



APAPA

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association Communication Education Foundation (APAPA-CEF)

Inspire, Empower and Engage Asian Pacific Islander Americans

Non-profit 501(c) (3) organization Tax ID 55-0849384

National Headquarters: 4000 Truxel Rd, Suite 3 Sacramento, CA 95834

Ohio State Chapter: 1605 Westbelt Dr, Columbus, OH 43228

Testimony on Sub. H. B. No. 110, in Support of Establishing AAPI Commission

Before the Senate Finance Committee

May 18, 2021

By Vincent Wang

Chairman Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, members of the Committee,

My name is Vincent Wang, Chair of the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA) Ohio Chapter, a non-profit, non-political, non-partisan community grassroots organization that focuses on increasing Asian Pacific Islander civic participation at the local, state, and national level through voter registration and education, civic leadership programs including internships and scholarships for high school and college students, fellowship and mentorship for adults leading to appointive, judicial and elective offices. I am presenting this testimony to you on behalf of APAPA.

Based on a research completed by the Ohio Development Agency, Asian Americans are a fast growing population in Ohio that contributes significantly to Ohio's economy:

- There are over 345,000 Asian Americans in Ohio, accounting for 3 percent of the state's total population.
- The Asian population has doubled since 2000.
- There are more than 21,000 Asian American-owned businesses that employ more than 64,000 workers with \$10.8 billion in receipts.

Based on the 2020 Ohio fact sheet compiled Asian Pacific Islander American Vote, a national nonpartisan organization that works with partners to mobilize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in electoral and civic participation:

- There are over 145,000 eligible AAPI voters in Ohio.
- Voter contact continues to be an unmet need for AAPIs. In the 2018 Asian American Voter Survey, 50% of Asian Americans received no contact or were unsure if they received contact about the election.



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- Among contacted Asian American registered voters, only 44% were contacted by community organizations.
- There is also an opportunity for voter education through contact. In the 2018 survey of registered voters, 38% of Asian Americans did not declare an identification with either political party.
- 76% of Asian Americans in Ohio speak a language other than English at home, and of those, more than 42% speak English less than “very well.”
- Turnout is 9% lower for Limited-English Proficient (LEP) than non-LEP registered voters, and 63% say that Asian language support at polling places would be useful.

APAPA Ohio has been working with other AAPI community groups to mobilize, educate and support AAPI voters to participate in Ohio’s elections and civic affairs. We estimate the total annual cost for supporting the AAPI voters is well over \$700,000. The creation of the AAPI Commission and an office to support the commission and AAPI groups will help us obtain financial support from federal, state and private sources to fund our voter education and engagement efforts. Increased AAPI engagement will benefit Ohio in many ways, including economy and civic participation.

Thank you for your attention this matter that is critically important to the Asian Pacific Islander American community in Ohio.

Appendices:

