

The Asian American Experience

Elevating the Voices and Views of Unheard Voices in America

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Role of Public Opinion Research in Societies

“Fact-based information is the fuel democracies run on — the raw material from which societies identify problems and formulate solutions.”

— THE CENTER'S FOUNDING DOCUMENTS

Project Funders

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We would also like to thank the Leaders Forum for its thought leadership and valuable assistance in helping make this survey possible.

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Roadmap

Fast Demographic Change and Diversity

Filling the Data Gap on Asian Americans

Diversity of Asian American Identities

Shared Experiences of Asian Americans

Discrimination Experiences

FAST DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND DIVERSITY

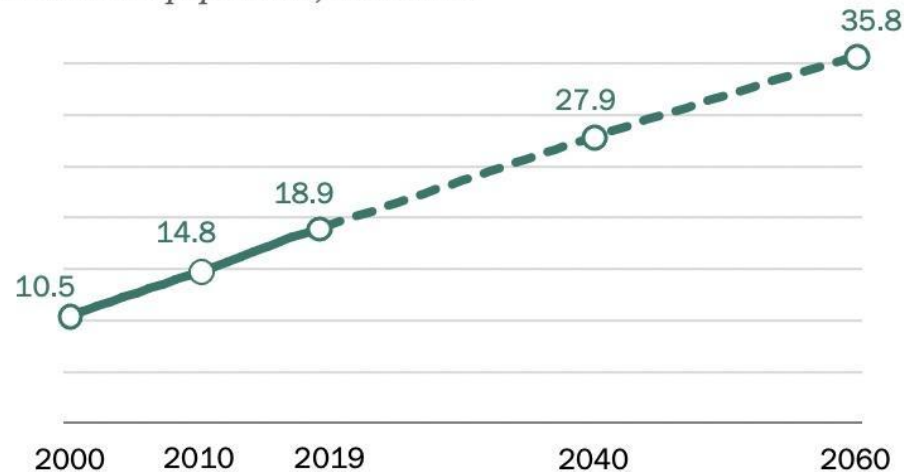
Asian Americans were the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S. from 2000 to 2019 ...

U.S. population change by race and ethnicity, in thousands

	2019	2000	Change '00-'19	% Change '00-'19
Asian	18,906	10,469	8,437	81%
Hispanic	60,572	35,662	24,910	70
NHPI	596	370	226	61
Black	41,147	34,406	6,742	20
White	197,310	195,702	1,608	1
Total	328,240	282,162	46,077	16

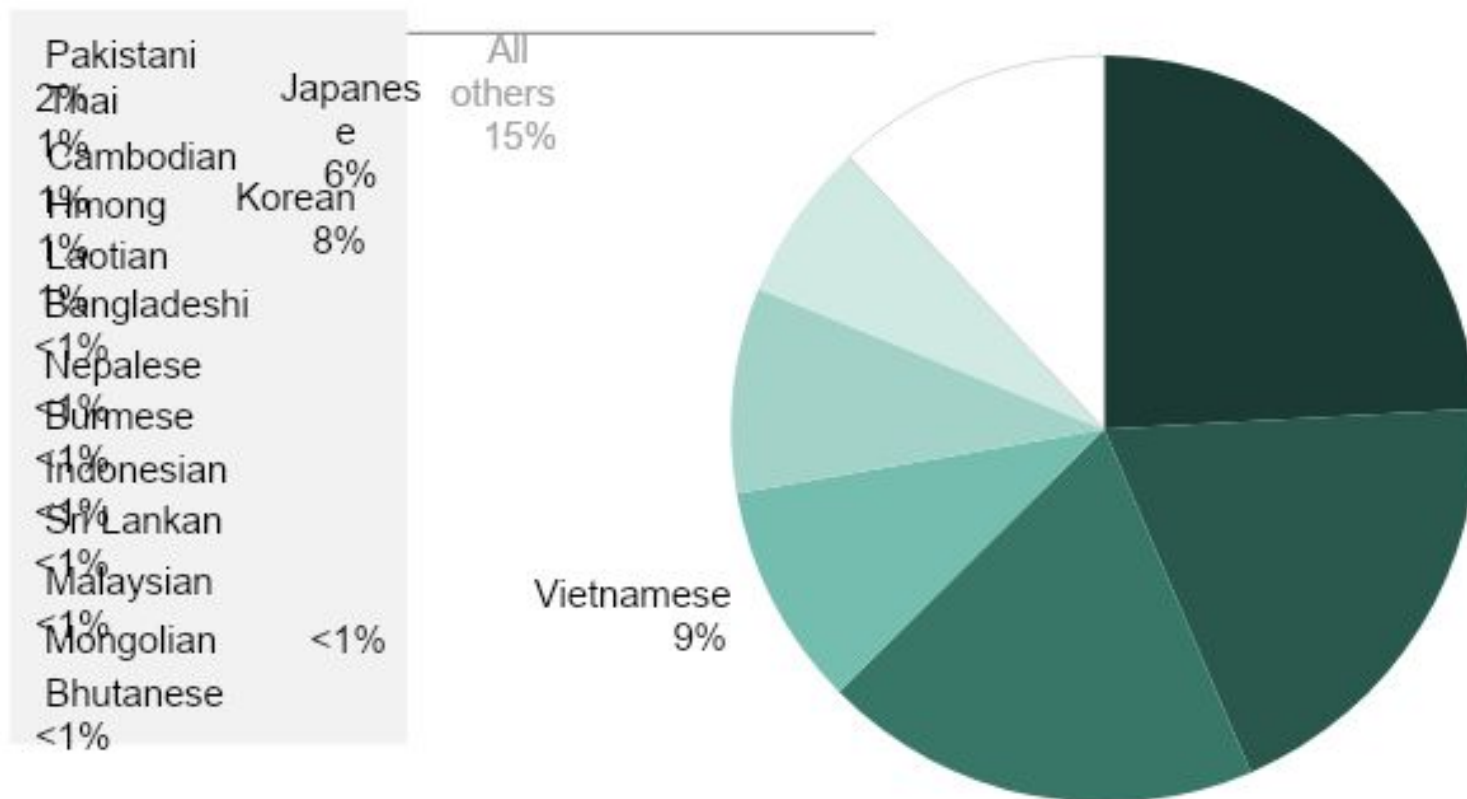
... and their population is projected to pass 35 million by 2060

Asian American population, in millions



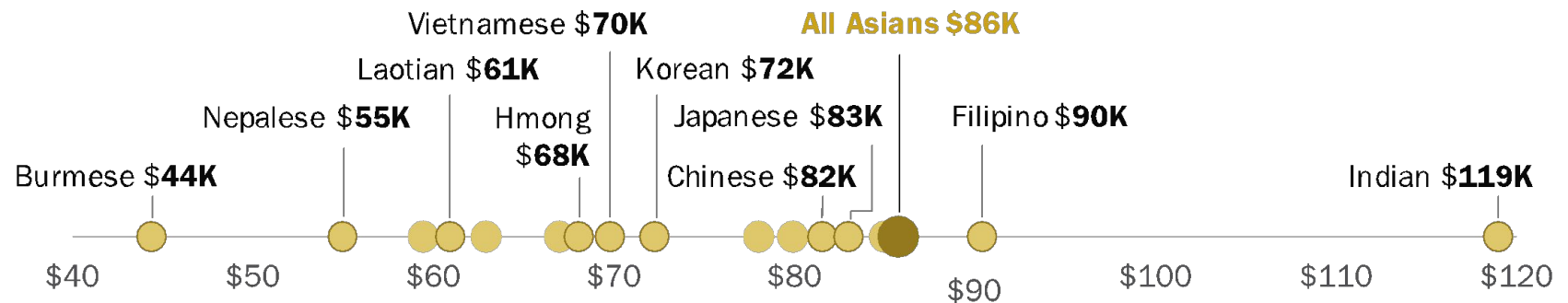
Six Asian origin groups in the U.S. account for 85% of the nation's Asian population

