

It's time. Make yourself count.

Census 2010



Asian-American and Pacific Islander Families and the 2010 Census

The 2010 census will influence the health and well-being of Asian-American and Pacific Islander families and the political power of their communities for the next 10 years. The U.S. Constitution requires everyone living in the United States to be counted every 10 years, regardless of citizenship or residency status. In March 2010, every household will receive a census form in the mail that by law must be completed and mailed back by April

An Accurate Census Benefits Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Governments and private companies use census numbers in deciding where to spend money for schools, housing, health care, job training, economic development and more. Every person who goes uncounted costs the community more than \$14,000 over 10 years in funding for these important public services.

Census information also helps to determine political representation and enforce civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in housing and employment. For example:

- **Political Power** – Census figures are used to shape federal, state, and local voting districts, which determine whether Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are fairly represented in Congress, state legislatures and local councils and boards. Census numbers are used to enforce the federal Voting Rights Act to protect Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders from discrimination.
- **Education** – Billions of dollars in education funding are distributed based on census information.
- **Health care** – Census information is used by medical caregivers to identify language needs and specific health issues that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders face.
- **Jobs** – The census influences the distribution of community development block grants and is used by state governments and private companies to decide where to invest in new housing, roads, and shopping centers. Census information also helps the government monitor discrimination and enforce the Civil Rights Act of 1965, which ensures equal opportunity in the workplace.

Federal Funding

More than \$400 billion in federal funding is distributed every year based on census information. Here are some ways the census affects Asian-American and Pacific Islander children, families, and communities.

- **Title 1: Support for schools serving low-income students – \$7.7 billion**
Thirty percent of Asian-American and Pacific Islander students attend high-poverty schools that are targeted by Title 1, which provides financial assistance to local educational agencies and schools with high numbers or percentages of low-income children. In the 2006-07 school year, Title I served more than half a million Asian-American and Pacific Islander children.
- **English Language Acquisition Grants – \$647 million**
Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act authorizes grants to states to serve students with limited English proficiency. [In 2005](#), Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were among the racial/ethnic minorities with the highest percentages of students who spoke English with difficulty. Over 33 percent of the Asian-American community has limited English proficiency, and 63 percent are foreign-born. Amongst the PI population, [24 percent are foreign born](#). On average, Asian-American and Pacific Islander students attend schools that are 25 percent Asian-American and have a high concentration of English language learners.

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- **Head Start – \$5.7 billion**

Head Start provides grants for early childhood education and development programs for economically disadvantaged children and families, with a focus on helping pre-school children get ready for school and engaging parents in the learning process. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up about 2.5 percent of Head Start enrollment.

- **Medicaid**

In 2006, about 1.4 million Asian Americans were enrolled in Medicaid, which provides medical benefits to people without insurance or with inadequate insurance. In 2008, [14 percent of Asian Americans and 11 percent of Pacific Islanders](#) were enrolled in Medicaid or some other public insurance program.

Barriers to Counting Asian Americans

Evidence indicates that communities of color are disproportionately undercounted in the census. Several reasons account for the undercount of Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities:

- Lower education levels or limited English proficiency that can affect the ability to understand the census;
- General misunderstanding of the importance of census participation;
- Fears that the census may be used by immigration or law enforcement officials to deport an individual or family member or disqualify someone for social welfare programs.

It's important to acknowledge and address those fears directly. Here are some facts that respected community leaders can help deliver between now and April 1, 2010.

- Census answers cannot be used against you in any way. Individual census responses are confidential and protected by the strongest national privacy laws on the books.
- The census form does not ask about citizenship status.
- The U.S. Department of Justice has issued a statement declaring that no other law – not even the PATRIOT Act – overrides the confidentiality of the census.
- No other government agency – not immigration officials, law enforcement, housing authorities, or the courts – can get any person's individual census answers for the next 72 years.
- Every census worker swears an oath to keep information confidential – and anyone who violates that confidentiality can be imprisoned for up to five years and fined \$250,000.

The Census Bureau and its Partners are Working to Get a Full Count

The Census Bureau is working with its national and local partners to help overcome the barriers to an accurate count of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in the United States. Millions of census questionnaires will be available in languages other than English. Bilingual assistance will be provided not only by telephone but also through community-based assistance centers. Paid advertising by the Bureau and its partners will encourage people to participate. The Leadership Conference Education Fund and the Asian American Justice Center are working together to mobilize census participation in Asian American communities.

More information is available from The Leadership Conference Education Fund at www.civilrights.org/census and from the Asian American Justice Center at www.fillinourfuture.org.