

# ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICANS IN IOWA: 2019

MAY 2019

In 1978, a joint congressional resolution established Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week. The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important anniversaries: the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants (May 7, 1843) and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (May 10, 1869). In 1992, Congress expanded the 10-day observance to a month-long celebration.

**82,346**

The number of Iowa residents in 2017 who say they are Asian. This group comprises 2.6% of Iowa's total population.

**124.8%**

The percent change in the Asian population from 2000 to 2017. This is a 45,711 numeric increase for the period.

**153,161**

The projected number of Iowa residents who will identify themselves as either Asian or native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in 2050 according to Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.. That will be 4.4% of the total state population.

**3,712**

The number Iowa residents who say they are native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander in 2017. This group comprises 0.1% of Iowa's total population.

**267.9%**

The percent change in population for native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders alone from 2000 to 2017. This is a numeric increase of 2,703 for the period.

## Coming to America

**36.4%**

The percent of Iowa's foreign born population in 2017 who were born in Asia.

**79.8%**

The percentage of Iowa's Asian foreign-born who entered the United States since 1990.

**9,875**

The estimated number of foreign-born people from India in 2017. After Mexico, India is the second leading country of birth for the state's foreign-born. Also among the top 10 countries of birth for Iowa's foreign-born population are China (9,790), Vietnam (6,916), Bosnia and Herzegovina (6,689), Korea (5,669), and Burma (3,987).

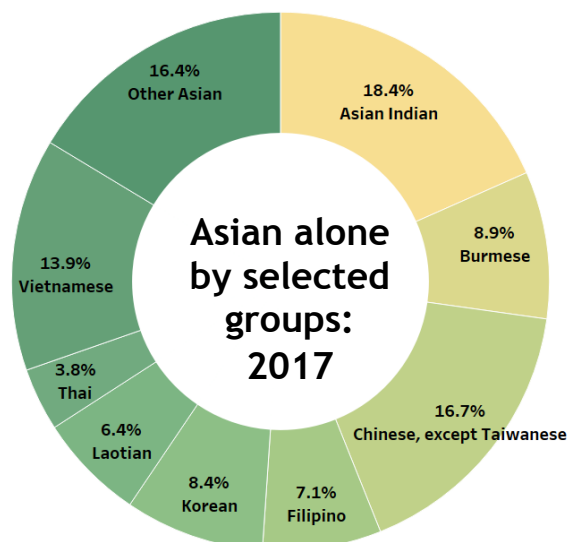
Source: 2013-2017 American Community Survey

**39.5%**

The percentage of Iowa's foreign-born in 2017 from Asia who are naturalized citizens. The corresponding rate for the Iowa foreign-born population as a whole is 39.4 percent.

**3.69**

The average family size for those who reported their race as Asian in 2017. The average family size in the state of Iowa is 3.01.



# Counties and cities

## Top 5 Counties of Residence for all Asians in Iowa: 2017

Polk	23,503	28.5%
Johnson	9,884	12.0%
Story	8,304	10.1%
Linn	5,637	6.8%
Scott	5,036	6.1%

## Top 5 Counties of Residence for all Native Hawaiians and/or Other Pacific Islanders in Iowa: 2017

Dubuque	409	11.0%
Polk	386	10.4%
Black Hawk	379	10.2%
Buena Vista	323	8.7%
Linn	266	7.2%

## Top 5 Cities of Residence for all Native Hawaiians and/or Other Pacific Islanders in Iowa: 2010

Dubuque	268	13.4%
Waterloo	197	9.8%
Des Moines	149	7.4%
Cedar Rapids	147	7.3%
Sioux City	102	5.1%

## Top 5 Cities of Residence for all Asians in Iowa: 2010

Des Moines	8,990	16.9%
Ames	5,175	9.7%
Iowa City	4,680	8.8%
Cedar Rapids	2,796	5.3%
West Des Moines	2,709	5.1%

