census Bureau.<sup>33</sup> Indeed, many found the idea of the census not only confusing but invasive and potentially threatening, believing that it is linked to the immigration enforcement agency or the Internal Revenue Service. Participants lacked understanding about the purpose of the census, how the data are used, and how it directly benefited them. Very few had participated in the census previously, even though most lived in the United States during the 2000 Census. For those who did not respond, they cited language barriers, lack of interest, and misunderstanding about who could participate (believing only citizens could participate) as reasons for not participating. A number of participants mistakenly confused the census questionnaire with other telephone or mail surveys conducted by private businesses or government agencies.

For the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau's heavy reliance on technology will compound this lack of awareness with the lack of access to a telephone or broadband internet at home, potentially leading to higher levels of being missed in the count. Asian Americans were 1.5 times, and NHPs almost 2 times, as likely to have no telephone service at home than Whites (2.6 percent). NHPs (19.5 percent) were more likely than Whites (16.6 percent) not to have broadband internet at home. While Asian Americans overall have more broadband internet access than Whites, certain subgroups have less access, such as the Burmese and Cambodians. These communities with less access will need additional attention to ensure the move toward technology does not overlook them in the 2020 count.

**FIGURE 3: Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders are Overrepresented in Hawaii Prisons and Jails**



Source: Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. Incarcerated populations are all types of correctional facilities in a state, including federal and state prisons, local jails, halfway houses, etc.

**TABLE 8: Lack of Technology Access Among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Households**

ASIAN SUBGROUP	Percentage of Households with No Telephone Service Available	Percentage of Households with No Broadband Internet at Home
<b>Asian</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
Asian Indian	3.4%	5.2%
Bangladeshi	4.5%	10.4%
Burmese	5.2%	21.8%
Cambodian	3.2%	20.1%
Chinese	4.2%	10.9%
Filipino	2.9%	9.0%
Hmong	2.6%	10.4%
Indonesian	4.2%	6.7%
Japanese	4.1%	15.4%
Korean	3.7%	12.3%
Laotian	2.7%	12.2%
Nepalese	7.5%	11.6%
Pakistani	2.6%	5.4%
Thai	5.2%	12.0%
Vietnamese	3.5%	12.4%
<b>Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>19.5%</b>
Polynesian	4.1%	20.0%
Native Hawaiian	3.8%	20.8%
Samoan	5.4%	18.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table S0201: "Selected Population Profile in the United States" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2016).

### 3 Recommendations

The following recommendations seek to address the need to have appropriate operations in place for the next census that would best reach the hardest-to-count communities, such as AAPI boys and men.

#### FUNDING

The Census Bureau has been faced with inadequate funding over the last several years, hampering its ability to properly prepare for the 2020 Census. The current fiscal year 2018 (FY18) funding level not only makes it impossible to sustain thorough, timely preparations for the 2020 Census; it threatens the Census Bureau's ability to preserve the collection of vital information about our population, communities, and economy through other surveys.<sup>34</sup>

Congress must allocate enough resources to sustain a robust 2020 Census ramp-up, without undermining other core programs, by providing more funding for the Census Bureau than the Trump administration requested. This is needed to achieve a fair and accurate 2020 Census in all communities while avoiding large cost increases in the final years of the decade and to preserve the quality of other vital data sets. Congress should appropriate at least \$1.848 Billion for FY 2018, which is an additional \$164 million above the current administration's adjusted request for the Census

Bureau. The additional funding would allow the Census Bureau to expand research and testing of effective messaging for the growing number of population groups and communities at higher risk of undercounting and to keep creative development of the advertising campaign on schedule, which are key to engaging the hard-to-count communities, such as AAPIs. Looking forward to FY19, the Trump administration and Congress must recognize the need for a significant ramp-up in funding to support the final push to conduct a successful census.

