OVERLOOKED AND UNDERSERVED: PROBLEMATIZING THE API MODEL MINORITY MYTH

Facing the Facts about Asians and Pacific Islanders in Alameda County

BBU Sponsored by:
The Community Assessment, Planning, and Education/Evaluation (CAPE) Unit & Maternal, Paternal, Child, and Adolescent Health (MPCAH) Program

Brown Bag University - May 20, 2014
Acknowledgements

- Over 18 million APIs living in the US
- Rich Cultural Diversity of APIs
  - Over 50 ethnic groups and 100 languages
API History

- Bitter hardships and proud accomplishments
API Contributions
- To the civil, cultural and economic fabric

API Struggles
- Against ongoing discrimination and inequities in education, employment, housing, healthcare, and more
API Service Providers and Advocates

Asian Health Services
Lao Family Community Development, Inc.
EBAYC East Bay Asian Youth Center
APEN Asian Pacific Environmental Network
ACMHS Asian Community Mental Health Services
Vchaa Community Health for Asian Americans
The Spot Growing Our Roots | Building Our Future
Asian Pacific Institute on Domestic Violence
APIEIDV
BRFN Burmese Refugee Family Network
Center for Empowering Refugees & Immigrants
Narika
API Legal Outreach
Formerly Nihonmachi Legal Outreach
Building API Community Power
SAPHA South Asian Public Health Alliance
APIAHF Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
AIWA Asian/Pacific Islander Wellness Alliance
AAPCHO Asian Pacific American Health Center
Street Level Health Project
Our Vision of Health Equity

Everyone in Alameda County – no matter where you live, how much money you make, or the color of your skin – has opportunities to lead a healthy, fulfilling, and productive life.
API “Model Minority” Myth

- The MYTH that all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders:
  - Are healthy, wealthy, and highly educated
  - Face few barriers to good health, socioeconomic success, and academic achievement
  - Are not affected by racism and oppression
Who are APIs?

Racial/Ethnic Composition of Population in Alameda County*

- Asian 26%
- Latino 23%
- Black 12%
- Multi-Race 4%
- NHPI 1%
- Other 0.28%
- AIAN 0.28%

Over 1 in 4 residents in Alameda County are Asian or Pacific Islander.

*Population by race includes Non-Hispanic persons identifying as a single race only.
Source: Census, 2010
Asian Population Subgroups*, Alameda County

*Counts represent persons identifying as a single Asian subgroup only

Source: Census, 2010
NHOPi Population Subgroups*, Alameda County

- Fijian: 3,630 (30%)
- Tongan: 2,861 (24%)
- Samoan: 2,022 (17%)
- Guamanian or Chamorro: 1,455 (12%)
- Native Hawaiian: 1,318 (11%)
- Marshallese: 27 (0.2%)

*Counts represent persons identifying as a single NHOPi subgroup only

Source: Census, 2010
2000-2010 Population Changes by Race/Ethnicity, Alameda County

Source: Census, 2010
API Immigrant and Refugee Populations in Alameda County

2008-2012 Foreign-Born Population in Alameda County by Race

- White: 27%
- Asian: 55%
- Other: 13%
- Black: 2%
- Multi-race: 2%
- NHOP: 1%
- AIAN: 0.3%

Over 1 in 2 immigrants in Alameda County are Asian or Pacific Islander.

2010-2012 Top 10 Refugee/Asylee Groups Arriving in Alameda County

- Burma: 14%
- Bhutan: 14%
- Iraq: 12%
- Afghanistan: 9%
- Ethiopia: 8%
- Sri Lanka: 7%
- Nepal: 7%
- Eritrea: 6%
- Thailand: 6%
- Iran: 3%

Percentage of All Refugees/Asylees by Country of Birth

About 3 in 4 refugees/asylees coming to Alameda County are from Asian countries.

Source: American Community Survey, 2008-2012
Source: RHEIS, 1/1/2010 – 12/31/2012
Are All APIs Healthy?

