
Chicago

6.6%

Of Chicago's population is Asian. **Almost 189,000 people**

1 in 12

Asians in the midwest live in Chicago

21%

The increase in the AAPI population from 2010-2017, making it the fastest growing racial/ethnic group.

Executive Summary

Representing 6.6% of Chicago's population, Asian Americans are the fastest fastest growing racial/ethnic group in the city. Additionally, Chicago deserves to be seen as a hub for AAPI in the midwest: 1 in 12 Asians in the midwest live in Chicago.

Chicago's AAPI population is diverse, heralding from 15 different countries with Chinese, Indian, and Filipinos making up the majority. Over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the AAPI population is foreign-born and more than a third speak English less than "very well." Similar to other communities in Chicago, AAPIs live in largely segregated from other racial groups and are concentrated in the Near-Southwest side and Far-North side.

With the recent rise in anti-Asian hate as a result of COVID-19, the **safety, belonging, and prosperity** of the AAPI community has been brought into sharp focus. The purpose of this brief is to present a snapshot of the AAPI community, share select anti-hate initiatives, and provide relevant government contacts.

Safety

6

Reported hate crimes against Asians from January–September 2021. There may be unreported crimes and likely many incidents that do not meet the legal criteria for a hate crime.

↑ **7%**

Increase in the number of violent crimes against Asians from 2019–2020. The largest increase for any ethnic group.

92

Hate incidents in Illinois were reported to Stop AAPI Hate in 2020. Hate incidents are likely under reported

Selected Initiatives

[Asian American Action Day](#)

A virtual action day hosted by the Pan-Asian Voter Empowerment (PAVE) Coalition March 2020. Key issues were COVID-19, racism, support for undocumented community members, and need for language services

[March 2021 Rally led by Chinatown Security Foundation and Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community](#)

Over 65 Asian American organizations attended

[Chinatown Peace Project](#)

An initiative of the Chinese Christina Union Church in partnership with CPD focused on prevention, justice and mercy, and addressing root causes.

[Bystander Intervention Trainings](#)

Hosted weekly by Asian Americans Advancing Justice, CAIR/Chicago and Hollaback!

[FBI Chicago Reaches Out to Asian Community on Hate Crimes](#)

Emmerson Buie Jr., special agent in charge of the FBI's Chicago Division, delivered a message to the Asian community that fighting hate crimes will require mutual cooperation.

[Chicago police step up patrols in Asian American communities following Atlanta-area shootings](#)

The Chicago Police Department increased patrols in the city's Asian American communities following a shooting rampage in Georgia.

Belonging

Discourse on Chicago has historically focused on White, Black, and Latinx communities. Asian Chicagoans are seen as perpetual foreigners.

AAPI who speak English less than “very well” are paid:

- 19% less than whites**
- 15% less than African Americans**
- 11% less than Latinxs**

The **2016 Healthy Chicago 2.0** highlighted the so called “comprehensive community assessments” that were used to develop the plan, **failed to include Asian Americans.**

Recent Initiatives

[HB 376, Teaching Equitable Asian American History \(TEAACH Act\)](#)

Introduced by Sen. Villivalam and Rep. Gong-Gershowitz, signed by Gov. J.B. Pritzker on July 9, 2021. The TEAACH Act makes Illinois the first state in the U.S. to require Asian American history be taught in public schools.

[For Mid-Term Mark, Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot Says She'll Only Talk To Reporters Of Color](#)

Lightfoot said she was limiting anniversary interviews to journalists of color to highlight ongoing racial disparity in newsrooms, particularly in City Hall coverage.

Focus on Research:

[A Tale of Diversity, Disparity, and Discrimination: The State of Racial Justice for Asian American Chicagoans](#)

Part of the UIC's 2018 series of reports on The State of Racial Justice in Chicago.

[Healthy Chicago 2025](#)

Unlike the 2016 plan, the current plan does address Asian Americans, particularly as it relates to mental health needs

[The Center for Asian Healthy Equity \(CAHE\)](#)

Established in 2015, CAHE is a partnership between the University of Chicago and the Asian Health Coalition to investigate health issues and diverse healthcare needs of Asian American communities in the Chicago metropolitan area.

[Asian Health Coalition - Official National Community Engagement Partner of the All of Us Research Program](#)

All of Us is a program of the National Institutes of Health with the goal of gathering medical information from one million people that reflects the diversity of the US.

Prosperity

Asian Americans earning \$100–250k a year are **less likely to be approved for a home loan** than their white counterparts.

Asian Chicagoans are **paid 7% less** than their white counterparts. The pay gap increases to **25%** for Pakistani and Thai residents.

The **majority** of Taiwanese, Indian, and Korean residents have a college degree versus **less than ½** for Chinese, Vietnamese, and Cambodian residents

82% of Chicago's AAPI population report psychological distress with unmet behavioral health needs. The highest of any racial group.

Selected Initiatives

[Chinatown deserves its own ward](#)

In an opinion piece for the Chicago Sun Times, the Chinese American Service League calls for Chinatown to have its own ward, rather than be split across four.

[UIC ANNAPISI Initiative](#)

The UIC AANAPISI Initiative ran from 2010–2021 and supported the recruitment, retention, and graduation of AAPI students at the University of Illinois at Chicago. It was fully funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Program. UIC one of only 20 institutions so far that has been funded since the start of the AANAPISI federal program, and was the first in the Midwest.

Organizations:

There are numerous organizations across Chicago working to address healthy, education, youth development, elderly needs, and professional development. A list of many of them can be found [here](#).

Local Contacts

Chicago Mayor's Office

[Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot](#)

(312) 744-5000

Cook County Commission on Human Rights

[Chairperson Kenneth A. Gunn](#)

(312) 603-1100

Chicago Police Department

[Superintendent of Police David O'Neal Brown](#)

(312) 746-6000

Chicago Hate Crime Victim Assistance

Chair/Commissioner, Nancy Andrade

(312) 744-4874

Cook County District Attorney

[D.A. Kimberly M. Foxx](#)

(312) 603-1880

Chicago Council Members

[Find your local council member here](#)

State Contacts

New York Governor's Office

[Governor JB Pritzker](#)

(217) 782-0244

Illinois State Attorney General

[Attorney General Kwame Raoul](#)

Civil Rights Hotline 1-877-581-3692

Chicago State Senate

[Find your state senator here](#)

Chicago State House

[Find your state house member here](#)

Federal Contacts

FBI Field Office

Special Agent in Charge Emmerson Buie Jr.
(312) 421-6700

U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Illinois

[US Attorney John R. Lausch, Jr.](#)

Eastern District (312) 353-5300

[White House Initiative on AAPIs](#)

Executive Director [Krystal Ka'ai](#)

Regional Director Doug Nguyen

House of Representatives

[Congresswoman Bobby Rush](#)

(202) 225-4372

[Congressman Robin Kelly](#)

(202) 225-0773

[Congresswoman Marie Newman](#)

(202) 225-5701

[Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García](#)

(202) 225-8203

[Congresswoman Mike Quigley](#)

(202) 225-4061

[Congressman Sean Casten](#)

(202) 225-4561

[Congresswoman Danny Davis](#)

(202) 225-5006

[Congresswoman Raja Krishnamoorthi](#)

(202) 225-3711

[Congressman Janice "Jan" Schakowsky](#)

(202) 225-2111

US Senator

[Senator Dick Durbin](#)

(202) 224-2152

[Senator Tammy Duckworth](#)

(202) 224-2854