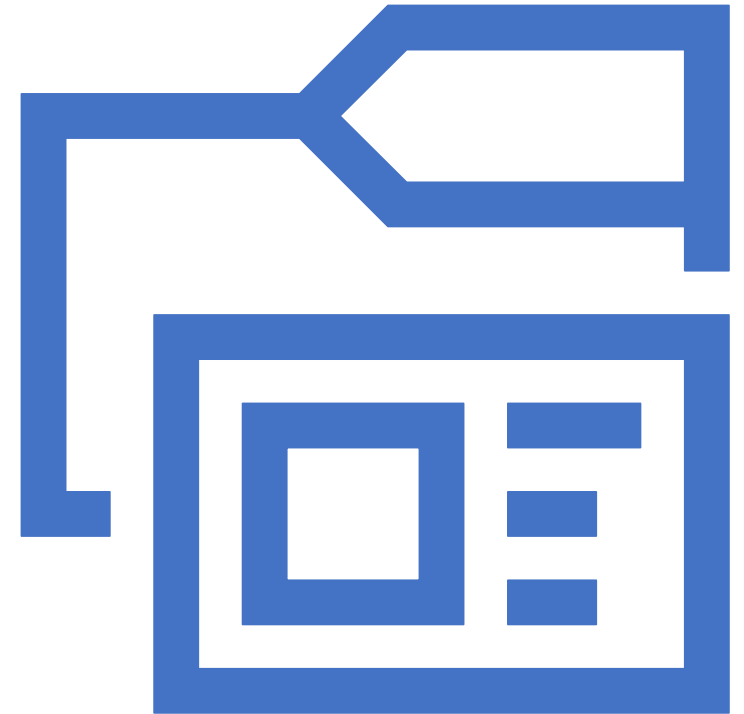


SOCI2013: General Sociology January Intersession 2024

Chapter 9: race and ethnicity II



Chapter
outlines

Sociological
perspectives on race
and ethnic relations

Racial and ethnic groups
in the US

Sociological Perspectives on Race and Gender

- Historically, white men have monopolized the high-paying primary labor market. Many people of color and white women hold lower-tier jobs. Below that tier is the underground sector of the economy, characterized by illegal or quasi-legal activities such as drug-trafficking, sex work, and working in sweatshops that do not meet minimum-wage and safety standards.

