

# Combating Myths

## 30 Years After Rodney King

Korean Community Experience and the LA Riots

Presented by Hyepin Im  
FACE (Formerly KCCD)

Kensington Asian American Civil Rights Tour  
March 7, 2022

# Connecting Church and Community to Resources



# Equipping Faith Leaders to Do More than They Can Imagine!



# C2

# Leadership Institute

## ***Cultivating Leaders At the Intersection of Church and Community***

Designed for leaders who are interested in civic engagement, public-private partnerships, and being a social justice advocate while strengthening church and community partnerships.



**Resources & Partnerships**



**Expanded Vision & Opportunities**



**Funding & Sustainability**

# C2 Leadership Institute Testimonies



**Rev. Wonseok Suh**  
Harris UMC

"The C2 Leadership Institute program brought us the tools, the know-how, and the relationships to access resources that can help more quickly meet the current needs of our communities."



**Rev. Gary Williams**  
Saint Mark UMC

"The C2 Institute has poured a wealth of knowledge in me through inspiring speakers and presentations. Because of C2, I've gained a better understanding of how important fundraising and networking really are to my success."



**Alyssa Gonzaga**  
UC Berkley Student

"It was truly a unique and priceless experience, where I gained skills in a way so well integrated that I don't think I can ever find it anywhere else."

**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR OUR 2021 COHORTS**

**Young Adult Cohort (18-30)**

**Pastor Cohort**

# Silencing of Voices

- It seems that a lot of the time, people are scared to challenge racist comments made by people of another race, for fear of being branded a racist, themselves...
  - Racism should not be tolerated, regardless of the race of the person committing it -
- [quiffporn](#) on November 28, 2004 [Link](#)
- [Ice Cube - Black Korea Lyrics | SongMeanings](#)

# Korean American Casualties (1992 LA Riots)

- 2,200 Korean businesses destroyed
- 40% of \$1 billion damages incurred by Korean Americans
- 65% of businesses vandalized were Korean owned (1)
- 53 deaths
- 3600 fires
- 4000 federal troops, 2000 national guards

\*Audi, T. and Emshwiller, J. R. (2012, April 27) Attitudes toward police and race relations have turned positive since devastating riots, economy is big concern now. Retrieved from The Wall Street Journal. [http://www.wsj.com&Memoir of Cashier, Korean Americans, Racism and Riots](http://www.wsj.com&Memoir%20of%20Cashier%20Korean%20Americans%20Racism%20and%20Riots), p. 87

- 1) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death\\_of\\_Latasha\\_Harlin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Latasha_Harlin), <http://www.latimes.com>, African-Americans, Koreans Try to Heal Deep Wounds, L.A. Daily News, Apr. 29, 2007
- [Jump up](#) Dressler & Garvey, Cases and Materials Criminal Law 57 (6th ed 2012)
- [Jump up](#) Salak, John (1993). *The Los Angeles Riots: America's Cities in Crisis*. Brookfield, Conn.: Millbrook Press. p. 24. ISBN 1562943731.



# Black Korea

## Lyrics by ICE Cube



Every time I wanna go get a fuckin' brew  
I gotta go down to the store with the two  
Oriental one penny countin' motherfuckers  
That make a nigga mad enough to cause a little  
ruckus

Thinkin' every brother in the world's out to take  
So they watch every damn move that I make  
They hope I don't pull out a gat and try to rob  
They funky little store, but, bitch, I got a job  
Look, you little Chinese motherfucker  
I ain't tryin' to steal none of this shit  
Leave me alone! (Mother fuck you, yo, yo, check it  
out)

So don't follow me up and down your market  
Or your little chop suey ass'll be a target  
Of a nationwide boycott

Juice with the people, that's what the boy got  
So pay respect to the Black fist  
Or we'll burn your store right down to a crisp  
And then we'll see ya

'Cause you can't turn the ghetto into Black Korea

[Outro]  
Mother fuck you



## ICE Cube Apologizes

# Ice Cube the peacemaker

**KAGRO grocers  
receive apology  
from rap artist for  
inflammatory lyrics**

By **Sophia Kyung Kim**  
Korea Times

Ice Cube, whose rap song "Black Korea" has peddled hatred and violence against Korean grocery stores across the country, has apologized to Korean merchants for his inflammatory lyrics and pledged to work with them to help ease racial tensions between the two communities.