Further, during the appropriations process, Congress must reject all efforts that would put the accuracy of Census Bureau surveys at risk. To that end, all proposals to add untested questions to the 2020 Census this late in the planning process, which would undermine the accuracy of the enumeration in all states and communities, must be rejected. Congress should also reject proposals to make response to the American Community Survey voluntary, which would result in a drastic drop in initial response rates.<sup>35</sup> Mail response rates also are disproportionately lower for historically hard-to-count population groups, such as people of color. Smaller population groups (such as specific AAPI subgroups) and smaller geographic areas—those who tend to be most vulnerable—stand to lose the most if survey response becomes voluntary.



## CENSUS BUREAU OPERATIONS

The Census Bureau can invest in specific operations that will help ensure our hard-to-count communities are properly engaged and encouraged to participate in the census.

### ***Integrated Partnership and Communications Campaign***

Developing a comprehensive and culturally and linguistically appropriate advertising campaign that targets hard-to-count communities in conjunction with the partnership program is critical to reaching AAPI boys and men (and other hard-to-count communities) effectively and achieving an accurate count.

The census partnership and outreach program is credited with helping to achieve one of the most accurate counts for many of our hard-to-count communities in both 2000 and 2010. Establishing partnerships with hard-to-count communities has been shown to reduce nonresponse follow-up costs and improve accuracy. Having government, school, faith-based, and other community leaders communicate with their constituents about the importance of filling out their census form has proven to be a great success, as respondents are interacting with trusted leaders rather than strangers representing the federal government. Advance planning is necessary to implement an effective partnership and outreach program. The Census Bureau needs time to connect with organizations and local governments to engage them in the partnership program.

At the same time, the communications campaign must be developed to reach AAPI boys and men. In advertising, it is important to be consistent to increase message effectiveness and to reduce potential confusion inherent in using multiple slogans. In developing a slogan, comprehensive research, done in targeted languages as well as in English, must be conducted in a timely fashion to ensure that the chosen slogan resonates across different languages and cultures. Conducting proper research and developing the appropriate protocol for working with partners on the ground take time and resources to maximize the utility of the advertising campaign. But the window of opportunity to accomplish all of this foundational work properly and thoroughly is closing fast.

Full funding is needed for the Census Bureau to proceed with its plans for an Integrated Partnership and Communications Campaign. It was a wise investment for the Census Bureau to begin this process earlier in the decade than in previous censuses,

but the program has been stymied by delays due to funding inadequacies. Proper planning takes time and resources to ensure the investment pays off.

### ***Language Assistance Program***

The Census Bureau has been researching and developing a language assistance program for the 2020 Census.<sup>36</sup> The Census Bureau's current plan would support the development of an internet questionnaire and Census Questionnaire Assistance interviews (that is, the telephone response option) in approximately ten languages, as well as the development of video and paper Language Assistance Guides in approximately sixty languages (including a number of smaller language groups).<sup>37</sup> Additionally, the 2020 Language Support Team and the Integrated Partnership and Communications team are already working together to ensure these languages are supported through the Integrated Partnership and Communications Plan. However, the Census Bureau must have adequate funding to finalize development and implementation of its language program. Factoring in the time needed for development of appropriate materials for promotion and outreach—such as leaflets to distribute to individuals and posters and other promotional materials—and questionnaire aids in different languages, the Census Bureau needs to start the process as soon as possible and must have the appropriate funding to support such work.

### ***Recruitment and Hiring***

The Census Bureau plans to hire about half the number of temporary workers as it hired for the 2010 Census. With this decrease in staffing, the Census Bureau must recruit and hire people who are "indigenous" to the communities where they will be working because of the knowledge these workers bring about local languages, neighborhoods, and cultures. The Census Bureau can promote its recruitment program through a multitude of avenues, such as job fairs, paid advertising, and partner organizations (including faith institutions). It should also use more creative and unconventional methods to recruit and hire census workers for the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau should look at removing financial disincentives while enhancing incentives to work for the bureau. Further, the Census Bureau can use technology and increase local advertising related to census job opportunities to help address this concern. A hiring protocol that prioritizes community experience and skills would significantly improve the staffing for the 2020 Census and the Census Bureau's ability to effectively engage hard-to-count communities.

