



Census 2000: Orange County's Asian Population

INTRODUCTION

This issue profiles the Asian population in Orange County as documented by the 2000 U.S. Census. The Asian population as defined by the 2000 Census does not include Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders. Tables 2 and 3 list the ethnicities classified as Asian.

Asians have been present in the U.S. for more than two centuries. The first recorded large Asian group that came to America was a group of Chinese Filipinos, around 1750, who settled in what would later become the State of Louisiana. However, the first large-scale Chinese immigration into the U.S. did not happen until 1848, when gold was discovered in California. These Chinese immigrants constituted 19% of the state's population by 1852. For the subsequent three decades, until Congress enacted the Chinese Exclusion Act, some 335,000 Chinese reached California ports. Most of these Chinese immigrants remained low-wage workers in northern California. After the Chinese, the next group to arrive in the U.S. in large numbers was the Japanese, as agricultural workers, beginning in 1890. Following the Chinese and Japanese groups, Koreans and Filipinos came to the U.S. between 1935 and 1951. The passage of the 1965 Immigration Act gave rise to a large number of Asians who brought their family members over.

The Vietnam War marked a large change in the Asian population in the U.S. Large numbers of Asians came to the U.S. as refugees from Indochina. The first wave of 130,000 refugees, roughly 125,000 of them Vietnamese, left Southeast Asia in Spring 1975; the second wave began during 1978 and lasted through the mid-1980s. The people who came over were called "boat people," because they fled from Vietnam by boat. The U.S. Humanitarian Operation, a special program granting political asylum in America for former political prisoners and their families, brought 152,000 more people during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The Asian population is prevalent throughout the United States, from the East Coast with the largest concentrations in Boston, New York City and Washington D.C.; the Mid-West with Chicago and Houston; and the West Coast with Los Angeles, Orange County, San Francisco and Seattle. Asians are an integral part of the population in the U.S. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2000, Orange County became the third county in the nation on the list of the counties with the highest Asian populations, behind only Los Angeles County and Honolulu County. The Asian population in Orange County stands at 383,810 out of 2,846,289, or 13.5%, in the year 2000. This number demonstrates an increase of 63.1% from 1990, and 389.5% from 1980.

**Table 1
Orange County Population by Race/Ethnicity: 1980 - 2000**

Race/Ethnicity	1980		1990		2000		Percent Change 1990 - 2000
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Asian	78,402	4.1%	235,308	9.8%	383,810*	13.5%	63.1%
Black or African American	24,111	1.2%	39,159	1.6%	42,639*	1.5%	8.9%
Hispanic or Latino Origin of Any Race	286,339	14.8%	564,828	23.4%	875,579	30.8%	55.0%
Multiracial/Two or More Races	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	64,258*	2.3%	N/A
American Indian or Alaska Native	11,216	0.6%	8,584	0.4%	8,414*	0.3%	-2.0%
Other Races	17,238	0.9%	2,728	0.1%	4,525*	0.3%	65.9%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	4,705	0.2%	5,448	0.2%	8,086*	0.2%	48.4%
White	1,510,698	78.2%	1,554,501	64.5%	1,458,978*	51.3%	-6.1%
Total Population	1,932,709	100%	2,410,556	100%	2,846,289	100%	18.1%

*Non-Hispanic or Latino, 2000 Census Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Note: Part of the percentage change over time is due to changes in Census category definitions. See text for further detail.

The sub-categories:

Compared to the 1990 Census, which had 11 sub-categories of the Asian population, Census 2000 has 17 sub-categories. Taiwanese, Pakistani, Indonesian, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi and Malaysian were added as subcategories to the 2000 Census. Because the data can be compiled in different ways by different geographies and ethnicities, there is a slight discrepancy between the total number of Asians in Table 1 and Table 2. This discrepancy lies only in the "Other Asians" category.