Racial Formation

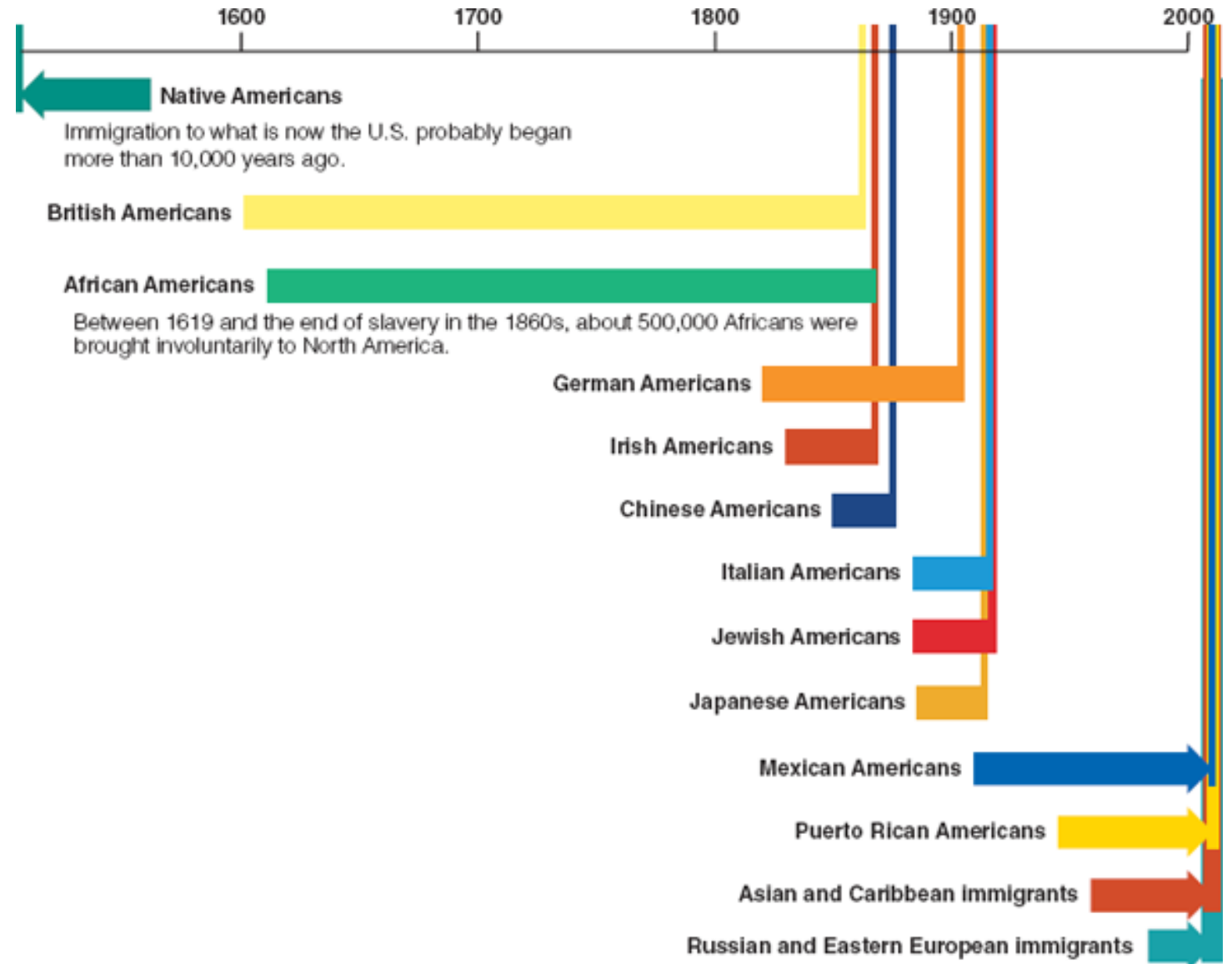
The theory of racial formation states that actions of the government substantially define racial and ethnic relations in the United States.

The U.S. government has shaped the politics of race through actions and policies that cause people to be treated differently because of their race.

For example, immigration legislation reflects racial biases. The Naturalization Law of 1790 permitted only white immigrants to qualify for naturalization; the Immigration Act of 1924 favored northern Europeans and excluded Asians and southern and eastern Europeans.

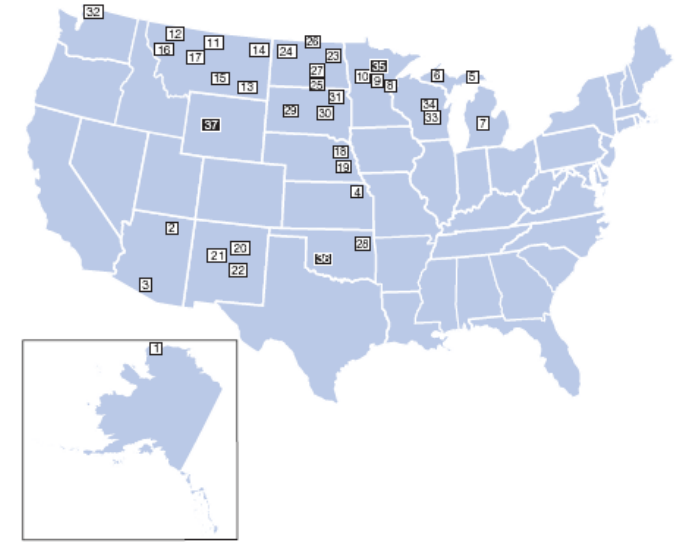
Racial and Ethnic Groups in the United States

- Native Americans and Alaska Natives



Native Americans in colleges

- Historically, Native Americans have had a low rate of college attendance. However, the development of a network of tribal colleges has provided them with a local source for upward mobility.