## 4 Conclusion

While improving the count may be difficult and require more resources, it is absolutely critical to AAPI boys and men. An accurate count means AAPI boys and men will receive their fair share of political power, government funding, and government resources. An accurate count ensures AAPI boys and men's needs are illuminated, which can then be addressed through policy solutions developed with their needs in mind. AAPI boys and men cannot afford for the 2020 Census to be poorly funded or poorly executed. The visibility of the community and its needs hang in the balance, as we work to ensure a fair and accurate count in 2020.



**NEIL HORIKOSHI**

Neil Horikoshi joined the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) in 2008 as the President & Executive Director after a distinguished 30-year career at International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), where he served in a variety of legal and executive management positions in the United States and Asia Pacific.

During Neil's tenure, he led new strategic initiatives to expand organizational programming to better meet the needs of underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students and help APIASF become a more socially impactful organization. APIASF now uses a scalable model of change that is based in accelerating student success, strengthening institutional capacity and mobilizing resources to create a pipeline of diverse leaders who will spur economic growth. To accomplish this goal, APIASF works directly with Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs) and some of the leading AAPI research organizations in the country. Neil continues to grow these efforts to ensure that all AAPI students have the opportunity to access, complete and succeed after post-secondary education.



**TERRY AO MINNIS**

Terry Ao Minnis is the director of the census and voting programs for Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC. Mrs. Minnis co-chairs the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights' Census Task Force. Mrs. Minnis sat on the U.S. Department of Commerce's 2010 Census Advisory Committee from 2002 through 2011, when the committee's charter ran out and currently sits on the Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations. Mrs. Minnis has published several articles and has been counsel on numerous amicus briefs filed before the Supreme Court on voting rights cases, including *Shelby County v. Holder*. Mrs. Minnis was one of the key leaders in campaigns on reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act in 2006 and on Census 2010. Mrs. Minnis received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from American University Washington College of Law and her Bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Chicago.

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# Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Reamer, "Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds" (Washington, DC: George Washington University, 2017), [https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/gwipp.gwu.edu/files/downloads/Counting%20for%20Dollars%202020%2008-22-17\\_0.pdf](https://gwipp.gwu.edu/sites/gwipp.gwu.edu/files/downloads/Counting%20for%20Dollars%202020%2008-22-17_0.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The gap between the net overcount of non-Hispanic Whites and the net undercount of all other race and ethnic groups is the differential undercount.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "2010 Census Coverage Measurement Estimation Report: Summary of Estimates of Coverage for Persons in the United States 18" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2012), [https://www.census.gov/coverage\\_measurement/pdfs/g01.pdf](https://www.census.gov/coverage_measurement/pdfs/g01.pdf) (hereafter "2010 CCM Report").

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "The Undercount of Young Children" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2014), <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2014/demo/2014-undercount-children.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> Robert T. Teranishi and Bach Mai Dolly Nguyen, "The Significance of Data Disaggregation in the Study of Boys and Men of Color: Perspectives from the Asian American and Pacific Islander Student Population" <http://www.risebmoc.org/issues/post5> (hereafter "Teranishi Report").

<sup>6</sup> Teranishi Report, p. 4.

<sup>7</sup> 2010 CCM Report, p. 15.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid. The 2010 Census was the first census that separated Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders from Asian Americans, as required by the Office of Management and Budget's 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicities. U.S. Census Bureau, "The Asian Population: 2010" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2012), <https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-11.pdf> (hereafter "Asian 2010 Report").

<sup>9</sup> 2010 CCM Report, p. 15.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., p. 17.

<sup>11</sup> In this report, data presented on the White population are for those who reported they were White alone and not of Hispanic or Latino origin. "The OMB [Office of Management and Budget] requires federal agencies to use a minimum of two ethnicities: Hispanic or Latino and Not Hispanic or Latino. Hispanic origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish may be of any race." See Asian 2010 Report.

<sup>12</sup> 2010 CCM Report, p. 17.

