

# Challenges and opportunities for understanding mobility among Asian Americans

February 15, 2022

Presentation for the National Academies of  
Sciences Engineering Medicine

Jennifer Lee

Department of Sociology

Columbia University

lee.jennifer@columbia.edu @JLeeSoc

# Our Team



Karthick Ramakrishnan  
Founder and co-Director



Janelle Wong  
co-Director



Jennifer Lee  
Senior Researcher



Ninez Ponce  
Senior Researcher



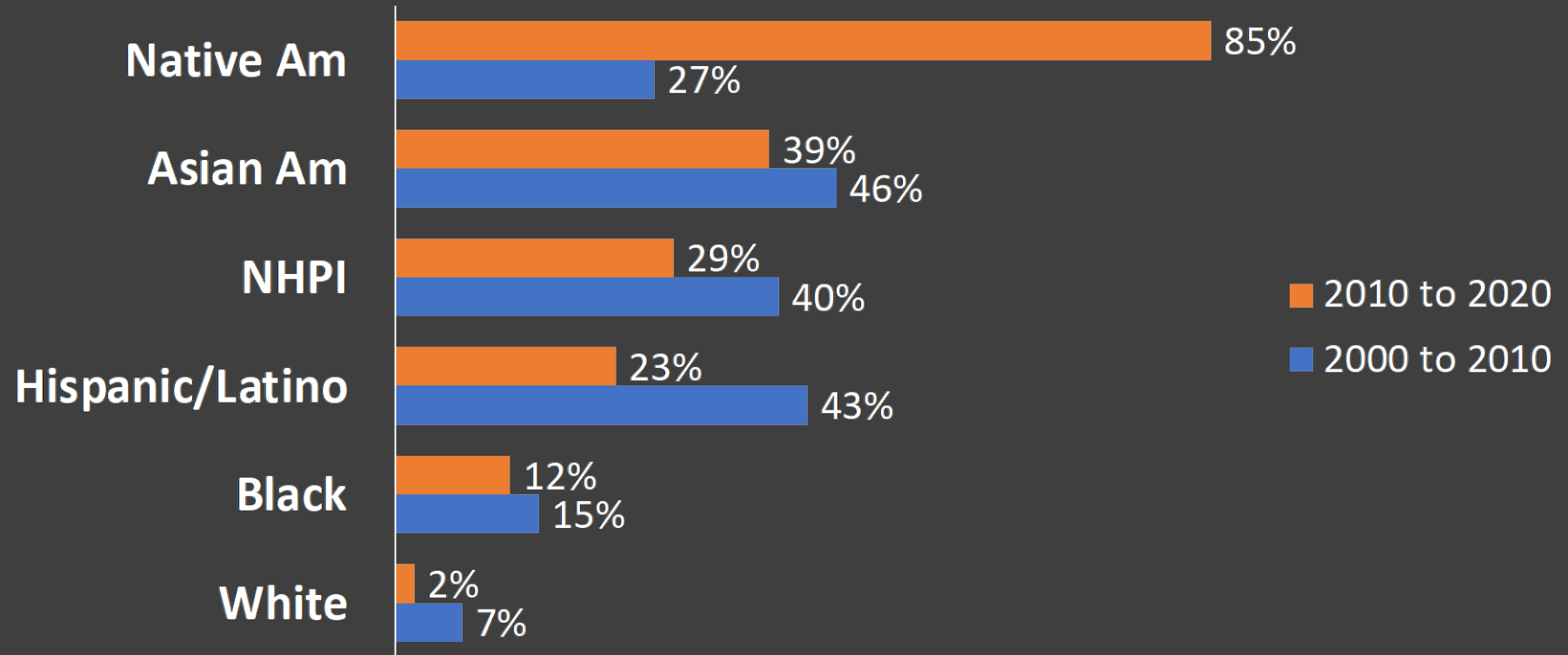
Sara Sadhwani  
Senior Researcher



Ryan Vinh  
Data & Community Partnerships

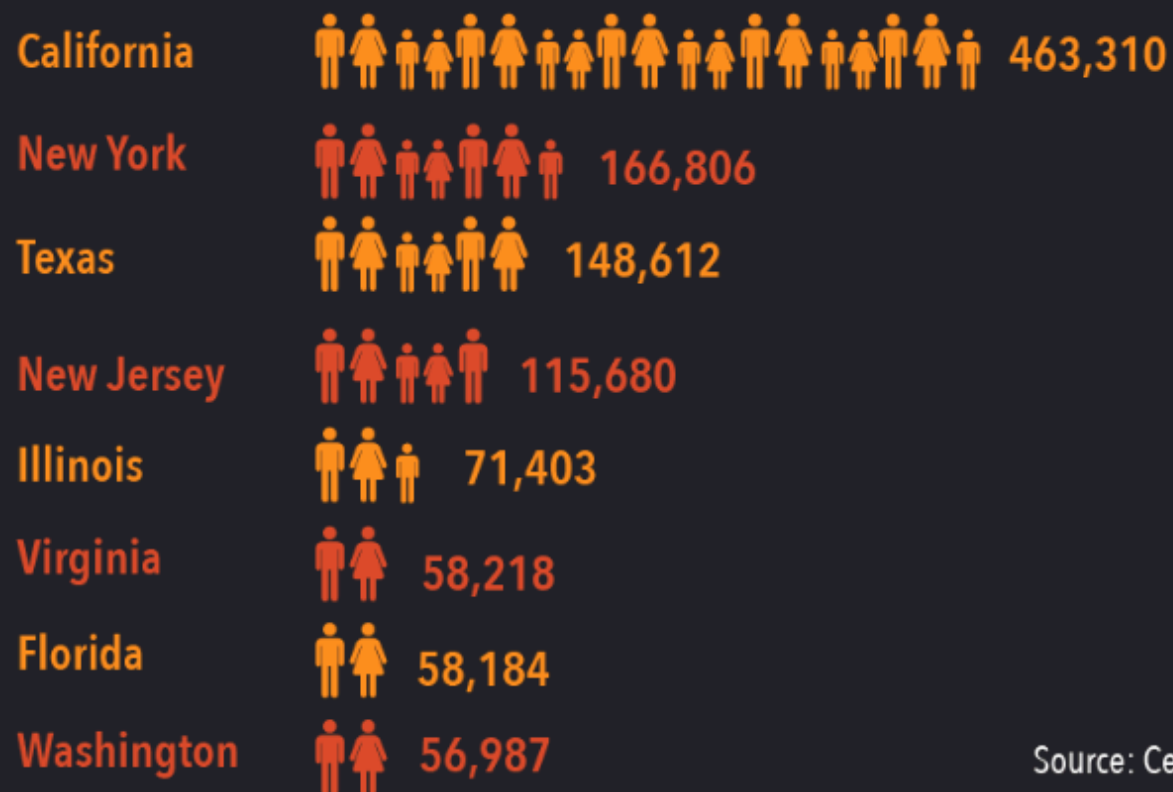


# Rapid Growth of the US Asian Population



*Calculations from U.S. Census Bureau, Race alone/combination and Hispanic origin*

