
Asian Americans in Westchester

A Report for the Asian American Advisory Board of Westchester County

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OVERVIEW

Everyone knows the stereotypes. Asian Americans, especially those living in affluent suburban communities like many of those in Westchester County, achieve success in disproportionate numbers. Explanations vary: cultural values which emphasize education, ambition, hard work, self-discipline and motivation; family structure which tends toward intact married couple families with strong intergenerational ties and family loyalty; selective in-migration which has brought some of the best and the brightest of the Asian population to Westchester; the fact that many Asian American and Pacific Islanders (here abbreviated as AAPI) have successfully faced far more difficult challenges and obstacles than those facing most of the native born population.

However, stereotypes are an oversimplification; particularly for a county like Westchester, which contains a diverse population with extremes of wealth and poverty. And Westchester co-exists in a complex and dynamic ecosystem with its great southern neighbor, New York City. While Westchester is a coveted destination for many Asian Americans, who--like their

fellow County residents-- value the schools and amenities that the County has to offer, it also presents challenges and issues to the Westchester AAPI community in its desire to feel safe, accepted by and integrated into the full range of programs, services and opportunities that Westchester has to offer. Stereotypes mask and ignore those challenges and issues.

It is also important to recognize that Westchester is not New York City; nor is it the nation as a whole. We have tried in this Report to move beyond assumptions, focus on the local context, draw comparisons where appropriate, and highlight the needs, concerns and issues deemed important by the Westchester AAPI community itself.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Asian Americans in Westchester, commissioned by Westchester County's Asian American Advisory Board, documents the current state, issues and concerns of Asian Americans in Westchester County; using demographic analysis, interviews of key members of the community, and a community issues survey completed by more than 500 Westchester Asian Americans.

Asian Americans represent the second fastest growing ethnic group in Westchester County, with a growth rate of 27% since the 2010 Census. They are an ethnically diverse and heterogeneous population; with people of Asian Indian and Chinese heritage (34% and 24%, respectively) making up the majority; followed by Filipinos (11%), Koreans (10%) and Japanese (10%).

Westchester's Asian Americans represent, for the most part, a highly educated and affluent population, with levels of educational attainment and income that exceed those of the general population.

However, there are subgroups within that population--particularly seniors--many of them with language limitations, limited incomes, limited access to transportation and issues of cultural compatibility that prevent them from fully accessing and participating in the programs and services available in the County.

More than two of three of Westchester's Asian Americans are first-generation Americans. More than one in four have limited proficiency with spoken English. Poverty has also increased from 5% in 2010 to 6.5% in 2020 among Asian Americans in the County, indicating a small but significant stream of new arrivals in straitened circumstances.

Participants in the Needs Assessment study, who spoke not only as experts but also as adult children of aging parents and as parents of school children, identified a number of key areas of concern. Most prominent among these were: language (particularly for seniors and newly arrived immigrants), transportation, social isolation, and the dependence of the elderly on their adult children. These concerns reflect the stresses on working families who are trying to care for their elderly parents, meet professional obligations, and engage actively and responsibly in the upbringing of their children. Lack of convenient public transportation and language limitations are at the core of these issues; since they limit the ability of older members of the community to lead independent lives. They also limit the ability of participants to find competent and culturally compatible medical and mental health care, both for their parents and themselves.

More than half the participants in the community issues survey have children in the public schools; and participants cite the fact of Westchester being "a good place to raise children" as the most important factor for deciding to live in Westchester County. Yet parents are deeply concerned about the treatment of their children by both peers and adults in the public schools and in play settings.

Themes of underlying anxiety about safety and belonging emerge throughout the study; as expressed in fear of future hate incidents (by more than two of three survey respondents), concerns about bullying of school children (by almost two of three survey respondents), and by the high volume of comments in both the interviews and the survey pertaining to incidents of bias, discrimination, and verbal aggressions.

Both interviewees and parents of school children in the survey express concerns about the absence of acknowledgement of Asian American contributions to American history, lack of recognition of Asian holidays, and the overall absence of curriculum relevant to Asian Americans in the schools. Parents also express the need for higher curriculum standards for their children in the public schools.

Seniors are also concerned about public safety. Two thirds of seniors in the survey fear for safety in public places. More than two of three of them cite lack of awareness of existing programs and locations, and almost two of three cite the lack of culturally relevant programs as barriers to participation.

The most frequently mentioned unmet needs or areas for County improvement expressed by interviewees in the Needs Assessment study (excluding previously described needs for seniors) were: transportation, education, information, culturally relevant community centers, and mental health.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purposes of this Report are:

- To describe the AAPI community in Westchester in ways that will provide data and insights the County can act upon, in its efforts to assess and address the needs and concerns of the diverse and heterogeneous AAPI community in Westchester.
- To give voice and agency to the members of the Westchester AAPI community, so that they will seek and obtain equal access and equitable treatment.
- To heighten public awareness of the issues of underserved segments of the community with particular aspects of language and culture that may prevent them from seeking and obtaining equal access to public resources and capabilities.
- To create visibility for and lift up a segment of the Westchester community which is largely invisible.

METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in three parts: Demographic and Contextual Analysis, Needs Assessment Study, Community Issues Survey. KPFC LLC designed and carried out the Demographic and Contextual Analysis and Needs Assessment Study and designed the Community Issues Survey, with input and approval from AAAB. AAAB administered the survey. Individual AAAB members conducted the outreach for the survey, with assistance from KPFC LLC.

Part I. Demographic and Contextual Analysis

The demographic and contextual analysis provided background for both the interviews and the survey. It was intended for use:

- 1) by the County, to identify major subgroups and population segments within the Westchester AAPI community that might have particular concerns (e.g., the elderly, those in poverty, those with language issues).
- 2) by the AAPI community itself, to make its dimensions visible and to heighten its consciousness of itself as a vital and visible population within the County.
- 3) by the population of Westchester, to break down the monolithic image of Asian identity and to raise public awareness of the AAPI population and its diversity and heterogeneity within the community.

Part II. Needs Assessment Study

The Needs Assessment analysis was based on interviews with 32 individuals having specialized knowledge or expertise of one or more segments of the Westchester AAPI population. It was intended to provide insights for action by the County and to give voice to the Westchester AAPI community, as reflected by leaders and members of the community.

Participants were identified through outreach by members of the AAAB and by KPFC. They included: a Korean businessman, an Indian-American homemaker and volunteer with the India Center of WC, two members of the Indian American Cultural Center of Westchester County, the Executive Director of Nonprofit Westchester, a Japanese-American pediatrician, a psychotherapist at Hope's Door who works with members of the Muslim population, a Japanese American member of IBM East BRG Steering Committee, a Chinese American past president of OCA-WHV, a Japanese-American woman business owner, a Chinese American principal of the HXNYC-Chinese Language Weekend school and IBM employee, a Chinese-American Vice President of the Greenburgh Evergreen Club, the Commissioner of Westchester County's

Department of Senior Programs and Services and three other members of that department, the Chinese-American Medical Director at Open Door Family Clinics, an Indian American retired VP at Chase Bank and trustee of the Tristate Hindu Temple, the Chinese American owner of a child care business in Westchester, a Chinese American leader of programs and creator of a podcast series for AAPI teenagers, the Community Mental Health Commissioner for Westchester County, the President and CEO of the Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Yonkers, the Director of RSVP at Volunteer New York, the Turkish American manager of subsidized apartments occupied by a large number of Asian American seniors, the Chinese American woman owner of a business offering computer classes to children, a member of the Westchester Chinese Christian Church, a Chinese American psychologist, a statistician for the Municipal Housing Authority of Yonkers, a Chinese American IBM employee, two members of the Tristate Hindu Temple, and the Indian-American Executive Director of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission.

In terms of ethnic/racial background, interviewees included: 10 Chinese-Americans, 8 Indian-Americans, 6 Caucasians, 2 Japanese Americans, 2 Black Americans, 1 Korean-American, 1 Turkish American, and 2 of unidentified ethnic/racial heritage.

Ten were male, 22 were female.

In terms of occupational status, there were: 11 religious or community leaders and members, 6 public officials and County employees, 4 business owners, 4 medical and mental health professionals, 4 nonprofit leaders and employees, and 3 corporate employees.

Insights from conversations with and emails from AAAB members and other Asian Americans living in Westchester County were also incorporated into the Needs Assessment study..

Key topics and themes from the interviews were identified through content analysis, including frequency counts of keywords and phrases. Particular attention was given to retain the context of statements. Key issues that emerged from the Demographic and Needs Assessment analyses and that were incorporated into the Survey are:

- Language barriers to access to County services and absence of culturally appropriate services.
- Mental health issues..
- Hate incidents and discrimination.
- Asian seniors in poverty.
- School concerns about bullying, anti-Asian incidents, and need to include Asian American history in school curricula.

It is important to recognize that the interviewees for the Needs Assessment study were , for the most part, working and professional members of the community. They spoke from their personal experience and expertise, and they spoke to issues which they perceived as salient and to

which they had insight. As the findings indicate, they spoke not only as professionals, but as adult children of elderly parents and as parents of young children. For example, the issues they spoke to include a cluster of concerns around the social isolation of elderly parents with limited English language competence, socially and culturally isolated, with limited options for transportation and limited independence. We discuss these findings in detail later in this Report. For now, it is important to keep in mind that issues do not appear in isolation. They occur in context as the expressions of concerned and motivated individuals, seeking solutions to pressure points in their daily lives. We have tried to maintain the contextual aspect of their responses as much as possible in our discussion.

Part III. The Community Issues Survey

The Community issues survey was intended to be both a source of actionable insights for the County and a social engagement survey for the AAPI community. It was informed both by the participants' need to express their needs and concerns and by the County's need for information. It was *not* intended to be a representative sample of the AAPI population in Westchester. We considered weighting responses, based on the distribution of ethnic subgroups. However, the numbers involved are too small to be reliable and would only be misleading. Furthermore, the survey made a particular effort to include specific, marginalized subgroups with limited or no proficiency in English; through translation into multiple languages and through dedicated AAAB member volunteer efforts which engaged Korean-speaking participants at subsidized rental housing in Yonkers and Chinese-speaking seniors at the Evergreen Club in Greenburgh.

It is important to note, therefore, that we cannot generalize from statements about survey respondents to statements about the underlying population. Rather, the survey reflects the sentiments of those who cared enough to participate, who wanted (or could be persuaded) to make their voices heard and their opinions known. As such, it is important both for the insights for action it presents from an influential and articulate segment of the community; and, for those who would not normally have an opportunity to voice their opinions (e.g., if language acts as a barrier), it enables their needs to become known.

To that end, The County, acting on recommendations of AAAB members, translated the survey into Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Japanese, Urdu and Bengali; in order to make it available to members of the Asian American community with limited English proficiency. A total of 838 individuals participated in the survey, with a 60% completion rate. 71 individuals participated in Korean, 23 in Chinese, 22 in Japanese, 1 in Hindi, and none in Urdu or Bengali.

The survey was conducted entirely online, although paper versions were available for those who expressed a preference for doing the survey offline. Individual AAAB members conducted outreach, assisted by KFPC, by County legislators in their newsletters, and at Asian Heritage

Festivals and other venues where Asian Americans congregate. Special attempts were made to reach out to leaders of Asian-American religious and civic organizations and language schools. As noted above, AAAB members volunteers also administered the survey over the course of one afternoon to Korean-speaking senior residents at rent-subsidized buildings occupied by seniors in Yonkers, and, again by AAAB member volunteers, to Chinese-speaking seniors at the Greenburgh Evergreen Club.

Despite the best efforts of everyone involved, there are individuals and groups who are underrepresented, or unrepresented in the survey. In addition to underrepresentation of some racial/ethnic groups in relation to their Census-documented presence in the Westchester population (Filipinos, Japanese and Vietnamese are underrepresented; Asian Indians are slightly underrepresented; Chinese and Koreans are overrepresented), there are also reports of undocumented immigrants who do not participate out of fear of possible discovery and deportation. In addition, people who are not part of an engaged civic or religious community may be the most in need of social services, and these individuals are very likely underrepresented in the study. Again, the study does not purport to be a representative sample of the Asian population in Westchester. Rather, it is an effort dedicated to identifying and documenting the needs and concerns of a broad segment of the Asian American community.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Demographic and Contextual Analysis

Population and Population Growth

- **65,707** individuals of Asian American heritage currently live in Westchester County; **6.5%** of the total population. Another **14,279** people identify as being of multi-racial Asian heritage. Together, these two groups make up **8%** of the total Westchester population.
- The Asian American (AAPI) population in Westchester has grown by **27%** since the 2010 decennial Census, and the multiracial Asian population has grown by **61%**; for a combined growth rate of **32%** (Table 1).

Diversity and Heterogeneity

- Asian Americans in Westchester are a diverse and heterogeneous population; in which Asian Indians (**34%** of the total) and Chinese (**24%**) make up the largest Westchester Asian American groups, followed by Filipinos (**11%**), Japanese (**10%**) and Koreans (**10%**). (Graph 1).
- The Chinese population has the highest recent growth rate, (20.8%), followed by the Japanese (13.6%) and Korean (11%) of Asian groups in Westchester.
- Asian Indians make up a larger proportion of total Asians in Westchester (34%) than in New York City (19%) or the USA as a whole (23%). Chinese are less highly represented in Westchester (24%) than in New York City (49%) and approximately equal to their percentage in the USA as a whole (24%) (Graphs 2 and 3).
- Approximately **17%** of the foreign-born population in Westchester were born in Asia.
- Foreign born arrivals from Western Asia have substantially lower levels of educational attainment than those from other parts of Asia (Graph 10).
- Foreign born arrivals, particularly men from South Eastern Asia, despite their overall high levels of educational attainment, have lower median incomes than any other Asian group (Table 7).
- More than **two of three** (68%) of the Asian Americans (Asian alone) in Westchester County are first-generation Americans.

Language Barrier

- An estimated **17,000** Asian Americans in Westchester, or more than 1 of 4 Asian Americans, have limited proficiency in spoken English.

Geographic Dispersion

- The Westchester AAPI population is highly dispersed geographically, with clusters in certain communities-namely, Scarsdale, Ardsley and Greenburgh. In terms of numbers, Yonkers has the largest Asian population (12,915); followed by Greenburgh (7,144) and White Plains (4,747) (Table 4).

Educational Attainment and Income

- Asian Americans in Westchester are more highly educated than the general population (Graph 8).
- Asian Americans in Westchester also have higher incomes, on average, than the overall population. Asian American households in Westchester have a median income of **\$137,780**; compared to **\$99,489** for the Westchester population as a whole. However, there are also sizable numbers of Asian Americans in the middle income groups of \$45,000-\$64,900 and \$75,000-\$99,999 (Graph 11).

Occupations

- Approximately **two of three** Asian Americans in Westchester work in management, business, science and the arts; with a smaller concentration (15% for men, 17% for women) in sales and office occupations. Women also show a significant concentration (12%) in service occupations (Table 6).

Transportation to Work

- Asian Americans are less likely to drive to work alone, more likely to carpool, and more likely to use public transportation than the working population for Westchester County as a whole. They are also more likely to work from home (Table 8).

Housing

- Westchester Asians are more likely to be home owners than renters (**64%** of the housing units occupied by Asians are owner-occupied). Their rates are higher than those for the County as a whole (**61%**). Asian households are also more likely to be family households: **79% vs. 69%** for the County as a whole.

Poverty Amidst Affluence

- Overall, poverty rates for Asian Americans in Westchester are lower than for the total population (**6.5% vs 8.4%**).
- The rate of poverty for the AAPI population has increased, from **5.1%** in 2010 estimates; to **6.5%** in 2020, from 2637 to 4205. This is a **59%** increase, suggesting the arrival of a significant stream of poorer Asian immigrants into the County.
- Over **4,000** Asian Americans are currently living in poverty in Westchester County.

- Despite the overall low rates of poverty for Asian Americans, Asian **seniors** have the **second highest poverty rate** of any of the major ethnic/racial groups in the County (Graph 14).

Needs Assessment Study

- **Language** is the most frequently cited topic of concern in the interviews; particularly for seniors and newly arrived immigrants.
- Language, transportation, social isolation and the dependence of the elderly on their adult children form a cluster of concerns for parents.
- Parents have concerns about their children; related to their sense of belonging and their treatment by peers and adults in both school and play settings.
- Parents also have concerns about the absence of recognition of Asian American contributions to American history, lack of recognition of Asian holidays, and the overall absence of curriculum relevant to Asian Americans in the schools.
- Schools and after school programs are the most frequently utilized public services in the County by Asian American informants.
- The most frequently mentioned barriers to service utilization are: language, transportation, and lack of awareness.
- The most frequently mentioned challenges or problems facing the AAPI community relate to: establishing more sense of community, hate and discrimination, fear, transportation issues, and business concerns.
- The most frequently mentioned unmet needs or areas for County improvement (excluding previously described needs for seniors) are: transportation, education, information, culturally relevant community centers, and mental health.

Insights for action from Needs Assessment study

- **Health care:** language services in doctors' offices and hospitals, health drives, more mental health services in different languages, speech and physical therapists who speak Japanese, working through caregivers to reach seniors, medical transportation to clinics and practitioners in NYC, programs to educate seniors about healthy living, acupuncture clinics, restore funding cuts health care education, reminders of upcoming medical appointments, explanations of benefits.
- **Education and information:** guidance to use of local resources (e.g., library system), after school programs, books in other languages in libraries, classes in American cultural practices, a phone line to help with translation, citizenship tests in Asian languages, fliers for seniors in multiple languages, a multilingual hotline, bilingual programs for children.
- **Seniors:** Informational outreach about services for seniors, multilingual fliers about services and events, county funding for space to hold activities and funding for transportation to and from senior centers, a purpose-built community center to serve the social and cultural needs of specific ethnic subgroups and offer food choices consistent with cultural heritage, continuation of pandemic-initiated senior citizens' hours at grocery stores and libraries, exercise programs, including outdoor exercising; as well as community gardens and arts and crafts programs.
- **Parents and children:** Cultural diversity education in schools, school celebrations of Asian holidays (particularly Diwali), include Asian American history in curriculum, book reading lists to include literature from other cultures, bilingual day care, after school care at reduced cost, mental health services in schools, adult education.
- **Other insights:** more police presence outside Asian businesses, coalition building between Blacks and Asians.

Survey Highlights

- The most important factors that brought people to Westchester are: it is a good place to raise children, excellent public schools, and concerns about public safety.
- The most challenging aspect of life in Westchester is the overall high cost of living (75%).
- The most frequently utilized public programs and services are: parks (83%), libraries (76%) and public schools (63%).

- The most important barriers to access to publicly available programs and services are: lack of awareness of existing programs and their locations (**73%**), lack of culturally appropriate programs (**63%**), and lack of programs in their local community (**62%**).
- In an open-ended question, the most frequently cited barriers to medical or mental health treatment involved lack of access to qualified medical or mental health professionals. Comments included both competence and cultural compatibility.
- Respondents cite a variety of incidents of discrimination in the past year, of which the most frequent is: people asking where you are from, or assuming you are not from the United States (**61%**).
- **Ten percent** of respondents reported experiencing a hate incident in the past year, a number that is substantially lower than the **28%** reported in a national AAPI poll for 2022 to date. It is encouraging to note that Asian Americans who come to Westchester seeking an oasis of comparative safety do, in fact, find it in Westchester County.
- However, more than **three out of four** respondents are worried about *future* hate crimes against their community. This is lower than the percentage reported in a national AAPI poll (83%), but disturbing, nonetheless.
- Almost **two of three** respondents are worried that their children might be bullied due to their race/ethnicity.
- For seniors, the most important factor that brought them to Westchester County is: concerns about public safety.
- For seniors, the most highly utilized publicly available public services are: parks (**67%**), libraries (**61%**), and public transportation (**42%**).
- For seniors, the most important barriers to utilization of programs and services are: lack of awareness of existing programs and their locations (**68%**), fear for safety in public places (**66%**), and lack of culturally appropriate programs (**64%**).
- Almost **seven in ten** of senior respondents are worried about future hate crimes against their community.

PART I. DEMOGRAPHIC AND CONTEXTUAL ANALYSIS



AAPI Population and Population Growth

Asian Americans currently make up **6.5%** of the Westchester population.¹ These are the **65,707** individuals who the Census identifies as single race Asians (what the Census calls “Asian alone.”). There are also **339** Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders (NHOPI).²

¹ Source: US Decennial Census, 2020. US Census data throughout this report will, unless otherwise noted, refer to the American Community Survey (ACS) 2020 5-year data (2016-2020); the most recent data available for most variables when the study was undertaken.. The Census did not produce 1-year estimates for 2020, due to the pandemic. All tables and diagrams in this Report, unless otherwise noted, were created by KPFC LLC from publicly available data sources.

² Throughout this Report, we will use “AAPI” to refer collectively to people who are Asian, Native Hawaiian, or belong to other Pacific Islander populations. We use “NHOPI” to refer to people who identify as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; and we will use “Asian” or “Asian American” to refer to people who identify as “Asian alone” in Census terms; i.e., being of a single race.

In addition, another **14,279** people identify as Asian or NHOPI in combination with one or more other ethnic/racial groups; in other words, multiracial Asians. Together, these groups make up **8 %** of the Westchester population (80,325 in total).

In Westchester County in 2020, multiracial Asian Americans made up **17.7%** of the total Asian and NHOPI population, both single race and multiracial population combined.³

Comparisons to the USA. Westchester's Asian population is slightly higher than that for the USA as a whole, where the percentage of single race Asians in 2020 was 6.0%.

Westchester's combined single and multiracial Asian and NHOPI population is also slightly higher than that for the USA, at **8% vs. 7.5%**.

Rapid Growth in Westchester Asian American Population. The Asian population in Westchester is growing dramatically. While the total population in Westchester has grown by **5.8%** (from 949,113 in 2010 to 1,004,457 in 2020), the Asian population has increased by **27%**--from **51,716** to **65,707**. And the total AAPI population (including multiracial individuals) has grown by almost **20,000** people (from 60,983 to 80,325), for a percentage increase of **32%**.

Meanwhile, the percentage of Whites has declined, from **68%** to **53%**. Although Whites are still in the majority, Westchester has become a diverse, heterogeneous and multi-ethnic county.

³ Most of the demographic data in this Report will necessarily focus on the single race Asian population because the Census does not break out data for the multiracial Asian population in most of its tables at the County level.

Table 1. Population Growth by Race/Ethnicity, Westchester, 2010-2020

		2020		2010		Growth Rate
		Percent		Percent		Percent
Asian		6.5		5.4		27%
Hispanic or Latino		26.8		21.8		30%
Black or African American		14		14.5		2.10%
White		53.1		68.1		-17.50%

Source: US Decennial Census, 2010 and 2020. (Population of one race)

Multiracial Asian American Growth in Westchester. Along with the Asian population as a whole, the multiracial Asian population has grown substantially in the last decade; from **.9%** of the total population in 2010 (N = 8880) to **1.4%** (N = 14,279) in 2020, for a growth rate of **61%**. This might be seen by Asian Americans as a mixed blessing. While it creates the possibility for a greater sense of inclusion in the American “melting pot,” it can also present problems for the development of a sense of ethnic identity among the younger generation; or what some have called the dilemma of “inclusion vs. erasure.”⁴

Racial/Ethnic Growth Comparisons. The Asian population (Table 1) is the second fastest-growing racial/ethnic group in Westchester (growth rate of **27%**), behind the Hispanic-Latino population; which has grown from **22% to 27% (269,334 vs. 207032)** in the same time period, for a growth rate of **30%**.

Comparisons to New York City. The percentage of Asians in Westchester County is **less than half** of that in New York City, where **15.7%** of the population identify as Asians and **17.4%** as AAPI.

⁴ See, for example, a quote in a recent popular culture history of Asian Americans, “We’re proud to be mixed in Hawaii, but we need to acknowledge that that comes at the price of Indigenous people. We can support each other, but there’s a difference between inclusion and erasure.” Yang, Jeff, Phil Yu and Philip Wang. *Rise: A Pop History of Asian America from the Nineties to Now*. Harper Collins, 2022.

