AAPI Voter Engagement
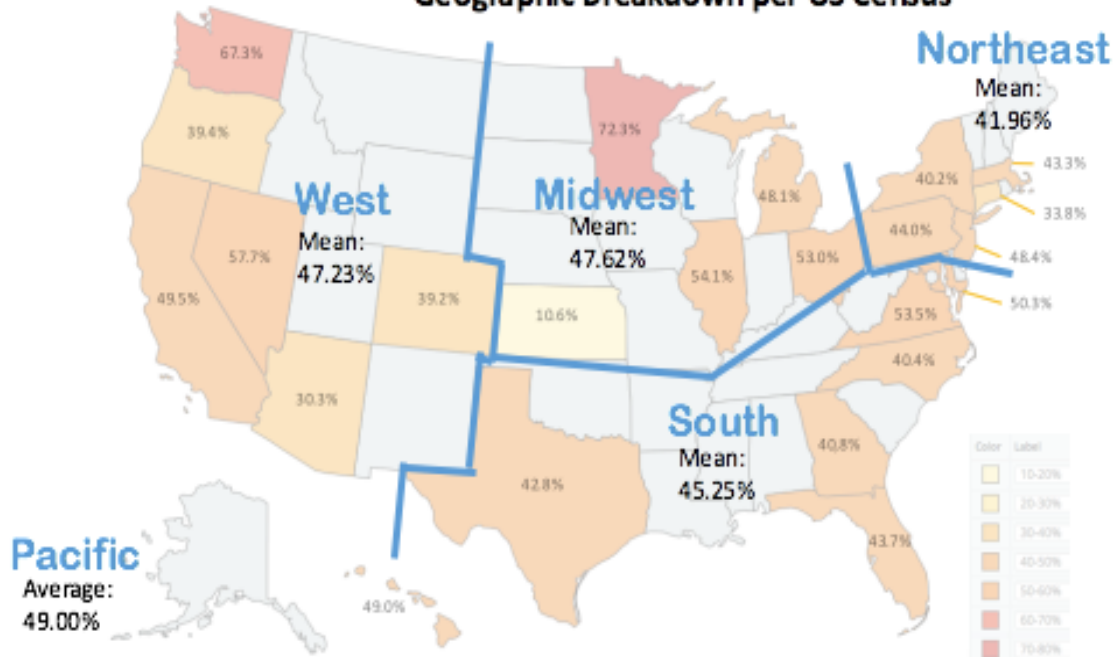
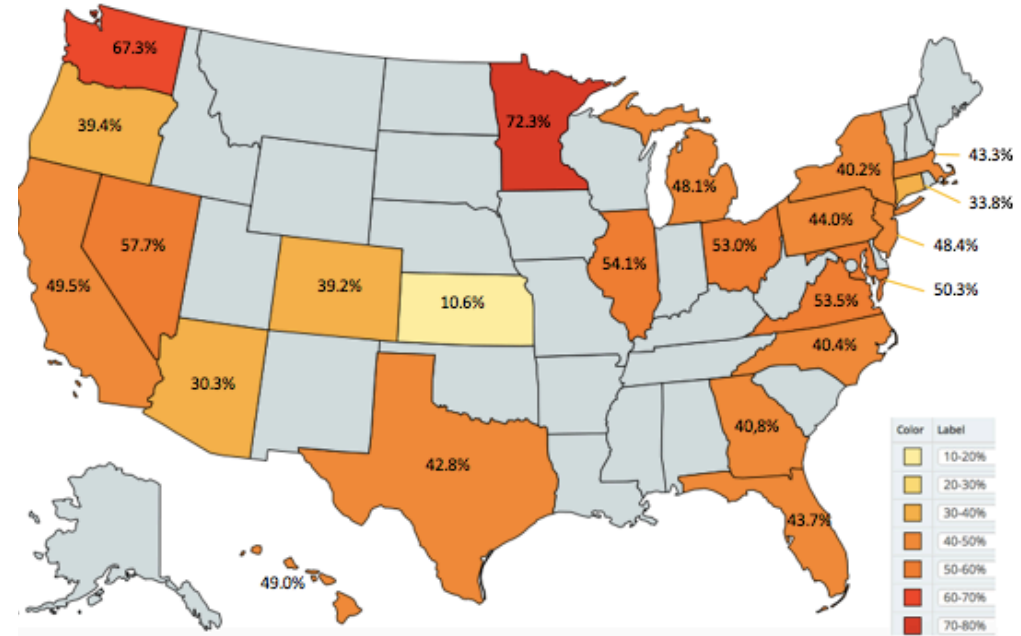By: Leangelo Acuna, Stephanie Dromerick,