## WHERE DO THE **1.7 MILLION** ASIAN AMERICAN UNDOCUMENTED LIVE?



**A A P I**  
**D A T A**

Source: Center for Migration Studies, 2015

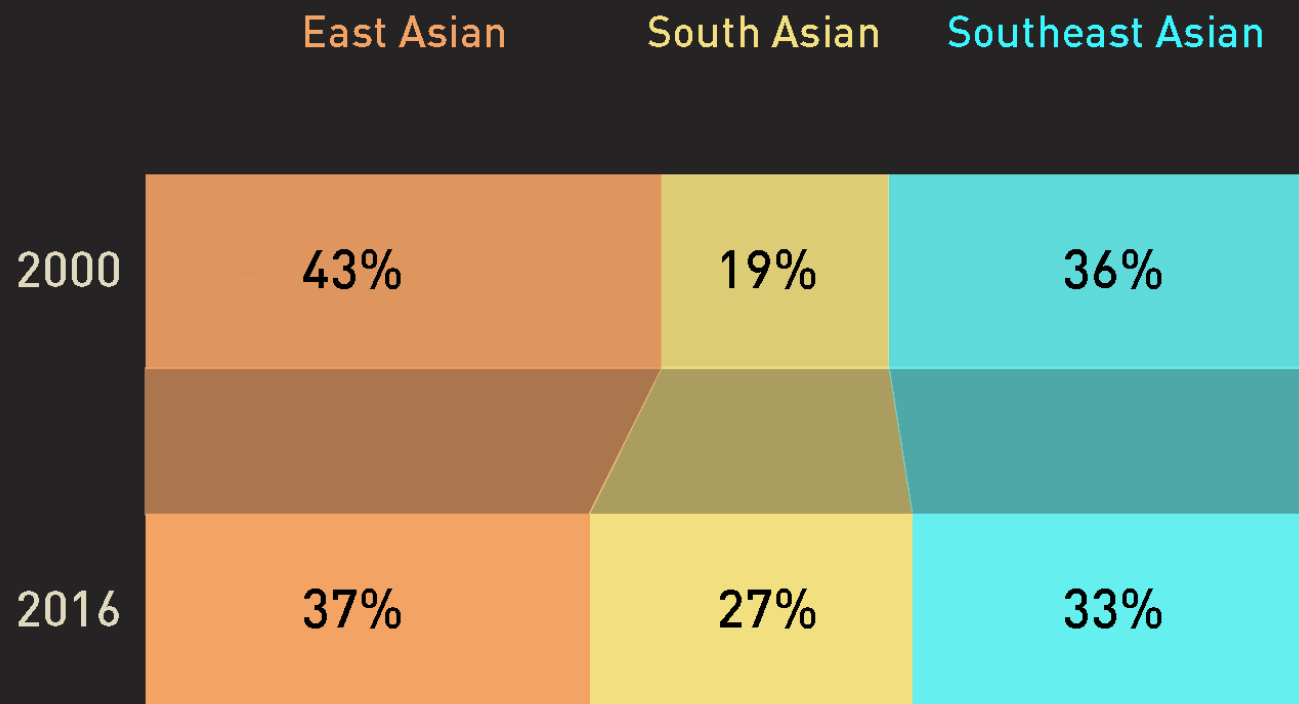
# One out of every 7 Asian immigrants is undocumented

