

University of Massachusetts Boston

ScholarWorks at UMass Boston

Institute for Asian American Studies
Publications

Institute for Asian American Studies

2022

Asian Americans in Massachusetts including Boston and other selected cities: Data from the 2020 Decennial Census and American Community Survey

Shauna Lo

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umb.edu/iaas_pubs



Part of the [Asian American Studies Commons](#), [Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons](#), and the [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#)



Asian Americans

IN MASSACHUSETTS

including Boston and other selected cities

Data from the 2020 Decennial Census
and American Community Survey

2022



Prepared by Shauna Lo
Institute for Asian American Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston
100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
(617) 287-5650
www.umb.edu/iaas
asianaminst@umb.edu

The Institute for Asian American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston conducts community-based research on Asian American issues; provides data and analysis about Asian Americans to policymakers, service providers, educators and students, foundations, the media, and community groups; and contributes to the success of Asian American students and the enrichment of Asian American studies on campus.

May 2022

Thank you to Dr. Zong-Guo Xia and Tara Nguyen for assistance with collection of 2020 Decennial Census data, and Drs. Paul Watanabe and Nicole Filler for consultation and reviewing the draft.

Front and back cover background image from Freepik.com by coolvector.

Notes on the data in this report

The data in this report are drawn from multiple U.S. Census Bureau datasets: the 2020 Decennial Census, the 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, the 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, and the 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). Note that data from different datasets are not directly comparable. The dataset used for each table and chart is indicated.

Limited data was available from the 2020 Decennial Census at the time of publication.

Population data in this report may be for racial groups “**alone**” (one race only) or “**alone or in combination**” (one or more races), as indicated in the table or chart. Population numbers for Asian American subgroups may be “**alone**” (one Asian American subgroup only) or “**alone or in combination**” (one or more Asian American subgroups and/or races).

Socio-economic data in this report is for racial groups “alone” and Asian American subgroups “alone.”

The Census Bureau considers Hispanic or Latino origin to be an ethnicity; thus Hispanics and Latinos may be of any race. Racial data in this report includes Hispanics and Latinos unless otherwise noted.

The Census Bureau collects survey data from approximately 1% of households in Massachusetts each year for the American Community Survey. Thus, sample sizes for certain cohorts, geographies or variables may be small, resulting in large margins of error.

Table of Contents

I. Population

Figure 1. Population by Race (Alone) in Massachusetts	7
Table 1. Population by Race (Alone) and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	8
Table 2. Population by Race (Alone or in combination) in Massachusetts	8
Table 3. Population of Asian Americans Subgroups in Massachusetts (Estimates)	9
Figure 2. Population by Race (Alone) in Boston	10
Table 4. Population by Race (Alone) and Latino Origin in Boston	10
Table 5. Population of Asian Americans (alone) for Selected Cities and Towns	11
Table 6. Population of Asian Americans (alone or in combination) for Selected Cities and Towns	11
Table 7. Cities and Towns with Largest Populations of Selected Asian American Subgroups (Estimates)	12

II. Selected Social and Economic Characteristics

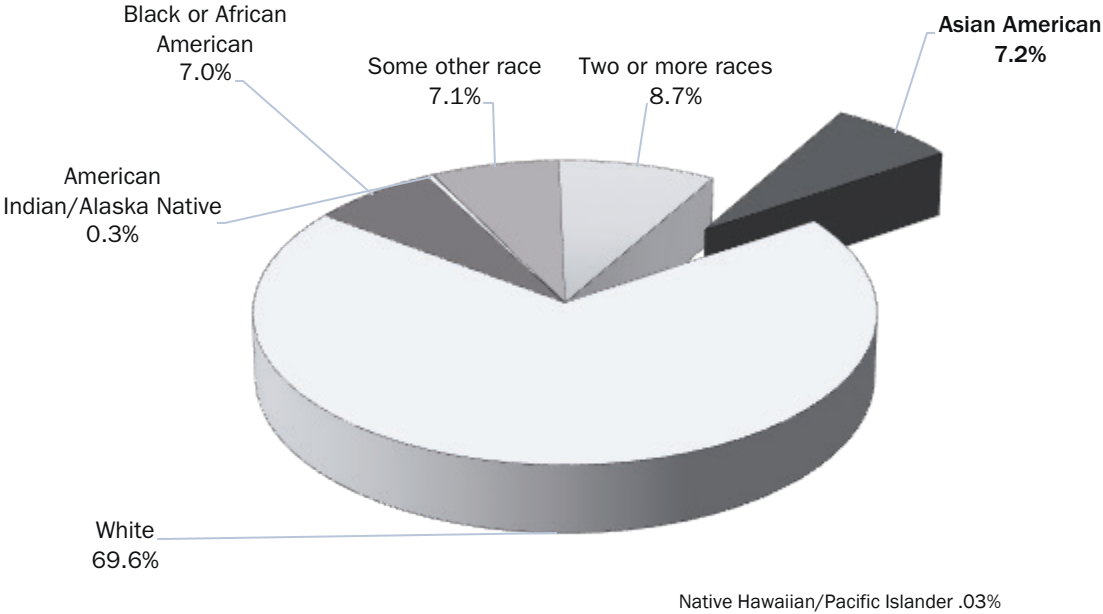
Asian Americans in Massachusetts	13
Table 8. Nativity and Citizenship Status by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	13
Figure 3. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Asian Americans in Massachusetts	13
Table 9. English Usage at Home and Proficiency by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 5 Years and Over in Massachusetts	14
Figure 4. English Usage at Home and Proficiency by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 5 Years and Over in Massachusetts	14
Table 10. Median Household Income by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	15
Table 11. Per Capita Income by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	15
Table 12. Individual Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	15
Table 13. Family Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	15
Table 14. School Enrollment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in Massachusetts	16
Table 15. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts	17
Figure 5. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts	17
Table 16. Occupation by Sex for Civilian Employed Asian Americans and Total Population 16 Years and Over in Massachusetts	18
Figure 6. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	19
Table 17. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts	19

Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Korean Americans in Massachusetts	20
Table 18. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts	20
Table 19. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 5 Years and Over in Massachusetts	20
Figure 7. Median Household Income for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts	21
Figure 8. Per Capita Income for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts	21
Figure 9. Household Income Distribution for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts	22
Figure 10. Individual Poverty Rate for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts	23
Figure 11. Family Poverty Rate for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts	23
Table 20. School Enrollment for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 3 Years and Over in Massachusetts	24
Figure 12. Educational Attainment for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts	25
Table 21. Educational Attainment for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts	25
Asian Americans in Boston	26
Table 22. Nativity and Citizenship Status by Race and Latino Origin in Boston	26
Table 23. English Usage at Home and Proficiency by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 5 Years and Over in Boston	26
Table 24. Median Household Income by Race and Latino Origin in Boston	27
Table 25. Per Capita Income by Race and Latino Origin in Boston	27
Table 26. Individual Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Boston	27
Table 27. Family Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Boston	27
Figure 13. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Boston	28
Table 28. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Boston	28
Table 29. School Enrollment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in Boston	29
Figure 14. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Boston	30
Table 30. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Boston	30

Asian Americans in Selected Cities: Quincy, Lowell, Malden, and Worcester	31
Table 31. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Asian Americans in Selected Cities	31
Table 32. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Asian Americans 5 Years and Over in Selected Cities	31
Table 33. Median Household Income for Asian Americans in Selected Cities	32
Table 34. Per Capita Income for Asian Americans in Selected Cities	32
Table 35. Individual Poverty Rate for Asian Americans in Selected Cities	32
Table 36. Family Poverty Rate for Asian Americans in Selected Cities	32
Table 37. Educational Attainment for Asian Americans 25 Years and Over in Selected Cities	33
Table 38. School Enrollment for Asian Americans 3 Years and Over and Enrolled in Selected Cities	33
Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston	34
Table 39. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston	34
Table 40. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans 5 Years and Over in Boston	34
Table 41. Median Household Income for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston	34
Table 42. Per Capita Income for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston	35
Table 43. Individual Poverty Rate for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston	35
Table 44. Educational Attainment for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans 25 Years and Over in Boston	35
Table 45. School Enrollment for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans 3 Years and Over and Enrolled in Boston	35
Cambodian Americans in Lowell	36
Table 46. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Cambodian Americans in Lowell	36
Table 47. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Cambodian Americans 5 Years and Over in Lowell	36
Table 48. Median Household Income for Cambodian Americans in Lowell	36
Table 49. Per Capita Income for Cambodian Americans in Lowell	37
Table 50. Individual Poverty Rate for Cambodian Americans in Lowell	37
Table 51. Educational Attainment for Cambodian Americans 25 Years and Over in Lowell	37
Table 52. School Enrollment for Cambodian Americans 3 Years and Over and Enrolled in Lowell	37

I. Population

Figure 1. Population by Race (Alone) in Massachusetts



Source: 2020 Decennial Census

Asian Americans “alone” (one race only) comprised 7.2% of the population in Massachusetts in 2020, increasing by 45.2% since 2010, when Asian Americans “alone” were 5.3% of the population in the state.

