

Multiracial AAPIs

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1 Multi-racial AAPIs

Unlike those who identify as solely Asian American or Pacific Islander, multi-racial AAPIs are those individuals that identify as more than one race. There are differences between these multi-racial AAPIs and mono-racial AAPIs in terms of their political, economic, and social integration. Moreover, these differences are pronounced by the geographic area inhabited by these multi-racial AAPIs. Analysis that focuses on AAPIs as a monolith may miss key nuances of this population, who do not identify as just Asian American or just Pacific Islanders. In this section, the data will outline the distinctive political, economic, and social outcomes of these multi-racial AAPIs. ¹

1.1 Political Participation

Multi-racial AAPIs in the South are made up of a total of 821,783 individuals, which accounts for 17.5% of the total AAPI population in the South. Although this makes up a minority share of this population, the differences in political participation demonstrate the overlooked nature of this population.

Multi-racial AAPIs are registered nationally at a rate of 79.8%. Looking to the south in particular, the rate of voter registration is around 79.4%, which is comparable to that of both the 79.8% nationally and 80.3% in the west.

Of those registered, nearly 83.5% of registered multi-racial AAPIs turned out in the 2016 November election. In the south and west respectively, 76.6% and 80.5% of the registered population casted a ballot.

Turnout is relatively comparable to the AAPI population as well as the nation at large. However, multi-racial AAPIs often have outcomes that differ from their counterparts, in regards to economic and social integration.

1.2 Economic Integration

Multi-racial AAPIs also experience stark differences in both average income and employment rates, regardless of region. Nationally, multi-racial AAPIs have a

¹Registration and turnout rates calculated using US Census Current Population Survey

median income of \$30,000, while southern and western multi-racial AAPIs earn \$29,164 and \$30,379 respectively. Compare this to AAPIs at large and in these regions. AAPIs in the South have a median income of \$35,542, which marks a 15% difference in total income.

Multi-racial AAPIs in the south are unemployed at a rate of 7%, while multi-racial AAPIs in the west are unemployed at a rate of 8.6%. AAPIs in the south, on the other hand, have an unemployment rate of 5.3%, which again represents another economic indicator of the disadvantages experienced by multi-racial AAPIs.

The median income of the multi-racial AAPI population in the South varies between different racial identifications. Table 1² identifies the median incomes of the top ten most populated multi-racial AAPI groups.

Table 1: Median Income of Top Ten Groups

Racial Identification	Population	Median Income
White and Filipino	116,069	\$25,345
White and Other Asian	112,656	\$28,354
White and Korean	65,472	\$35,442
White and Japanese	65,246	\$35,889
White and Chinese	55,625	\$30,414
White and Asian Indian	33,089	\$33,000
Write In Asian and Other Race	32,396	\$37,633
White and Vietnamese	29,174	\$25,000
White Black and Asian	22,740	\$30,379
White, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Other	18,931	\$30,379

1.3 Social Integration

Among AAPIs in the south, 10.6% of the population is categorized as Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Multi-racial AAPIs in the South, however, have an even lower incidence of limited English speakers. Only about 2.4% of the multi-racial AAPI population in the South have trouble speaking English. For comparison, the entire population of the United States has a LEP rate of 4.2%. Multi-racial AAPIs in the South do not experience unique obstacles in terms of their English speaking ability, which indicates that these obstacles exist as a result of other factors. Multi-racial AAPIs in the West have a LEP rate of 1.7%.

Moreover, the educational outcomes of multi-racial AAPIs point to other factors as the root of these economic outcomes. Nearly 44.1% of multi-racial AAPIs over 25 have a bachelor degree or higher. Compared to the rate of 53.1% of AAPIs in the South in general, there is a marked difference. Despite this ten percent

²Many Asians and Pacific Islanders self-identify as these terms instead of specific nationalities

differential, the rate of bachelor attainment for the general US population is 30.2%.

1.4 Demographic Statistics

Among multi-racial AAPIs in the South, 50.2% of individuals are female, while 49.8% are male. In the west, 49.7% of multi-racial AAPIs are female, while 50.3% are male. These do not deviate significantly from the population of AAPIs in the South, AAPIs nationally, or the United States at large.