**A A P I**  
**D A T A**

**A A P I**  
**D A T A**

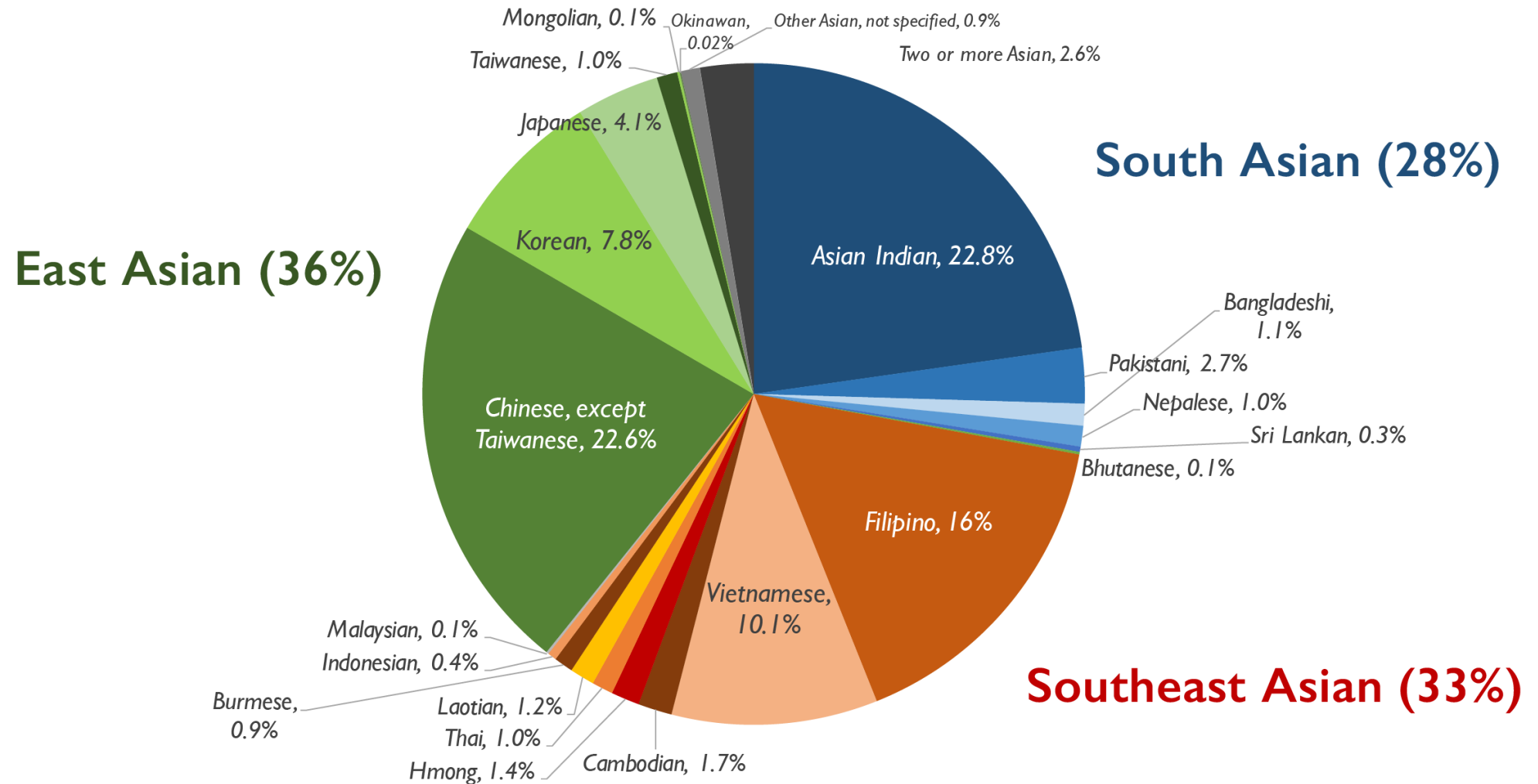
**Data Bits**

## Asian Americans: Growing Share of South Asians



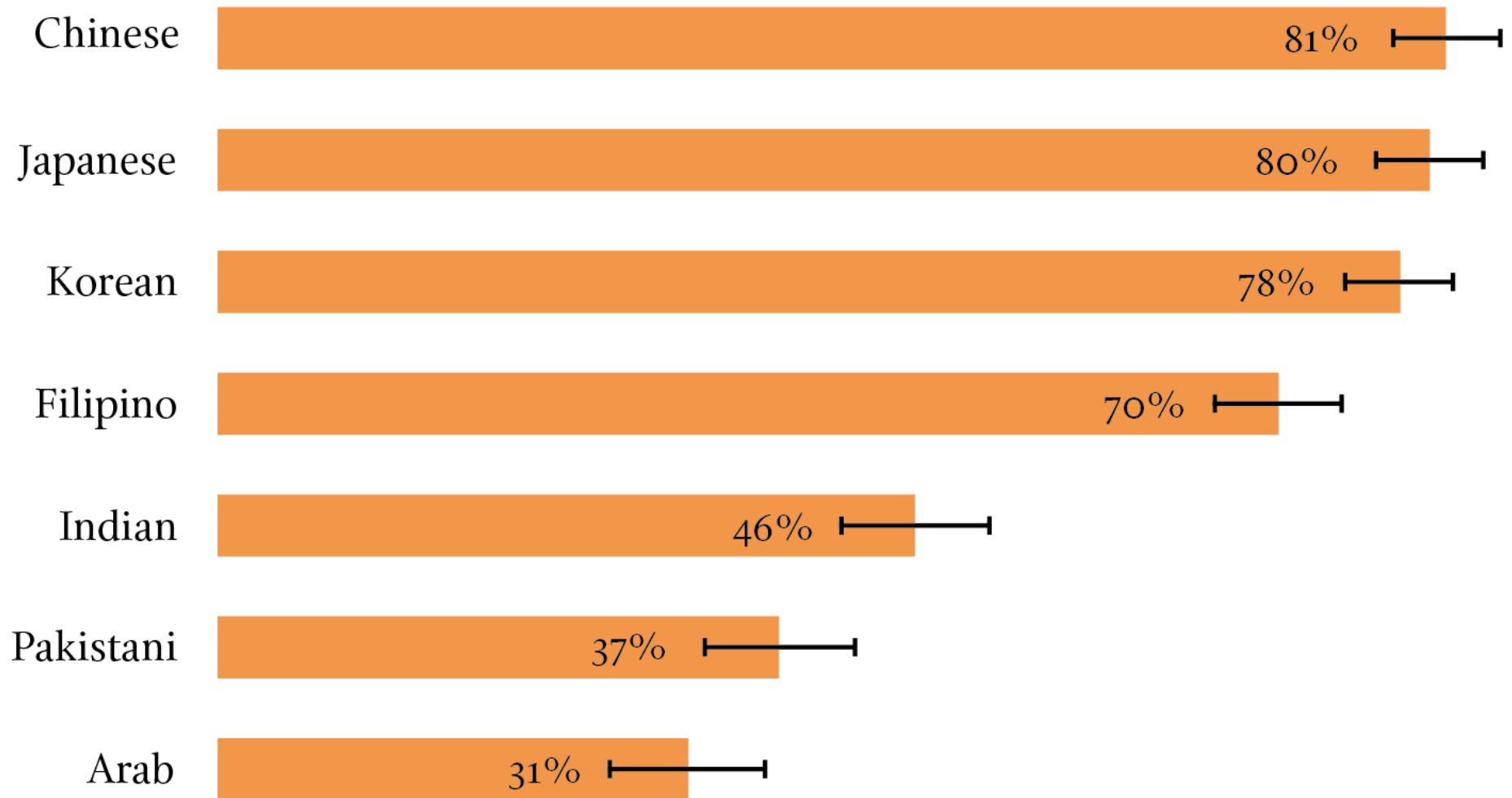
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Asian Alone by Selected Groups

## Detailed Origin by Region for the “Asian alone” Population, 2019



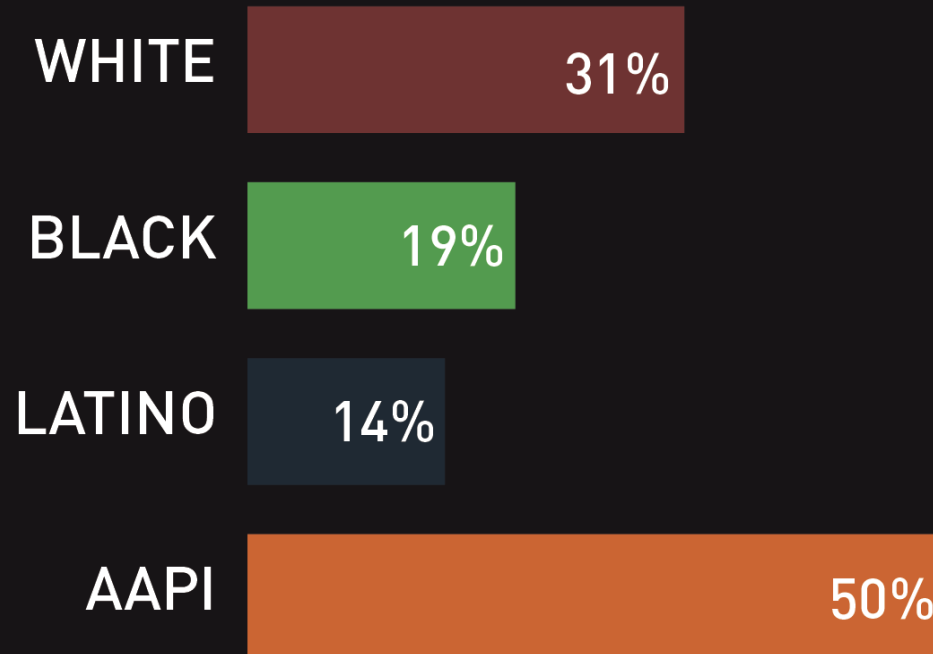
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2019 American Community Survey

