

Asians & Pacific Islanders

IN RHODE ISLAND

2015



This report provides information about major health indicators for the Asian and Pacific Island populations of Rhode Island. An Asian or Pacific Islander (API) is defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. That area includes Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Samoa. A white person is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

This report presents data on population demographics, socio-economic characteristics, maternal and child health, behavioral risk factors, access to healthcare, infectious disease, and the leading causes of death among Asian and Pacific Island Rhode Islanders compared to whites and to the state as a whole. It is important to recognize that the category of Asians and Pacific Islanders is broad and certain subsets of the population have different health outcomes. Specifically, Southeast Asians, who make up approximately 44% of the Asian population, tend to have poorer health outcomes than that of the overall Asian and Pacific Islander population. For more information, please visit the Center for Southeast Asian's website at cseari.org for their Health Issue Brief and Community Trends Report.

Please note that for some Rhode Island Department of Health data sets, race and ethnicity status are based on self-identification. The tables present point estimates, which should not be used to imply statistical significance.

Population Demographics

According to the 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-year estimate, there are 33,430 Asians and Pacific Islanders in Rhode Island, making up 3.2% of the state's population. The median age for the Asian and Pacific Islander population is 29.5 years whereas the state median age is 39.7 years. Nearly 94% of the Asian and Pacific Islander population is age 65 or younger, while 85% of the state population is age 65 or younger.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

The following are socioeconomic characteristics of Rhode Island's Asian and Pacific Islander population. These characteristics are a few of the social determinants that can have a profound effect on an individual's health.

- The percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders living in poverty is higher than that of the state as a whole and almost two times that of the white population.
- Asians and Pacific Islanders have the lowest unemployment rate of any racial or ethnic group in the state, including the white population.
- The median household income for Asians and Pacific Islanders is \$51,433, roughly \$4,000 less than the overall state median household income and \$9,000 less than the white median household income.

TABLE A: POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

	ASIANS & PACIFIC ISLANDER ¹	WHITE ¹	STATE
Median age	29.5	43.1	39.7
Percentage of population younger than 18 years	22.4	18.3	20.6
Percentage of population age 65 years or older	6.2	17.2	15.0
Percentage of population born in another country	64.9	7.3	13.2
Percentage of population speaking only English at home*	23.3	87.1	78.9

Source: US Bureau of the Census, 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year estimates

¹ Hispanic ethnicity may be included in racial category

*Population 5 years and older

TABLE B: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER ¹	WHITE ¹	STATE
Percentage of children living in poverty (<18 years old) ³	22.0	14.0	20.2
Percentage of population living in poverty ²	19.2	11.3	14.4
Percentage of population that is unemployed ²	8.0	8.6	9.7
Median household income ²	\$51,443	\$60,140	\$55,675
Percentage of population that owns their housing unit ²	48.0	64.7	60.2

Sources: ²US Bureau of the Census, 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-year estimates

³2014 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

¹ Hispanic ethnicity may be included in racial category



TABLE C: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INDICATORS

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER ¹	WHITE ¹	STATE
Percentage of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care ^{2a}	16.3	10.5	12.8
Percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education ²	9.9	8.6	13.8
Percentage of infants with low birth weight ^{2y}	9.4	6.8	7.6
Rate of births to teens ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens) ²	14.4	13.4	21.4
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ^{2e}	6.3	5.3	6.6
Rate of children with incarcerated parents (per 1,000 children) ³	4.0	8.0	13.1

Sources: ²Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2009-2013

³2014 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

^aDelayed prenatal care is defined as care received after the first trimester or no prenatal care received

^yLow birth weight is defined as less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds

^eInfant mortality rate is defined as the number of infants who died before their first birthday per 1,000 live births

¹ Hispanic ethnicity may be included in racial category

Maternal and Child Health

- A slightly higher percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders had delayed prenatal care, compared to whites and the state as a whole.
- The percentage of infants with low birth weight for Asians and Pacific Islanders is higher than that of whites and the state as a whole.

Youth Behavioral Risk

- Asian and Pacific Islander youth have a higher rate of physical activity and a lower rate of cigarette smoking than whites and the state as a whole.
- Asian and Pacific Islanders have the highest high school graduation rates of all racial and ethnic groups.

Adult Behavioral Risk

- A lower percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders aged 20 years and older are considered obese, compared to the state as a whole.
- A higher percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders consume five or more daily servings of fruits and vegetables, compared to whites and the state as a whole.