The Vietnamese represent the largest group in Orange County's Asian community with 35.8% of the total Asian population. Koreans follow with 14.7% of the total Asian population. The Chinese, which does not include the Taiwanese, account for 13.3%. Interestingly, in 1990, Chinese was the second largest Asian group in Orange County behind only Vietnamese. In size, next are Filipinos with 12.9% and Japanese with 8.3%. Malaysian and Bangladeshi represent the smallest Asian population numbers residing in the whole county, with 311 and 168 people, respectively.

In comparison to the 1990 Census, the Vietnamese population almost doubled by 2000, with an 88.7% increase, followed by Asian Indians with a 78.8% increase. The Korean and Filipino populations remained on a steady rise, each with 54.7% and 61.2% respectively. The Hmong population, an Asian ethnic group originating from Laos, experienced a large percentage increase at 71.5%, but the numeric increase was small with 411 more people since 1990. Laotians, on the other hand, showed a decrease of 6.3%. "Other Asians" followed suit with a 54.5% decrease (Table 2). This may be the result of more Asian sub-categories in the 2000 Census.

Table 2 Asian Population by Ethnicity, Orange County California: 1990 and 2000

Subcategory	1990 Census		2000 Census	
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage
Vietnamese	71,822	29.8%	135,548	35.8%
Korean	35,919	14.9%	55,573	14.7%
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	41,403	17.2%	50,217	13.3%
Filipino	30,356	12.6%	48,946	12.9%
Japanese	29,704	12.3%	31,283	8.3%
Asian Indian	15,212	6.3%	27,197	7.2%
Taiwanese	n/a	n/a	9,500	2.5%
Cambodian	3,979	1.7%	4,517	1.2%
Thai	2,227	0.9%	3,022	0.8%
Laotian	2,893	1.2%	2,711	0.7%
Pakistani	n/a	n/a	2,636	0.7%
Indonesian	n/a	n/a	1,903	0.5%
Hmong	575	0.2%	986	0.3%
Sri Lankan	n/a	n/a	709	0.2%
Bangladeshi	n/a	n/a	311	0.1%
Malaysian	n/a	n/a	168	0.0%
Other Asian	6,613	2.7%	3,007	0.8%
Total	240,703	100.0%	378,234	100.0%

Source: Summary File 1, U.S. Census 2000

Locations:

Asians reside throughout Orange County. However, some Asian groups are more predominant or clustered than others in different areas. Table 3 shows the distribution of major Asian ethnic groups. Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Filipino and Japanese seem to be the majority Asian groups in all cities.

Vietnamese register the largest percent of the Asian population in cities such as Anaheim (26.1%), Costa Mesa (29.7%), Huntington Beach (31.4%), Lake Forest (25.2%), Orange (31.9%), Stanton (53.1%) and the remainder of the Unincorporated County (57.3%). In the four cities with the largest numbers of a single Asian ethnic population, three of these groups are Vietnamese. The cities are Garden Grove with 50,306 Asians, among whom 35,406 are Vietnamese (70.4%); Westminster with 33,054 Asians, among whom Vietnamese account for 82.0% (27,109 people); and Santa Ana with 29,134 Asians, among whom 19,226 (66.0%) are Vietnamese. Little Saigon, a commercial and cultural center with the largest concentration of Vietnamese people in the U.S. and outside of Vietnam, is also located in Westminster.

The Chinese population comprises the largest number of Asians in such cities as Laguna Beach (22.1%), Laguna Niguel (23.8%), Laguna Woods (26.0%), Newport Beach (26.4%), and Villa Park (25.5%). Irvine has the second largest Asian population and the largest Chinese population. Out of 41,620 Asians in Irvine, 29.3% (12,175) are Chinese.

Koreans represent the largest Asian group in six cities. Fullerton has the highest Korean population by percentage, which accounts for 45.9% of the total Asian population (9,093). Next is La Palma with 39.0%. North and west Orange County seems to have the largest Korean population with Brea (23.3%), Cypress (26.1%), La Habra (28.0%), and Los Alamitos (34.9%).