# Percent of Americans Who Consider Each Group as “Asian” or “Asian American”





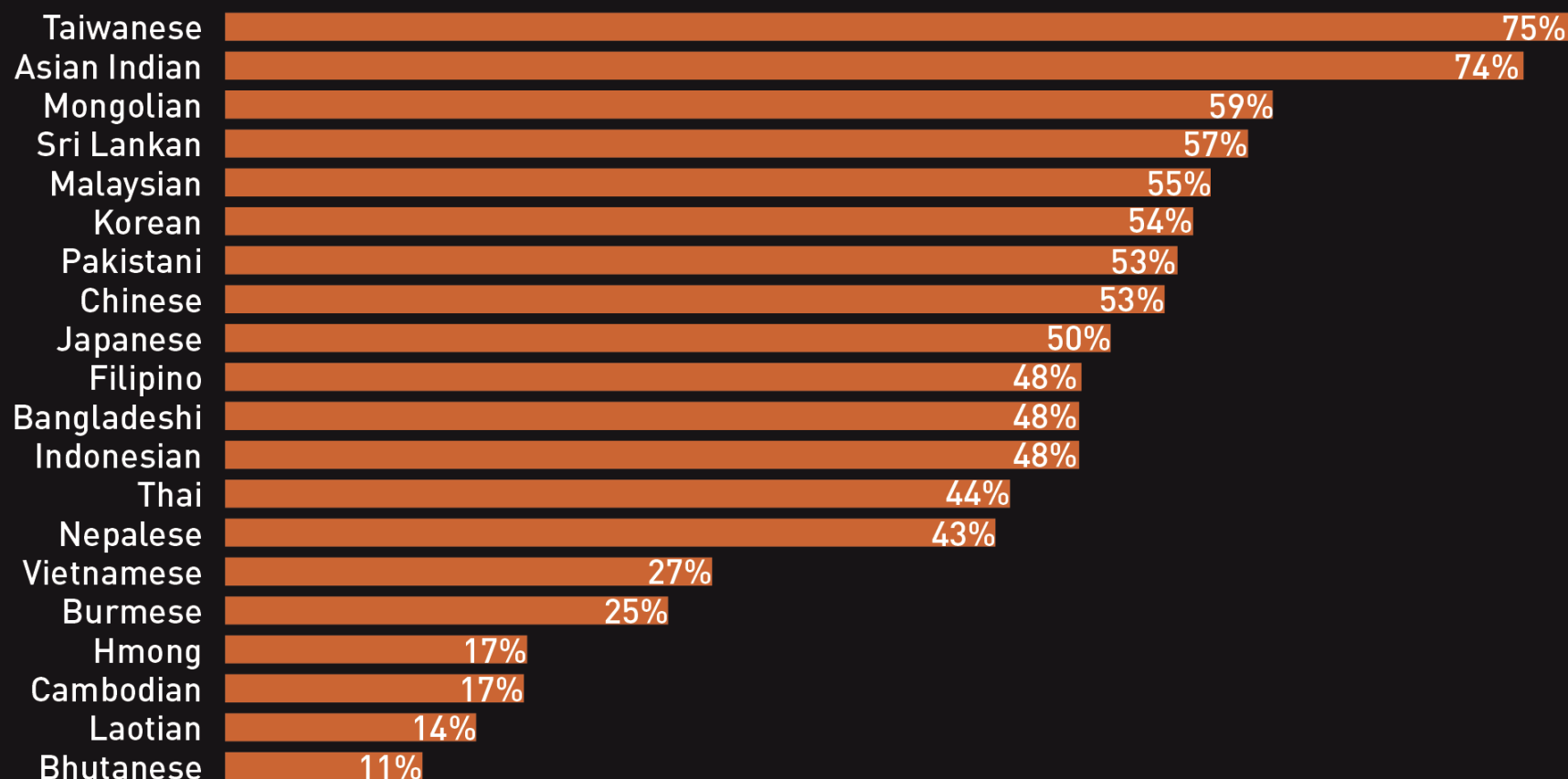
## Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Source: 2015 ACS Microdata

