Minority Health Facts

ASIANS & PACIFIC ISLANDERS
in Rhode Island

INTRODUCTION

This report provides information about major health indicators for the Asian and Pacific Islander population living in Rhode Island. An Asian or Pacific Islander (API) is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (Directive 15) as a person having origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, India, Japan, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, the Philippine Islands, 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 socio-economic characteristics, morbidity and mortality, behavioral risks, infectious diseases, maternal and child health and access to healthcare among Asian and Pacific Islander residents in comparison to the White non-Hispanic and the overall state populations. Please note that race and ethnic status for some Health Department data sets are based on self-identification. Due to the nature in which data are collected, some statistics may be reported only for Asians rather than both Asians and Pacific Islanders (API).

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census 2005 American Community Survey, there were 29,813 Asian and Pacific Islanders living in Rhode Island (RI). Approximately 2.8% of the RI population is of Asian descent and about 0.1% is of Pacific Islander descent. Forty-five percent (45%) of the Asian and Pacific Islander population in RI was born in a foreign country. The median age for the Asian American population is 28 years whereas the overall state median age is 38 years. About 84% of the Asian American population is age 50 or less while 70.2% of the overall state population is age 50 or less.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The following are socio-economic characteristics of Rhode Island's Asian population from the 2000 Census. These characteristics may affect the health of the Asian and Pacific Islander residents of Rhode Island.

- The percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders living below poverty is almost two times that of the overall state population and almost three times that of the White population.
- The median household income for Asians and Pacific Islanders is about $40,600— approximately $3,900 less than the state median and $4,700 less than the White population.
- The unemployment rate for Asians and Pacific Islanders is slightly higher than the rate for the White and the overall state populations.
- The Asian and Pacific Islander graduation rate is slightly lower than the White and the overall state populations.

Table A: Socio-Economic Data

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of population living below poverty[1]	22.0	7.9	11.9
Percentage of population that is unemployed[2]	4.6	3.1	3.6
Median household income[3]	$40.6k	$45.3k	$44.5k
High School graduation rate[4] (percent)	80.0	88.0	85.0

SOURCES: [1]U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 1999 data.
[2]U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 2000 data.
[3]U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000; 2001 estimates.
[4]RI Kids Count Factbook, 2006; 2005 data.

MORTALITY

- For the period between 2000-2004, heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic respiratory diseases were four leading causes of death among the Asian and Pacific Islander and the overall state populations. Unintentional injuries is the fourth leading cause of death for Asians and Pacific Islanders, but it is not ranked in the top five leading causes of death for the White or the overall state populations.

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS

- The percentage of the Asian and Pacific Islander population that is overweight is substantially lower than the White and the overall state populations.
- The Asian and Pacific Islander population has nearly one-half the percentage of obesity than the White and the overall state populations.
- The percentage of Asians/Pacific Islanders who participate in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes a day is slightly less than the White or the overall state populations.

Table B: Leading Causes of Death, 2000-2004

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
1	Heart disease	Heart disease	Heart disease
2	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer
3	Stroke	Stroke	Stroke
4	Unintentional injuries	Chronic respiratory diseases	Chronic respiratory diseases
5	Chronic respiratory diseases	Pneumonia/influenza	Pneumonia/influenza

SOURCE: RI Dept. of Health, Division of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 2000-2004.

Table C: Behavioral Risk Factor Indicators

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of adult population[1] that participates in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day (2001, 2003, 2005)	46.5	51.4	49.8
Percentage of adult population that is overweight[2] (20 yrs+) (2000-2005)	28.2	38.4	38.2
Percentage of adult population that is obese[3] (20 yrs+) (2002-2005)	11.1	19.2	19.6
Percentage of adult population that consumes at least five daily servings of fruits and vegetables per day (2002, 2003, 2005)	29.0	27.9	27.5
Percentage of adult population that smokes cigarettes (2002-2005)	18.3	21.6	21.4
Percentage of adult population that consumed 5+ drinks on one or more occasions in past month (binge-drinking) (2002-2005)	16.0	17.4	17.2

SOURCE: RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
[1]Adult population refers to individuals 18 years and older unless otherwise specified.
[2]Overweight defined by CDC as BMI ≥ 25 to <30.
[3]Obesity defined by CDC as BMI ≥ 30.

