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**A Child is a Child: A Snapshot of California's Children's Health  
May 2022: AANHPI Children's Health Fact Sheet**

**Masked Health Inequities**

An accurate picture of the health of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) children in California is impossible without accurate and detailed data that is disaggregated by racial and ethnic subgroups. Health inequities that exist within the AANHPI community are understudied and overlooked at least in part because much of the data on this ethnically diverse population are aggregated, leading to a masking of differences and hidden health disparities between racial and ethnic subgroups.<sup>1</sup>

**Protective Factors**

- **Maintaining heritage culture** facilitates the transfer of cultural values that support Asian American children's development, particularly those from immigrant families, including a strong sense of family obligation - the support, assistance and respect that children provide to their family - that facilitates higher family cohesion and stronger youth ethnic identity.<sup>2</sup>
- **Bilingualism** and the ability to communicate fluently in more than one language - including a child's heritage language - has been linked to higher cognitive functioning among Asian American children.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://aapidata.com/ethnicitydata/>

<sup>2</sup> Zhou, Qing & Tao, Annie & Chen, Stephen & Main, Alexandra & Lee, Erica & Ly, Jennifer & Hua, Michelle & Li, Xiaowei. (2012). Asset and Protective Factors for Asian American Children's Mental Health Adjustment. *Child Development Perspectives*. 6. 312-319. 10.1111/j.1750-8606.2012.00251.x. [https://zhoulab.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ZhouTao\\_CDP\\_12.pdf](https://zhoulab.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/ZhouTao_CDP_12.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [Ibid.](#)

- **Cultural identification**, such as a sense of belonging and affiliation with spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of Asian American culture, have been associated with a reduction in the risk of suicide attempts.<sup>4</sup>
- **Strong and supportive family relationships** and higher levels of family cohesion have been related to lower risk of lifetime suicide attempt among youth from Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander backgrounds.<sup>5</sup>
- **Support from native healers** has facilitated increased access to services that address mental issues that Native Hawaiian youth face.<sup>6</sup>

## COVID-19

### California, 2022

- Asian American children and youth who had or currently have COVID-19: 94,565 (7.1%) → percent of population 12.7%<sup>7</sup>
- Hawaiian and PI children and youth who had or currently have COVID-19: 7,766 (0.6%) → percent of population 0.3%<sup>8</sup>
- Asian American children and youth COVID-19 death rate: 15.4%<sup>9</sup>
- Hawaiian and PI children and youth COVID-19 death rate: 1.5<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Cheng, Janice & Fancher, Tonya & Ratanasen, Milin & Conner, Kenneth & Duberstein, Paul & Sue, Stanley & Takeuchi, David. (2010). Lifetime Suicidal Ideation and Suicide Attempts in Asian Americans. *Asian American Journal of Psychology*. 1. 18-30. 10.1037/a0018799.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232569823\\_Lifetime\\_Suicidal\\_Ideation\\_and\\_Suicide\\_Attempts\\_in\\_Asian\\_Americans](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/232569823_Lifetime_Suicidal_Ideation_and_Suicide_Attempts_in_Asian_Americans)

<sup>5</sup> [Ibid.](#)

<sup>6</sup> Bell, C. K., Goebert, D. A., Andrade, N. N., Johnson, R. C., McDermott, J. F., Hishinuma, E. S., . . . Miyamoto, R. H. (2001). Sociocultural factors influencing adolescent preference and use of native Hawaiian healers. *Complementary Therapies in Medicine*, 9(4), 224–231.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Race-Ethnicity.aspx> Accessed April 2022.

<sup>8</sup> [Ibid.](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Race-Ethnicity.aspx> Accessed April 2022.

<sup>10</sup> [Ibid.](#)

- Case rate for NHPI communities: 77% higher than statewide<sup>11</sup>
- 64.4% of eligible Asian American children in CA between the ages of 5-11 years are fully vaccinated against COVID-19<sup>12</sup>
- 91.9% of eligible Asian American children in CA between the ages of 12-17 years are fully vaccinated against COVID-19<sup>13,12</sup>

### Health Coverage and Access

#### California, 2022

- AANHPI children and youth under 21 enrolled in Medi-Cal: 352,239<sup>14</sup>

#### California, 2019

- 97% AA children health insurance coverage<sup>15</sup>
- 95% of Native Hawaiian/PI children 18 and under have health insurance coverage. 1749 remain uninsured<sup>16</sup>
- The child's current insurance coverage is NOT usually/always adequate to meet his/her needs:<sup>17</sup>
  - AA children: 33.2% (280,881)
  - White children: 25.7%

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> California All, Vaccination data by race and ethnicity, <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccination-progress-data/#age-ethnicity>. Accessed April 4, 2022.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Documents/Childrens-Health-Dashboard-March2022.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> U.S. Census. "Health Insurance Coverage State by Age (Asian American Alone)." Table: B27001D. 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Accessed May 2022. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST1Y2019.B27001D&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.B27001D&hidePreview=true>