Filipinos mostly reside in South County in Mission Viejo (21.9%), Laguna Hills (20.6%), Coto de Caza CDP (23.4%), Las Flores CDP (27.8%), Rancho Santa Margarita (33.6%) and San Clemente (22.7%). The Asian Indian population in Buena Park (16,135) is about two-thirds of all of South Orange County's Filipino population.

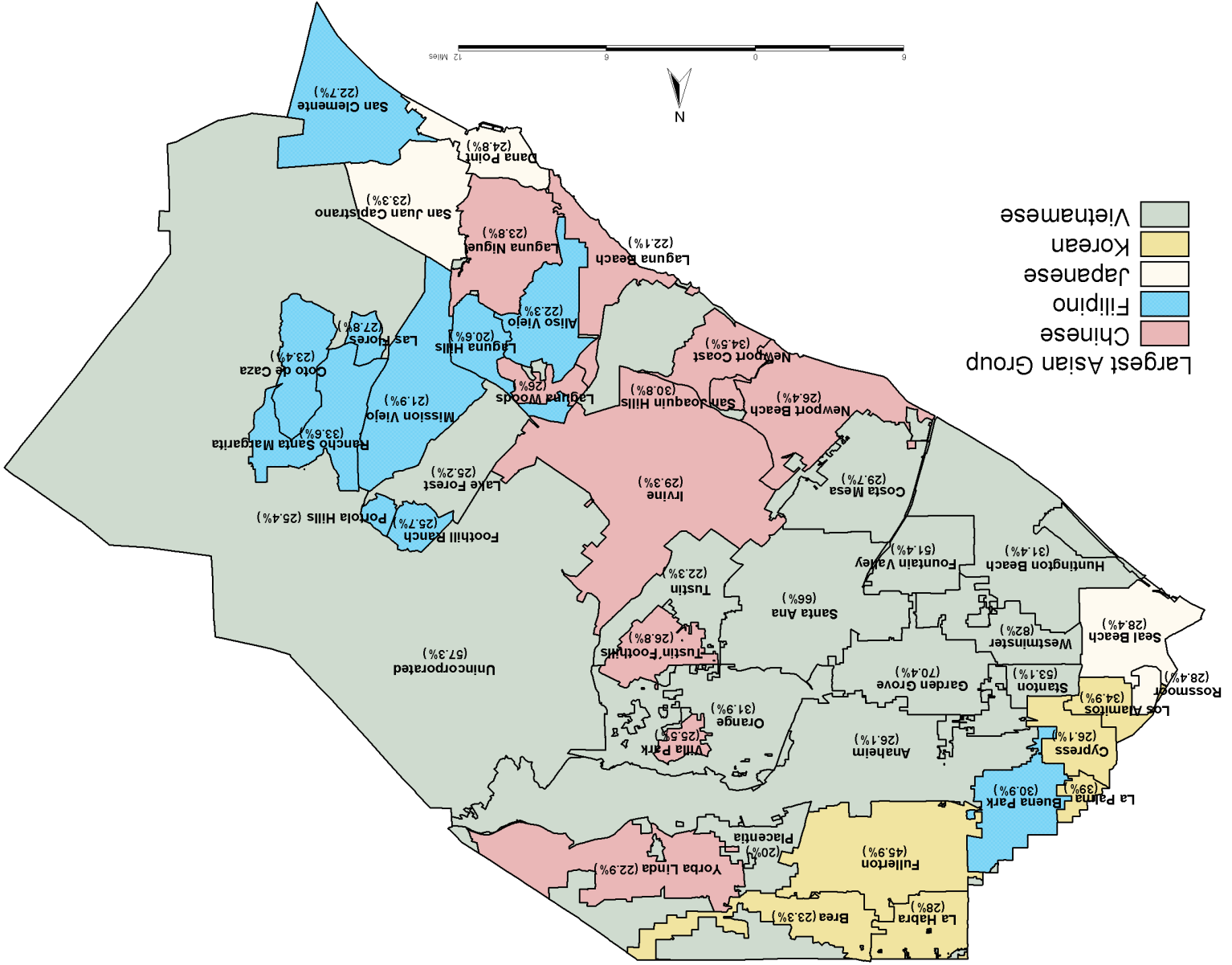
The last large Asian group is the Japanese who are the dominant Asian group in Dana Point, Rossmore CDP, San Juan Capistrano, and Seal Beach. The highest percent of Japanese is in both Rossmore CDP and Seal Beach at 28.4% of the Asian population.