Comparisons to the USA. Westchester figures also differ somewhat from those for the United States as a whole, where Asians are the fastest-growing ethnic/racial group (growth rate of **35%**) (Table 2), outstripping Hispanics or Latinos (growth rate of **29%**).

Table 2. Population Growth by Race/Ethnicity, USA, 2010-2020

			2020		2010		Growth Rate
			Percent		Percent		Percent
Asian			5.9		4.7		35%
Hispanic or Latino			19.5		16.3		29%
Black or African American			12.3		12.6		4.90%
White			60.3		72.4		-10.80%

Source: US Decennial Census, 2010 and 2020. (Population of one race)

A Diverse and Heterogeneous Population

The Asian American population is often seen, especially by outsiders, as a monolithic entity. In fact, it is composed of diverse racial and ethnic subpopulations, with different immigration histories and trajectories.⁵

Westchester Asians By the Numbers. Asian Indians make up the largest subgroup of the Asian population in Westchester (Graph 1). While their overall representation in the county is small (**2.1%**), they constitute over **one third** of the Asian population (**33.9%**). Chinese are

⁵ See, e.g. Lee, Erika. *The Making of Asian America: A History*. Simon & Schuster, 2015. Lee also emphasizes the bimodal nature of Asian American immigration. For example, (p.287), "Recent arrivals from Asia also represent great diversity in educational background and professional skills. Since the 1980s, engineers and medical professionals from India, the Philippines, China, and Taiwan have made up one third of the entire U.S. labor market. At the same time, a growing number have entered the United States with minimal education and job skills, leading to Asians being represented at both extremes of the educational and class spectrums."

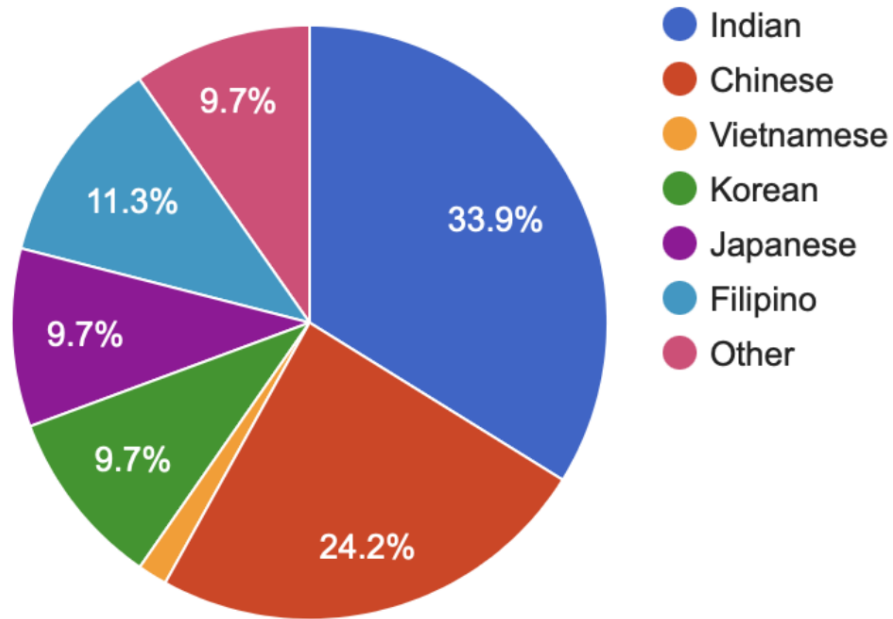
2nd, (**1.5%** of the total population and **24.2%** of the Asian population). Filipinos are 3rd, with **0.7%** of the total population and **11.3%** of the Asian population.⁶

Applying the percentages in Graph 1 (obtained from US Census 2020 ACS 5-year estimates) to the 2020 Census population of Asian Americans (“Asian alone”), we estimate the number of each of the major Asian subgroups approximately as follows:

Asian Indian	22,200
Chinese	15,900
Filipino	7,400
Korean	6,400
Japanese	6,400
Vietnamese	1,000
Other	6,400

⁶ NHOP1 registers statistically as zero, so is not shown separately in graphs and tables, unless noted otherwise.

Graph 1. Asian Groups in Westchester-% of Total Asians



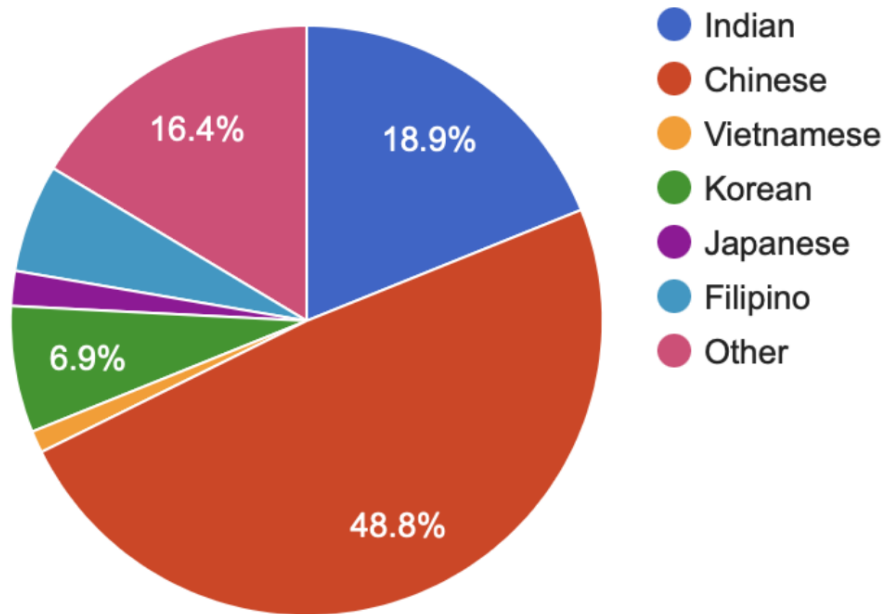
Asian Ethnic Group Growth Rates in Westchester. Although Asian Indians represent the largest Asian ethnic subgroup in Westchester, they are not the fastest growing group. The Chinese population has the highest growth rate over the two 5-year periods (ACS 5-year 2020 and 2015), (20.8%), followed by the Japanese (13.6%) and Korean (11%). Other smaller groups have even higher rates of growth, but these are based on much smaller numbers (Table 3).

Table 3. Growth of Asian Population, Westchester, 2016-2020 vs. 2011-2015

		Population	Percentage
Asian		2016-2020	Change
Asian Indian		20,320	8
Chinese		14,280	20.8
Filipino		6,963	-9.2
Japanese		5,397	13.6
Korean		6,239	11
Vietnamese		748	108
Other Asian		5,527	-11.7
NHOPI		297	47.8

Comparisons to New York City. The ethnic profile of Asian Americans in Westchester County looks quite different from that in New York City (Graph 2). **One third** of Asian Americans in Westchester (2.1% of the total population) identify as **Indian**, whereas only **one out of five** (2.7% of the total population) do so in New York City. And **one quarter** (1.5% of the total population) of the Asian Americans in Westchester identify as **Chinese**, while **almost half** of them (7% of the total population) do so in New York City. Chinese Americans are more likely to remain concentrated in ethnic enclaves such as Chinatown and Flushing, Queens, where more people speak their language, and they have better access to culturally compatible facilities and services. Asian Indians, who come to this country speaking English, are more likely to locate in the suburbs.

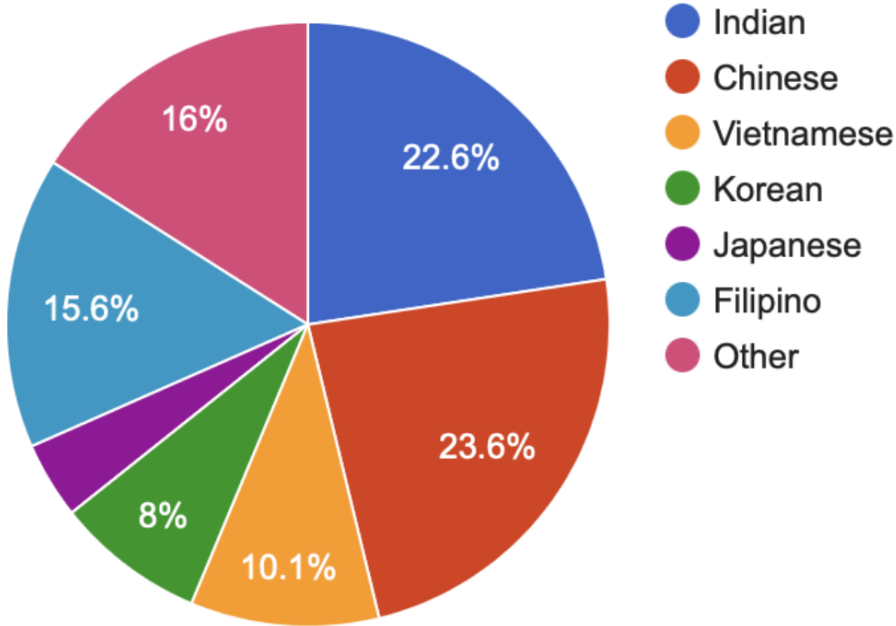
Graph 2. Asian Groups in New York City--% of Total Asians



Comparisons to the USA. Asian Indians represent a larger proportion of the Asian population in Westchester than in the nation as a whole (34% vs. 23%); and Chinese are approximately equal. Japanese are also overrepresented in Westchester, while Vietnamese are substantially underrepresented in Westchester County, compared to the nation.⁷

⁷ The NHOPI population is calculated separately by the Census and is estimated at .19% for the nation a whole (ACS 2020 5-year estimates).

Graph 3. Asian Groups in USA-% of Total Asians



Underlying Socioeconomic Differences. Given Westchester’s status as an affluent suburban area with excellent public schools and amenities adjacent to one of the largest immigration ports in the country, it is understandable that South Asian Indians, who have been among the ethnic subgroups benefiting from the changes in immigration law⁸ have located in substantial numbers in Westchester County. It is also understandable that members of Southeast Asian refugee groups, such as the Vietnamese, are underrepresented in the County.

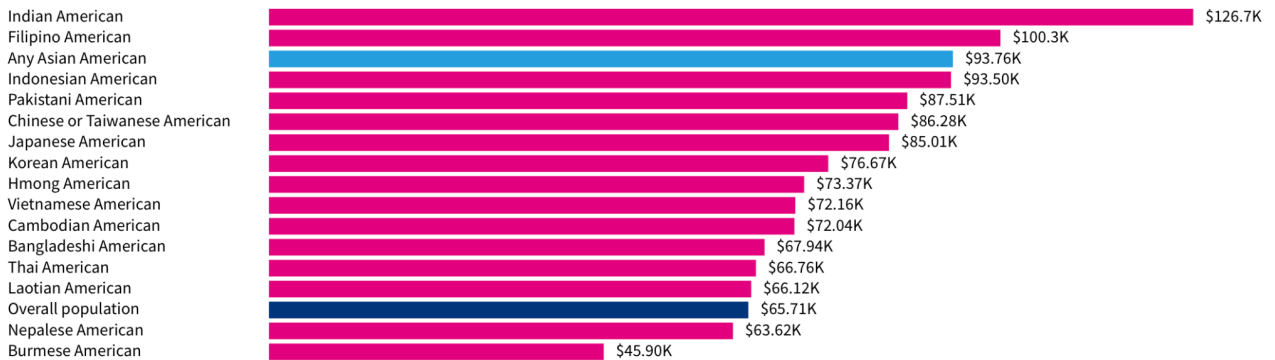
At the national level, for example, Indian American households have the highest income of any ethnic group (Graph 4); followed by Filipino Americans

⁸ Most notably, the Hart-Cellar Act of 1965, which removed racial immigration quotas and prioritized family reunification and professional skills and education

Graph 4. Median Household Income of Asian Groups, USA

2019

Median household income



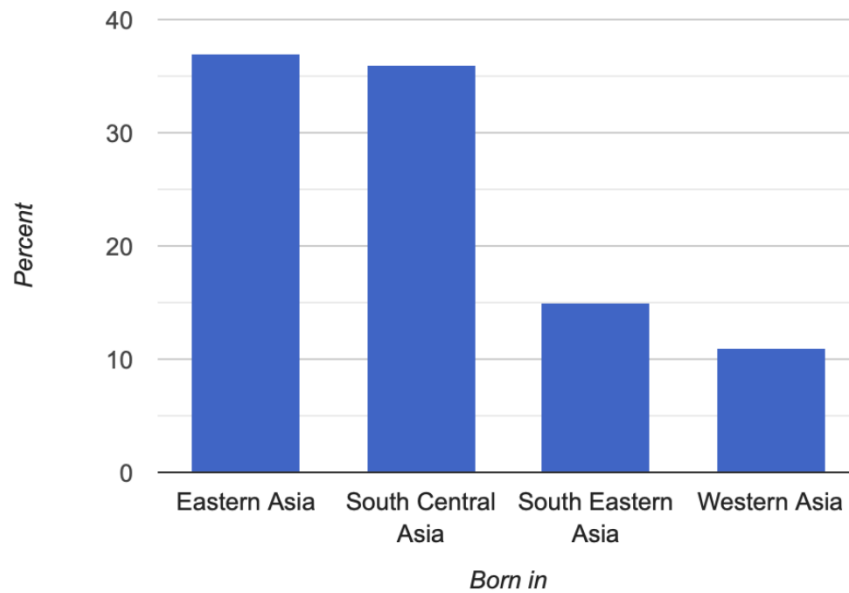
Source: [USAFacts.org](https://www.usafacts.org)

Place of Birth of Westchester Asian Americans. 23% of the Asian Americans (Asian alone) in Westchester were born in NY State. 6% were born in another state in the US. 2% are native and born outside the US; and **more than 2/3 (68%)** are foreign born.

Ethnic Diversity of Foreign Born From Asia in Westchester County. Of the total foreign born population in Westchester County, approximately 17% were born in Asia.⁹ They come from a variety of countries; and the data reflect a heterogeneous population. The Census (ACS 5-year 2020) allows us to separate out four different groups: those who come from Eastern Asia (37%), South Central Asia (36%), South Eastern Asia (15%) and Western Asia (11%) (Graph 5).

⁹ These foreign-born immigrants may or may not identify themselves as Asian. For example, they could include an African or an English woman who happens to have been born in Asia. They are thus not identical with the foreign born Asian American population previously identified.

Graph 5. Foreign Born Population From Asia in Westchester County



The Census defines these categories as follows:

Eastern Asia: China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, South Korea, North Korea, Macau, Mongolia, Paracel Islands, Taiwan.

South Central Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

South Eastern Asia: Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Spratly Islands, Thailand, Vietnam, East Timor.

Western Asia: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Yemen.

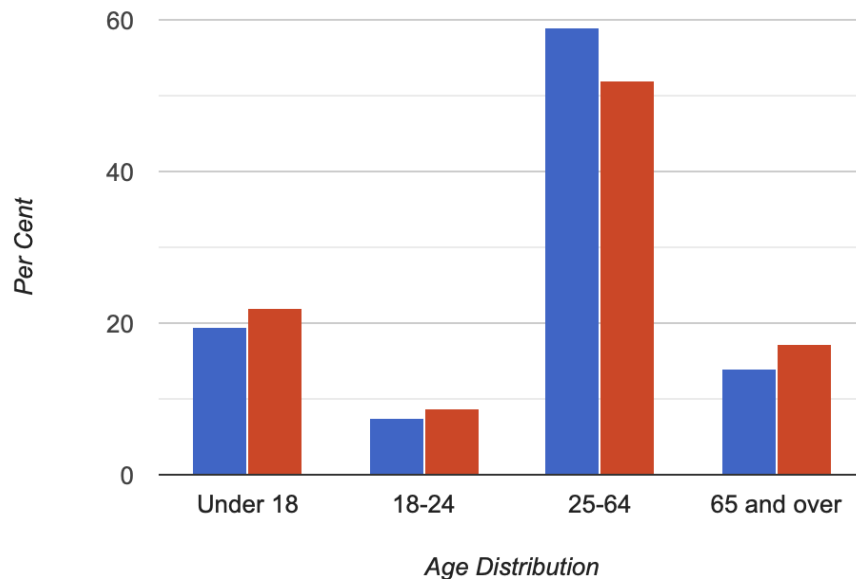
Age and Sex Distribution

Based on the ACS 2020 5-yr. estimate, the age distribution of Asians in Westchester County is as follows:

	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	5,722	5,878	11,600
18-24	2,252	2,297	4,549
25-64	15,703	19,375	35,078
65 and over	3,636	4,611	8,247

Westchester Asians are Younger. The median age for Asians in Westchester is slightly lower than that for the County as a whole (**40.8 vs. 41.1**). This is due to a higher percentage of Asians in the working age population of 25-64 (**59.0% vs. 52.1%**) and lower percentages in the under 18 group (**19.5% vs. 22%**, the college age population, ages 18-24 (**7.6% vs. 8.8%**) and the senior population, age 65+ (**13.9% vs. 17.2%**) (Graph 6).

Graph 6. Age Distribution, Westchester-Asians & Total Population



Blue=Asians. Red=Westchester

The Language Barrier

According to ACS 2020 5-year estimates, there are **14,796** Asian Americans in Westchester, or **more than ¼** of the AAPI population (26.1%), who speak English less than “very well.” This suggests that the language barrier creates conditions of cultural and social isolation and impacts the ability of a substantial number of Asian Americans to take full advantage of the resources, services and opportunities that the County has to offer.

The estimate above is most likely an underestimate of the current situation, since it is based on data which encompass 2016-2020. Applying the ACS Westchester percentage of Asians who speak English less than “very well” to the total population of Asians identified in the US 2020 Census (N=65,707), we would estimate the number of Asian Americans living in the county who do not speak English very well at roughly **17,000**.

Foreign Born English Limitations. **35%** of foreign born AAPI in Westchester speak English less than “very well,” while **65%** speak only English or speak English “very well.” For those who are native born, only **5%** speak English less than “very well,” with **95%** speaking only English or speaking English “very well.” In terms of their English language skills, these are two quite different segments of the AAPI population.

According to interviewees, a significant number of undocumented Asian immigrants reside in the County; for whom language barriers are one of many problems. The [Center for Migration Studies](#) reports that there are about 3,000 undocumented immigrants from Asian countries living in Westchester in 2019. This represented 8.2% of the total undocumented population in Westchester. Due to sample sizes, CMS was only able to estimate that half of those undocumented immigrants from Asia were from India. (actual estimates were 2,934 undocumented from Asia and 1,449 undocumented from India).

A separate source, the [Migration Policy Institute](#), estimates that there are 5,000 undocumented immigrants from Asian countries living in Westchester in 2019. This represented 9% of the total undocumented population in Westchester.

Comparisons to New York City. Almost $\frac{3}{4}$ (**74%**) of the total Asian American population in Westchester County speak only English or speak another language and speak English “very well.” That is substantially higher than in New York City, where approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ (**53%**) of the Asian American population do so.¹⁰

Comparisons to the USA. For the USA as a whole, approximately **68%** of Asian Americans speak only English or speak English “very well.”

Asian Americans in Westchester are thus more likely than their counterparts in either New York City or the nation as a whole to be fluent speakers of English.

A Geographically Dispersed Population

The Westchester AAPI population is highly dispersed geographically, with clusters in certain communities—namely, Scarsdale, Ardsley and Greenburgh (where the Edgemont School District is located and where a substantial number of Asian businesses (including grocery chains like H-Mart in Hartsdale) have begun to concentrate (Table 4). Census data provided by Westchester County shows distributions of Asians (“Asian alone”) by municipality in Westchester County, for 2010 and 2020.¹¹ As the table shows, Scarsdale (20.9%), Ardsley (17.5%) and Greenburgh (15.4%) have the highest percentage of Asians in 2020; followed by New Castle (11.7%), Harrison (11.5%), Elmsford (11.3%) and Briarcliff Manor (10.7%).

In terms of numbers, Yonkers has the largest Asian population (12,915); followed by Greenburgh (7,144) and White Plains (4,747). Asian Americans are more likely to locate in the southern and south central parts of the County, likely for proximity and ease of access

¹⁰ According to a recent brief on [“Asian Languages in New York City.”](#) by Linying He and Yuncheng Wang, as of 2020, the total population of Asian language speakers in NYC was 9907,082 and 59% of them were considered speakers of Limited English Language proficiency. The five most common Asian languages spoken were Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese and Min Nan), Bengali, Korean, Urdu and Tagalog. The data used in the brief came from the same ACS 2020 5-year data (2016-2020) as the data used in this Report.

¹¹ Thank you to Martha Lopez, Director of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development, for providing these and the Minority-Owned business data to me for this Report.

to the City; and many of them are drawn particularly to municipalities with highly rated public schools.

Table 4. Asian Population by Municipality, 2010-2020, Westchester

Asian Population by Municipality, 2010-2020, Westchester County

Municipality	2010 Total Population	2010 Asian Population		2020 Total Population	2020 Asian Population	
		#	%		#	%
Scarsdale	17,166	2,220	12.9%	18,253	3,816	20.9%
Ardsley	4,452	750	16.8%	5,079	890	17.5%
Greenburgh	42,863	5,235	12.2%	46,436	7,144	15.4%
New Castle	17,569	1,282	7.3%	18,311	2,144	11.7%
Harrison	27,472	2,062	7.5%	28,218	3,231	11.5%
Elmsford	4,664	482	10.3%	5,239	590	11.3%
Briarcliff Manor	7,867	541	6.9%	7,569	809	10.7%
Eastchester	19,554	1,494	7.6%	20,901	2,015	9.6%
Tuckahoe	6,486	534	8.2%	7,084	672	9.5%
Dobbs Ferry	10,875	921	8.5%	11,541	1,054	9.1%
Irvington	6,420	503	7.8%	6,652	596	9.0%
White Plains	56,853	3,587	6.3%	59,559	4,747	8.0%
Bronxville	6,323	327	5.2%	6,656	513	7.7%
Rye Brook	9,347	417	4.5%	10,047	740	7.4%
Pelham Village	6,910	407	5.9%	7,326	531	7.2%
Rye City	15,720	932	5.9%	16,592	1,185	7.1%
Tarrytown	11,277	897	8.0%	11,860	839	7.1%
Pleasantville	7,019	314	4.5%	7,513	482	6.4%
North Castle	11,841	586	4.9%	12,408	793	6.4%
Mamaroneck Town	11,977	546	4.6%	12,850	815	6.3%
Mount Pleasant	26,176	1,427	5.5%	26,252	1,634	6.2%
Yonkers	195,976	11,370	5.8%	211,569	12,915	6.1%
Hastings-on-Hudson	7,849	367	4.7%	8,590	489	5.7%
Pelham Manor	5,486	235	4.3%	5,752	313	5.4%
Yorktown	36,081	1,689	4.7%	36,569	1,970	5.4%
Ossining Town	5,406	297	5.5%	5,626	300	5.3%
New Rochelle	77,062	3,212	4.2%	79,726	3,859	4.8%
Mamaroneck Village	18,929	918	4.8%	20,151	971	4.8%
Mount Kisco	10,877	515	4.7%	10,959	513	4.7%
Croton-on-Hudson	8,070	296	3.7%	8,327	374	4.5%
Ossining Village	25,060	1,042	4.2%	27,551	1,173	4.3%
Larchmont	5,864	148	2.5%	6,630	262	4.0%
Cortlandt	31,292	1,150	3.7%	31,916	1,241	3.9%
Somers	20,434	640	3.1%	21,541	776	3.6%
Lewisboro	12,411	294	2.4%	12,265	435	3.5%
Bedford	17,335	507	2.9%	17,309	589	3.4%
Pound Ridge	5,104	96	1.9%	5,082	165	3.2%
Sleepy Hollow	9,870	306	3.1%	9,986	298	3.0%
Peekskill	23,583	682	2.9%	25,431	725	2.9%
Buchanan	2,230	33	1.5%	2,302	64	2.8%
North Salem	5,104	84	1.6%	5,243	120	2.3%
Port Chester	28,967	572	2.0%	31,693	717	2.3%
Mount Vernon	67,292	1,206	1.8%	73,893	1,398	1.9%
Westchester County	949,113	51,123	5.4%	1,004,457	64,907	6.5%

Prepared by Westchester County Department of Planning
Town populations refer to unincorporated areas outside of villages.