<sup>16</sup> U.S. Census. "Health Insurance Coverage State by Age (NHPI Alone)." Table: B27001E. 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Accessed May 2022. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSST1Y2019.B27001E&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST1Y2019.B27001E&hidePreview=true>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8202&r=6&g=861>

- No preventive visits during the past 12 months: 23.6% (213,875) AA children<sup>18</sup>
- 11.6% or 141,000 Asian (non-Latino) and Native Hawaiian/PI children do not have a usual source of care when sick or need health advice<sup>19</sup>

#### California, 2009

- Compared with non-Hispanic White children, Korean children were 4 times more likely to lack health insurance; Filipino children were twice as likely to not have had recent contact with a doctor; Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese children were less likely to have visited an emergency room in the past year; and Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese children were more likely to be in fair or poor health<sup>20</sup>

#### Mental Health

#### California, 2020

- 69,000 or 33.5% of AA and NHPI teen girls say they need help for emotional/mental health problems such as feeling sad, anxious or nervous<sup>21</sup>
- 12,000 or 5.6% of AA and NHPI teen girls received psychological/emotional counseling in the last year. 17% of all teen girls received psych/emotional counseling in the past year<sup>22</sup>

#### California, 2017-2019

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8210&r=6&g=861>

<sup>19</sup> 2019 California Health Interview Survey “Have usual place to go to when sick or need health advice”  
[https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/\\_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results](https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results)

<sup>20</sup> <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2009.168948>

<sup>21</sup> 2020 California Health Interview Survey [https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/\\_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results](https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results)

<sup>22</sup> 2020 California Health Interview Survey [https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/\\_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results](https://ask.chis.ucla.edu/AskCHIS/tools/_layouts/AskChisTool/home.aspx#/results)

- 31.2% of Asian American and 34.1% of Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander students reported feeling depressed compared to 31.6% of White children<sup>23</sup>

#### National

- AANHPI, last 12-month prevalence of suicidal thoughts, suicide planning, and attempted suicide: 18.87%<sup>24</sup>
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among AA youth<sup>25</sup>

#### Oral Health

##### California, 2019

- 17% of AA children experience untreated decay and 50% experience tooth decay, compared to 14% and 40% of white children, respectively<sup>26</sup>
- Over 50,000 or 13% of AA teens missed school due to a dental problem in the past year compared to 11% of white children<sup>27</sup>

##### California, 2017

<sup>23</sup> "Depression-Related Feelings, by Race/Ethnicity." Kidsdata.org, a Program of Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, 2017-2019 accessed April 2022, <https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/388/depressive-feelings-race/table#fmt=534&loc=2&tf=134&ch=7,11,70,10,72,9,73,127,1177,1176&sortColumnId=0&sortType=asc> citing data from WestEd, California Healthy Kids Survey (CHKS) and Biennial State CHKS. California Dept. of Education (Aug. 2020).

<sup>24</sup> Pooled Data (1991-2015) from Combined National Youth Behavioral Risk Surveys <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29656915/>

<sup>25</sup> Xiao Y, Lu W. Temporal Trends and Disparities in Suicidal Behaviors by Sex and Sexual Identity Among Asian American Adolescents. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4(4):e214498. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.449

<sup>26</sup> 2018-19 CA Smiles Survey <https://public.3.basecamp.com/p/Dr8PHet56Q2hkceFimXuscAu>

<sup>27</sup> 2020 CA Health Interview Survey

- 44% of low-income AANHPI preschoolers have **EARLY TOOTH DECAY**<sup>28</sup>

### Language Access

#### California, 2021

- Asian languages make up five of the top 12 non-English languages spoken in California. These languages and their respective ranks are Chinese (two), Vietnamese (three), Korean (four), Tagalog (seven), and Japanese (12)<sup>29</sup>
- 2M or 27% of AA children live in a household with a primary language other than English<sup>30</sup>

#### California, 2019

- AAPI communities still lack adequate access to translated materials and interpretation services when interacting with the health care system<sup>31</sup>

### Hate and Discrimination

#### California, 2016-2020

- The number of reported anti-Asian hate crime events increased by 107% in 2020, from 43 in 2019 to 89 in 2020<sup>32</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Huong Le et al., “Oral Health Disparities and Inequities in Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders” National Institute of Health, June 2017, accessed December 5, 2019, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5497891/#bib4>

<sup>29</sup> Anderson, Jeremy (2021). Brief AAPI Demographic Enrollment. *CSBA Research and Policy Brief*. <https://bit.ly/3LegWhu>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8389&r=6&g=832>

<sup>31</sup> “Asian American and Pacific Islander Experiences Accessing Health Care,” [https://cpehn.org/assets/uploads/2020/12/aapi\\_fact\\_sheet\\_final.pdf](https://cpehn.org/assets/uploads/2020/12/aapi_fact_sheet_final.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/anti-asian-hc-report.pdf>