% of the U.S. Asian population that is ___, 2019



Median household income varies widely among Asian Americans

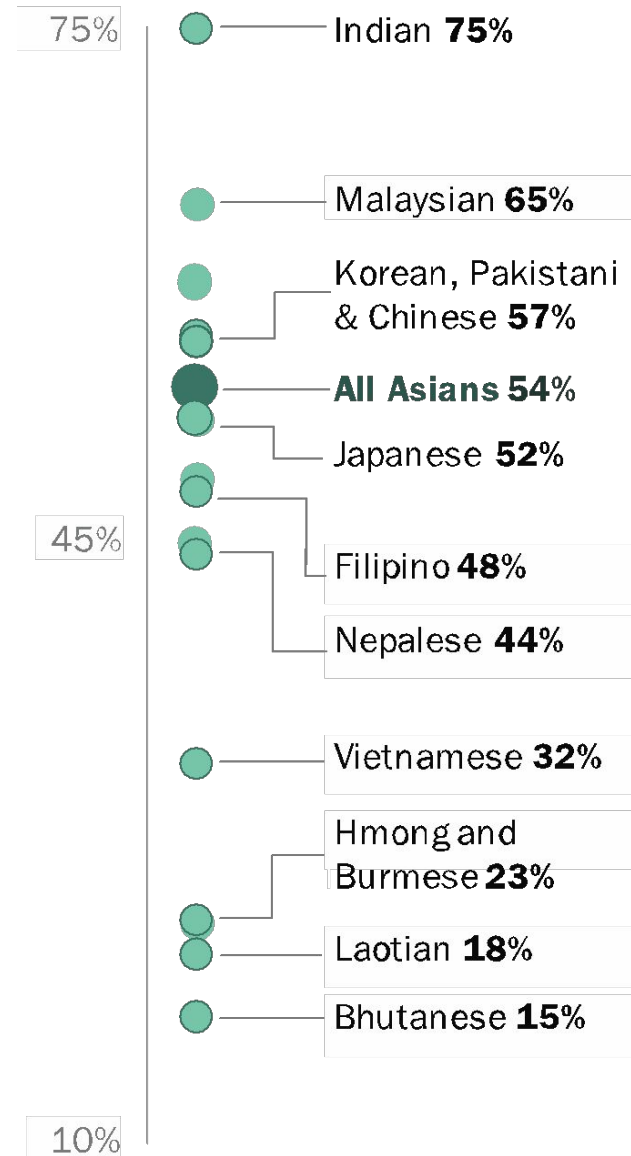
Median annual household income, 2019, by origin group



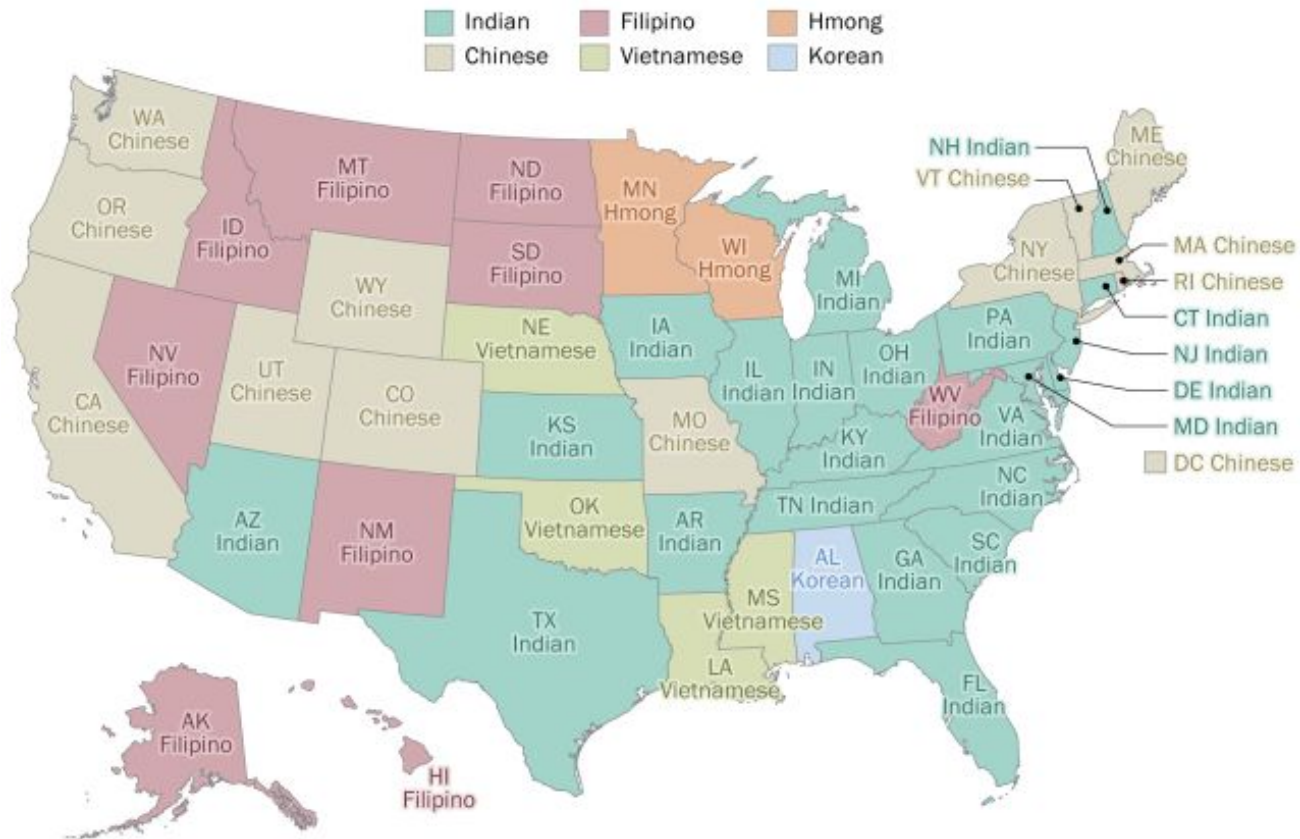
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2017-2019 American Community Survey (IPUMS)

54% of U.S. Asians have a bachelor's degree or more education

% of those ages 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or more, by origin group, 2019



Largest Asian origin groups by state, 2019



Note: Figures for all origin groups include mixed-race and mixed-group populations, regardless of Hispanic origin. "Chinese" includes those identifying as Taiwanese.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2017-2019 American Community Survey (IPUMS).