Janny Jang, and Allen Lo

Background: AAPI Voter Turnout

AAPI Voter Turnout

Average Asian Voter Turnout in 2012 Presidential Election
Geographic Breakdown per US Census

Northeast
Mean: 41.96%

West
Mean: 47.23%

Midwest
Mean: 47.62%

South
Mean: 45.25%

Pacific
Average: 49.00%

Asian Voter Turnout in 2012 Presidential Election
Among Eligible Voters

Mean: 47.9% (15.4% ⬆)

ELIGIBILITY	• AAPI VOTER TURNOUT IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER WHEN FOCUSING ON THE ELIGIBLE POPULATION
HISPANIC	• AAPI VOTER TURNOUT AMONG ELIGIBLE POPULATION IS COMPRABLE TO HISPANIC VOTERS (48.0%)
WHITE/BLACK	• WHITE AND BLACK VOTERS TURN OUT AT A CONSIDERABLY HIGHER RATE (62.1, 65.9% RESPECTIVELY)

Source: US Census Bureau, Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 2012

Importance of AAPI Voter Engagement

*"**Nearly half of Asian American and Pacific Islander registered voters identify as independent or undecided** with respect to their party identification, pointing to the possibility that **many remain open to persuasion and outreach** in future elections."*

*"**They vote for** candidates who support and promote progress on **issues that matter to their families and communities**."*

GEORGE TAKEI, JOHN CHO,
AND OTHERS SAY:
#VOICEYOURVOTE!

WATCH THE PSA

Source: *Behind the Numbers: Post Election Survey of Asian American and Pacific Island Voters in 2012*. No affiliation or sponsorship with APIA Votes, National Asian American Survey, or Asian American Justice Center.

Top 3 Policy Priorities for Asian Americans: CA, NV, NY, VA

California (CA)
1. Healthcare
2. Jobs/Economy
3. Education

West
Average: 47.23%

Midwest
Average: 47.62%

Northeast
Average: 41.96%

New York (NY)
1. Terrorism
2. Jobs/Economy
3. Healthcare

Nevada (NV)
1. Social Security
2. Healthcare
3. Jobs/Economy

South
Average: 45.25%

Virginia (VA)
1. Jobs/Economy
2. Education
3. Social Security

Pacific
Average: 49.00%

67.3%
39.4%
57.7%
49.5%
30.3%
72.3%
39.2%
10.6%
54.1%
48.1%
53.0%
44.0%
40.2%
43.3%
33.8%
48.4%
50.3%
53.5%
40.4%
40,8%
42.8%
43.7%
49.0%

Color	Label
	10-20%
	20-30%
	30-40%
	40-50%
	50-60%
	60-70%
	70-80%

Approach

When conducting surveys and studies, humans are transformed into and compiled as numbers with the **emotional context being lost on the way**. We hope to reconnect big data with individuals and stress the importance of civic engagement as the policies at stake affect real people.

We also seek to shed light on the breadth of AAPI issues as well as delve into the complexities of an individual topic by highlighting individual stories.

