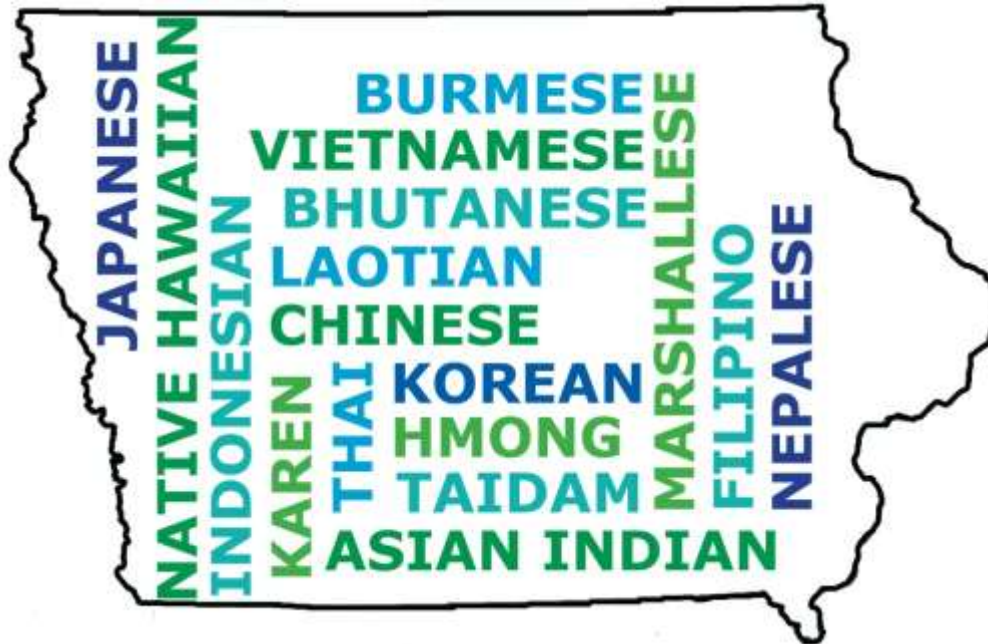


ASIAN AND PACIFIC COMMUNITIES IN IOWA



INTRODUCTION

- According to the US Census Bureau 18.9 million Asians live in the US today (2012)
- The Asian population rose by 530,000 or 2.9 % making it the fastest growing population in the US, exceeding the growth rate of Latino population which grew at 2.2% in 2012.
- More than 60% of this growth is accounted by international migration.
- Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are growing at a rate of 2.2% totaling of 1.4 million

The six largest groups of Asians in the nation are:

- Chinese 3.35 million
- Filipino 2.55 million
- Asian Indian 2.84 million
- Vietnamese 1.55 million
- Korean 1.42 million
- Japanese 763 thousand
- Other Asians 1,298,478

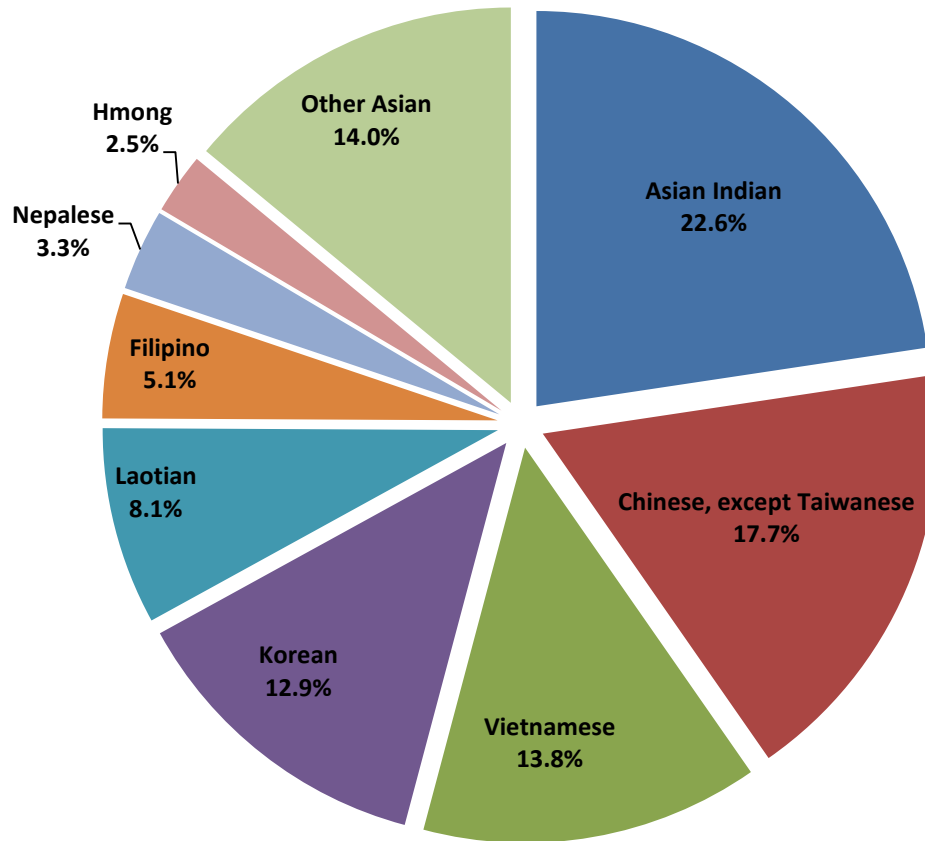
(Census Bureau 2010)

