2018

Profile of Asian Americans Age 65 and Over



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The Administration for Community Living, which includes the Administration on Aging, is an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Introduction

In 2017, there were 50.9 million Americans age 65 and over and 6.5 million age 85 and over. The population age 65 and older is expected to increase to 94.7 million in 2060. The population age 85 and older is expected to more than double to 19 million during the same period. Among the population age 65 and over, there were 125 women for every 100 men. At age 85 and over, this ratio increased to 184 women for every 100 men. Along with these general trends for America's older population, the Asian American older population is also growing.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2017 and Population Projections, 2017 (revised)

Note: Increments in years are uneven. Lighter bars indicate projections.

The non-Hispanic Asian American population age 65 and over was 2,262,155 in 2017 and is projected to grow to 7.9 million by 2060. In 2017, Asian Americans made up 4% of the older population. By 2060, the percentage is projected to be 8%.

Centenarians

In 2017, there were 5,013 Asian Americans age 100 years and over (1,501 men and 3,512 women) comprising 6% of all centenarians.

Residence

In 2017, a little more than half (54%) of older Asian Americans lived in three States: California (861,437), New York (214,189), and Hawaii (134,979)

Education

The past decade has seen a significant increase in educational attainment among older adults, including Asian Americans. In 2018, 78% of the Asian American population age 65 and over

had finished high school, and 38% had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 1998, 65% had finished high school and 22% had a bachelor's degree or higher. The percentage of older Asian Americans in 2018 who had a bachelor's degree or higher (38%) was higher than for the overall older population (29%).

Marital Status

In 2018, 65% of older Asian Americans (non-Hispanic) were married, 21% were widowed, 6% were divorced, 4% were separated (including married, spouse absent), and 4% had never been married.

Living Alone

In 2018, 17% of Asian Americans age 65 and over lived alone (12% of men and 21% of women).

Grandparents

Among Asian American grandparents age 60 and over living with their grandchildren in 2017, 12% were responsible for their own grandchildren and 88% were not.

Income and Poverty

In 2017, households containing families headed by Asian Americans age 65 and over reported a median income of \$67,627. The comparable figure for all older households was \$61,946. The median personal income for older Asian American men was \$26,692 and \$14,418 for older Asian American women. The comparable figures for all older persons were \$32,654 for men and \$19,180 for women. The poverty rate in 2017 for Asian Americans age 65 and over was 10.8% while the rate for all older Americans was 9.2%.

Mortality

The top 5 leading causes of death for Asian American (non-Hispanic) men age 65 and over in 2017 were cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and chronic lower respiratory diseases. For women, the top 5 leading causes of death were heart disease, cancer, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes.

Disability Status

In 2017, 30% of older Asian Americans had one or more disabilities.

Health Insurance

In 2017, 26% of older Asian Americans had both Medicare and supplemental private health insurance, and 18% were covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. In comparison, 46% of all older adults had both Medicare and supplemental private health insurance, and 7% were covered by both Medicare and Medicaid.

Participation in Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs

In 2017, state and Area Agencies on Aging provided services to a total of 10 million persons age 60 and over. Consistent with requirements of the OAA, considerable emphasis was placed on services to persons with the greatest social and economic need, including members of racial and ethnic minority groups, and especially those who are poor. Among the older

persons who received Title III OAA home and community-based registered services, 4% were Asian Americans.

Notes

The sources for the data in this report include the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates; Population Projections; Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement; and American Community Survey. Sources also include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, and the Administration for Community Living's State Program Report data.

This report includes data on the age 65 and over population unless otherwise noted. The phrases "older adults" or "older persons" refer to the population age 65 and over.

Numbers in this report may not add up due to rounding.

Age-adjusted estimates are used when available.

The data presented in this report refer to the noninstitutionalized population except where noted.

2018 Profile of Asian Americans Age 65 and Over was developed by the Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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