Ohio Development Agency - Ohio Asian American Profile Sheet

APIAVote – 2020 Ohio AAPI Fact Sheet

Ohio Asian Americans

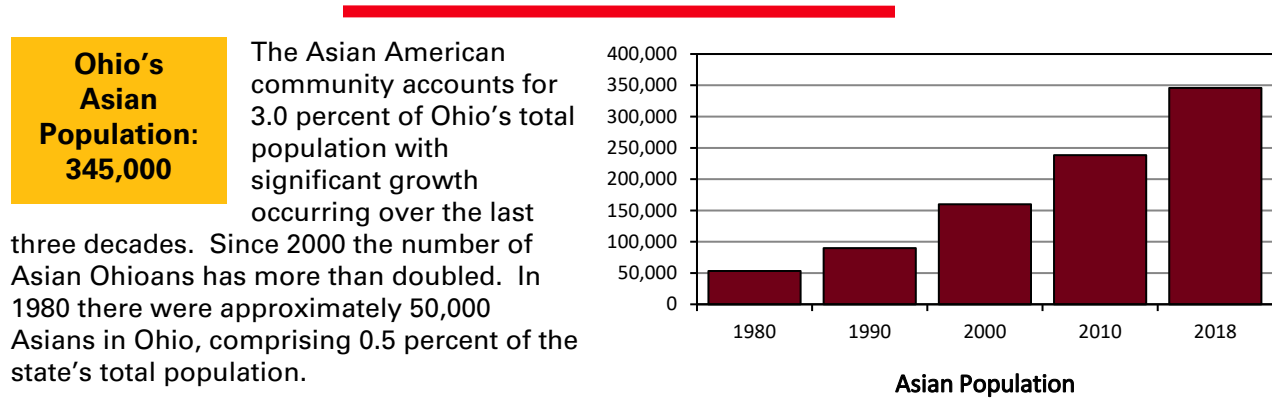


Ohio's Asian American community is comprised of more than 345,000 people, accounting for 3.0 percent of the state's total population. According to the 2018 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio's Asian population more than doubled since 2000 and is six times the 1980 count. For the United States, the Asian population is over 22.1 million, or 6.8 percent of the nation's total population. Since 2000, the number of Asian Americans in the U.S. has increased by more than 10 million people, or 86 percent.

OVERVIEW

- 345,724 people – 3.0 percent of Ohio's total population
- The Asian population has more than doubled since 2000
- 196,195 were born outside the U.S.
- 33 percent are of Asian Indian ancestry
- Median age of 33.9 years compared to 39.5 years for all Ohioans
- 39,000 enrolled in elementary and secondary schools
- Median household income: \$75,822
- 21,000+ businesses with \$10.8 billion in receipts

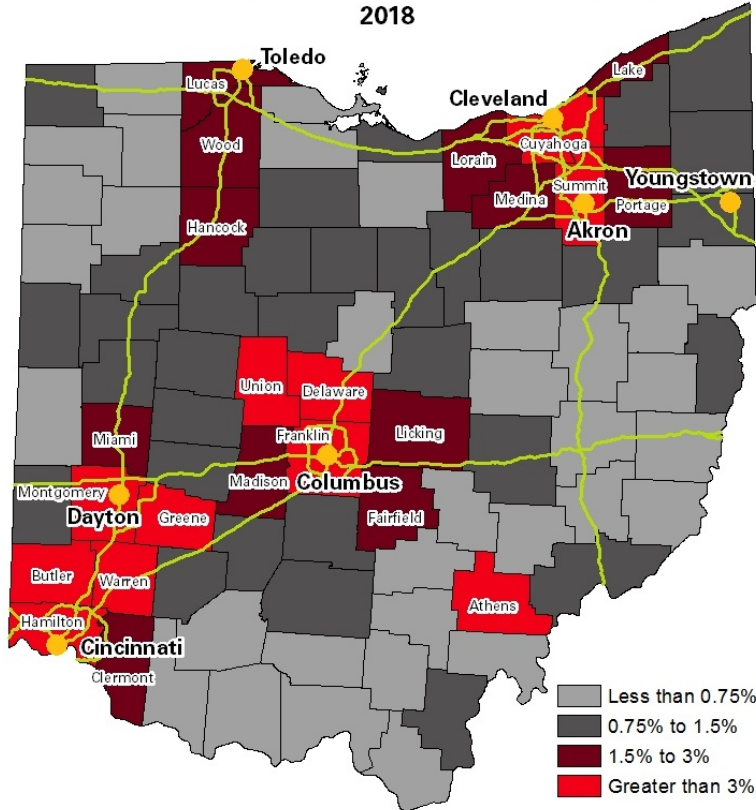
Note: Asian refers to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. A person reporting their race as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other race is used for total population counts only. A person reporting their race as Asian alone is used for the other population characteristics. The recording of specific, multiple races was not done prior to 2000.



Asian American Population by County: 2018			
Total Asian American Population		Percent of County Population	
Franklin	85,071	Delaware	7.9%
Cuyahoga	49,010	Warren	6.8%
Hamilton	28,461	Franklin	6.5%
Summit	23,980	Union	5.1%
Butler	16,330	Summit	4.4%
Montgomery	16,282	Butler	4.3%
Delaware	16,264	Athens	4.2%
Warren	15,705	Greene	4.2%
Lucas	10,003	Cuyahoga	3.9%
Greene	6,987	Hamilton	3.5%
Lorain	5,570	Montgomery	3.1%
Stark	4,895	Portage	2.6%

Most Asian American Ohioans live in the state's metropolitan areas. Generally, Asian Americans in Ohio are more likely to live in the suburbs than the central city, but Columbus is an exception with more Asian Americans living in the city because of the influence of The Ohio State University. More than 65,000, or 19 percent, of Ohio's Asian population live in Columbus city. There are another 50,000 Asian American Ohioans living in the remaining portion of the metropolitan area. The combination of the Cleveland/Akron metropolitan areas has over 92,000 Asian Americans.