IOWA'S ASIAN POPULATION

- Asians represent 2.2% of Iowa's population, which is approximately 66,595 (US census 2011)
- Asian population grew by 54.4% over the past ten years.
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders represent 0.1% of Iowa's population, which is 3,180.
- The percent change in population for native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander from 2000 to 2011 is 44.8%

ASIAN ETHNIC POPULATION BREAKDOWN

Iowa's Asian Population: 2011



ASIAN POPULATION BY COUNTY

Top 5 counties

• Polk	16,051	28.2%
• Johnson	7,133	12.5%
• Story	5,547	9.8%
• Linn	4,141	7.3%
• Scott	3,549	6.2%

TOP 5 COUNTIES FOR NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

- Polk 361 14.3%
- Dubuque 267 10.6%
- Black Hawk 243 9.6%
- Woodbury 157 8.0%
- Buena Vista 132 5.2%

ADDITIONAL FACTS ABOUT IOWA'S ASIAN POPULATION

- 33.6% of Iowa's foreign born individuals are of Asian origin
- 34.3% Iowa's foreign-born Asians are naturalized.
- The highest number of foreign born Asians in Iowa are from India (9,774)
- Median income of household who reported their race as Asian in 2011 is \$55,034. The median income reported for all Iowans is \$49,427
- Median income of household who reported their race as native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders is \$69,622

- The number of Asian and Pacific Islanders enrolled in the state's elementary schools during 2012-2013 school year is **12,589**.
- **48.9%** of Asians age 25 and over have a bachelor's or higher degree. (Iowans: 25.8%) Asians have the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group in the state.
- **83.3%** of Asians age 25 and over are high school graduates. (Iowans: 90.6%)
- **31.8%** of Asians age 25 and over have a graduate degree. (Masters and above)

Source: Department of Education, 2011 data

- Unemployment rate in the Asian population is 7.6% compared to lowa rate of 6%.
- Unemployment rate in Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders is 18.5%.
- 43.6% of Asians are in management, professional and related occupations.
- The number of Asian owned business in 2007 is 8,834.
- The number of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander owned firms in Iowa in 2007 is 178.
- SOURCE: Survey of Business Owners. All other data is extracted from the U.S Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey and U.S Decennial Census 1990, 2000 and 2010

TOP ISSUES AFFECTING ASIAN AMERICANS

- Language
- Access to healthcare and health insurance
- Citizenship and naturalization
- Employment
- Transportation
- Social integration isolation
- Exploitation and discrimination

LANGUAGE BARRIER

- According to the US Census Bureau, over 55 million people – more than 19% of the U.S population speak a language other than English at home.
- Iowa's Limited English Proficient population (LEP) is approximately 7%, which is approximately 215,193 individuals.
- The major Asian languages spoken are Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese, Hmong, Khmer, Lao, Thai, Tagalog or Pilipino, Indian languages - Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, and Malayalam.
- Other languages of Asia and the Pacific are Philippine, Polynesian, and Micronesian languages.

