

AB 295 (LIEU): DATA TO REFLECT THE DIVERSITY OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS

Accurate demographic data is critical for developing policies that effectively respond to the needs of many new and emerging Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) communities. Given the incredible diversity of APIAs, with different cultures, languages, and histories, data that is broken out by specific ethnic groups is critical to having an appropriate understanding of how each community is faring.

Asian and Pacific Islander Americans are an Incredibly Diverse and Growing Population.

- APIAs represent 14% of California's population. APIAs are now the second largest major racial or ethnic group in four counties and the majority of the population in eight cities.
- While APIAs are often misrepresented as a homogeneous group, they actually represent dozens of different cultures, languages, and ethnic groups and have a wide range of economic, educational, and social needs.

Current Data Reveals the Wide Disparity of Outcomes for Individual APIA Ethnic Groups

- California law currently requires the state collection of disaggregated data for the following APIA ethnic groups: Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Laotian, and Cambodian.
- In addition, the federal U.S. Census currently reports data for an even more comprehensive list of APIA ethnic groups.
- Without the current disaggregated data, we would not know the following critical economic, education, and health care differences among APIA ethnic groups:
 - The federal US Census data illustrates that overall, APIAs are doing better than average on social indicators. However, only disaggregated data illuminates that certain APIA ethnic groups have some of the highest poverty and lowest educational attainment rates in the state.
 - In the health care arena, specific APIA ethnic groups are more likely to face certain conditions, a fact that is masked when looking only at overall data for all APIAs. For example, Samoans and Asian Indians have some of the highest death rates for coronary heart disease.
 - By having data by specific APIA ethnic groups, the Asian Pacific Islander Task Force identified communities that were underserved by the Every Women Counts Cancer Detection Program, such as Cambodian and Laotian women. The data was critical for the program to effectively strategize, outreach, and educate women from underserved APIA communities so that they could access mammograms and pap smears, resulting in improved cancer prevention for these communities.

Disaggregated Data for APIAs Must Be Expanded

- Current California law is missing several of the fastest growing APIA ethnic groups that are already reported by the US Census. AB 295 will simply align state data collected by certain departments to reflect the APIA ethnic groups reported by the U.S. Census. It will have state agencies collect data for additional APIA ethnic groups, including Hmong, Tongan, Thai, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Malaysian, Indonesian, Taiwanese, and Fijian.
- The focus of the legislation is on the most critical departments affecting health and human services, education, employment, and civil rights.