Asian American Population as Percent of County Population: 2018

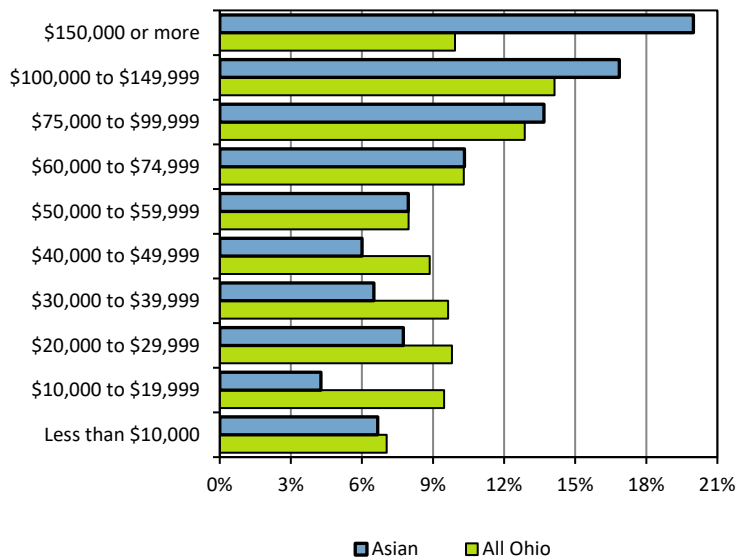


Median Household Income: \$75,822

The income of Asian Americans in the state tends to be higher than that of an average Ohioan. The median household income for Asian Americans living in Ohio is nearly \$76,000. For all Ohio

households, the figure is more than \$56,000. The median income of foreign-born persons from Asia was \$3,000 lower than all of Ohio's Asian population which may be due to the high proportion enrolled in college.

Twelve percent of Asian American Ohioans live below the poverty line. Of Ohio's 62,000 Asian American family households, seven percent are in poverty. Of these, three-fourths have related children at home. Approximately 7 percent of Asian Americans in households received Food Stamps within the last 12 months.

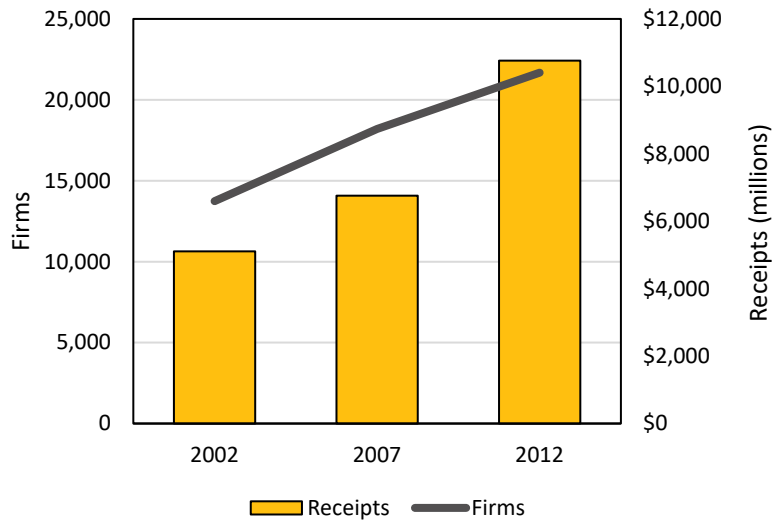


Household Income Distribution

**Receipts:
\$10.8 billion**

There are more than 21,000 Asian American-owned businesses in Ohio, according to the most recent Survey of Business Owners conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Of that number, businesses with a payroll total over 7,000 and, combined, employ more than 64,000 workers with an annual payroll of nearly \$1.8 billion. Receipts for those businesses approached \$9.9 billion with receipts for all Asian American-owned businesses nearly \$10.8 billion.