Geographic Mobility

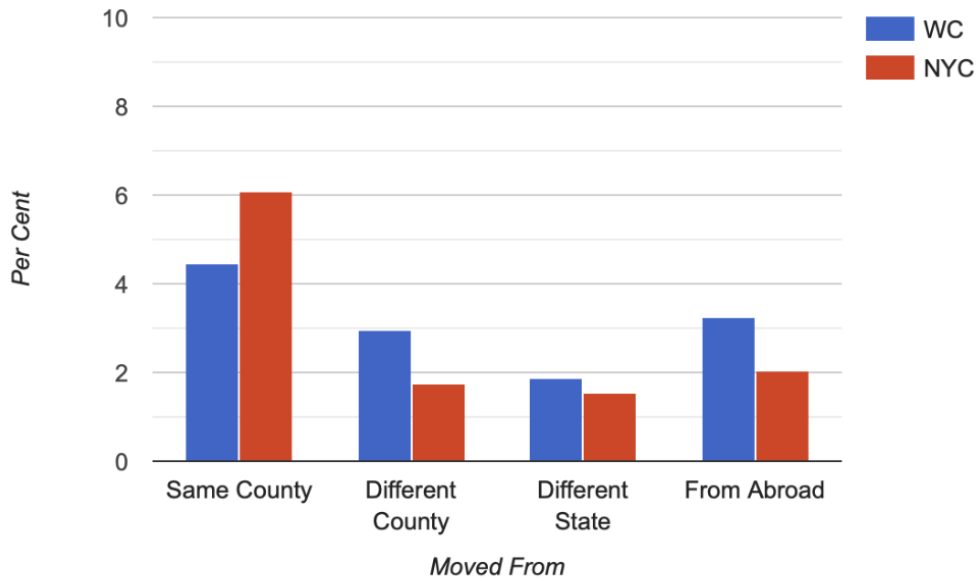
Only a small number of people move each year. According to the ACS 2020 5-year estimates, for the total Westchester population, 9 out of 10 people (**90.2%**) stayed put. For Asian Americans, that figure was **87.5%**.

Asian Americans currently residing in Westchester County are more likely than the total Westchester population to have moved from abroad (**3.2% vs. 0.9%**.)

Asian Americans who moved in the past year are also far more likely to have moved from abroad than are the total Westchester population who moved in the past year (**25.9% vs 8.8%**).

Comparison to NYC. By comparison to New York City, recent Asian *movers* to Westchester are more likely to have come from abroad (**25.9%** vs. **18%** of the Asians currently residing in NYC who moved in the past year). In terms of total population (movers + stayers), the comparable percentages of movers from abroad are **3.2 %** for Westchester vs. **2.1%** for NYC.

Graph 7. Geographic Mobility in the Past Year (Asian Alone)



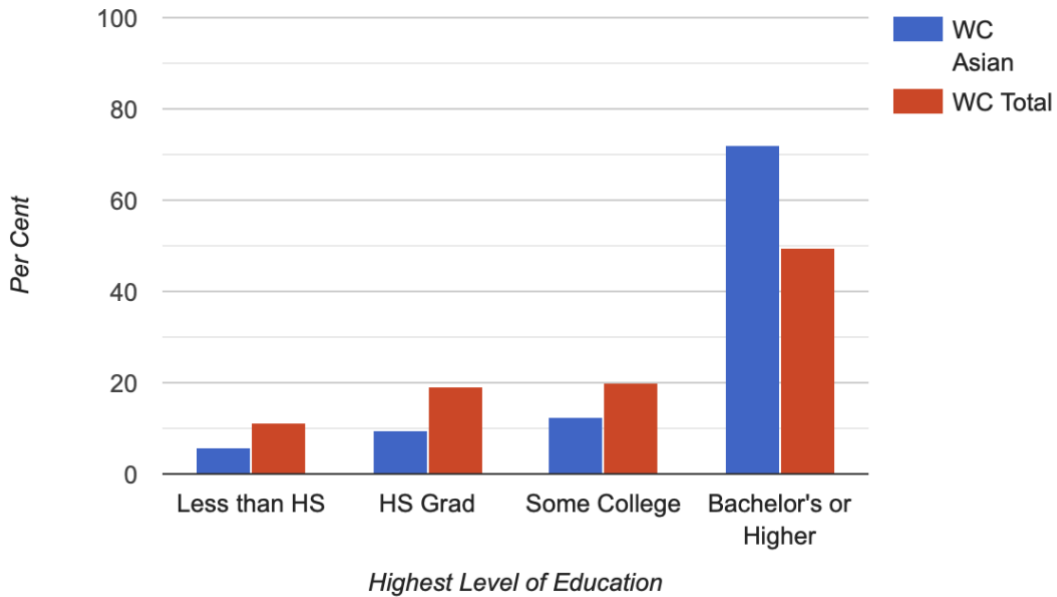
While the numbers are small (total Asian movers to Westchester from abroad in the past year = 1909), they indicate that Westchester County is a primary destination for a significant number of recent Asian arrivals to this country.

The differences also indicate that the Westchester population of Asian Americans differs significantly from the Asian American population in New York City.

Educational Attainment

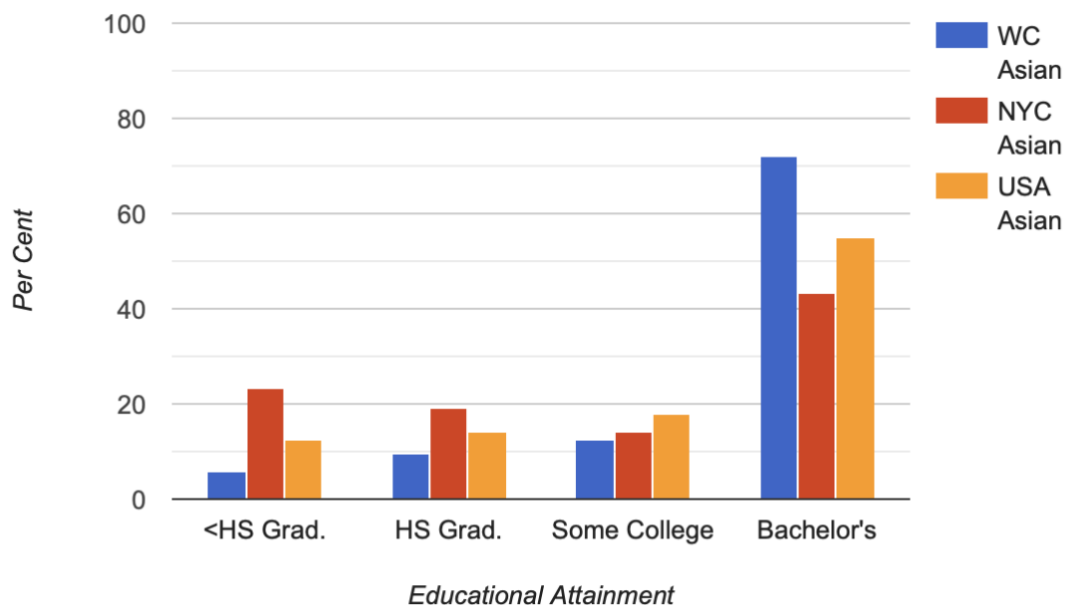
Compared to the Westchester population of age 25+ as a whole, the comparable Asian American population of age 25+ are about half as likely to have less than a high school education (**5.7 %** vs. **11.4%**) and substantially more likely to have a Bachelor’s degree or higher (**72%** vs. **50%**).

Graph 8. Educational Attainment, Asian Population Age 25+in Westchester and Westchester Totals



Comparisons to NYC and the USA. The Asian American populations of Westchester County and New York City also differ in educational attainment. New York City Asian Americans are more than **4x** as likely to have less than a high school education (**23.5%** vs. **5.7%**). And, whereas almost $\frac{3}{4}$ (**72%**) of Westchester Asian Americans hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, less than half (**43%**) do so in NYC (Graph 9).

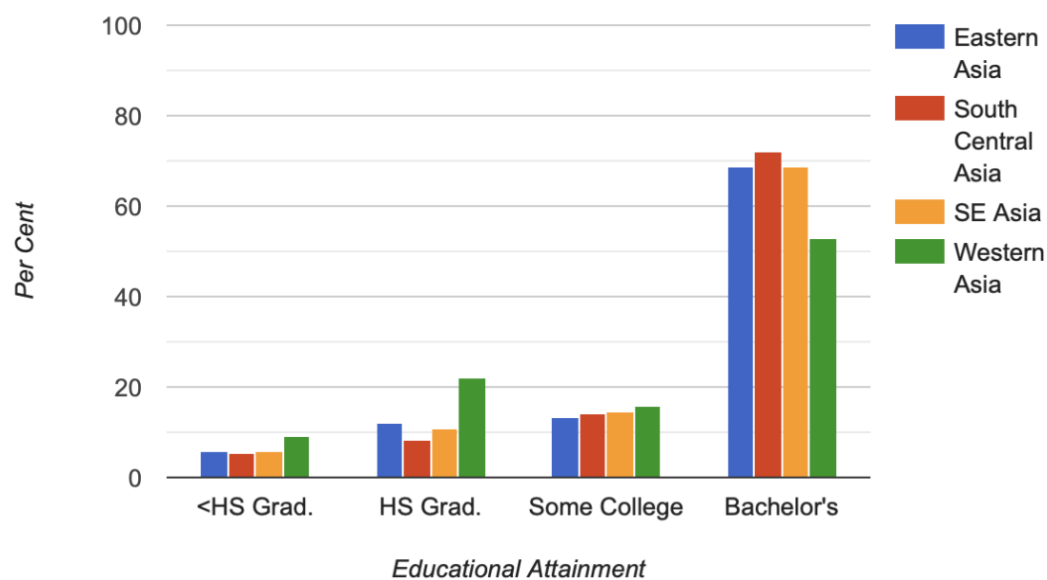
Graph 9. Educational Attainment, Asian Population, Age 25+, Westchester, New York City and USA



Only **6%** of Westchester Asians have less than a high school education, while for New York City, that percentage is **23.5%**; and for the USA as a whole, it is **12.7%**. At the upper end of the educational range, **72.2%** of Westchester Asians have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to **43.4%** of New York City Asians and **55%** of US Asians. Overall, the Westchester Asian population has a much higher socioeconomic level than that for either New York City or the nation.

Educational Attainment of Foreign Born from Asia in Westchester. Foreign born groups from Asia differ substantially in their levels of educational achievement (Graph 10). Immigrants from Western Asia have substantially lower levels of educational attainment than those from other parts of Asia (Graph 10). For example, **53%** have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to **70%** for those from Eastern Asia, **72%** for those from South Central Asia, and **69%** for those from South Eastern Asia. The rate for the foreign born from Asia as a whole is **69%**.

Graph 10. Educational Attainment of Foreign Born, Westchester, Age 25+



Comparison to the USA. First generation foreign-born arrivals from Asia in Westchester have higher levels of education than their counterparts in the US as a whole, where 53% have a Bachelor's degree or higher (Table 5). For the groups identified above, the rates in the US for those with a Bachelor's degree or higher are as follows:

Table 5. Percent of Foreign Born From Asia, Age 25+, with Bachelor’s Degree or Higher

	Westchester	USA
Born in Asia:	69%	53%
Born in Eastern Asia:	70%	54%
Born in South Central Asia	72%	70%
Born in South Eastern Asia:	69%	39%
Born in Western Asia:	53%	45%

Again, the foreign-born arrivals from Asia who make their homes in Westchester are more highly educated than those in the US as a whole. However, there are significant differences between subgroups. In particular, first generation arrivals from Southeast Asia are far more likely to have a Bachelor’s degree or higher in Westchester than they are in the USA as a whole.

Occupations and Income

Occupational Distributions. Occupations of Asian Americans in Westchester County (Table 6) show a concentration of Asians in management, business, science and the arts; with a smaller concentration in sales and office occupations. For women, however, there is also a significant concentration in service occupations, which probably accounts for some of their lower earnings.

Table 6. Occupations of Civilian Employed Asian Population, Westchester

	Male	Female
	%	%
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	67.4	69.7
Service occupations	7.5	11.9
Sales and office occupations	14.9	16.9
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	2.5	0
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	7.6	1.4

The Bimodal Income Hypothesis. The “model minority” image of Asians¹² has often been corrected by offering a “bimodal hypothesis;” which points out that the AAPI population itself includes extremes of affluence and poverty; and that those segments at the lower ends of the socioeconomic scale , due to unique issues of language and culture, are underserved by local institutions.

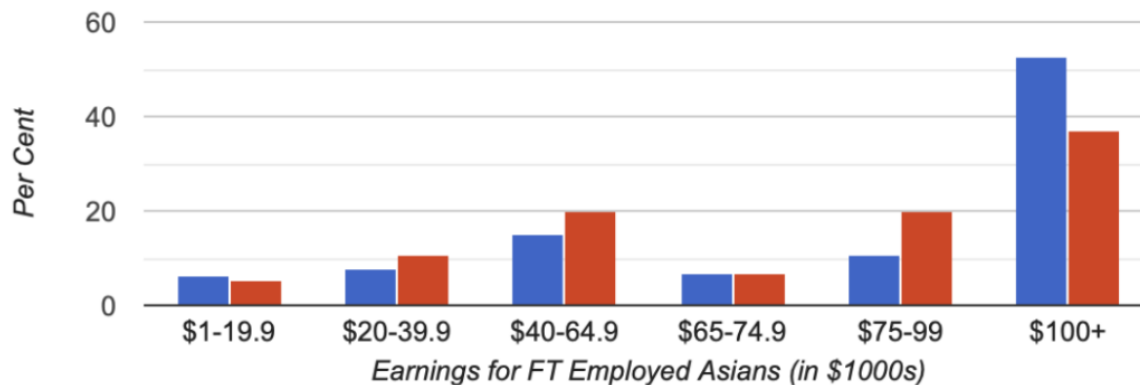
While it is true, as we discuss below, that there are significant numbers of Asian Americans living in poverty in Westchester, the income data are not, strictly speaking, bimodal. The income distribution is highly skewed toward the upper end (Graph 11), with smaller bulges in the middle of the distribution as well. This suggests that there is a sizable group of AAPI in the middle income brackets with issues and concerns that may not be identical with either those with extremely low incomes or the highly affluent.¹³

¹² The “model minority” stereotype of Asian Americans has a long history, too complex to explore in this Report. For an excellent historical analysis, see Wu, Ellen D. *The Color of Success: Asian Americans and the Origins of the Model Minority*. Princeton University Press, 2014.

¹³ According to the most recent report from UnitedforAlice.org, based on survey data which were updated on August 3, 2022, **37%** of Westchester households are unable to make ends meet. We have no way of knowing how many of these households are Asian American, but they include a very substantial population in the County who are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). “With income above the Federal Poverty Level, ALICE households earn too much to qualify as ‘poor’ but are still unable to cover basic household expenses in the counties where they live.”

Median earnings for Asian men who worked full-time in the past 12 months were: **\$105,767**. For Asian women, the comparable figure was **\$82,070**.

Graph 11. Earnings for Full-Time Employed Asians by Sex, Westchester



Blue=Male: Red=Female

Income differences are consistent with educational differences. Asian American households in Westchester County have a median income of **\$137,780**; compared to **\$99,489** for the Westchester population as a whole. Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander households, however, (of whom there are only 59) have a significantly lower median household income of **\$96,736**.

The fact that the income and educational distributions for Asian Americans in Westchester are highly skewed, rather than bimodal, reflects the reality that Westchester is not typical of the United States as a whole; nor is it typical of New York City. Westchester is, as one of our Asian American sources put it, a “highly coveted destination; people come here for the schools.”¹⁴

Schools are, of course, not the only magnet that draws Asian Americans to Westchester, and Westchester contains multitudes of diverse subpopulations and communities;

¹⁴ The same source noted that many of them, including his parents, leave when their children are finished with high school, due to the tax burden of paying to support those schools.

including, as we have seen, a heterogeneous collection of Asian ethnic subgroups. But the fact remains that Westchester County is an affluent and expensive place to live; and--for the most part-- only AAPIs who have the advantage of high paying jobs can afford to live in Westchester. It would be misleading, as we have already noted, to assume that the demographics of Westchester would be the same as those for either New York City or the nation.

Median income of Foreign Born from Asia in Westchester. There are also income differences between subgroups of foreign born from Asia. Significantly, foreign born arrivals from South Eastern Asia, despite their overall high levels of educational attainment, have lower median incomes than any other group (Table 7). This is particularly true for men, whose median income levels are below even those of women in this group.

Table 7. Median Income, Full Time, Year Round Employment, Foreign Born in Asia, Westchester

	Male	Female
Born in Asia:	\$ 105,161	79,169
Born in Eastern Asia:	\$ 112,963	80,438
Born in South Central Asia:	\$ 119,697	85,231
Born in South Eastern Asia:	\$ 69,000	71,516
Born in Western Asia:	\$ 80,465	63,952

Daily Inflows of Asian American Commuters. The income data do not take into account the Asian Americans who commute to Westchester for work from other locations. Based on ACS 2020 5-year Public Use Microdata estimates, there are 13,500 Asian Americans age 16+ who work in Westchester and live elsewhere (6,000 from NYC, 2,000 from Connecticut, 1,500 from New Jersey, and the rest from Long Island or upstate counties).

An independent analysis of the [ACS 2020 5-year Public Use Microdata](#) found that of the

13,500 AA workers who commuted into Westchester, 15% worked in the medical services industry, 13% in professional services, 11% in manufacturing, 10% in restaurants or food services, 8.1% in finance, 7.4% in retail, 6.5% in education, 6.2% in hair and nail salons, 5.0% in transportation industries, 4.3% in other services (laundromats being the most prominent), and the remaining 13.6% were spread across of the remaining industries (wholesale; arts, entertainment, and accommodations; construction; social services; public administration (government sector); information; utilities; and resource extraction).

Restaurants and hair and nail salons were noticeably higher among Asian American workers commuting into Westchester. For context, among all job holders, food service workers represented only 5.4% of all jobs and hair and nail salon workers were only 1.0% of all workers in Westchester.

Based on these numbers, we estimate 1,350 commuters into Westchester work in the restaurant or food services industry, and another 837 in hair and nail salons; most of them likely with extremely modest incomes.

Transportation to Work.

Asian Americans are less likely to drive to work alone, slightly more likely to carpool and slightly more likely to use public transportation than the working population for Westchester as a whole. (Table 8).

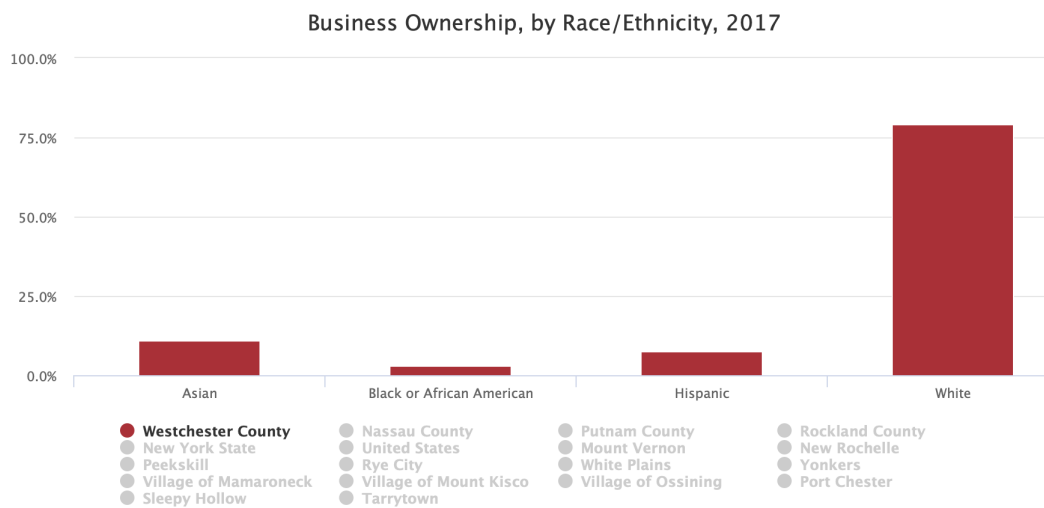
Table 8. Means of Transportation to Work, Asian & Total Westchester

	Asian	Total WC
Drove Alone	50.9	55.6
Carpooled	10.3	7.8
Public Transportation (excl. Taxi)	24.4	21.8
Walked	4.2	4.3
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	0.6	1.6
Worked from home	9.4	8.9

AAPI Business Ownership

Asian Americans are overrepresented in Westchester businesses relative to their percentage in the population. The [Westchester Index](#) reports that 11.1% of businesses in Westchester County are owned by Asians. This included 3,066 Asian-owned businesses, based on a total of 27,843 businesses (in 2017). These data do not include nonemployer businesses (i.e., those without employees).

Graph 12. Business Ownership by Race/Ethnicity, Westchester, 2017



Source: U.S. Census Bureau and National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, 2018 Annual Business Survey, data year 2017.

Covid Impacts on Asian-Owned Businesses. Although data for Westchester County are not available, a recent study by the Asian American Foundation documents the impact of Covid on Asian-owned businesses in the New York metropolitan area and reports that

“ The economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic were catastrophic for Asian-owned businesses and Asian workers across the metro area. Despite the fact that Asian-owned businesses were hit earlier and harder than other businesses by the pandemic, they were disproportionately unable to access the government aid programs.”

¹⁵

They also recommend that

“there is an urgent need for policies and programs to be delivered in-language across the New York metro area.”

The need for in-language government-aid programs was confirmed by a Korean business owner and informant in this study.

The impact of recent disasters, including Covid, on [New York City's Chinatown](#) have also been recently documented.

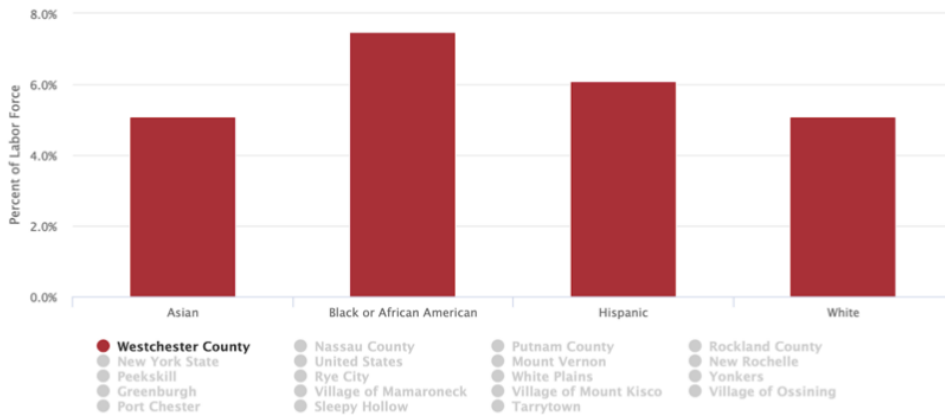
NY State Covid Impacts on Small Businesses. As of March, 2021, almost 4 out of 5 small businesses (with less than 500 employees) in [New York State](#) reported an overall negative impact on their businesses, a share which was greater than the national average.

Unemployment

The [Westchester Index](#) created by the Westchester Community Foundation (Graph 13) shows that for the period of 2016-2020, Asian Americans in Westchester had the lowest unemployment rates of any ethnic group (**5.1%**--equal to that of Whites.)