All-Cause Mortality Rate, Major Racial/Ethnic Groups* with API combined, Alameda County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Deaths per 100,000 pop</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN</td>
<td>704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>API</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data by race includes non-Hispanic persons only
Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics, 2008-2012
All-Cause Mortality Rate, Major Racial/Ethnic Groups*,
Alameda County

![Bar chart showing all-cause mortality rate per 100,000 population for different racial/ethnic groups.]

- **Black**: 949 deaths per 100,000 population
- **NHOPPI**: 802 deaths per 100,000 population
- **AIAN**: 704 deaths per 100,000 population
- **White**: 663 deaths per 100,000 population
- **Latino**: 519 deaths per 100,000 population
- **Asian**: 410 deaths per 100,000 population

*Data by race includes non-Hispanic persons only
Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics, 2008-2012
All-Cause Mortality Rate, Larger API Subgroups, Alameda County

Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics, 2008-2012; Census, 2010
## Leading Causes of Death among Asians and Pacific Islanders, Alameda County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asians</th>
<th>Pacific Islanders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of All Deaths</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Cancer</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>1. Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Heart Disease</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>2. Cancer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Stroke</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3. Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Diabetes</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4. Stroke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOP 5 = 65% OF DEATHS**

**TOP 5 = 67% OF DEATHS**

Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics, 2010-2012
Early Entry into Prenatal Care, Major Racial/Ethnic Groups with API combined, Alameda County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>% with Early Prenatal Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>API</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics, 2010-2012
Early Entry into Prenatal Care, Major Racial/Ethnic Groups, Alameda County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% with Early Prenatal Care</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAN</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHOPI</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics, 2010-2012
Early Entry into Prenatal Care, API Subgroups, Alameda County

Source: Alameda County Vital Statistics, 2010-2012
Are All APIs Wealthy?

Individual Poverty Levels, Larger API Subgroups, Alameda County

Over 40% earn <200% of FPL.

Source: American Community Survey, PUMS data, 2009-2011
Conditions of Neighborhood Poverty among APIs, Alameda County

In Alameda County, almost 1 in 4 NHOPi residents (23%) live in high-poverty neighborhoods.

And 1 in 9 Asians (11%) live in high-poverty neighborhoods.

Compared to 1 in 15 Whites (7%).

Source: American Community Survey, 2006-2010 and Census, 2010
Unemployment Rate among APIs, Alameda County

Source: American Community Survey, PUMS data, 2009-2011
Are All APIs Highly Educated?

Educational Attainment among APIs, Alameda County

Source: American Community Survey, PUMS data, 2009-2011
Drop-out Rates among Major Racial/Ethnic Groups, Oakland Unified School District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cohort Dropout Rate</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>NHOP</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Asian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Dataquest, 2011-2012
Why We Must Problematize the API “Model Minority” Myth

The API “Model Minority” myth is problematic because:

- APIs are a very ethnically and socioeconomically diverse group
- Many API communities face unjust socio-economic and health barriers and are underserved
- The myth ignores the oppressions that APIs share with other communities of color
- The myth pits APIs, as the “model minority”, against other people of color who are seen as “problem minorities”
- The myth induces inadequacy among APIs who supposedly can’t measure up to idealized standards
Inequities Impact APIs

**HEALTH RISKS**
- MCH
- Cancer
- Hepatitis B
- Tuberculosis
- Diabetes
- Obesity
- Hypertension
- Mental Health

**HEALTHCARE BARRIERS**
- Language & cultural barriers
- Healthcare discrimination
- Lack of insurance
- No medical home
- Lower rates of screening
- Immigration status
- Disease stigma

Source: “Ethnic Health Assessment for Asians, NHs, and Pis in California”, 2010; “The State of AA, NH, and PI Health in California Report”, 2009
Poverty
Unemployment & low wage work
Educational barriers & school drop-out
Linguistic isolation

History of anti-Asian treatment & labor exploitation
Ongoing discrimination & institutional racism
Marginalization as “foreigners”
Anti-immigrant policies
API “model minority” myth

Source: “Ethnic Health Assessment for Asians, NHs, and Pis in California”, 2010; “The State of AA, NH, and PI Health in California Report”, 2009