

Countering Myths to Achieve Health Equity in Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Communities: **If not now, when?**

December 7th, 2021

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Disclaimer

- The opinions, findings and conclusions expressed by speakers during this event are strictly my own and do not necessarily represent the opinion, views or policies of NASEM; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement.

Disclosures

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OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

Asians: Too Smart for Their Own Good?

By CAROLYN CHEN

Published: December 19, 2012

Evanston, Ill.

Related in Opinion

ROOM FOR DEBATE Fears of an Asian Quota in the Ivy League

With a disproportionate number of Asian-American students acing standardized tests, are top colleges limiting the number they admit?



AT the end of this month, high school seniors will submit their college applications and begin waiting to hear where they will spend the next four years of their lives.

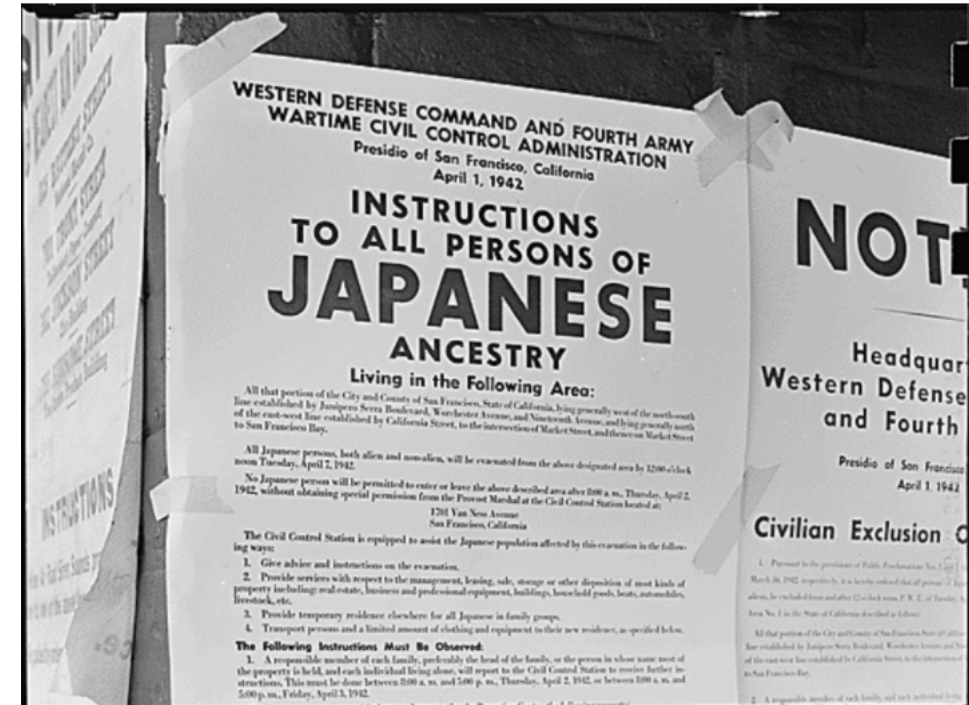
To get into elite colleges, some advised to 'appear less Asian'

As lawsuits allege racial quotas at elite colleges, high-achieving applicants call on consultants to help win admission — and receive guidance on minimizing their ethnicity



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF





Biden Has Overturned Trump's 'Muslim Travel Ban.' Activists Say That's Not Enough **npr**

March 6, 2021 · 7:58 AM ET

NEWSFEED • LANGUAGE

The Scripps National Spelling Bee Has Co-Champions, Again



BY KATY STEINMETZ MAY 28, 2015 11:02 PM EDT

In a dramatic, flawless final round, two eighth-graders proved to be joint

Americans always lose the spelling Bee

10:01 PM - 28 May 2015

← ↻ 3 ★



Kevin Morrissey

@k_morr37

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Only one white kid left in the spelling bee, let's go buddy make America proud

8:51 PM - 28 May 2015

← ↻ 6 ★ 12



B. Pacey

@Bennypac

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When was the last time a true American won the spelling bee? 1815? Not meant to be racist, but come on..

9:52 PM - 28 May 2015

← ↻ 9 ★ 4



Opie

@Opie_Won_Kinobi

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I'm rooting for the white people in the spelling bee on in the bar right now because America 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸

8:49 PM - 28 May 2015

← ↻ 3 ★



salbul1

@salbulonee

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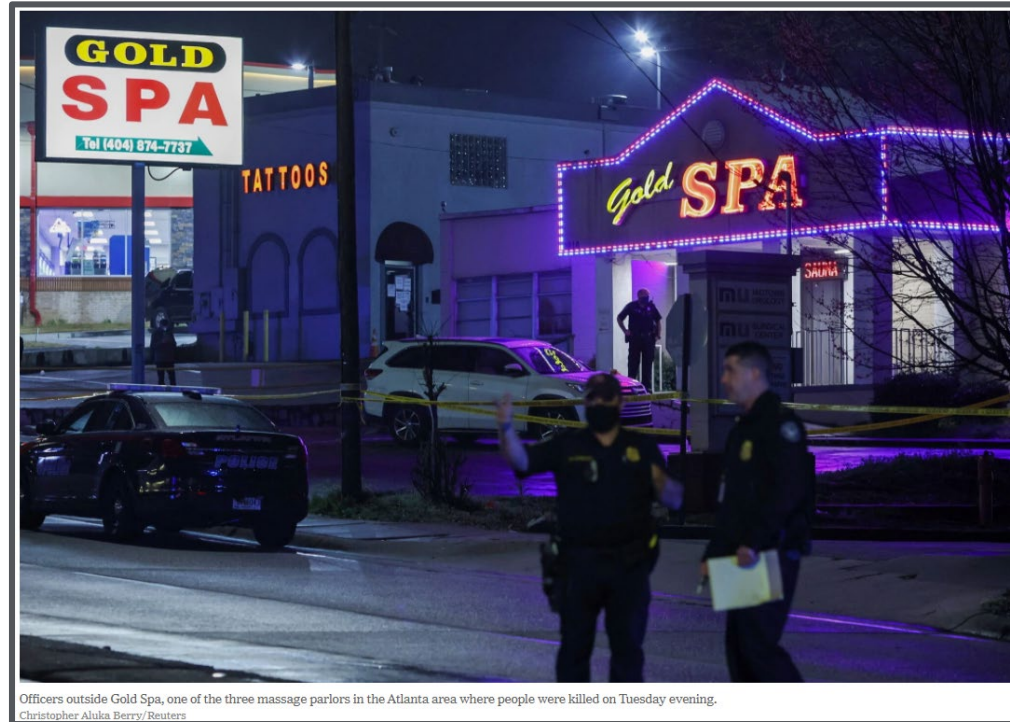
two left in the spelling bee they ain't even American

9:32 PM - 28 May 2015

← ↻ 6 ★ 2

8 People Killed in Atlanta-Area Massage Parlor Shootings

Six of the victims were Asian, the authorities said, raising fears that there may have been a racial motivation to the crimes.