¹⁵ Khan, R., He, L., & Shih, H. (2022). *Restarting New York's Economic Engine: Tapping the Strength of Asian Businesses*. Asian American Federation. aafederation.org.

Graph 13. Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity, Westchester



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

This is consistent with national data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. However, the pandemic has changed that, to some extent. Nationally, Asians experienced somewhat higher unemployment rates than Whites (but less than Blacks and Hispanics) throughout most of the pandemic. (See [USAFacts.org](https://www.usafacts.org)).

Asian Unemployment by Gender. The Asian male unemployment rate is close to the total for Westchester (Table 9). However, the female unemployment rate is significantly less (**4.2% vs. 5.6%**)

Table 9. Unemployment Rate by Sex, Westchester County and USA

	Asian	Westchester Total
Male	5.80%	5.90%
Female	4.20%	5.60%

Source: ACS 2020 5-year data

Housing

Home Ownership Rates. Westchester Asians are more likely to be home owners than renters (**64%** of the housing units occupied by Asians are owner-occupied). Their rates are higher than those for the County as a whole (**61%**) and higher than those for Blacks (**37%**) and Hispanics (**35%**), but lower than those for Whites (**73%**).

Housing Arrangements. Asian households are more likely to be family households: **79%** vs. **69%** for the County as a whole.

Asian family households are more likely to be married-couple families: **87%** for Asian families vs. **75%** for Westchester as a whole; and Asian non-family households are less likely to have a householder living alone: **76%** of the non-family households for Asians vs. **85%** of the non-family households for Westchester. **16%** of all Asian households are composed of a householder living alone. For Westchester as a whole, the comparable percentage is **27%**.

Westchester County's Housing Needs Assessment Study. In 2019 Westchester County conducted a Housing Needs Assessment Study, which reports

"a significant shortage of housing for extremely low income renters, people with disabilities, seniors, large families and the homeless..."¹⁶

While its findings did not break out housing needs by ethnic groups, they do describe a severely cost burdened population for both owners and renters in the middle income groups, saying

"The finding that 50.7% of all owner households earning between 30% and 50% of the County's Area Median Income (AMI) are severely cost burdened should not be a surprise, but the conclusion that 22.9% of households earning between 80% and 100% of AMI might be (when one considers that a family of 4 at 100% AMI earns approximately \$117,100 in Westchester County). It is important to note that these households have housing; but they cannot comfortably afford it."¹⁷

¹⁶ <https://homes.westchestergov.com/images/stories/HNA/1125execsum.pdf>

¹⁷ Ibid.

Poverty Amidst Affluence

According to ACS 2020 5-year estimates, **6.5%** of Asian Americans in Westchester County are living below the poverty level. This is less than the rate for the County as a whole, which is **8.4%**. However, in absolute numbers, based on the total of 65,707 “Asian alone” population identified in the 2020 Census, that means there are more than **4000** Asian Americans living in poverty in Westchester County.

The rate of poverty has also increased for the AAPI population in Westchester. In the 2010 ACS 5-year estimates for Asians alone, that rate was **5.1%**, indicating that, as the Asian population has grown, a small but significant stream of poorer Asian im-migrants has also moved into the County, either from NYC or from other states and abroad.¹⁸

Based on the 51,716 Asian Americans living in the County in 2010 (US Census data), the number of Asian Americans living in poverty in the county has risen from **2637** to **4205**; a factor of **1.6**, or a percentage increase of **59%**.

8.7% of Asian Americans in the County have incomes slightly above the poverty level--i.e. less than 125% of the poverty level--, Asian Americans in the County have a lower rate than that for the County as a whole (**11.4%**). Applying the Asian rate to the 2020 Census data number of 65,707, we estimate that approximately **5700** Asian American individuals are living at less than 125% of the poverty level.¹⁹

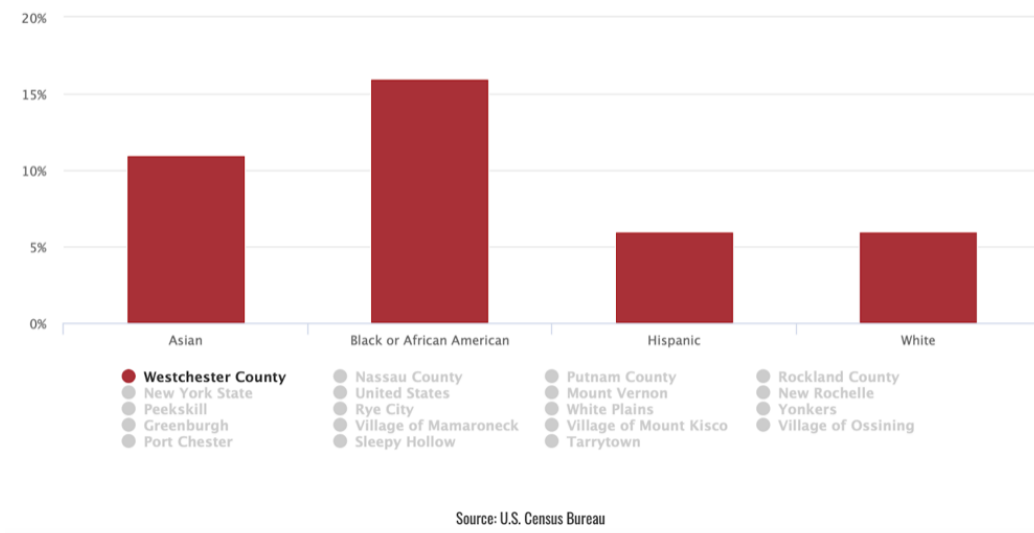
Seniors in Poverty

¹⁸ A recent study by Shih, H. & Khan, R. (2021). *Hidden in Plain Sight: Asian Poverty in the New York Metro Area*. Asian American Federation. aafederation.org. also shows a consistent finding that the Hudson Valley has had the greatest percentage increase in Asian Americans living in poverty between 2010 and 2019.

¹⁹ Affluence is relative. In an affluent county like Westchester, people with moderate incomes can also suffer from feelings of relative deprivation, status inferiority and status insecurity; as well as the challenges of stretching a limited budget; as one of our sources pointed out.

High Rates of Poverty for Seniors. Despite the overall low rates of poverty for Asian Americans, one group stands out: the senior population. Asian seniors have the second highest poverty rate of any of the major ethnic/racial groups in the County, as the following chart from the Westchester Index shows (Graph 14). The rate for Asian seniors (calculated as a percentage of all Asian seniors for whom poverty data is reported) is 11%.²⁰ For Black or African Americans the rate is 16%, and for both the White and Hispanic populations, the rate is 6%.

Graph 14. Seniors Living in Poverty by Race/Ethnicity, Westchester



The issues facing seniors in poverty are compounded, for Asian Americans, by problems of language and cultural isolation. (See discussion in the Needs Assessment section of this Report.)

²⁰ This number may be unreliable, due to the small number of Asian seniors in poverty. This graph was obtained from the [Westchester Index](#): which made use of ACS 2020 5-year data. As the Index notes, “the population of Asian seniors in poverty in Westchester County was too small to report reliable data.” The margin of error is between 20% and 35% of the estimate, so we should not put excessive confidence in this number.

Food Insecurity. In Westchester County, 8.4% of all households receive food stamps or SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance) benefits. Of the households below the poverty level, 43.8% receive food stamps or SNAP benefits.

In Westchester County, **3.6%** of Asian households (N = 19,817) or 713 Asian households are receiving food stamps or SNAP benefits.

Given the higher rate of food stamps/SNAP by the population in Westchester, it is likely that there are additional Asian households who might qualify for, but do not take advantage of food stamp/SNAP benefits due to a variety of factors, including lack of knowledge or cultural constraints.

The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) confirmed in an interview that food stamps are underutilized across the board in Westchester County, and they have expressed an intention to do additional community outreach and education about these and other services.

Voting Behavior

NY State. Asians in NY State show lower rates of voter registration and lower rates of voting than the general population in the 2020 Presidential election. **38.7%** of Asians alone were registered to vote and **34.5%** voted (vs. **62%** registered and **57%** voting for the NYS population as a whole (Source: US Census). Comparable data are not available at the County level.

The issue of why Asian voters vote in such low numbers deserves further exploration. To some extent, it may be bound up with language. One of our sources described a conversation with a man of Chinese descent who voted for the first time in the November, 2020 election. "He said he's apolitical and that his in-laws haven't voted in 40 years because they don't speak English. He was surprised when I told him voting information is available in Chinese."

New York City Data. A recent report by the [Asian American Federation](#) points out that

“Over the last decade, Asian Americans have been the fastest-growing voting bloc in New York City—accounting for almost 18 percent of the city’s overall population. Over 27 percent of eligible Asian voters cast their ballots in last year’s mayoral primary, driven by strong grassroots organizing, an increase in Asian candidates, and the community’s reaction to hate crimes. This represented not only a record turnout in New York City’s 2021 mayoral primary, but also the highest Asian turnout in history for a local New York election.”

National Data. A [report by NPR](#) from Census data shows that “Asian Americans increased their turnout rate by more than any other racial or ethnic group between the 2016 and 2020 U.S. presidential elections. Their turnout jumped 10 percentage points, while Hispanic and white voters each increased by 6 percentage points, and Black voters ticked up 3 points.”²¹ The NPR report also cites figures from [TargetSmart](#), a Democratic election data provider, which show that

“the total votes cast by Asian Americans between 2016 and 2020 jumped roughly 47%, more than any other group; overall, the electorate’s total votes cast increased by about 12%.”

What’s more, TargetSmart found that almost half of all AAPI voters who cast a ballot in 2020 did not vote in 2016, and a quarter had never voted in an election before.”

Whether the Presidential election of 2020 will be followed by increased AAPI voter engagement remains to be seen. However, the potential power of Asians as voters should not be underestimated, in Westchester and elsewhere.²²

²¹ <https://www.npr.org/2021/05/22/999345393/the-growing-power-of-the-aapi-vote-by-the-numbers>

²² See, for example, the further analysis of TargetSmart: <https://insights.targetsmart.com/the-unprecedented-impact-of-the-aapi-vote-on-the-2020-election.htm>

PART II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY



Photo by picjumbo.com. Pexels.com

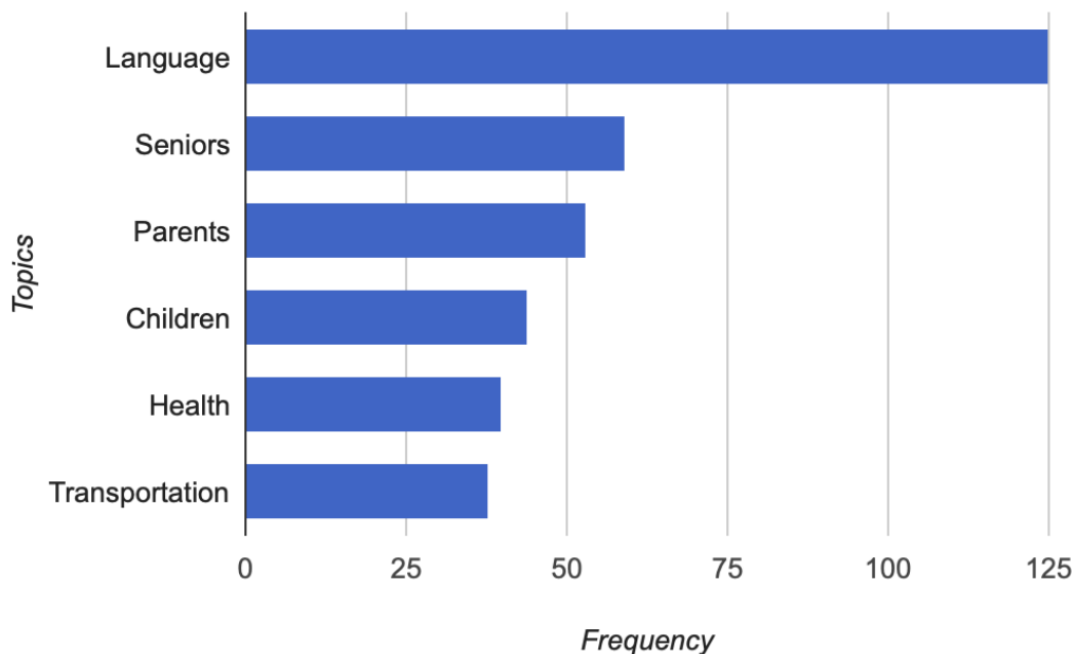
Introduction

The following section is based on interviews with 32 individuals with knowledge and/or expertise on specific segments of the AAPI community in Westchester (as described above in Methodology). We also incorporated related insights from emails and conversations with AAAB members and other Asian Americans living in Westchester County.

Topics and Topic Frequencies

Based on a content analysis of the interviews, the following topics came up most frequently (Graph 15). Some of these (language, health and transportation) refer to specific areas of issues or concerns; others (seniors, parents, children) refer to specific populations of concern to the interviewees. Discussion of these issues is taken up in detail below.

Graph 15. Topic Frequencies from Interviews



Language Issues

Contexts: Language is a problem primarily—but not exclusively—for seniors who came to this country as adults and who did not learn English in school. It is also a problem for their adult children whose parents live with them in multigenerational households and who are caught between the responsibilities for raising children and taking care of elderly parents (often called “the sandwich generation”). The lack of English proficiency of those elderly parents, some of whom came here to help with the children, makes them dependent on their adult children for transportation. Lacking access to transportation for shopping and

meeting with friends, they are stuck in the house and isolated, both socially and culturally. It is particularly challenging for households where all adult children are working and cannot take time off to drive their parents other than to necessary medical appointments.

Language is also a problem for newly arrived immigrants and for undocumented immigrants. Even for adults who have been in this country for a substantial number of years, accents can make it difficult to be understood; and they can create issues of confidence in speaking up and speaking out.

Language was also described as a problem for an indeterminate number of Indian women who come to this country from small Indian villages or rural areas. Although their households may be affluent, they themselves are not well educated and do not speak English. They lack independent means and are isolated at home. According to one source, their passports are taken away, and they are reportedly abused by in-laws. They also do not all speak the same Indian language. Due to their lack of English proficiency, their job opportunities are also limited. Similar problems are reported for Indian household help and caregivers.

Specific Issues

- Language was described by multiple sources as a barrier in communicating with medical practitioners. The lack of a common culture also creates a barrier in reaching a comfort level necessary to ask questions or speak openly about personal symptoms.
- Language is a problem for people who need help reporting problems to the police and who lack friends or children to help with translation. It is a problem for the same people with legal issues and Social Security or Medicare issues. Court translators are described as prohibitively expensive for some.
- Language was described as a problem by one Korean businessman, who was unable to apply for COVID-19 related grants due to language difficulties.²³
- Language creates problems of fear and lack of trust in service providers who do not speak their native language. They also fear going to hearings. Some elderly people fear that they will be sent away.

²³ A study by the [Asian American Federation](#) confirms that lack of in-language support was a major barrier for Asian-owned businesses accessing COVID-relief funds in New York City.

- Language was a problem with COVID vaccinations at buildings occupied by Korean seniors in Mt. Vernon and Yonkers. The tenants lacked access to electronics, cell phones or internet services and were unable to sign up for vaccinations. They called management, asking how to sign up for vaccinations. Management worked with the Office of Aging in Yonkers and was able to get included in a pilot program of door to door vaccinations, which was later used as a pilot for door to door vaccinations for vulnerable populations.

They conducted a program with a company that gave free internet usage and a free laptop for certain zip codes. They wanted to have Zoom meetings for tenants to introduce them to the technology. “They even got someone Korean to help set them up, but the classes were in English so they couldn’t take advantage of free internet and laptop for a year.”

In this same group of buildings, communication and the lack of Korean translators is an ongoing problem. One of the supers speaks Korean and is called in to translate on occasion (but he is not always available). Management tries to involve family members, but they are often working or in a different state. The Korean tenants go to a daycare center in Flushing (with transportation provided by the day care center). Their case managers at the day care center, who speak Korean, are helpful with communication and can provide documents when needed.

According to the building’s manager,

“the problems of communication cannot be resolved by trying to teach 80+ year-olds English.”

She is learning a bit of Korean, but suggests it would be helpful if there were a phone number to call to help with translation.

- Because the 2020 US Census revealed that the Asian population in Westchester had reached a critical level, the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) now requires that The Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Yonkers (MHACY), which owns or manages 18 properties comprised of 26 buildings with over 1,700 housing units and administers nearly 5,000 Section 8 vouchers, translate its housing applications into one Asian language (in addition to Spanish).²⁴ After consulting with a number of local nonprofit agencies and organizations, they chose Korean. MHACY is now in the process of creating a Language Access Plan (LAP) for Limited English Proficient Persons for the City of Yonkers. The LAP is required to list agencies that MHACY will utilize to provide language resources for Spanish and Korean-speaking people on the waitlist for housing. MHACY is currently seeking groups and/or agencies that can support this purpose.

²⁴ I am grateful to Wilson Kimball, the President & CEO of the Municipal Housing Authority of the City of Yonkers, for bringing this to my attention and for introducing me to Denise Wesley, the Compliance Monitor for MHACY, who has been helpful with additional information.

- Internet service providers are described as failing to treat people who don't speak English well with due respect.

Insights for Action

Health

Participants recommended:

- language services in doctors' offices
- health drives specifically designed for Asian community
- more mental health services in different languages
- language specialists for speech or physical therapy who are able to communicate in Asian languages
- help with language translation in hospitals
- *"Instead of trying to provide culturally appropriate clinics and practitioners within the County, it would be good to have a linkage to practitioners in the boroughs. Even providing medical transportation would be less costly than trying to make up for the lack of providers in the County."*
- For practitioners with senior populations—Reach out to their caregivers, who are usually their children by working through a trusted source in their community—e.g. a religious leader whom they trust and respect.
- Programs to educate seniors about healthy living.
"We used to have those programs many years ago, programs were cut due to funding cuts. VNS used to come once a month to educate them, take blood pressure, educate them." (in re. Asian tenants in senior buildings, described below).
- Acupuncture clinics.
- Restore funding cuts to health care education.
- Reminders of upcoming medical services.
- Explanations of benefits--e.g., Medicare options.

Education and Information

Participants recommended:

- more information and guidance on how to use local resources—e.g. library system
- after school programs
- books in other languages in the libraries
- classes in American culture/American life; e.g.

“How do you shop? How do you order takeout food? How do you tip? Where do you go for cleaning? How to navigate the DMV?”

- A phone line to help with translation
- citizenship tests in Asian languages
- flyers and bulletins for seniors in places they frequent, in multiple languages.
- a multilingual hotline.
- bilingual programs for children.

Issues for Seniors

Issues for seniors, as noted above, are not simply a problem for seniors. They are also a problem for the adult children of seniors who are charged with responsibilities for their aging parents. Seniors living on limited means and without friends or family members close by, have additional issues and challenges; many of them associated with language, as already described.

Issues described by interviewees include loneliness, lack of English, lack of transportation, lack of local facilities within walking distance, lack of social activity, dependence on adult children, finding doctors who speak their language, culturally appropriate care, affordable care, the absence of a sense of community and belonging.

Housing. Although interviewees mentioned housing less frequently than language, health and transportation, affordable, safe housing is described as the biggest challenge for seniors—including, but not limited to Asian seniors—by Mae Carpenter, the Commissioner of the County’s Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS). Risky housing situations, including buildings with steps are also a problem.

DSPS is currently doing a housing survey and will be holding community meetings to present the findings.

One of the specific issues raised by representatives of the Indian community in relation to senior housing is the absence of culturally appropriate food choices—specifically, vegetarian food for Hindus, who do not eat meat. Even when there are so-called “vegetarian” options available, they do not correspond to foods that Indians actually eat; and the absence of these food choices is seen as a severe limiting factor on available housing choices. One interviewee noted that there are facilities in New Jersey which do offer culturally appropriate food. However, adult children in Westchester do not want to send their children away to New Jersey. The same issue applies to food in nursing homes and hospitals.

For those not in dire straits, there is often a stigma attached to the idea of public housing, dependence on public services; and—for both seniors and their adult children—the shame of not being able or willing to adequately provide solutions to the needs of one’s elderly parents by themselves. Elderly parents also see dependence on public assistance as a sign of weakness and the source of loss of “face” or status in relation to the family and the community. Mental health issues may also be perceived as a sign of weakness, as are genetic disabilities or autism.

Social and Cultural Issues. The need for a meeting place where people--especially seniors--can mingle with others with similar cultural and food habits was mentioned by several informants; some suggesting a multiethnic facility, others for a specific subgroup (e.g. Indian and/or Hindu). Transportation to and from such a facility was cited as a problem, along with language and the diverse cultures of Asian subgroups.

Insights for Action

Participants recommended:

- More informational outreach to local AAPI communities about services available for seniors; including information about Medicare and Medicaid, SNAP program, elderly law, Social Security benefits, tax assistance for low income seniors.
- Multilingual flyers about services, events.
- County funding for space to hold activities and funding for transportation to and from senior centers.
- A purpose-built community center to serve the social and cultural needs of specific ethnic subgroups and offer food choices consistent with cultural heritage.
- Continuation of pandemic-initiated senior citizens' hours at grocery stores and libraries.
- Exercise programs, including outdoor exercising; as well as community gardens and arts and crafts programs.

Issues of Parents and Children

Issues pertaining to parents and children have been combined because they so frequently occur together. The issues of adult children of aging parents and parents of school age children have been separated below. Specific contexts and issues include:

Adult Children of Aging Parents

Considerable overlap occurs between challenges pertaining to seniors and those pertaining to elderly parents.

- Interviewees often cited their own personal experience in caring for elderly parents; including lack of time to help them with non-critical transportation needs, as well as the psychological stresses of feeling that they are failing to live up to family and cultural expectations that place a strong emphasis on honoring the elderly.
- Adult children of elderly parents have increasing demands on their time to drive parents to Flushing for medical attention as parents age.

- Limited opportunities exist for multigenerational housing, which offers some degree of independence for elderly parents.

Parents of Young Children and Teenagers

- Families with two working parents struggle with meeting child care responsibilities and care for aging parents. They are in need of affordable, quality child care (preferably, but not necessarily, bilingual). They are also in need of after school programs offered at the schools.
- Parents struggle with understanding the needs of their own children, particularly teenagers; who share a very different cultural environment at school than what they experience at home.
- Parents of children with autism are in need of support groups.
- There are also needs for services with children with special needs, especially where there is a language barrier for the parents.
- Parents have difficulty integrating the cultural heritage of their country of origin with American culture and transmitting elements of cultural heritage on to children. Food is often cited as a bridge.²⁵

Children in Public Schools

Although issues related to school curriculum and schools more generally are more properly the domain of NY State, not the County, parents expressed concerns about schools.

- The absence of Asian American history in schools was described by multiple interviewees, one of whom said “In social or history class, stories are usually narrated from western colonists’ perspective, using lots of ‘we and they’.”
- In AP reading/writing class on races and genders, most of the white students had little idea about the pain and struggles that other groups of people have to go through.
- Another interviewee said

²⁵ Asian American participants at a recent [Town Hall](#) offered at the Greenburgh Public Library, titled “Visibility, Invisibility and Belonging for Asian Americans in Greenburgh” lovingly described introducing their children to favorite foods from their origin country as a way of transmitting cultural heritage. Recent memoirs by Asian Americans, such as *Crying at H-Mart* by Michelle Zauner also describe the importance of food in retaining her mother’s memory.

“Our education system is Eurocentric. When I went to school I took Latin for 9 years. I learned about Zeus. There are other cultural traditions, and we don’t learn any of them. We learn things through that one lens. Does that mean that those traditions are not as important? The Chinese Exclusion Act, how Asians benefited from the Civil Rights Movement. If people don’t know those stories, they can’t appreciate it. And we should talk about these things all year round, not just on holidays.”

- Another source made the point that what is at stake here is not the history of particularly Asian countries, but *Asian American* history.

“The roles that Asian Americans have played in the history of the USA, the challenges they have faced, their contributions to American culture” etc.