Table 2 shows the distribution of multi-racial AAPIs throughout the South. Similar to AAPIs in the South, the states with the highest concentration of multi-racial AAPIs are Texas, Florida, and Virginia.

Table 2: Multi-racial AAPIs by State

State	Population
Texas	194,617
Florida	156,227
Virginia	108,812
Maryland	68,772
Georgia	66,254
North Carolina	56,395
Tennessee	30,142
Oklahoma	25,091
South Carolina	22,099
Alabama	19,657
Kentucky	16,982
Louisiana	16,727
Arkansas	12,292
District of Columbia	8,515
Mississippi	8,283
West Virginia	5,558
Delaware	5,360

Table 3 indicates the specific metropolitan areas, in which multi-racial AAPIs are concentrated in the South. More specifically than the state distribution table, the metropolitan disaggregation demonstrates the areas in which multi-racial AAPIs could be important voting blocs, and swing political power.

Table 3: Multi-racial AAPIs by Metropolitan Areas

Metropolitan Area	Population
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria	101,225
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	61,932
Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	51,202
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell	42,494
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach	37,133
Baltimore-Columbia-Towson	29,727
Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater	25,778
Virginia Beach-Norfolk-Newport News	25,394
Orlando-Kissimmee-Sanford	25,286
Austin-Round Rock	22,717

1.5 Arts and Humanities

Analysis of AAPIs, and multiracial AAPIs in particular, focuses on economic variables, with special attention to STEM education and jobs. However, it is a fruitful exercise to analyze those multiracial AAPIs in non-STEM positions. Categorization of arts and humanities is not universally operationalized, so we will employ several definitions. These descriptive statistics reference the United States workforce as opposed to the entire population, unless otherwise noted.

First, AAPIs and multi-racial AAPIs hold both STEM and non-STEM occupations.³ Approximately 76.5% (7,958,666) of AAPIs in the workforce are in non-STEM occupations, while 73.9% (1,756,931) of AAPIs in the southern workforce are in those fields. 85.3% (1,142,263) of multi-racial AAPIs, on the other hand, are in non-STEM occupations, with a comparative 82.9% (269,363) for multi-racial AAPIs in the South. In the West, about 87.3% (598,005) of multi-racial AAPIs are in STEM fields. Although this report focuses on arts and humanities, it should be noted that the rate of multi-racial AAPIs in STEM occupations is alarmingly lower than that of AAPIs in the US. Consider that the median income of multiracial AAPIs in STEM occupations is \$65,000 and multiracial AAPIs in non-STEM occupations is \$28,000.

Second, arts and humanities can be defined by isolating specific occupations.⁴⁵ Compared to the initial STEM definition, this interpretation narrows the scope into a select group in the United States. Around 2.2% (233,714) of AAPIs in the US are in arts and humanities, while 1.8% (43,383) of AAPIs in the South are in those fields. Among multi-racial AAPIs, 3.2% (42,348) of the community

³Census Bureau designates occupations as STEM, non-STEM, and STEM related: <https://www.census.gov/topics/employment/industry-occupation/guidance/code-lists.html>

⁴The Academy of Arts and Sciences offers a definition of "humanities" occupations - considering the scope of this project, including humanities related occupations, such as teaching, would be overly inclusive: <https://www.humanitiesindicators.org/content/indicatordoc.aspx?i=60>

⁵Arts occupations are defined as occupations within the Census designation of Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations

are in these occupations. In the South and West respectively, 2.6% (8,456) and 3.4% (23,134) of multi-racial AAPIs are in these fields. For reference, 2.2% of the United States are in arts and humanities occupations. Compared to both the AAPI population and the population at large, multi-racial AAPIs do work in these fields at nearly the same rates.

1.6 Conclusion

Multiracial AAPIs experience not only achieve lower rates of political participation, but also worse economic and social outcomes. Although causation is hard to pinpoint, a number of indicators demonstrate that multi-racial AAPIs in the South do not have the same outcomes as both AAPI in general and the country at large.