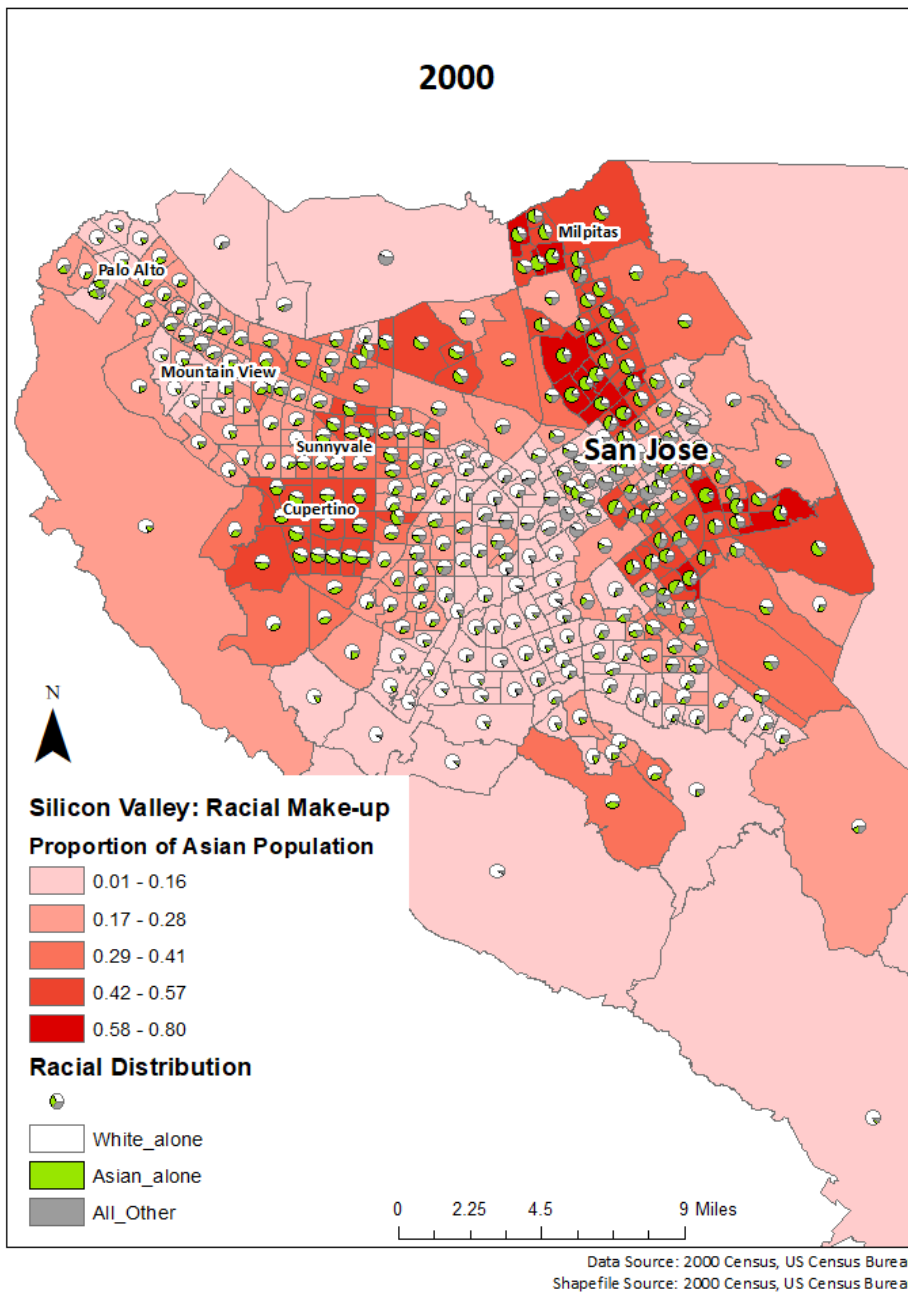


Silicon Valley's Huge Asian Workforce Takes Over Much of the Region

By Shweta Chopra



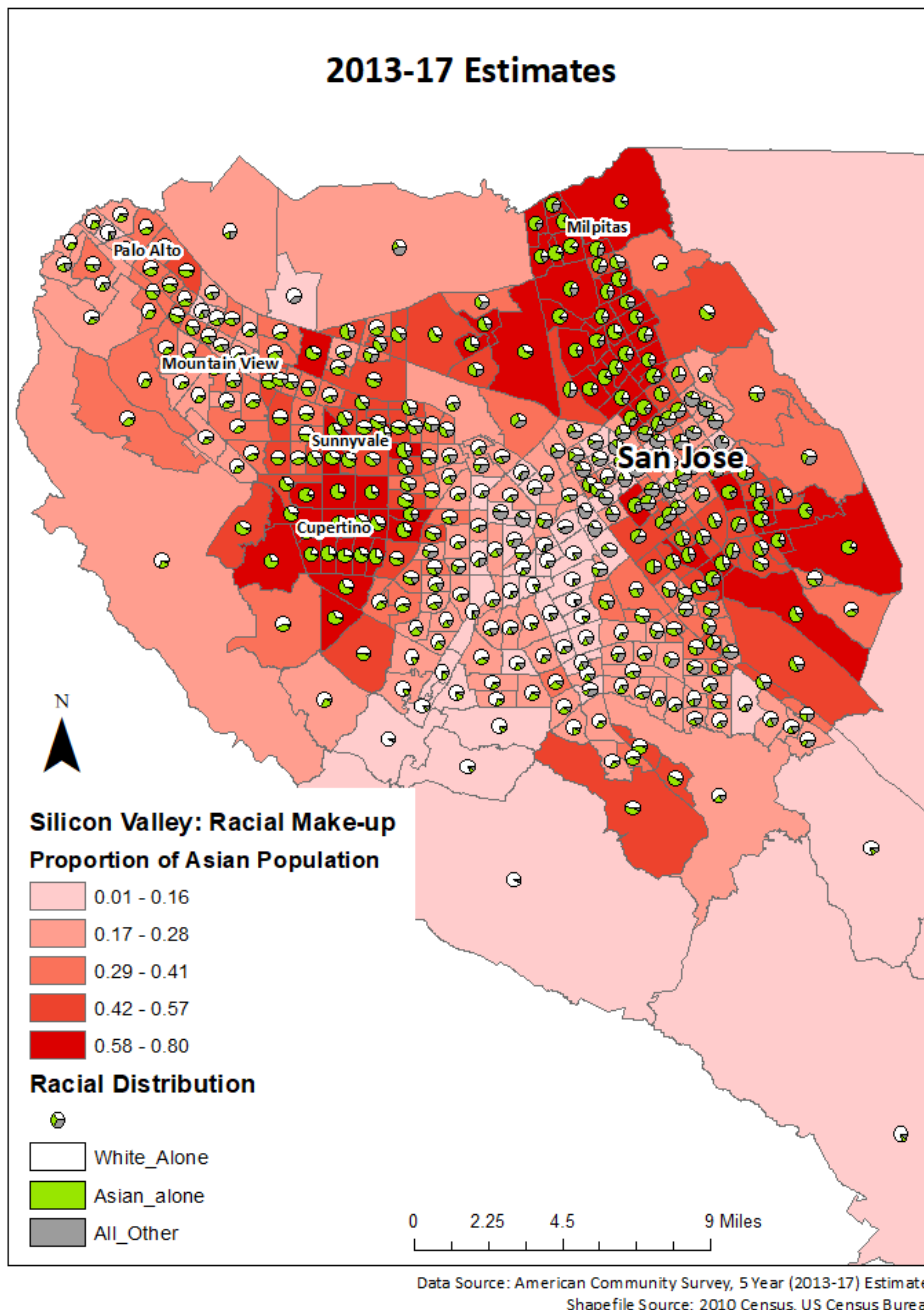
Silicon Valley, in Santa Clara County, California, is home to some of the largest technology companies in the world. Much of the technology boom witnessed particularly since the 1970s, originated in this small geography on the US West Coast. Ever since, this region has seen a rising Asian workforce due to the predominance of Asian communities in technological fields. Since 2000, when Twitter and Facebook did not even exist, the Asian population has seen a steep rise, even overtaking the White population in some parts of the valley.

Silicon Valley encompasses much of the North-Western region within Santa Clara county. Using data from the US Census and American Community surveys, the two accompanying maps depict the spread and rising proportion of the Asian population, in Silicon Valley. Major cities within the valley have been labeled.

In 2000, Asians made up 25.56% of the population in Santa Clara County as a whole. As depicted in the 2000 Map, this population was concentrated in the Silicon Valley region, particularly in Cupertino, North and East San Jose, Sunnyvale, and Milpitas (as indicated by the darker shades of red), where Asians almost formed 50% of the population. As is visible in the pie charts for these regions, Asians had already begun to

form a majority of the population in some census tracts, as of the year 2000. But overall, Silicon Valley still remained predominantly White.