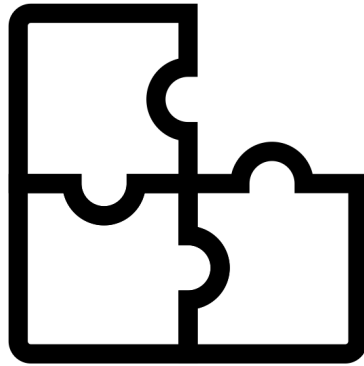


Officers outside Gold Spa, one of the three massage parlors in the Atlanta area where people were killed on Tuesday evening.
Christopher Aluka Berry/Reuters

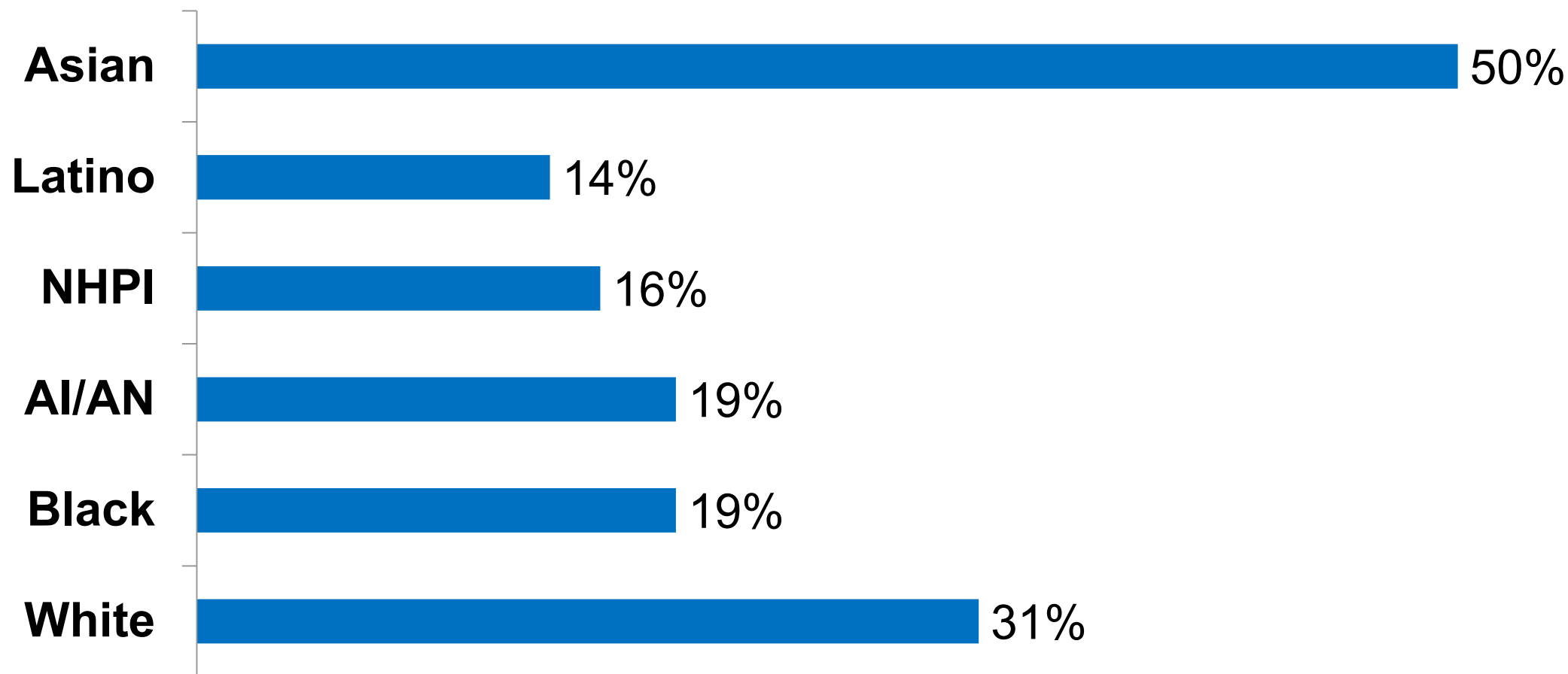
By Richard Fausset and Neil Vigdor

Published March 16, 2021 Updated March 17, 2021, 11:07 a.m. ET

Asian Americans and Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders **Remain Invisible** Due to Data Aggregation