### National

- From March 19, 2020 to December 31, 2021, a total of 10,905 hate incidents against AAPI people were reported to Stop AAPI Hate<sup>33</sup>
- The most common kind of anti-Asian hate crime reported across years 2016 and 2020 was violent crime, with a 125% increase<sup>32</sup>

### Food Access

#### California, 2018

- The highest period prevalence of food insecurity was noted among the Vietnamese subgroup (16.42%) and lowest among the Japanese subgroup (2.28%)<sup>34</sup>

### Community and Family Wellbeing

#### California, 2019-2020

- 46.6% of AA children in CA do not live in neighborhoods where they feel a sense of community & belongingness<sup>35</sup>
- 54.6% of parents of AA children have had someone to turn to for day-to-day emotional support with parenting or raising children in the last 12 months, compared to 85.9% of parents of white children<sup>36</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <https://stopaapihate.org/national-report-through-december-31-2021/>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6121379/table/ijerph-15-01684-t001/>

<sup>35</sup> "2019-2020 National Survey of Children's Health". Data Resource Center for Child & Adolescent Health, accessed April 4, 2022.

<https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8793&r=6&g=914>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.childhealthdata.org/browse/survey/results?q=8769&r=6&g=914>

## School Success and Safety

### California, 2021

- Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students make up about 12 percent of California's nearly 6.2 million students.<sup>37</sup>
- 21% of Asian American students are English learners<sup>38</sup>
- 10% of Filipino students are English learners<sup>39</sup>
- 13% of PI students are English learners<sup>40</sup>
- Of the top 10 most common languages spoken at home by children learning English in CA schools, 7 are Asian languages. Over 100,000 students in CA public schools speak Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Filipino, Hmong, Korean or Punjabi<sup>41</sup>
- 46% of AA 7<sup>th</sup> graders have experienced harassment and bullying in school<sup>42</sup>
- 36% of PI 11<sup>th</sup> graders have experienced harassment and bullying in school<sup>43</sup>

### California, 2019-2020

- NHPI students are 1.4X more likely to be referred to the **POLICE** than white students<sup>44</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Anderson, Jeremy (2021). Brief AAPI Demographic Enrollment. *CSBA Research and Policy Brief*. <https://bit.ly/3LegWhu>

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> "English Learners in Public Schools, but Top 10 Languages Spoken." Kidsdata.org, accessed April 21, 2020

<sup>42</sup> 2017-2019 CA Healthy Kids Survey <https://calschls.org/reports-data/public-dashboards/secondary-student/>

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> [https://www.aclunc.org/sites/default/files/20161019-the\\_right\\_to\\_remain\\_a\\_student-aclu\\_california\\_0.pdf](https://www.aclunc.org/sites/default/files/20161019-the_right_to_remain_a_student-aclu_california_0.pdf)



## Economic Well-Being

### California, 2020

- 10% or 106,168 AA children live below the federal poverty level<sup>45</sup>
- 23% or 5,141 NHPI children live below the federal poverty level<sup>46</sup>
- 17% of all children in CA live below the federal poverty level<sup>47</sup>
- Over 1 in 3 (35%) of AANHPI children are burdened by **HOUSING** and **UTILITY COSTS**<sup>48</sup>

### National

- Asians are four times and NHPs are seven times more likely than whites to live in multigenerational households.<sup>49</sup>
- AAPIs (54%) have lower homeownership rates than whites (66%), with the greatest disparity occurring between Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders (38%) and whites<sup>50</sup>

<sup>45</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 months by age, California: Asian American alone." 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B17020D, accessed April 2022.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=ACSDT1Y2019.B17020D&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSDT1Y2019.B17020D&hidePreview=true>

<sup>46</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 months by age, California: Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander alone." 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table B17020E, accessed April 2022. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B17020E&g=0400000US06>

<sup>47</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, California." 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, table S1701, accessed February 2021. <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Poverty&g=0400000US06&tid=ACSST5Y2020.S1701>

<sup>48</sup> The Urban Institute. Data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2019 and 2020 American Community Survey.

<sup>49</sup> National CAPACD and UCLA. "Crisis to Impact: Reflecting on a Decade of Housing Counseling Services in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities." accessed April 4, 2022. [https://www.nationalcapacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NationalCAPACD\\_HousingCounselingReport\\_final\\_031221.pdf](https://www.nationalcapacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NationalCAPACD_HousingCounselingReport_final_031221.pdf)

<sup>50</sup> National CAPACD and UCLA. "Crisis to Impact: Reflecting on a Decade of Housing Counseling Services in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities." accessed April 4, 2022. [https://www.nationalcapacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NationalCAPACD\\_HousingCounselingReport\\_final\\_031221.pdf](https://www.nationalcapacd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NationalCAPACD_HousingCounselingReport_final_031221.pdf)

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- Low to moderate income AAPI families (37%) are far less likely to own a home compared to White families (53%) in the same income bracket<sup>51</sup>
  - One in four (25%) AAPI families pay more than half of their income toward housing costs compared to 16% of White families<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.