Choosing whether to use “alone” population data or “alone in combination” data (that is, one race only vs. one or more races) can affect calculations. Over 74,000 Asian Americans identified as being biracial or multiracial in 2020. With these individuals included, the percentage of Asian Americans in Massachusetts rises from 7.2% to 8.3%.

The growing use of the “Some other race” category and the increasing number of individuals who identify as biracial or multiracial complicate analyses of race and ethnicity. Some of the increases may actually be due to new coding practices used by the Census Bureau since write-in boxes were added to the 2020 Census.*

Table 1. Population by Race (Alone) and Latino Origin in Massachusetts

	2010	2020	% Change	% of Total Pop
Asian American	349,768	507,934	45.2%	7.2%
White	5,265,236	4,896,037	-7.0%	69.6%
Black or African American	434,398	494,029	13.7%	7.0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	18,850	24,018	27.4%	0.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2,223	2,301	3.5%	0.03%
Some other race	305,151	496,731	62.8%	7.1%
TOTAL ONE RACE	6,375,626	6,421,050	0.7%	91.3%
TOTAL TWO OR MORE RACES	172,003	608,867	254.0%	8.7%
TOTAL POPULATION	6,547,629	7,029,917	7.4%	100.0%
White, non-Hispanic	4,984,800	4,748,897	-4.7%	67.6%
Hispanic or Latino	627,654	887,685	41.4%	12.6%

Source: 2010 and 2020 Decennial Censuses

Table 2. Population by Race (Alone or in combination) in Massachusetts

	2010	2020	% Change	% of Total Pop
Asian American	394,211	582,484	47.8%	8.3%
White	5,400,458	5,399,122	-0.02%	76.8%
Black or African American	508,413	669,866	31.8%	9.5%
American Indian/Alaska Native	50,705	94,040	85.5%	1.3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	10,257	10,436	1.7%	0.1%
Some other race	369,611	924,832	150.2%	13.2%

Source: 2010 and 2020 Decennial Censuses

* Luc Schuster at Boston Indicators has written about new Census coding practices. See “Who is Some Other Race?” at <https://www.bostonindicators.org/article-pages/2022/april/some-other-race-census-20220426>.

Table 3. Population of Asian Americans Subgroups in Massachusetts (Estimates)

	Alone	Alone or in any combination
Chinese	175,560	196,027
Indian	124,952	135,010
Vietnamese	48,205	56,272
Korean	23,560	32,997
Cambodian	22,064	25,848
Filipino	17,344	28,953
Japanese	11,368	20,401
Pakistani	8,544	9,861
Two or more Asian	7,386	-
Nepalese	6,844	7,306
Thai	4,064	5,775
Laotian	3,992	5,458
Bangladeshi	3,937	4,295
Taiwanese	3,726	4,564
Other Asian, not specified	3,235	15,234
Indonesian	2,373	3,311
Sri Lankan	2,147	2,398
Burmese	1,043	1,192
Malaysian	946	1,381
Bhutanese	576	576
Hmong	512	618
Mongolian	284	469
Other Asian, specified	233	577

Total Asian Americans “alone”: 472,895

Total Asian Americans “alone or in any combination”: 548,125

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

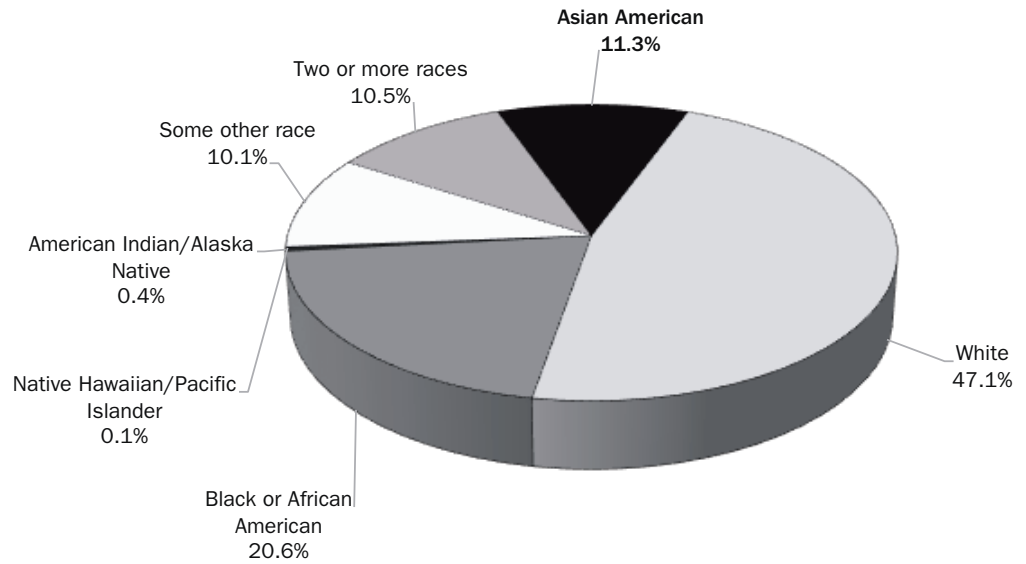
The three largest Asian American subgroups in the state are Chinese, Indian, and Vietnamese. Note that the numbers in this table are estimates; the 100% population data for subgroups from the 2020 Decennial Census is forthcoming.

Just as the population of Asian Americans can be reported either as “alone” or “alone in combination,” numbers of Asian American subgroups can also be reported in a similar way. In the table to the left, the first column labelled “alone” means the individual identified as one race and one Asian ethnicity. The column “alone or in any combination” includes those who identified as more than one ethnicity and/or more than one race.

The subgroups that have the highest percent of individuals identifying as more than a single race and/or ethnicity are Japanese, Filipinos, and Mongolians.

Figure 2. Population by Race (Alone) in Boston

Asian Americans “alone” comprised 11.3% of the population in Boston in 2020, compared to 8.9% in 2010.



Source: 2020 Decennial Census

Table 4. Population by Race (Alone) and Latino Origin in Boston

	2010	2020	% Change	% of Total Pop
Asian American	55,235	76,021	37.6%	11.3%
White	333,033	318,101	-4.5%	47.1%
Black or African American	150,437	138,870	-7.7%	20.6%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,399	2,824	17.7%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	265	356	34.3%	0.1%
Some Other Race	51,893	68,274	31.6%	10.1%
TOTAL ONE RACE	593,262	604,446	1.9%	89.5%
TOTAL TWO OR MORE RACES	24,332	71,201	192.6%	10.5%
TOTAL POPULATION	617,594	675,647	9.4%	100.0%
White, non-Hispanic	290,312	301,464	3.8%	44.6%
Hispanic or Latino	107,917	126,113	16.9%	18.7%

Source: 2010 and 2020 Decennial Censuses

Table 5. Cities and Towns with Largest Population of Asian Americans (alone) in Massachusetts

	2010	2020	% Change	% of Total Pop
Boston	55,235	76,021	37.6%	11.3%
Quincy	22,174	31,282	41.1%	30.8%
Lowell	21,513	25,776	19.8%	22.3%
Cambridge	15,879	22,743	43.2%	19.2%
Malden	11,971	17,151	43.3%	25.9%
Newton	9,790	14,725	50.4%	16.6%
Worcester	11,034	14,688	33.1%	7.1%
Brookline	9,183	12,124	32.0%	19.2%
Lexington	6,240	11,416	82.9%	33.1%
Shrewsbury	5,451	9,434	73.1%	24.6%
Somerville	6,606	8,614	30.4%	10.6%
Waltham	5,860	7,947	35.6%	12.2%
Amherst	4,140	6,995	69.0%	17.8%
Lynn	6,292	6,948	10.4%	6.9%
Medford	3,865	6,839	76.9%	11.5%
Braintree	2,701	6,750	149.9%	17.2%
Acton	4,067	6,032	48.3%	25.1%

The five municipalities in Massachusetts with the largest population of Asian Americans “alone” are Boston, Quincy, Lowell, Cambridge, and Malden. Five municipalities have populations of Asian Americans “alone” that exceed 25%: Lexington, Quincy, Westborough (not listed in the table), Malden, and Acton.