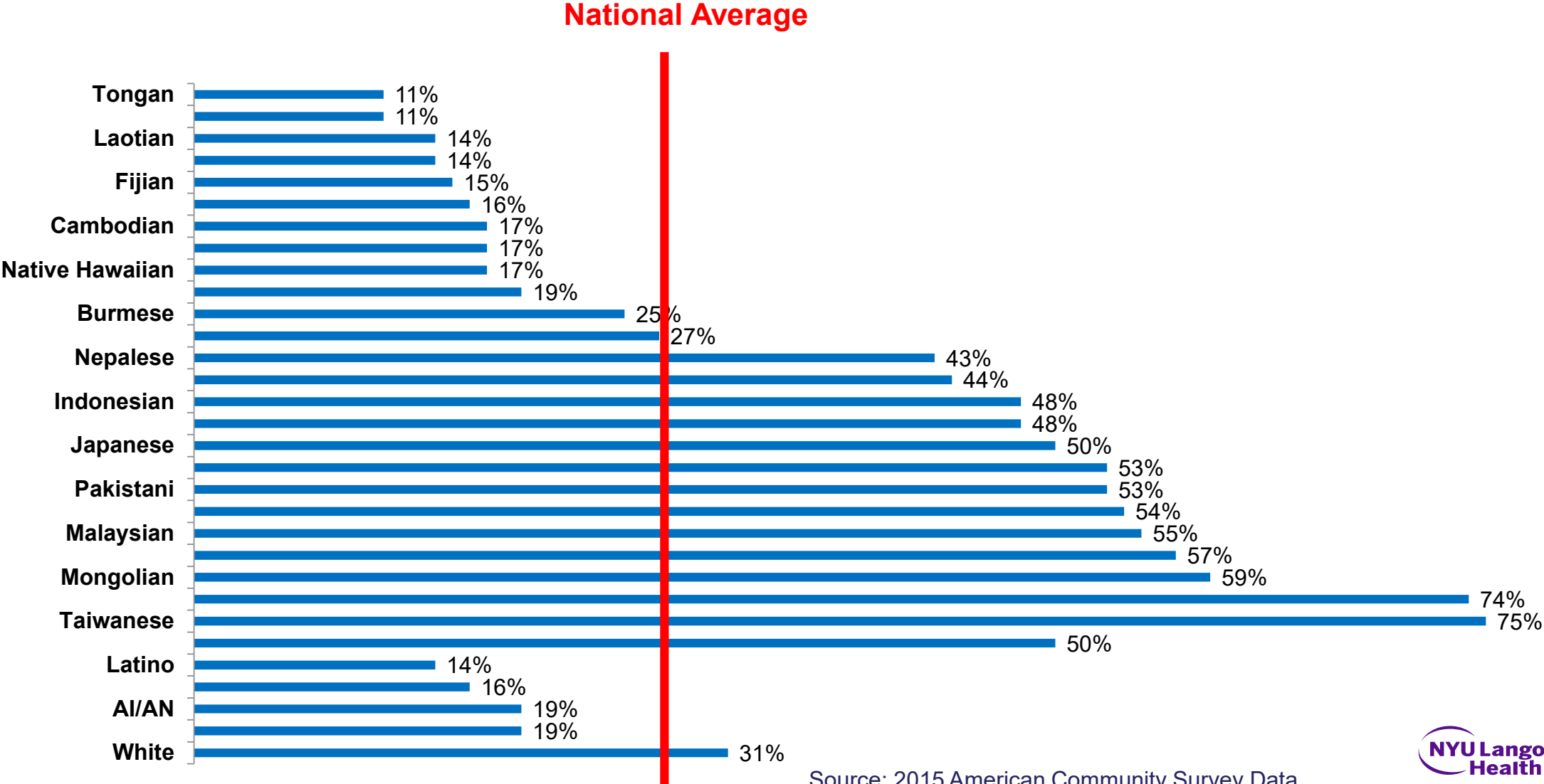


Bachelor's Degree or Higher: Aggregated Data

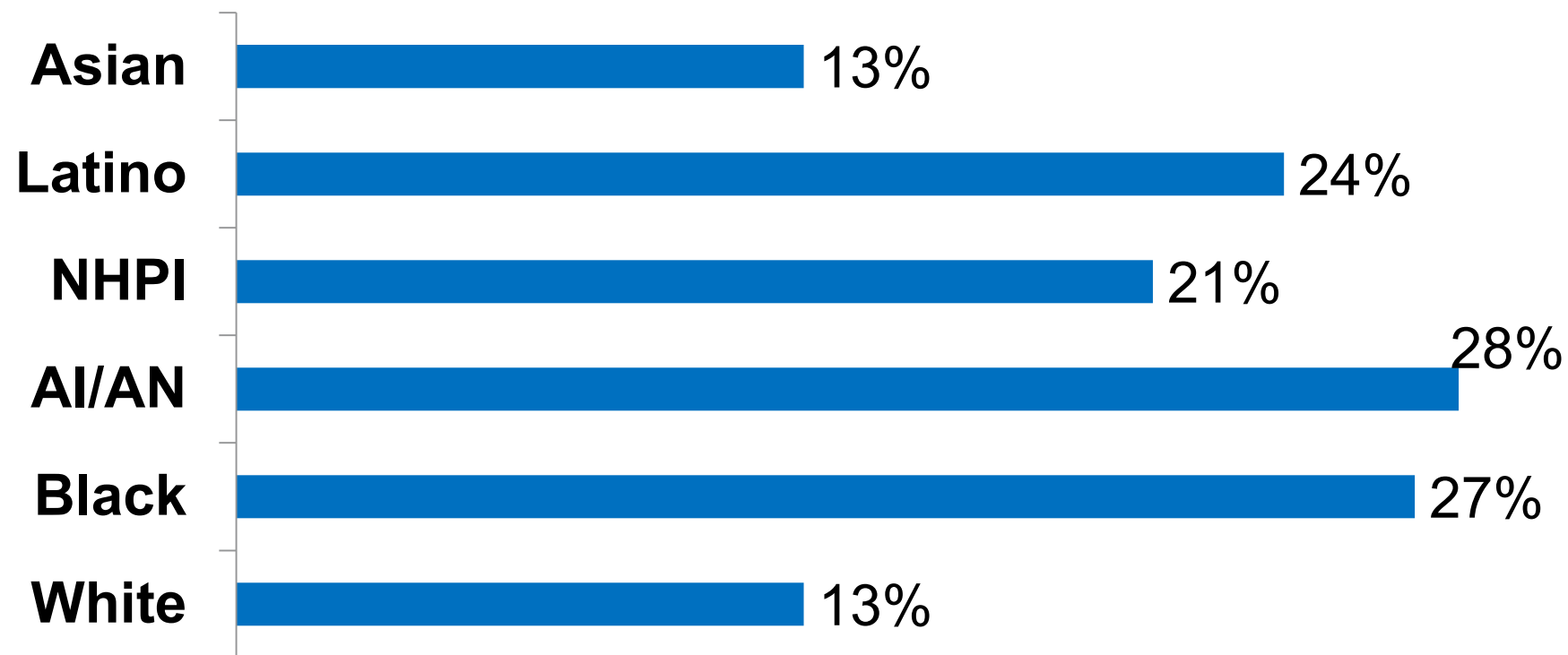


Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data

Bachelor's Degree or Higher: Disaggregated Data

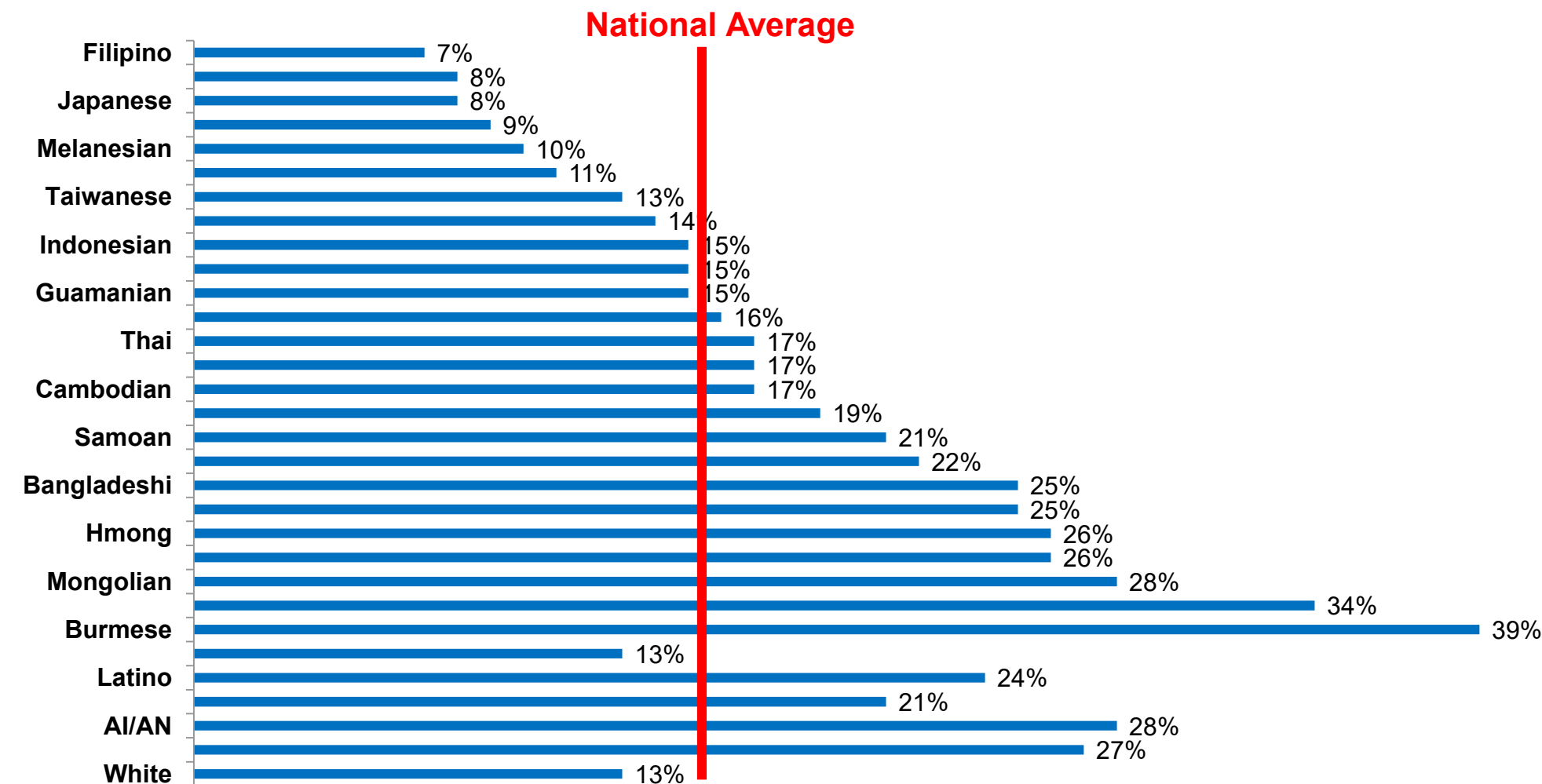


Below Poverty: Aggregated Data



Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data

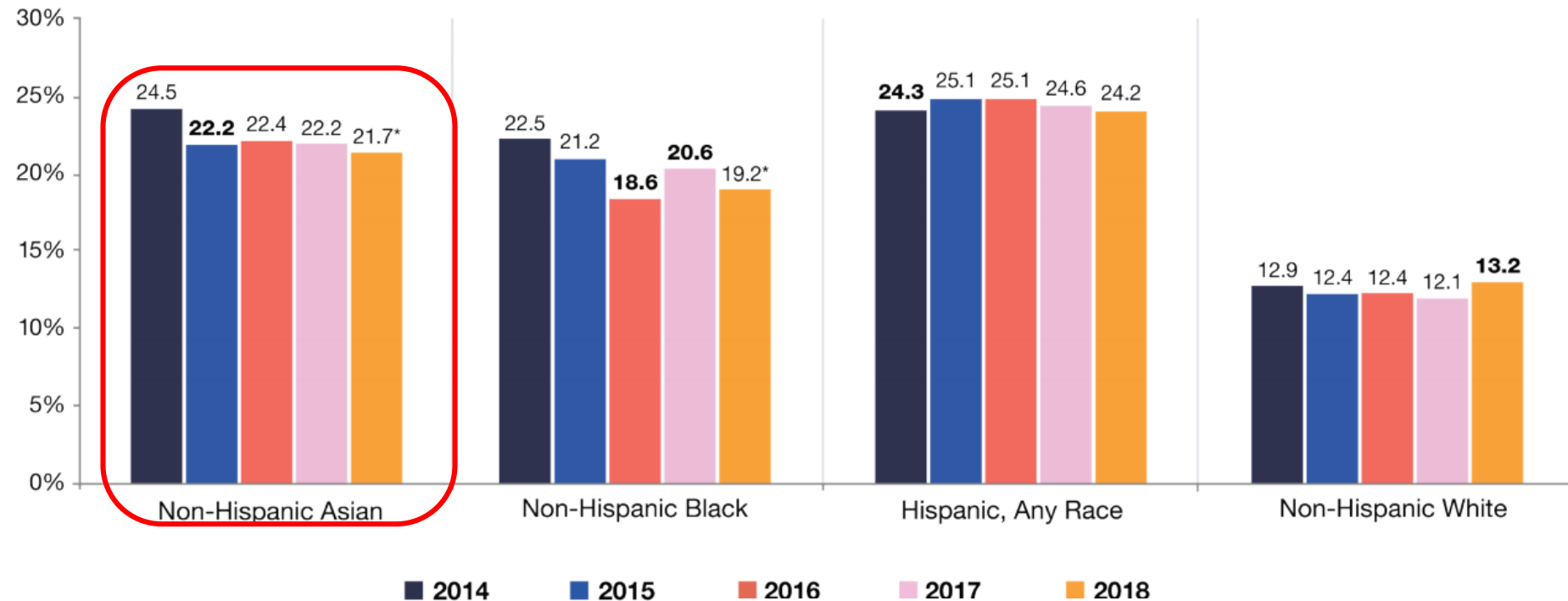
Below Poverty: Disaggregated Data



Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data

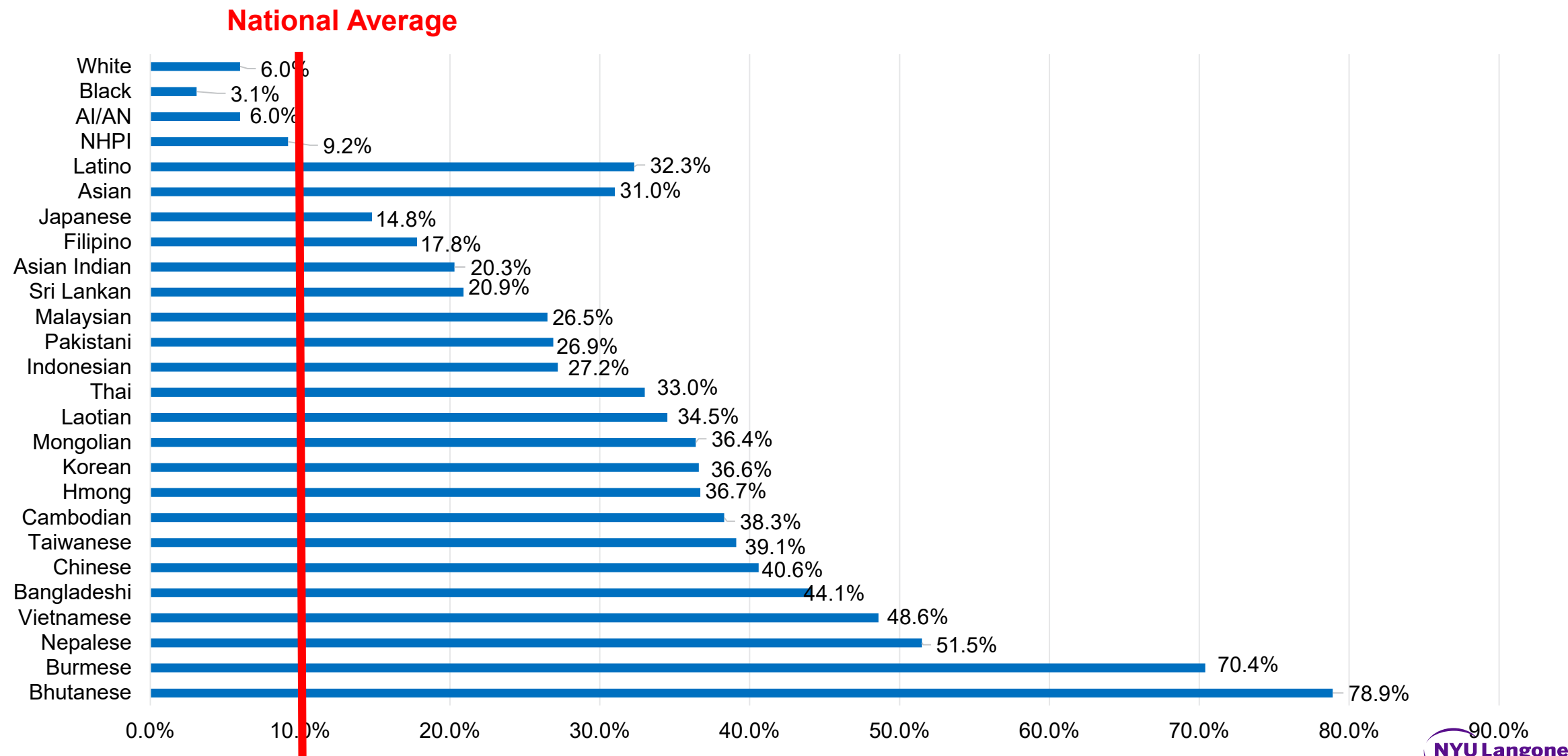
Asian Americans are a Low Income Group in New York City (NYC)

NYCgov Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2014–2018



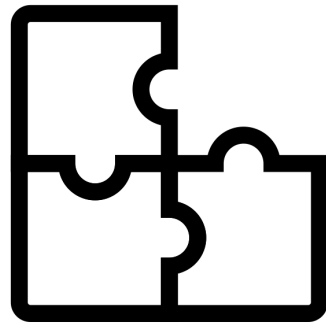
Source: The NYC Government Poverty Measure, 2018. An Annual Report from the Office of the Mayor.

Limited English Proficiency Among Asian Americans



Source: 2015 American Community Survey Data

Invisibility is Killing our Communities



