SPOTLIGHT:
Asian American & Pacific Islander Poverty
In the wake of the recession, AAPIs were one of the Fastest Growing Poor Populations, surpassing TWO MILLION
From 2000 to 2012, the AAPI Poor Population grew by over 600,000 to almost 2.1 Million
AAPI Poor are Ethnically Diverse

There are over 22 Ethnic Categories that were tracked from 2000 to 2010:
• 17 Asian Ethnicities
• 5 Pacific Islander Ethnicities

Largest Poverty Groups

Highest Poverty Rates

- Hmong 27.0%
- Bangladeshi 21.1%
- Tongan 18.9%
AAPIs have high rates of households with Limited English Proficiency

18% of US Total Population
speak a language other than English at Home

8% of US Total Population
speak English “less than very well”

79% of AAs
speak a language other than English at Home

40% of AAs
speak English “less than very well”

44% of NHOPIs
speak a language other than English at Home

15% NHOPIs
speak English “less than very well”
AAPI Poor Age Profile

US General Poverty
- Children: 9%
- Working Adults: 34%
- Seniors: 57%

AA
- Children: 9%
- Working Adults: 65%
- Seniors: 26%

NHOPR
- Children: 3%
- Working Adults: 54%
- Seniors: 43%

Native Hawaiian
- Children: 5%
- Working Adults: 2%
- Seniors: 2%

Bangladeshi
- Children: 2%
- Working Adults: 98%

Hmong
- Children: 54%
## 2012 AAPI Poverty Ranking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank/MSA (Rank by Total Population)</th>
<th>2012 AAPI Poverty Population (Source: 2012 1-yr. ACS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. New York, NY-NJ-PA MSA (1)</td>
<td>292,708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Los Angeles, CA MSA (2)</td>
<td>243,322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. San Francisco, CA MSA (11)</td>
<td>112,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Chicago, IL-IN-WI MSA (3)</td>
<td>64,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Seattle, WA MSA (15)</td>
<td>56,864</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AAPI Poor are Concentrated in Metropolitan Areas

The Top 10 MSAs for AA and NHOPI Poverty

The Top 3 MSAs for AAPI Poverty (New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco) have over 30% of AAPI Poverty Population.

Top 10 MSAs for AAs and NHOPIs have over 50% of AA and NHOPI Poverty Population.
AAPI Poor are more Concentrated in Metropolitan Areas

Percentage of total Poverty Population in top 10 Poverty MSAs (2010 5-yr ACS)

- US Total: 25%
- White: 15%
- Black: 32%
- American Indian: 23%
- Hispanic: 44%
- AA: 50%
- NHOPPI: 55%
AAPI Poor Disproportionately Concentrated in High Housing Cost Regions

Percentage of total Poor Population living in High Housing Cost Regions

- 17% US Total
- 11% White, Non-Hispanic
- 15% Black
- 27% Hispanic

- 47% AA
- 40% NHOPH

Housing Prices per National Association of Realtors, 2013.
Note: Central City vs. Suburbs determined using Brookings Institute methodology.
Findings and Recommendations

• AAPI Poor Population Growing Rapidly
  – More Resources, Renewed Efforts

• AAPI Poor are Diverse
  – Culturally and Linguistically Relevant Solutions

• High Concentration in Metro Areas with High Housing Costs
  – Housing Affordability

• AAPI Poverty Increasing in Suburbs
  – Attention, Coordination, Innovation at Regional Level (But Don’t Forget Central Cities)
Resources

• Community Organizing and Health
  – Praxis Project http://www.thepraxisproject.org/
  – Roots and Remedies: Raleigh-Durham, NC July 10-12, 2015

• Housing and Health Resources

• Networks of Community Development Organizations
  – Natl Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (www.NACEDA.org)
  – Natl Association of Latino Community Asset Builders (www.NALCAB.org)
Spotlight on Asian American and Pacific Islander Poverty:
A Demographic Profile

Josh Ishimatsu, Author, Director of Capacity Building and Research

Assistance from UCLA Asian American Studies Center

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www.nationalcapacd.org