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FILLING THE DATA GAP ON ASIAN AMERICANS

Challenges



01 Asian Americans are viewed as one monolithic group

02 Asian Americans are a diverse group with different origins and socioeconomic circumstances

03 Surveying less populous groups

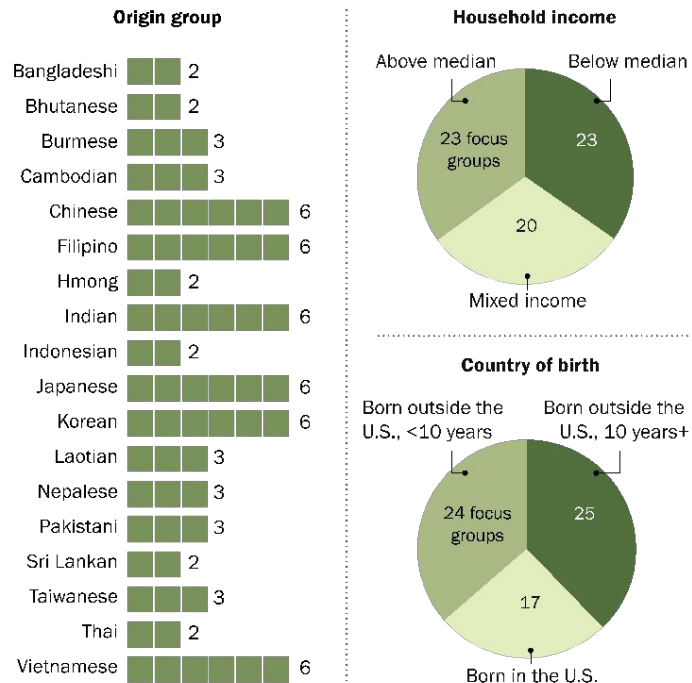


Being Asian in America

Overcoming These Challenges with
Comprehensive & Inclusive Mixed Methods Research Approach

Asian American focus group design

Count of focus groups by origin group, income and country of birth



Note: Participants' information on their family's origins, household income and country of birth were collected in a pre-focus-group survey. **Country of birth:** Participants born in the U.S. are those born in the 50 states, the District of Columbia or Puerto Rico. Participants born outside the U.S. includes anyone who was not a U.S. citizen at birth, including those who have become U.S. citizens through naturalization. "<10 years" and "10 years+" refers to years lived in the United States among immigrants. **Household income:** Above or below median refers to the national median household income (\$62K) according to 2019 American Community Survey 5-year file. Mixed income groups had participants with both above and below \$62K household income. Source: Focus groups conducted Aug. 4-Oct. 14, 2021. "What It Means To Be Asian in America"

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2022-23 Survey of Asian Americans



- 268,000 invitations sent to addresses in all 50 U.S. states and Washington, DC
- 7,006 interviews completed
 - 5,635 web interviews completed (80%)
 - 1,371 paper interviews completed (20%)
- Nationally representative survey *(95% margin of error of 2.1 percentage points for All Asian adults)*
- Conducted in 5 Asian languages and English *(Chinese—simplified and traditional, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, Vietnamese)*
- Field period: July 5, 2022 to January 27, 2023



DIVERSITY OF ASIAN AMERICAN IDENTITIES

Participants described differences between race-centered and ethnicity-centered identities



Note: This graphical representation reflects the breadth of responses shared by focus group participants, not the frequency with which these responses came up.

Source: Focus groups conducted Aug. 4-Oct. 14, 2021.

"What It Means To Be Asian in America"

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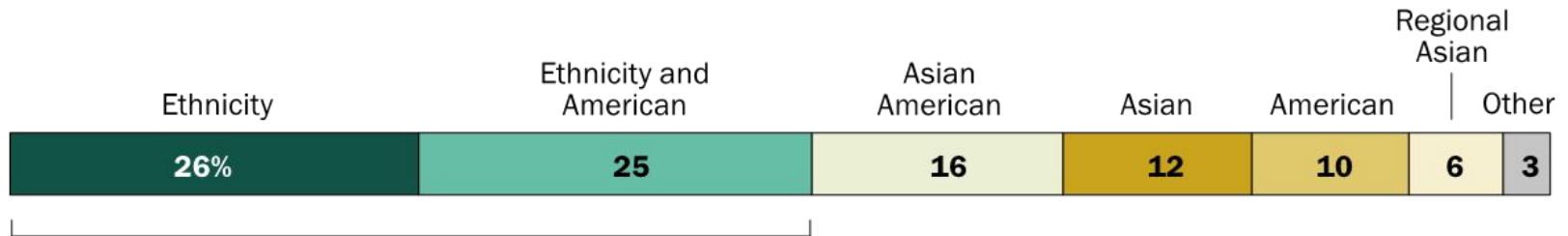
How Asian adults in U.S. identify most often

% of Asian adults who use ____ most often to describe themselves



How Asian adults in U.S. identify most often

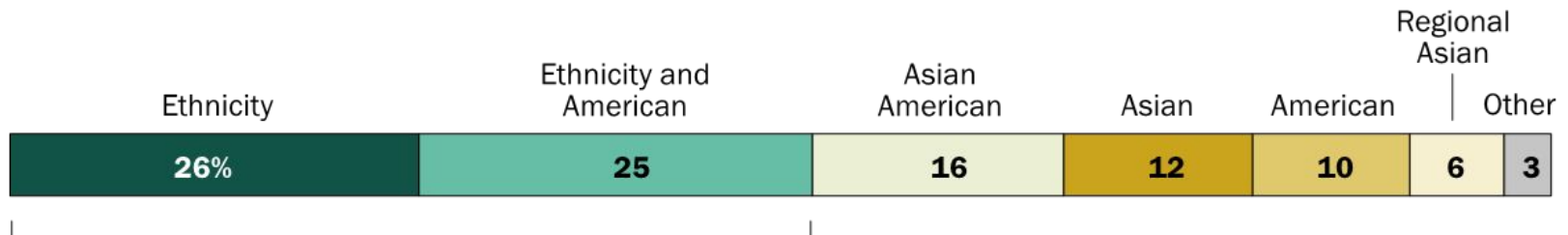
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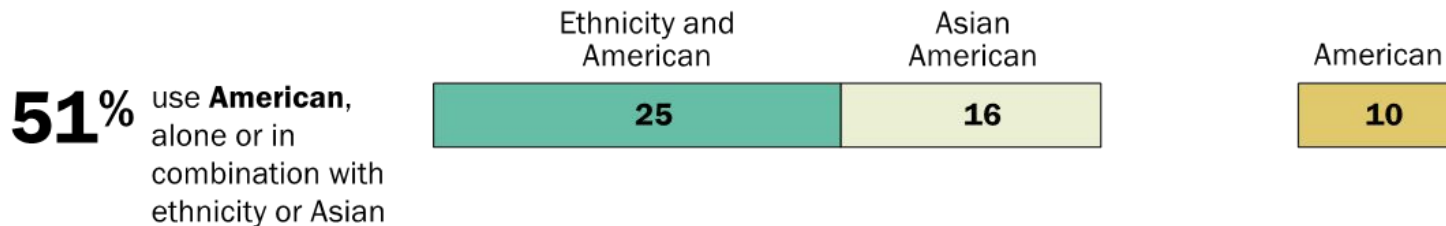
52% use **ethnicity**, alone or in combination with American

How Asian adults in U.S. identify most often

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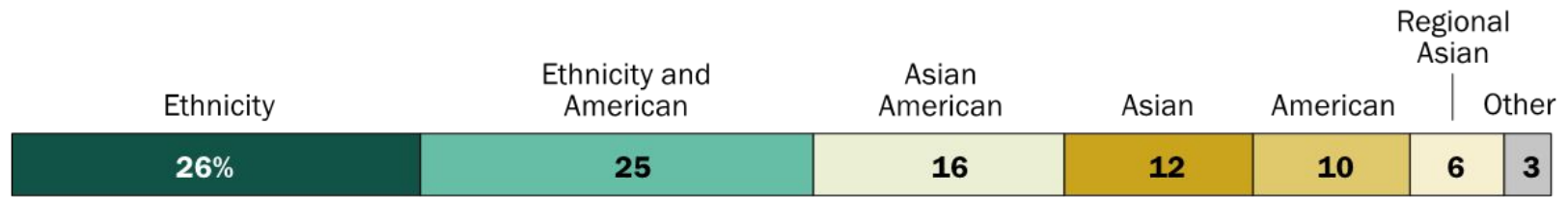