- Younger children, particularly in schools where they constitute a small minority in a sea of white faces, have identity issues.

“As they grow, in 3rd or 4th grade, they start to realize they look different, their family is different, they have different customs and traditions.”

Children notice Asian children eating different lunches.

- On some occasions, they do run into verbal discrimination and microaggressions. For example, during the pandemic, in one of the Zoom classes, students made jokes about the Chinese virus.

“In my daughter’s case, on multiple occasions, her peers made jokes about ‘Chinese eyes.’ They see the news about violent attacks against Asians, and they are scared and confused...They say, ‘we were born here, we grew up here, why are we not as American as the others?’”

Insights for Action

- Cultural diversity should be introduced to children at a younger age (to offset children making fun of other children for their different appearances or different school lunches).
- There should be more celebrations of Asian holidays, and not just on Chinese New Year. In New Jersey (which has a much larger Asian population), Diwali (the biggest holiday in the Indian community) is a school holiday.

“Even if Diwali is not a school holiday in Westchester, it ought to be recognized, and students should be allowed to be excused from testing on Diwali.”

- Asian American history should be an integral part of the high school history curriculum and should include the challenges faced by Asian American immigrants as well as the contributions to this country made by Asian Americans.²⁶
- Explicit cultural diversity education should be introduced in middle school or high school. The D.A.R.E. curriculum could focus more on cultural diversity. Diversity education should be provided for adults as well.
- Book reading lists provided by schools could include some literature from other cultures.
- Bilingual day care for parents who want their children to learn a second language.
- After school care, especially at reduced cost.
- Mental health services in the schools.

Transportation Issues

Specific Contexts. Transportation is cited as an issue for socializing with people who share one’s language and culture, for access to medical providers, access to senior centers, and access to grocery stores, pharmacies, etc. The geographic dispersion of the AAPI population makes transportation more of a problem; as do the limited routes of public transportation. Depression is linked to a lack of community identity, which is exacerbated by the lack of convenient transportation.

“If you live in Ardsley or Somers, and there is a community group at the County Center, people might be interested but don’t have transportation,”

said one respondent. And another,

“How is a client in Yonkers going to get to our facility in Hawthorne?”

The high cost of transportation (e.g. Uber) is another issue. Even Metro North is expensive for some.

²⁶ In 2022, [Connecticut](#) became the first state to mandate--and fund--the teaching of Asian American history in public schools. The requirement will take effect in 2025. [Illinois](#), in 2021, became the first state to require the inclusion of Asian American history in public schools. However, its implementation remains to be determined.

Hate Incidents and Discrimination

People report a variety of hate incidents and discrimination in different contexts. Not all of these incidents took place recently, but they left psychic scars. Underlying a number of these incidents, and exacerbated by the Covid epidemic, is a sense of deep-seated insecurity about whether they truly “belong” as full-fledged members of the community.²⁷

Contexts:

Schools

- *“My son was interrogated by two detectives in an interrogation room without my presence for a ridiculous allegation that he was preparing for a massive killing at school. Then, my house was searched by the detectives “for weapons.” He was in the 6th grade. The interrogation approach would have been their well-designed strategy to get any “confessions” of criminal acts. They seem to have pressed him a lot in the interrogation room. But my 12-year-old boy was brave enough not to admit anything he didn’t do.*

The saddest part was that the school automatically assumed my son would be a crazy criminal when they got a call from a female student’s mother and simply passed the case to the police. If I were the school principal, I would’ve checked the record of my son (an honor-roll student without absolutely no history of delinquencies) and sent someone to my family to see if everything was OK.

Overall, Westchester County is a very safe place. I never thought our everyday life is in danger.”

- In another incident (in Putnam County), the informant’s son faced teasing in the cafeteria.

“One of the girls said, ‘You have dumpling breath. Have you been eating dumplings this morning?’ He said that the cafeteria monitors ignore the harassment and spend their time ‘just talking to one another.’ He was also harassed on the bus, where some of the kids are rowdy, and he got teased for being so gentle. The harassment by girls in middle school reached a point where he came home crying every day.”

²⁷ I am borrowing an apt expression from Stephanie Foo, *What My Bones Know: A Memoir of Healing from Complex Trauma*. New York, Ballantine Books, 2022.

The parents saw the guidance counselor, who said he was too overwhelmed because he has too many kids to deal with. They eventually took their son out of public school and sent him to a private school.

Birthday Party

“We were at a friend’s birthday party (my husband is Caucasian), my youngest was 4 and my eldest was 6. The friends are Puerto Rican, mixed group, some Latinx, me, the children, a number of Caucasian families. As they were playing in the tree house, one of the Caucasian girls said, ‘don’t let the Chinese kids in.’ There was another mom there, Caucasian, who stood up for my kids...happy to see the allyship.”

Senior Buildings

“There was violence against one of my tenants at the bus stop near our property. At 6 am the man was waiting for a bus, and somebody punched him. I called the police commissioner; they took it very seriously. The tenant didn’t tell us; he didn’t want to create a problem. It was his daughter who said he should bring it to our attention. I had to call the police. I thought it was our responsibility. The daughter agreed with me. I called the police commissioner; they came and took it very seriously.”

Another issue (as noted above) is that some tenants in the same senior buildings are upset because management is renting apartments to Asians.

“They say, ‘Where are those people coming from?’”

They have even complained to Mount Vernon city officials. Management points out that their housing is HUD-subsidized. Anyone who meets the requirements can get on the waiting list, and when their number comes up they are eligible to be interviewed.

Public Spaces

A younger woman says,

“I have experienced microaggressive behaviors on multiple occasions. One of the worst was when a tourist came into our community. He started going off, wanting to engage in conversation, I didn’t realize he was trying to lead me into a trap. He ultimately started screaming the N word at me over and over again. One of my AA friends, she’s dark-skinned, someone threw a drink on her right out of the car. We are getting attacked...it’s

still intimidating to see people feeling like they can just come up to me and say what they want.”

Insights for Action

In addition to the suggestions mentioned earlier, one informant suggested there be more police presence outside Asian businesses.

Multiple sources mentioned coalition building between Blacks and Asians as a way of creating a cultural climate hospitable to everyone in Westchester.

Resources and Solutions.

The following resources and solutions were mentioned by interviewees. Not all of them are located in the County, and some are more in the nature of workarounds to address problems for which people have not found other solutions.

Language

Health

- In Hartsdale a primary care provider, Dr. Maki Kano-Lueckerath, affiliated with Mt. Sinai and associated with a Japanese insurance company, provides care for the Japanese expatriate community. They have an all-Japanese staff. 80% of the patients are Japanese and get their care in Japanese.
- People report traveling to Flushing for doctors because they can't find doctors who speak their primary language or with whom they feel comfortable culturally.
- Some elderly Japanese people are reported to sell their homes and move back to Japan when they retire, due to more of a sense of support, ease of communication in their primary language, and lower health costs in Japan. This is true even when their children stay here.
- [Open Door Family Medical Centers](#) provide affordable health care in multiple locations in Westchester and Putnam Counties and meet the clinical needs of Asian Americans, including affluent AAPI who value the availability of a Chinese American Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Daren Wu.

- DSPS contracts with nonprofits, including Legal Services of the Hudson Valley ([LSHV](#)) to write health care proxies. LSHV's website offers translation to Spanish, but not to Asian languages.

Social Activities

- Churches and weekend schools offer opportunities for people to gather, speak a common language, meet and make friends. Chinese weekend schools, such as HX NYC, for example, offer classes from K to 9th grade, with classes in language and culture.

County Services:

- The Westchester County [Department of Senior Programs and Services](#) says that they are able to communicate in the primary language of residents. They have a diverse staff and hotlines and take a holistic approach. Their web page has a dropdown menu which translates into multiple languages.
- The [Westchester County District Attorney's](#) office is said to provide critical language support and to send some flyers in different languages. However, their web page is in English; and while it has a dropdown menu showing many different languages, none of the choices appear to be operative.

Seniors

- [The India Center of Westchester](#), located in Hawthorne, offers programs for Indian seniors, including classes, social activities and events; but their facilities are limited. During the pandemic, the India Center offered Zoom activities, tech help with Zoom, painting, food carving, crochet, painting and embroidery.
- The Evergreen Club of Greenburgh is an Asian American Club that offers Tai Chi, a singing group, dancing, English instruction and other services. It partners with the RSVP retired and senior volunteer program of [Volunteer New York](#) and receives funding from RSVP based on the number of hours that volunteers work at the Center. The number of volunteers in turn counts toward RSVP grants. The Evergreen Club conducts a variety of programs, including celebrations (e.g., for Chinese New Year). RSVP is funded by grants from AmeriCorps Seniors as well as other sources, including some funding from Westchester County.
- A number of municipalities within the County have senior centers which offer a variety of services for seniors, in which Asian Americans are welcome to participate, although language and cultural unfamiliarity may present barriers for some. For example, the [Fox](#)

[Center](#) in Mount Kisco, although not multilingual, provides activities such as dancing, tai chi, exercise classes, for local seniors; including a few Chinese-speaking seniors. One interviewee's mother, who is 80 years old, goes 4 days a week, although she barely speaks English.

- Municipal libraries are also described as wonderful resources for people who take advantage of what they have to offer.
- Five buildings of HUD-subsidized (Section 8) housing in Westchester, operated by Speiser Dabran Management Co., currently provide housing for 988 tenants, of whom 384 (39% are Asian). One of their buildings, St. Casimir in Yonkers, is 76% Asian, out of a total of 364 tenants. The buildings are operated under the Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8), which provides assistance to eligible low- and moderate-income families to rent housing in the private market. The program acts as a rental subsidy, allowing people to pay a reasonable amount of their income toward their rent. Individuals or families receive a voucher and conduct their own search for available housing. They generally pay no more than 40% of their adjusted monthly income toward their rent. The buildings offer independent living for residents aged 62+, although most of the tenants are 80+ years. Anyone who meets the program requirements can apply and get on the waiting list for an interview. Over the years, through word of mouth, Korean Americans have learned about the buildings and are applying in increasing numbers.
- As previously noted, The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) owns and manages 1700 units of HUD-subsidized in 26 buildings and 18 sites in Yonkers and other locations, many of them occupied by seniors. Their average income is \$21,000.
- Prior to the pandemic the Commissioner of DSPS was doing regular presentations at the County Center, and a large group of Asian Americans participated in the senior talent show. Events at county parks and at Law Day have also attracted members of the AAPI community. Outreach efforts through trusted leaders in the AAPI community have been helpful. The County also offers Heritage Festivals at Kensico Dam Plaza, including the 2022 Asian Heritage Festival and the Indian Heritage Festival. DSPS publishes a quarterly newsletter, "Living the Later Years," which currently goes out to 130,000 senior households in English and Spanish.

DSPS also does referrals to [Feeding Westchester](#), which has social workers who can meet with seniors in their homes and provide help with SNAP applications. Feeding Westchester's website is translatable into Portuguese, French and Spanish, but no Asian languages.

DSPS also collaborated in the vaccination of 78 Korean seniors in Yonkers in a one-day event, utilizing two Korean speaking translators, in collaboration with a social adult program called Living Young.

Parents and Children

- Grandparents often provide help for adult children, by picking them up from school, babysitting, and providing intergenerational links to the culture of origin.
- In Hartsdale, Asian parents come together with the PTA to raise awareness, especially in AAPI month. They bring the community together, educate the rest of the community on cultural heritage and help to create a “*wonderful, inclusive environment.*”
- The OCA Reading Room and the India Center of Westchester supported a program of podcasts, called “[One Voices.](#)” created by Alice Lee and a group of AAPI teenagers in the Westchester public schools; which took up issues including “dating and navigating relationships,” “what it means to be an American,” “gaps in our history curriculum,” “shit we hear all the time,” as well as gender identity and mental health issues. Alice Lee is also the founder <https://www.thebittermelon.org>, which is developing programs for Asian teenagers and advocates for AAPI children, teens and families.
- [OCA Westchester and Hudson Valley](#) is an advocacy organization whose mission is to advance the social, political and economic status of Asian Pacific Americans in Westchester and the Hudson Valley and nationwide. In addition to initiatives at all levels of government, OCA offers the OCA Reading Program, opportunities for volunteering (e.g. with the Food Bank at Slater Center), and mentoring workshops for AAPI professionals. In June of 2022, in conjunction with Westchester County, OCA organized the 2022 Asian American Heritage Festival at Kensico Dam Plaza.

Transportation

- The free Bee-Line bus service (which includes [Bee-line Para Transit](#) for people with disabilities) this summer was welcomed and appreciated by women who were able to visit friends located elsewhere in the county. “I’ve seen people going on buses, going back and forth to visit friends, going to get papers, etc. All because the buses are free.”
- Some municipalities (Chappaqua was mentioned) offer free or subsidized local transportation services for seniors.

Hate Incidents and Discrimination

- Westchester County’s new [Human Rights Law](#), passed on May 31, 2022, prohibits discrimination against 16 protected categories. Information sheets are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Korean. The web page is translatable into many different languages. Information on the new law was distributed in different

languages and in multiple locations, including the Asian Heritage Festival at Kensico Dam Plaza.

- In the beginning of 2020, after the first confirmed cases of Covid in Westchester, the Westchester County Human Rights Commissioner, Tejash Sanchala, spoke with community leaders about racism and xenophobia toward the Asian American community. To decrease hate incidents and discrimination during the pandemic, the County’s Human Rights Commission created a flyer that said “Viruses don’t discriminate. Neither do we,” which they translated into multiple languages and posted online and in multiple locations. They also conducted bystander intervention workshops, including one at the Asian Heritage Festival in June of 2022. They did a program with the Greenburgh Library, created a web page for reporting issues of hate and harassment and went to community gatherings in various communities to talk with people about the issues. They also conducted a solidarity building workshop between the Asian American and the African American communities.²⁸ [Westchester County’s Human Rights Commission](#) web page is translatable into many different languages.

Levels of Service Utilization

Interviewees were also asked to rate, on a scale of 1 to 5, a variety of services provided by the County by their levels of utilization by Asian Americans in their community; with 5 being the most utilization and 1 being the least.²⁹ Based on the number of responses to each question, the rankings of levels of utilization were as follows:

Service	Rating
Schools	4.9
After School Programs	3.9
Child Care	3.5
Senior Citizens’ Services	3.4
Health Clinics	3.3
Immigrant Support Services	3.1
Language Services	3.0

²⁸ Asian Americans have long been held up as a “model minority” and used for political purposes, to divide minority populations and to create and perpetuate racism. and disparage Black or African Americans. See Ellen Wu’s discussion of this issue in *The Color of Success* (ibid).

²⁹ The service may not be provided directly by the County. It may be provided by nonprofit agencies and organizations which receive support or subsidies from the County or a public service provided within the County.

Legal Services	2.7
Housing Assistance	2.6
Food Assistance	2.4
Other (Transportation was mentioned by three respondents.)	

Problems and Challenges

In response to the question, “In your opinion, what are the biggest challenges or problems facing the AAPI community in Westchester,” the topics that came up most frequently were:

Community—including need for connection with, more representation for, more integration within (geographical and racial/ethnic fragmentation), treated like outsiders within, and lack of community centers.

Hate—including anti-Asian hate, hate crimes, verbal discrimination and microaggressions, especially towards children

Tied for 3rd place were:

Fear—including fears about safety, about going out in larger crowds (e.g., to festivals), and fear about things going on in the U.S. right now.

Transportation

Business—Including lack of programs for small business within the County, need to patronize, challenges of English for small business owners who came here as adults and loss of income and assets due to the pandemic (forced to close business and unable to sell).

Barriers to Utilization

When asked, “What are the barriers that would be most likely to prevent Asian Americans in your community from making use of services or programs that are publicly available to meet their needs?” the three most frequently cited barriers were:

- Language
- Transportation
- Lack of awareness

Covid Impacts

Interviewees were also asked whether they thought that the pandemic had had an impact on the AAPI community in Westchester; and, if so, in what ways. People cited a variety of impacts, mostly negative, but a few positive.

The positive impacts described members of the community getting closer to their families as well as becoming more social; “realizing they have to come out and meet more people.” Zoom meetings were cited as a positive factor in bringing people together.

Negative impacts included:

- An increase in domestic violence and abuse.

“Women and children were stuck with their abusers, not able to get out, not able to get to shelters. They don’t know how to ask for help.”

- The previous President *“was really damaging to the Asian community....The pandemic exposed a lot of prejudice and racism that previously existed, but made it worse with the perception that Covid originated in China.”*
- Some groups of Asians, particularly older populations became further isolated because of fear of getting sick and/or fear of being attacked. People were unable to get out and talk. They also developed fear of large gatherings.
- Loss of business; inability to pay rent on business space due to lack of business.
- Loss of jobs for restaurant workers, cab drivers, construction workers, undocumented immigrants.
- A significant increase in violent crimes against Asians., leading to concerns about safety.

- Difficulty for Asians to go back and forth between US and country of origin to visit family, due to border controls and strict quarantines by Asian countries.

“The shutdown of China has had big effects on people and families. Most Chinese have not gone home.”

- Children and parents suffered from being in the house for a long period of time.

“My kids tended to play computer games, lost interest in sports and reading, lost interest in being social. As working parents we didn’t get much help, we had to find resources by ourselves.”

- Mental health issues rising out of extreme isolation, as well as the other stresses here described.

Needs for the County to Address

Items that came up most frequently as unmet needs or areas that the County could improve upon (excluding needs specifically for seniors) are:

Transportation--including medical transportation (e.g., to clinics), transportation to community centers (to overcome social and cultural isolation), personalized transportation.

Education--including cultural sensitivity education, education for WC residents about Asian holidays and Asian contributions, health education, after school education.

Information--including information about services and programs (including insurance, Medicare, mental health services...), information in multiple languages, informational sessions with organizations (including nonprofits) and community officials, a centralized information hotline.

Community Center(s)--accessible, free or subsidized, for people to socialize, more county funding for, land to build on, offering Indian vegetarian food, meet the needs of new immigrants, bring together groups from different Asian ethnic subcommunities, cultural events, build sense of community and belonging.

Mental Health--culturally appropriate mental health services, more communication about, support in multiple languages, web pages, email blasts,

PART III. COMMUNITY ISSUES SURVEY



Photo of Dr. Lilian Wu (on left), AAAB member, assisting seniors with the survey at Evergreen Club of Greenburgh. Photo by Nandini Anandu

SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Summary

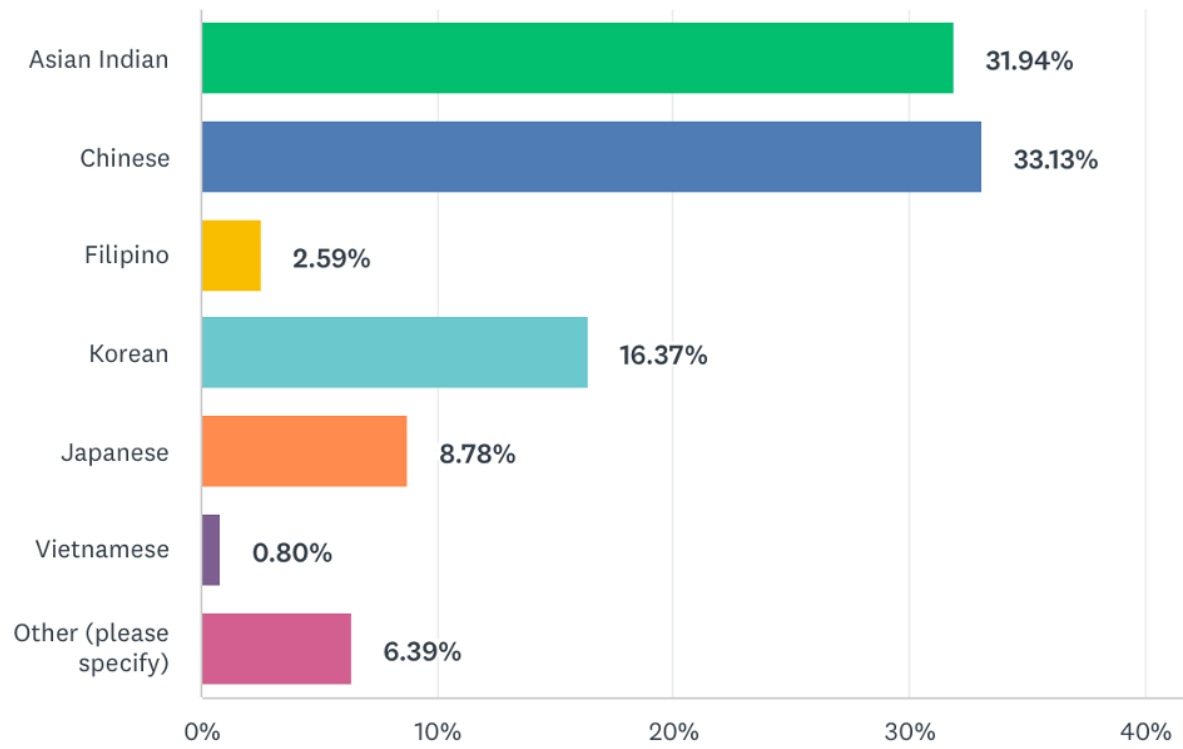
The majority of participants are Chinese (33%) and Asian Indian (32%), along with substantial numbers of Koreans (16%) and Japanese (9%). They are predominantly married (82%), mostly female (67%), highly educated, full time working professionals. By age, the largest category are ages 45-54 (33%). Almost one in four (24%) are aged 65+.

Survey Findings

Race/Ethnicity

Of the 501 participants who answered the question on race/ethnicity, 166 identified themselves as Chinese, 160 as Asian Indians, 82 as Korean, 44 as Japanese, 13 as Filipino, 4 as Vietnamese, and 32 as Other.³⁰

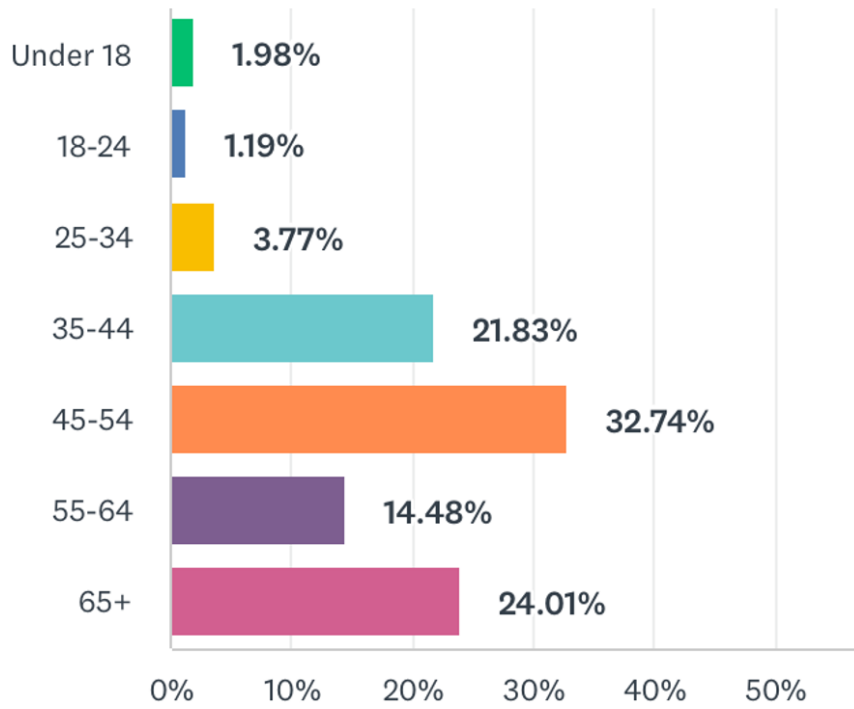
³⁰ The "Other" responses included Taiwanese (9), Pakistani (5), Thai (2), Pakistani American, Mixed Pakistani/White, Thai- American, China, Chinese/Filipino, Chinese-American, Sri Lankan and Chinese, Mixed Asian, Nepali, Asian Nepalese, Malaysian Vietnamese, Pacific Islander, Bangladesh, Malay, Indian/Filipino



N= 501

Age Distribution

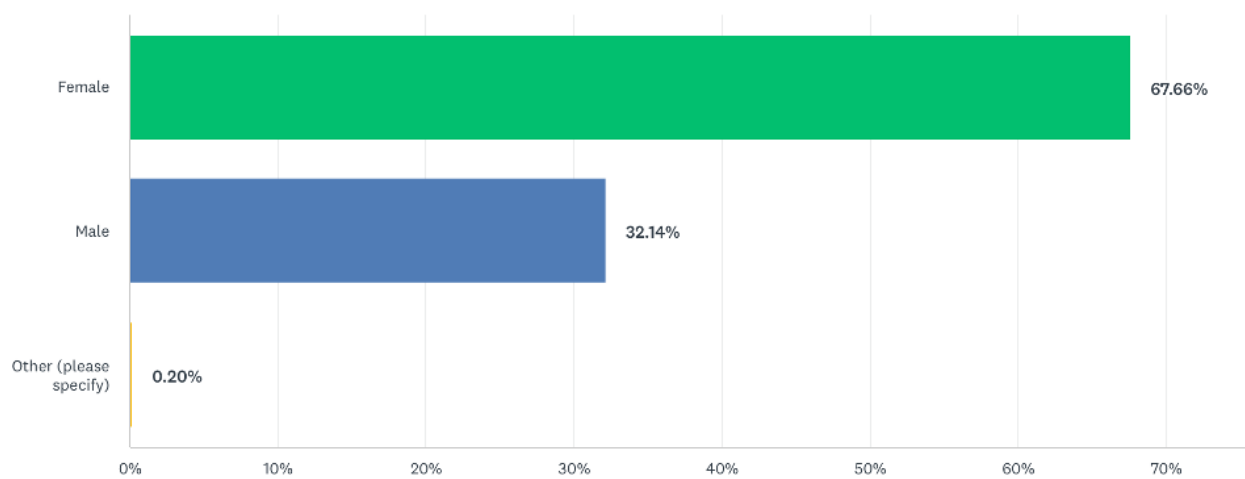
The largest age group category is age 55-64.