<sup>13</sup> The data presented in this report is for the "alone" population. The 2000 Census was also the first census that allowed respondents to choose more than one response to the race and ethnicity questions, as required by the Office of Management and Budget's 1997 Revised Standards. Multiracial respondents were finally able to report fully on their identity. In presenting data on race, the Census Bureau provides three conceptual groups. First, people who reported only one race (or subgroup) are referred to as the "alone" population. The alone population can be viewed as the minimum number of people reporting as that group. Second, individuals who chose more than one of the six race categories are referred to as the "race-in-combination" population. Third, the maximum number of people reporting as Asian is reflected in the Asian "alone-or-in-combination" population, which represents those who reported Asian alone and those who reported Asian in combination with one or more other races. While the data presented in this report from the Census Bureau are for "alone" populations, it is important to note that both Asian Americans (15 percent) and NHPs (56 percent) have significant levels of reporting multiple races. See Asian 2010 Report. See also U.S. Census Bureau, "The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2010" (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2012), <https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-12.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> See Asian 2010 Report. See also Asian Americans Advancing Justice—Los Angeles, Press Release, "Asian Americans Remain Fastest Growing Racial Group in Country, Growth Driven by New Immigrants," June 21, 2017, <https://advancingjustice-la.org/media-and-publications/press-releases/asian-americans-remain-fastest-growing-racial-group-country#.WbgZebKGNkg>.

<sup>15</sup> The usage of the term "Burma" is consistent with reports released by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as they track refugees to the United States, and this term is used by the Census Bureau to present data on this population group. We recognize the sensitivity that exists regarding the use of the term. We are also sensitive to the use of the country's current official name of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

<sup>16</sup> See National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations, "Administrative Records, Internet, and Hard to Count Population Working Group, Final Report" (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016), [https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/reports/2016-07-admin\\_internet-wg-report.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/reports/2016-07-admin_internet-wg-report.pdf); Nancy Bates and Mary H. Mulry, "Building a Segmentation Model to Target the 2010 Census Communications Campaign" (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008), <https://www2.amstat.org/sections/srms/Proceedings/y2008/Files/bates.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> While the data for language proficiency are not available broken out by gender, the data for the overall population are informative. Males in most subgroups are almost majority foreign born, with some groups having more than a majority of foreign born. Thus, the language barrier is an important factor in making AAPI boys and men harder to count.