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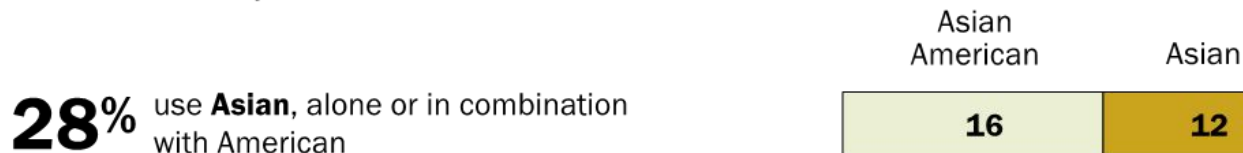
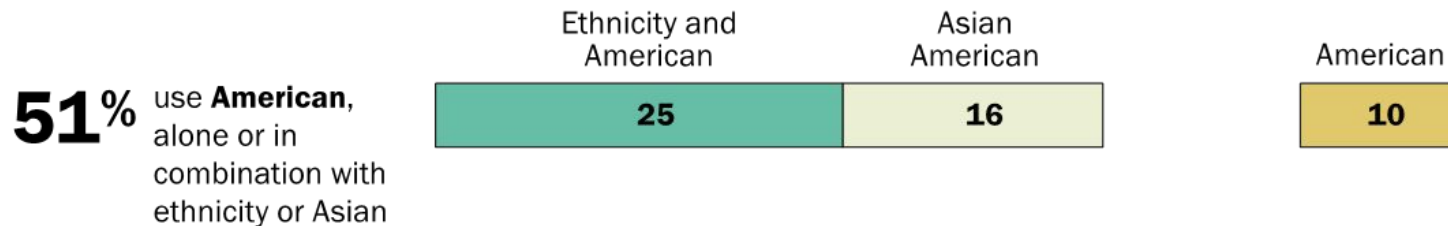


How Asian adults in U.S. identify most often

% of Asian adults who use ____ most often to describe themselves



52% use **ethnicity**, alone or in combination with American



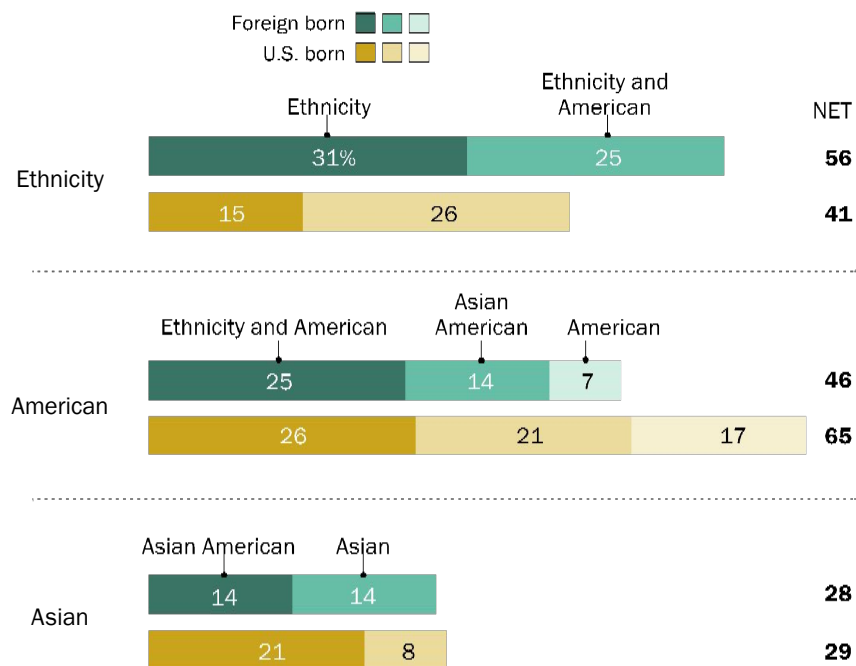
Note: The “Regional Asian” category includes those who report using labels such as East Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian or some other regional Asian group label most often to describe themselves. Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

“Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities”

Place of birth shapes Asian American identities

% of Asian adults who use ____ most often to describe themselves



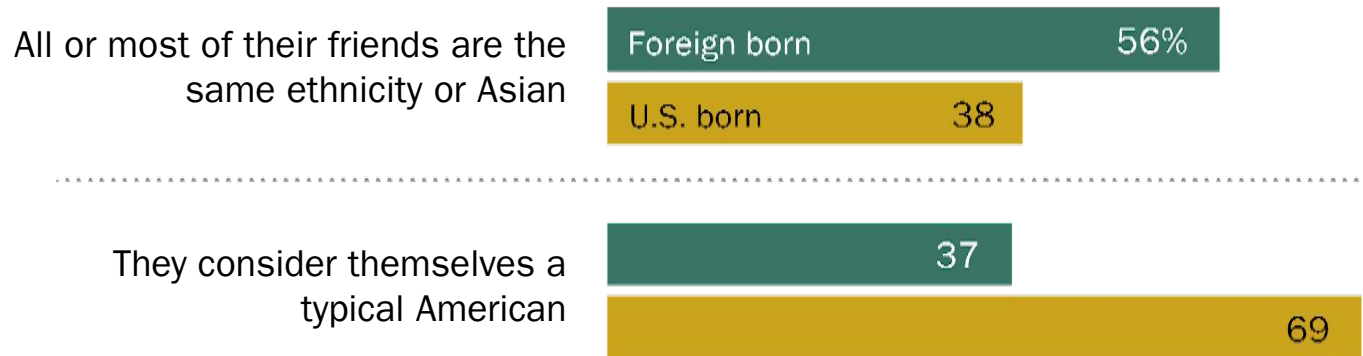
Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities"

Place of birth also shapes life in America

% of Asian adults who say ...



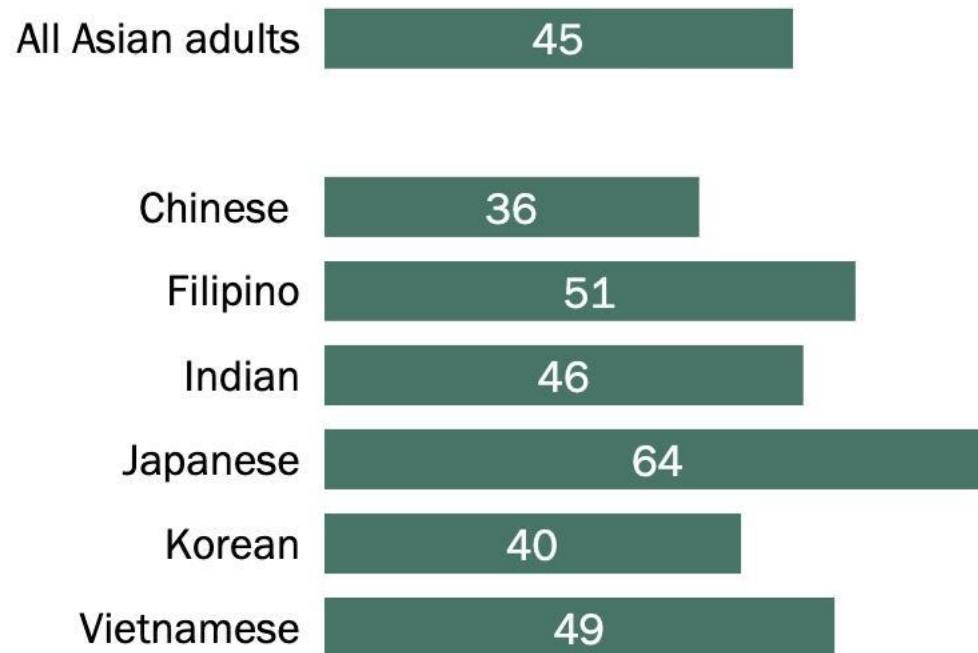
Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities"

Korean adults are less likely to consider themselves a typical American, while Japanese adults are most likely (among largest six origin groups)

% of Asian adults who say they consider themselves as a typical American



SHARED EXPERIENCES OF ASIAN AMERICANS

Many Asian Americans feel connected to other Asians in the U.S.

