

2009 Health Disparity Fact Sheet

Asians/Pacific Islanders in Colorado



This fact sheet provides information about some of the major health indicators for the Asian/Pacific Islander population in Colorado. Like other communities of color, Asians/Pacific Islanders experience some differences in health, risk factors and behaviors in comparison to other population groups. The data presented show comparisons between the Asian/Pacific Islander population and the State's population as a whole and identifies where there are differences. The disparity column shows if the Asian/Pacific Islander rate is statistically worse (red), better (green) or the same (white) as the state rate. If it is the same, that means there is no statistically significant difference.

There are roughly 145,000 Asians/Pacific Islanders in Colorado which is about three percent of the State's population. (2007 data, State Demography Office, Colorado Department of Local Affairs)

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Demographics			
Median household income ¹	\$55,053	\$52,015	Same
Percent of population living below poverty ¹	12.6%	12.0%	Same
High school graduation rate ²	83.5%	75.0%	Better

- The median household income for Asians/Pacific Islanders is \$3,038 more than the state median.
- The poverty rate for Asians/Pacific Islanders is basically the same as the overall state population.
- More Asians/Pacific Islanders graduate from high school than the state's population as a whole.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Maternal Child Health			
Infant mortality (<i>infant deaths per 1,000 live births</i>) ³	4.0	6.1	Same
Low birth weight births ³	10.1%	9.0%	Same
Unintended pregnancy ⁴	38.4%	39.7%	Same
Births to teens ages 15-17 (<i>births per 1,000 population, 2006</i>) ³	10.5	23.7	Better
Women reporting 3 or more stressors during pregnancy ⁴	10.9%	27.0%	Better
Women who drank during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	6.9%	10.8%	Same
Women who smoked during last three months of pregnancy ⁴	6.3%	10.3%	Same
Childhood obesity (ages 2-14) ⁵	12.2%	13.8%	Same

- Infant death and low weight births are about the same as for the population as a whole.
- Almost 40% of all Asian/Pacific Islander births are from unplanned pregnancies.
- The teen birth rate is less than half the rate of the state.
- Asian/Pacific Islanders report less stress, but about the same amount of drinking and smoking during pregnancy.
- Asian/Pacific Islander children have about the same obesity rate as the state overall.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health and risk behaviors⁶			
Cigarette smoking	14.0%	19.1%	Same
Binge drinking (5 or more drinks in one sitting)	11.2%	16.8%	Same
No physical activity	20.9%	17.7%	Same
Eat fewer than 5 fruits and vegetables per day	68.5%	74.9%	Same
Obese (BMI>=30)	5.7%	18.0%	Better
Overweight (BMI>=25)	31.9%	54.5%	Better
Mental health was not good 8 or more days (in the past 30 days)	7.7%	11.9%	Same

Asians/Pacific Islanders have a similar pattern of risk behaviors as the State's population as a whole. They are:

- Just as likely to engage in binge drinking.
- Somewhat more likely to eat five or more fruits and vegetables a day (*not statistically significant*).
- Less likely to be obese or overweight. Asians/Pacific Islanders have one third of the rate of obesity as the state's population as a whole.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Health care and access⁶			
No health insurance	14.6%	16.6%	Same
Women 40+ who have not had a mammogram in last 2 years	14.9%	28.4%	Same
Women who have not had a pap test in last 3 years	13.1%	13.2%	Same
Have high blood pressure	16.3%	20.7%	Same
Have diabetes	4.0%	4.9%	Same
Have asthma	5.3%	8.1%	Same

- The Asian/Pacific Islander population is as likely to have health insurance as all Coloradans.
- Asian/Pacific Islander women are just as likely to have had a mammogram or pap test as all Colorado women.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders have similar rates of diagnosis of high blood pressure, diabetes and asthma.

	Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans	Disparity
Infectious Diseases (Incidence rates per 100,000 population)			
Tuberculosis ⁷	21.3	2.4	Worse
Gonorrhea ⁸	14.8	49.9	Better
HIV/AIDS ⁸	5.0	12.8	Better
Chronic Hepatitis B ⁹	144.1	11.3	Worse

- Asians/Pacific Islanders have a higher rate of new cases of Tuberculosis (TB) and Chronic Hepatitis B. Both of these rates are 10 times higher than the state population. Their rates for gonorrhea and HIV/AIDS are the lowest rates of any racial/ethnic group.

10 leading causes of death¹⁰	
Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans	All Coloradans
Cancer	Heart Disease
Heart Disease	Cancer
Stroke	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
Unintentional Injuries	Stroke
Diabetes	Unintentional Injuries
Chronic Respiratory Diseases (<i>tie for 5th</i>)	Alzheimer's Disease
Alzheimer's Disease	Flu and Pneumonia
Flu and Pneumonia	Diabetes
Kidney Disease	Suicide
Suicide	Atherosclerosis

- The top two leading causes of death, cancer and heart disease, are the same for Asians/Pacific Islanders as they are for the State's population as a whole. Diabetes is ranked fifth for Asians/Pacific Islanders, but 8th for the State. Kidney disease is in the top 10 causes of death for Asian/Pacific Islanders, but not for the state as a whole. Atherosclerosis is one of the state's top 10 causes of death, but is not for the Asian/Pacific Islander population.

¹ American Community Survey, 2006 (tables S1903 and S1701)

² Colorado Department of Education, 2007

³ Vital Statistics, 2002-2006, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁴ Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System, 2004-2006, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁵ Colorado Child Health Survey, 2005-2007, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁶ Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2004-07, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

⁷ Tuberculosis Program, 2002-06, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁸ STI/HIV Section, 2002-06, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

⁹ Hepatitis Program, 2002-06, Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

¹⁰ Vital Statistics, 2002-2006 age adjusted rates, Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department Public Health and Environment

For more information or for a copy of the full 2009 Health Disparities Report, go to www.cdphe.state.co.us/ohd

Office of Health Disparities
 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
 Denver, CO 80246
 303-692-2087



Colorado Department
 of Public Health
 and Environment