1. Who are Asian Americans?

## Who is counted as "Asian"?

The 2010 United States Census defined "**Asian**" as a person with origins "in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent." "Asians" is a very diverse Census category and includes a wide range of ethnic/cultural groups such as Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indonesian, and others.1

## Who is counted as "Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander"?

The 2010 United States Census defined "**Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander**" as a person with origins in the "original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands." 1  In other reporting, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders are sometimes grouped together with Asians as Asian/Pacific Islander American.

## How are people asked to report their race and ethnicity on the United States Census?

Although information about race has been collected on the U.S. census since 1790, the racial categories used are constantly evolving. For example, in 2000, Americans were able to identify themselves as more than one racial group for the first time. The five **race** categories used in the most recent U.S. Census in 2010 were: White, Black or African American, American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Americans could also identify as "Some Other Race." In addition to reporting a race, Americans were also expected to report an **ethnicity**: either "Hispanic or Latino", or "Not Hispanic or Latino."1

## What subgroups of Asians live in the U.S.?

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| Asian subgroup | Population 2 |
| Total Asian Alone | 14,674,252 |
| Asian Indian | 2,843,391 |
| Bangladeshi | 128,792 |
| Bhutanese | 15,290 |
| Burmese | 91,085 |
| Cambodian | 231,616 |
| Chinese | 3,347,229 |
| Chinese, except Taiwanese | 3,137,061 |
| Taiwanese | 196,691 |
| Filipino | 2,555,923 |
| Hmong | 247,595 |
| Indonesian | 63,383 |
| Iwo Jiman | 1 |
| Japanese | 763,325 |
| Korean | 1,423,784 |
| Laotian | 191,200 |
| Malaysian | 16,138 |
| Maldivian | 98 |
| Mongolian | 14,366 |
| Nepalese | 51,907 |
| Okinawan | 2,753 |
| Pakistani | 363,699 |
| Singaporean | 3,418 |
| Sri Lankan | 38,596 |
| Thai | 166,620 |
| Vietnamese | 1,548,449 |
| Other Asian, not specified | 218,922 |
| Persons of Two or More Asian Categories | 346,672 |
| Asian in Combination with Another Race | 2,646,604 |

## How many Asians live in the U.S?

The precise number of Asians living in the United States varies based on how they are counted and categorized. This is why facts and figures about Asians may appear to differ across sources, depending on which numbers the authors choose to report.

* There are **14.7 million (4.8%) Asians**, when counted as "**Asian alone"**. The "Asian alone" population estimate only includes Asians who report membership in a single race category. This can be seen as the minimum estimate of Asians in the U.S.
* There are **17.3 million (5.6%) Asians** when counted as **"Asians alone-or-in combination**" with other races. The "Asian alone-or-in combination" number includes all Asians, regardless of how many races they report.
* There are **14.5 million (4.6%) Asians** when counting by "**mutually exclusive race and Hispanic origin**". This number only includes Asians who report one race only, and also non-Hispanic ethnicity. 1 This number is often used in discussions where race and ethnicity are collapsed.

## What are the population trends for Asians in the U.S.?

* Between 2000 and 2010, the **Asian population grew by 43%.** This increase was greater than for any other racial group, and four times the growth of the U.S. population over all.
* **Multi-racial Asians make up 15% of the total Asian population in the U.S.** Their numbers increased by 60%: faster than that of Asians reporting only one race.2

## References

1 U.S. Census Bureau. (2011). Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010. Retrieved June 29, 2014 from http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf

2 U.S. Census Bureau. (2012). The Asian Population: 2010 . Retrieved May 25, 2014 from http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-11.pdf.

U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). Profile America Facts for Features, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month: May 2014. Retrieved June 29, 2014 from https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/facts\_for\_features\_special\_editions/cb14-ff13.html