% of Asian adults who say ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities"

Many Asian Americans report being seen as Asian, and 1-in-5 have hidden a part of their heritage with non-Asians

% of Asian adults who say ...



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities"

U.S.-born Asians more likely to hide their heritage from non-Asians

% of Asian adults who say they have hidden a part of their heritage from people who are not Asian



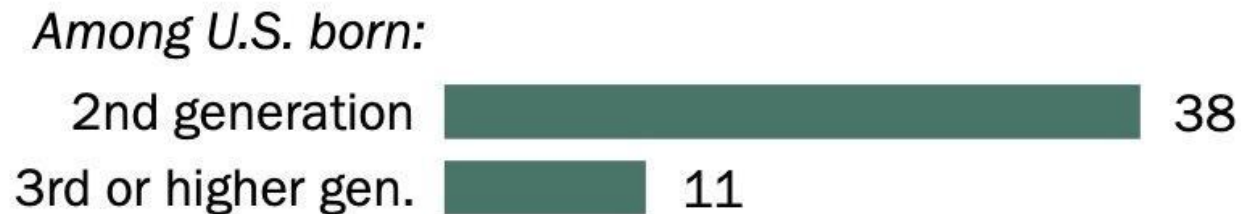
Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities"

Second Generation (U.S.-born with at least one parent who is an immigrant) more likely to hide their heritage from non-Asians

% of Asian adults who say they have hidden a part of their heritage from people who are not Asian



Reasons: “embarrassing,” “bullied,” “teased,” “mocked”

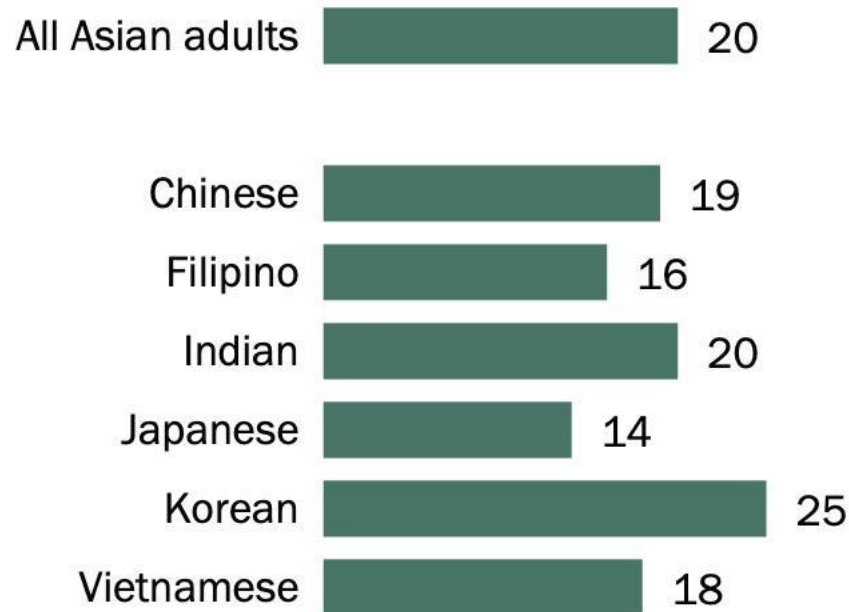
Note: Share of respondents who didn’t offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

“Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities”

Korean Americans most likely to have hidden a part of their heritage from non-Asians

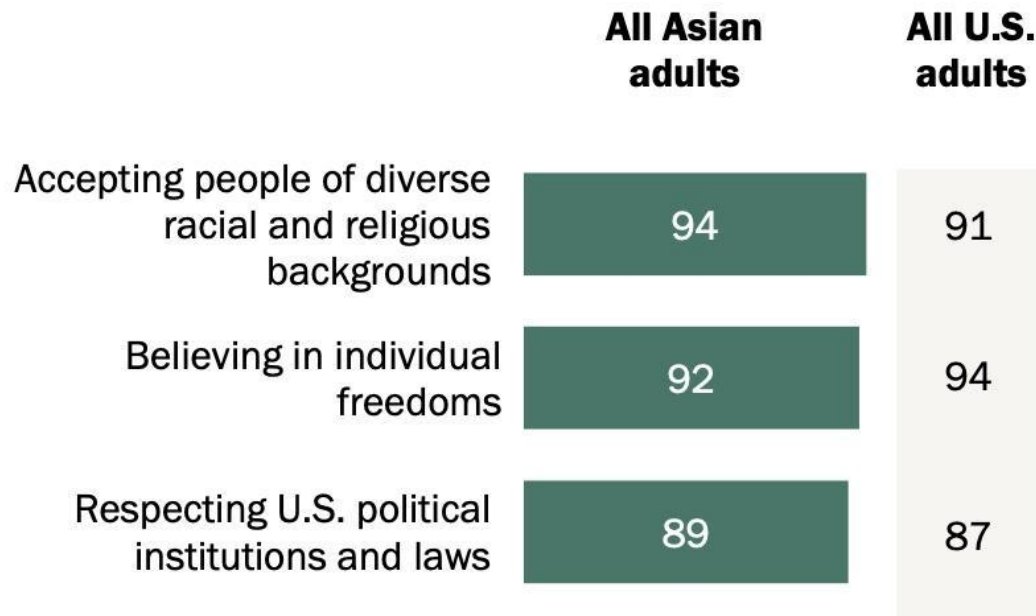
*% of Asian adults who say they have hidden a part of
their heritage from people who are not Asian*