National COVID-19 Efforts Leave out Asian Americans

**NIH** ✓ @NIH · Sep 30

#NIH's #RADx-UP is investigating COVID-19's disproportionate impact on communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19, including American Indians/Alaskan Natives, Native Hawaiians, and women & those who are



NIH to assess and expand RADx-UP testing strategy
nih.gov

5

**NASEM Health** ✓ @NASEM_Health · 18h

Our new report includes a framework for allocation of #COVID19 #vaccine that promotes #healthequity in the allocation process. Read the report highlights: bit.ly/3nueUP8 ✓



Read about health equity in COVID-19 vaccine allocation
nap.edu

- Partner with diverse stakeholders (e.g., health care providers, Historically Black Colleges and Universities research centers, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities research centers, social marketing firms and other groups with specific expertise reaching underserved communities) and prioritize promoting the vaccine to Black, Hispanic or Latinx, American Indian and Alaska Native, Hawaiian Native and Pacific Islander, and other communities in which vaccine hesitancy and skepticism have been documented.

An Undercount of Asian Americans in COVID-19 Data?



Evaluating Race and Ethnicity Reported in Hospital Discharge Data and Its Impact on the Assessment of Health Disparities

Howland, Renata E. MPH; Tsao, Tsu-Yu PhD [Author Information](#)

Medical Care: March 2020 - Volume 58 - Issue 3 - p 280-284

- Asian Americans and non-Black minorities are more likely to be classified as 'Other' in electronic health record and Medicare data

ETHNIC AND RACIAL STUDIES
2020, VOL. 43, NO. 10, 1733-1756
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2019.1671600>



Who counts as Asian

Jennifer Lee ^a and Karthick Ramakrishnan ^b

^aDepartment of Sociology, Columbia University, New York, NY, USA; ^bSchool of Public Policy and Department of Political Science, UC Riverside, Riverside, CA, USA

