

The Asian Population in the United States: 1980 to 2010

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The Asian population in the United States played a major role in changing the nation's racial diversity during the last several decades. The Asian population grew from 3.2 million in 1980 to 10.2 million in 2000, a three-fold increase in only two decades. The Asian population change from 2000 to 2010 was 4.4 million or 43 percent, making it the fastest-growing race group in the United States in the last decade.¹ The Asian population share of the total population moved up from about 4 percent in 2000 to about 5 percent in 2010, the largest percentage-point gain in share, compared with other race groups.

If the Asian population's recent pace of growth continues during the coming decades, it would probably make the racial diversity wider at all levels of geography. This poster provides a descriptive analysis of the Asian population's size and growth using decennial census data from 1980 to 2010. The poster focuses on subnational distributions of the Asian population as well as its changing demographic characteristics such as age and sex, and homeownership rates.

Table 1 provides an example of the type of analysis we plan to conduct at the national, regional, and state levels for selected characteristics of the Asian population for the periods 1980-1990, 1990-2000, and 2000-2010. Between 2000 and 2010, California experienced the largest numeric increase in the Asian alone population (1,163,494); followed by Texas (402,277); New York (375,268); New Jersey (245,450); and Florida (188,565). Nevada's Asian alone population more than doubled (116.5 percent) in the last decade, from 90,266 Asians in 2000 to 195,436 Asians in 2010. As a result, the Asian alone population share of Nevada's total population increased from 4.5 percent in 2000 to 7.2 percent in 2010. Hawaii's Asian alone population, on the other hand, grew by only 4.2 percent; although its Asian population shares were the highest of all states, both in 2000 and 2010 (41.6 percent and 38.6 percent, respectively).

What were the patterns of Asian population change in the other two decades? Which detailed Asian group contributed most to the Asian population growth in each decade – Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese? Did the geographic distribution of the detailed Asian groups change over time? This poster attempts to provide a detailed portrait of the Asian population in the United States and contributes to our understanding of the nation's changing racial diversity since 1980.

¹ For the years 2000 and 2010, the Asian population refers to a single race category: *Asian alone*. For the years 1980 and 1990, people could provide only one response to the question on race. Therefore, the Asian population totals for these years cannot distinguish between the *Asian alone* and the *Asian in combination* populations.