Source: 2010 and 2020 Decennial Censuses

Table 6. Population of Asian Americans (alone or in combination) for Selected Cities and Towns

	2020	% of Total Pop
Boston	84,944	12.6%
Quincy	32,312	31.8%
Lowell	27,314	23.6%
Cambridge	25,986	21.9%
Malden	17,859	27.0%
Newton	16,826	18.9%
Worcester	16,421	8.0%
Brookline	13,927	22.0%
Lexington	12,401	36.0%
Shrewsbury	9,931	25.9%
Somerville	10,294	12.7%
Waltham	8,693	13.3%
Amherst	N/A	
Lynn	7,687	7.6%
Medford	7,838	13.1%
Braintree	7,189	18.4%
Acton	6,496	27.0%

Source: 2020 Decennial Census

Including multiracial Asian Americans increases their portion of the population in Boston to 12.6%.

For some groups, including individuals who identify as more than one race can significantly alter an analysis. For example, the population of Black or African Americans “alone or in combination” in Boston is 172,039 (compared with 138,101 for Black or African Americans “alone”) and raises their portion of the total population to one-quarter from one-fifth.

Table 7. Cities and Towns with Largest Populations of Selected Asian American Subgroups (Estimates)

Chinese	Alone	Alone or in any combination	Indian	Alone	Alone or in any combination
Boston	31,208	34,242	Boston	10,701	11,804
Quincy	18,919	19,652	Shrewsbury	4,485	4,550
Malden	7,924	8,441	Cambridge	4,397	5,037
Cambridge	7,843	8,889	Lexington	3,502	3,647
Newton	7,223	8,271	Quincy	3,343	3,538
Brookline	5,433	6,013	Burlington	3,297	3,559
Lexington	4,157	4,611	Lowell	3,277	3,431
Waltham	3,182	3,380	Westborough	3,251	3,293
Braintree	3,009	3,222	Acton	2,855	2,909
Somerville	2,548	2,891	Westford	2,707	2,840

Vietnamese	Alone	Alone or in any combination	Cambodian	Alone	Alone or in any combination
Boston	12,677	13,334	Lowell	14,978	15,591
Worcester	6,785	7,026	Lynn	4,142	4,618
Quincy	3,316	3,783	Fall River	787	815
Randolph	2,480	2,674	Attleboro	657	759
Lowell	2,099	2,299	Worcester	633	756
Malden	1,483	1,680	Dracut	585	622
Springfield	1,451	1,691	Revere	555	752
Everett	1,266	1,504	Springfield	441	503
Weymouth	835	927	Boston	439	658
Methuen	758	885	Chelmsford	392	524

Cambodian Americans are highly concentrated geographically, with over half the population in the state living in Lowell. Vietnamese are heavily concentrated in two major cities, Boston and Worcester, and in suburbs just south of Boston. Chinese Americans are heavily concentrated in the Greater Boston area and more than half of their population in the state can be found in the ten listed cities and towns.

Korean	Alone	Alone or in any combination
Boston	3,656	4,534
Cambridge	2,320	2,550
Newton	1,438	1,684
Lexington	927	970
Brookline	903	1,052
Arlington	757	991
Somerville	702	830
Belmont	651	792
Amherst	596	622
Wellesley	543	687

II. Selected Social and Economic Characteristics*

Asian Americans in Massachusetts

including data for White non-Hispanics, Hispanic/Latinos, and Black/African Americans

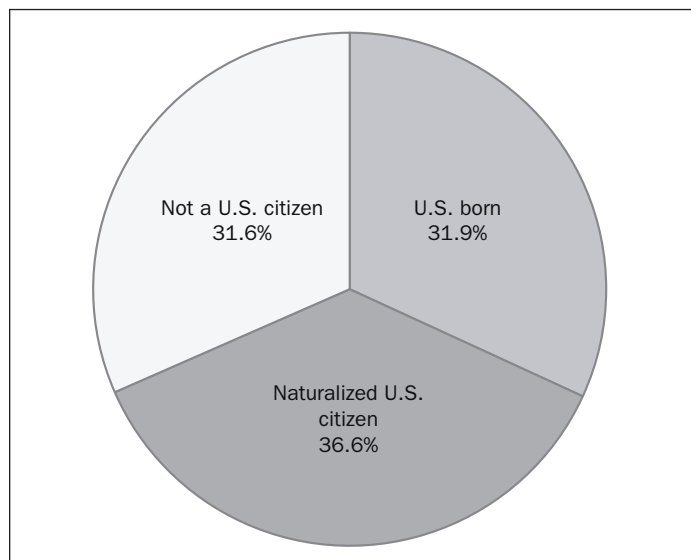
Table 8. Nativity and Citizenship Status by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer.
Native	31.9%	92.5%	68.0%	63.3%
Foreign born:	68.1%	7.5%	32.0%	36.7%
<i>Naturalized U.S. citizen</i>	36.6%	4.4%	14.8%	23.9%
<i>Not a U.S. citizen</i>	31.6%	3.1%	17.2%	12.8%
Total (N)	472,895	4,846,166	853,735	543,629

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Figure 3. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Asian Americans in Massachusetts



Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Over two-thirds of Asian Americans in Massachusetts are foreign born. Of these, just over half are naturalized. More than one-third of Asian Americans as a whole are not citizens.

One in three Asian Americans in Massachusetts speaks English less than “very well.”

*Socio-economic data in this report is for racial groups “alone” and Asian American subgroups “alone.”

Table 9. English Usage at Home and Proficiency by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 5 Years and Over in Massachusetts

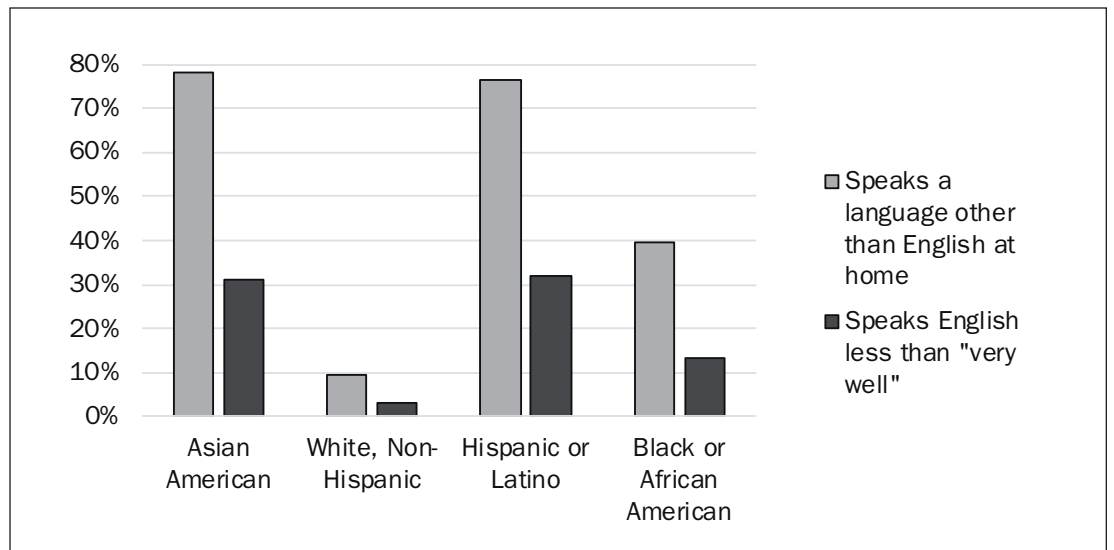
	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or Afr. Amer
Speak English only	21.7%	90.6%	23.4%	60.5%
Speak a language other than English:	78.3%	9.4%	76.6%	39.5%
<i>Speak English less than "very well"</i>	31.1%	2.8%	31.9%	13.4%
Total 5+ (N)	449,963	4,643,571	777,834	506,401

Seventy-eight percent of Asian Americans in Massachusetts speak a language other than English at home.

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Figure 4. English Usage at Home and Proficiency by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 5 Years and Over in Massachusetts



Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 10. Median Household Income by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts*

Asian American	\$104,420
White, Non-Hispanic	\$93,275
Hispanic or Latino	\$51,175
Black or African American	\$59,035
Total Population	\$85,843

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 11. Per Capita Income by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts*

Asian American	\$48,296
White, Non-Hispanic	\$52,700
Hispanic or Latino	\$23,962
Black or African American	\$27,840
Total Population	\$46,241

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 12. Individual Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts

		Total (N)
Asian American	10.6%	449,276
White, Non-Hispanic	6.5%	4,690,639
Hispanic or Latino	19.6%	825,041
Black or African American	17.6%	520,549
Total Population	9.4%	6,656,430

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 13. Family Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts

		Total Families (N)
Asian American	6.0%	107,545
White, Non-Hispanic	3.7%	1,238,214
Hispanic or Latino	16.4%	176,849
Black or African American	12.9%	116,327
Total Population	6.0%	1,665,005

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Asian Americans have the highest median household income; however, the size of their households is also larger than average (2.8 compared to 2.5 for the general population). The per capita income of Asian Americans is about 90% that of white, non-Hispanics.