Member Tribal Colleges

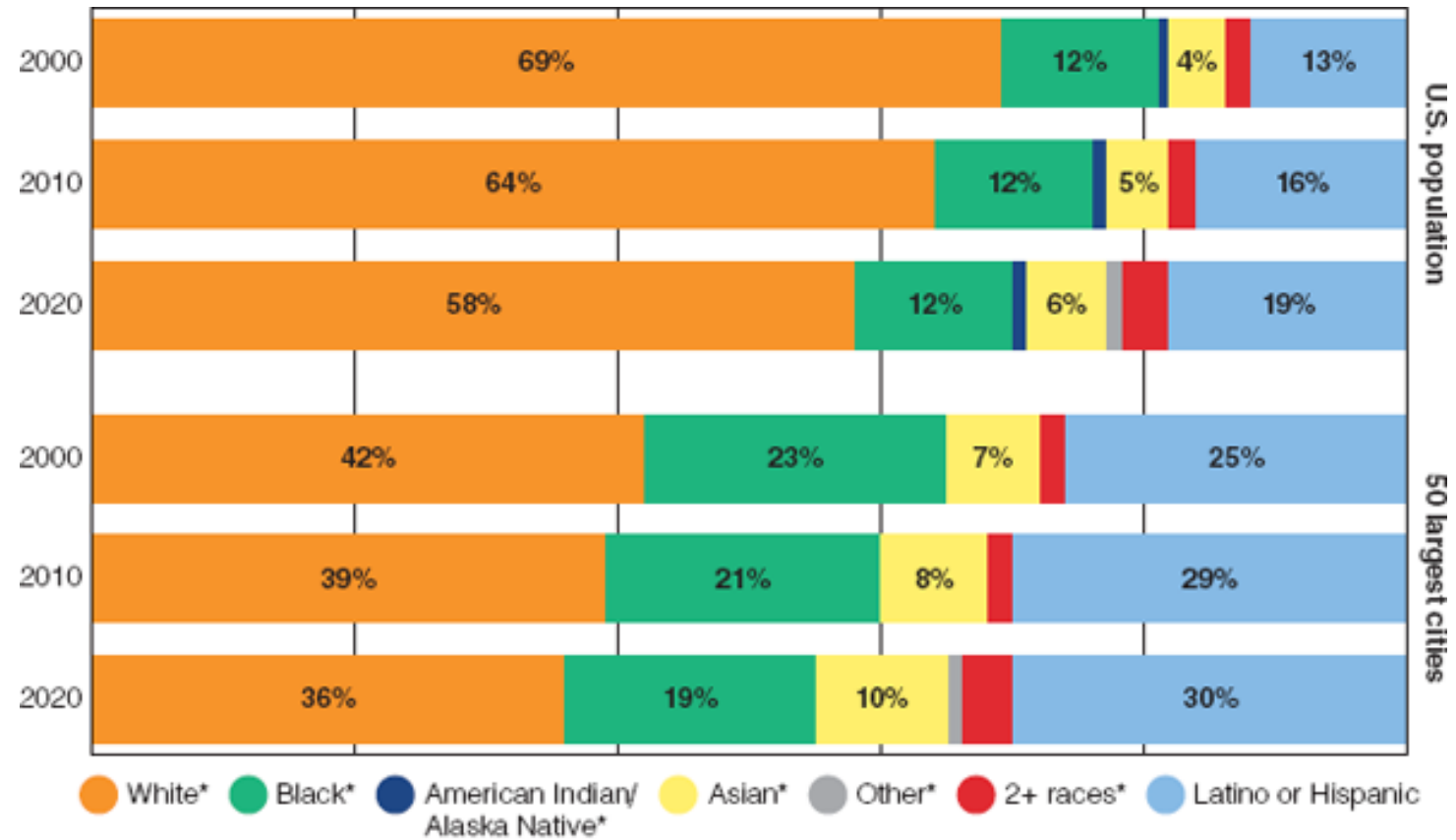
Alaska 1 Ilisagvik College Barrow, AK	Montana 11 Aaniiih Nakoda College Hilden, MT 16 Blackfeet Community College Browning, MT 18 Chief Dull Knife College Lane Deer, MT 14 Fort Peck Community College (2 Campuses) Poplar, MT 15 Little Big Horn College Crow Agency, MT 16 Salish Kootenai College (3 Campuses) Pablo, MT 17 Stone Child College Box Elder, MT	New Mexico 20 Institute of American Indian Arts Santa Fe, NM 21 Navajo Technical University (3 Campuses) Crownpoint, NM 22 Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute Albuquerque, NM	South Dakota 29 Oglala Lakota College (12 Campuses) Kyle, SD 30 Sinte Gleska University (3 Campuses) Mission, SD 31 Sisseton Wahpeton College Sisseton, SD	AIHEC A Membr Minnesota 35 Red Lake College Red Lake, MN Oklahoma 25 Comand College Lawton, OK Wyomin 27 Wind Riv College Ethete, WY
Arizona 2 Diné College (6 Campuses) Tsaile, AZ 3 Tohono O'odham Community College Sells, AZ	North Dakota 23 Cankdeska Cikana Community College Fort Totten, ND 24 Hueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (5 Campuses) New Town, ND 25 Sitting Bull College (3 Campuses) Fort Yates, ND 26 Turtle Mountain Community College Beckort, ND 27 United Tribes Technical College Bismarck, ND	Washington 32 Northwest Indian College (7 Campuses) Bellingham, WA	Wisconsin 33 College of Menominee Nation (2 Campuses) Keshena, WI 34 Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College (4 Campuses) Hayward, WI	
Kansas 4 Haskell Indian Nations University Lawrence, KS	Nebraska 18 Little Priest Tribal College (2 Campuses) Winnebago, NE 19 Nebraska Indian Community College (3 Campuses) Macy, NE	Oklahoma 28 College of the Muscogee Nation Okmulgee, OK		
Michigan 5 Bay Mills Community College (5 Campuses) Brinley, MI 6 Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College Baraga, MI 7 Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College Mount Pleasant, MI				
Minnesota 8 Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College Cloquet, MN 9 Leech Lake Tribal College (2 Campuses) Cass Lake, MN				

