The Working Lives and Struggles of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California

Hmong Americans

About the Survey
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.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest-growing racial groups (and working-age population) in California and the nation. Between 2010 and 2017, most new immigrants (56%) to California came from Asia.

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 Hmong American workers in California from the full report.

AAPI California Workers Struggling with Poverty Within Each Region

In California, the highest proportion of Hmong American adults reside in the Central Valley (83%).

Key Findings

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

AAPI Workers Struggling with Poverty

| All AAPI | 38% |
| Hmong   | 69% |
| Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander | 53% |
| Vietnamese | 49% |
| Cambodian | 41% |
| Chinese  | 38% |
| Filipino | 36% |
| Japanese | 34% |
| Indian   | 30% |
| Korean   | 29% |

[Map showing % of AAPI Californians in each region]

Snapshot of Hmong Americans in California

From the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey:

- Are foreign-born: 52%
- Are naturalized citizens: 42%
- Have limited English proficiency: 45%
- Hold a college or post-graduate degree (age 18+): 15%
- Identify as Democrats*: 54%
- Identify as Republicans*: 12%
- Identify as Independents*: 11%

*From the PRRI/AAPI survey
Share of Hmong American workers in California who experienced hardships in the past 12 months:

- **50%** helped parents or in-laws financially
- **39%** reduced meals or cut back on food to save money
- **38%** were not able to pay a monthly bill
- **28%** had difficulty paying rent or mortgage
- **24%** put off seeing a doctor or buying medicine

Share of Hmong American workers in California who are:

- **worried** that they or someone in their family will be unable to afford housing **66%**
- **worried** that they or someone in their family will lose health insurance **55%**
- **worried** that they or someone in their family will be deported **19%**

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

- **53%** still believe in the American Dream (if you work hard, you’ll get ahead), compared to **62%** of all AAPI Californians.
- **55%** of struggling Hmong American workers in California believe in the American Dream.
- **36%** believe it is harder to achieve the American Dream here than in other states.
- **44%** would encourage young people to leave their community for better opportunities.
- **54%** agree that hard work is not a guarantee of success, compared to **55%** of all AAPI Californians.

Views on the Economy, Employers, and Policymakers

Share of Hmong American workers in California believe that:

- The U.S. economy unfairly favors the wealthy **78%**
- Public officials do not care what they think **63%**
- Employers generally see them as replaceable **67%**
- It is important to organize so that employers do not take advantage of them **81%**

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

Nakatomi & Associates developed this brief based on research conducted by PRRI ([www.PRRI.org](http://www.PRRI.org)) and AAPI Data ([www.aapidata.com](http://www.aapidata.com)).

The James Irvine Foundation provided funding for the research and briefs.
Cov Neeg Esxias Asmeskas Thiab Neeg Povtxwv Pacific Hauv California Lub Neej Khwv Noj Khwv HausThiab Cov Teeb Meem Ntxhov Siab

Hmoob Asmeskas

Hais Txoj Kev Tshawb Txheeb


Zoo xws li lwm haiv neeg thiab hom neeg, txoj kev tshawb fawb qhia zaj keebkwm txog “ob lub California” - uas ib lub ces yog cov neeg AAPI ua hauj lwm khwv nyiay muaj txaj rujai rujai ntseg thiab ib lub ces yog cov neeg AAPI ua hauj lwm qhia txog kev ntxhov siab ntxhov plawv loj heev. Tsab ntawv nthuav qhia me ntsis no yuav qhia txog cov kev tshawb pom muaj feem xyuam rau cov Hmoob Asmeskas ua hauj lwm nyob rau hauv California ntawm tsab ntawv ciaj luam txhij txhua (the full report).

AAPI Cov Neeg Ua Hauj Lwm Muaj Teeb Meem Ntxhov Siab Kev Txom Nyem Hauv Ib Cheeb Tsam Zus
Nyob rau hauv California, feem neeg Hmoob Asmeskas laus nyob rau hauv Central Valley (83%).

### AAPI Cov Neeg Ua Hauj Lwm Muaj Teeb Meem Ntxhov Siab Kev Txom Nyem Hauv Ib Cheeb Tsam Zus

#### % ntawm Cov Pej Xeem California AAPI
- **San Joaquin Valley:** 50%
- **Inland Empire:** 37%
- **Los Angeles:** 23%
- **Ncig Ntug Hiav Txwv Qab Xeev & Ciam Xeev:** 22%
- **Sacramento Valley:** 20%
- **Cheeb Tsam Bay:** 20%
- **Tsis muaj ntaub ntawv txaus**

#### Saib Ib Muag Txog Cov Neeg Hmoob Asmeskas hauv California:
Los ntawm Koom Haum Suav Pej Xeev Txoj Kev Tshawb Txheeb Txog Zej Zog Neeg Asmeskas (American Community Survey):

- yog yug txawv teb chaws tuaj: 52%
- yog neeg pej xeeem xam xaj: 42%
- paub Lus Askiv tis niplag: 45%
- kawm tiav qib siab collegelos yog kawm tiav tom qab qib graduate rov tod (hnub nyoog 18+): 15%

Pom tias yog cov Democrat*

- 54%

yog cov Republican*

- 12%

yog cov ib cag*

- 11%

*los ntawm txoj kev tshawb bheeb PRRI/AAPI
### Feem ntawm cov neeg Hmoob Asmeskas ua hauj lwm hauv California uas tau ntsib kev khwv noj khwv Haus nyuab hauv 12 lub hlis dhau los:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50% pab nyiaj txiaj rau cov niam cov txiv los yog cov niamtai yawmbik</td>
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<tr>
<td>39% tso tsawg cov plus noj los yog yuav khoom noj khoom haus tsawg dua kom buaq tau niyaj</td>
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<tr>
<td>38% them tsis tao cov nuj nqis hauv txhua lub hlis</td>
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<td>28% muaj teeb meem them tsis tao nqi khiab tsev nyob los yog nqi tais muas tsev</td>
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<tr>
<td>24% tsis mus cuag kws kho mob los yog tsis muas tshuaj siv</td>
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### Feem ntawm cov neeg Hmoob Asmeskas ua hauj lwm hauv California uas:

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<td>Txhawj tsam lawv los yog leej twg hauv lawv lub tsev neeg yuav them tsis tais nqi vaj nqi tsev nyob</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Txhawj tsam lawv los yog leej twg hauv lawv lub tsev neeg yuav plam kev pov hwm pab them nqi kho mob</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Txhawj tsam lawv los yog leej twg hauv lawv lub tsev neeg yuav raug xa rov rau lwm teb chaws</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Nws tseem ceeb yuav tau muaj paus muaj ntsis kom cov chaw hauj lwm tsis txhob ua tau kev tsis zoo rau lawv 81%