The individual and family poverty rates for Asian Americans are more than 60% higher than the rates for white, non-Hispanics.

Table 14. School Enrollment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in Massachusetts

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer
Nursery, preschool	8,980	68,644	15,169	7,047
Elementary school (grades K–8)	45,046	397,710	128,096	64,733
High school (grades 9–12)	23,319	208,888	58,452	34,415
College or graduate school	67,641	362,773	69,456	57,686
Total 3+ and enrolled	144,986	1,038,015	271,173	163,881
Total Population	472,895	4,846,166	853,735	543,629

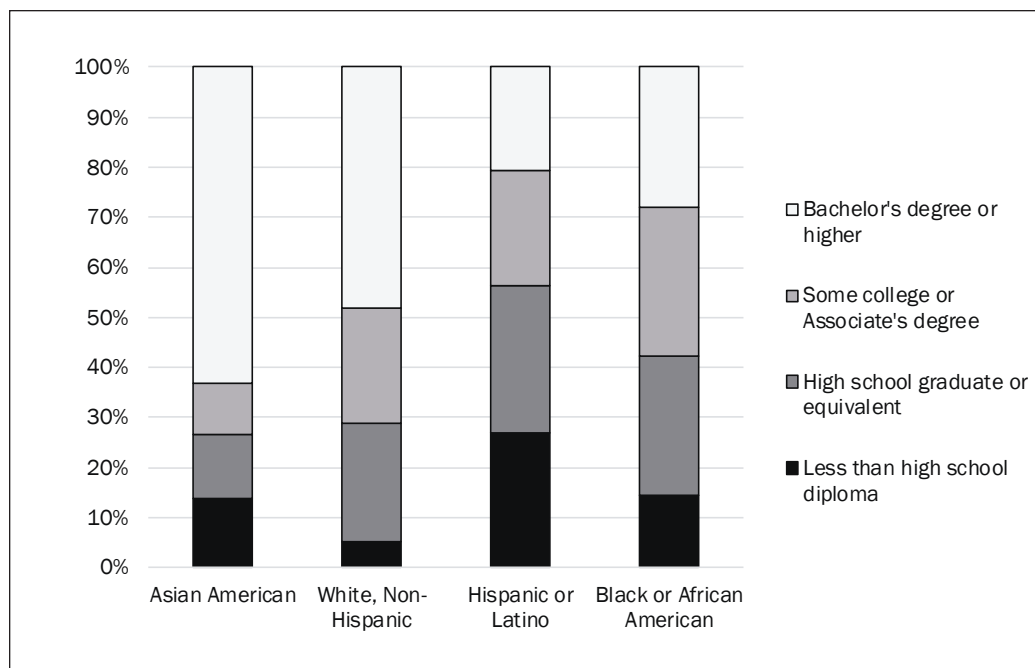
Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Asian Americans have a larger percentage of their population enrolled in college or graduate school (14.3%) than the other groups shown. Black or African Americans also have a larger share than the general population enrolled in college or graduate school (10.6% vs. 8.6%). Black or African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos have a higher percentage of their populations in grades K–12 than Asian Americans or white non-Hispanics.

Table 15. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer
Less than high school diploma	13.7%	5.2%	26.8%	14.3%
High school graduate or equivalent	12.8%	23.7%	29.6%	28.1%
Some college or Associate's degree	10.3%	22.9%	22.8%	29.7%
Bachelor's degree	25.1%	27.0%	12.2%	17.3%
Graduate or professional degree	38.1%	21.2%	8.6%	10.7%
Total 25+ (N)	326,204	3,601,315	486,528	350,938

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Figure 5. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

As a group, Asian Americans in Massachusetts have high educational attainment as compared to white, non-Hispanics: 38% of Asian Americans have a graduate or professional degree as compared to 21% for white, non-Hispanics. They are also two and a half times more likely than white, non-Hispanics to lack a high school diploma.

Table 16. Occupation by Sex for Civilian Employed Asian Americans and Total Population 16 Years and Over in Massachusetts

	Asian American		Total Population	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Management, business, science, and arts:	65.0%	61.7%	44.5%	52.3%
Management, business, and financial	17.6%	15.6%	19.8%	18.2%
Computer, engineering, and science	32.3%	20.8%	12.7%	5.8%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media	9.7%	14.5%	9.1%	18.0%
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.3%	10.8%	2.9%	10.3%
Service:	11.8%	13.9%	14.7%	19.4%
Healthcare support	1.0%	3.3%	0.9%	6.2%
Protective service	1.1%	0.5%	3.2%	0.8%
Food preparation and serving related	7.2%	4.7%	5.0%	5.7%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	1.1%	0.7%	4.1%	2.2%
Personal care and service	1.5%	4.8%	1.5%	4.5%
Sales and office:	8.2%	17.9%	14.1%	23.0%
Sales and related	5.3%	7.2%	9.0%	8.5%
Office and administrative support	2.9%	10.7%	5.1%	14.4%
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance:	3.5%	0.3%	12.7%	0.6%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%
Construction and extraction	2.1%	0.2%	8.4%	0.3%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	1.4%	0.1%	4.0%	0.2%
Production, transportation, and material moving:	11.5%	6.1%	13.9%	4.7%
Production	6.3%	5.4%	5.2%	2.4%
Transportation	2.8%	0.1%	5.2%	1.1%
Material moving	2.4%	0.6%	3.5%	1.2%
Total employed 16+ (N)	132,494	128,454	1,878,492	1,821,751

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

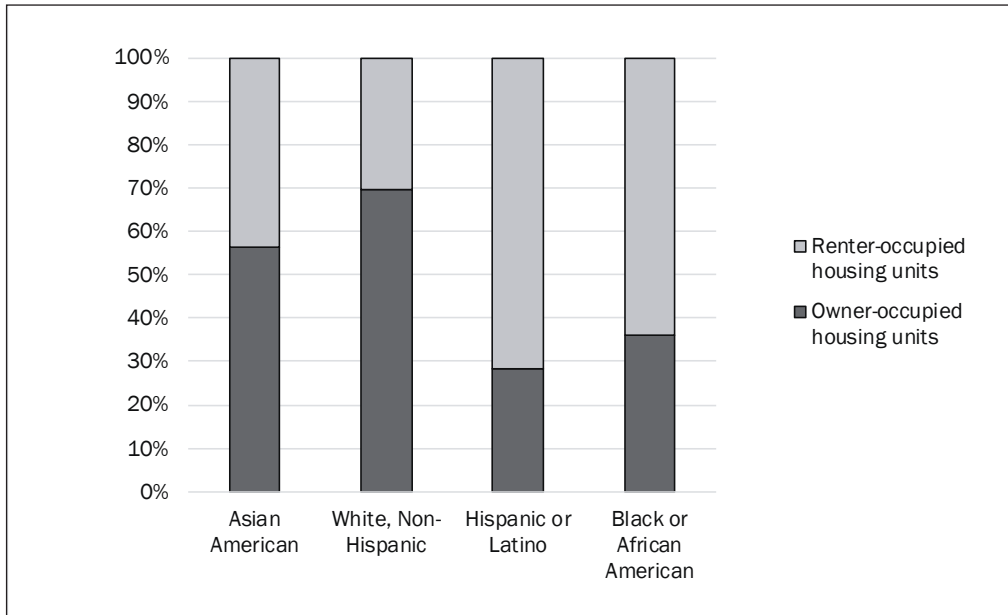
Both Asian American men and women are heavily concentrated in computer, engineering and science fields as compared to the general population.

A larger percentage of Asian American men work in food preparation and serving related occupations than their counterparts in the general population.

A larger percentage of Asian American women work in personal care and service than their counterparts in the general population.

Asian American females work in production jobs at a rate more than two times higher than females in the total population.

Figure 6. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts



The rate of home ownership for Asian Americans is 56%, less than the rate for white, non-Hispanics, 69.7%. Forty-three percent of Asian Americans in Massachusetts rent homes.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 17. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Massachusetts

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer
Owner-occupied housing units	56.2%	69.7%	28.4%	35.9%
Renter-occupied housing units	43.8%	30.3%	71.6%	64.1%
Total occupied housing units (N)	158,853	2,007,598	262,038	180,753

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Chinese, Indian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Korean Americans in Massachusetts

Disaggregating Asian American data is important to understanding differences among subgroups. In this report, we present data for the five largest Asian American “alone” groups in the state. The rate of U.S.-born Cambodian Americans is approaching 50%. One in four Indian Americans are non-citizens.