White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (British Americans)

- White alone or White (non-Latino) to refer to a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.
- In the latest (2020) federal census, people who indicated that they were Caucasian, white, Irish, German, Polish, Arab, Lebanese, Palestinian, Algerian, Moroccan, and Egyptian, among others, were included in the white racial category (Measher, 2020).
- Currently, the “non-Latino White alone” population is the “majority” group (at nearly 198 million) in the United States because it is both the largest racial and ethnic group and because it also accounts for greater than 50 percent of the nation’s total population. By 2060, it is projected that this category will fall to 44 percent as its population falls to 182 million.
- The median household income of Whites (non-Latino) of \$74,903 in 2020 is second only to that of Asian Americans (\$94,904) and significantly above that of Hispanic or Latino (\$55,321) and black residents (\$45,870) of the United States.
- The poverty rate for Whites (non-Latino) was 9.2 percent in 2020 while it was 19.2 percent for Blacks and 17 percent among Hispanics or Latinos of any race (Dalaker, 2022).

African Americans and Blacks

- From 2000 to 2020, the U.S. population become more racially diverse. Cities grew in diversity even more so than other areas of the nation.



*Non Latino or Hispanic members of race group
 Note: Hawaiians/Other Pacific Islanders were included as part of Asian category

Historical discriminations

Gaining freedom did not give Blacks equality with Whites. Blacks were subjected to many indignities because of race.

Through informal practices in the North and Jim Crow laws in the South, Blacks experienced segregation in housing, employment, education, and all public accommodations.

Blacks who did not stay in their “place” were often the victims of violent attacks and lynch mob.



Blacks Today

- Blacks are making notable gains into political offices with Blacks now currently, or having held, elected positions as governors, members of Congress, and the presidency.