The peace offering grew out of a recent meeting between Ice Cube and Yang Il Kim, National Korean American Grocers Association, and David H. Kim, Southern California KAGRO president.

The February one-hour meeting in Inglewood was arranged by McKenzie River Corp., the company that makes St. Ives Premium Liquor Beer and hired Ice Cube to endorse the product.

The beermaker manufacturer fired the rapper after the Korean American grocery group through its national campaign pressured the company to drop Ice Cube as its spokesman.

"Ice Cube said he was sorry, that it was not his intention to offend the Korean American community," said

Yang Il Kim. "He was quiet-spoken, courteous and made a good impression."

Yang Il Kim said he told Ice Cube that "Black Korea," which contained such lyrics like "pay respect to the black fist or we'll burn your store right down to a crisp," helped "totally destroy Korean American pride."

The two Kims also informed the rap singer that Korean merchants have been contributing to the African American community by providing consumer and community services, providing scholarships to needy students and donating food to poor families.

As a peace gesture, said Yang Il

Kim, Ice Cube told the two Kims that when he tours the nation, he would ask his fans to not commit violence against Korean storeowners or anyone else.

The singer also encouraged the KAGRO officers to work with him in easing the tension between their two communities, Kim added.

After the meeting, Ice Cube wrote a letter of apology to Yang Il Kim.

In the Feb. 8 letter, Ice Cube said that it wasn't his intention to offend Koreans or incite violence against any one.

"(My song) was not directed at all

• See Ice Cube, Page 7





# Calls for Boycott against Cube

- The National Korean American Grocers Assn. pressured the owners of St. Ides malt liquor to drop the rapper as their spokesman.
- “It was much ado about nothing,” Cube said, downplaying the backlash. “At the end of the day it’s still music.” (2017)
- [Ice Cube reflects on the 25 years since the release of 'Death Certificate' - Chicago Tribune](#)

# Latasha Harlins' Murder Over A Bottle Of Orange Juice Helped Spark The L.A. Riots

- **Apr 10, 2021** - Soon Ja Du killed Latasha Harlin over a bottle of orange juice worth \$1.79.
- <https://medium.com/crimebeat/latasha-harlins-the...>

# Latasha Harlins

- The probation report also reveals that Latasha had suffered many painful experiences during her life, including the violent death of her mother.
- Latasha lived with her extended family (her grandmother, younger brother and sister, aunt, uncle and niece) in what the probation officer described as “a clean, attractively furnished three-bedroom apartment” in South Central Los Angeles.
- Latasha had been an honor student at Bret Hart Junior High School, from which she had graduated the previous spring. Although she was making only average grades in high school, she had promised that she would bring her grades up to her former standard.
- Latasha was involved in activities at a youth center as an assistant cheerleader, member of the drill team and a summer junior camp counselor. She was a good athlete and an active church member.

# Joseph Du's Testimony (Soon Ja Du's son)

- His life had been threatened over 30 times including by local gang members because he was planning to testify against one of the gang members who he believed had robbed the store.
- More than 20 times people had come into the store and threatened to burn it down.
- The store burglarized over 30 times and
- 40 shoplifting incidents a week
- If Joseph tried to stop the shoplifters, "they show me their guns."
- On December 19, 1990, approximately 10 to 14 black persons entered the store, threatened him, and robbed him again.
- Joseph told his mother about these threats every day because he wanted to emphasize how dangerous the area was, and that he could not do business there much longer.
- [PEOPLE v. SOON JA DU | FindLaw](#)