Of the five subgroups, Vietnamese are the most likely to speak a non-English language at home and have the highest rate of individuals who speak English less than “very well.”

Table 18. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean	Total Pop
U.S. born	30.1%	28.7%	32.5%	46.3%	29.3%	83.2%
Foreign born	69.9%	71.3%	67.5%	53.7%	70.7%	16.8%
<i>Naturalized U.S. citizen</i>	34.6%	29.8%	49.8%	39.1%	39.9%	8.9%
<i>Not a U.S. citizen</i>	35.3%	41.5%	17.7%	14.6%	30.9%	7.9%
Total (N)	162,129	110,867	52,344	29,381	24,294	6,850,567

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

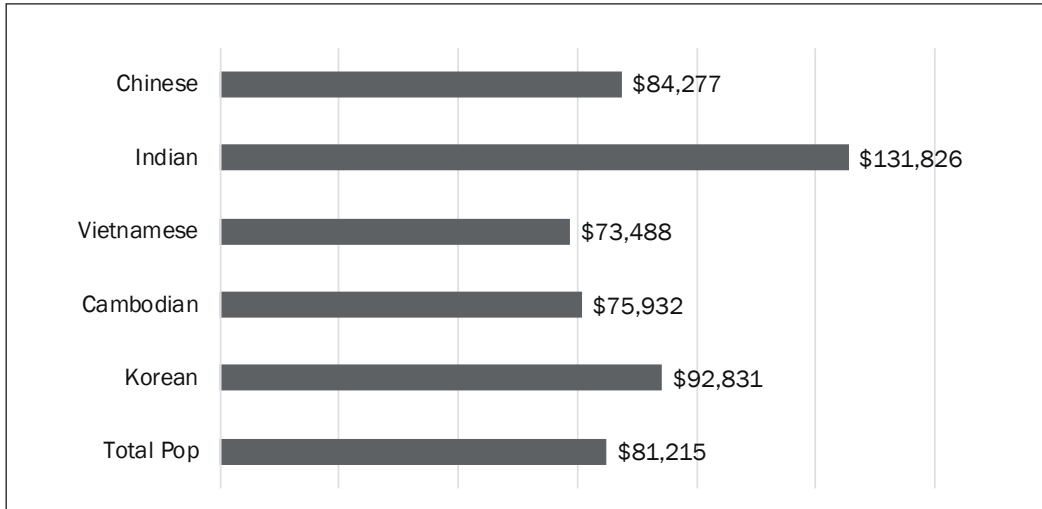
Table 19. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 5 Years and Over in Massachusetts

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Speak English only at home	19.0%	23.3%	13.4%	24.5%	35.0%
Speak a language other than English at home	81.0%	76.7%	86.6%	75.5%	65.0%
<i>Speak English less than “very well”</i>	51.8%	21.3%	61.8%	49.9%	38.9%
Total 5 years+ (N)	155,304	102,916	50,129	27,718	23,560

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

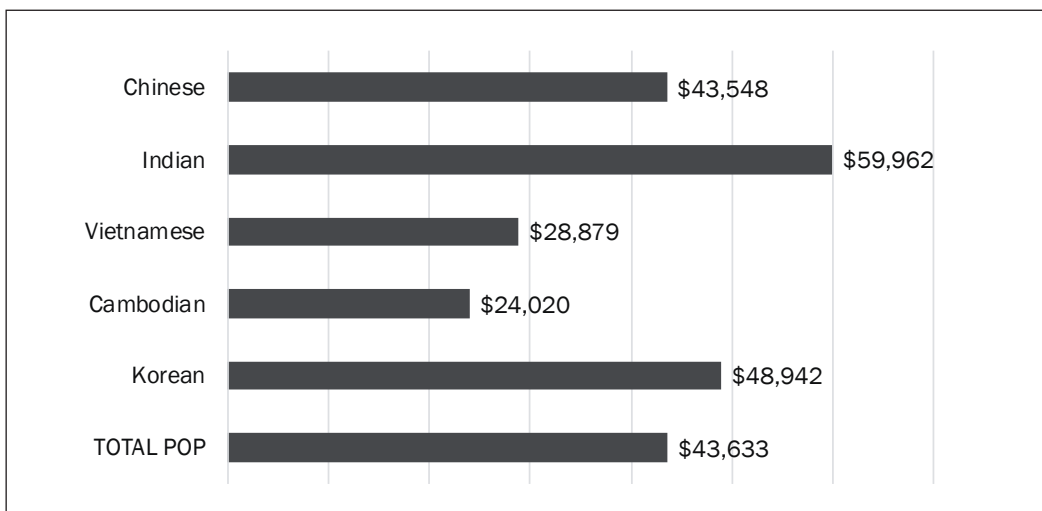
Figure 7. Median Household Income for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts*



* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Figure 8. Per Capita Income for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts*

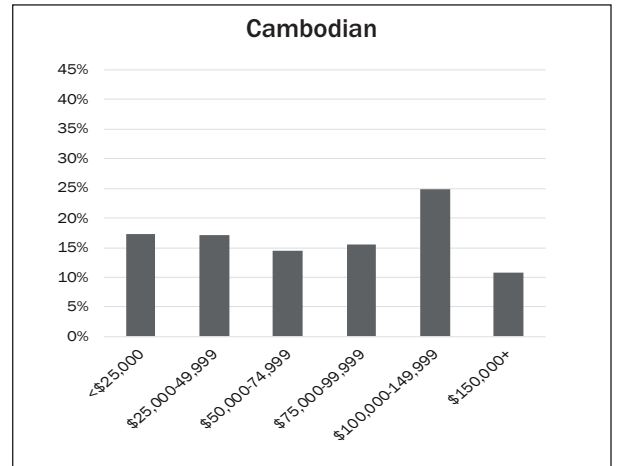
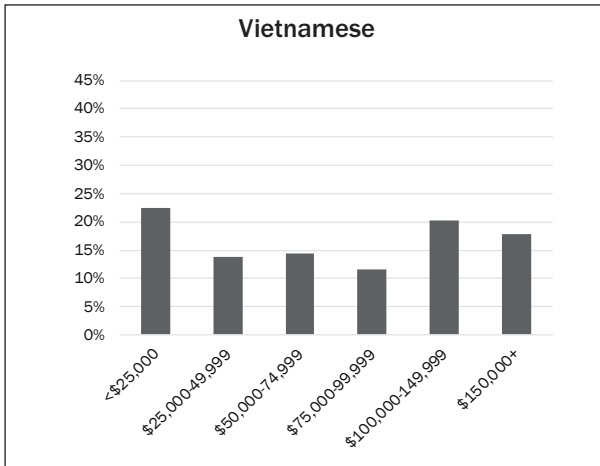
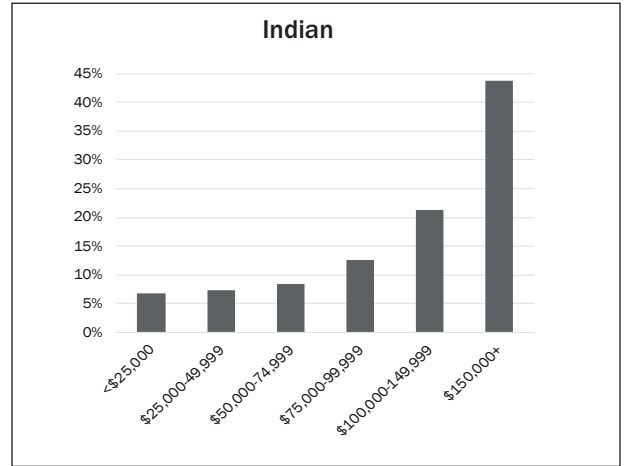
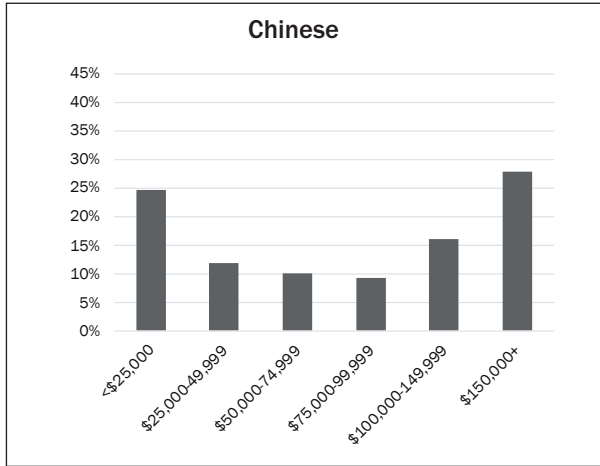


* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

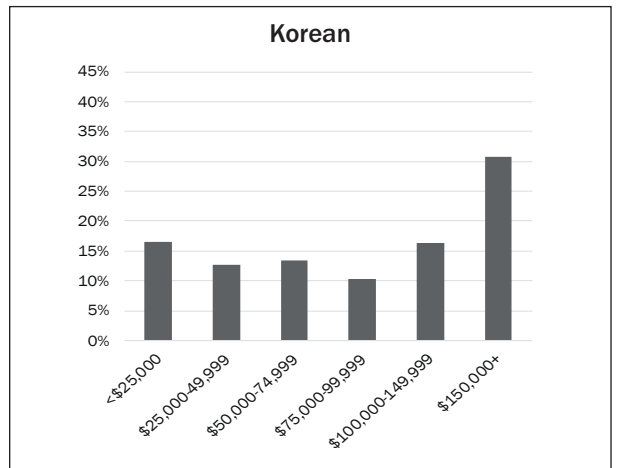
Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

There are substantial differences in household and per capita incomes among Asian American subgroups. Indian Americans in Massachusetts have higher incomes than the other four subgroups. Per capita incomes for Vietnamese and Cambodian Americans lag significantly behind the other groups included here.