Education: Disparities among Ethnic Groups
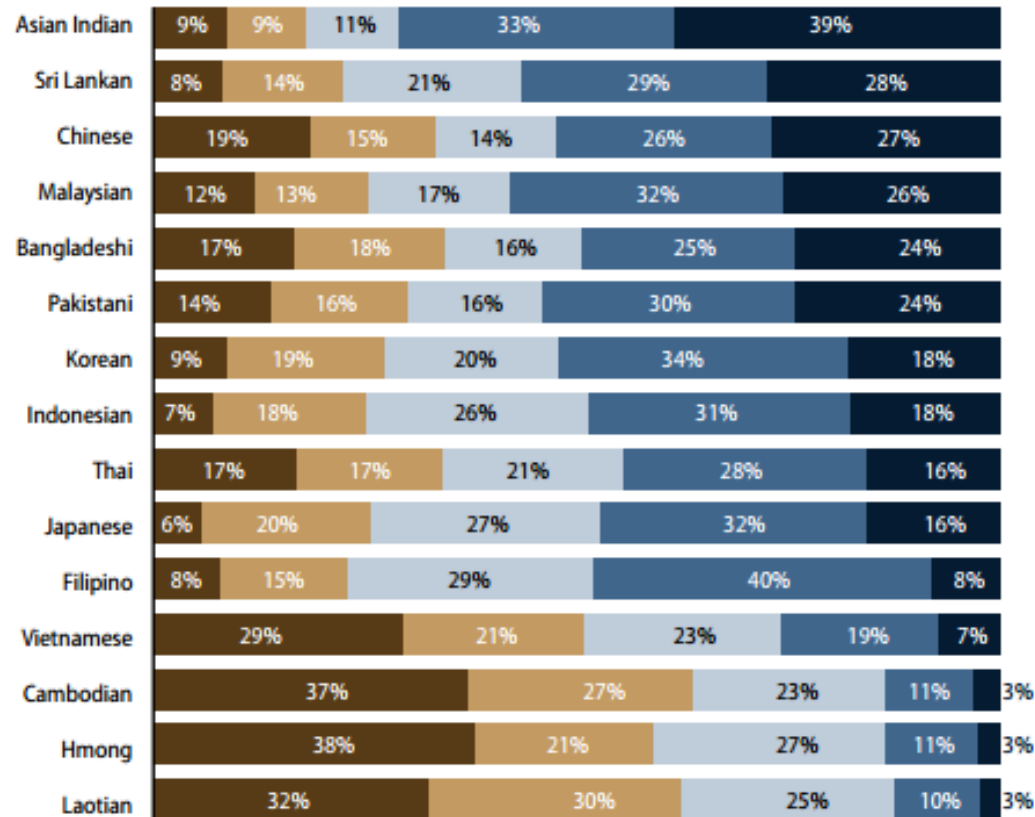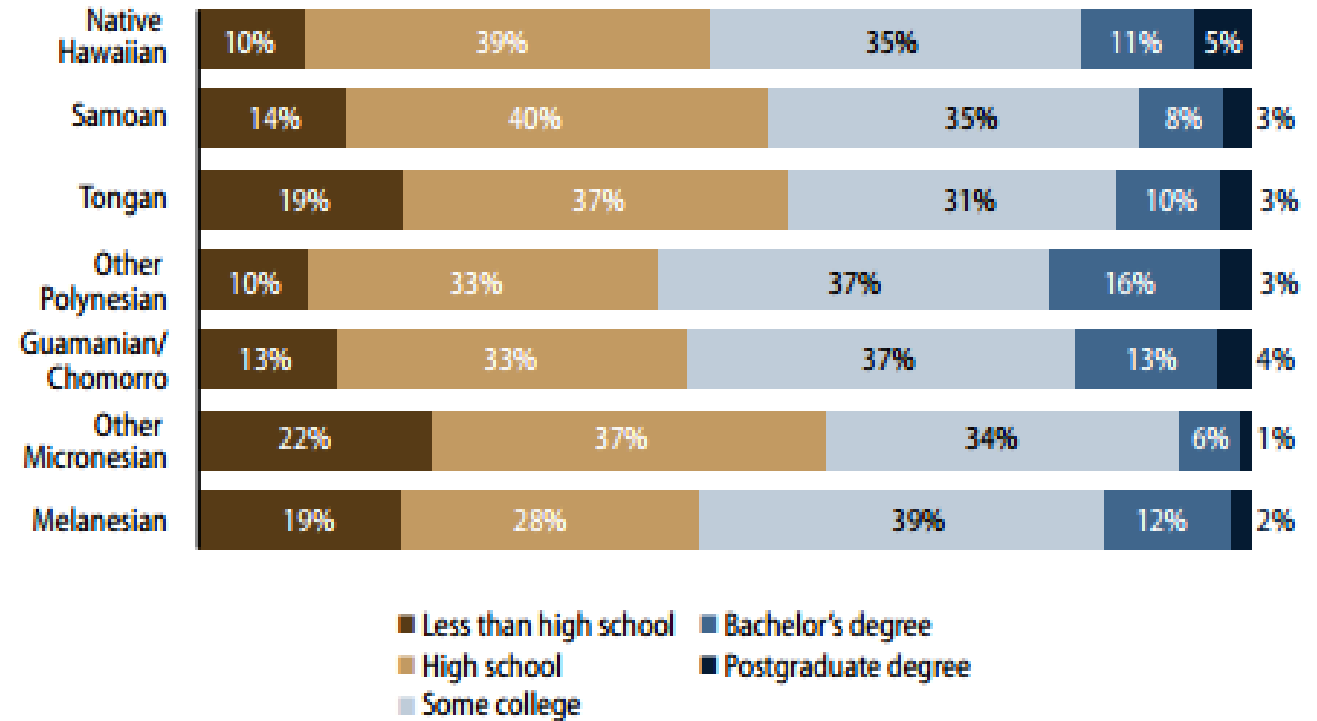
Educational attainment by Asian national origin