AMERICAN AND ASIAN VALUES

AMERICAN VALUES

- Spontaneity, casualness
- Respect for change, self-determination
- Questions authority

- Cites accomplishments
- Tough, individualistic and authoritative leadership
- Welcomes conflict

ASIAN VALUES

Self control/discipline

Fatalism

Obedience to authority/hierarchy

Humbleness

Collectivism

Harmony

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE

- According to the National Center for Health Statistics approximately 16% of Iowa's Asian population in 2011 were uninsured.
- The 1996 welfare reform law restricts all Legal Permanent Residents (LPR's) from receiving public insurance leaving many immigrants uninsured.
- The high % of uninsured is in part because a large number of Asians are self-employed in small business.
- Insurance coverage in itself does not ensure access to care because of language barriers, cultural differences, different perceptions and in some cases concerns of legal status.

IOWA'S CHINESE AMERICANS PROFILE

- *Countries of origin:* People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao/
- *Languages spoken:* Mandarin, Cantonese
- *Religions Practiced:* Buddhism, Christianity. Practice of worshiping ancestors is very common.
- *Associations and Affiliations:* Chinese Association of Iowa
- <http://www.iowachinese.org/>
- *Major Community Issues:* Culture and Language, Education, Employment, Immigration

IOWA'S FILIPINO POPULATION'S PROFILE

- *Country of origin:* Philippines
- *Language:* National language: Filipino. Tagalog, Pampango, Ilocano, Visayan are other common dialects.
- *Religion:* Approximately 85% Roman Catholic; minority religions (about 15% altogether): Protestant Christian and Muslim
- *Association:* Filipino-American Association of Iowa.
- *Major Community issues:*

IOWA'S KOREAN POPULATION PROFILE

- *Countries of origin:* North Korea and South Korea
- *Language:* Korean
- *Religion:* Christian, Buddhist, Catholic, Quaker
- *Association and affiliations:*
- *Major community issues:* Cultural generation gap between generations in immigrant families is common.
- *Others:* Large Korean American adoptee population and growing, Interest and support among veterans of the Korean War

IOWA'S VIETNAMESE POPULATION

- *Country of origin:* Vietnam
- *Language:* Vietnamese, Chinese and Khamer
- *Religion:* Christianity, Buddhism, Catholicism, Cao Dai
- *Association and affiliations:*
- *Major community issues:*
- *Others:*

IOWA'S ASIAN INDIAN POPULATION PROFILE

- *Country of origin:* India
- *Language:* Hindi, Gujarat, Punjabi, Telegu, Malayalam
- *Religion:* Majority Hindu, Minority Christian and Muslims
- *Association and affiliations:* Indo-American Association of Iowa. <http://iaaiowa.org/>
- *Major community issues:* Medical Insurance for non-resident parents and spouses. (LPR)
- *Others:*

NEW ASIAN POPULATION IN IOWA REFUGEES FROM BHUTAN



REFUGEES FROM BHUTAN

- In 2008 Bhutanese refugees coming from Nepal started coming to Iowa.
- Since then there are approximately 1,100 refugees from Bhutan who made Iowa their home.
- Most of them reside in Central Des Moines. Clusters of communities in Magnolia Park, Drake neighborhood and East Side near E Douglas and 29th Street.
- Language spoken: Nepali
- Religion: Majority are Hindu and a few of them are Buddhist.
- By and large this is the most successful group of refugees resettled in Iowa
- Attachment: [Bhutanese Refugees in Nepal](#)

**A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group.*

NEW ASIAN POPULATION IN IOWA REFUGEES FROM BURMA



REFUGEES FROM BURMA

- Burma is one of the most diverse countries in the world, with 8 main ethnic groups and more than one hundred sub-groups.
- Burma is also home to one of the world's most repressive and abusive military regimes.
- Over 800,000 refugees from Burma have been forced to leave their home and land.
- Approximately 3 000 refugees from Burma have made Iowa their home in the last few years since 2008.
- There has been an influx of refugees from Burma to meatpacking towns such as Columbus Junction, Marshalltown, Waterloo, Storm Lake and Postville in the past three years.