Table 1.
Asian Alone Population Change by State: 2000 to 2010

Area	2000			2010			Asian alone population change, 2000 to 2010		
	Total	Asian alone	Asian alone percentage share	Total	Asian alone	Asian alone percentage share	Number	Percent	Percentage-point share
United States	281,421,906	10,242,998	3.6	308,745,538	14,674,252	4.8	4,431,254	43.3	1.1
Alabama	4,447,100	31,346	0.7	4,779,736	53,595	1.1	22,249	71.0	0.4
Alaska	626,932	25,116	4.0	710,231	38,135	5.4	13,019	51.8	1.4
Arizona	5,130,632	92,236	1.8	6,392,017	176,695	2.8	84,459	91.6	1.0
Arkansas	2,673,400	20,220	0.8	2,915,918	36,102	1.2	15,882	78.5	0.5
California	33,871,648	3,697,513	10.9	37,253,956	4,861,007	13.0	1,163,494	31.5	2.1
Colorado	4,301,261	95,213	2.2	5,029,196	139,028	2.8	43,815	46.0	0.6
Connecticut	3,405,565	82,313	2.4	3,574,097	135,565	3.8	53,252	64.7	1.4
Delaware	783,600	16,259	2.1	897,934	28,549	3.2	12,290	75.6	1.1
District of Columbia	572,059	15,189	2.7	601,723	21,056	3.5	5,867	38.6	0.8
Florida	15,982,378	266,256	1.7	18,801,310	454,821	2.4	188,565	70.8	0.8
Georgia	8,186,453	173,170	2.1	9,687,653	314,467	3.2	141,297	81.6	1.1
Hawaii	1,211,537	503,868	41.6	1,360,301	525,078	38.6	21,210	4.2	-3.0
Idaho	1,293,953	11,889	0.9	1,567,582	19,069	1.2	7,180	60.4	0.3
Illinois	12,419,293	423,603	3.4	12,830,632	586,934	4.6	163,331	38.6	1.2
Indiana	6,080,485	59,126	1.0	6,483,802	102,474	1.6	43,348	73.3	0.6
Iowa	2,926,324	36,635	1.3	3,046,355	53,094	1.7	16,459	44.9	0.5
Kansas	2,688,418	46,806	1.7	2,853,118	67,762	2.4	20,956	44.8	0.6
Kentucky	4,041,769	29,744	0.7	4,339,367	48,930	1.1	19,186	64.5	0.4
Louisiana	4,468,976	54,758	1.2	4,533,372	70,132	1.5	15,374	28.1	0.3
Maine	1,274,923	9,111	0.7	1,328,361	13,571	1.0	4,460	49.0	0.3
Maryland	5,296,486	210,929	4.0	5,773,552	318,853	5.5	107,924	51.2	1.5
Massachusetts	6,349,097	238,124	3.8	6,547,629	349,768	5.3	111,644	46.9	1.6
Michigan	9,938,444	176,510	1.8	9,883,640	238,199	2.4	61,689	34.9	0.6
Minnesota	4,919,479	141,968	2.9	5,303,925	214,234	4.0	72,266	50.9	1.2
Mississippi	2,844,658	18,626	0.7	2,967,297	25,742	0.9	7,116	38.2	0.2
Missouri	5,595,211	61,595	1.1	5,988,927	98,083	1.6	36,488	59.2	0.5
Montana	902,195	4,691	0.5	989,415	6,253	0.6	1,562	33.3	0.1
Nebraska	1,711,263	21,931	1.3	1,826,341	32,293	1.8	10,362	47.2	0.5
Nevada	1,998,257	90,266	4.5	2,700,551	195,436	7.2	105,170	116.5	2.7
New Hampshire	1,235,786	15,931	1.3	1,316,470	28,407	2.2	12,476	78.3	0.9
New Jersey	8,414,350	480,276	5.7	8,791,894	725,726	8.3	245,450	51.1	2.5
New Mexico	1,819,046	19,255	1.1	2,059,179	28,208	1.4	8,953	46.5	0.3
New York	18,976,457	1,044,976	5.5	19,378,102	1,420,244	7.3	375,268	35.9	1.8
North Carolina	8,049,313	113,689	1.4	9,535,483	208,962	2.2	95,273	83.8	0.8
North Dakota	642,200	3,606	0.6	672,591	6,909	1.0	3,303	91.6	0.5
Ohio	11,353,140	132,633	1.2	11,536,504	192,233	1.7	59,600	44.9	0.5
Oklahoma	3,450,654	46,767	1.4	3,751,351	65,076	1.7	18,309	39.1	0.4
Oregon	3,421,399	101,350	3.0	3,831,074	141,263	3.7	39,913	39.4	0.7
Pennsylvania	12,281,054	219,813	1.8	12,702,379	349,088	2.7	129,275	58.8	1.0
Rhode Island	1,048,319	23,665	2.3	1,052,567	30,457	2.9	6,792	28.7	0.6
South Carolina	4,012,012	36,014	0.9	4,625,364	59,051	1.3	23,037	64.0	0.4
South Dakota	754,844	4,378	0.6	814,180	7,610	0.9	3,232	73.8	0.4
Tennessee	5,689,283	56,662	1.0	6,346,105	91,242	1.4	34,580	61.0	0.4
Texas	20,851,820	562,319	2.7	25,145,561	964,596	3.8	402,277	71.5	1.1
Utah	2,233,169	37,108	1.7	2,763,885	55,285	2.0	18,177	49.0	0.3
Vermont	608,827	5,217	0.9	625,741	7,947	1.3	2,730	52.3	0.4
Virginia	7,078,515	261,025	3.7	8,001,024	439,890	5.5	178,865	68.5	1.8
Washington	5,894,121	322,335	5.5	6,724,540	481,067	7.2	158,732	49.2	1.7
West Virginia	1,808,344	9,434	0.5	1,852,994	12,406	0.7	2,972	31.5	0.1
Wisconsin	5,363,675	88,763	1.7	5,686,986	129,234	2.3	40,471	45.6	0.6
Wyoming	493,782	2,771	0.6	563,626	4,426	0.8	1,655	59.7	0.2
Puerto Rico	3,808,610	7,960	0.2	3,725,789	6,831	0.2	-1,129	-14.2	0.0

Note: The *alone* population refers to individuals who responded to the race question by indicating only one of the six race categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and Some Other Race.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010 Census.