	Less than high school	High school	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Postgraduate degree
Asian Indian	9%	9%	11%	33%	39%
Sri Lankan	8%	14%	21%	29%	28%
Chinese	19%	15%	14%	26%	27%
Malaysian	12%	13%	17%	32%	26%
Bangladeshi	17%	18%	16%	25%	24%
Pakistani	14%	16%	16%	30%	24%
Korean	9%	19%	20%	34%	18%
Indonesian	7%	18%	26%	31%	18%
Thai	17%	17%	21%	28%	16%
Japanese	6%	20%	27%	32%	16%
Filipino	8%	15%	29%	40%	8%
Vietnamese	29%	21%	23%	19%	7%
Cambodian	37%	27%	23%	11%	3%
Hmong	38%	21%	27%	11%	3%
Laotian	32%	30%	25%	10%	3%

Educational attainment by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander subgroup

	Less than high school	High school	Some college	Bachelor's degree	Postgraduate degree
Native Hawaiian	10%	39%	35%	11%	5%
Samoan	14%	40%	35%	8%	3%
Tongan	19%	37%	31%	10%	3%
Other Polynesian	10%	33%	37%	16%	3%
Guamanian/Chomorro	13%	33%	37%	13%	4%
Other Micronesian	22%	37%	34%	6%	1%
Melanesian	19%	28%	39%	12%	2%

- Less than high school
- High school
- Some college
- Bachelor's degree
- Postgraduate degree

Source: *Education Part of the "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" Series*

Education: Connection with Poverty

AAPI Ethnic Group Percent of Those with Less Than a High School Education and those Living in Poverty

Japanese: Less Than High School 10%, Living in Poverty 9%
Indians: Less Than High School 13%, Living in Poverty 8%
Filipinos: Less Than High School 13%, Living in Poverty 7%
Koreans: Less Than High School 19%, Living in Poverty 16%
Pacific Islanders: Less Than High School 22%, Living in Poverty 17%
Chinese: Less Than High School 24%, Living in Poverty 18%
Vietnamese: Less Than High School 38%, Living in Poverty 19%
Cambodian, Hmong, and Laotians: Less Than High School 53%, Living in Poverty 23%

STEP INTO LONG BEACH:

Exposing how Cambodian American youth are under resourced, over policed and fighting back for their wellness

"While the majority of the survey respondents prioritized "being able to go to college as important," many of the youth and their parents were unaware of the specifics regarding pathways towards and accessing higher education. Additionally, there are high dropout rates for Asian American high school students in Long Beach, yet these are often overlooked…"

Source: Khmer Girls in Action, 2011

Civic Engagement: Local, State, National

"[We] need to help parents understand the educational system, and help them to become advocates. Parents tend to be deferential to the school district."