- Major Ethnic groups: Karen, Karenni, Chin
- Language spoken: Majority claim to be able to speak and understand Burmese. Karen, Karenni and dialects are widely spoken.
- Religion: Christian, Buddhist, minority Muslims
- Concentrated in 50310 and 50311 zip codes. Douglas Terrace, Douglas Woods, Clarkson Apartment, MLK apartments, Oakview Terrace.
- Very poor literacy rate.
- Family sizes of 3-8 is common.

UNIQUE CHALLENGES OF REFUGEES FROM BHUTAN AND BURMA

- LANGUAGE
- CULTURAL DIFFERENCE
- HEALTH CARE – ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND INSURANCE
- CITIZENSHIP
- COMMUNITY INTEGRATION
- WORSHIP

OUTREACH TIPS AND STRATEGIES

- Be sensitive, patient and understanding to limited language ability.
- Offer language assistance – in person or over the phone interpreters.
- Train staff to work with Limited English Proficient (LEP) clients.
- Provide printed materials in various languages as possible.
- Try and stay connected with the communities you serve, learn about them, their languages and their issues to be able to serve them better.

LOCAL AGENCIES THAT WORK WITH REFUGEES

- **Catholic Charities** – 601 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA – Helps with first resettlement of refugees. Helps newly arriving refugees with preliminary needs of housing, orientations, school enrollments, employment, welfare applications, etc.
- **USCRI** (United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants)- Park fair Mall. Same as above.
- **Iowa Department of Human Rights, Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs** – Policy, advocacy and liaison with other state agency services.
- **Department of Human Services (DHS)** - Welfare benefits such as Food stamps, Medicaid and cash assistance.
- **WIC** (Women, Infant and Children)

- **Bureau of Refugee Services:** State agency designated to help all refugees with Promise jobs – employment piece of the welfare benefits.
- **Lutheran Services in Iowa:** Limited programs serving elderly refugees 65 and above with English as a Second Language (ESL), community gardening programs and some workforce readiness programs.
- **Visiting Nurse Services:** Serving many refugee clients with maternal and child health program.
- **Head Start:** Helping refugee children with
- **American Friends Services Committee:** Providing legal services for free or minimal cost. Mostly inundated with filing of green cards and citizenships.

COMMISSION ON ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS

- Established on March 2004 by Senate file 2188 to serve and celebrate Iowa's Asian and Pacific Islander population through advocacy and Education.
- The seven member Governor appointed commission is responsible for advising the Governor, Lt. Governor and General Assembly on issues confronting Asian and Pacific Islander persons in the state, including the unique problems of non-English speaking immigrants and refugees, as well as administrative and legislative changes necessary to ensure API persons access to benefits and services in the state.

COMMISSIONERS

- Benjamin Jung- Chair, West Des Moines



- Albert Liu, Urbandale



- George Sayavong, Souix City



- Karlai Thronburg, Ames



- Dr. Steve Hou, Des Moines



- Trinh Le-Coulter, Des Moines



- Yolanda Duerson, Ankeny



Commission Powers and Duties

- Study the opportunities for and changing needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander persons in this state.
- Serve as liaison between the office and the public, sharing information and gathering constituency input.
- Recommend to the board for adoption rules pursuant to chapter 17A as it deems necessary for the commission and office.
- Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general assembly.
- Establish advisory committees, work groups, or other coalitions as appropriate.

2013-2014 Commission priorities

Short term (1-3 years)

Goal 1: More collaboration with all Asian communities/ associations

Action 1: Identify all existing Asian communities and associations, churches and temples.

Action 2: Conduct outreach to these Asian Communities, associations and entities to build relationships.

Action 3: Attend Association Meetings to stay connected.

Action 4: Encourage participation in API commission meetings. One group can attend one meeting and present.

Action 5: Organize one big networking event, invite all Asian community leaders, and allow time for both formal presentation and networking.

Goal 2: Support Local Business

Action1: Work with the Immigrant Entrepreneur Summit in leadership from Chair Ben Jung.

