



Who Are Laotian Americans?

April 2015

	Laotian American average	Asian American average	U.S. average
National population¹			
U.S. residents, 2013	246,000	19.2 million	316 million
Population growth, 2010–2013	6.3 percent	10.9 percent	2.4 percent
Population growth, 2000–2013	25 percent	62 percent	12 percent
Top states of residence²			
California	79,331	6,161,975	38,332,521
Texas	16,419	1,282,731	26,448,193
Minnesota	14,831	279,984	5,420,380
Washington	11,225	709,237	6,971,406
Georgia	8,229	420,533	9,992,167
Total population in these states	130,035	8,854,460	87,164,667
Educational attainment³			
Less than a high school degree	32 percent	14 percent	13.4 percent
High school degree or equivalent	30 percent	16 percent	28 percent
Bachelor's degree or higher	13 percent	49 percent	29.6 percent
Income and poverty⁴			
Median 12-month household income	\$58,000	\$71,709	\$53,046
Share in poverty overall	13.8 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	6 percent	13.5 percent	9.3 percent

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

	Laotian American average	Asian American average	U.S. average
Civic participation⁵			
Turnout among registered voters in 2012	40 percent	79 percent	87 percent
Vote in 2012 (percent Obama/Romney)	71/29	68/31	51/47
Party identification (percent Democrat/Republican/neither)	***	33/14/53	24/32/38
Language diversity⁶			
Speak language other than English at home	83 percent	77/70 percent*	21 percent
Limited English proficiency, or LEP	41 percent	35/32 percent*	8.5 percent
Share of linguistically isolated households	18 percent	17 percent	5 percent
Most common language: Laotian, spoken by 150,600 people			
Immigration and nativity⁷			
Share who are foreign born	59 percent	66 percent	15 percent
Share who are U.S. citizens	80 percent	75 percent	93 percent
Number of naturalizations, 2013	3,932	275,700	779,929
Number of legal permanent residents, 2013	923	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	18 percent	14.6 percent	14.5 percent
Share with private health insurance	58 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

- 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.
- Bureau of the Census, *2013 ACS 1-Year Estimates*, tables B20018, B02001, and B01003.
- 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/AAPIL-Education.pdf>.
- The share in poverty overall for Laotian 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/AAPIL-IncomePoverty.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.
- 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>.
- 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/AAPIL-LanguageAccess.pdf>; Bureau of the Census, *2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates*, table S0201.
- 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/AAPIL-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>.
- 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-AAPIL.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/AAPIL-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).
- 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.