Access to Healthcare

- The percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders younger than 65 years of age that report having no health insurance is slightly higher, compared to whites and the state as a whole.
- A higher percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders report not being able to see a doctor due to cost compared to whites and the state as a whole.

TABLE D: YOUTH BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR INDICATORS (YOUTH IN GRADES 9-12)

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE	STATE
Percent of youth who used marijuana in past 30 days ¹	18.6	26.6	25.6
Percent of youth who engaged in binge-drinking in past 30 days ¹	12.1	18.5	17.5
Percent of youth who have ever had sexual intercourse ¹	32.4	38.6	41.3
Percent of youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days ¹	7.2	12.9	11.0
Percent of youth who did not get the recommended physical activity ^{1y}	83.9	73.3	75.5
Percent of youth who never/rarely wore seatbelt with other driver(s) ¹	9.5	7.0	9.8
Percent of youth who got in a physical fight in the past 12 months ¹	19.0	19.7	22.6
Percent of youth who were bullied on school property in past 12 months ¹	11.2	19.5	17.8
Percent of youth who ever took prescription drugs without having a prescription for the drug ¹	9.9	15.8	15.0
Percent of high school seniors that graduated high school ²	85.3	83.9	79.7

Sources: ¹ Rhode Island Department of Health, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009, 2011 and 2013

² Rhode Island Department of Education, Cohort Graduation Rates, 4-Year Cohort for 2013

^y Recommended physical activity is 60 minutes, 7 days per week

TABLE E: ADULT BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR INDICATORS (ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE	STATE
Percent of adult population who meets physical activity guidelines ¹ [2011 & 2013 only]	44.7*	51.7	49.0
Percent of adult population (age 20+) who is overweight/obese ²	50.0	64.2	64.7
Percent of adult population (age 20+) who is obese ³	10.9	26.4	26.8
Percent of adult population who consumes 5+ servings of fruit/vegetables daily (2011 & 2013 only)	26.4	17.4	17.5
Percent of adult population who is a current smoker	9.3	18.4	18.4
Percent of adult population who binge-drank in the last month ⁴	14.6	18.8	18.3

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2013

¹ Physical activity guidelines are 150 minutes per week

² Overweight/obese defined as body mass index (BMI) ≥ 25

³ Obesity defined as BMI ≥ 30

⁴ Binge-drinking defined as 5+ drinks for men and 4+ drinks for women

*Use caution in interpreting result; estimate is considered unreliable

TABLE F: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND SCREENING INDICATORS (ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE	STATE
Percent of adults (<65) years old who reported having no health insurance	20.2	13.0	17.9
Percent of adults who reported having no person they thought of as their personal healthcare provider(s)	29.7	10.8	14.4
Percent of adults who had no routine checkup within the past year	36.1	20.4	22.4
Percent of adults who reported being unable to afford to see a doctor when needed at least once in the past year	18.0	11.5	14.6

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2013

TABLE G: SELECTED INCIDENCE RATES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES: CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE	STATE
Gonorrhea ¹	24.5	19.1	36.8
Chlamydia ¹	315.3	214.7	377.4
Tuberculosis ²	28.4	1.4	2.4
HIV/AIDS ³	+	4.6	9.1

Sources: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, 2009-2013

¹ Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data, 2009-2013

² Tuberculosis Surveillance Data, 2009-2013

³ HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data, 2009-2013

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis

TABLE H: LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

RANK	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE	STATE
1	Cancer	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Heart Disease	Cancer	Cancer
3	Stroke	Chronic Respiratory Diseases	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
4	+	Stroke	Stroke
5	+	Alzheimer's	Alzheimer's

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 2009-2013

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis

Infectious Disease

- The rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia are slightly higher in the Asian and Pacific Islander population than in the white population.
- From 2009 to 2013, the rate of tuberculosis was about 12 times higher in the Asian and Pacific Islander population than in the state as a whole and about 20 times higher than in the white population.

Leading Cause of Death

- The three leading causes of death for Asians and Pacific Islanders in Rhode Island are cancer, heart disease, and stroke.

Chronic Disease

Although not mentioned in this report, racial and ethnic disparities exist in health outcomes related to chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. For detailed reports of the burden of these chronic diseases on Rhode Island residents and the disproportionate impact on the state's minorities, see the Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity Legislative Report, 2015, which can be found at <http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/reports/2015CommissionOnHealthAdvocacyAndEquityLegislativeReport.pdf>



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www.health.ri.gov/programs/minorityhealth



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