Figure 9. Household Income Distribution for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts*

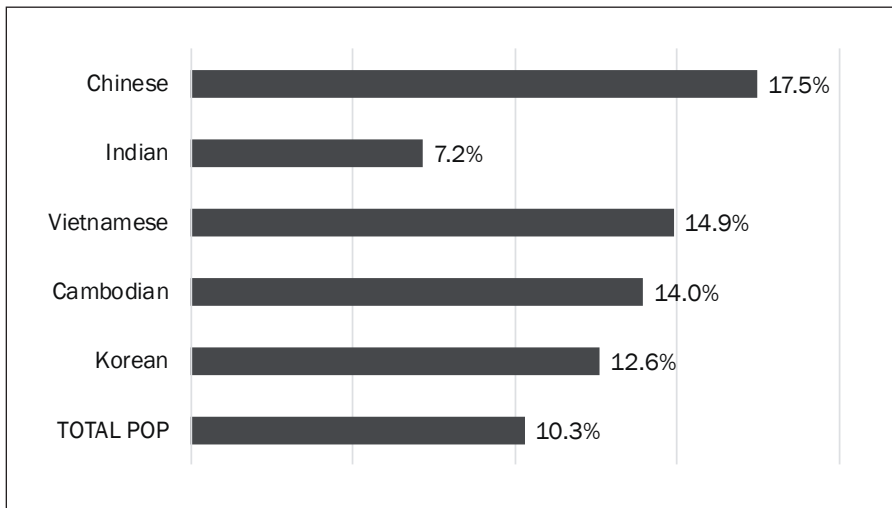


These charts illustrate the household income distributions across five income categories for Asian American subgroups. Just as household incomes vary considerably by Asian American subgroup, they also vary within subgroups. Chinese Americans have a distinctly bimodal household income distribution and their incomes are concentrated both in the “less than \$25,000” category and the “\$150,000 and above” categories.



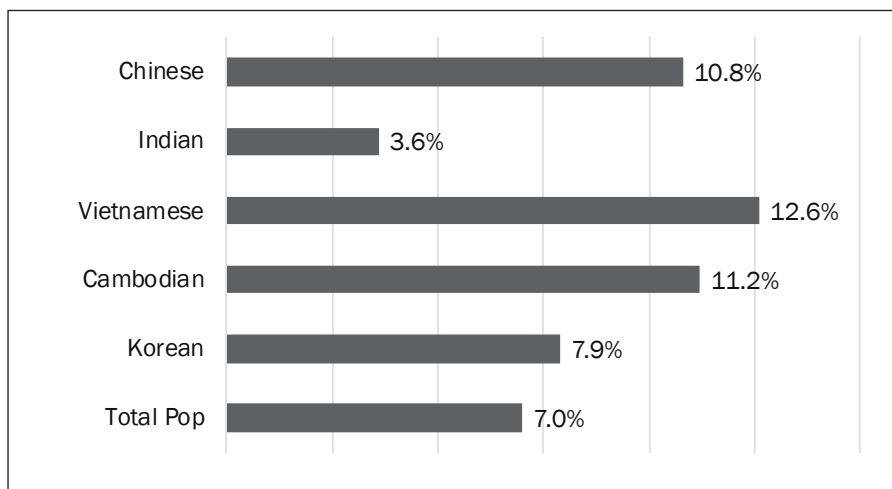
* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Figure 10. Individual Poverty Rate for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Micro-data Sample (PUMS)

Figure 11. Family Poverty Rate for Selected Asian American Subgroups in Massachusetts



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Micro-data Sample (PUMS)

Individual and family poverty rates vary widely among Asian American subgroups. The subgroups shown here all have higher poverty rates than the general population, with the exception of Indian Americans. Of the five subgroups shown, Chinese Americans have the highest individual poverty rate, 17.5%.

Chinese and Korean Americans have particularly large percentages of their populations in Massachusetts enrolled in college or graduate school, 18.1% and 20.9% respectively, compared to 8.5% for the population as a whole. Cambodian Americans have a higher portion of their population enrolled in K–12 than the other groups shown. Indian Americans have a high percentage of their population enrolled in nursery or preschool, 2.8% vs. 1.4% or less for all other groups shown.

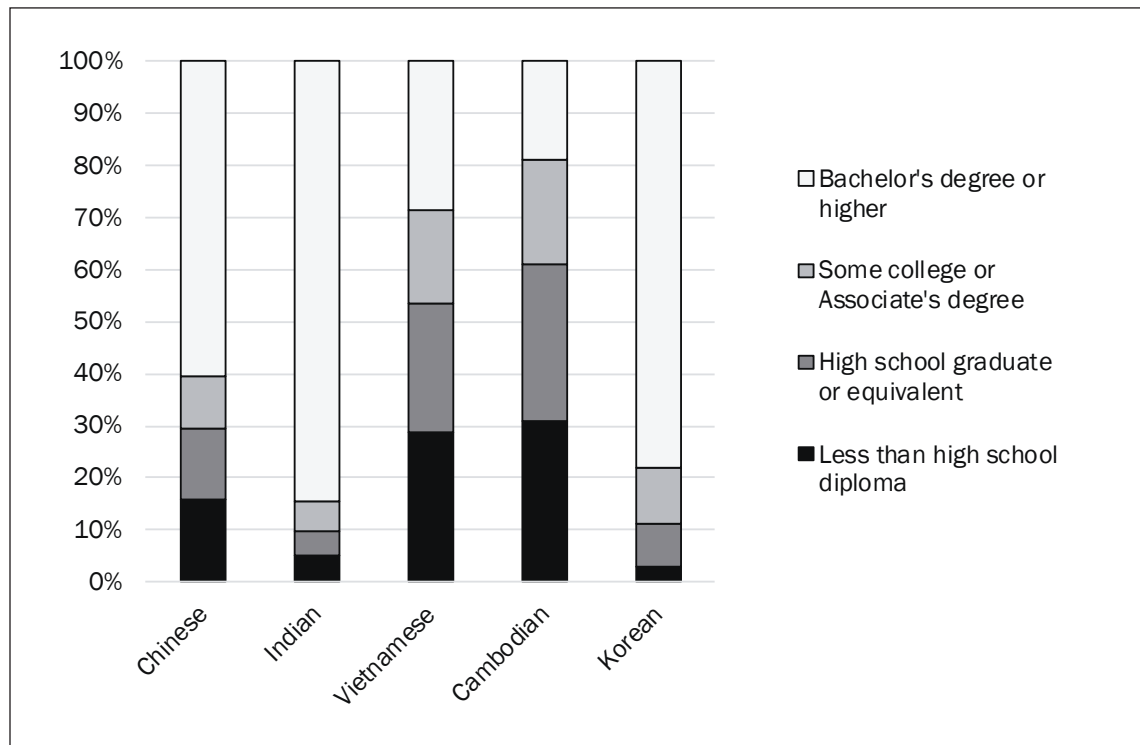
Indian, Korean and Chinese Americans in Massachusetts have high rates of educational attainment, although Chinese Americans also have a large share of their population with less than a high school diploma, 15.8% compared to 9.2% for the general population. Vietnamese and Cambodian Americans have high rates of individuals with less than a high school diploma, 28.7% and 30.8% respectively. Only 28.5% of Vietnamese Americans and 19% of Cambodian Americans have a bachelor's degree or higher, as compared to 43.6% of the general population.