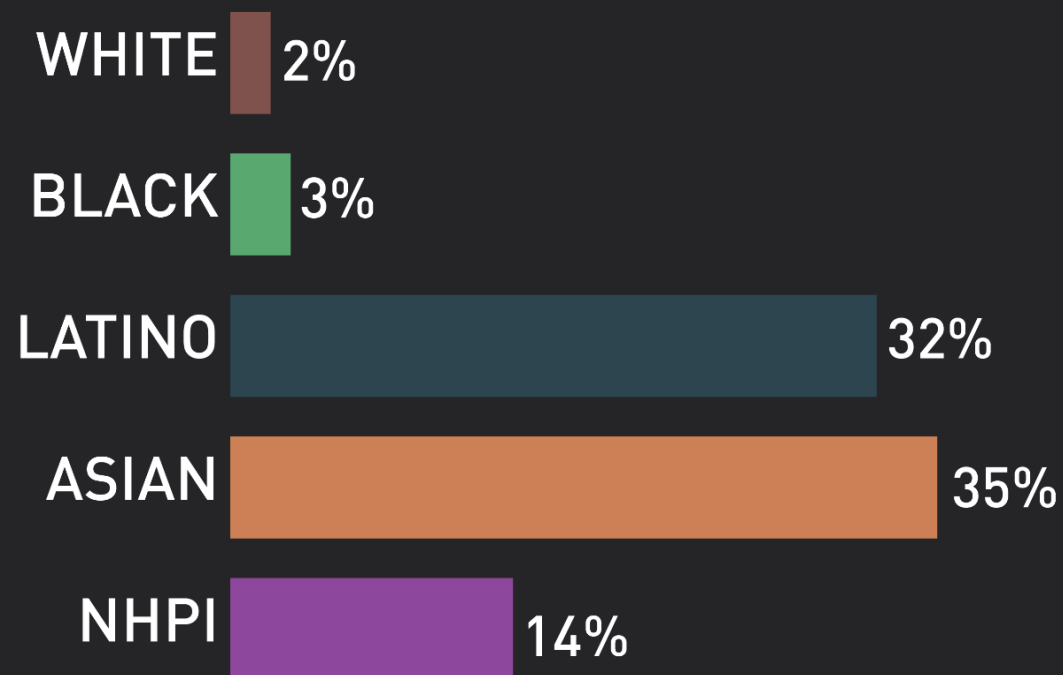


## Bachelor's Degree or Higher



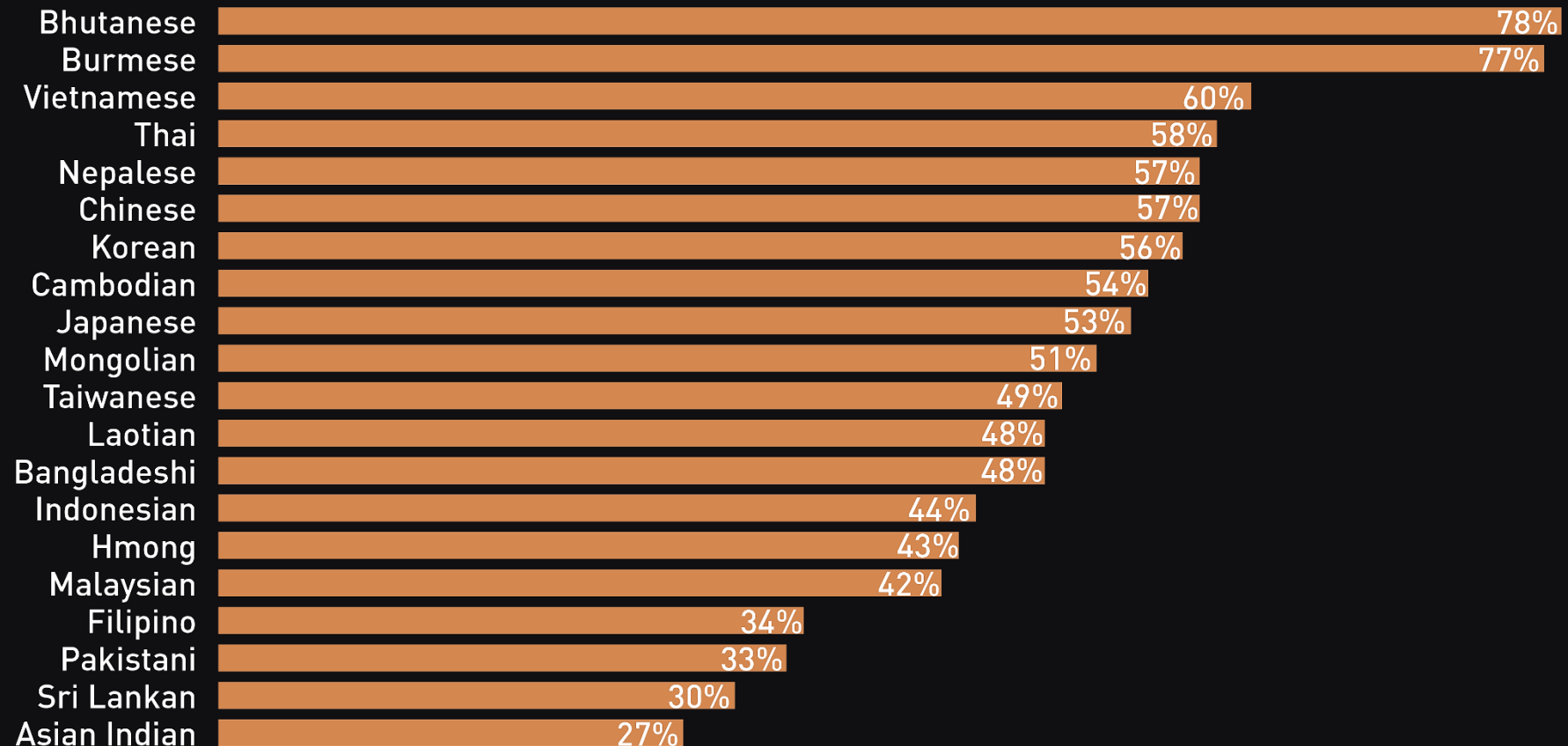


## Limited English Proficiency



Source: 2015 American Community Survey, Table B16005

## Limited English Proficiency



Source: Analysis of 2015 American Community Survey Microdata

# I. Data Disaggregation

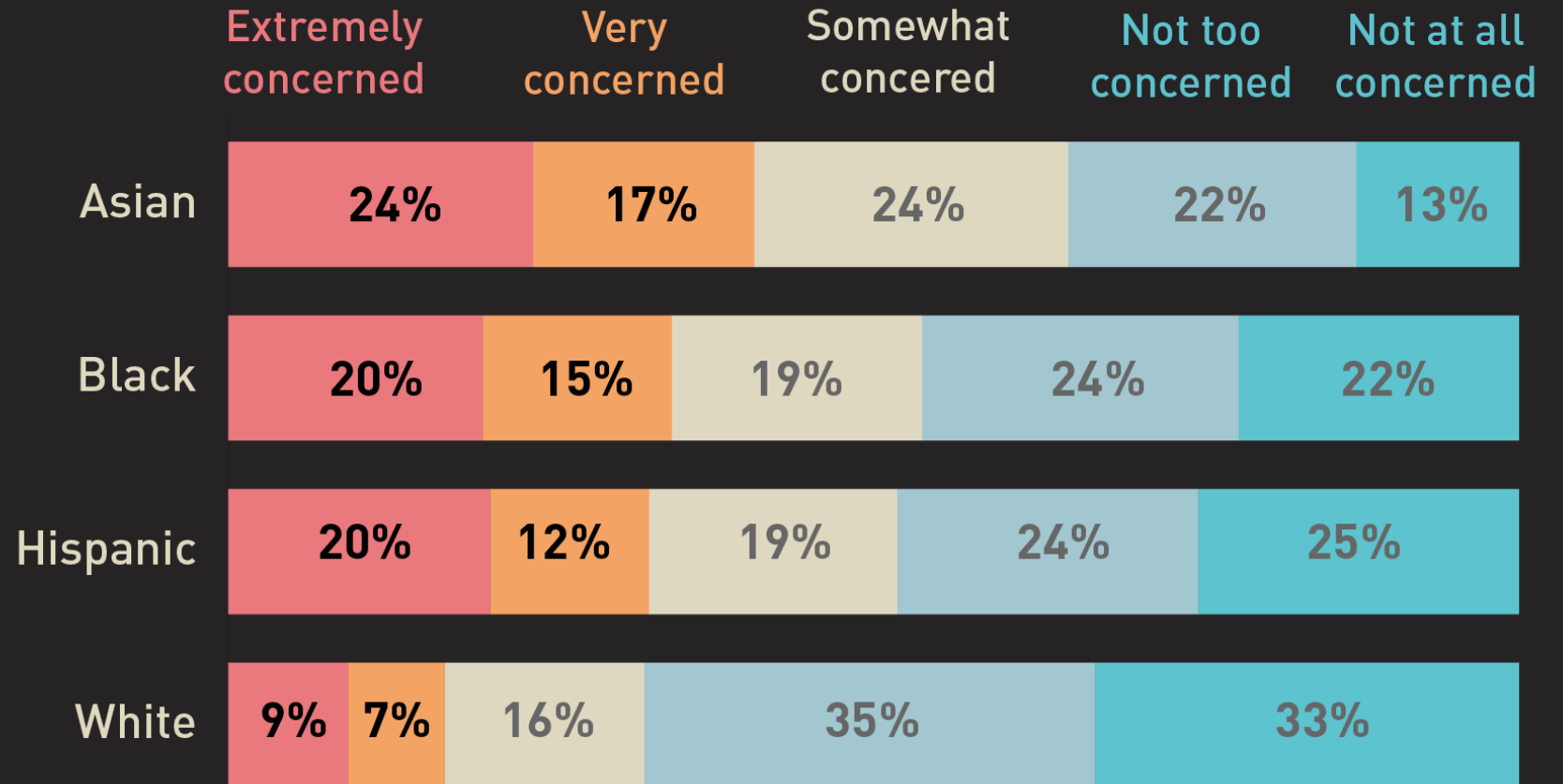
is key to understanding the Asian  
American population and  
is a civil rights issue





