

INVESTING IN ASIAN MINNESOTANS

CAAL 2022 PRIORITIES

No person, community, or organization was left untouched by the events of the past two years, but Asian Minnesotans that were already made vulnerable were profoundly impacted. In addition to the impacts of COVID-19, we have seen an increase in attacks and violence directed towards Asian American communities across the United States and increased incidents of hate in our own local communities. Yet we have not seen significant policy changes in Minnesota to proactively address the systemic inequities and anti-Asian violence that we face.

With Minnesota's \$9 billion budget surplus, we are asking our elected leaders to step forward with bold and meaningful investments in the health, safety and economic well-being of Asian Minnesotans.

CAAL also calls for support for these policy priorities:

ETHNIC STUDIES (HF 3434 / SF 3557)

We want our school systems to be places of joy that inspire imagination, cultivate curiosity, and ensure that all children can learn and grow. Asian Minnesotans have lived in and contributed to the state for generations, yet Asian Americans are often excluded in the curriculum across all subjects.

Ethnic studies is about recognizing the contributions of all communities to U.S. history, reflecting the diverse schools and society we have today. CAAL supports HF 3434/SF 3557 to implement ethnic studies instruction in all K-12 schools, include ethnic studies as a graduation requirement and create an ethnic studies advisory task force to advise on curriculum. Ethnic studies as a stand alone strand within the social studies standards will ensure that our children are studying the many lenses, narratives and histories that make up our country.

POST-CONVICTION RELIEF (HF 833 / SF 1514)

No matter who we are, where we were born or when we moved here, all Minnesotans should have the opportunity to work hard, take responsibility for their family, contribute to the community and have a fair shot at building a better life. Right now, people with old criminal convictions are facing deportation years after serving their time. Many were not told that the conviction could lead to additional immigration consequences.

These individuals could apply for post-conviction relief, yet MN statute requires a claim to be brought within 2 years of conviction, one of the strictest time limitations in the country. CAAL supports expanding access to justice through HF 833/SF 1514, which allows individuals to seek relief from a wrongful conviction regardless of how much time has elapsed.

COMBATING HATE (HF 1691 / SF 2003)

Whatever our race, background or zip code, we all want to move through our communities without fearing for our lives or our loved ones. In the last two years, we have seen an increase in attacks and violence directed towards Asian American communities. Unfortunately, our government lacks the community trust and adequate systems to track, report, and respond to incidents of hate.

To better combat hate, CAAL supports HF1691/SF2003 to (1) close loopholes that misclassify hateful incidents; (2) allow trusted community organizations, like CAAL, to be co-responders to hate incidents; and (3) provide support for victims of hate.



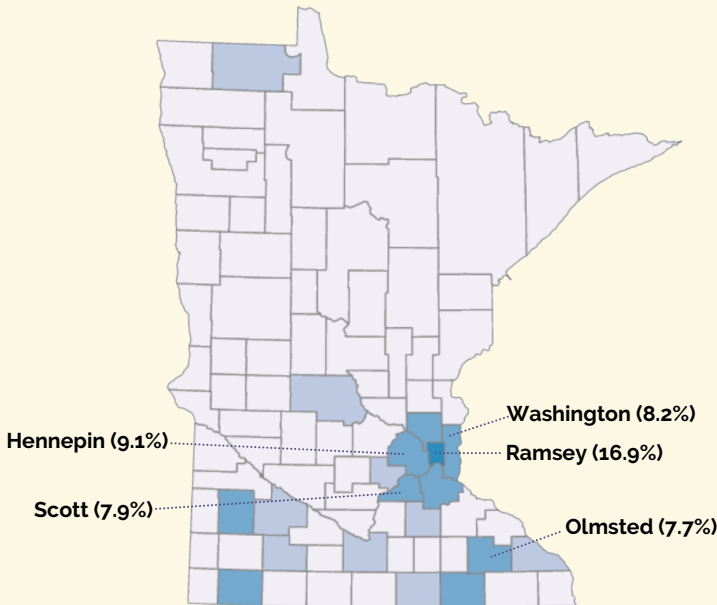
WHO ARE ASIAN MINNESOTANS?

