

Education

- Asians are much more likely to be college graduates than the American population as a whole. In 2006, 50 percent of Asians aged 25 or older were college graduates.
- In every region except the West, the majority of Asians aged 25 or older has a college degree. The percentage of Asians with a college diploma peaks at 63 percent in the Midwest and is lowest, at 44 percent, in the West.
- The number of Asians enrolled in the nation's colleges has climbed from less than 200,000 in 1976 to more than 1 million in 2005.
- Asians earned 6.8 percent of bachelor's degrees granted in 2004–05. However, in that same school year, Asians earned 14 percent of bachelor's degrees awarded in biology and 13 percent of those awarded in engineering and computer science.
- Education is a lifelong pursuit for many Asians. Nearly half (44 percent) of Asians aged 16 or older participated in adult education programs during the 2004–05 academic year.

Asians Are Far Better Educated than the Average American

Half have a college degree.

Asians are much more likely to be college graduates than the American population as a whole. In 2006, 50 percent of people aged 25 or older who reported their race as Asian alone were college graduates. This compares with a much smaller 28 percent of the total population. Nineteen percent of Asians have an advanced degree.

The educational attainment of Asians varies greatly by age. Among Asians aged 25 to 34, fully 61 percent are college graduates. Among those aged 65 or older the proportion is 31 percent. Even among the oldest Asians, however, the share with a college degree surpasses the figure for the American population as a whole. Foreign-born Asians are more likely to be college educated than native-born Asians, 50 versus 44 percent. Still, the educational attainment of even native-born Asians greatly exceeds that of the average American.

■ Not only are Asians well educated, but their educational attainment is rising more rapidly than that of the population as a whole.

Asian men and women are highly educated

(percent of Asians aged 25 or older with a college degree, by sex, 2006)

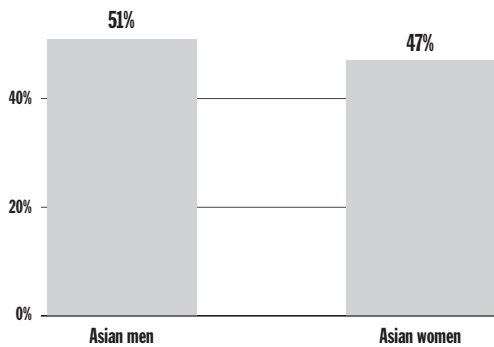


Table 1.1 Total and Asian Educational Attainment, 2000 to 2006

(percent of total people and Asians aged 25 or older completing high school or college, 2000 to 2006; percentage point change, 2000–2006)

	high school graduates		college graduates	
	total	Asian	total	Asian
2006	85.5%	87.6%	28.0%	50.0%
2005	85.2	87.9	27.7	49.8
2004	85.2	86.9	27.7	48.9
2003	84.6	87.8	27.2	49.2
2002	84.1	87.4	26.7	47.2
2001	84.1	87.6	26.2	47.5
2000	84.1	85.7	25.6	43.9
Percentage point change				
2000 to 2006	1.4	1.9	2.4	6.1

Note: From 2003 through 2006, Asians are those who identify themselves as being of the race alone.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Current Population Surveys, Internet site <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/educ-attn.html>; calculations by New Strategist

Nearly Half of Asians Are Teetotalers

Few Asians smoke cigarettes.

Only 14 percent of Asians aged 18 or older are current smokers, well below the 21 percent rate for all Americans. Fully 75 percent of Asians have never smoked. Among all Americans, the proportion who have never smoked is a smaller 57 percent.

Asians are also less likely to drink alcohol than the average American. Only 32 percent of Asians are current regular drinkers, meaning they consume more than 12 drinks a year. Fully 46 percent of Asians are lifetime abstainers, meaning they have consumed fewer than 12 drinks in their lifetime. Among all Americans only 24 percent are lifetime abstainers and 48 percent described themselves as current regular drinkers.

■ The high level of educational attainment among Asians explains their much lower smoking rate.

Asians are much less likely to smoke than the average American

(percent of total people and Asians aged 18 or older who are current smokers, 2005)

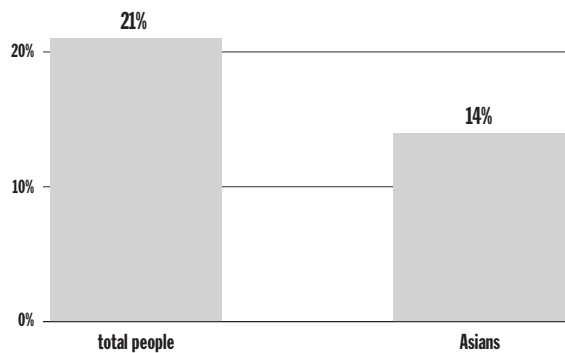


Table 2.3 Smoking Status of Total and Asian Adults, 2005*(number and percent distribution of total people and Asians aged 18 or older, by smoking status, 2005)*

	total		Asians	
	number	percent distribution	number	percent distribution
Total people	217,774	100.0%	8,155	100.0%
All current smokers	45,131	20.7	1,111	13.6
Every-day smoker	36,454	16.7	843	10.3
Some-day smoker	8,678	4.0	268	3.3
Former smoker	46,522	21.4	839	10.3
Nonsmoker	124,257	57.1	6,134	75.2

Note: Current smokers: have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in lifetime and still smoke; every-day smokers are current smokers who smoke every day; some-day smokers are current smokers who smoke on some days; former smokers have smoked at least 100 cigarettes in lifetime but currently do not smoke; nonsmokers have smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes in lifetime. Numbers by smoking status may not add to total because unknown is not shown. Asians are those who identify themselves as being of the race alone. Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2005, Series 10, No. 232, 2006, Internet site <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>; calculations by New Strategist