# Attacks

- ['You little Asian girl': Beauty supply store owner says racial insults hurled at her during attack by customer \(click2houston.com\)](#)
- [Woman charged with hate crime in attack on Asian beauty store owner - Bing video](#)



- **Attack of Asian Store Owner**  
**March 2021**

'You little Asian girl': Racist attack leaves Houston beauty store owner with broken nose

- Store owner Jung Kim asked five customers to **leave her store after they knocked over several wig displays.**
- Surveillance captured the women returning and once again, knocking over the displays. The incident escalated quickly, with Kim suffering at **least eight punches, including one to the face,** that left her bloodied and bruised with a broken nose that will require surgery.
- **'Asian people shouldn't be in the Black market,'** said Sung Jun Lee, the victim's son, as reported by Cerota. **"We're stealing their money."**
- Lee was present at the time of the incident, and said the women scratched his face when he tried to help his mother. He and his father were also **nearly ran over by their vehicle in the parking lot.**
- "We never thought this would happen to us," he said, as reported by Cerota. He added that being referred to as "You little Asian girl" is something his mother will never forget.
- ['You little Asian girl': Racist attack leaves Houston beauty store owner with broken nose \(msn.com\)](https://www.msn.com)

- A stabbing at a Long Beach liquor store sparks memories of the L.A. riots
- March 5, 2022

Lee, whose spinal cord was injured in the attack, is paralyzed from the neck down and can no longer speak. She will need long-term care, and the family's only way to finance that is applying for Medi-Cal. Click to add text

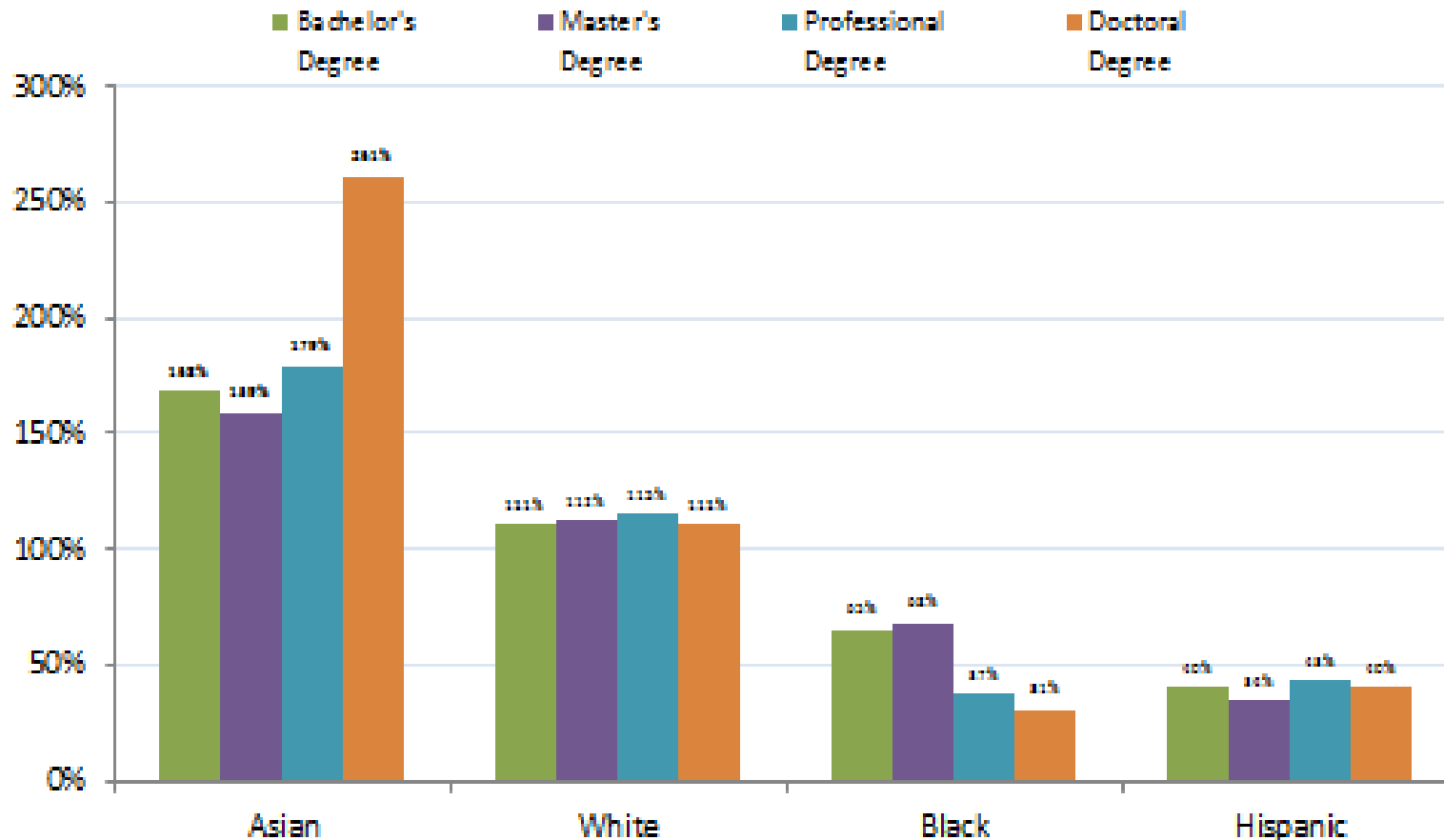
After decades of no days off or vacations and 14-hour days, Lee and her husband had just found a buyer for the store.

