

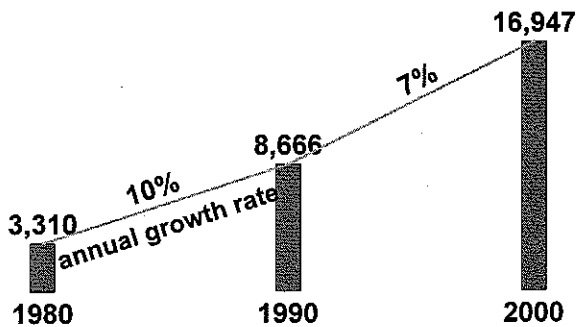
## Asian People in Dane County

by Neil J. Gleason, Dane County Department of Human Services, 2003

### Population

In the 2000 Census, nearly 17,000 Dane County residents reported Asian or Hawaiian/Pacific Island ancestry. (Note: 1 in 8 Asian people report multi-racial heritage.)

### Asian People in Dane County



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In 1980, Asians comprised only 1% of the population. By 1990, Asians had increased to 2.4% of the population and continued to 4% by 2000.

Dane County's Asian population is multi-national: 27% Chinese, 26% Southeast Asian (Hmong, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand), with significant numbers from South Asia (India, Pakistan), Korea and Japan.

### Asians by Nationality

Nationality	2000 Population
Chinese	4,656
Indian	2,624
Hmong	2,470
Korean	2,157
Japanese	1,124
Filipino	819
Vietnamese	667
Laotian	587
Cambodian	418
Pacific Isle	408
Thai	377
Indonesian	253
Pakistani	157
Other	230
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,947</b>

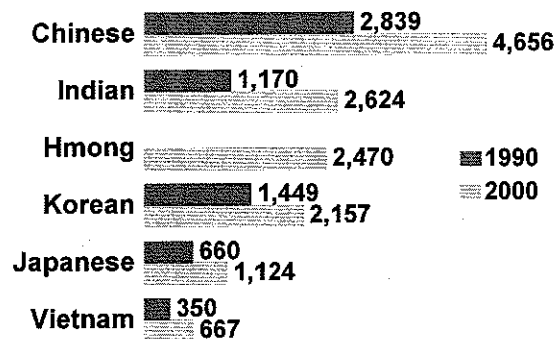
Source: US Census Summary File 2

The growth of Dane County's Asian population is the product of 4 forces:

- links to UW-Madison as students, faculty and staff,
- settlement as refugees following the U.S. war in Indochina (1964-75),
- large Hmong families, and
- employment in growing high technology industries.

During the past decade, all of Dane County's major Asian nationalities grew rapidly:

### Asians in Dane County: 1990 v 2000



Source: U.S. Census Summary File 2

### Similarities and Differences

A striking characteristic of Asian families, irrespective of nationality, is family structure: 5 of every 6 children live with two parents.

### Asian Children

Ethnic	Children	Live w/2 parents
Chinese	984	84%
Indian	599	84%
Hmong	1,301	82%
Korean	650	84%
Japanese	232	84%

Source: US Census Summary File 2

Pre-existing cultural diversity, combined with different motives for settlement in Dane County, are evident in the social and economic difference among the Asian nationalities.

Chinese, Indian, Korean and Japanese residents tend to have a link to UW-Madison, which is reflected in high levels of education.

On the other hand, their high level of post-secondary enrollment constrains median family income to the mid-to-high \$40,000's, well below the 1999 Dane County median of \$62,000 for families with minor children.

### Southeast Asians

People of Southeast Asian descent comprise 1/4 of all Asians in Dane County. Most emigrated to the U.S. during the late 1970's as refugees from the war in Indochina. Some came directly to Dane County, while others settled in California, Minnesota or elsewhere in Wisconsin before resettling in Dane County. They came from rural backgrounds and tended to be less well-educated. The largest and fastest growing Southeast Asian ethnic group is the Hmong.

### Hmong

During the 25 years since their arrival, the Hmong have made remarkable strides in mastering a new language and culture. The Hmong community is organized around cohesive, multi-generational families.

- Fully 94% of Hmong people live in a family (a household with 2 or more related people). Only 1.5% live alone; only .2% live in an institutional setting (e.g., a nursing home).
- Hmong children tend to live in families with 2 (or more) adults present:

#### Hmong Children

Living Situation	%
2 parents	82%
1 parent	10%
Family	6%
Other	2%

Source: US Census Summary File 2

- Nearly 1/2 of Hmong families contain 7 or more people.

Due to large family size, the Hmong are a youthful group:

- Children comprise more than one-half (53%) of the Hmong population, compared to only 23% in the general population.

Due to their youthfulness and large families, the Hmong are experiencing rapid natural growth (births > deaths). The closure of a large Hmong refugee camp in northern Thailand recently brought a final group of new immigrants to Dane County.

Despite the difficult circumstances of their arrival, Dane County's Hmong community is doing well with a bright future.

- Although their grandparents have little formal education, more than 1/2 of the 1<sup>st</sup> native-born generation has some post-secondary education.

#### Hmong 18-24 year-olds

Educ. Attainment	%
Count of people	435
HS graduate	82%
Enrolled, post-second	48%
Asso. or BA degree	14%

Source: US Census Summary File 4

- Family income is steadily rising, but remains quite modest: \$37,609 in 1999 for an average family size of 5.66 people.
- Despite modest incomes, 35% of Hmong people own their own homes.

### CYF Caseloads

Asian children and adolescents are *under-*represented on the CYF caseload. While Asians comprise about 5% of Dane County children, they contribute only 4% of juvenile delinquents and 3% of out-of-home placements.

#### Asian Children

Statistic	%
2000 All Children	5.0%
2003 Juv. Delinq.	3.9%
2003 Out-of-home	
Foster Care	2.5%
Group Home	10.3%
CCI	0.4%
Corrections	1.0%
Total	3.0%

Source: 2003 administrative data.

Note: DCDHS does not collect information on specific nationality.