With respect to business sectors, professional/scientific/technical services and health care/social assistance account for 15 percent and 14 percent respectively, of Asian American-owned firms. These sectors account for 13 and 10 percent of all businesses in Ohio respectively. Eleven percent of all accommodation/food service firms in the state are owned by Asian Americans.



The distribution of receipts for Asian American-owned firms by sector varies somewhat from that of the state as a whole. Twenty-one percent of sales came from wholesale trade while 19 percent came from retail trade and 14 percent in accommodations/food services. For all Ohio businesses, manufacturing is the largest sector and brings in more than one-fourth of the receipts; wholesale trade accounts for 21 percent. Retail represents 13 percent of receipts while accommodation represents less than 2 percent of receipts.

**Unemployment
Rate: 2.5%**

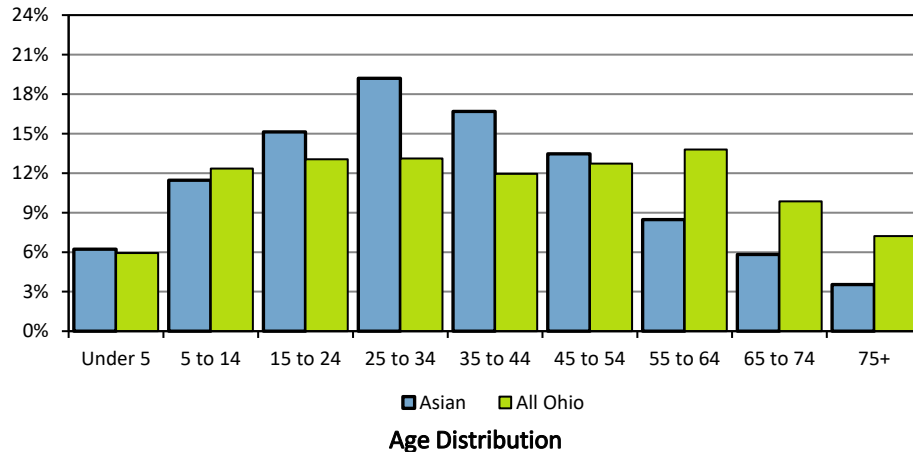
The number of Asian American Ohioans in the civilian labor force is 147,000 and accounts for 2.5 percent of the civilian labor force. Asian Americans in Ohio have an unemployment rate of 2.5 percent. All Ohioans have an unemployment rate of 4.9 percent.

Employed Asian Americans are highly represented in professional occupations, compared to all Ohioans. Of the roughly 143,000 employed Asian Americans, nearly 46 percent are in occupations of computer/engineering/science (20%), management (16%), and healthcare (10%). There also a significant number in education occupations.

**Median Age:
33.9 years**

The median age of Asian Americans in Ohio is 33.9 years. For comparison, the median age of Ohioans overall is 39.5 years. A very high proportion of Asian Americans between the ages of 25 and 44 and slightly lower proportions in the older age groups kept the median age lower than that of Ohio's total population.

In Ohio, over 54,000 marriages include at least one Asian American spouse. Of these families, nearly 60 percent have children living at home. For all married couples in Ohio, approximately 38 percent have children at home. Eight percent of Asian American families with children consist of single mothers.

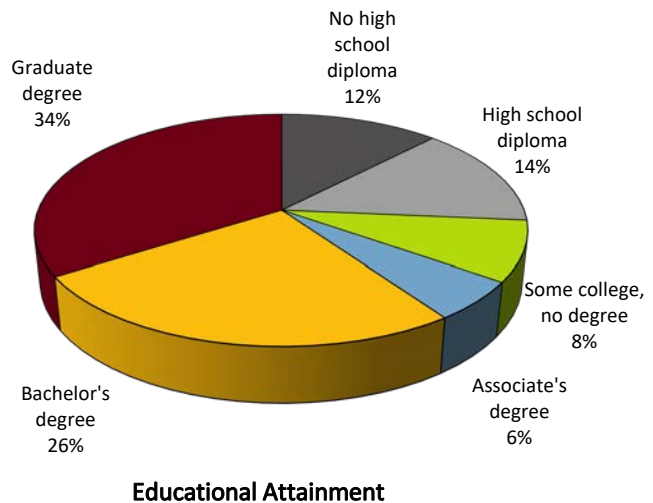


School Enrollment:
39,000

There are more than 39,000 Asian American students enrolled in Ohio's elementary and secondary schools, making up 2.1 percent of Ohio's total student body.