N= 504

Gender

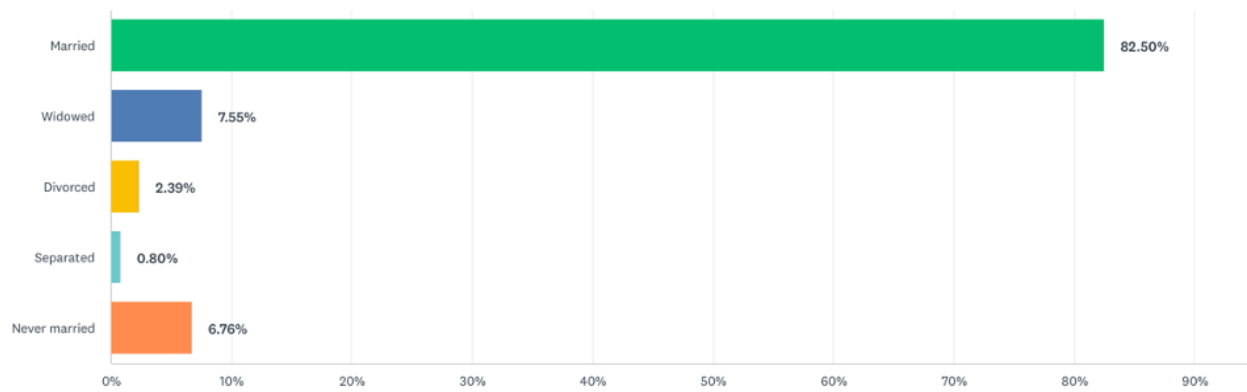
Two thirds of survey participants are female.



N= 501

Marital Status

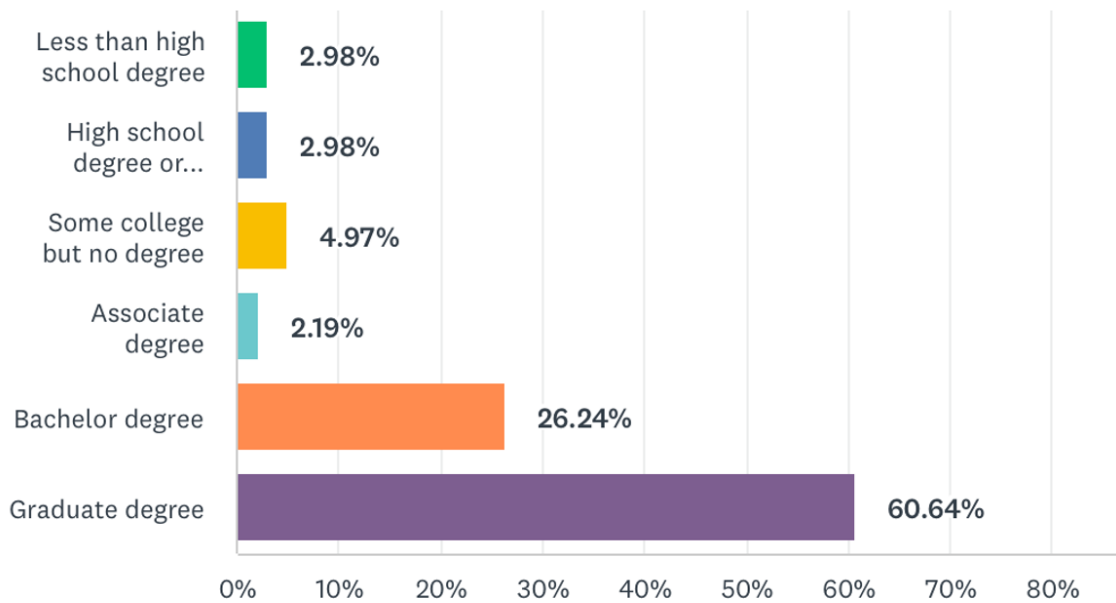
More than eight of ten participants are married.



N= 503

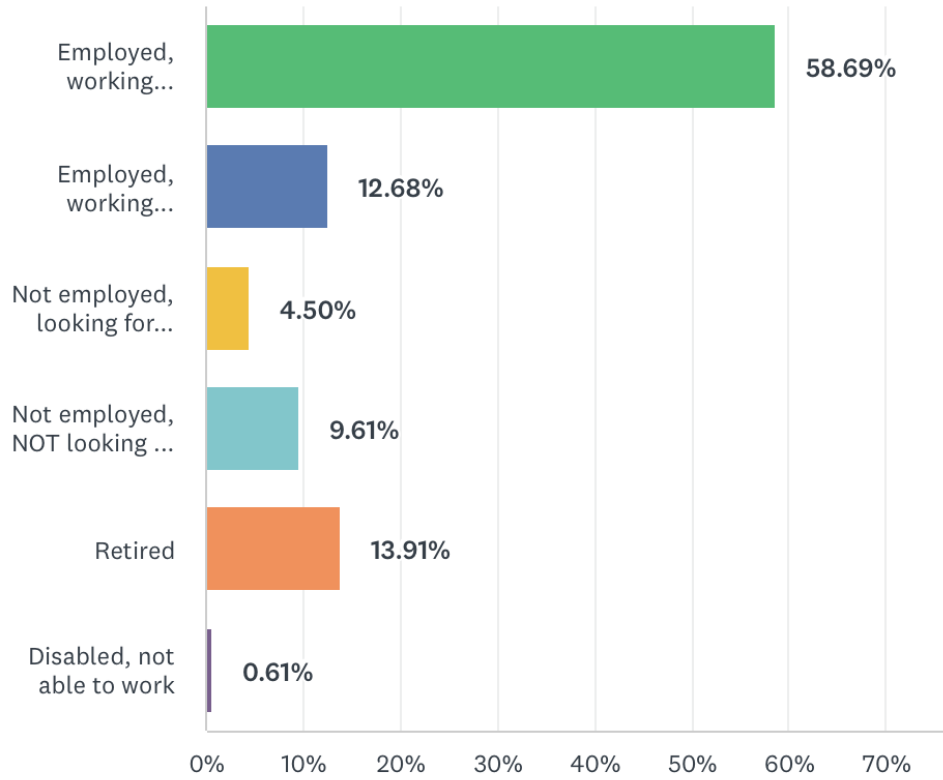
Education

Participants are a highly educated group. Six of ten have graduate degrees.

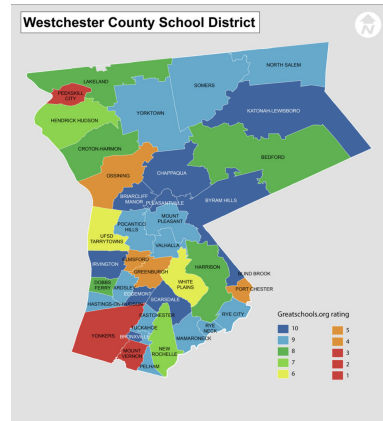


(N =503)

Employment Status



N= 489. Green= Employed, working full time; Blue= Employed, working part time



WESTCHESTER AS A LOCATION

Survey Findings

Reasons for coming to Westchester. People come to Westchester for a variety of reasons. As we have seen, Census data show that 23% of the Asian population (Asian alone) were born in NY State, and 68% were born abroad. Thus, **more than 2/3 of Westchester's Asian American population are first generation arrivals.** For survey participants, factors which brought them to Westchester, in order of importance, are:*

1. Good place to raise children. (4.42)*
2. Excellent public schools. (4.31)
3. Concerns about public safety. (4.26)
4. Less ethnic/racial discrimination or harassment. (4.01)
5. Better housing quality. (3.99)
6. Shorter commute to work. (3.74)
7. More affordable housing (3.21)

*Participants were asked: What brought you to Westchester County? Answers were rated on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the least important and 5 being the most important. Responses were weighted by percentages for each response to get the rankings above. N= 619.

Most Challenging Aspects of Life in Westchester. Survey respondents find the most challenging aspects of life in Westchester to be:*

1. High overall cost of living-75%
2. Lack of affordable housing-43%
3. Cultural isolation-38%
4. Inadequate public transportation-30%
5. High cost of food-29%
6. Racial/ethnic discrimination or harassment-27%
7. Increase in hate incidents-22%
8. Lack of programs or services in my native language-21%
9. Loneliness or personal isolation-18%
10. Lack of affordable health or mental health care-14%



*Respondents were asked "Here are some of the things that make life in Westchester difficult or challenging. Check all that apply." Rankings were based on frequencies of items checked. N= 581

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



September: Autumn Reflections, Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Photographer: Janet Antonacci, Ossining

Source: <https://www.westchestergov.com/mywestchester-photos>

Survey Findings

Utilization of Services. The five most frequently utilized publicly available services cited by respondents are:*

1. Parks-83%
1. Libraries-76%
2. Public schools-63%
3. Public transportation-42%
4. Summer recreation programs-34%
5. After school programs-28%



*Respondents were asked "I need and make use of the following, publicly available services in the following areas. Check all that apply." Rankings were based on frequencies of items checked. N=523. Other responses that met or exceeded the 10% level included: Adult education (15%), Senior citizens' services (e.g., food delivery, home care) (13%), Culinary arts, cooking or baking classes (12%), Career exploration (10%), Entrepreneurship (10%).

Lack of Access to Services. The five most frequently cited programs or services that respondents were unable to access are:*

1. Summer recreation programs-21%
2. After school programs-19%
3. Public transportation-18%
4. Senior Citizens' services-15%
5. Mental health services-13%



*Respondents were asked "What are the programs or services that you or your household were unable to access for any reason within the last 12 months? Check all that apply." Rankings were based on frequencies of items checked. N=231. This question drew a limited response, possibly because there are a variety of different reasons why participants might be unable to access services. The "Other" category was omitted from ranked items above. Other responses that met or exceeded the 10% level included: Financial assistance (12.1%), Job skills/employment training (12.1%), Libraries (11.7%), Parks (11.7%), Adult education (11.7%),

Barriers to Utilization of programs and services, ranked in order of importance, are:*

1. Lack of awareness of existing programs and their locations-73%.
2. Lack of culturally appropriate programs-63%
3. Lack of programs in local community-62%
4. Fear for safety in public places-51%
5. Lack of transportation to get to relevant programs-50%
6. Prohibitive program costs-47%
7. Stigma or negative stereotype attached to use of public services-44%
8. Lack of language assistance-39%

*Participants were asked “Which of the following barriers would be most important in preventing members of your community from making use of programs or services that are publicly available to meet their needs.” Respondents were asked to rate each item on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being Unimportant and 5 being Extremely Important. The percentages refer to respondents who ranked an item as either “very” or “extremely” important. N =517.

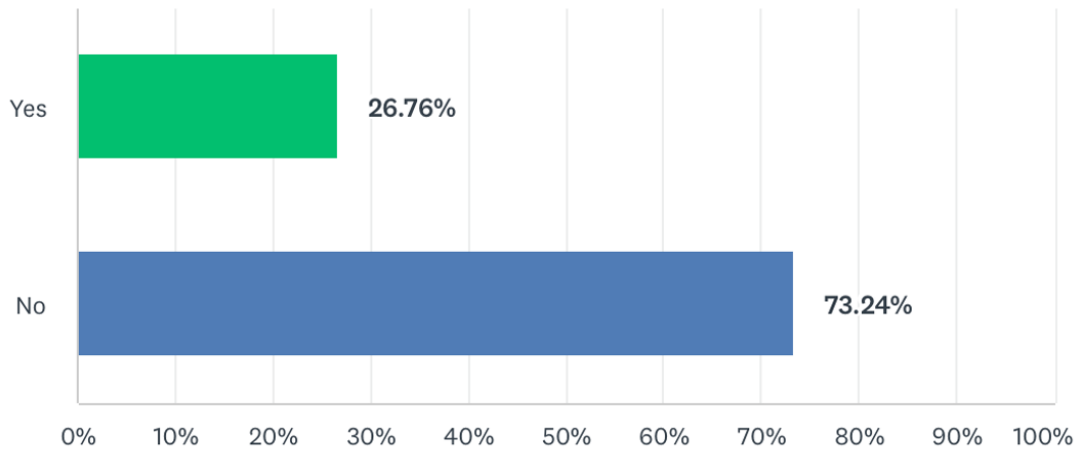
HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELL BEING



Photo by Andrea Picaquadio: <https://www.pexels.com>

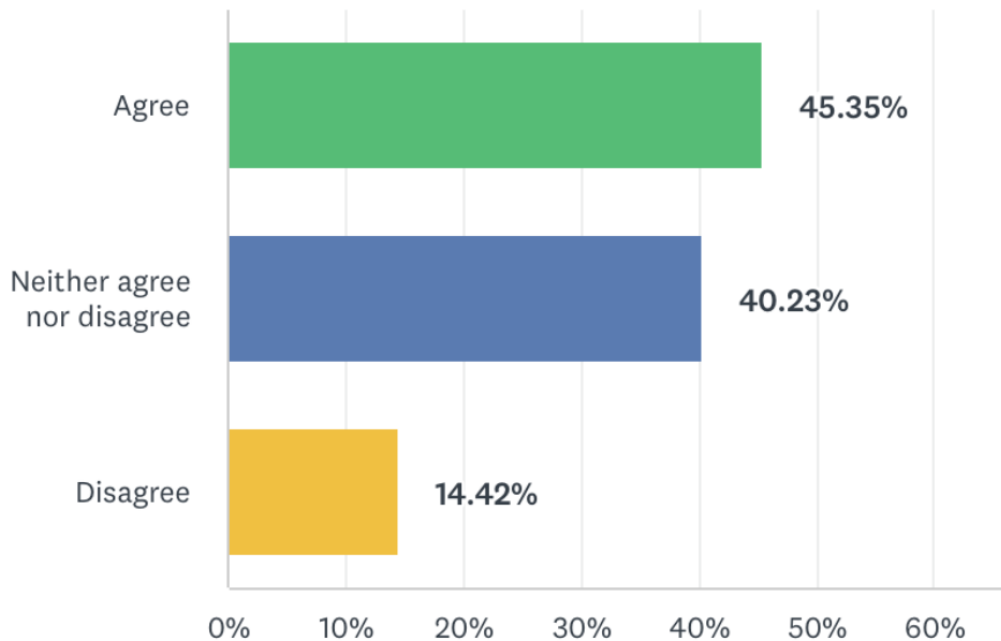
Survey Findings

Delay or lack of treatment: In the past year, more than out of four respondents have delayed or not sought medical care due to cost.*



*Percent who agreed with the statement, "In the past year, have you ever delayed or not sought medical or mental health care because of cost?" N= 512

Fairness of treatment: Less than half (45%) of respondents believe that "People of my race are treated fairly in a health care setting." Another 40% are neutral. N= 527.



Barriers to treatment: In an open-ended question which asked, "Is there anything else besides cost of treatment that might prevent you from seeking medical or mental health

care?" 119 people responded. The largest category of responses relates to **lack of access to qualified medical and mental health professionals.** (N= 24) Responses referred both to technical competence and also to cultural compatibility of practitioners.

Sample quotes:

Doctors don't really take the time or feel like they care about our health because we are a minority group. So, they jump to prescribe medicine before seeking the cause of the problem.

There's no mental health care available in Westchester County that specializes or understands the cultural dynamics of Asian Americans. Asian Americans can connect with mental health professionals that don't understand our cultural stigmas and taboos.

Other responses, in order of frequency, include:

- Difficulty of access or lack of availability (N= 15)
- Stigma (N = 12)
- Cost (N= 10)
- Language barriers (N = 8)
- Lack of time (N= 6)
- Insurance (N= 4)
- Lack of awareness (N= 3)
- Other (N= 7)

Barriers Specific to Mental Health: Nationally, it is known that Asian Americans are less likely than other ethnic and racial groups to seek treatment for mental health issues.³¹ The barriers to treatment described by the [National Alliance for Mental Illness](https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions/Asian-American-and-Pacific-Islander) (NAMI) include (not necessarily ranked in that order):

- Language barriers
- Limited availability of culturally appropriate providers
- Stigma and shame
- Concerns about cost
- Insufficient health insurance coverage
- Immigration status

³¹ See, e.g., <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions/Asian-American-and-Pacific-Islander>

Members of the Westchester Asian American population who responded to this survey cite similar factors in relation to both medical and mental health; in particular, the lack of availability and access to culturally appropriate and competent providers, stigma, cost, language barriers and insurance.

Another report, by the Asian American Federation, on [“Overcoming Challenges to Mental Health Services for Asian New Yorkers \(2017\)”](#) cites the following four major challenges to treatment:

“1) the lack of awareness and acceptance of mental health due to social stigma and a clash in values; 2) shortage of linguistically and culturally competent mental health practitioners and services; 3) lack of access to mental health care services in general, as there are few entry points beyond individualized therapy and the cost of services is a deterrent for those without health insurance; and 4) lack of research into the mental health needs of and service models that work best for the Asian community due to the absence of disaggregated data for Asian ethnicities and funders’ proposal criteria that oftentimes exclude integrated or alternative service models.”

Anxiety and Depression

Depression: Approximately **17%** of survey respondents reported at least one symptom of depression more than half or nearly all the days in the last two weeks. These symptoms included: feeling down, depressed or hopeless (8%); and/or having little or no pleasure in doing things (9%). These percentages are consistent with the lower end of symptoms reported for Asians in national mental health surveys conducted by the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which used the same questions and combined them into a composite indicator. Their percentages range from 16.5 to 35% for surveys conducted over a three year period from 2020 to 2022.³²

Anxiety: Approximately **9%** of survey respondents reported feeling fearful or anxious more than half or nearly all the days in the last two weeks. The CDC used a composite indicator which shows higher percentages of anxiety for Asians nationally (16-35%), but is not directly comparable to this indicator.

³² See <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/covid19/pulse/mental-health.htm>

Other Health Indicators. The Westchester Index shows health indicators by race/ethnicity for the period of 2016-2018 for racial and ethnic groups in Westchester. These are compiled from the NY State Department of Health and show the following:

	AAPI	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity: (per 1000 live births)	3.5	5.5	4.0	1.9	3.6

Infant mortality rates for the AAPI population in Westchester are higher than those for the White population, but lower than those for Blacks and Hispanics and close to the overall average.

	AAPI	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
Mortality Rate by Race/Ethnicity: (per 100,000 population)	265.8	611.0	381.0	542.5	531.4

Asian mortality rates in Westchester are substantially lower than those for other racial/ethnic groups and lower than the rate for the population as a whole. This may reflect differences in the underlying age distribution.

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	AAPI	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
Mortality Rate for Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease (per 100,000 population)	5.4	20.5	12.7	21.5	20.2

Asian Americans in Westchester are far less likely to die from chronic lower respiratory disease than other racial/ethnic groups and the population as a whole.

	AAPI	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
Diabetes Mortality, Age-Adjusted (per 100,000 population)	9.8	24.2	10.0	8.2	10.6

Asian Americans in Westchester are less likely to die from diabetes than the population as a whole, but more likely than the White population.

National Health Statistics: The [U.S. Office of Minority Health](#) reports that “Asian Americans contend with numerous factors which may threaten their health. Some negative factors are infrequent medical visits, language and cultural barriers, and lack of health insurance. Asian Americans are most at risk for the following health conditions: cancer, heart disease, stroke, unintentional injuries (accidents), and diabetes. Asian Americans also have a high prevalence of the following conditions and risk factors: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS, smoking, tuberculosis, and liver disease.”

Other Health Concerns: Nationally, In 2019, tuberculosis was 33 times more common among Asians, with an incidence rate of 16.7 as compared to 0.5 for the non-Hispanic white population.”

There are differences between Asian groups. For example, a recent study published in the American Journal of Public Health and cited by [Pfizer](#) showed that

“U.S. Filipinos had a higher prevalence of being obese or overweight, and having high blood pressure, diabetes, or asthma compared with non-Hispanic Whites.” And that “one of the highest risk groups for breast cancer is U.S.-born Vietnamese women, who are four times greater of dying of breast cancer than any other AAPI groups.”

Domestic Violence. A recently issued [report](#) by the US Department of Health and Human Services on usage of the national domestic violence hotline during the pandemic (March, 2019 to March, 2021) states that *“the number of contacts that identified with the Asian ethnicity group increased by 24 percent.”* This is all the more striking in that the report showed little change in total contact volume over the period. The report also states that *“Because of economic and other uncertainties surrounding the pandemic and shelter-in-place orders, victims may have been less likely to use crisis hotlines because their abusers were close by.”*

Suicide Rates. The Westchester Index shows that suicide rates for the AAPI population are higher than those for Blacks and Hispanics, lower than those for Whites, and slightly lower than those for the total population.

	AAPI	Black	Hispanic	White	Total
Suicide Rates by Race/Ethnicity (per 100,000 population)	6.6	4.5	3.3	8.8	6.8

A rate of 6.6 per 100,000 means that for a population of 65,000 there would be approximately 4+ suicides per year in the the Westchester AAPI population.

National Statistics on Suicide. Asian suicide rates nationally are less than half of those for the non-Hispanic White population (6.7 vs. 18.1);³³ whereas in Westchester, AAPI suicide rates are three quarters of the White population. The difference lies in the White suicide rates, which are much higher nationally than in Westchester (18.1 vs. 8.8); whereas the AAP suicide rates in Westchester are very similar to those nationally (6.6 vs. 6.7).

Also, on the national level,

- Suicide was the leading cause of death for Asian/Pacific Islanders, ages 15 to 24, in 2019.³⁴
- Asian American males, in grades 9-12, were 30 percent more likely to consider attempting suicide as compared to non-Hispanic white male students, in 2019.
- In 2018, Asians were 60 percent less likely to have received mental health treatment as compared to non-Hispanic whites.

Health Insurance. One useful measure of health insecurity which the Census provides is the % of people who have health insurance. For the civilian population in Westchester, 94.% have health insurance. For the Asian population, that figure is 96.3%.