They worked so much, Ellyn says, that the family does not have a photo of them all together, because they never had time.

At school, classmates would bully her and throw trash at her for being Asian. She observed how hostile customers act toward service staff who don't speak English.

- [Column: A stabbing at a Long Beach liquor store sparks memories of the L.A. riots - Los Angeles Times \(latimes.com\)](https://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-fi-03-05-stabbing-liquor-store-2022-03-05-story.html)

## Asians have the Highest Percentage of Population with the Highest Attained Degree, as Compared with the National Average\*\*



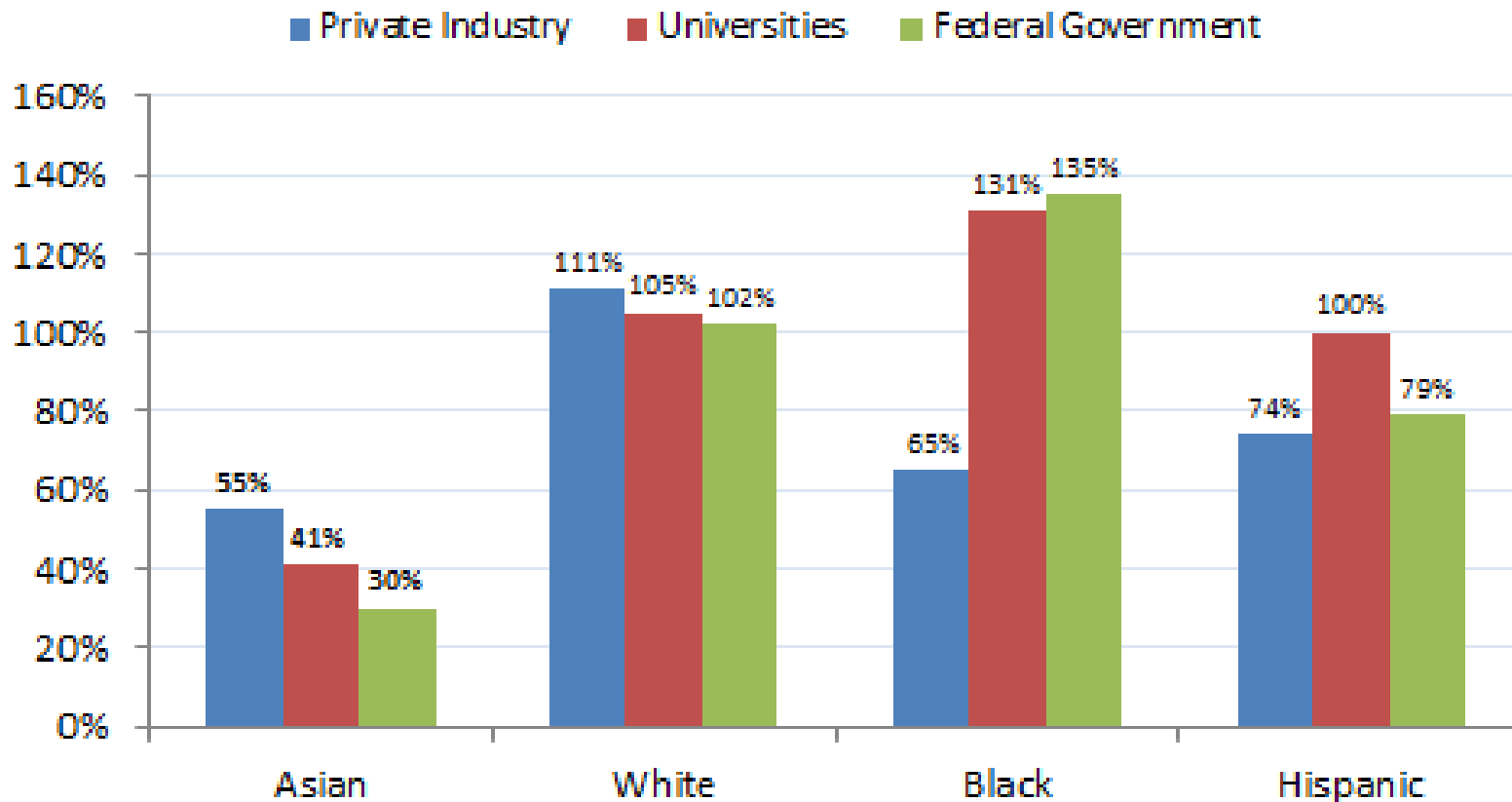
\*\* [http://www.SD-20 Initiative.net/action/equality/writing/for/post\\_wp/103.asp](http://www.SD-20 Initiative.net/action/equality/writing/for/post_wp/103.asp)

Raw data from <http://www.consumers.gov/files/social/economic/education/data/cpa/2000/tal11.pdf>

Data analyzed following the method used by SD-20 Initiative)