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AMERICAN

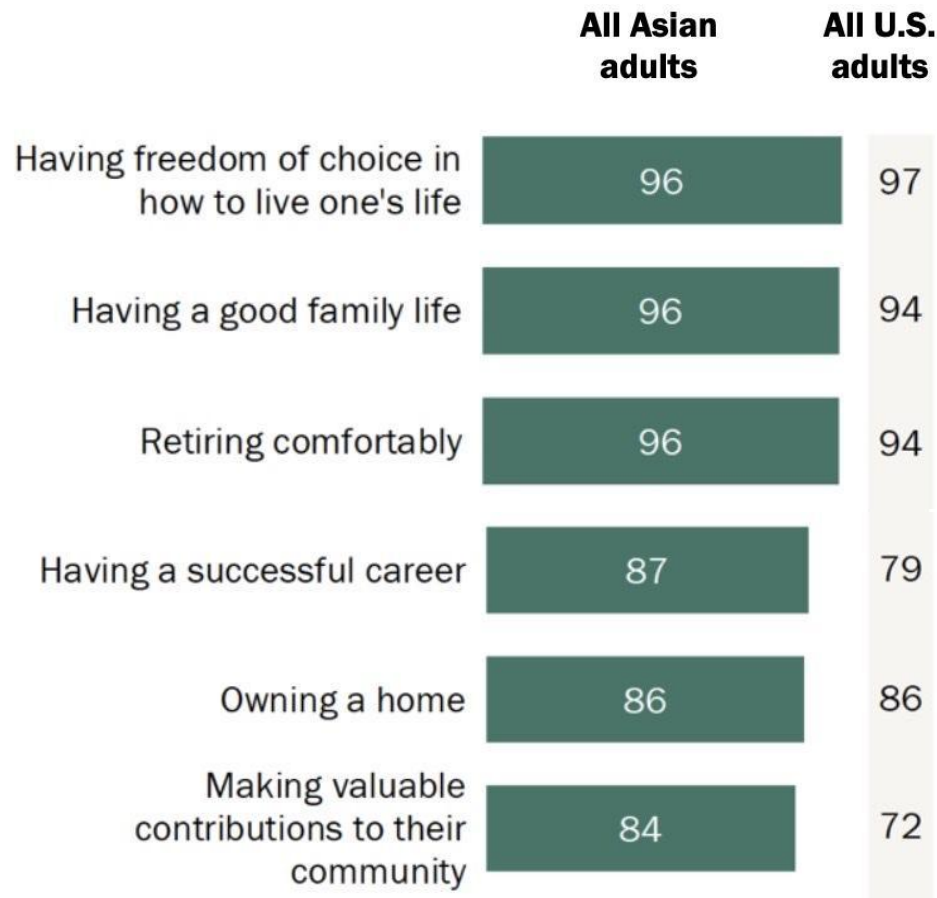
Asian adult's views about what is important for being truly American are similar to general U.S. population

% of adults who say each of the following is important for being truly American



Asian adult's views similar to general U.S. population on what is important to their view of the American dream

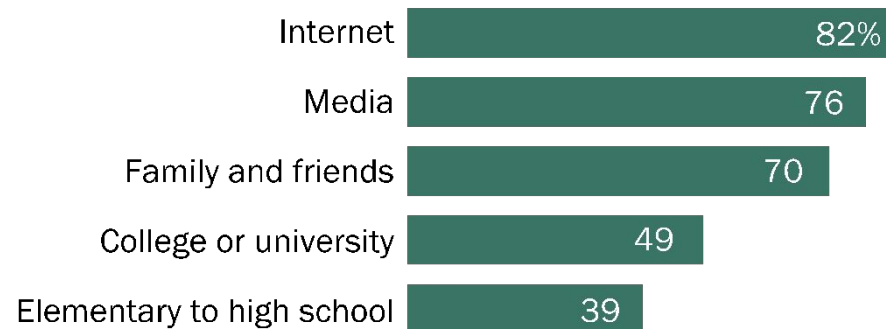
% of adults who say each of the following is important to their view of the American dream



One-in-four Asian Americans are extremely or very informed about history of Asians in the U.S.

24% *of Asians say they are extremely/very informed when it comes to the history of Asians in the U.S.*

*Among Asian adults who are **extremely/very informed** about the history of Asians in the U.S., % who say they learned about it from ...*



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.
"Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities"

LONG HISTORY OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ASIAN AMERICANS

Discrimination is nothing new for Asian Americans

Even before the pandemic, a majority of Asian Americans had personally experienced discrimination because of their race or ethnicity

% of Asian adults saying they have personally experienced discrimination or been treated unfairly because of their race or ethnicity*



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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PERPETUAL FOREIGNER STEREOTYPE

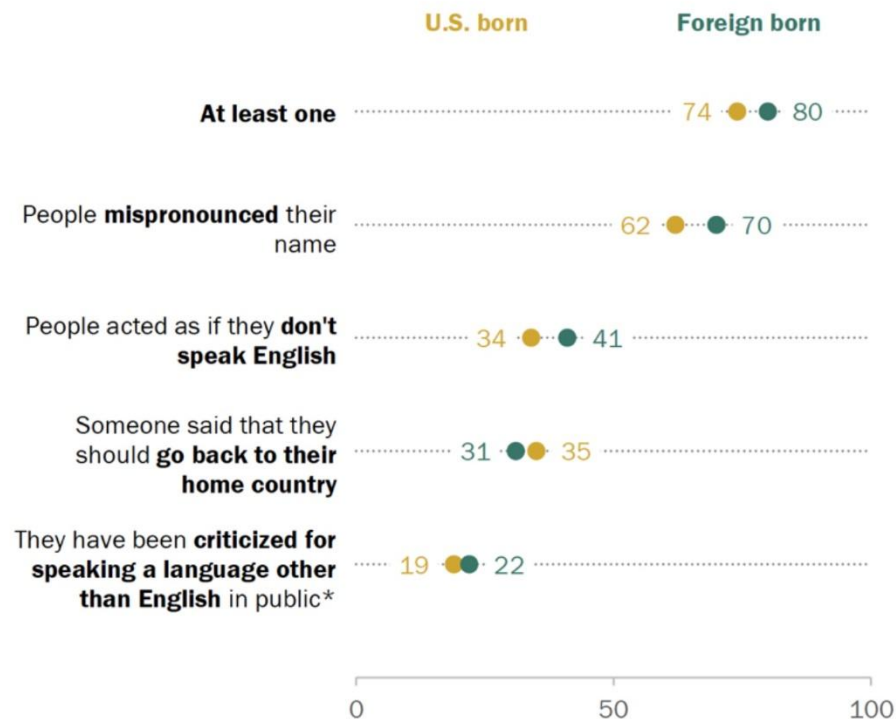
**Whether U.S. born or immigrants, Asians are seen by
others as foreigners**

“You know, I spoke English fine. But there were certain things that, you know, people constantly questioning you like, oh, where are you from? When did you come here? You know, just asking about your experience to the point where ... you become fed up with it after a while.”

–Immigrant woman of Filipino origin in mid-30s

Similar shares of U.S.-born and immigrant Asian adults have been treated as foreigners by strangers

% of Asian adults who say each of the following has happened in their day-to-day encounters with strangers in the U.S.



* Responses only shown among Asian adults who say they can carry on a conversation in their Asian origin language, both understanding and speaking, at least a little.

Note: "At least one" refers to Asian adults who say they have experienced at least one incident in which people mispronounced their name, acted as if they don't speak English, someone said that they should go back to their home country, or they have been criticized for speaking a language other than English in public. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

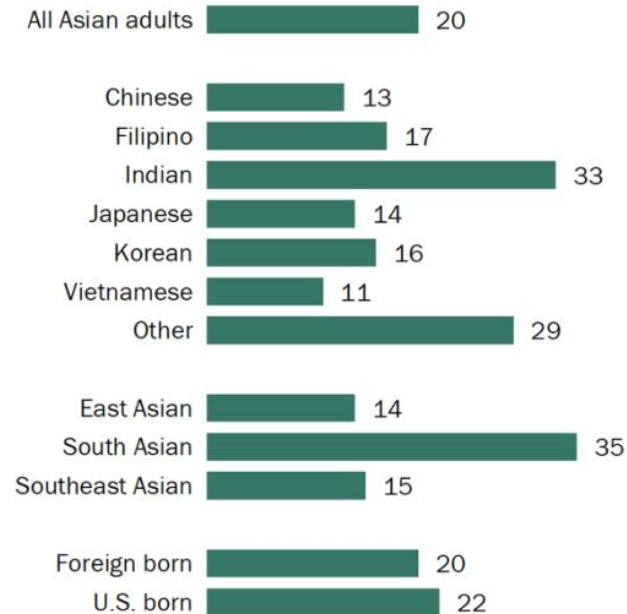
Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives"