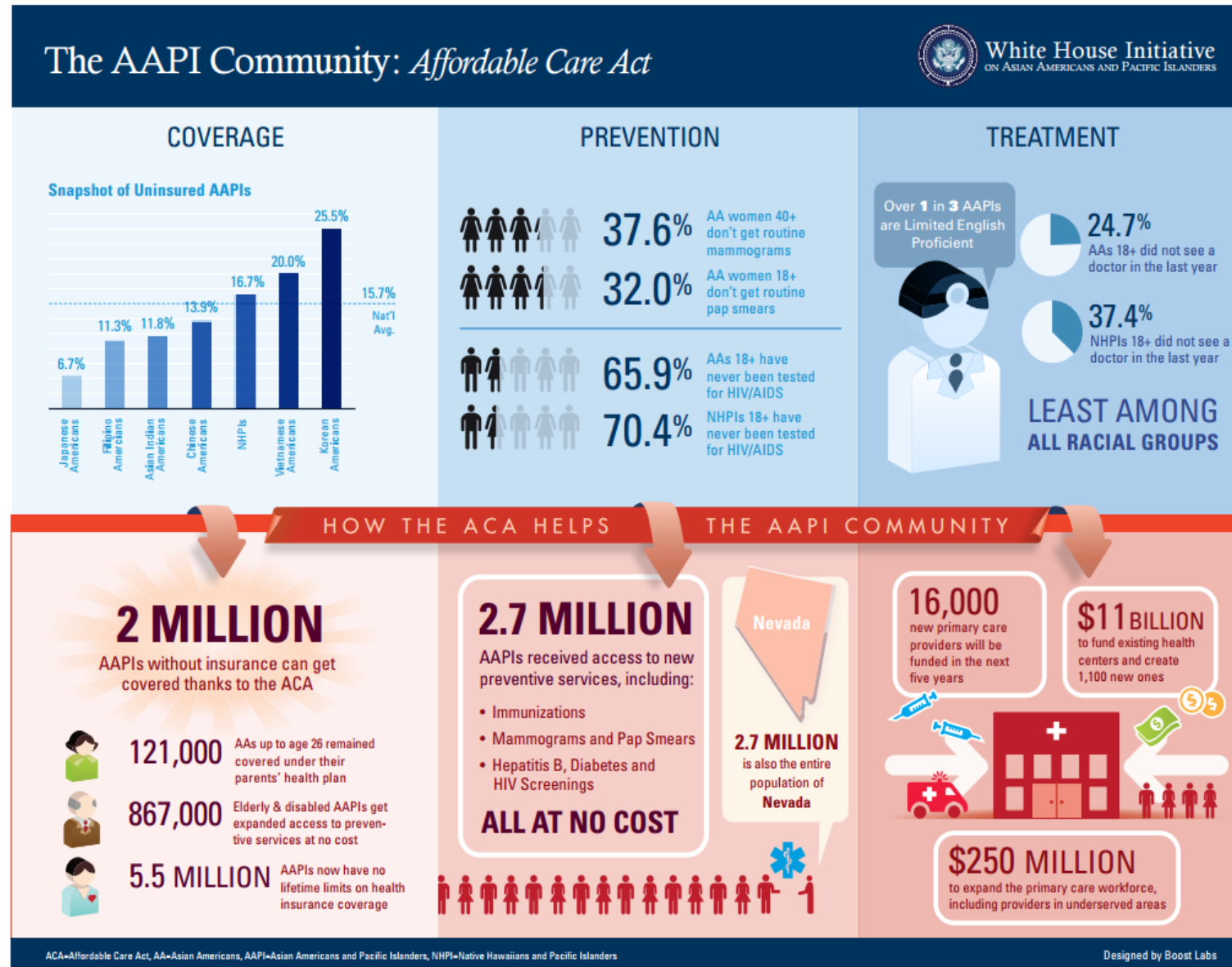– Michele Lew, Executive Director, Asian Americans for Community Involvement

"For many years, we had few staff who spoke Cambodian [in Philadelphia]. The Superintendent met with us in April 2010 at a community meeting, learned about issues affecting [the] community, and began to hire bilingual staff. Then, we faced budget cuts, and most staff have been laid off."

– Roeng Sorn, Executive Director, Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia

"Parents go to CBOs first, not schools. With [CBO and school] partnerships, we need standard policies on what that partnership means, [because] schools have historically done a bad job at defining partnerships, [including] what information we can access."

– Vu Le, Executive Director, Vietnamese Friendship Association

Source: Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

Health: The Affordable Care Act

The AAPI Community: *Affordable Care Act*

White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

COVERAGE

Snapshot of Uninsured AAPIs

- Japanese Americans: 6.7%
- Filipino Americans: 11.3%
- Asian Indian Americans: 11.8%
- Chinese Americans: 13.9%
- NHPIs: 16.7%
- Vietnamese Americans: 20.0%
- Korean Americans: 25.5%
- Nat'l Avg.: 15.7%

PREVENTION

- **37.6%** AA women 40+ don't get routine mammograms
- **32.0%** AA women 18+ don't get routine pap smears
- **65.9%** AAs 18+ have never been tested for HIV/AIDS
- **70.4%** NHPIs 18+ have never been tested for HIV/AIDS