Table 2.4 Drinking Status of Total and Asian Adults, 2005*(number and percent distribution of total people and Asians aged 18 or older, by drinking status, 2005)*

	total		Asians	
	number	percent distribution	number	percent distribution
Total people	217,774	100.0%	8,155	100.0%
Current regular drinker	103,672	47.6	2,639	32.4
Current infrequent drinker	25,502	11.7	886	10.9
Former drinker	30,357	13.9	687	8.4
Lifetime abstainer	51,420	23.6	3,762	46.1

Note: A lifetime abstainer had fewer than 12 drinks in lifetime; a former drinker had more than 12 drinks in lifetime, but no drinks in past year; a current drinker had more than 12 drinks in lifetime and had drinks in past year; an infrequent drinker had fewer than 12 drinks in one year; a regular drinker had more than 12 drinks in one year. Numbers by drinking status may not add to total because unknown is not shown. Asians are those who identify themselves as being of the race alone. Source: National Center for Health Statistics, Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Adults: National Health Interview Survey, 2005, Series 10, No. 232, 2006, Internet site <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm>; calculations by New Strategist

The Chinese Are the Largest Asian Ethnic Group

Asian Indians are the second largest group.

The Asian population in the United States includes people from many different countries. The Chinese are the largest ethnic group among Asians, accounting for 22 percent of the total. Asian Indians are number two, accounting for 19 percent. Filipinos are close behind at 18 percent of Asians. Vietnam and Korea are the only other countries accounting for at least 10 percent of the Asian population.

Among the nation's 12 million Asians in 2005, only one-third are native-born. Thirty-seven percent of the country's Asians are foreign-born naturalized citizens. A substantial 30 percent of Asians in the United States are not citizens.

Of the 9.5 million U.S. foreign-born from Asian countries, the largest percentage (17 percent) come from the Philippines. India is second with 15 percent and China third with 13 percent.

■ Because so many Asians are immigrants, a change in the nation's immigration laws would profoundly affect the characteristics of Asians in the United States.

Just five ethnic groups account for 80 percent of Asians

(percent distribution of Asians by selected ethnic group, 2005)

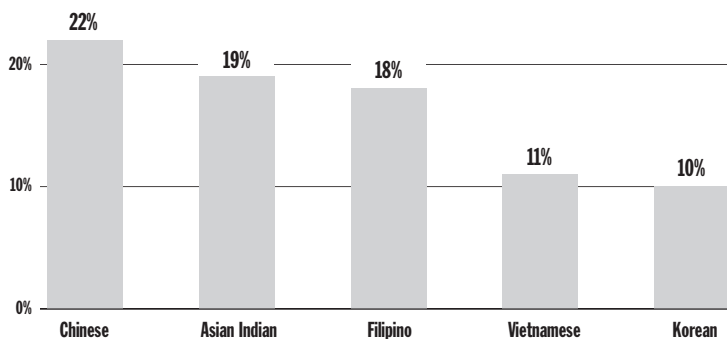


Table 7.4 Asians Ranked by Ethnic Group, 2005

(number and percent distribution of Asians by ethnic group, 2005)

	number	percent
Total Asians specifying an ethnic origin	12,471,815	100.0%
Chinese	2,797,966	22.4
Asian Indian	2,319,222	18.6
Filipino	2,282,872	18.3
Vietnamese	1,418,334	11.4
Korean	1,246,240	10.0
Japanese	833,761	6.7
Cambodian	217,438	1.7
Laotian	193,247	1.5
Pakistani	192,431	1.5
Hmong	183,265	1.5
Thai	143,169	1.1
Taiwanese	84,291	0.7
Indonesian	63,609	0.5
Bangladeshi	48,577	0.4
Sri Lankan	30,125	0.2
Malaysian	13,460	0.1
Other Asian	403,808	3.2

Note: Asians are those who identify themselves as being Asian alone.

Source: Bureau of the Census, 2005 American Community Survey, Internet site <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>; calculations by New Strategist

Table 9.7 Indexed Time Use of Asians by Sex, 2005

(average hours spent by Asians aged 15 or older doing primary activities on an average day by sex, and index of Asian women's time to Asian men's, 2005)

	Asians aged 15 or older, average hours		index of women to men
	Asian men	Asian women	
Total, all activities	24.00	24.00	100
Personal care	9.64	9.74	101
Sleeping	8.99	9.07	101
Grooming	0.61	0.61	100
Eating and drinking	1.55	1.41	91
Household activities	0.85	2.32	273
Housework	–	0.93	–
Food preparation and cleanup	0.26	0.99	381
Consumer purchases (store, telephone, Internet)	0.67	0.90	134
Consumer goods purchases	0.32	0.56	175
Caring for and helping household members	0.38	1.10	289
Caring for and helping household children	–	0.80	–
Work and work-related activities	5.21	3.03	58
Working	4.65	2.80	60
Leisure and sports	4.53	3.75	83
Socializing and communicating	–	0.44	–
Watching television	2.21	1.95	88
Telephone calls, mail, and email	–	0.24	–

Note: The index is calculated by dividing women's time by men's and multiplying by 100. Primary activities are those respondents identified as their main activity. Other activities done simultaneously, such as eating while watching TV, are not included. Time spent doing activities includes related travel time. Numbers will not add to total because not all categories are shown. "–" means sample is too small to make a reliable estimate.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, unpublished tables from the 2005 American Time Use Survey, Internet site <http://www.bls.gov/tus/home.htm>; calculations by New Strategist