



Who Are Cambodian Americans?

April 2015

| | Cambodian American average | Asian American average | U.S. average |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| National population¹ | | | |
| U.S. residents, 2013 | 320,000 | 19.2 million | 316 million |
| Population growth, 2010–2013 | 15.5 percent | 10.9 percent | 2.4 percent |
| Population growth, 2000–2013 | 55 percent | 62 percent | 12 percent |
| Top states of residence² | | | |
| California | 117,773 | 6,161,975 | 38,332,521 |
| Massachusetts | 32,544 | 457,340 | 6,692,824 |
| Washington | 26,238 | 709,237 | 6,971,406 |
| Pennsylvania | 16,629 | 447,765 | 12,773,801 |
| Texas | 15,783 | 1,282,731 | 26,448,193 |
| Total population in these states | 208,967 | 9,059,048 | 91,218,745 |
| Educational attainment³ | | | |
| Less than a high school degree | 37 percent | 14 percent | 13.4 percent |
| High school degree or equivalent | 27 percent | 16 percent | 28 percent |
| Bachelor's degree or higher | 14 percent | 49 percent | 29.6 percent |
| Income and poverty⁴ | | | |
| Median 12-month household income | \$53,700 | \$71,709 | \$53,046 |
| Share in poverty overall | 18.8 percent | 12.8 percent | 15.7 percent |
| Share of children in poverty | 39 percent | 13.6 percent | 22.2 percent |
| Share of seniors in poverty | 5 percent | 13.5 percent | 9.3 percent |

The Cambodian American population grew significantly faster than the U.S. average between 2000 and 2013, and Cambodian Americans are much more likely to be first-generation immigrants than the U.S. average.

| | Cambodian American average | Asian American average | U.S. average |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Civic participation⁵ | | | |
| Turnout among registered voters in 2012 | 62 percent | 79 percent | 87 percent |
| Vote in 2012 (percent Obama/Romney) | 77/23 | 68/31 | 51/47 |
| Party identification (percent Democrat/ Republican/neither) | 26/5/68 | 33/14/53 | 24/32/38 |
| Language diversity⁶ | | | |
| Speak language other than English at home | 81 percent | 77/70 percent* | 21 percent |
| Limited English proficiency, or LEP | 44 percent | 35/32 percent* | 8.5 percent |
| Percent of linguistically isolated households | 17 percent | 17 percent | 5 percent |
| Most common languages: Mon-Khmer/Cambodian, spoken by 205,761 people | | | |
| Immigration and nativity⁷ | | | |
| Share who are foreign born | 59 percent | 66 percent | 15 percent |
| Share who are U.S. citizens | 79 percent | 75 percent | 93 percent |
| Number of naturalizations, 2013 | 4,161 | 275,700 | 779,929 |
| Number of legal permanent residents, 2013 | 2,624 | 400,548 | 990,553 |
| Labor force⁸ | | | |
| Labor-force participation rate | *** | 64.6 percent | 63.4 percent |
| Unemployment rate, 2013 | *** | 5.2 percent | 7.4 percent |
| Median duration of unemployment, 2013 | *** | 20 weeks** | 17 weeks |
| Health insurance⁹ | | | |
| Share without health insurance | 21 percent | 14.6 percent | 14.5 percent |
| Share with private health insurance | 50 percent | 69 percent | 64 percent |

* Asian alone/Asian alone or in combination: The "Asian alone" category represents respondents who identified Asian as being their only race. The "Asian alone or in combination" category represents respondents who identified as being Asian along with at least one other race.

** This value is representative of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, or AAPIs, because a separate "Asian alone" racial category was not included in the source.

*** Data are unavailable for this population group.

Endnotes

1 Bureau of the Census, *2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2013), tables B20018 and B02001; Bureau of the Census, *2000 Census Summary File 1* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2001), table PCT007; Bureau of the Census, *2010 Census Summary File 1* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2011), table PCT7.

2 Bureau of the Census, *2013 ACS 1-Year Estimates*, tables B20018, B02001, and B01003.

3 Karthick Ramakrishnan and Farah Z. Ahmad, "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Education" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2014), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/AAP-Immigration1.pdf>; Bureau of the Census, *2013 ACS 1-Year Estimates*, table S0201.

4 The share in poverty overall for Cambodian Americans is the aggregate poverty rate from the years 2006–2010. For the Asian American and the U.S. averages, it is the aggregate poverty rate from the years 2010–2012. Karthick Ramakrishnan and Farah Z. Ahmad, "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Income and Poverty" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2014), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/AAP-Immigration1.pdf>; Josh Ishimatsu, "Spotlight on Asian American and Pacific Islander Poverty: A Demographic Profile" (Washington: National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, 2013), available at http://nationalcapacd.org/sites/default/files/u12/aapi_poverty_report-web_compressed.pdf.

5 Asian American Justice Center, Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote, and National Asian American Survey, "Behind the Numbers: Post-Election Survey of Asian American and Pacific Islander Voters in 2012" (2013), available at <http://www.naasurvey.com/resources/Presentations/2012-aapipes-national.pdf>; Karthick Ramakrishnan and Taeku Lee, "Public Opinion Of a Growing Electorate: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in 2012" (Riverside, CA: National Asian American Survey, 2012), available at <http://www.naasurvey.com/resources/Home/NAAS12-sep25-election.pdf>; CAP analysis of Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Survey, Voter Supplement 2012, Analysis of Public Use Microdata Sample Data American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates* (U.S. Department of Commerce, 2012), available at http://www.census.gov/acs/www/data_documentation/pums_data/; Federal Election Commission, "Official Election Results for United States President" (2012), available at <http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/fe2012/2012pres.pdf>.

6 Bureau of the Census, *Analysis of PUMS Data ACS 5-Year Estimates*; Karthick Ramakrishnan and Farah Z. Ahmad, "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Language Diversity and English Proficiency" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2014), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/AAP-Immigration1.pdf>; Bureau of the Census, *2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, table S0201.

7 Karthick Ramakrishnan and Farah Z. Ahmad, "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Immigration" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2014), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/AAP-Immigration1.pdf>; Bureau of the Census, *Analysis of PUMS Data ACS 5-Year Estimates*; Office of Immigration Statistics, *Persons Naturalized by Region and Country of Birth: Fiscal Years 2004 to 2013* (U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2013), table 21, available at <http://www.dhs.gov/publication/yearbook-immigration-statistics-2013-naturalizations>.

8 U.S. Department of Labor, *The Economic Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Wake of the Great Recession* (2014), available at http://www.dol.gov/_sec/media/reports/20140828-AAP.pdf; Karthick Ramakrishnan and Farah Z. Ahmad, "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders: Labor-Market Outcomes" (Washington: Center for American Progress, 2014), available at <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/AAP-LaborMkt.pdf>; Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Unemployed total and full-time workers by duration of unemployment" available at <http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat30.htm> (last accessed March 2015).

9 CAP analysis of Bureau of the Census, *PUMS Data ACS 5-Year Estimates*; Bureau of the Census, *2013 ACS 1-Year Estimates*, tables B27001D and S2701.