Nearly 38,000 Asian American Ohioans are enrolled in college or graduate school. This accounts for over 18 percent of Asian Americans older than 17.

The educational attainment of the Asian American community exceeds the total state population. One-third of Asian Americans, older than 24 years, have a graduate degree with another quarter having a bachelor's degree. For the state, 11 percent of Ohioans have a graduate degree, while 18 percent have a bachelor's degree.

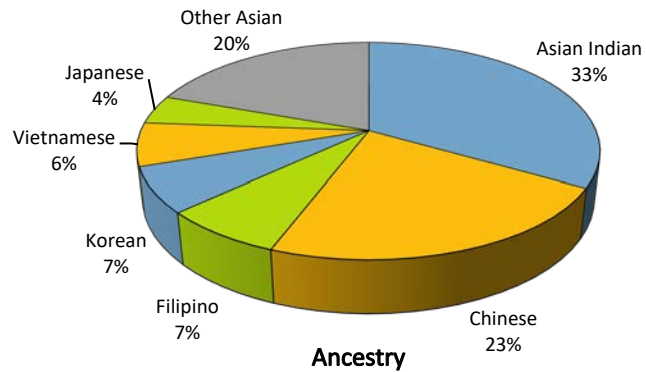


Foreign Born:
196,000

Nearly 105,000 of the Asian Americans in Ohio are of Indian descent. The Indian community is growing quickly and has increased more than 48 percent since 2010. Roughly half of the foreign-born Indians emigrated from India since 2010.

Chinese American, the second largest group behind Indian, accounts for almost one-fifth of Asians in Ohio. The Chinese community is growing quickly, increasing approximately 25,000 people, since 2000. Approximately two-thirds of this growth is due to international migration.

The Ohio Vietnamese community, while smaller, is experiencing significant growth. Since 2000 it has grown by over half to approximately 21,000 people. The size of the Nepalese community has seen some significant growth recently. Also, the Korean and Filipino populations are growing but at a slightly slower pace.



Roughly three-of-four Asian American Ohioans speak a language other than English at home. How proficient they are at English depends, to some extent, on their or their family's country of origin. About nine out of ten foreign-born Asians in Ohio with ties to South Central Asia, mainly India, speaks a language other than English at home. Of these, around two-thirds report speaking English "very well". About half of Asian Americans that speak Chinese, Korean, or Japanese at home report speaking English "very well." Less than one-quarter from these three groups reports speaking English at home.



The statistical source of this profile is the 2010 Census of Population and Housing and the Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates. Business data came from the Census Bureau's 2012 Survey of Business Owners. Although the census is the most comprehensive set of socio-economic data available, the estimates are subject to sampling and non-sampling error that may result in some over- or under-estimation of actual population characteristics.