White Ethnic Americans

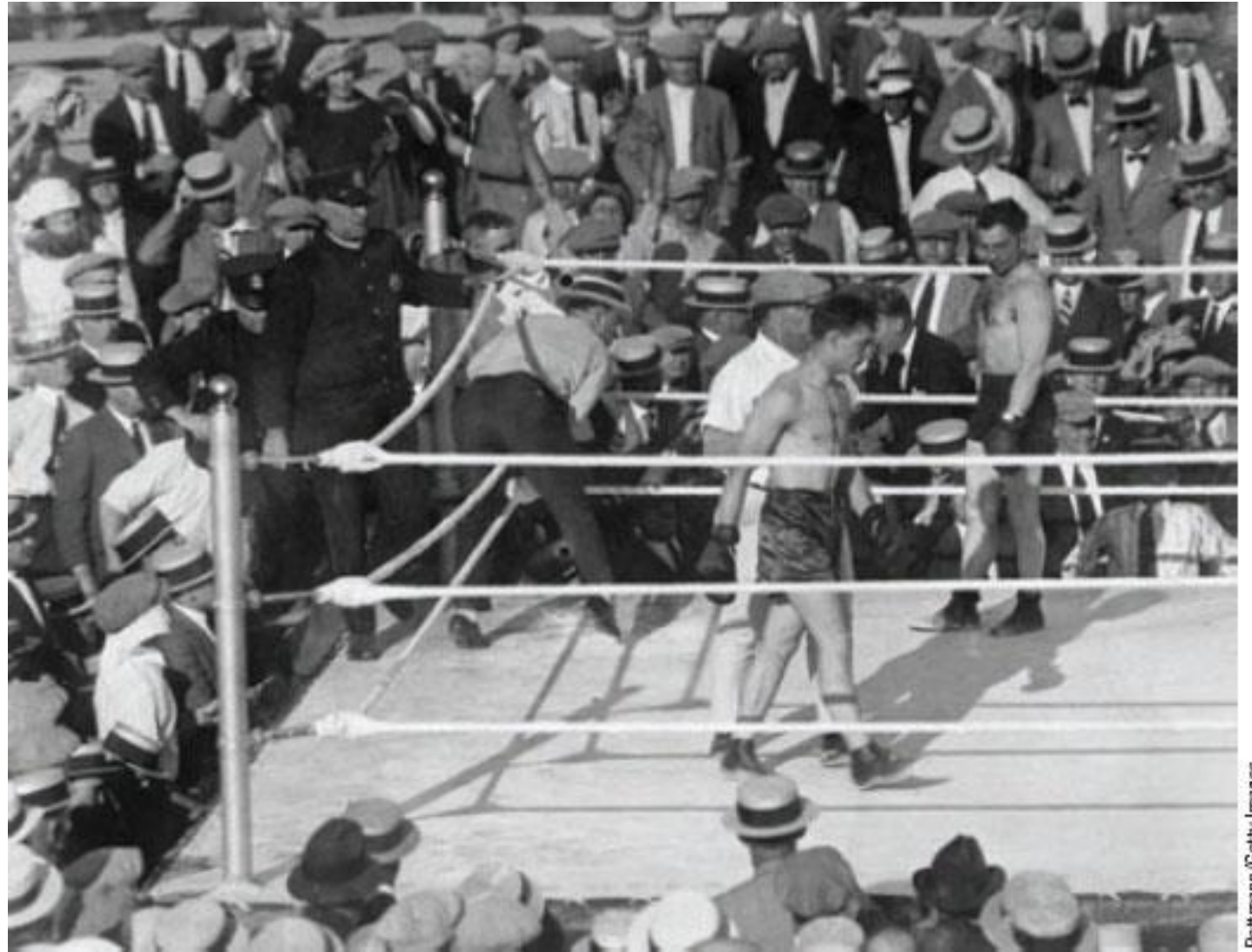
The term white ethnic Americans is applied to a wide diversity of immigrants who trace their origins to Ireland and to eastern and southern European countries such as Poland, Italy, Greece, Germany, Yugoslavia, and Russia and other former Soviet republics.

Unlike the WASPs, white ethnic Americans arrived late in the nineteenth century and early in the twentieth century to find relatively high levels of prejudice and discrimination.

Because many of the people in white ethnic American categories were not Protestant, they experienced discrimination because they were Catholic, Jewish, or members of other religious bodies, such as the Eastern Orthodox churches.

White Ethnics and Sports

- For more than a century, boxing matches have provided members of some white ethnic groups with the ability to earn a living and develop a strong feeling of ethnic pride. Italian American Ray “Boom Boom” Mancini (right) was later inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.



Asian Americans

Recent research has found that the approximately 24 million Asian Americans living in the United States have the highest median income (\$94,904) and the most formal education of any racial or ethnic group in the United States.

However, significant differences exist among the largest Asian groups in regard to income, education level, and other key characteristics.

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing major racial or ethnic group in this country.

Chinese Americans

Chinese Americans are the largest group, making up approximately one-quarter percent of all Asian Americans in the United States.

Chinese Americans were subjected to extreme prejudice and stereotypes. Some Asians were attacked and even lynched by working-class Whites who feared that they would lose their jobs to these immigrants. Passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 brought Chinese immigration to a halt.

Filipino Americans

To understand the status of Filipino Americans, it is important to look at the complex relationship between the Philippine Islands and the U.S. government.