³³ <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=54>

³⁴ <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=54#1>

National Statistics on Insurance. Nationally, insurance coverage varies among Asian American subgroups. In 2019, private insurance rates were:

65.7 percent for Cambodian, 78.8 percent for Filipino, 73.3 percent for Chinese, 62.0 percent for Hmong. Medicaid or public health insurance coverage rates: 31.8 percent for Vietnamese, 26.2 percent for Filipino, 27.0 percent for Chinese, 35.9 percent for Hmong, and 25.6 percent for all Asian groups. Asian groups also varied in uninsured status: 9.6 percent for Thai, 8.3 percent for Vietnamese, 7.3 percent for Hmong. In 2019, the overall private insurance coverage for both Asian Americans and non-Hispanic whites was 74.7 percent. 6.6 percent of Asian Americans were uninsured, as compared to 6.3 percent non-Hispanic white Americans.³⁵

HATE INCIDENTS AND DISCRIMINATION



Introduction

Prior to May 31, 2022, Westchester County did not track hate crimes and discrimination. On that date, the Westchester County Board of Legislators passed, and County Executive George Latimer signed legislation requiring local police departments to report all perceived hate incidents. These are incidents

³⁵ <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=3&lvlid=63>

“which do not satisfy the elements of a crime but are motivated by a person’s actual or perceived membership in a protected class.”³⁶

The new law requires local police departments to report bias-related incidents, whether a crime has been committed or not, to the Commissioner of Public Safety. Additionally, the law requires the Commissioner of Public Safety to notify the Executive Director of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission of any incident, which, although may not be criminal, is or appears to be motivated by a person's membership in a protected class.

Examples of hate incidents include; name-calling, insults, displaying hate material on your own property, posting hate material that does not result in property damage and distribution of materials with hate messages in public places.

Survey Findings

For purposes of comparison to other sources of data on hate incidents, we used in the survey questions that were the same as those used in Survey Monkey’s [AAPI Data/Momentive Poll: American Experiences with Discrimination](#).

Discrimination: Respondents were asked: “In the last year:

1. Have people asked where you are from, assuming you are not from the United States? (61%)
2. Have people acted as if you don’t speak English? (30%)
3. Have you received poorer service than others at restaurants or stores? (30%)
4. Have people mocked or made offensive gestures toward you? (28%)
5. Have you been called names or insulted? (24%)
6. Have you been unfairly denied a raise or promotion due to race or ethnicity? (14%)
7. Have your neighbors made life difficult for you or your family? (12%)
8. For unfair reasons due to race or ethnicity, do you think you have not been hired for a job? (12%)

36

<https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/9562-may-31-county-executive-george-latimer-gives-westchester-weekly-update>

N= 512. Responses are ranked in order of frequency, with percentages based on frequency of “Yes” responses.

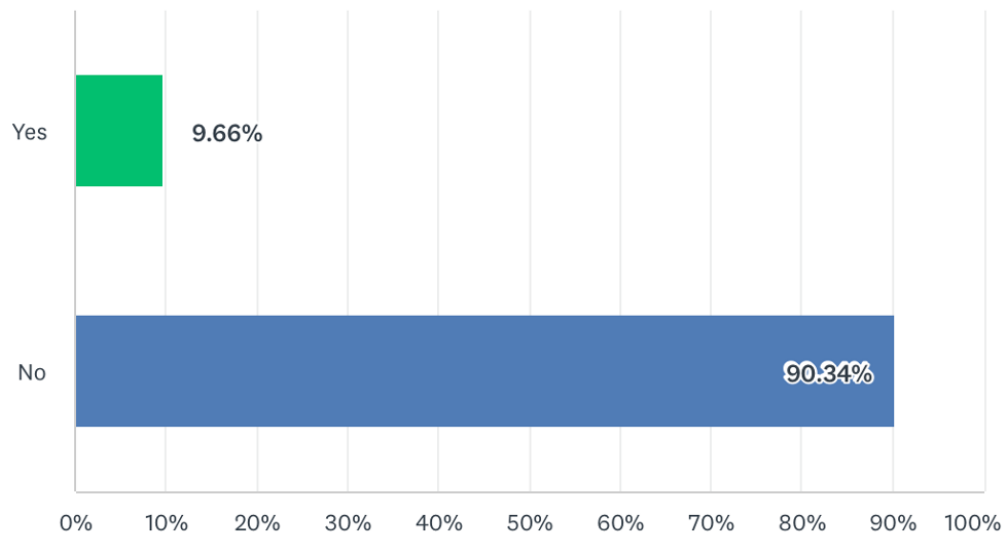
National Comparisons: Comparing the survey data to national data from the AAPI source above, we find that Asian Americans in Westchester are:

- slightly less likely to report that people ask where you are from, or assume that you are not from the United States (61% vs. 63%).
- considerably less likely to report people acting as if you don’t speak English (30% vs. 46%).
- less likely to report receiving poorer service than others at restaurants or stores (30% vs. 36%).
- less likely to report people mocking or making offensive gestures at you (28% vs. 33%).
- less likely to report being called names or insulted (24% vs. 38%).
- less likely to report being unfairly denied a raise or promotion due to race or ethnicity (14% vs. 25%). (comparison source only referred to promotion)
- Less likely to report neighbors making it difficult for you or your family (12% vs. 22%) (AAPI poll uses “neighbors ever making it difficult”).
- Less likely to report that, for unfair reasons due to race or ethnicity, have not been hired for a job (12% vs. 29%).

Note, however, that the AAAB survey asked about experiences *within the last year*, whereas the AAPI Data poll does not appear to set a time limit; so some of the difference may be due to a time limit factor.

Experience of hate crimes and incidents: Approximately **one in ten** respondents reports experiencing a hate crime or hate incident in the past year.³⁷

³⁷Participants were asked: : In the last year, have you experienced any hate crimes or hate incidents?
N=507



National comparison: The percentages in Westchester are substantially lower than those in the AAPI Data poll; which reports 28% of AAPI saying they've been a victim of a hate crime so far in 2022. That in turn is lower than the previous year, where 38% of AAPI reported being a victim of a hate crime by March 2021. Asian Americans who come to Westchester County seeking an oasis of safety do, in fact, find it--at least by comparison to the rest of the country.

Types of hate incidents: Individuals who experienced a hate crime or incident in the past year were asked to describe it briefly. Most of the 47 responses described **verbal incidents** (N =27).

Sample quotes:

A vehicle pulled up just ahead of us as my husband and I were walking our dog in a residential neighborhood at night only to roll down its windows, make rude noises "ching-chong, ding-dong, etc." before speeding off.

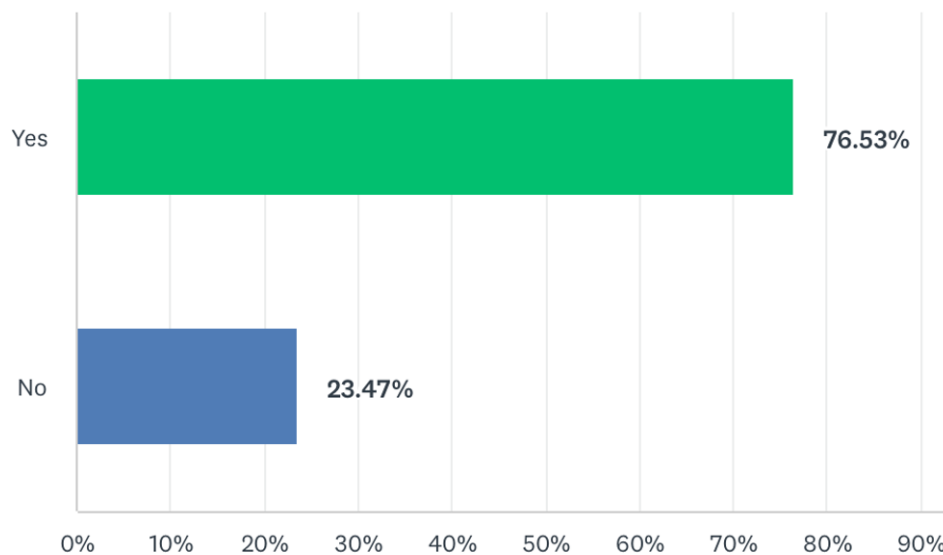
I have been insulted, mocked, and yelled at in various public places, such as supermarkets, retail stores, and polling sites.

Other types of incidents which occurred with a frequency of three or more included:

- Avoidance (N= 3)

National comparison: It is noteworthy that a national report of hate incidents that occurred over the period of March 19, 2020 to December 31, 2021 that were reported to StopAAPIHate.org found that 67% of hate incidents against AAPI involved harassment, while another 16.2% involved physical assault. However, our numbers are too small and the descriptions in some cases too variable to warrant a comparison.

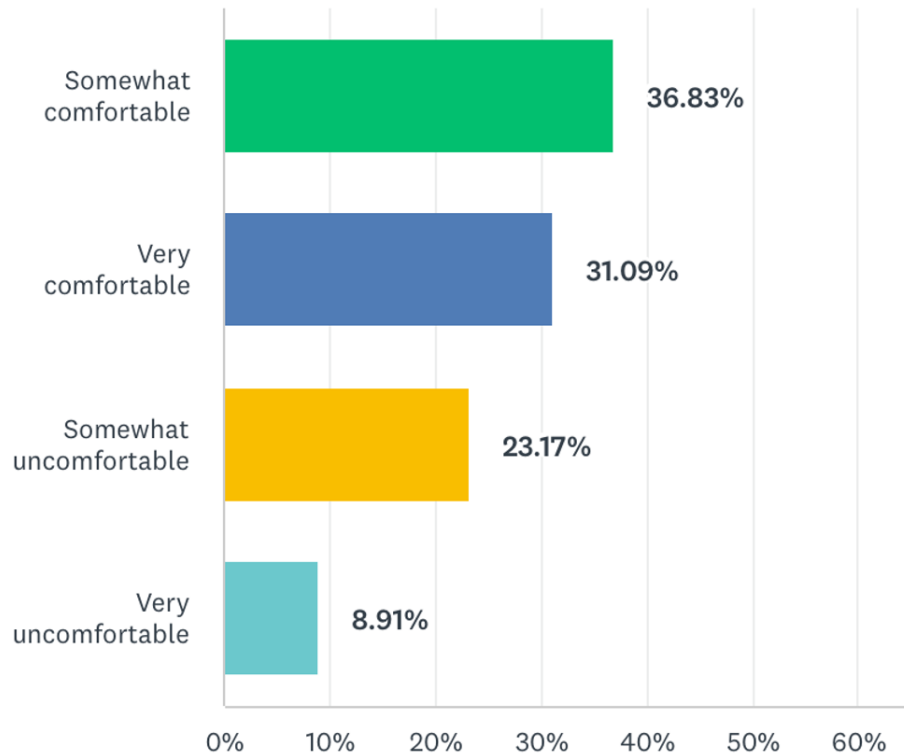
Future Hate Crimes: Although most respondents have not experienced a hate crime, **more than three out of four are worried about future hate crimes** in their community.*



*Participants were asked: Are you worried about future hate crimes against your community? N=507.

National comparison: In the AAPI Data poll, the percentage was even higher. 83% of those surveyed were worried about future hate crimes in their community

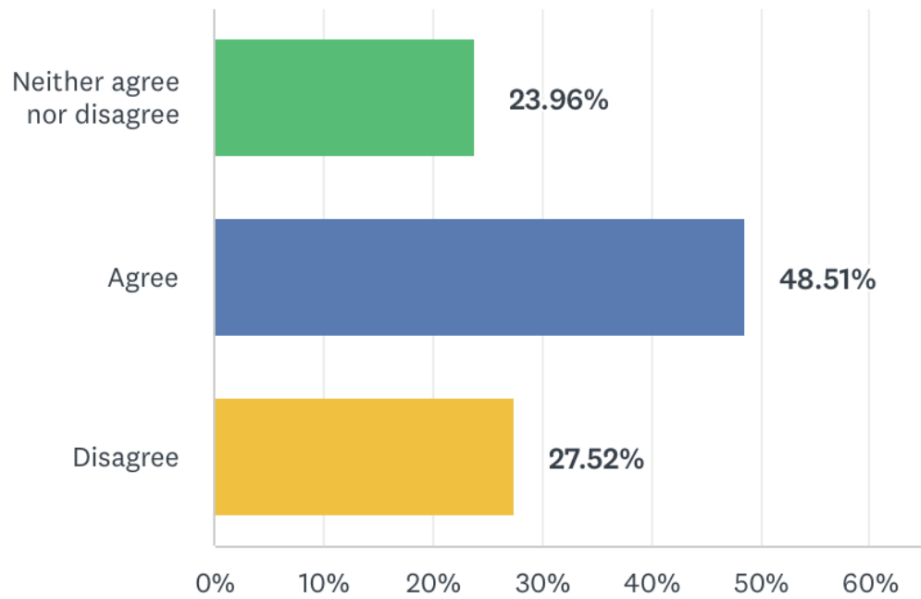
Reporting a hate crime: Two out of three respondents (68%) would be “very” or “somewhat” comfortable in reporting a hate crime to law enforcement authorities. More than three in ten would be uncomfortable.³⁸



National comparison: The Westchester survey data are consistent with the AAPI Data poll, which also reports that 68% of AAPI are comfortable reporting hate crimes to authorities.

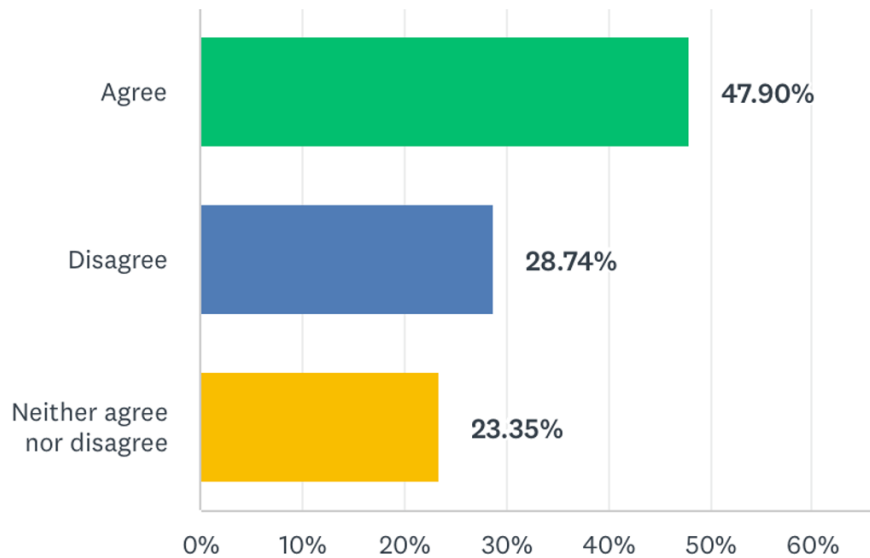
Unwanted attention: Almost half of respondents agree with the statement: I would be reluctant to report a hate crime because it would bring unwanted attention to me and my family. (N= 505)

³⁸ Participants were asked: How comfortable would you be in reporting a hate crime to law enforcement authorities? N= 505.



National comparison: This percentage is lower than that in the [AAPI data](#) poll, which reported that **69%** of AAPI would be reluctant to report for fear it would lead to unwanted attention to themselves or their families, up slightly from 2021 (63%), and higher than Americans overall (46%).

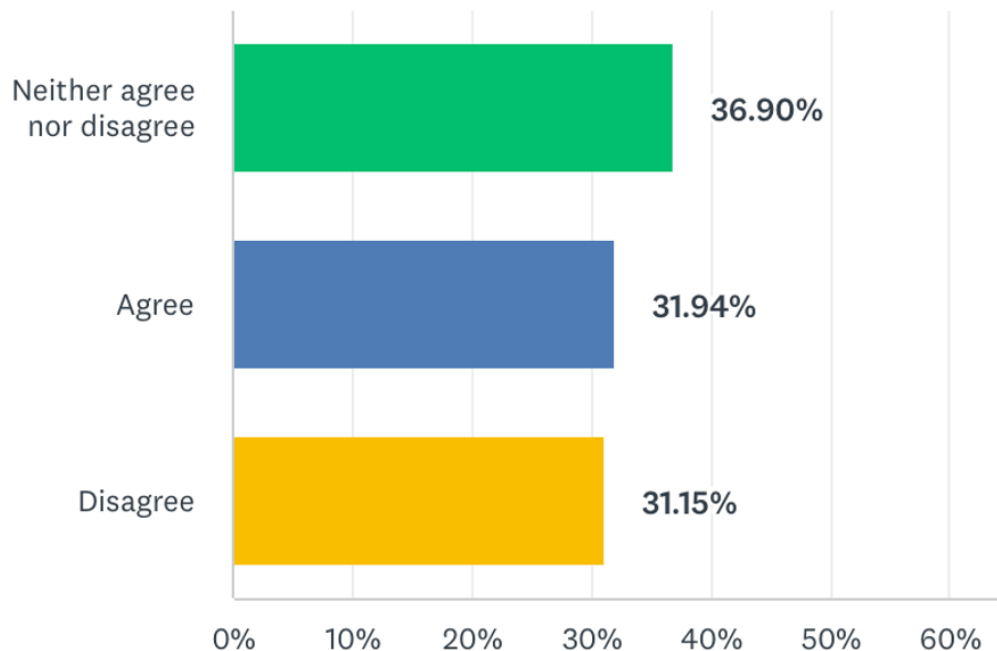
Almost half of respondents would be reluctant to report a hate crime, because they might get attacked again.*



*Participants were asked to agree or disagree with the statement : I would be reluctant to report a hate crime because it would bring unwanted attention to me and my family. N= 505

Again, this is lower than the percentage in the AAPI Data poll, which reports that **62%** of AAPI are concerned that reporting a hate crime would lead to another attack (as compared to 39% among Americans overall).

Comfort with justice system: Participants are evenly split in their agreement with the statement: If I reported a hate crime, I am comfortable that justice would be served.



COVID-19 and Hate Crimes: The National Context

A study by [Health Affairs](#) published in April, 2022, which reviews data from 12 nationally representative public opinion polls finds that:

The vast majority of [Asian Americans \(82 percent\)](#) agree that, as a group, Asian Americans have faced discrimination as a result of the coronavirus pandemic in this country. [Seventy percent](#) say discrimination poses more of a threat now during the COVID-19 pandemic than it did before the pandemic. Nearly two-thirds [\(64 percent\)](#) of [Asian Americans](#) say they think racism is an extremely or very serious problem in the US, while about half (53 percent) say Asian Americans face a great deal or quite a bit of discrimination in the US today.

In addition, [more than half \(57 percent\)](#) of Asian Americans say they often or sometimes feel unsafe in public because of their race or ethnicity; [only 12 percent](#) say they never feel unsafe in public. [Most Asian Americans \(81 percent\)](#) think violence against the Asian American community is increasing, while [73 percent say violence](#) poses more of a threat now than it did before the pandemic. In addition, between [one-quarter](#) (25 percent) and [one-third](#) (32 percent) of Asian Americans have reported personally fearing that someone might threaten or physically attack them or their household members because of their race/ethnicity.

...

Asian Americans largely feel scapegoated and blamed for the COVID-19 pandemic. Roughly two months after the first confirmed COVID-19 case in the US, [60 percent of Asian Americans](#) reported having witnessed someone blaming people of Asian background for the coronavirus epidemic. This was a time when President Donald Trump regularly and directly blamed China for spreading COVID-19.

Other studies document similar findings.³⁹

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION



³⁹ See, for example, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2022/05/18/confronting-the-invisibility-of-anti-asian-racism/>

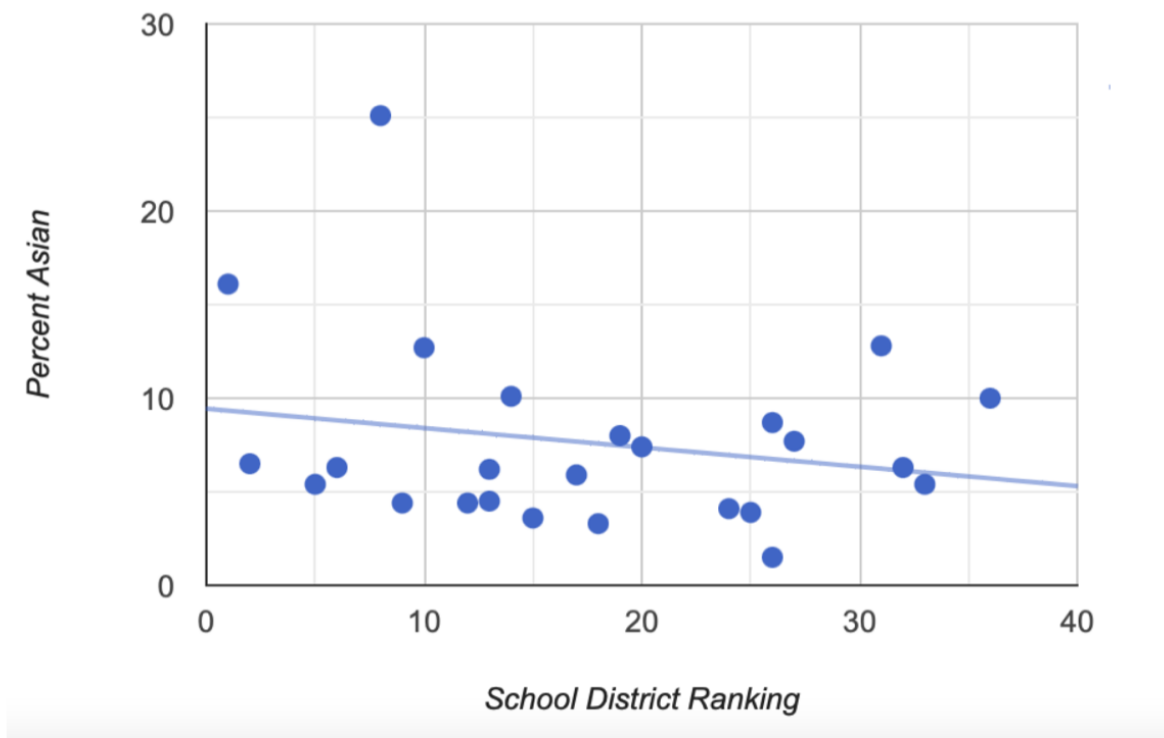
Image of Scarsdale High School. <https://www.scarsdaleschools.k12.ny.us/hs>

Introduction

It is widely understood among Asian Americans in Westchester that the public schools act as a magnet. Westchester is known for its excellent public schools, and Asian Americans tend to locate in school districts which have good academic reputations. School districts with higher percentages of Asians tend to be associated with more favorable rankings by [Niche.com](https://niche.com) (Graph 16)

One district, Greenville (Edgemont) stands out in particular as having a much higher percentage of Asians than its school district ranking would predict. Edgemont attracts Asian Americans not only for its reputation for quality but also for its ethnic diversity.

Graph 16. Westchester School District Rankings by Percent Asian in County Subdivisions



Sources of data:: Diagram created by KFPC LLC from data obtained from [Niche.com](https://niche.com). (school rankings) and Census QuickFacts (1= most favorable, 36=least favorable.)⁴⁰

Again, there are other factors in play as well. Not all Asian households have children of school age; and Asian Americans, like everyone else, choose to locate in Westchester for a variety of reasons. Nonetheless, the data support the belief among our interviewees that Westchester schools are a draw for Asian Americans (and other Westchester parents as well) seeking a quality public school education for their children.