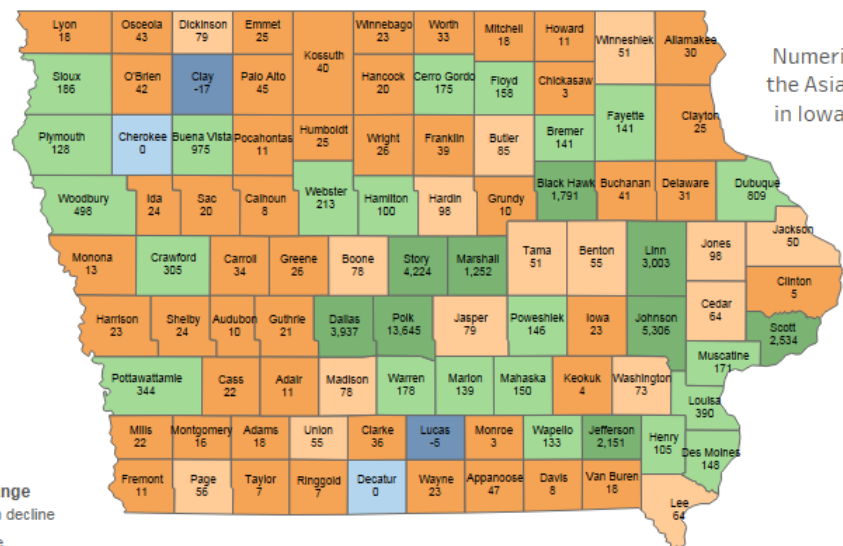
**23,503**

The number of Asians in Polk county in 2017, which has the largest population of this race of any Iowa county. Polk county has both the largest population and the largest numerical increase (13,645) of people in this group between 2000 and 2017. Jefferson county is where Asians make up the highest proportion of the total population (13.2 percent).

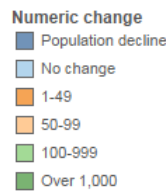
**268**

The number of native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders in Dubuque county in 2017, which leads all counties in Iowa.

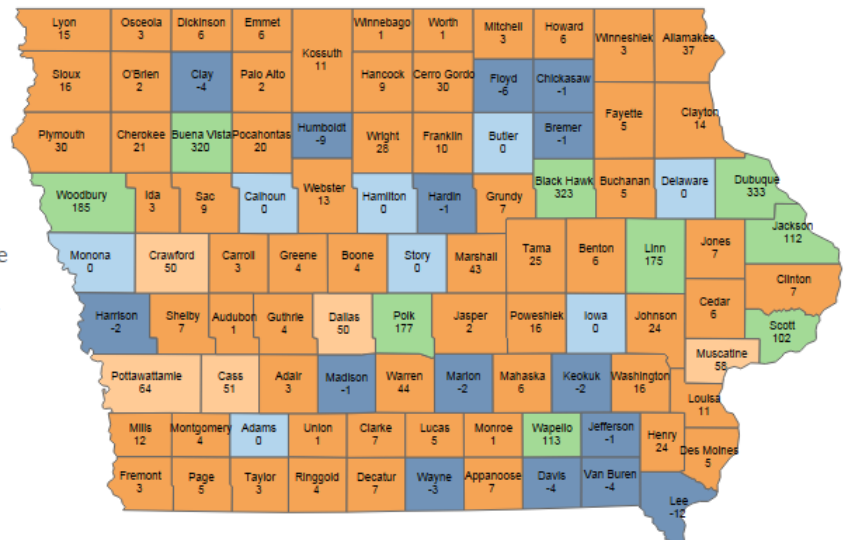
Buena Vista county is where native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders make up the largest proportion (1.6 percent) of the total population.



Numeric change for the Asian population in Iowa: 2000-2017



Numeric change for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander population in Iowa: 2000-2017



# Education

**14,403**

The number Asian and Pacific Islanders enrolled in the state's elementary and high schools during the 2017-2018 school year.

**61.0%**

Percent increase in enrollment between the 1999-2000 school year and 2017-2018.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

**42.4%**

The percentage of Asians in 2017, age 25 and over, who have a bachelor's or higher degree education. Asians have the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group in the state. The corresponding rate for all lowans in this age group is 28.9 percent.

**78.5%**

The percentage of Asians in 2017, age 25 and over, who are high school graduates. The corresponding rate for all lowans is 92.1 percent.

**23.4%**

The percentage of Asians in 2017, age 25 and over, who have a graduate degree (e.g., master's, Ph.D., M.D. or J.D.). The corresponding rate for all adults in the age group is 9.5 percent.

**10.4%**

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over in 2017, who have a bachelor's or higher degree education.

**67.8%**

The percentage of Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, age 25 and over in 2017, who are high school graduates.

## Languages

**11,085**

The number of people who speak Chinese at home in 2017. Chinese is the most widely spoken Asian language in the state. Also among the most frequently spoken languages are: Vietnamese (10,706), Thai, Lao, or other Tai-Kadai (4,865); Korean (3,757); and Tagalog (3,468).

