

2015 Health Disparity Fact Sheet

Asian/Pacific Islanders in Colorado



This fact sheet provides information about some of the major health indicators for the Asian/Pacific Islander population in Colorado. Like other communities of color, Asians/Pacific Islanders experience some differences in health, risk factors and behaviors in comparison to other population groups. The data presented show comparisons between the Asian/Pacific Islander population and the State's population as a whole and identifies where there are differences. The disparity column shows if the Asian/Pacific Islander rate is statistically worse (red), better (green) or the same (white) as the state rate. If it is the same, that means there is no statistically significant difference.

There are roughly 139,028 Asian and 6,623 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islanders in Colorado which is about three percent of the State's population.¹

	Asian Coloradans	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity Asian Native Hawaiian and Other Islander	
Demographics					
Median household income ¹	\$72,315	\$65,599	\$58,823	Better	Same
Percent of population living below poverty ¹	11.1%	16.0%	13.0%	Same	
High school graduation rate ²	84.7%	73.4%	77.3%		

- The median household income for Asian Coloradans is \$13,492 greater than the State median and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander adults is \$6,776 more.
- The poverty rate for Asian Coloradans and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander Coloradans is similar to the overall state population.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Maternal Child Health			
Infant mortality (<i>infant deaths per 1,000 live births</i>) ³	4.0	5.5	Better
Low birth weight births ³	10.8%	8.8%	Same
Unintended pregnancy ⁴	29.5%	37.6%	Same
Births to teens ages 15-17 (<i>births per 1,000 population</i>) ³	4.7	15.0	Better
Women reporting 3 or more stressors during pregnancy ⁴	12.6%	26.7%	Better
Women who drank during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	4.0%	10.7%	Better
Women who smoked during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	2.3%	8.5%	Better
Childhood obesity (ages 2-14) ⁵	12.5%	14.8%	Same

- Among Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans, infant mortality rates are significantly better and low weight births are about the same as for the population as a whole.
- Almost 30% of all Asian/Pacific Islander births are from an unplanned pregnancy.
- The teen birth rate is three times lower than the Colorado, overall rate.
- The prevalence of obesity among Asian/Pacific Islander children is similar to the overall obesity prevalence of the total population of children in Colorado.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health and risk behaviors⁶			
Cigarette smoking	13.1%	17.9%	Better
Binge drinking (5 or more drinks in one sitting)	13.0%	19.2%	Better
No physical activity	17.5%	17.2%	Same
Eat fewer than 5 fruits and vegetables per day	76.7%	77.7%	Same
Obese (BMI>=30)	10.9%	20.8%	Better
Overweight (BMI>=25)	36.4%	56.1%	Better

Mental health was not good 8 or more days (in the past 30 days)	10.3%	13.7%	Same
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- Cigarette smoking and binge drinking are less common among Asian/Pacific Islander adults compared to the total population.
- Fewer Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans are overweight and/or obese compared to the total population.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health care and access⁶			
No health insurance	15.4%	17.6%	Same
Women 40+ who have not had a mammogram in last 2 years	24.6%	31.6%	Same
Women who have not had a pap test in last 3 years	18.8%	20.6%	Same
Have high blood pressure	20.1%	25.6%	Better
Have diabetes	6.0%	6.9%	Same
Have asthma	8.4%	8.7%	Same

- The Asian/Pacific Islander population in Colorado has similar access to healthcare as the state population as a whole.
- High blood pressure is less common among Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans compared to the total population.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Infectious Diseases (Incidence rates per 100,000 population)			
Tuberculosis ⁷	13.2	1.3	Worse
Gonorrhea ⁸	16.9	53.2	Better
HIV ⁸	4.6	7.5	Better

- Compared to the total population, Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans experienced a lower incidence of gonorrhea and HIV during 2009-2013.

10 leading causes of death⁹	
Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans
Cancer	Cancer
Heart Disease	Heart Disease
Stroke	Unintentional Injuries
Unintentional Injuries	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
Suicide	Stroke
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	Alzheimer's Disease
Diabetes	Suicide
Alzheimer's Disease	Diabetes
Influenza and Pneumonia	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis
Kidney Disease	Influenza and Pneumonia

- The top two leading causes of death, cancer and heart disease, are the same for Asians/Pacific Islander Coloradans as they are for the State's population as a whole. Kidney disease is in the top 10 causes of death for Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans, but not for Colorado overall. Deaths attributed to cerebrovascular diseases including stroke are ranked third for Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans and fifth for the total population.

¹ American Community Survey (tables S1903, S1701 from 2013 and DP-1 from 2010 found on American FactFinder)

² Colorado Department of Education, 2014

³ Vital Statistics Program, 2009-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁴ Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2009-2012, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁵ Colorado Child Health Survey, 2010-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁶ Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2013, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁷ Tuberculosis Program, 2012-2014, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁹ Vital Statistics Program, 2009-2013 mortality data, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

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