TREATMENT

Over **1** in **3** AAPIs are Limited English Proficient

- **24.7%** AAs 18+ did not see a doctor in the last year
- **37.4%** NHPIs 18+ did not see a doctor in the last year

LEAST AMONG ALL RACIAL GROUPS

HOW THE ACA HELPS THE AAPI COMMUNITY

2 MILLION
AAPIs without insurance can get covered thanks to the ACA

- **121,000** AAs up to age 26 remained covered under their parents' health plan
- **867,000** Elderly & disabled AAPIs get expanded access to preventive services at no cost
- **5.5 MILLION** AAPIs now have no lifetime limits on health insurance coverage

2.7 MILLION
AAPIs received access to new preventive services, including:

- Immunizations
- Mammograms and Pap Smears
- Hepatitis B, Diabetes and HIV Screenings

ALL AT NO COST

Nevada

2.7 MILLION is also the entire population of Nevada

- **16,000** new primary care providers will be funded in the next five years
- **$11 BILLION** to fund existing health centers and create 1,100 new ones
- **$250 MILLION** to expand the primary care workforce, including providers in underserved areas

ACA=Affordable Care Act, AA=Asian Americans, AAPI=Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, NHPI=Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

Designed by Boost Labs

$11 Billion towards funding existing health centers and creating 1,100 new ones, allowing for the hiring of more **language concordant providers and interpreters.**

"I thought I was destined to a life of expensive health bills to treat my liver condition and reliant on my son to read every healthcare document we receive and accompany me to every doctor's visit."
~Esther Ji

"With the help of Hanul Family Services, a Korean-speaking, in-person assister, helped Esther find an affordable option that was accepted by her existing primary doctor, expanded access to the specialists she needed, and walked Esther through to process of getting a translator for her doctor visits."

Kalwis Lo was diagnosed with stage 3 Hodgkin's disease months after graduating from college. As working-class Chinese Americans, his parents didn't have much money but reached into their own savings to put him through medical testing and chemotherapy treatments.

