Greater Boston’s Asian Communities: Stories of Racism and Resilience

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Boston Indicators

Thursday, October 29, 2020
Boston is now majority non-white.


- White: 44.7%
- African American: 22.1%
- Latinx: 19.7%
- Asian American: 9.7%
- Native American: 0.2%

Asian pop. in GB similar in size to African American and Latinx pops.


- White: 66.8%
- African American: 8.5%
- Latinx: 12.5%
- Asian American: 8.9%
- Native American: 0.2%
Asian Americans are the fastest growing racial group in Greater Boston.

AAPI communities are concentrated in Eastern Massachusetts.
Asian American incomes in Boston are $1/2$ what they are in the region.

Median household income. 2016.
Asian American immigrants come to the U.S. through a wide range of channels. People obtaining lawful permanent residency. Sample Asian countries of origin.

DHS 2018 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics.
There’s tremendous diversity within Greater Boston’s Asian American community.

1:4
AAPI young adults were the targets of racism in the past year.

Source: Stop AAPI Hate, “Youth Report” (2020)
2,583 incidents reported to Stop AAPI Hate between March 19 and August 5, 2020.

Source: Stop AAPI Hate, “National Report: 3.19.20 - 8.5.20” (2020)
After adjusting for age, COVID death rates for Asians more than double.

COVID-19 mortality rates, per 100,000 people in Massachusetts as of August 11, 2020

Source: University of Massachusetts Donohue Institute
32% of registered nurses that died of COVID-19 were Filipino.

Only 4% of RNs in the US are Filipino.


Almost 1/4 of unauthorized immigrants in Massachusetts are Asian.
English proficiency varies widely across Asian communities.
Percent of speakers that speak English “very well,” Asian languages spoken at home with 7,500+ speakers in MA.

- Tamil: 86%
- Telugu: 85%
- Hindi: 83%
- Tagalog: 80%
- Urdu: 75%
- Gujarati: 64%
- Arabic: 63%

**Nepali, or Other Indic Languages**

- Nepali: 63%
- Korean: 60%
- Japanese: 57%
- Khmer: 51%
- Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese): 50%
- Vietnamese: 38%

Source: American Community Survey 5-year Estimates 2014-2018; Table B16001
AAPI small business owners are more likely to be foreign-born.

Percent of AAPI small business owners that are foreign-born vs. percent of AAPI residents that are foreign-born in Massachusetts.

Source: American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (2014-2018)
Small businesses have been hit hard by this crisis, especially in Boston.

Chetty, Friedman, Hendren, Stepner and Opportunity Insights (2020)

In **Boston**, as of September 29, 2020, the number of small businesses open decreased by **32.5%** compared to January 2020.
The Asian American business community will be critical to economic recovery and employment growth.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian-owned businesses account for a high proportion of the following sectors, %</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sectors that have been hard hit by COVID-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and accommodation services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Healthcare and social assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational services</td>
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5.9 Percentage of Asian Americans in the United States

1 Asian-owned business for every 6 Asian adults, compared with the US average of 1 for every 8.4 adults

25% of Asian-owned businesses employ more than 1 person, compared with 13% of all US businesses