



ASIAN AMERICANS
**ADVANCING
JUSTICE**
AAJC

PREPARED FOR:

Language Access for Voters Summit 2018

Session 1: Overview - Current Issues and Looking Ahead to 2021

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Language Statistics Nationally

- Today - Over 63 million in this country speak a language other than English at home
 - Represents 21.1% of the total population
- Growing Need:
 - 2010: just over 57 million people who spoke a language other than English at home
 - 2000: just under 47 million people who spoke a language other than English at home

Language Proficiency Definition

- Speaking English “less than very well”
- Census Bureau research has shown:
 - Most respondents over-estimate their English proficiency
 - Only those who report speaking a language other than English at home AND speak English “very well” perform as well on tests as English-only speakers

Which LEP rate?

- LEP rate of the entire population v. LEP rate of those who speak a language other than English at home
- Although only 8.5% of the total population are LEP, 40.3% of those who speak a language other than English at home are LEP

Voting Rights Act Section 203

- Applies only to Latinos, Asian Americans, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives
- Congress continually found that these groups have faced and continue to face significant voting discrimination because of their race and ethnicity.
- Other language groups were not included because Congress did not find evidence that it experienced similar sustained difficulties because of their race and ethnicity in voting when they enacted the provision.

Current Section 203 coverage by Group

AIAN	57	ASIAN	45	LATINO	217
Alaskan Athabascan	3	Asian Indian	3		
Aleut	1	Bangladeshi	1		
Apache	5	Cambodian	2		
Choctaw	10	Chinese	18		
Inupiat	6	Filipino	8		
Navajo	11	Korean	4		
Pueblo	3	Vietnamese	9		
Ute	4				
Yup'ik	9				
All other American Indian Tribes	5				

Section 203 coverage of CVAP population

	Total	Change	AIAN	Change
2000	13,463,635	N/A	391,040	N/A
2010	19,209,431	42.7%	384,605	-1.6%
2015	21,739,327	13.2%	357,409	-7.1%

	Asian	Change	Latino	Change
2000	2,617,730	N/A	10,454,865	N/A
2010	4,030,110	54.0%	14,794,716	41.5%
2015	4,760,782	18.1%	16,621,136	12.3%

Section 203 Language Groups

	AIAN	Asian	Latino
Population who speak another language	651,690	11,849,423	36,707,265
% of Population who speak another language	27.0%	75.5%	73.3%
% of Population who are LEP	7.4%	34.3%	31.6%
% of Population who speaks another language who are LEP	27.4%	45.5%	43.1%

Top 10 States by % of people who speak another language

Total	AIAN	Asian	Latino
California	New Mexico	Georgia	Florida
New Mexico	New Jersey	Louisiana	Rhode Island
Texas	Arizona	Texas	New Jersey
New Jersey	D.C.	New York	Georgia
New York	Illinois	New Jersey	North Carolina
Nevada	New York	Nebraska	New York
Florida	Utah	Massachusetts	Illinois
Arizona	Texas	Pennsylvania	Massachusetts
Hawaii	Connecticut	Illinois	Maryland
Massachusetts	Georgia	Michigan	D.C

Top 10 States by # of LEP persons

Total	AIAN	Asian	Latino
California	California	California	California
Texas	Arizona	New York	Texas
New York	Texas	Texas	Florida
Florida	New Mexico	New Jersey	New York
Illinois	New York	Illinois	Illinois
New Jersey	Alaska	Washington	New Jersey
Massachusetts	Florida	Florida	Arizona
Arizona	Georgia	Virginia	Georgia
Georgia	Illinois	Pennsylvania	North Carolina
Washington	New Jersey	Massachusetts	Nevada

Top 10 States by % of LEP persons

Total	AIAN	Asian	Latino
California	New Jersey	South Dakota	North Carolina
Texas	Georgia	Nebraska	Georgia
New York	Connecticut	New York	Florida
Hawaii	New York	Iowa	New Jersey
New Jersey	Illinois	Alaska	Alabama
Nevada	Pennsylvania	Louisiana	New York
Florida	Massachusetts	Indiana	Maryland
Arizona	Texas	Pennsylvania	South Carolina
Illinois	California	Vermont	Rhode Island
New Mexico	Rhode Island	Kansas	Tennessee