Ohio

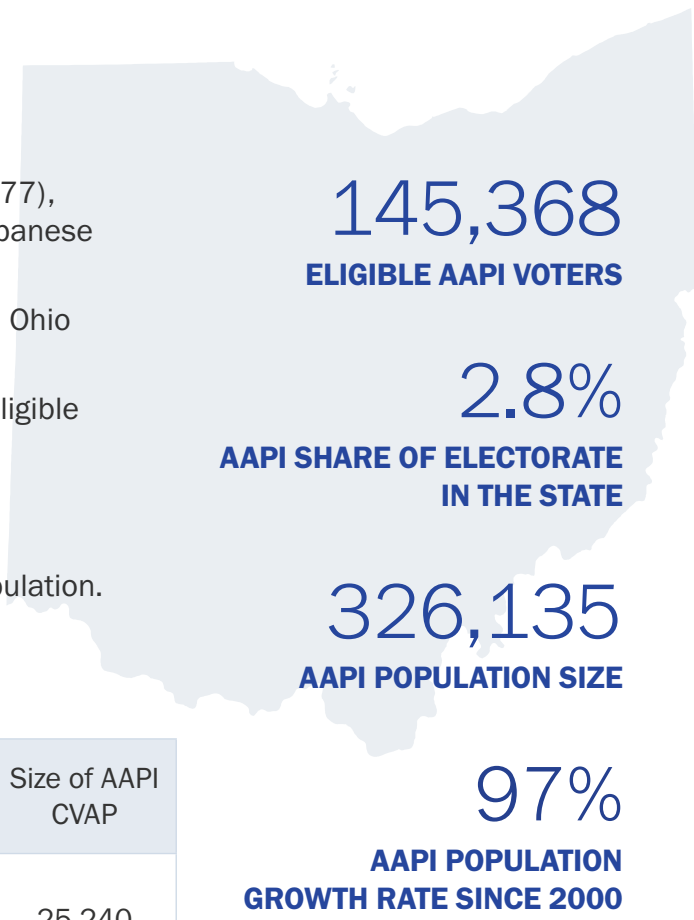
POPULATION FACTS

- Largest AAPI ethnic groups in Ohio include: Indian (105,077), Chinese (67,881), Filipino (34,214), Korean (27,158), Japanese (23,842), Vietnamese (21,064).
- From 2012 to 2018, the number of eligible AAPI voters in Ohio grew 39%
 - This compares to a 2% growth rate for the statewide eligible voting population between 2012 to 2018
- AAPI youth (ages 18-29) comprise 27% of the AAPI CVAP population in Ohio
- AAPIs age 50 and up comprise 35% of the AAPI CVAP population.

COUNTIES WITH HIGHEST AAPI POPULATIONS

	% of AAPIs in County	Size of AAPI Population	% of AAPI CVAP in County	Size of AAPI CVAP
Franklin County	5%	65,660	3%	25,240
Cuyahoga County	3%	37,385	2%	18,275
Hamilton County	3%	21,820	2%	9,080

The state's (Asian) Indian population makes up a third of the total AAPI population in the state.



VOTER ENGAGEMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

- Voter contact continues to be an unmet need for AAPIs. In the 2018 Asian American Voter Survey, 50% of Asian Americans received no contact or were unsure if they received contact about the election from the Democratic party and 60% reported the same from the GOP.
- Among contacted Asian American registered voters, 52% reported contact by the Democratic Party from the same survey, 40% by the Republican Party, and 44% by community organizations. In comparison, the 2016 National Asian American Post-Election Survey shows 48% of AAPI voters reported contact from the Democratic party and 16% by the Republican party.
- There is also an opportunity for voter education through contact. In the 2018 survey of registered voters, 38% of Asian Americans did not declare an identification with either political party.

IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS

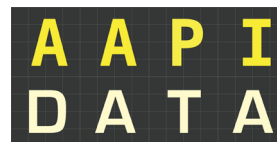
- 76% of Asian Americans in Ohio speak a language other than English at home, and of those, more than 42% speak English less than “very well.”
- Turnout is 9% lower for Limited-English Proficient (LEP) than non-LEP registered voters according to the 2012 AAPI Post-Election Survey, and 63% say that Asian language support at polling places would be useful.

SOCIOECONOMIC CHALLENGES

- About 17,095 Asian Americans in Ohio (7%) lack health insurance.
- About 33,845 Asian Americans in Ohio (14%) live in poverty.
- About 1,053 NHPs in Ohio (30%) live in poverty.

MULTILINGUAL VOTER HOTLINE

- If you, or anyone you know, has difficulty with language access or needs any other type of voting assistance (including questions about polling locations or voting procedures), please call the National Asian American Voter Hotline at 1-888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683).



For more information or questions, please email info@apiavote.org or info@aapidata.com.

In order to capture Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are mono-racial as well as multi-racial, we have calculated statewide population and electorate numbers using the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). We do this to overcome two problems: CVAP numbers provided by the U.S. Census do not include multiracial AAPIs, and we cannot double-count when adding multi-racial population numbers from FactFinder tables (more than 10% of multi-racial AAPIs say they are Asian as well as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander). Resident numbers regardless of age and citizenship are derived from the 2016 ACS 1YR PUMS file. We derive the number of CVAP by multiplying residents by the proportion CVAP, which is calculated using the latest 5YR PUMS file to improve precision. Any other characteristics of the population is based on the ACS 5YR PUMS file to provide the most precise estimates possible. Finally, the PUMS file does not contain large enough samples for county estimates, so we rely on the Census Bureau's Special Tabulations of the Citizen Voting Age Population, which provides county estimates but does not include multiracial AAPIs.