Data bits

## How concerned are you, if at all, that the answers you provide to the 2020 Census will be used against you?

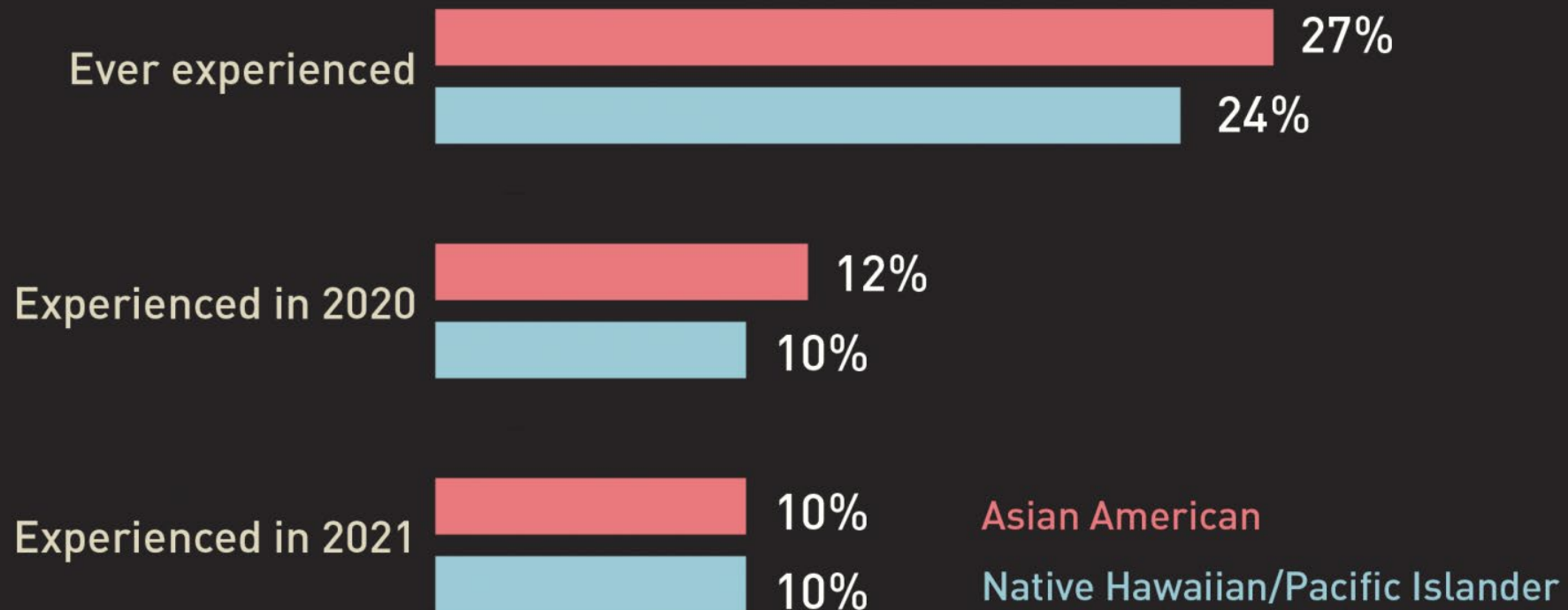


Note: White, Black, Asian, and Small sample are non-Hispanic

Source: 2020 CBAMS Survey Report, U.S. Census Bureau



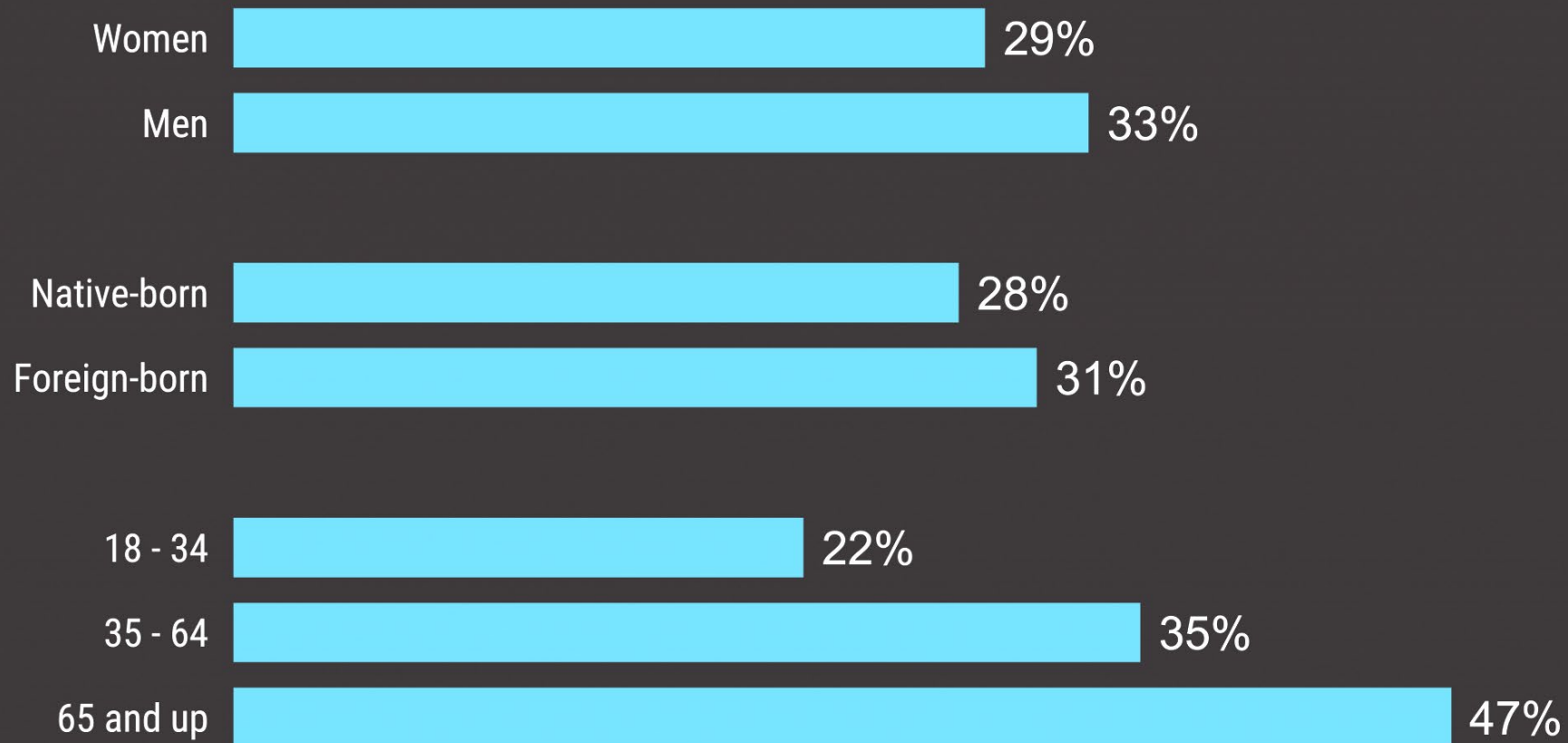