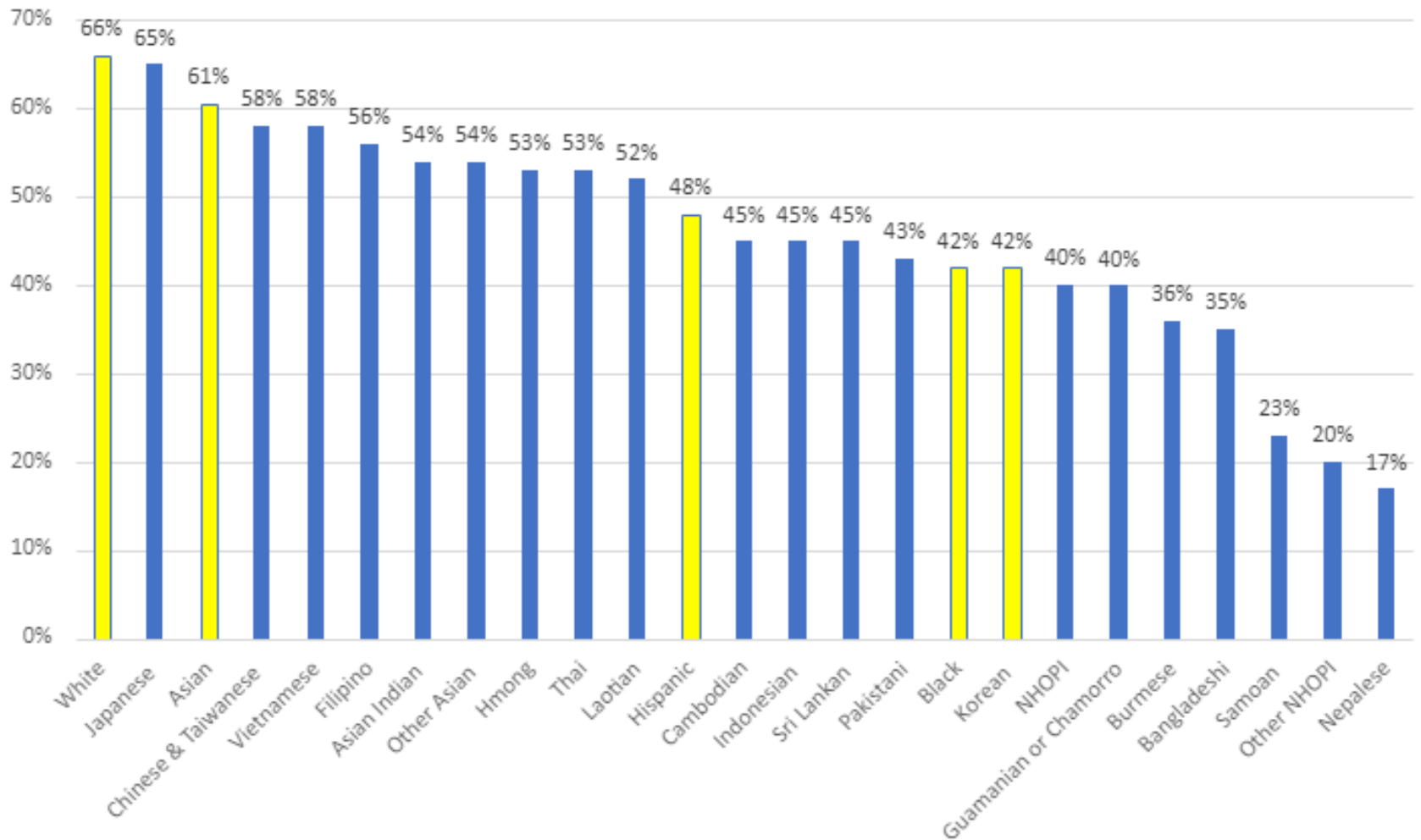


## Asians Have the Lowest Percentage Chance to Rise to Management Level, as Compared by the National Average\*



\* [http://www.80-20initiative.net/news/press/02008\\_0726.htm#1A.asp](http://www.80-20initiative.net/news/press/02008_0726.htm#1A.asp)

