



At a Glance: Asian Americans in Minnesota

- ✓ There are about 201,713 Asian Americans in Minnesota, comprising about 4% of the state’s population.
- ✓ Minnesota’s Asian American voting population grew at a rate of 6% from 2004 to 2008, from 101,000 to 107,000, now comprising almost 3% of Minnesota’s voting population.
- ✓ In Minnesota’s Twin Cities, Minneapolis-St. Paul, there are 55,654 AAPI’s, making up almost 9% of the two cities’ population.
- ✓ AAPI voters can make a significant impact in local and national elections.

A Growing Asian American Population

- ✓ The Asian American population in Minnesota is incredibly diverse, with large refugee populations from Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War.

Ethnicity (Asian alone)	Numbers	Percent of total Asian population
Hmong	48,668	27%
Asian Indian	27,973	15%
Vietnamese	20,871	12%
Chinese	19,328	11%
Korean	15,256	8%
Laotian	11,283	6%

- ✓ The NHPI population is small, with about 3,405 persons in the state.
- ✓ Since 2000, Minnesota’s Asian American population has grown from 162,414 to 201,713, a 24% increase. These communities have grown a lot in the past 30 years due to direct and secondary migration.
- ✓ In Minneapolis-St. Paul, there are 55,654 AAPI’s, making up almost 9% of the population of the Twin Cities.
- ✓ Hennepin and Ramsey Counties contain many AAPIs in Minnesota.
- ✓ Over half of the population is foreign born. Of the 120,130 foreign born Asian Americans, 67,431 are naturalized and 52,699 are not citizens.

Key Elections in Minnesota²

- ✓ AAPI voters had the potential to impact the gubernatorial race in 2006.
- ✓ In 2006, the Asian American voting eligible population totaled 71,490, which far

exceeded the margin of victory of 22,483 in the gubernatorial race.

Asian American Turnout in Minnesota in 2008

- ✓ In 2008, there were 107,000 Asian Americans who were eligible to vote in Minnesota, making up almost 3% of the state’s voting eligible population.
- ✓ Only 65% of Illinois’ voting eligible AAPI population registered to vote in 2008, compared to the 80% statewide.
- ✓ Approximately 89% of registered AAPI voters in Illinois turned out to vote, compared to 94% statewide.

Socioeconomic Challenges

- ✓ The poverty rate for Asian Americans in Minnesota is almost 16%, which is above the state’s 10% poverty rate.
- ✓ Asian Americans who are refugees struggle to complete their education. More than a third of Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese adults have less than a high school degree, and the majority of Hmong adults do not have a high school degree.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

- ✓ Of the Asian American population in Minnesota, over 70% speak a language other than English, and more than one of three Asian Americans speaks English “less than well,” compared to 4% statewide.
- ✓ In Minnesota, 33,057 out of 43,306, that is 76% of households, in Minnesota that speak Asian languages are linguistically isolated, which limits access to basic social services and civic participation.

¹2006-2008 American Community Survey and 2004, 2008 Community Population Survey; all other data from A Community of Contrasts, Asian American Justice Center, and Asian Pacific American Legal Center, 2006.

³Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, 2008.