Key Findings

Nearly **FOUR IN 10 AAPI** workers in California are struggling with poverty.

### AAPI Workers Struggling with Poverty

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All AAPI</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hmong</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodian</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### AAPI California Workers Struggling with Poverty Within Each Region

In November 2019, researchers from PRRI and AAPI Data released a landmark report on Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) workers in California. The survey of 2,684 AAPI California residents explored experiences and perspectives of workers, many of whom are struggling with poverty.

As with other racial and ethnic groups, the research tells the story of “two Californias” — one where some AAPI workers are financially stable and another in which AAPI workers report struggle significantly. This brief highlights key findings relevant to Japanese American workers in California from the full report.

In California, the highest proportion of Japanese American adults reside in Los Angeles County (36%) and the Bay Area (25%).

### Snapshot of Japanese Americans in California

From the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey:

- Are foreign-born: 40%
- Are naturalized citizens: 15%
- Have limited English proficiency: 22%
- Hold a college or post-graduate degree (age 18+): 51%
- Identify as Democrats*: 54%
- Identify as Republicans*: 12%
- Identify as Independents*: 11%

*From the PRRI/AAPI survey
Economic Hardships and Concerns

Share of Japanese American workers in California who experienced hardships in the past 12 months:

- **32%** reduced meals or cut back on food to save money
- **31%** put off seeing a doctor or buying medicine
- **25%** helped parents or in-laws financially
- **22%** had difficulty paying rent or mortgage
- **20%** were not able to pay a monthly bill

Share of Japanese American workers in California who are:

- **worried** that they or someone in their family will be **unable to afford housing** 58%
- **worried** that they or someone in their family will **lose health insurance** 47%
- **worried** that they or someone in their family will be **deported** 9%

Views on the American Dream and Economic Mobility Among Japanese Americans in California

- **45%** still believe in the American Dream (if you work hard, you’ll get ahead), compared to 62% of all AAPI Californians.
- **26%** of struggling Japanese American workers in California believe in the American Dream.
- **44%** believe it is harder to achieve the American Dream here than in other states.
- **38%** would encourage young people to leave their community for better opportunities.
- **58%** agree that hard work is not a guarantee of success, compared to 55% of all AAPI Californians.

Hardships on the Job

Share of Japanese American workers in California who said they or someone in their household experienced the following in the past 12 months:

- **20%** were not able to pay a monthly bill
- **25%** had difficulty paying rent or mortgage
- **31%** put off seeing a doctor or buying medicine
- **32%** reduced meals or cut back on food to save money

Views on the Economy, Employers, and Policymakers

Share of Japanese American workers in California believe that:

- The U.S. economy unfairly favors the wealthy **81%**
- Public officials do not care what they think **68%**
- Employers generally see them as replaceable **69%**
- It is important to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them **74%**

For more data and survey methodology, please see the full report, in English, at: irvine.org/learning/aapi

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