Table D: Incidence Rates of Infectious Diseases: Cases per 100,000 Population

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
Gonorrhea[1]	+	21.3	41.8
Chlamydia[1]	471.9	133.5	311.8
Tuberculosis[2]	38.4[3]	2.0	4.5
HIV[4]	+	6.1	17.2

SOURCES: RI Dept. of Health, Office of Communicable Diseases
[1]Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data 2005.
[2]Tuberculosis Database 2005.
[3]Asian only.
[4]HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data 2005.
+Sample too small for meaningful analysis.

Table E: Maternal and Child Health Indicators

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care[1]	18.0	8.6	9.9
Rate of births to teens ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens)[1]	38.9	30.0	31.0
Percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education[1]	16.8	13.9	15.2
Percentage of infants with low birth weight (<5.5 lbs.)[1]	10.0	7.4	8.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)[2]	8.9	5.6	6.4
Percentage of children in poverty (<18 yrs.)[3]	15.0	12.0	19.5

SOURCES: [1]RI Dept. of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2001-2005.
[2]Infant Mortality Database, 2001-2005.
[3]RI Kids Count Factbook 2006; 2005 data.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

- The rate of chlamydia is approximately 1.5 times higher in the Asian and Pacific Islander population than in the overall state population.
- During 2005, the rate of tuberculosis cases was 8.5 times higher for Asians than it was for the overall state population and nineteen times higher than the White population.
- There were no known cases of tuberculosis in the Pacific Islander population.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- The overall state and the White populations have more favorable maternal and child health outcome indicators than the Asian and Pacific Islander population.
- A higher percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders give birth as a teenager compared to the overall state and White teen populations.
- The percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander women who received delayed prenatal care is about two times greater than the White and the overall state populations.

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

- A larger percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Rhode Island report *having no health insurance* and that there was a time when they *could not afford to see a doctor* compared to the White and the overall state populations.

Table F: Access to Healthcare Indicators

	ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDRS	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of adults less than 65 years old that report having no health insurance[1] (2002-2005)	14.1	7.6	10.5
Percentage of adults that report having no specific source of ongoing healthcare[1] (2000-2001)	+	14.2	15.6
Percentage of population (all ages) stating usual source of care as none or emergency room[2] (2000-2001)	+	4.6	4.9
Percentage of women aged 40+ that report receiving a mammogram in the past 2 yrs[1,3] (2001, 2002, 2004)	+	90.0	90.1
Percentage of women that reported having a pap test in the past 3 yrs[1,3] (2001, 2002, 2004)	+	86.1	86.9
Percentage of adults that said "yes" when asked if there was a time they could not afford to see a doctor[1] (2003-2005)	11.7	7.5	9.3

SOURCES: [1]RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.
[2]RI Health Interview Survey.
[3]The denominator includes only women who have ever been screened.
+Sample too small for meaningful analysis.

2007 Minority Health Fact Sheets prepared by:

The Office of Minority Health
Rhode Island Department of Health
Three Capitol Hill, Room 409
Providence, RI 02908
Tel: (401) 222-2901 Fax: (401) 273-4350

Office of Minority Health Staff

Chief, Office of Minority Health
Carrie Bridges

Minority Health Epidemiologist
Kim Kies

Statistical Assistance:
J. Buechner, S. Chowdhury, J. Hesser, J. Fontes, R. Cain, M. Gosciminski, S. Viner-Brown, A. Gjelsvik, K. Taylor

For more information regarding minority health and the statistics contained in this report, please contact:

TOPIC	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Minority Health	Office of Minority Health	401-222-2901
Natality and Mortality Data	Office of Vital Records	401-222-2812
Behavioral Risk Factors, Access to Healthcare, and Census Data	Center for Health Data and Statistics	401-222-2550
Infectious Diseases	Office of Communicable Diseases	401-222-2577
Maternal and Child Health	Division of Family Health	401-222-2312