After Spain lost the Spanish–American War, the United States established colonial rule over the islands, a rule that lasted from 1898 until 1946. Despite control by the United States, Filipinos were not granted U.S. citizenship, but male Filipinos were allowed to migrate to Hawai'i and the U.S. mainland to work in agriculture and in fish canneries in Seattle and Alaska.

Like other Asian Americans, Filipino Americans were accused of taking jobs away from white workers and suppressing wages, and Congress restricted Filipino immigration to fifty people per year between the Great Depression and the aftermath of World War II.

Asian Indian Americans

- Many Asian Indian Americans have been in top positions in the high-tech Silicon Valley of California, particularly in companies such as Google and Microsoft.
- The median household income of Asian Indian Americans (over \$100,000) is higher than that of Asian Americans as a whole. Asian Indian Americans have a higher level of educational attainment than other groups in the United States.
- Asian American workers, such as these software engineers, now make up a larger percentage of the high-tech workforce than white Americans and persons in other racial or ethnic categories. This change constitutes a dramatic shift in technology-related jobs and the corresponding distribution of higher wages and benefits provided by this employment sector.



Indochinese Americans

Indochinese Americans include people from Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos. Vietnamese refugees who had the resources to flee at the beginning of the Vietnam War were the first to arrive.

The next to arrive were Cambodians and lowland Laotians, referred to as “boat people” by the media.

Korean Americans

An estimated 1.9 million Korean Americans reside in the United States, constituting the fifth-largest category of Asian Americans and about 10 percent of the total adult Asian population in the nation.

Many Korean Americans live in California (Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, San Francisco, and San Diego), New York City, New Jersey, Washington, D.C., Seattle, Chicago, Atlanta, and Dallas–Fort Worth.

The median annual household income for Korean Americans is slightly above \$50,000, which is lower than the median for Asian Americans but slightly higher than for the U.S. population as a whole (Migration Policy Institute, 2019b).

Japanese Americans

- During World War II, nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans—some of whom are still alive today—were interned in camps such as the Manzanar Relocation Center in California, where this statue memorializes their ordeal.



Japanese Americans

Since World War II, many Japanese Americans have been very successful. The annual household income of Japanese Americans is about \$83,000 (Budiman, 2021).

Many Japanese Americans (and other Asian Americans as well) reside in states with higher incomes and higher costs of living than the national average.

These include Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, and Seattle (Frey, 2018).

Hispanic (Latinx Americans)

Hispanics are the people who trace their roots to Spanish-speaking countries think of themselves as Mexican Americans, Chicanos/as, Puerto Ricans, Cuban Americans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Nicaraguans, Costa Ricans, Argentines, Hondurans, Dominicans, or members of other categories.

Many also think of themselves as having a combination of Spanish, African, and Native American ancestry. The U.S. Latinx population is the second-fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the nation after Asian Americans, and Latinxs now make up more than 18 percent of the total U.S. population (Krogstad and Noe-Bustamante, 2019).

Mexican Americans or Chicanos

Mexican Americans—including both native-born and foreign-born people of Mexican origin—are the largest segment (slightly over 60 percent) at 36.6 million of the entire Latinx population in the United States.

Most Mexican Americans live in the southwestern region of the United States, including Los Angeles and Riverside, California; Houston and Dallas, Texas; Chicago; and various cities in Arizona.

Puerto Ricans

Nearly 5.0 million Puerto Rican Americans resided in the United States and accounted for 9.5 percent of the Latinx population.

Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens at birth. When Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States in 1917, Puerto Ricans acquired U.S. citizenship and gained the right to move freely to and from the mainland.

In the 1950s, many migrated to the mainland when the Puerto Rican sugar industry collapsed and they settled in New York and New Jersey.

Today, more than half of all Puerto Rican Americans reside in the Northeast (New York City, Philadelphia, and Chicago) or the South (primarily Orlando, Miami, and other Florida cities).

Cuban Americans

An estimated 2.3 million Latinxs of Cuban origin live in the United States.

As the third-largest population of Latinx origin living in the United States, Cuban Americans live primarily in the Southeast (78 percent), especially Florida (68 percent).

The Cuban American population has continued to grow in the twenty-first century to the extent that this group now accounts for about 4 percent of the entire Latinx population in this country.

Today, about 56 percent of Cuban Americans are foreign-born.