- <sup>18</sup> A “limited English-speaking household” is one in which no member fourteen years old and over either speaks only English or speaks a non-English language and speaks English “very well.” In other words, all members fourteen years old and over have at least some difficulty with English. By definition, English-only households cannot belong to this group. U.S. Census Bureau, 2011–2015 American Community Survey Selected Population Tables, Table B16002: “Household Language by Household Limited English Speaking Status” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2015).
- <sup>19</sup> In fact, the increase in virulent anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric has resulted in reports of immigrants shunning common daily activities out of fear of reprisal from the government, such as parents keeping kids from after-school activities and immigrants avoiding attending church services. See Ray Sanchez, “After ICE Arrests, Fear Spreads Among Undocumented Immigrants,” CNN, Feb. 12, 2017, <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/11/politics/immigration-roundups-community-fear/>. See also Associated Press, “Immigrants Wait in Fear over Raids; Trump Takes Credit,” Feb. 12, 2017, <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigrants-wait-in-fear-over-raids-trump-takes-credit/>.
- <sup>20</sup> The median age is the age at the midpoint of the population. Half of the population is older than the median age and half of the population is younger. The median age is often used to describe the “age” of a population. U.S. Census Bureau, “Age and Sex Composition: 2010” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2011), <https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-03.pdf>.
- <sup>21</sup> Meghan Henry, Rian Watt, Lily Rosenthal, and Asim Shivji, “The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2016), <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf> (hereafter “HUD Report”).
- <sup>22</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>23</sup> Danielle Kaeble and Lauren Glaze, “Correctional Populations in the United States, 2015” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, 2016), <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cpus15.pdf> (appendix table 2).
- <sup>24</sup> Child Trends Data Bank, “Young Adults in Jail or Prison” (Bethesda, MD: Child Trends, 2012), [https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/89\\_Young\\_Adults\\_In\\_Prison-1.pdf](https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/89_Young_Adults_In_Prison-1.pdf).
- <sup>25</sup> Russell Jeung, “What the Homelessness Crisis in Asian-American Communities Reveals About Ourselves,” Sojourners online, June 5, 2017, <https://sojo.net/articles/what-homelessness-crisis-asian-american-communities-reveals-about-ourselves>.
- <sup>26</sup> Aaron Wiener, “America’s Real Migrant Crisis Is the One You’ve Never Heard Of,” Mother Jones, Dec. 29, 2016, <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/12/hawaii-micronesia-migration-homeless-climate-change/>.
- <sup>27</sup> Cathy Bussewitz, “Hawaii Struggles to Deal with Rising Rate of Homelessness,” Los Angeles Times, Nov. 15, 2015, <http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-adna-hawaii-homeless-20151115-story.html>.
- <sup>28</sup> Continuums of Care are local planning bodies responsible for coordinating the full range of homelessness services in a geographic area, which may cover a city, county, metropolitan area, or an entire state. See HUD Report.
- <sup>29</sup> Jorge Rivas, “They Were There First, but Now Native Hawaiians Have Nowhere to Live,” Splinter, Oct. 15, 2015, <http://splinternews.com/they-were-there-first-but-now-native-hawaiians-have-no-1793852052/amp>.
- <sup>30</sup> Lili Mahan-Kaleleiki, “Native Hawaiian Mass Incarceration: Hawai‘i’s Dirty Little Secret,” Works in Progress, Feb. 5, 2017, <http://olywip.org/native-hawaiian-mass-incarceration/>.
- <sup>31</sup> Asian Americans Advancing Justice—Los Angeles, “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Behind Bars” (Washington, DC: National Education Association, 2015), [http://www.searac.org/sites/default/files/18877%20AAPIs%20Behind%20Bars\\_web.pdf](http://www.searac.org/sites/default/files/18877%20AAPIs%20Behind%20Bars_web.pdf) (hereafter “Behind Bars Report”).
- <sup>32</sup> Anh Ton, “Study Finds High Poverty, Arrest Rates Among Some Asian American Males,” Asian Philanthropy Forum, July 2, 2013, <http://www.asianphilanthropyforum.org/study-finds-high-poverty-incarceration-rates-among-some-asian-american-males/>. The growth of immigration detention and deportation saw similar increases for AAPIs. Since 1998, at least 15,000 persons from Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam have received final orders of deportation, despite many arriving with refugee status and obtaining a green card. In fact, Southeast Asian American communities are three to four times more likely than other immigrant communities to be deported for old convictions. See Behind Bars Report.
- <sup>33</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, “Ethnic and Racial Sub-Population Focus Group Research” (McLean, VA: Image Media Services, 2007), <http://www.phila.gov/phillycounts/pdfs/Ethnic%20and%20Racial%20Sub-Population%20Focus%20Group%20Research%20-%20Asian%20&%20Arab%20Americans.pdf>.
- <sup>34</sup> The insufficient funding of the last several years has resulted in delay, streamlining, and cancellation of important preparation, planning, and testing for the upcoming census and the hobbling of other important programs, such as the American Community Survey. This survey is of particular importance because it provides annual data on key socioeconomic characteristics for subgroups and small geographic areas.
- <sup>35</sup> To make up for the significantly lower mail response rates, additional funding would be needed to support far more costly telephone and in-person data collection.
- <sup>36</sup> National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations, “Language Working Group, Final Report” (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016), <https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/reports/2016-11-language-wg-report.pdf>.
- <sup>37</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, “Response to National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations Language Working Group Final Report” (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, 2017), <https://www2.census.gov/cac/nac/reports/2017-03-response-language-wg.pdf>.

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