

2015 State of Higher Education in California: Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Report



The Campaign for College Opportunity in partnership with Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles today released "The State of Higher Education in California: Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander," report which examines how the state's 6.3 million Asian Americans and 347,501 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, representing one in seven Californians, are faring in higher education.

The Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community is the fastest growing racial/ethnic group in California and when AANHPI go to college in California, they overwhelmingly attend the state's public colleges and universities. Eighty-seven percent of Asian Americans and 73% of NHPI start their college career at a public institution. Nearly half of all

Asian Americans (47%) and 55% of NHPI start at a California community college.

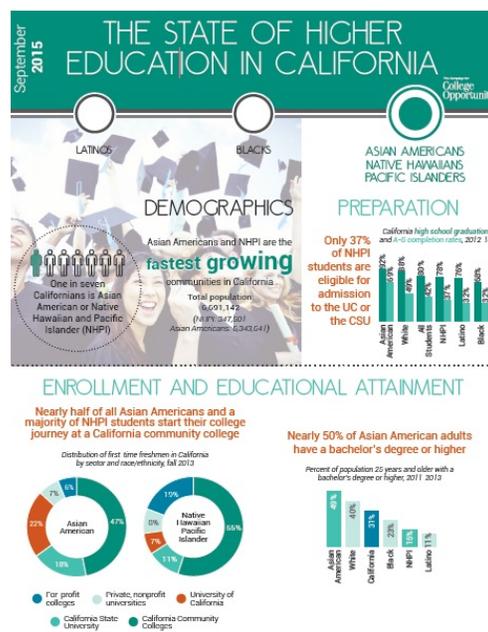
"AANHPI rely heavily on our state's public colleges and universities and when our institutions do not have the space to meet growing demand, AANHPI students, like all Californians, are hurt," said Michele Siqueiros, president of the Campaign for College Opportunity.

Looking at AANHPI as one monolithic group is problematic and can lead to inaccurate assumptions that AANHPI are doing well in terms of educational attainment, and therefore little to no policy or institutional interventions are necessary. In fact, there are significant disparities across the AANHPI communities in college-degree attainment, enrollment in four-year universities, and graduation rates. For example, 70% of Indian adults have a bachelors degree or higher compared to 10% of Laotian adults.

"Policymakers and higher education leaders must suspend the practice of seeing our community as a monolithic whole. Our most disadvantaged AANHPI students continue to face significant barriers to educational access and success, including high poverty and low graduation rates at community colleges and four-year universities," said Stewart Kwoh, president & Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles.

A few key findings from the report:

- Only 37% of NHPI students are eligible for admission to the University of California or California State University system.
- 19% of NHPI enroll in private for-profit colleges, a rate higher than all other ethnic groups.
- Nearly 50% of Asian American adults have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to only 15% of NHPI.
- At least 60% of Laotian, Filipino, and Cambodian students have been assessed into pre-college level math or English at a California Community College.
- Six-year community college completion rates differ by more than 20 points among Asian Americans and NHPI. There is a 40 point difference between Chinese graduation rates at 73% and Samoan graduation rates at 29%.
- Asian American (13%) and NHPI (11%) groups have lower four-year graduation rates at the California State University system than White students (24%).
- Asian Americans have the highest UC admit rates of all racial/ethnic groups at 72% while NHPI have admit rates lower than Latinos, at 54%.



The report recommends that education policies and practices be based on accurate disaggregated data for the AANHPI communities and calls for continued investment and expansion of capacity in public higher education.

The report materials include What Works Now profiles of programs that foster student success for AANHPI students at Sacramento State University and De Anza College.

We hope the data and recommendations found in this report informs and inspires policy makers and college leaders to enact and implement the necessary funding, policies, and practices required to improve outcomes for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students. We work to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy.

Sincerely,



President
Campaign for College Opportunity

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