Table 20. School Enrollment for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 3 Years and Over in Massachusetts

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean
Nursery school, preschool	2,189	3,064	597	396	272
Elementary school (grades K–8)	13,065	12,334	5,682	3,588	2,397
High school (grades 9–12)	7,076	4,183	2,998	2,141	994
College or graduate school	29,357	13,265	5,721	2,684	5,085
Total 3+ and enrolled	51,687	32,846	14,998	8,809	8,748
Total Population	162,129	110,867	52,344	29,381	24,294

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Figure 12. Educational Attainment for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts



Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 21. Educational Attainment for Selected Asian American Subgroups for the Population 25 Years and Over in Massachusetts

	Chinese	Indian	Vietnamese	Cambodian	Korean	Total Pop
Less than high school diploma	15.8%	5.1%	28.7%	30.9%	2.9%	9.2%
High school graduate or equivalent	13.7%	4.8%	24.9%	30.0%	8.5%	24.2%
Some college or Associate's degree	10.1%	5.6%	18.0%	20.1%	10.5%	23.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	60.4%	84.5%	28.5%	19.0%	78.2%	43.6%
Total 25+ years (N)	111,211	76,037	36,201	18,598	16,431	4,784,064

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Asian Americans in Boston

including data for White non-Hispanics, Hispanic or Latinos, and Black or African Americans

Table 22. Nativity and Citizenship Status by Race and Latino Origin in Boston

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer.
Native	26.7%	89.4%	60.9%	67.3%
Foreign born:	73.3%	10.6%	39.1%	32.7%
<i>Naturalized U.S. citizen</i>	33.4%	4.4%	17.2%	21.0%
<i>Not a U.S. citizen</i>	39.9%	6.2%	21.9%	11.7%
Total (N)	67,451	312,044	136,632	173,098

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 23. English Usage at Home and Proficiency by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 5 Years and Over in Boston

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or Afr. Amer
Speak English only	18.8%	87.8%	18.4%	65.7%
Speak a language other than English:	81.2%	12.2%	81.6%	34.3%
<i>Speak English less than "very well"</i>	40.6%	3.5%	36.9%	22.2%
Total 5+ (N)	65,489	300,617	127,319	163,658

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

In Boston, more than seven in ten Asian Americans are foreign born. One in eight speaks a language other than English at home. One in four speak English less than "very well."

Table 24. Median Household Income by Race and Latino Origin in Boston*

Asian American	\$52,677
White, Non-Hispanic	\$121,056
Hispanic or Latino	\$43,090
Black or African American	\$49,486

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 25. Per Capita Income by Race and Latino Origin in Boston*

Asian American	\$38,787
White, Non-Hispanic	\$74,235
Hispanic or Latino	\$25,307
Black or African American	\$25,453

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 26. Individual Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Boston

		Total (N)
Asian American	29.3%	61,205
White, Non-Hispanic	9.8%	286,252
Hispanic or Latino	25.3%	132,134
Black or African American	19.7%	168,627

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 27. Family Poverty Rate by Race and Latino Origin in Boston

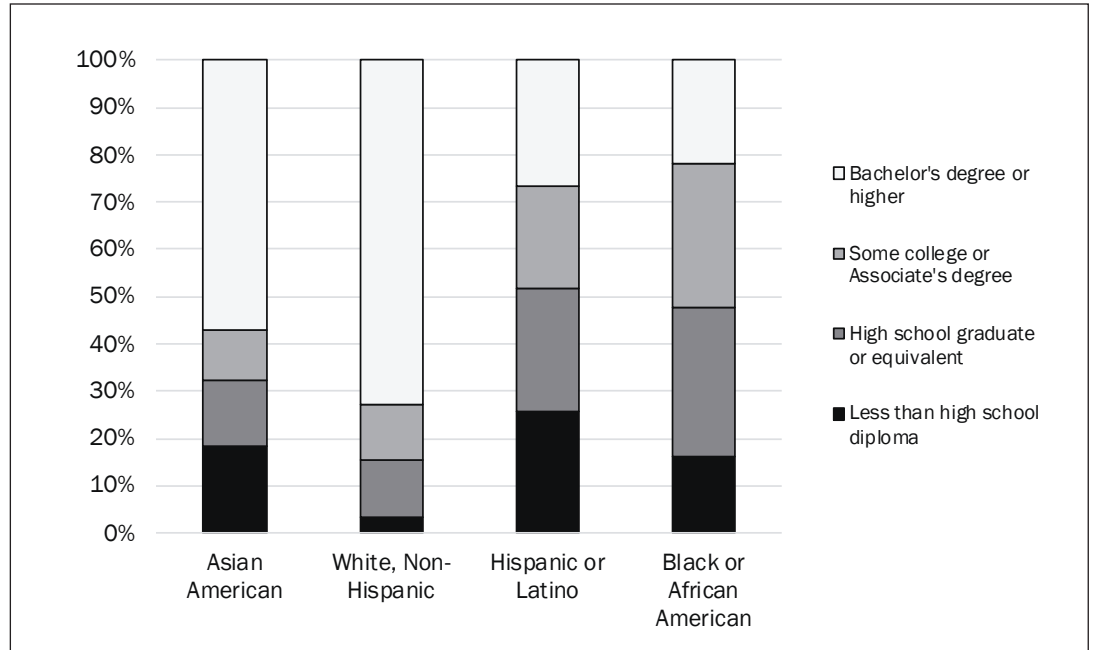
		Total (N)
Asian American	22.0%	12,098
White, Non-Hispanic	3.5%	54,235
Hispanic or Latino	20.3%	25,601
Black or African American	15.7%	35,959

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Median household incomes for Asian Americans, Hispanic or Latinos, and Black or African Americans in Boston are all less than half that of white, non-Hispanics.

Asian Americans have the highest individual and family poverty rates in Boston of the four major racial/ethnic groups.

Figure 13. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Boston



Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 28. Educational Attainment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 25 Years and Over in Boston

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer
Less than high school diploma	18.5%	3.3%	25.7%	16.1%
High school graduate or equivalent	13.9%	12.2%	26.0%	31.7%
Some college or Associate's degree	10.6%	11.7%	21.6%	30.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	57.0%	72.9%	26.7%	21.8%
Total 25+ (N)	47,391	236,463	82,489	115,436

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

White, non-Hispanics in Boston are highly educated, with nearly 73% holding a bachelor's or graduate degree and only 3.3% having less than a high school diploma. Asian Americans, Hispanic or Latinos, and Black or African Americans in Boston all have much higher rates of individuals without a high school diploma.

Twenty-seven percent of Asian Americans in Boston are enrolled in college or graduate school, a much higher rate than that of white, non-Hispanics (16.5%). Black or African Americans and Hispanics or Latinos have much higher percentages of their populations enrolled in grades K–12 than Asian Americans or white non-Hispanics.

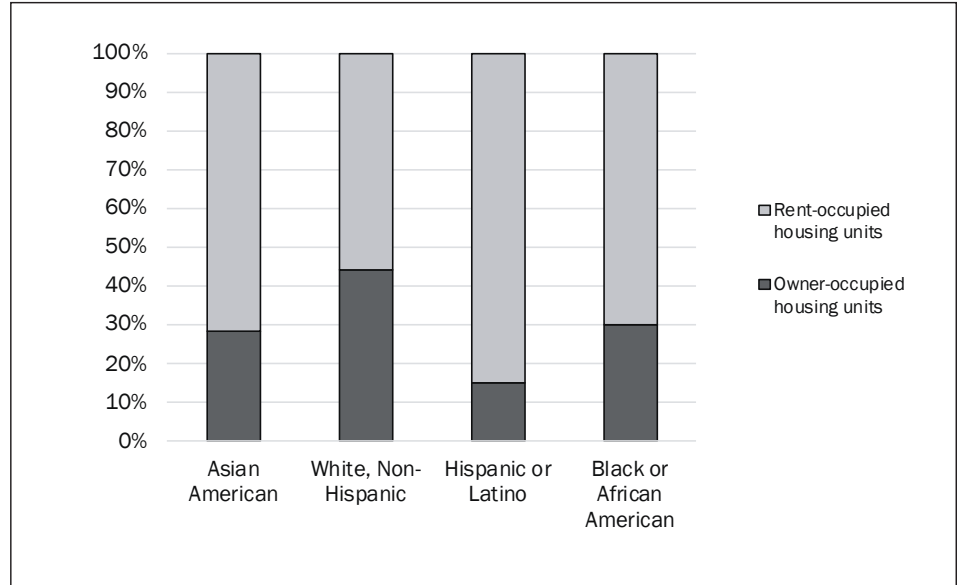
Table 29. School Enrollment by Race and Latino Origin for the Population 3 Years and Over Enrolled in Boston

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer
Nursery, preschool	833	3,555	2,145	1,830
Elementary school (grades K–8)	3,227	12,905	17,806	20,888
High school (grades 9–12)	2,142	4,330	7,796	11,089
College or graduate school	18,279	51,419	16,774	16,803
Total 3+ and enrolled	24,481	72,209	44,521	50,610
Total Population	67,451	312,044	136,632	173,098

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Figure 14. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Boston

The home-ownership rates in Boston are much lower for all groups than statewide. Only 28.4% of Asian Americans own a home in the city.



Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Table 30. Home Ownership/Rental Rates by Race and Latino Origin in Boston

	Asian American	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African Amer
Owner-occupied housing units	28.4%	44.1%	15.1%	29.9%
Rent-occupied housing units	71.6%	55.9%	84.9%	70.1%
Total occupied housing units (N)	27,079	138,503	44,976	59,787

Source: 2019 American Community Survey

Asian Americans in Selected Cities: Quincy, Lowell, Malden, and Worcester

Quincy, Lowell, Malden and Worcester, all cities that have large low to middle income Asian American communities, are highlighted in this section. Quincy's Asian American population is two-thirds Chinese, with the next largest groups being Indians and Vietnamese at about 12% each. Cambodians make up over 50% of the Asian

American population in Lowell, with Indians, Vietnamese and Laotians having much smaller populations. Lowell has, however, the largest concentration of Laotians (1,300) in the state. In Malden, Chinese comprise over half of the Asian American population. Nearly 50% of the Asian American population in Worcester is Vietnamese.

Table 31. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Asian Americans in Selected Cities

	Quincy	Lowell	Malden	Worcester
Native	26.5%	39.3%	20.3%	31.7%
Foreign born:	73.5%	60.7%	79.7%	68.3%
<i>Naturalized U.S. citizen</i>	36.6%	36.8%	34.6%	38.0%
<i>Not a U.S. citizen</i>	36.9%	24.0%	45.0%	30.4%
Total (N)	28,602	25,647	13,732	13,695

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Table 32. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Asian Americans 5 Years and Over in Selected Cities

	Quincy	Lowell	Malden	Worcester
Speak English only	10.3%	19.8%	11.5%	18.7%
Speak a language other than English:	89.7%	80.2%	88.5%	81.3%
<i>Speak English less than “very well”</i>	62.8%	50.8%	65.1%	57.5%
Total 5+ years (N)	26,837	23,881	12,965	13,174

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Table 33. Median Household Income for Asian Americans in Selected Cities*

Quincy	\$75,029
Lowell	\$70,792
Malden	\$64,347
Worcester	\$63,508

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Table 34. Per Capita Income for Asian Americans in Selected Cities*

Quincy	\$30,821
Lowell	\$23,079
Malden	\$31,660
Worcester	\$27,840

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Table 35. Individual Poverty Rate for Asian Americans in Selected Cities

		Total (N)
Quincy	12.8%	28,568
Lowell	14.2%	24,900
Malden	20.5%	13,712
Worcester	17.6%	13,015

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Table 36. Family Poverty Rate for Asian Americans in Selected Cities

		Total Families (N)
Quincy	9.4%	6,934
Lowell	10.6%	5,401
Malden	14.3%	3,376
Worcester	11.1%	2,744

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Table 37. Educational Attainment for Asian Americans 25 Years and Over in Selected Cities

	Quincy	Lowell	Malden	Worcester
Less than high school diploma	26.5%	29.6%	23.2%	22.8%
High school graduate or equivalent	20.0%	29.1%	19.9%	17.4%
Some college or Associate's degree	13.5%	17.7%	9.4%	15.5%
Bachelor's degree or higher	40.0%	23.6%	47.5%	44.4%
Total 25+ years (N)	16,173	10,086	21,495	9,082

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Table 38. School Enrollment for Asian Americans 3 Years and Over and Enrolled in Selected Cities

	Quincy	Lowell	Malden	Worcester
Nursery, preschool	470	436	104	107
Elementary school (grades K–8)	2,666	2,866	691	1,065
High school (grades 9–12)	1,056	1,330	540	747
College or graduate school	2,280	3,530	1,857	2,781
Total 3+ and enrolled	6,472	8,162	3,192	4,700
Total Population	28,602	25,647	13,732	13,695

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey

Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston

Over 30,000 Chinese live in Boston and they are a diverse mix of long-time residents, young professionals, and students attending colleges and universities. The Chinatown in Boston is one of the few enduring historical Chinatowns in the U.S., having developed in the 1880s and continued in the same location to the present day. Its survival, however, has been challenged by its desirable location in the heart of downtown Boston.

Vietnamese began living in Boston in the 1970s as refugees who were resettled after the Vietnam War. A vibrant community developed in the Dorchester neighborhood during the 1980s and centers around the Fields Corner district. It is one of the largest Vietnamese communities on the East Coast.

Table 39. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston

	Chinese	Vietnamese
U.S. born	25.8%	27.1%
Foreign born	74.2%	72.9%
<i>Naturalized U.S. citizen</i>	33.5%	52.9%
<i>Not a U.S. citizen</i>	40.7%	20.0%
Total (N)	31,899	12,439

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 40. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans 5 Years and Over in Boston

	Chinese	Vietnamese
Speak English only at home	15.2%	8.2%
Speak a language other than English at home	84.8%	91.8%
<i>Speak English less than "very well"</i>	59.0%	71.9%
Total 5 years+ (N)	30,866	12,026

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 41. Median Household Income for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston*

Chinese	\$31,989
Vietnamese	\$35,639
Total Population	\$70,658

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 42. Per Capita Income for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston*

Chinese	\$31,200
Vietnamese	\$22,688
Total Population	\$43,445

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 43. Individual Poverty Rate for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans in Boston

		Total (N)
Chinese	35.7%	28,859
Vietnamese	22.0%	12,159
Total Population	19.4%	641,068

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 44. Educational Attainment for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans 25 Years and Over in Boston

	Chinese	Vietnamese	Total Population
Less than high school diploma	24.3%	33.6%	12.8%
High school graduate or equivalent	17.3%	26.6%	19.7%
Some college or Associate's degree	10.1%	19.9%	18.0%
Bachelor's degree	21.4%	15.2%	26.8%
Graduate or professional degree	26.8%	4.7%	22.7%
Total 25+ years (N)	21,908	9,186	473,383

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 45. School Enrollment for Chinese and Vietnamese Americans 3 Years and Over and Enrolled in Boston

	Chinese	Vietnamese
Nursery, preschool	358	30
Elementary school (grades K-8)	1,405	1,346
High school (grades 9-12)	778	730
College or graduate school	8,793	1,468
Total 3+ and enrolled	11,332	3,574
Total Population	31,899	12,439

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Cambodian Americans in Lowell

Cambodians arrived in Greater Boston during the 1980s as refugees who were resettled after a brutal civil war in Cambodia. Initially there was not a large number of Cambodians in Lowell but due to secondary migration, the community grew as Cambodians from all over the country moved to the city. Lowell became, and remains, the second largest Cambodian community in the country.

Table 46. Nativity and Citizenship Status for Cambodian Americans in Lowell

U.S. born	45.6%
Foreign born	54.4%
<i>Naturalized U.S. citizen</i>	37.4%
<i>Not a U.S. citizen</i>	17.0%
Total (N)	14,622

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 47. English Usage at Home and Proficiency for Cambodian Americans 5 Years and Over in Lowell

Speak English only at home	21.3%
Speak a language other than English at home	78.7%
<i>Speak English less than “very well”</i>	50.4%
Total 5 years+ (N)	13,533

All percentages are a portion of the total.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 48. Median Household Income for Cambodian Americans in Lowell*

Cambodian	\$73,822
Total Population	\$59,039

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 49. Per Capita Income for Cambodian Americans in Lowell*

Cambodian	\$22,519
Total Population	\$27,064

* In 2019 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 50. Individual Poverty Rate for Cambodian Americans in Lowell

		Total (N)
Cambodian	14.7%	14,589
Total Population	19.4%	106,560

Source: 2015–2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 51. Educational Attainment for Cambodian Americans 25 Years and Over in Lowell

	Cambodian	Total Population
Less than high school diploma	32.9%	18.4%
High school graduate or equivalent	32.0%	34.6%
Some college or Associate's degree	20.2%	23.8%
Bachelor's degree	11.0%	13.6%
Graduate or professional degree	3.9%	9.5%
Total 25+ years (N)	9,370	72,180

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)

Table 52. School Enrollment for Cambodian Americans 3 Years and Over and Enrolled in Lowell

Nursery, preschool	216
Elementary school	1,680
High School	796
College or graduate school	1,174
Total 3+ and enrolled	3,866
Total Population	14,622

Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)



INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
University of Massachusetts Boston

100 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3393
(617) 287-5650
www.umb.edu/iaas
asianaminst@umb.edu