"Having had cancer, I know that no one chooses to get sick. But now, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, you can choose to get health care."
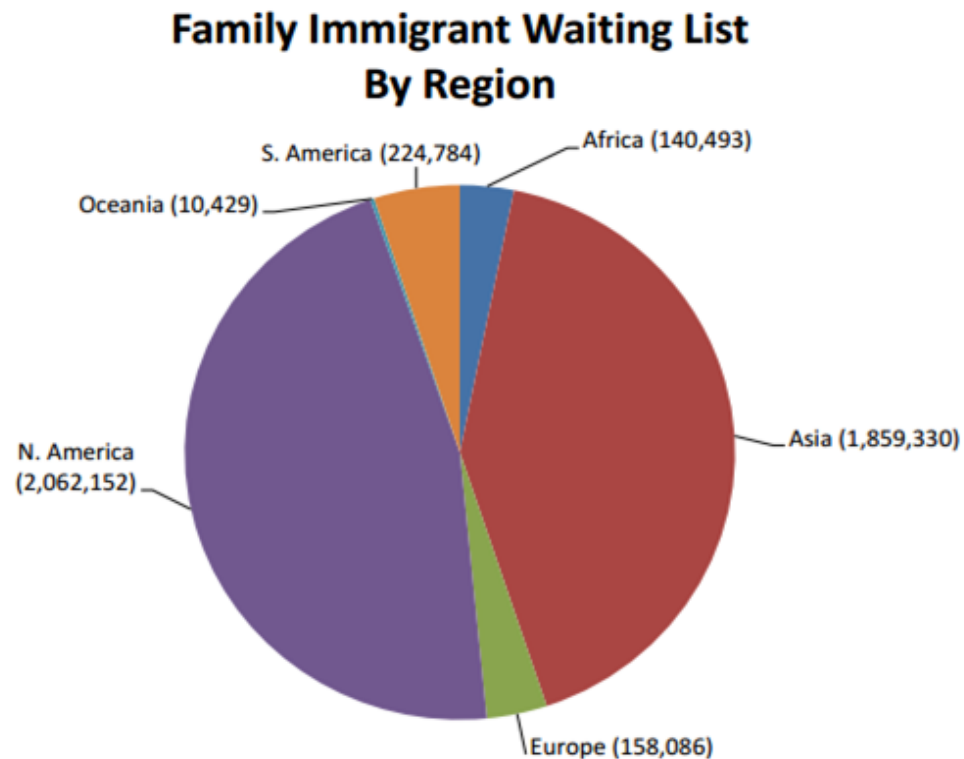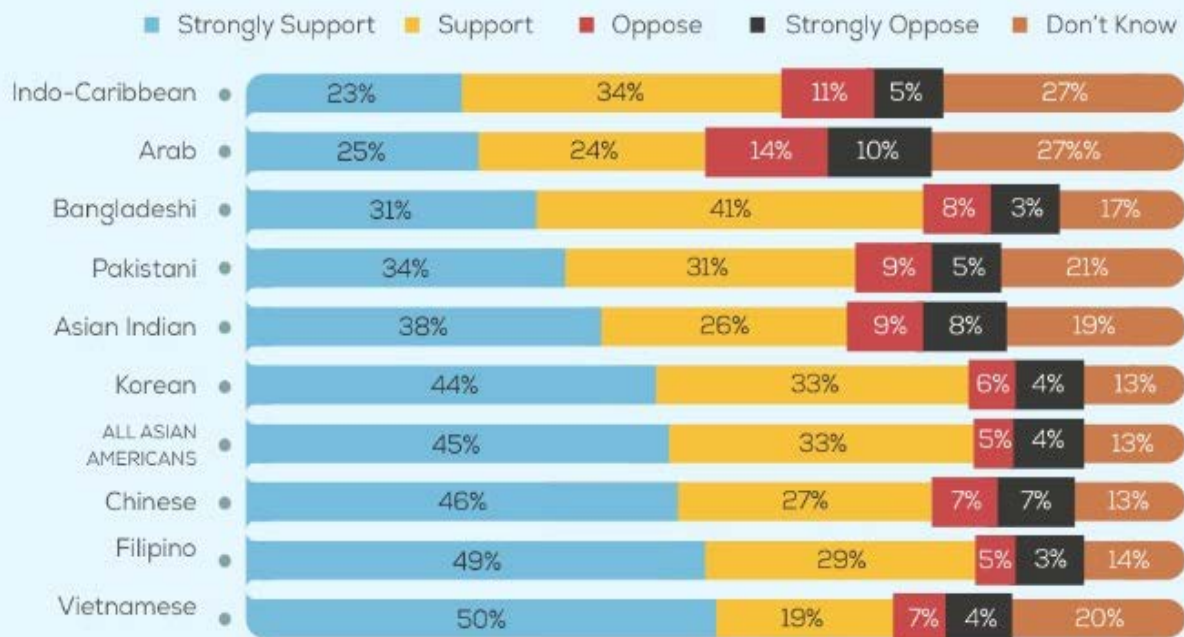**~Kalwis Lo**

Immigration: Support for Reform

Family Immigrant Waiting List By Region

- S. America (224,784)
- Africa (140,493)
- Oceania (10,429)
- N. America (2,062,152)
- Asia (1,859,330)
- Europe (158,086)

Fig. 15. Asian American Support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

	Strongly Support	Support	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't Know
Indo-Caribbean	23%	34%	11%	5%	27%
Arab	25%	24%	14%	10%	27%%
Bangladeshi	31%	41%	8%	3%	17%
Pakistani	34%	31%	9%	5%	21%
Asian Indian	38%	26%	9%	8%	19%
Korean	44%	33%	6%	4%	13%
ALL ASIAN AMERICANS	45%	33%	5%	4%	13%
Chinese	46%	27%	7%	7%	13%
Filipino	49%	29%	5%	3%	14%
Vietnamese	50%	19%	7%	4%	20%

Source: Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Immigration: DACA

Even with the number of those eligible considered, the application rates are significantly lower at **21%** whereas the Latinos stand at **77%.**

Table 1. Potentially Eligible DACA Population and Initial Application Rates by Select Regions, 2015

Country of Origin	Immediately Eligible (ages 15 to 30)	Initial Applications Accepted (by March 31, 2015)	Application Rate (%)
Asia			
South Korea	44,000	9,000	20
Philippines	20,000	5,000	23
India	17,000	3,000	20
Pakistan	6,000	2,000	28
Asia subtotal	**87,000**	**18,000**	**21**
Latin America			
Mexico	703,000	578,000	82
Guatemala	45,000	20,000	44
El Salvador	31,000	28,000	91
Honduras	23,000	19,000	81
Colombia	19,000	7,000	36
Peru	14,000	9,000	62
Ecuador	12,000	7,000	54
Brazil	12,000	7,000	63
Jamaica	10,000	4,000	38
Dominican Republic	9,000	3,000	34
Venezuela	8,000	3,000	40
Argentina	5,000	4,000	91
Latin America subtotal	**892,000**	**689,000**	**77**