Long term Goals:

- Community and leadership development.
- Consider and look into the idea of creating a 'Friends of the Commission of API'.
- Conduct more outreach in all parts of the state to publicize API and commission contacts. Publicize API and commission members in general to make them more visible and increase awareness.
- More interaction and exposure with legislators. This also includes meetings with the Governor

Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

- Office within the Department of Human Rights established to advocate for lowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage. Established in 2004 to ensure Iowa's Asian and Pacific Islanders have opportunities equal to other lowans.
- San Wong – Director, Department of Human Rights
- Heidi Smith- Deputy Director, Division Administrator
- Sanjita Shrestha – Executive Officer

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE OFFICE

- Serve as the central permanent agency to advocate for lowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.
- Coordinate and cooperate with the efforts of state departments and agencies to serve the needs of lowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage in participating fully in the economic, social, and cultural life of the state, and provide direct assistance to individuals who request it.
- Develop, coordinate, and assist other public or private organizations which serve lowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.
- Serve as an information clearinghouse on programs and agencies operating to assist lowans of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage.

Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Priorities 2013-2015

Priority Area 1: Language Access

Short term priorities (1-3 years)

- Ensure all service providers (state or private, Clinics and hospitals, Iowa Workforce, DOT, courts etc) have information of the language needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander population in Iowa and encourage services in appropriate languages.
- Increase the number of qualified interpreters by coordinating a training and mentoring program.

Long term priority (5-8 years)

- Work with appropriate partners (Refugee Coalition, Resettlement agencies, Refugee service providers like LSI and EMBARC, Bureau of Refugee services) to address the English only law in Iowa to be enhanced with Language Access Act – that mandates service providers to provide services in appropriate languages based on the population. Language Access Act of 2004 implemented in D.C is considered as a role model.

Priority Area 2: Better coordination of service providers, 1-3 years

- Support and encourage coalition of service providers who are providing service to Asian communities so that they do not operate in silo, have a platform to share with other agencies doing the same work and have better outcomes.
- Improve coordination of services between agencies
- Improve information sharing and participation of all API communities and agencies (IAA, IES) with API office and commissioners.
- Work more closely with all Asian Communities in Iowa.

Priority Area 3: Access to state benefits and services to API communities. 1-3 years

DOT

- Review of language access, Introduce Instruction booklet in newer languages (Burmese, Nepali), Establish and develop relationship for problem solving during crisis and emergency management.

Iowa Medicaid Enterprise:

- Ensure new Iowa Health and Wellness Plan is promoted to non-English speaking Asian populations in appropriate languages and in effective ways.

Iowa Workforce Development:

- Ensure non-English speaking Asian population is served with appropriate languages and key materials are translated in at least few predominant languages to serve non-English speaking Asian and Pacific Islander refugees and immigrants.

Department of Health:

- Develop partnership and conduct at least three health related programs targeting specific Asian and Pacific Islander populations.
- Ensure all healthcare providers provide language services to limited English speaking population.
- Provide technical assistance to healthcare providers serving Asian populations to enhance services.

Public Schools

- Facilitate in cultural awareness and diversity trainings to students and teachers to help smooth transition to newly arrived refugees.

Housing Authority

- Develop an awareness and education campaign to API residents about landlord/tenants' rights

IYC and SIYAC

- Develop strategic ways to improve Asian participation in IYC and SIYAC by at least 30% (?)

Other initiatives: 1-3 years

- Partner with community colleges and universities to conduct information sharing sessions with parents and High school students regarding higher education.
- Mentoring program – Pair up university graduates with community leaders.
- Develop collaboration with agencies outside of Des Moines to serve as local partners.

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

- Sign up to receive updates from the office. Subscribe to iowacapi@iowa.gov
- Let us know about your/community concerns and issues. Reach out to your local commissioners and the office.
- Attend commission meetings to exchange information.
- Apply for a commission position at www.openupiowa.gov
- Invite us to your community meetings to stay connected.
- Partner with us on various projects as suitable.
- Volunteer with us in the office or during special events.

RESOURCES

- <http://www.culturalorientation.net/>
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/welcome_to_your_new_home_english.pdf
- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/publications>
- <http://www.embarciowa.org/>
- <http://www.bhutaniowa.org/>
- <http://www.callopi.com/information.shtml>
- <http://www.languageline.com/solutions/interpretation/telephone-interpretation/>