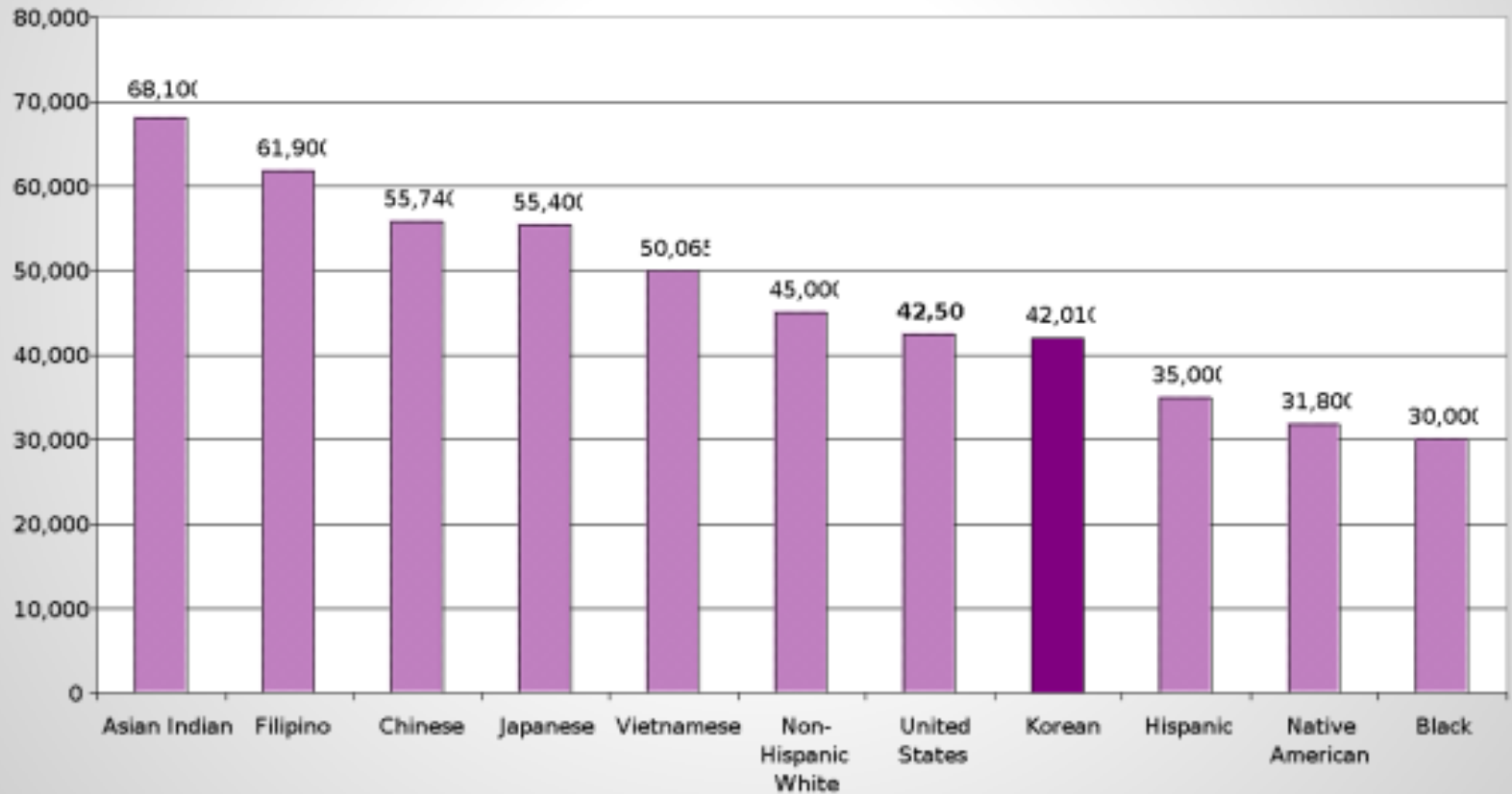
## Disaggregated National Homeownership Rate (2019)



Graph created by FACE ([www.facela.org](http://www.facela.org)) "Crisis to Impact: Reflecting on a Decade of Housing Counseling Services in Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities." National CAPACD, 16 Mar. 2021, [www.nationalcapacd.org/data-research/crisis-to-impact-refle](http://www.nationalcapacd.org/data-research/crisis-to-impact-refle)