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About 1 in 3 South Asian adults say they have been held back at a security checkpoint due to their race or ethnicity

% of Asian adults who say they have been held back at a security checkpoint for a secondary screening because of their race or ethnicity



Note: Ethnic origin groups include those who self-identify with one Asian ethnicity only. Regional origin groups include those who identify with ethnic origins that belong to one Asian region only. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

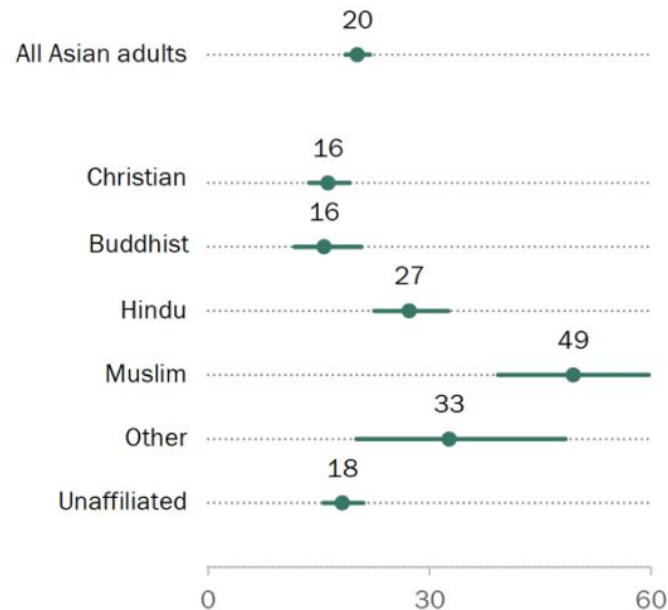
Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives"

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Share of Asian adults who have been stopped at a security checkpoint varies across religious groups

% of Asian adults who say they have been stopped at a security checkpoint for a secondary screening because of their race or ethnicity



Note: "Other" includes religious groups with sample sizes too small to report on separately, including Sikhs, Daoists and Jews. "Unaffiliated" includes those who identify as atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular." Lines surrounding data points represent the margin of error of each estimate. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown. Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

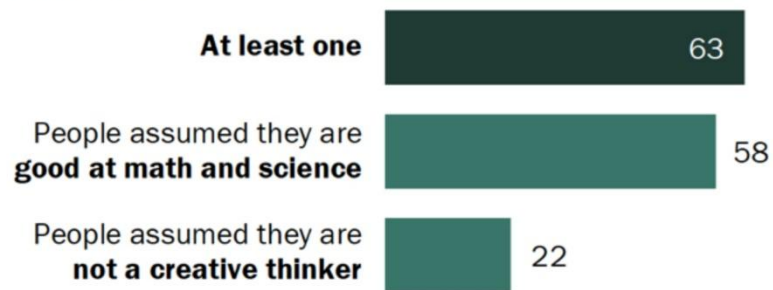
"Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives"

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MODEL MINORITY STEREOTYPE

Most Asian adults have experienced stereotypes associated with being a 'model minority' but fewer than half have ever heard the term

% of Asian adults who say each of the following has happened in their day-to-day encounters with strangers in the U.S.



% of Asian adults who say ...



Note: "At least one" refers to Asian adults who say they have experienced at least one incident in which people assumed they are good at math and science or not a creative thinker. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers not shown.

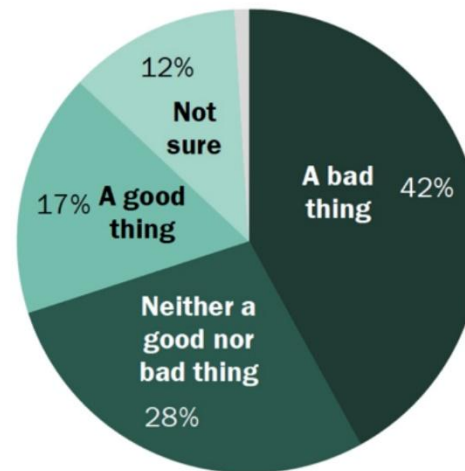
Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives"

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About 4 in 10 Asians who know the term ‘model minority’ say it is a bad thing

Among Asian adults who have heard of the term “model minority,” % who say using it to describe Asians in the U.S. is ...



Note: "Not sure" is a provided response option and distinct from those who chose not to provide an answer. Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer shown but not labeled.

Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023. "Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives"

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VIEWS ON WHAT TO DO ABOUT DISCRIMINATION

Majorities of U.S. Asians say anti-Asian discrimination is a major problem – and that racial issues they face get too little attention

% of Asian adults who say ...

Discrimination against Asians living in the U.S. is a **major problem**

57

Too little attention is paid to race and racial issues concerning Asians living in the U.S.

63

Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer or gave other answers shown but not labeled.

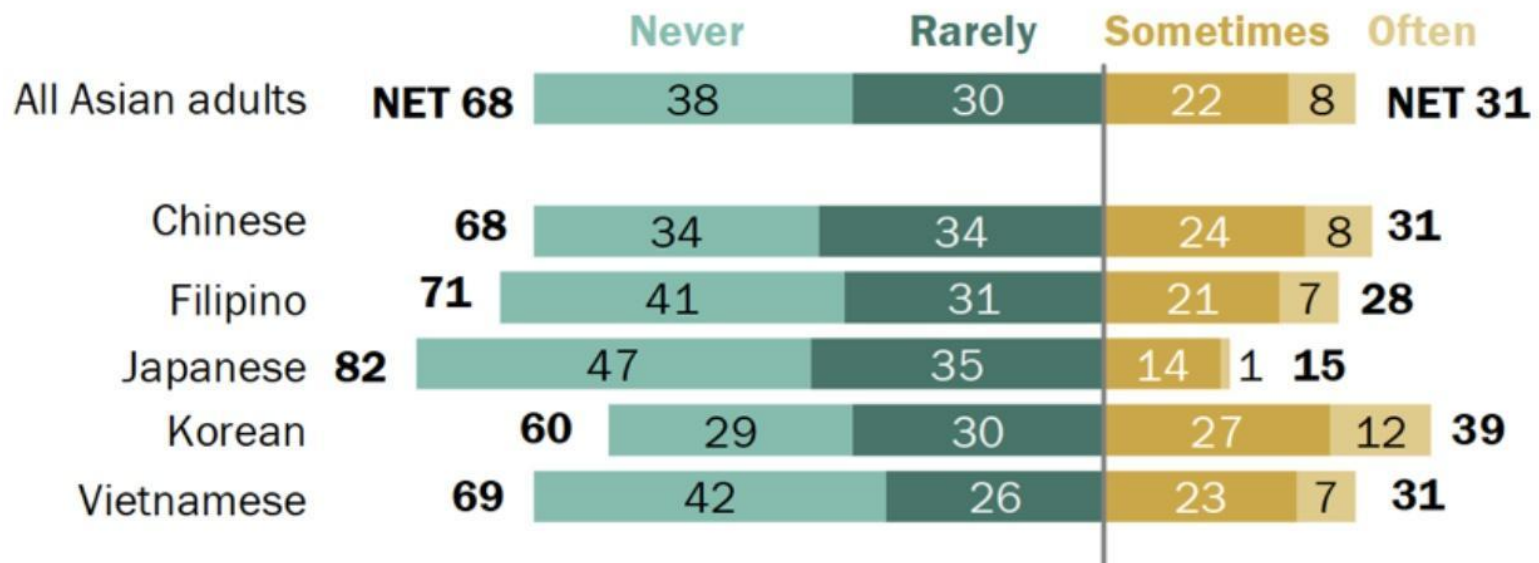
Source: Survey of Asian American adults conducted July 5, 2022-Jan. 27, 2023.

"Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives"

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Most Asian Americans say their family rarely or never discussed racial discrimination growing up

Among Asian adults who grew up in the U.S., % who say that when they were growing up, their family ____ talked to them about challenges they might face because of their race or ethnicity*



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BEING ASIAN IN AMERICA

REPORT | MAY 6, 2023

Diverse Cultures and Shared Experiences Shape Asian American Identities

About six-in-ten feel connected to other Asians in the U.S.

BY NEIL G. RUIZ, LUIS NOE BUSTAMANTE AND SONO SHAH

Pew Research Center

Home > Research Topics > Race & Ethnicity > Racial & Ethnic Groups > Asian Americans

REPORT | JUNE 6, 2023

Asian Americans Hold Mixed Views Around Affirmative Action

Most are skeptical of considering race and ethnicity in college admissions

BY NEIL G. RUIZ, ZIYAO TIAN AND JENS MANUEL KROGSTAD

Pew Research Center

RESEARCH TOPICS ALL PUBLICATIONS METHODS SHORT READS

Home > Research Topics > Politics & Policy > U.S. Elections & Voters > Voters & Voting > Voter

MAY 25, 2023

Asian voters in the U.S. tend to be Democratic, but Vietnamese American voters are an exception

BY KATHERINE SCHAEFFER

About half of Vietnamese American registered voters are Republicans or lean to the GOP – the highest share across the five largest Asian origin groups in the United States.

Overall, about six-in-ten Asian American registered voters (62%) identify as Democrats or lean to the Democratic Party, and 34% are Republicans or GOP leaners, according to a [Pew Research Center survey of Asian adults](#) conducted from July 2022 to January 2023.

Pew Research Center

e > Research Topics > Race & Ethnicity > Racial & Ethnic Groups > Asian Americans

REPORT | NOVEMBER 30, 2023

Discrimination Experiences Shape Most Asian Americans' Lives

Stereotypes of Asians in the U.S. as foreigners and a model minority drive discrimination

BY NEIL G. RUIZ, CAROLYN IM AND ZIYAO TIAN

Pew Research Center

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REPORT | OCTOBER 11, 2023

Religion Among Asian Americans

A rising share say they have no religion, but many consider themselves close to one or more religious traditions for reasons such as family or culture

BY BISHKEER MOHAMED AND MICHAEL ROTOLO

Pew Research Center

RESEARCH TOPICS ALL PUBLICATIONS METHODS SHORT READS

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SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

Among Asian Americans, U.S.-born children of immigrants are most likely to have hidden part of their heritage

BY RACHEL CHEN, SONO SHAH AND NEIL

One-in-five Asian American adult cultural customs, food, clothing o point in their lives. Fear of ridicul give for doing this, according to a United States conducted from Jul

Pew Research Center

RESEARCH TOPICS ALL PUBLICATIONS METHODS SHORT READS

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SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Asian American voters prioritize candidates' policy positions over their racial identity

BY ABBY BUDIMAN, CAROLYN IM AND NEIL G. RUIZ

A sign directing voters to polling stations at a fire station in Alhambra, Los Angeles County, on Nov. 6, 2022. (Photo: L. Brown/AP via Getty Images)

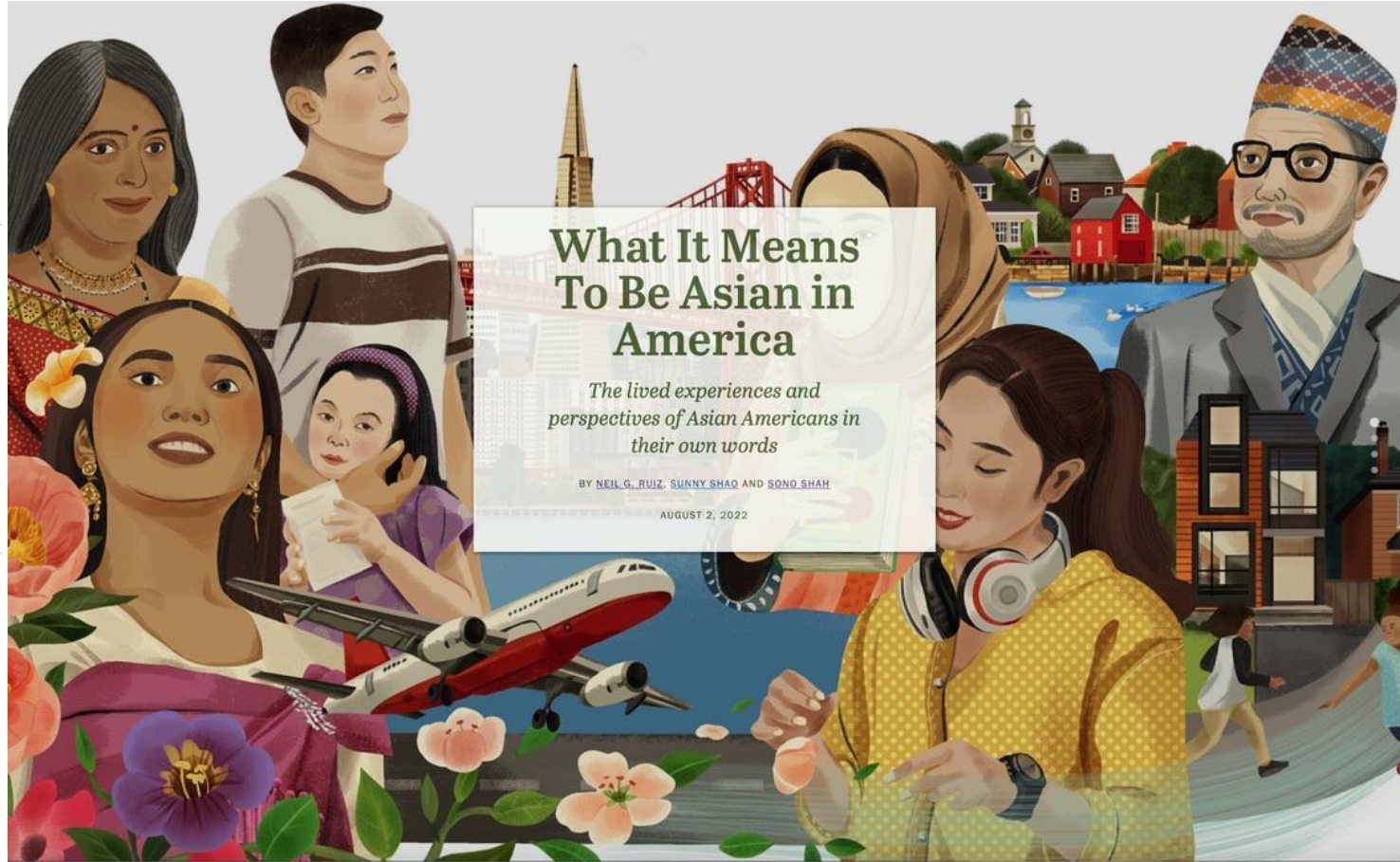
March 1, 2024

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Being Asian in America

www.pewresearch.org/AsianAmericans



www.pewresearch.org/BeingAsianInAmerica

Thank you!

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[**www.pewresearch.org/AsianAmericans**](http://www.pewresearch.org/AsianAmericans)