## Age

**33.8%**

The percentage of the native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population that are under 18 in 2017; 4.3 percent are 65 or over.

**27.7**

The median age of Iowa's native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population in 2017.

**24.3%**

The percentage of people identifying themselves as Asian in 2017 that are under 18; 5.4 percent are 65 or over.

**28.7**

The median age of Iowa's Asian population in 2017. The median age for the state of Iowa is 38.1

Source: 2017 Population

## Families

**15,200**

The number of families with householders who reported their race as Asian in 2017.

**8,072**

The numeric change in families with householders who reported their race as Asian between 2000-2017. This is a 113.2 percent increase for the period.

# Income and poverty

**\$66,545**

The median income of households in 2017 whose householders reported their race as Asian. The median household income for all lowans is \$58,570.

**\$33,759**

The median income of households whose householders reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders in 2017.

**14.7%**

The poverty rate in 2017 for those who reported their race as Asian. The poverty rate for those reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander was 40.0% The corresponding rate for Iowa as a whole is 10.7 percent.

## Serving Our Nation

**607**

The number of Asian-American and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander American military veterans in 2017.



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This program is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act as administered the State Library of Iowa

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<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/cas/>

# Employment

**Business**  
**4,310**

The number of Asian-owned firms in Iowa in 2012.

**101**

The number of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms in Iowa in 2012.

**153.4%**

The percent increase in Asian and of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander-owned firms between 1997 and 2012.

Source: 2012 & 1997 Survey of Business Owners Survey SBO is conducted every 5 years, with 2012 being the most current dataset available.

**3.7%**

The unemployment rate in 2017 for those who reported their race as Asian. The unemployment rate for all Iowans is 3.6%.

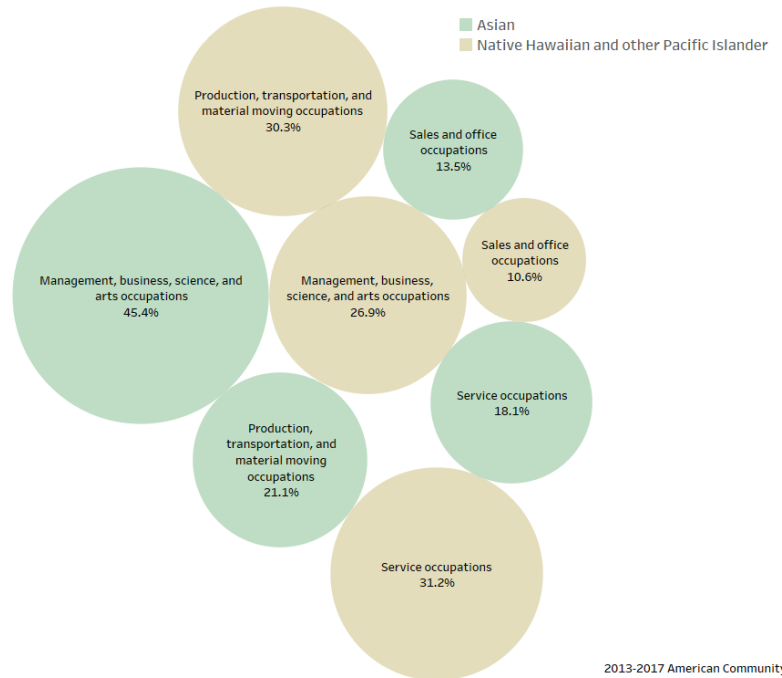
Source: 2017 American Community Survey

**9.1%**

The unemployment rate in for those who reported their race as native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders.

Source: 2013- 2017 American Community Survey

Occupation for Asian and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders in Iowa



2013-2017 American Community Survey

## Vital Statistics

**16.8**

The Asian/Pacific Islander birth rate per 1,000 population in 2017. The birth rate per 1,000 for the state was 12.2.

**213.2**

The Asian/Pacific Islander rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births in 2017. The rate of out-of-wedlock births per 1,000 live births for the state was 356.5.

**24.3**

The Asian/Pacific Islander rate of births for mothers under age 20 per 1,000 live births in 2017. The rate for the state was 45.0.

**2.1**

The Asian/Pacific Islander death rate per 1,000 population in 2017. The death rate per 1,000 for the state was 9.6.

Data provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health publication, "Vital Statistics of Iowa 2017"



Data Source (unless otherwise noted) :  
U.S. Census Bureau,  
2017 American Community Survey  
U.S. Decennial Census 1990, 2000 and 2010