- Only East Asians 'count' as Asian American



Examining Race and Ethnicity Information in Medicare Administrative Data

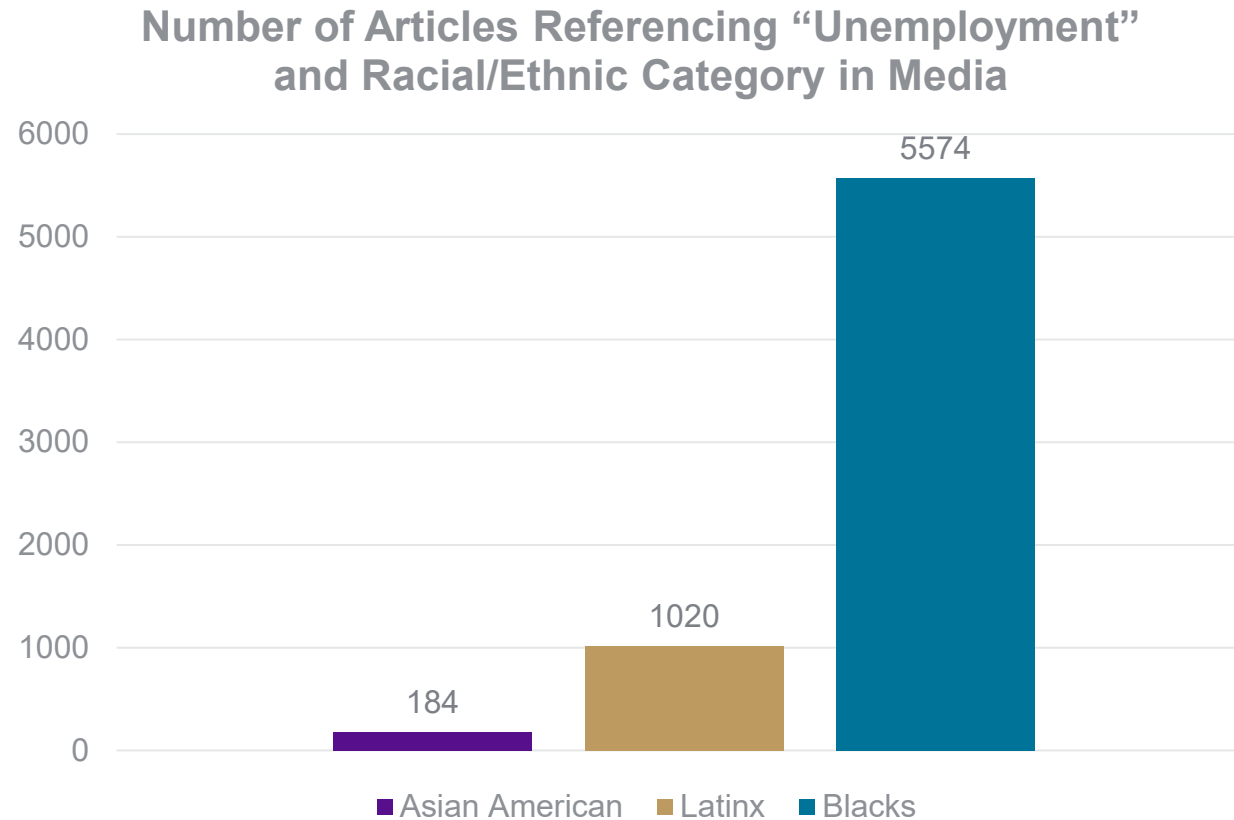
Clara E. Filice, MD, MPH, MHS and Karen E. Joynt, MD, MPH

THE BROWN ASIAN AMERICAN MOVEMENT: ADVOCATING FOR SOUTH ASIAN, SOUTHEAST ASIAN, AND FILIPINO AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

Kevin L. Nadal

Asian American Policy Review, Volume 29, 2018-19

Asian Americans are Invisible During the Pandemic in Media



“This is not to draw attention away from other communities, but simply to highlight scant attention on an overlooked group that desperately needs help.”

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/its-a-myth-that-asian-americans-are-doing-well-in-the-pandemic/>

Asian Americans are Invisible During the Pandemic in Research

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POLICY & ETHICS | OPINION

COVID's Outsize Impact on Asian Americans Is Being Ignored

Along with Pacific Islanders, they suffer from disproportionately high death rates and hospitalizations and low testing—but their suffering remains invisible

By Amy Yee on May 6, 2021



'Without data, there's no equity': Deficient Asian American COVID-19 data masked community-wide disparities