## Experiences with Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents



Source: 2021 American Experiences with Discrimination Survey, SurveyMonkey and AAPI Data

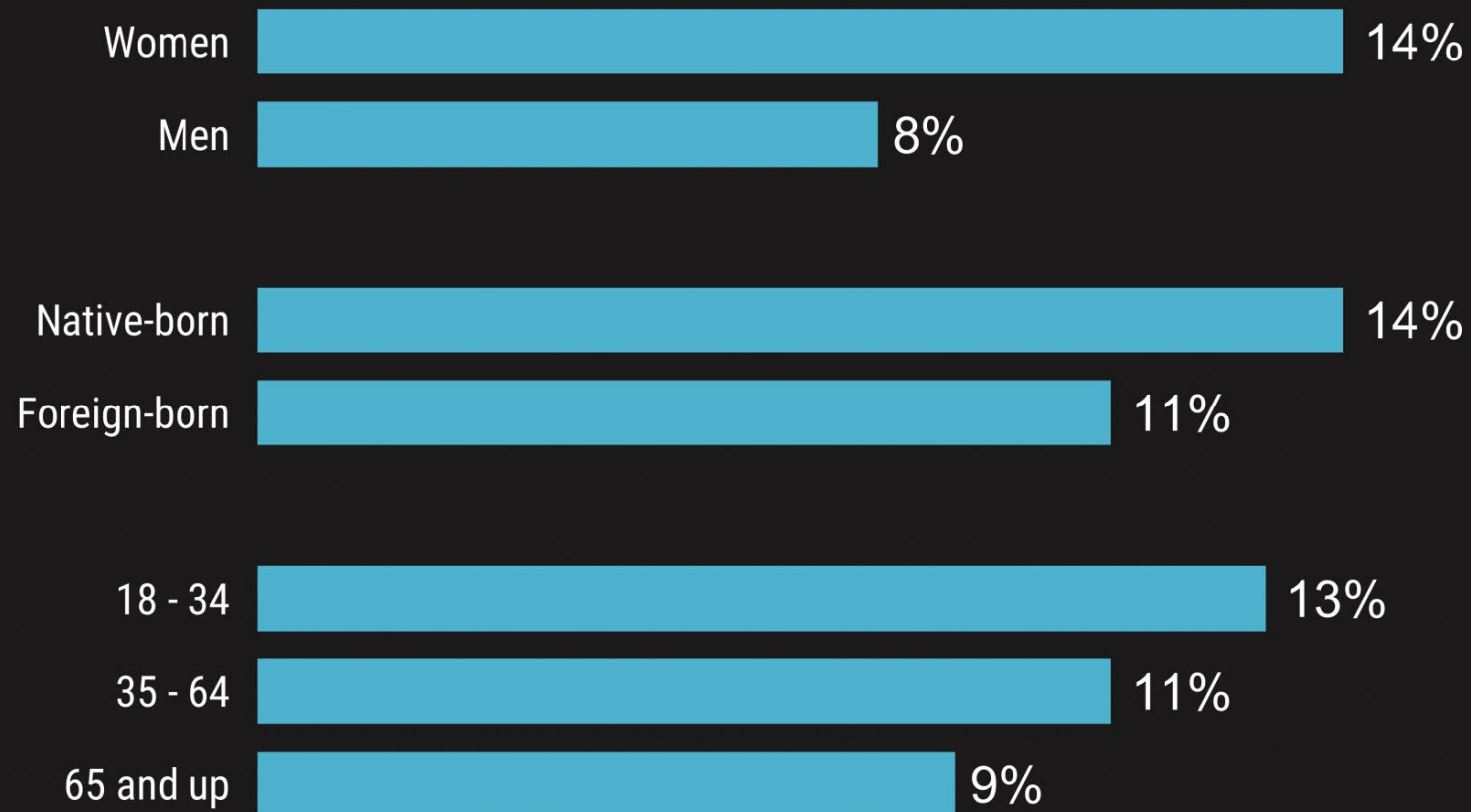
## How comfortable would you be reporting a hate crime to law enforcement authorities?