LEARN MORE AT [CAALMN.ORG/RESOURCES](https://caalmn.org/resources)

In 2020, there were **357,704 Asians in Minnesota**, or **6.3%** of the population. Asian Minnesotans are one of the fastest growing populations in the state.

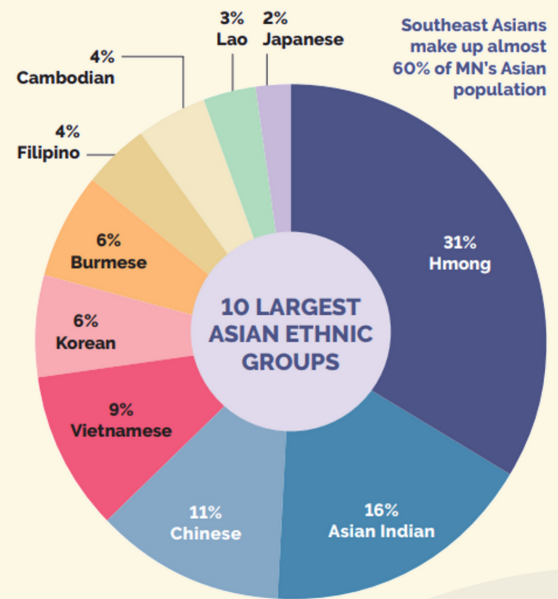
PROPORTION OF ASIANS IN MINNESOTA BY COUNTY

U.S. Census Bureau (2020)



THE TEN LARGEST ASIAN ETHNIC GROUPS

Van Dort (2017)



Asian Minnesotans are a diverse, powerful and growing population, with a combined purchasing power of \$8 billion and more than 15,000 businesses¹. As the state's youngest population with a median age of 29, Asian Minnesotans are also a growing voting bloc: **From 2012 to 2018, the number of eligible AAPI voters in Minnesota grew by 43% compared to a 5% growth rate for the overall population.**²

Yet when we disaggregate our data, we see deep disparities, and the health, economic and safety impacts of the pandemic on Asian Minnesotans have been profound.

- Data show that Asian Minnesotan households have the highest average median income (\$66,780), but within that aggregate data is a wide income gap. The average for Burmese Minnesotans is only \$25,823, while for Laotian Minnesotans it is \$51,559 and for Hmong Minnesotans it is \$51,559. Moreover, Asian Minnesotans under age 18 are six times more likely to be living in poverty compared to the total population.³
- A 2021 report by CAAL and the Hmong Public Health Association found disproportionate COVID-19 mortality rates among Hmong, Karen and Karen Minnesotans. 49% of COVID-19 deaths from the Asian community were from the Hmong community.⁴
- When asked about the biggest issue facing Asian Minnesotans in a Change Research study of AAPI Minnesotans, 62% said racism/discrimination or safety/hate crimes.

With Minnesota's \$9 billion budget surplus, we are asking our elected leaders to step forward with bold and meaningful investments in the health, safety and economic well-being of Asian Minnesotans.

¹ Corrie, B. (2020, April 23). Fact Sheet on Asian Minnesotan Economy. <https://coveconomics.org/2020/04/23/fact-sheet-on-asian-minnesotan-economy/amp/>

² APIA Vote. (2020). 2020 State Fact Sheet: Minnesota. <https://www.apivote.org/sites/default/files/2020-02/Minnesota-2020.pdf>

³ CAAL (2021). Redefining Wealth Through Communal and Cultural Assets. <https://caalmn.org/community/economics/economics-report-2021/>

⁴ CAAL and HPHA (2021). A Race to Close the Disproportionate COVID-19 Death Rates in Minnesota's Asian Community. <https://caalmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/CAAL-HPHA-Covid-Report-Fin-041921.pdf>