Table 3
Asian Population by Census Place and Largest Asian Subcategory
Orange County: 2000

Census Place	Total Asian Population	Largest Asian Subcategory		Second Largest Asian Subcategory	
		Ethnicity	Major population	Ethnicity	Major population
Aliso Viejo CDP	4,280	Filipino	955	Vietnamese	687
Anaheim	38,422	Vietnamese	10,025	Filipino	8,303
Brea	3,125	Korean	728	Chinese	657
Buena Park	16,135	Filipino	4,985	Korean	4,965
Costa Mesa	7,342	Vietnamese	2,180	Japanese	1,357
Coto de Caza CDP	657	Filipino	154	Chinese	129
Cypress	9,355	Korean	2,443	Filipino	2,049
Dana Point	846	Japanese	210	Chinese	188
FootHill Ranch CDP	1,606	Filipino	413	Chinese	339
Mountain Valley	13,783	Vietnamese	7,088	Chinese	2,016
Fullerton	19,832	Korean	9,093	Chinese	2,622
Garden Grove	50,306	Vietnamese	35,406	Korean	6,240
Huntington Beach	17,264	Vietnamese	5,422	Japanese	3,110
Irvine	41,620	Chinese	12,175	Korean	7,593
Laguna Beach	480	Chinese	106	Japanese	102
Laguna Hills	3,110	Filipino	641	Chinese	573
Laguna Niguel	4,665	Chinese	1,109	Filipino	895
Laguna Woods	407	Chinese	106	Filipino	103
La Habra	3,390	Korean	948	Filipino	740
Lake Forest	5,564	Vietnamese	1,402	Filipino	1,301
La Palma	6,744	Korean	2,630	Filipino	1,086
Las Flores CDP	569	Filipino	158	Chinese	106
Los Alamitos	1,064	Korean	371	Filipino	213
Mission Viejo	7,018	Filipino	1,536	Chinese	1,306
Newport Beach	2,700	Chinese	713	Japanese	615
Newport Coast CDP	466	Chinese	161	Vietnamese	77
Orange	11,750	Vietnamese	3,743	Filipino	1,905
Placentia	5,055	Vietnamese	1,009	Chinese	1,007
Portola Hills CDP	425	Filipino	108	Chinese	73
Rancho Santa Margarita	3,382	Filipino	1,135	Chinese	543
Rossmore CDP	564	Japanese	160	Chinese	123
San Clemente	1,275	Filipino	289	Japanese	251
San Joaquin Hills CDP	273	Chinese	84	Korean	52
San Juan Capistrano	632	Japanese	147	Filipino	134
Santa Ana	29,134	Vietnamese	19,226	Filipino	2,249
Seal Beach	1,354	Japanese	384	Chinese	334
Stanton	5,669	Vietnamese	3,010	Filipino	972
Tustin	9,834	Vietnamese	2,197	Filipino	1,719
Tustin Foothills CDP	1,646	Chinese	441	Japanese	274
Villa Park	764	Chinese	195	Japanese	161
Westminster	33,054	Vietnamese	27,109	Chinese	1,930
Yorba Linda	6,357	Chinese	1,454	Filipino	942
Remainder Unincorporated County	6,316	Vietnamese	3,619	Filipino	892
Total County	378,234	Vietnamese	135,548	Korean	55,753

Source: Summary File 1, U.S. Census 2000
 CDP: Census Designated Place (and unincorporated county community)

Largest Asian Subcategory Distribution by Census Place Orange County, 2000



Note: This map represents data displayed in Table 3.

Source: U.S. Census, Summary File 1.

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