Westchester Educational Indicators. The Westchester Index also provides data from the NY State Educational Department on key educational indicators. They show that Asian students outperform other ethnic groups on Grade 3 English and on high school graduation rates.⁴¹

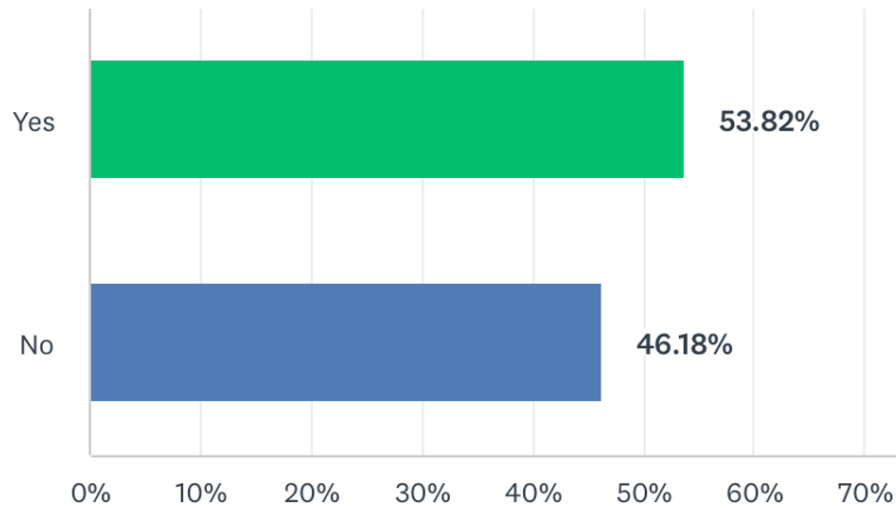
	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
Student Performance on Grade 3 English By Race/Ethnicity, 2019 (Level 3 or above)	83%	43%	43%	75%
	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White
High School Cohort Graduation Rate, By Race/Ethnicity, 2021	97%	81%	86%	96%

Survey Findings

More than half of respondents have students in Westchester public schools. N= 524

⁴⁰ Yonkers, Peekskill, Port Chester and Mount Vernon and Mahopac are not included as data points in the graph because the Niche data do not rank them in the best public school rankings for Westchester. All four of these districts would fall in the lower left quadrant of the scatter diagram (lower than average percent Asian and lower than average school district rankings), thus adding additional support to the hypothesis. Other school districts are not included in the Table because the Census Quick Facts data do not show percentage Asian for identifiable municipalities with less than 5000 inhabitants.

⁴¹ The [Westchester Index](#)'s indicator on college admission and enrollment rates by race/ethnicity, which show lower rates for Asians than some other ethnic/racial groups, are not included here because the data show admission and enrollment rates to higher education *within Westchester County*. It is highly probable that AAPI students are more likely to be attending out-of-county and out-of-state institutions of higher education.

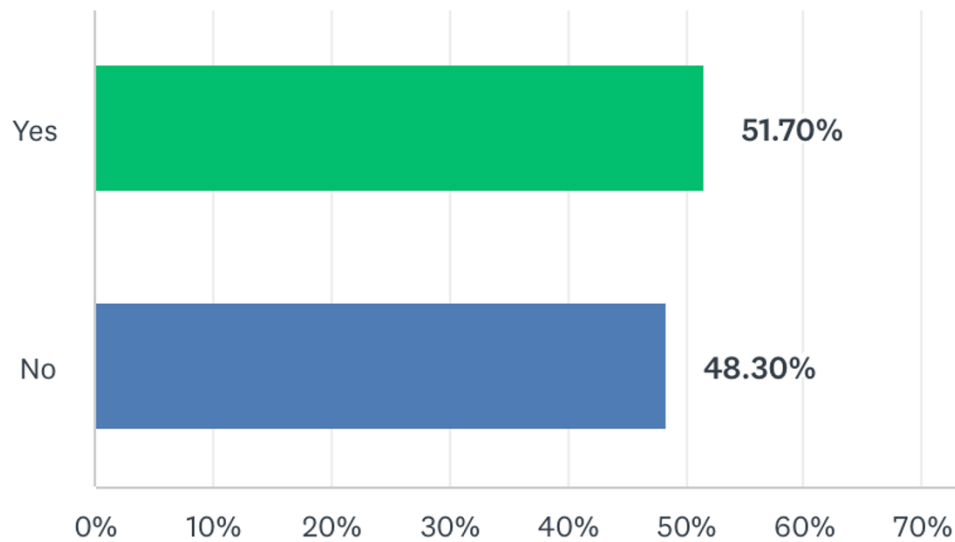


Levels of Satisfaction. Respondents with students in the Westchester public schools ranked their levels of satisfaction with various aspects of schools as follows:

1. School safety (1.61)*
2. Educational quality (1.74)
3. The overall school experience (1.81)
4. Enrichment/extracurricular activities (1.82)
5. Interactions with teachers and school officials (1.82)
6. Help for students with special needs (1.84)
7. The quality of guidance counseling (2.08)

*Based on weighted averages of N= 269 responses. 1= Very satisfied; 4 = Very unsatisfied.

Unmet Needs. More than half of respondents believe that Asian students have needs for programs and services that are not currently being met in their schools.*



*Participants were asked: Do you believe that Asian students have needs for programs or services that are not currently being met in their schools? N=265

Needed Programs and Services: In an open-ended question which asked: If "yes" to above, what are the programs and services that are most needed?

The largest category of responses related to **curriculum**; particularly, the need for more challenging academic programs. Specific recommendations vary. N= 39

Sample quote:

I think there is a lack of advanced STEM curriculum and enrichment/ extracurricular programs because of the perception that they are only of interest to a minority of students, most of which are people of color - i.e., AAPI.

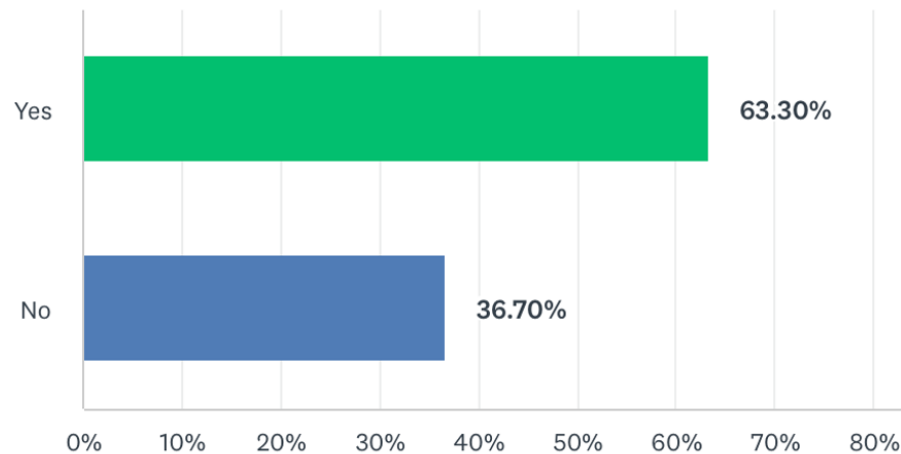
The second largest category pertained to **cultural programs and awareness**; particularly the lack of recognition of Asian cultural heritage and Asian American history in the schools. Again, specific recommendations vary. N= 34

Sample quote:

School holidays for key Asian holidays (for example, Diwali). Other ethnicities get their religious holidays. Why are Asians excluded? Exclusion leads to marginalization and bullying.

Other categories of response which received at least 3 responses include: Activities and clubs (N= 18), Counseling (N= 6), Other (N= 16). Note that there is significant overlap between responses in different categories. N= 106 open-ended responses.

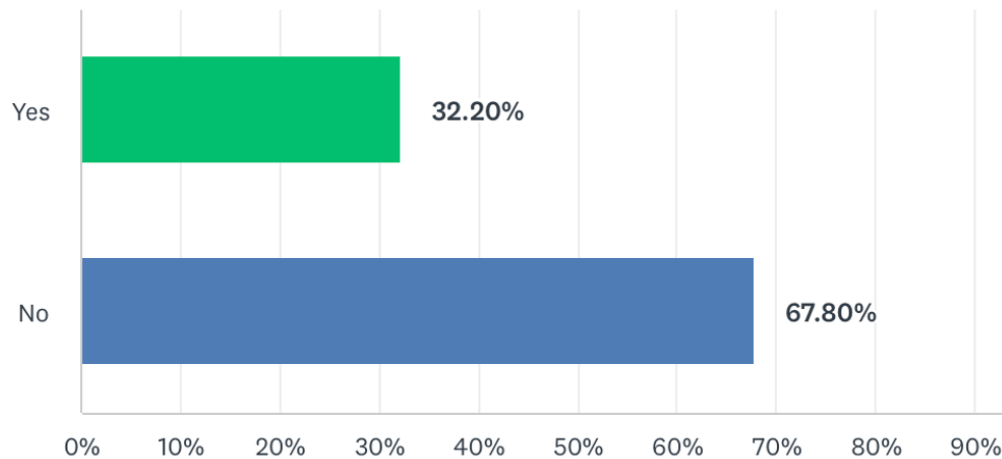
Almost two out of three respondents are worried that their children might be bullied due to their race/ethnicity.



* Participants were asked: Are you concerned that your children might be bullied due to their race/ethnicity? N= 267

National comparison: The percentage of AAPI parents in the AAPI Data poll is even higher. 83% of those surveyed were concerned that their child might be bullied, the highest level of concern among all ethnic groups.

Anti-Asian incidents involving children: One in three respondents report their children have experienced anti-Asian incidents in their school or community. N= 264.



This is significantly higher than the percentage who reported that they themselves had experienced hate crimes or incidents in the past year. However, this question did not set a time limit on incidents.

In terms of types of incidents reported by parents of children in the public schools in an open-ended question, the largest category involved **verbal incidents** (N=47).

Sample quotes:

My young children were told they were not allowed to play on a specific play structure because they were Chinese.

Son was told in a recess game that the “dark skinned kids” had to say “please” and “thank you” while light skinned kids did not have to.

Other categories of responses which occurred with a frequency of three or more included: Implicit bias and assumptions (N= 4), Unfair suspension (N= 3), and Other (N= 6). N= 62 open-ended responses.

Other issues: Respondents were asked to briefly describe any other issues or concerns about their child’s public school education. Out of the 55 responses to this open-ended question, the most common category involved **educational standards** (N= 11); which, in most cases, were regarded as **too low**.

Sample quote:

Worry that curriculum is not as competitive as it can be. Worry the public school teaches to the average without proving curriculum for gifted students

Other prominent issues included: **cultural concerns** (N= 8) and **implicit bias and discrimination** (N =8)

Sample quotes:

Overall, our public school education has been great and I am grateful for it. It just would've been better if our children could have experienced more of the sense of belonging that most White kids experience. I think it is something people think we are not entitled to ask for -- even if they acknowledge that this kind of pervasive cultural exclusion exists. I get the sense people think we should be grateful to be here and are quibbling and nitpicking to ask for more, esp. since Asians are thought to be financially well-off (as people can be far more sympathetic to the needs of lower-income folks, at least in my liberal town).

I often worry that my children don't get the same attention and care as the other White kids in school because of the positive Asian stereotypes of being good at Math /Science etc. They assume that they are fine when sometimes they are not!

Categories of response with smaller frequencies include: Diversity and inclusion (N =6), School safety (N =5), Other (N =15).

FINAL THOUGHTS

There were 108 responses to the final question: Do you have any additional thoughts or comments you would like to share? These responses covered a wide range of topics, of which we categorized the most frequent as **education and awareness** (N 20). The second most frequent involved **hate, hate crimes, safety and discrimination** (N =18). Others occurring with a frequency of three or more included: **gratitude for the survey** (N =14), **access and availability of services** (N =9), **seniors** (N = 3), and Other (N =24).

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS FOR SENIORS



Photo by Nandini Anandu of seniors at The Evergreen Club of Greenburgh participating in the survey.

Westchester as a Location

For seniors, the most important factors that brought them to Westchester, in order of importance, are:

1. Concerns about public safety. (4.30)
2. Good place to raise children. (4.19)
3. Excellent public schools. (3.97)
4. Less ethnic/racial discrimination or harassment. (3.95)
5. Better housing quality. (3.86)
6. Family members/friends/colleagues living close by.(3.49)
7. Shorter commute to work. (3.40)
8. More affordable housing. (3.16)



*Participants were asked: What brought you to Westchester County? Answers were rated on a scale of 1-5, with 1 being the least important and 5 being the most important. Rankings were based on weighted averages for each response. N= 107.

Seniors are more concerned about public safety than the general survey population.

Most Challenging Aspects of Life in Westchester: Senior survey respondents find the most challenging aspects of life in Westchester to be:*

1. High overall cost of living-44%
2. Inadequate public transportation-42%
3. Lack of affordable housing-31%
4. Lack of programs or services in my native language-31%
5. Cultural isolation-29%



*Respondents were asked "Here are some of the things that make life in Westchester difficult or challenging. Check all that apply." Rankings were based on frequencies of items checked. N= 99

Programs and Services

Utilization of services: For seniors, the five most highly utilized publicly available services are:

1. Parks-67%
2. Libraries-61%
3. Public transportation-42%
4. Senior citizens' services-34%
5. Public schools-22%



*Respondents were asked "I need and make use of the following, publicly available services in the following areas. Check all that apply." Rankings were based on frequencies of items checked. N=100. Other responses that met or exceeded the 10% level included: Language assistance (e.g., with voting) (21%), Adult education (21%), Legal assistance (16%), Summer recreation programs (16%), Training on internet/digital devices (15%), English classes (14%), Culinary arts, cooking or baking classes (10%).

Seniors are more likely to make use of public transportation than the overall respondent population.

Lack of access to services: For seniors, the five most important programs and services they are unable to access are:

1. Senior citizens' services (e.g., Food delivery, home care)-23%
2. Language assistance (e.g., with voting)-19%
3. Public transportation-19%
4. English classes-19%
5. Summer recreation programs-16%

*Respondents were asked "What are the programs or services that you or your household were unable to access for any reason within the last 12 months? Check all that apply." Rankings were based on frequencies of items checked. N=64. This question drew a limited response, possibly because there are a variety of different reasons why participants might be unable to access services. The "Other" category was omitted from ranked items above. Other responses that met or exceeded the 10% level included: Mental health services (12%), Food assistance (12%), Adult education (12%), Training on internet/digital devices (12%), After school programs (11%).

Barriers to utilization: For seniors, the barriers to utilization of programs and services, , in order of importance, are:

1. Lack of awareness of existing programs and their locations-68%
2. Fear for safety in public places-66%
3. Lack of culturally appropriate programs-64%
4. Lack of programs in their local community-61%
5. Lack of transportation to get to relevant programs-61%
6. Lack of language assistance-52%
7. Stigma or negative stereotype attached to use of public services-50%.

*Participants were asked "Which of the following barriers would be most important in preventing members of your community from making use of programs or services that are publicly available to meet their needs." Respondents were asked to rate each item on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being Unimportant and 5 being Extremely Important. The percentages refer to respondents who ranked an item as either "very" or "extremely" important. N =102.

More than **two of three** senior respondents lack awareness of existing programs and their locations.

Two thirds of them fear for safety in public places, which could reflect COVID-19 fears as well as other fears for public safety.

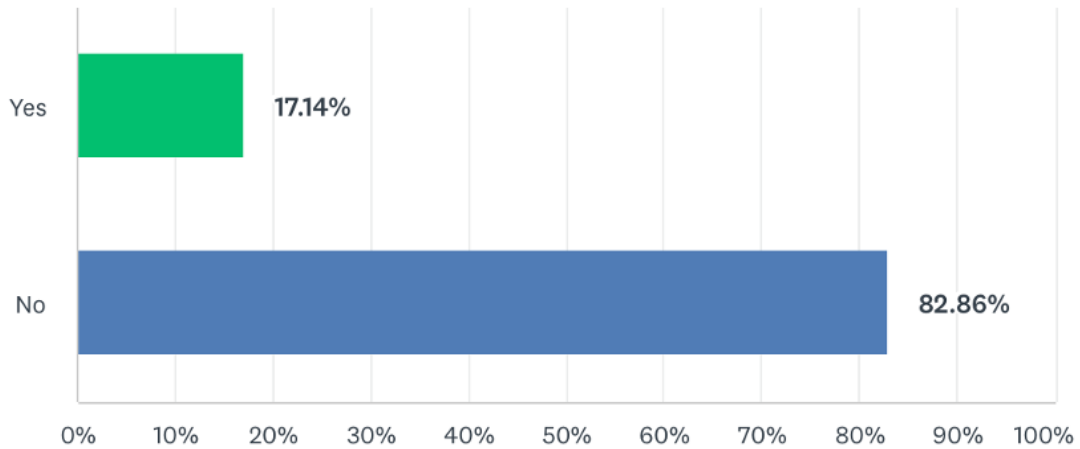
And almost **two of three** cite the lack of culturally appropriate programs.

Health and Emotional Well Being



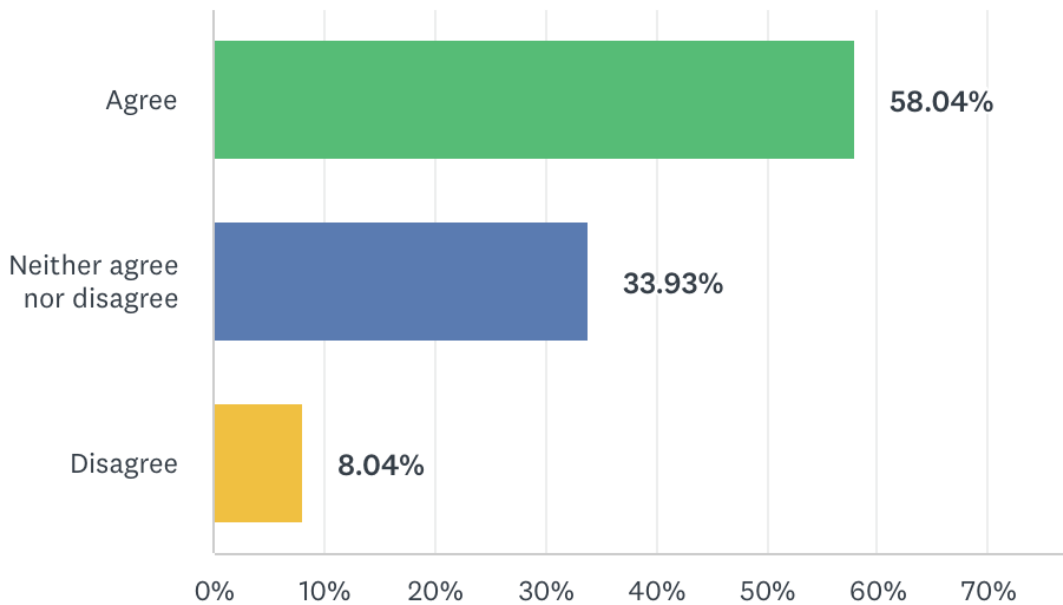
Image by [Arek Socha](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Delay or lack of treatment: In the past year, 17% of senior respondents have delayed, or not sought medical or mental health treatment due to cost.



Senior respondents are less likely than the overall survey population to delay treatment due to cost.

Fairness of treatment: The majority of seniors (58%) agree that “People of my race are treated fairly in a health care setting.” One third are neutral. N= 112.



Seniors are more likely than the overall survey population to believe that people of their race are treated fairly in a health care setting.

Anxiety and Depression

Approximately **15%** of Asian senior respondents report symptoms of depression more than half or nearly all of the days in the last two weeks. This is slightly less than the percentage for the overall survey population. **5%** report feeling fearful or anxious more than half or nearly all of the days in the last two weeks, a lower percentage than that for the general survey population.

Hate Incidents and Discrimination



<https://www.westchestergov.com/home/all-press-releases/9561-gather-against-hate-june-15>

Discrimination: Seniors were asked: "In the last year:

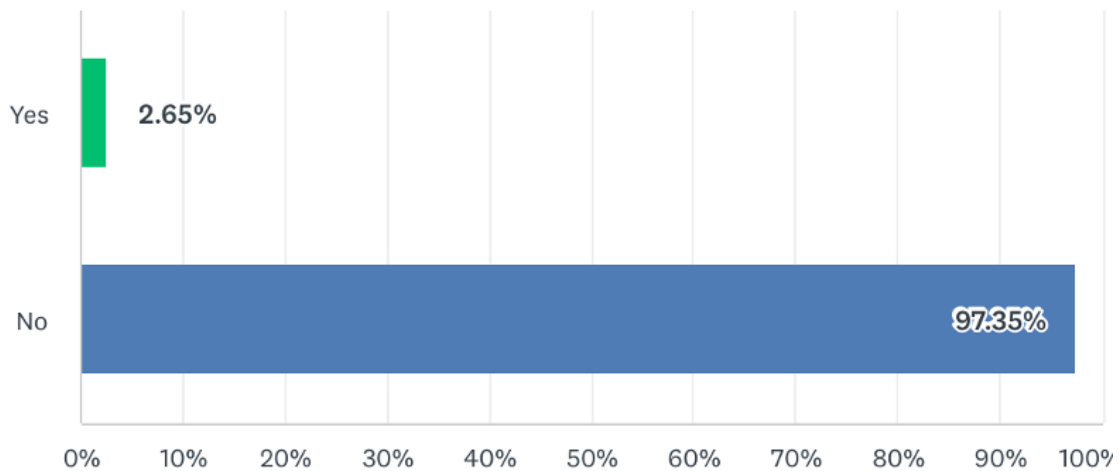
1. Have people asked where you are from, assuming you are not from the United States? (46%)
2. Have people acted as if you don't speak English? (25%)
3. Have you been unfairly denied a raise or promotion due to race or ethnicity (22%)?
4. Have you been called names or insulted? (19%)
5. Have people mocked or made offensive gestures toward you? (17%)
6. Have you received poorer service than others at restaurants or stores? (12%)

7. For unfair reasons due to race or ethnicity, do you think you have not been hired for a job? (11%)
8. Have your neighbors made life difficult for you or your family? (9%)

N= 115. Responses are ranked in order of frequency, with percentages based on frequency of “Yes” responses.

The percentage of senior respondents reporting incidents of discrimination of all types is lower than that for the overall survey population.

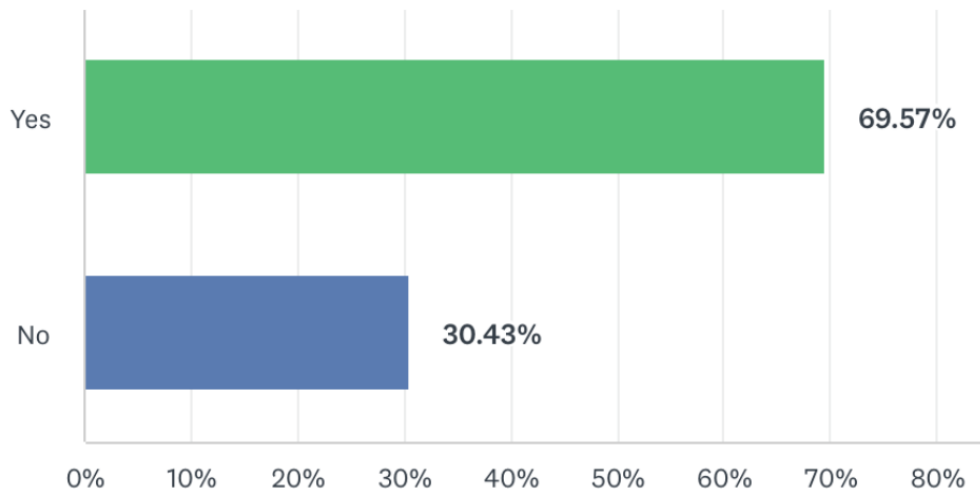
Hate crimes and hate incidents: In the past year, **less than 3%** of senior respondents have experienced a hate crime or hate incident. (N = 113).



*Participants were asked: Are you worried about future hate crimes against your community? N=113.

Again, the percentage of senior respondents reporting hate crimes or hate incidents is lower than that for the general survey population.

Like the overall survey population, although the vast majority of senior respondents have not experienced a hate crime, they are highly concerned about the possibility of future hate crimes. **Almost seven in ten are worried about future hate crimes** in their community.* (N =115)



*Participants were asked: Are you worried about future hate crimes against your community?
N=115.

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