By Sojourner Ahébé · March 14, 2021

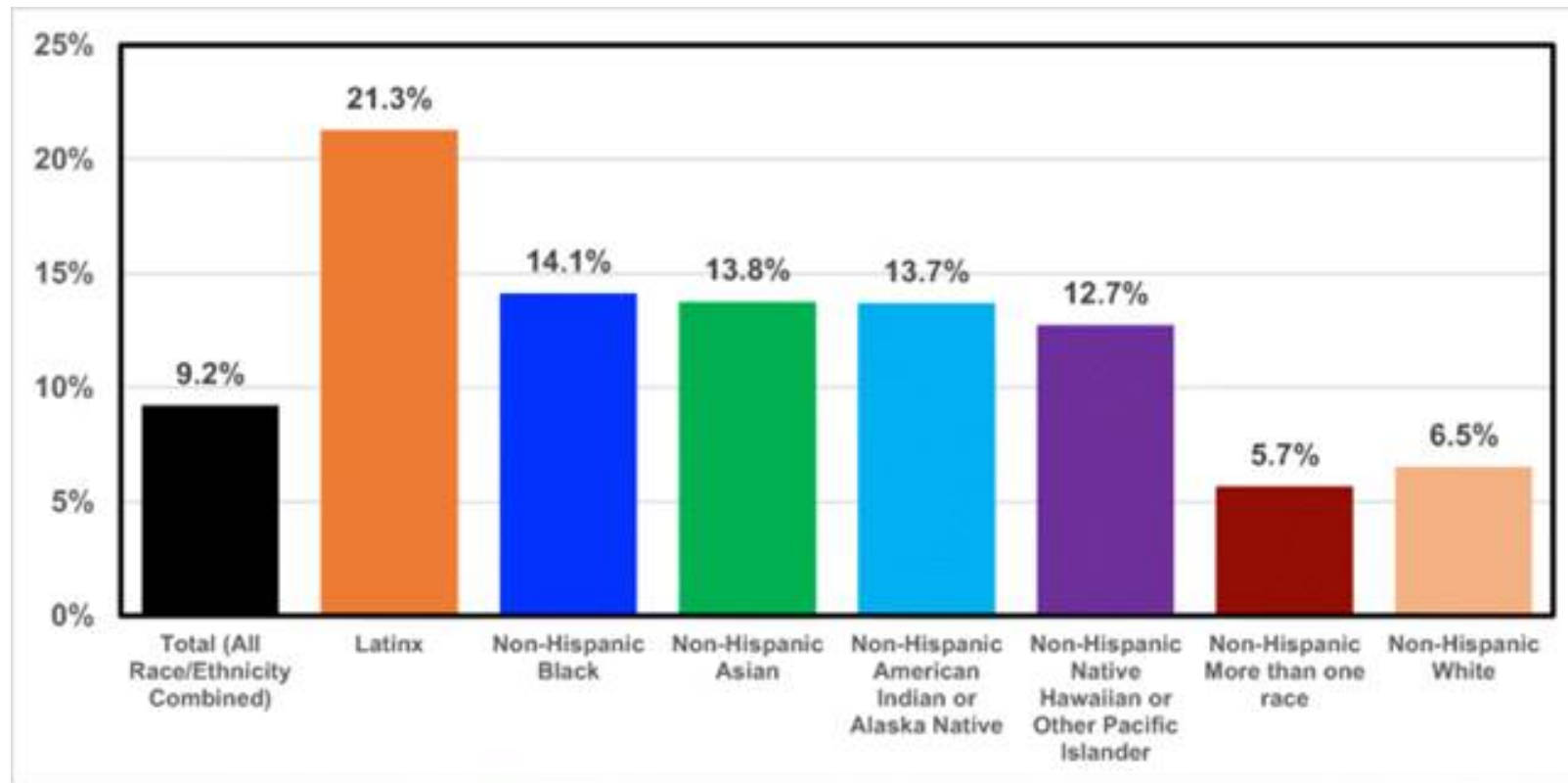


Community health workers and field staff assisting with food delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic in New York City's South Asian community. (Courtesy of Nadia Islam)

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/covids-outsize-impact-on-asian-americans-is-being-ignored/>

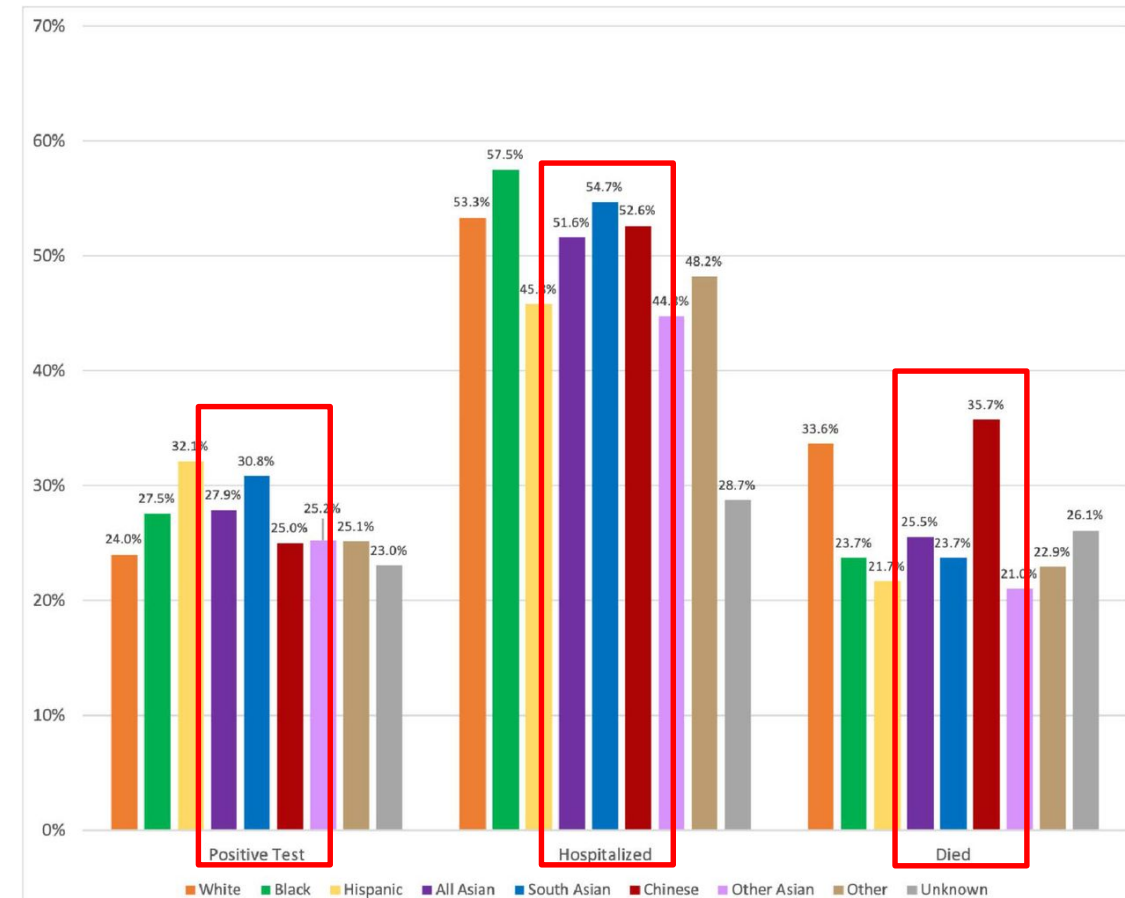
<https://whyy.org/articles/without-data-theres-no-equity-deficient-asian-american-covid-19-data-masked-community-wide-disparities/>