Notes: Due to limited publicly available U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data, the regions include 12 Latin American and four Asian countries. The *Immediately Eligible* population includes unauthorized immigrants 15 years and older who met the age, year of arrival, continuous presence, and education requirements for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program at its launch in August 2012. *Applications Accepted* includes the number of initial applications (so, not inlcuding renewal applications) accepted for processing by USCIS as of March 31, 2015. Totals may not add up due to rounding. Percentages are calculated on unrounded numbers and may not match those calculated based on the rounded numbers.

Sources: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2009-13 pooled American Community Survey (ACS) data, and data from the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participants (SIPP) by Colin Hammar and James Bachmeier at Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute; USCIS, "Number of I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by Fiscal Year, Quarter, Intake, Biometrics and Case Status: 2012-2015 (March 31)," **available online.**

Source: Migration Policy Institute

"DACA has opened up so many opportunities for me—school, scholarships, and work. But it's also brought my family a sense of certainty, which has had real effects on our daily lives. The fact that my mom doesn't have to worry about me being deported. We breathe a little easier today because of DACA."

~Ji In (Kit) Lee

" A couple of months after I received DACA, my dad suffered from a heart attack. Because I got DACA, because I got a driver's license and the ability to drive a car, I was able to care for my family while my dad was in the hospital recovering [...] DACA has helped me take care of them.
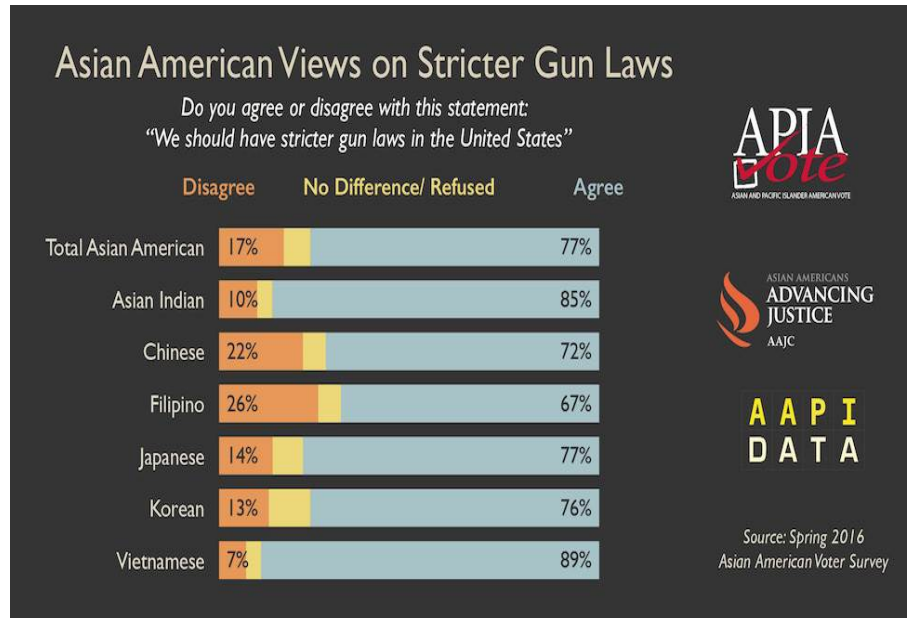
VISHAL DISAWAR

#ImmigrantHeritageMonth

Other Issues

Gun Control

Prison Reform

Source: AAPI Data & Southeast Asian Resource Action Center

Recommendations

1. Targeted Strategic Research:
   - Conduct disaggregated voting data research on policy issues priorities of the AAPI community with a specific focus on geography
     - Relevance in local, municipal, county, regional, and state levels elections
   - Engage and persuade AAPI using data analysis on geographic and ethnicities' priorities on policy issues AND stories and shared experiences

2. Cease and Desist - Side-Lining AAPI:
   - Recognize efforts highlighting diverse needs of AAPIs across and within various issues
   - Partake in community and civic engagement campaigns that focus on AAPI action on a local, state, and national level

3. Vote in 2016 and use <u>SHARED EXPERIENCES</u> when persuading others