

**PRESS RELEASE
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**ASIAN AMERICANS AND NHPI ARE THE TWO FASTEST GROWING RACIAL GROUPS,
ACCORDING TO NEW CENSUS POPULATION ESTIMATES**

There are now 21 million Asian Americans and 1.5 million Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders living in the United States

LOS ANGELES – New U.S. Census Bureau population estimates released on Thursday, June 23 show that the Asian American population is the fastest growing racial group nationwide. Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles’ analysis of the data shows that between 2010 and 2015, the number of Asian Americans grew 19%; during this same time period total overall population growth was only 4%. There are now about 21 million Asian Americans living in the United States. Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders (NHPI) are now the second fastest growing racial group, growing 13% to 1.5 million.

The new mid-decade Census data show that while certain states like California, Texas, New York, Washington, and New Jersey continue to have large Asian American populations, other states such as North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Montana, and Indiana have some of the fastest growing Asian American populations.

Asian American population growth also continues to outpace growth among other racial groups. For example, Asian American numeric growth exceeded that of Latinos in four states – Minnesota, Michigan, Vermont, and Washington.

While the largest NHPI populations continue to grow in Hawai’i and California, the NHPI community in Arkansas remains one of the fastest growing. Over the past five years, the NHPI population in Arkansas has increased 30% to over 11,000.

“Asian Americans and NHPI live in every state in the nation,” said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles. “It is important that local social service providers build the capacity to serve these emerging communities.”

According to the Census Bureau, much of the growth among the Asian American population is due to net migration, while other racial groups are experiencing natural population growth.

“Asian Americans are a disproportionately immigrant community, comprised of over 30 distinct ethnic groups, while NHPI have over 20 ethnic groups under their umbrella,” said Joanna Lee, senior research analyst for Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles. “Understanding the incredible social and economic diversity of these growing population groups is critical in understanding how best to address their needs.”

For an interactive map of the Asian American and NHPI population by state, go to <http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/PopulationMap2015>.

Advancing Justice-LA has also published multiple reports featuring detailed social and economic data on the Asian American and NHPI communities. To access this data, please go to <http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/demographics>.

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Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles (Advancing Justice-LA) is the nation's largest legal and civil rights organization for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (NHPI). Through direct services, impact litigation, policy advocacy, leadership development, and capacity building, Advancing Justice-LA focuses on the most vulnerable members of Asian American and NHPI communities while also building a strong voice for civil rights and social justice.