Attributable mortality of COVID-19 in the US by race/ethnicity groups

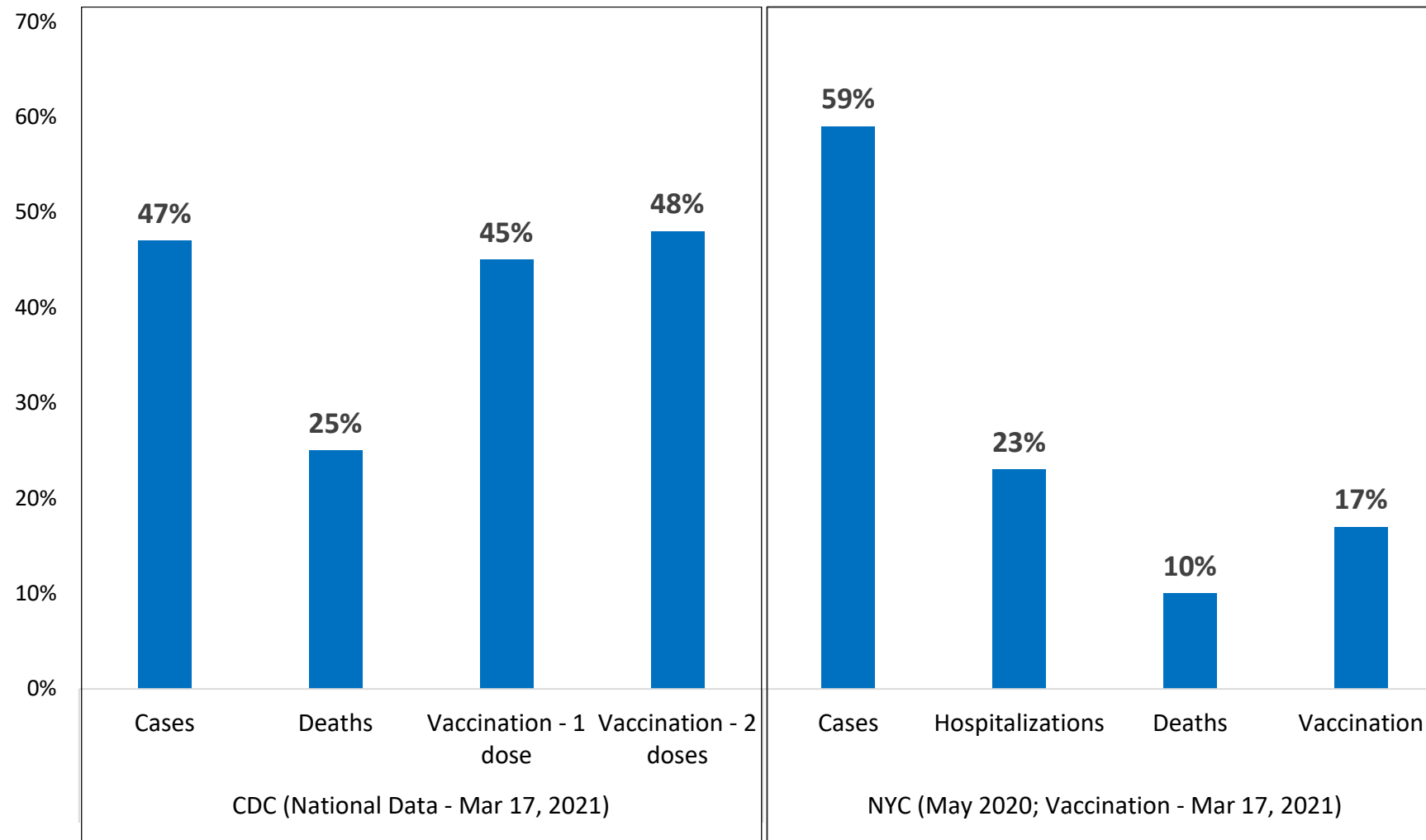


Disaggregating Asian Race Reveals COVID-19 Disparities among Asian Americans at NYC's Public Hospital System

- Patients tested for SARS-CoV-2 at NYC Health and Hospitals (H+H)
 - March 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020, n=85,328
- Applied surname matching
 - Sample size of Asian Americans nearly doubled from 5,601 to 9,893
- Results
 - South Asians: high rates of positivity and hospitalization
 - Chinese: highest mortality

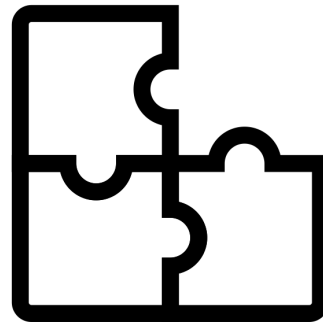


COVID-19 Data on Race/Ethnicity is Missing at National and Local Levels



Sources: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics>; <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/covid-19-deaths-race-ethnicity-05142020-1.pdf>

One size does **not** fit all



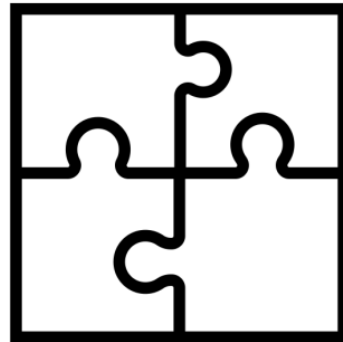
COVID-19 Experience by Asian American Subgroup

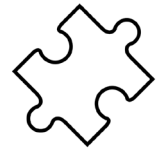
What we know now based on best available published literature, news media, and social media :

	Chinese	Indian/South Asian	Korean	Vietnamese	Filipino
Outcomes	Highest mortality (NYC H+H)	Highest case/hospitalization rate (NYC H+H)	Disproportionate death rate in California	Disproportionate case rate in Santa Clara County, CA	Disproportionate deaths in California and nationally among nurses
Exposure	Food service essential workers; multigenerational housing	Healthcare essential workers; taxi drivers; multigenerational housing	Multigenerational housing	Nail/hair salons; multigenerational housing	Nurses; healthcare workers; multigenerational housing
Comorbidity	Diabetes; smoking among men	Diabetes; heart disease	Diabetes; smoking	Diabetes; smoking; hypertension	Diabetes, obesity, smoking, asthma, hypertension
Barriers to Care	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge	LEP; Public charge
Livelihood	Businesses disproportionately affected; xenophobia/racism	Increased domestic violence; food insecurity (Asian Indians),	Xenophobia/racism	Xenophobia/racism; food insecurity	Xenophobia/racism; food insecurity

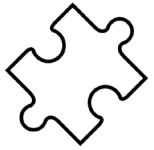
Sources: Stop AAPI Hate; <https://www.npr.org/2020/10/01/918834644/overlooked-asian-american-jobless-rate-surges-but-few-take-notice>; Rummo et al., Under review.; Wyatt et al., NYU CSAAH Health Atlas 2020; Khan R, Shih H. Asian American Federation. Impact of COVID-19 on Asian American Employment in New York City. Asian Americans Face Record Job Losses. 2020.; Chin et al., Health Affairs Blog, In press.

Key Recommendations

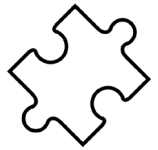




All states must collect, analyze, and report disaggregated data –separately for AAs and NH&PIs, and for AA subgroups



Prioritize language access for AA and NH&PI communities across health equity efforts



Decision-makers must confront implicit and explicit biases against AA and NH&PI communities

Read the science. Learn from our narratives. Fund the work. Protect our communities.

Acknowledgements



- Faculty, staff, and partners of the NYU Center for the Study of Asian American Health (CSAAH)
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- AA NHPI COVID-19 Research & Policy Team

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