Top 10 States by % of those who speak a language other than English + LEP

Total	AIAN	Asian	Latino
Hawaii	Tennessee	South Dakota	Alabama
Arkansas	New Jersey	Hawaii	Kentucky
Nebraska	Maryland	Nebraska	Arkansas
New York	Georgia	New York	Louisiana
Alabama	Rhode Island	Iowa	North Carolina
California	Connecticut	Montana	Nebraska
Iowa	Massachusetts	Alaska	Tennessee
North Carolina	New York	Wyoming	South Carolina
Kentucky	Pennsylvania	North Dakota	Minnesota
Florida	Florida	Vermont	Georgia

Opportunities Beyond Section 203

- Just Missed Jurisdictions by Percentage:
 - 2 states (NM for Latino; Hawaii for Filipino)
 - 76 additional jurisdictions for AIAN (towns, counties, census areas & reservations) – WI, MN, AZ, NM, NV, FL, AK
 - 7 additional jurisdictions for Asian (counties & boroughs) – NY, CA, HI, AK
 - 58 additional jurisdictions for Latinos (towns, counties, cities and villages) – NM, MI, TX, KS, CA, VA, NJ, NY, PA, CT, IL, FL, MA, CO, ID, AZ, NV, WI, WA, OR, GA, OK

Opportunities Beyond Section 203

- Just Missed Jurisdictions by Numerical Threshold:
 - No additional jurisdictions for AIAN
 - 16 additional jurisdictions for Asian (counties)
 - 17 additional jurisdictions for Latinos (towns, counties, and cities)

Opportunities Beyond Section 203

Just Missed Numerical Threshold - Asian

- California
 - Los Angeles County: Asian Indian, Japanese, Other Asian - Not specified
 - Sacramento County: Vietnamese
 - San Bernardino County: Chinese
 - San Mateo County: Filipino
- Hawaii - Honolulu County: Japanese
- Illinois - Cook County: Filipino, Korean
- Maryland - Montgomery County: Chinese
- Minnesota - Ramsey County: Hmong
- Nevada: - Clark County: Chinese
- New York - Queens County: Bangladeshi
- Pennsylvania - Philadelphia County: Chinese
- Texas - Dallas County: Vietnamese
- Virginia - Fairfax County: Korean

Just Missed Numerical Threshold - Latino

- California - Sonoma County
- Connecticut - Bridgeport town, Fairfield County
- Florida
 - Collier County
 - Duval County
 - Volusia County
- Illinois
 - DuPage County
 - Will County
- Colorado - Adams County
- Maryland - Prince George's County
- Massachusetts - Worcester city, Worcester County
- Ohio - Cuyahoga County
- New York - Monroe County
- Texas
 - Denton County
 - Maverick County
- Utah - Salt Lake County
- Washington
 - King County
 - Yakima County

Importance of 2020 Census for Language Access

- Accurate data needed for coverage formula
 - An unfair and inaccurate census will negatively skew the ACS.
 - Lower participation by language minorities could mean missed Section 203 coverage
- Accurate Data needed for compliance
 - Utility for targeting, dialect determination, etc.
- Accurate Data needed for future planning
 - Determining just missed language groups

Challenges facing a fair and accurate 2020 census

- **Climate of fear:** threatens participation in many communities
 - Last-minute addition of untested Citizenship Question
- **Inadequate Annual funding** (appropriations)
 - Congress set unrealistic cap on 2020 Census cost
 - Decades-long underfunding
 - Must have needed funding from now through Census 2020
 - **At risk:** census operations specifically designed to reach hard-to-count communities, which would exacerbate historical undercount
- **First high-tech census:**
 - Cyber security threats, real and perceived
 - Digital divide
 - Complex new IT system over budget and behind schedule
- **Leadership vacuum:**
 - No Census Director for over a year; new nomination – needs careful Senate vetting during confirmation process

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