Latest estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS) show the Asian population to have reached 35.14% of the total population in Santa Clara county. Even a brief comparison of the 2000 and 2013-17 Estimates maps shows that the latter has a lot more dark red.



As per the 2013-17 Estimates map, the Asian population continued to dominate the same parts of the Silicon Valley region, as it did in the year 2000. However, other parts of the valley are also significantly more red, showing an overall rise in the Asian population. The regions colored the darkest red, signify that the Asian population now makes up over 60% of the population in these areas, becoming the majority race. The pie charts also show that the White population in these areas has fallen since 2000.

The concentration of the Asian Population in the same regions over time is interesting, and the maps show that areas with a large concentration of races other than Asians and Whites, tend to witness a smaller Asian population. Interestingly, Palo Alto, Mountain View and central San Jose that were the origin of the Silicon Valley story, still have a majority White population. It is possible that these areas already have settled White populations from earlier decades, due to which the Asian population largely chose to settle in other neighboring regions.

As compared to the National Figures that show Asians make up only 5.6% of the US Population, the numbers reached

in Silicon Valley are huge. The 2013-17 ACS estimates also reveal that the 67.5% of the Asian Population in Santa Clara county is foreign born. These demographics provide a subtle insight into the highly skewed nature of technological skills within the American workforce with the White and Asian communities dominating the technology space.