*Answered "Very comfortable"*



## How often do you worry about being a victim of a hate crime these days?

*Answered "All the time"*



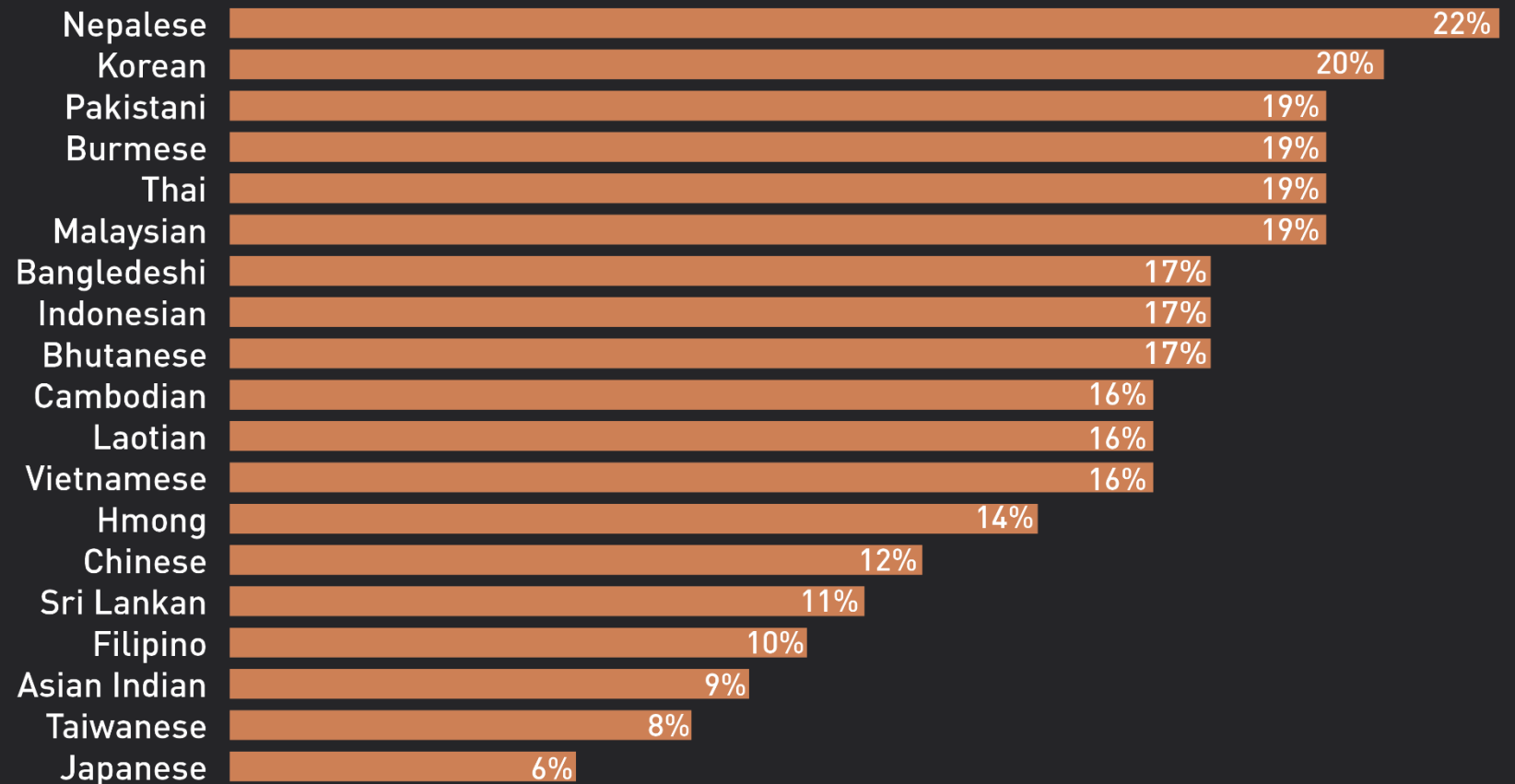


# II. Institutional Trust

US Census, Criminal Justice System,  
Health Care System



## No Health Insurance



Source: Analysis of 2015 American Community Survey Microdata



# Health Disparities

- **South Asians and Filipinos:** T2DM
- **Korean and Japanese:** Gastric Cancer
- **Vietnamese:** Lung Cancer

**No national guidelines for early detection of high-risk cancers for Asian Americans**

# NIH has invested only 0.17% of its budget on AAPIs between 1992 and 2018

**Annals of Internal Medicine®**

Search Journal

[LATEST](#) [ISSUES](#) [IN THE CLINIC](#) [JOURNAL CLUB](#) [MULTIMEDIA](#) [CME / MOC](#) [AUTHORS / SUBMIT](#)

Special Articles | 4 January 2022

## Knowledge Gaps, Challenges, and Opportunities in Health and Prevention Research for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders: A Report From the 2021 National Institutes of Health Workshop

Alka M. Kanaya, MD\*, Ann W. Hsing, PhD, MPH\*  , Sela V. Panapasa, PhD  , ... [View all authors](#) 

[Author, Article and Disclosure Information](#)

<https://doi-org.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/10.7326/M21-3729>

**A A P I**  
**D A T A**

# III. Historic Lack of Investment

- Of the \$19 billion awarded by foundations between 1983 and 1990, only 0.18% was awarded to AAPI organizations.
- In 2018, the figure increased to 0.20%
  - For every \$100 awarded by foundations, only 20 cents was designated for AAPI communities.

**TAAF raised \$1.1 billion to address a longstanding lack of investment in AAPI communities and to combat anti-Asian hate**

**A A P I**  
**D A T A**



**THE ASIAN AMERICAN FOUNDATION**

A A P I  
D A T A

# Recommendations

# Recommendation I: Data Collection Standards

## 1. Expand collection categories for the following Asian sub-populations

- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Asian Indian
- ☐ Filipino
- ☐ Japanese
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Cambodian
- ☐ Hmong
- ☐ Laotian
- ☐ Thai
- ☐ Taiwanese
- ☐ Burmese
- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Nepalese

## 2. Expand collection categories for the following NHPI sub-populations

- ☐ Native Hawaiian
- ☐ Samoan
- ☐ Chamorro
- ☐ Tongan
- ☐ iTaukei
- ☐ Marshallese
- ☐ Other Pacific Islander

## 3. Expand collection categories for gender identity, including women and gender expansive individuals

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Intersex
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Cisgender
- ☐ Prefer not to disclose

## 4. Implement the American Community Survey practice of collecting information on nativity, including country of birth of the individual and each parent



# Recommendation II: Data Equity

Data Equity in all stages of Design,  
Analysis, and Dissemination

- Designing data collection instruments that are linguistically and culturally appropriate

# Recommendation III: Inclusion and Trust

**INCLUDE** community leaders and scientific experts at all stages of federal statistical data collection, which will also help build institutional **TRUST**

- **Create and support a Scientific Advisory Committee and a Community Advisory Committee on data equity (e.g., US Census: CSAC and NAC)**

# Recommendation IV: Investment

- The surge in anti-Asian hate has exposed the historic lack of investment in Asian American communities
- The mass murder in Atlanta was a watershed moment
- Break the historic norm of neglect



**Thank you!**

**Jennifer Lee**

**Department of Sociology  
Columbia University**

**lee.jennifer@columbia.edu**

**@JLeeSoc**