# Korean Low Income

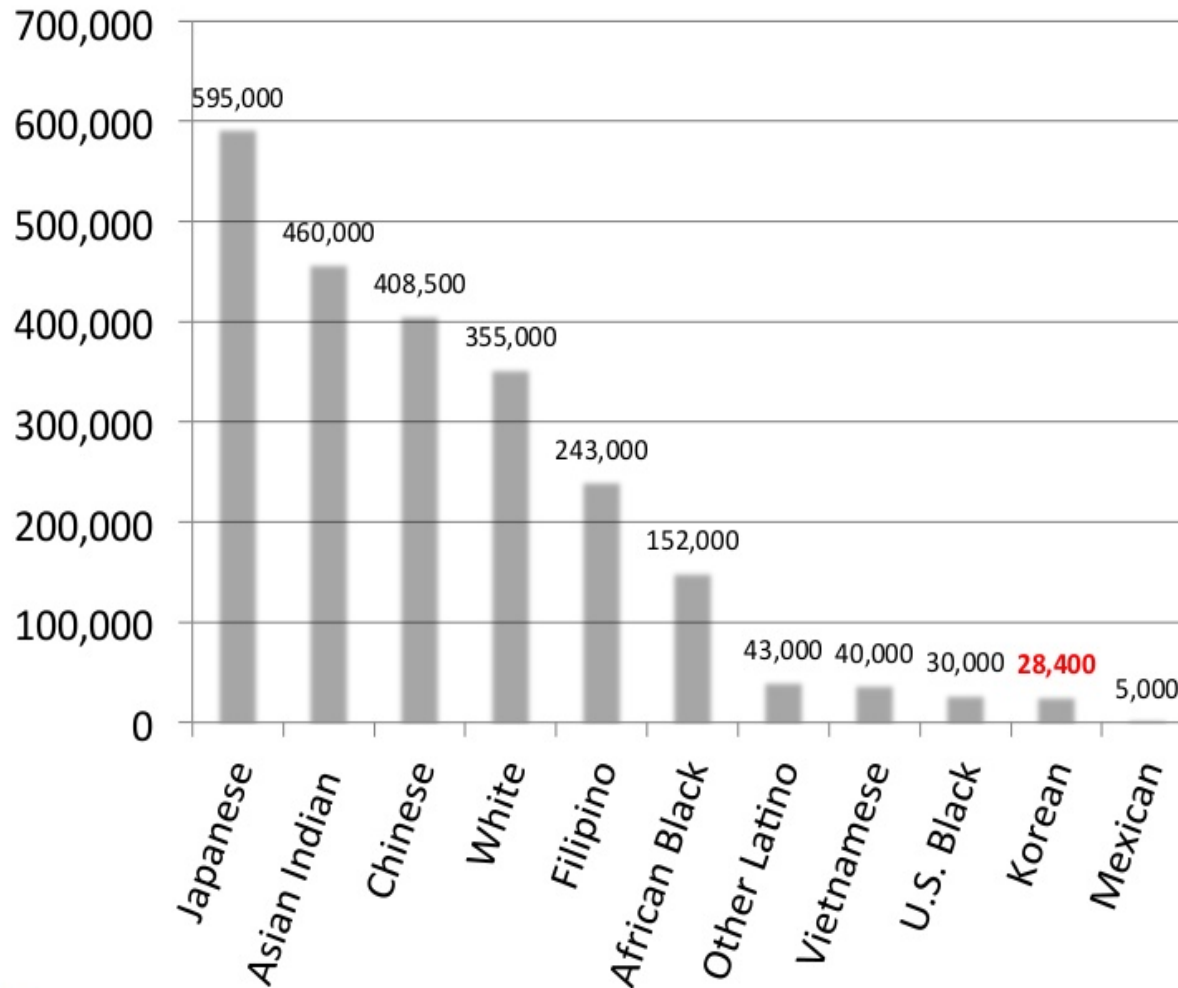
Median Household Income in the United States, 2000



SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey PUMS Data Set

# Value of Total Assets Held by Households

## Korean - **2<sup>nd</sup> LOWEST**



Total Assets



Source: NASCC Survey, Authors' Calculations, 2015, Los Angeles County

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, The Color of Wealth in Los Angeles,

A joint Publication of Duke University, The New School, The University of California, Los Angeles and The Insight Center for Community Economic Development

## Myths about Asian Store Owners

- Received special government loans only available to Asians to purchase businesses (sacrifice, highly leveraged, under-resourced)
- Make a lot of money on the backs of the community (low income, low assets, 16 hour days, 7days, no holidays or vacation)
- Target certain communities to exploit when purchasing business (default, dangerous)



## Myths about Asian Store Owners

- Are outsiders, not part of the community or stakeholders (stay longer than average resident)
- Rude/Racist (long hours, fatigued, vulnerable, lack of training)
- Gun toting



# Asians - Most Victimized of Violent Crimes Outside their Race



- % Violent Crime Victims perpetrated by outside their own ethnicity
- Against Asians - 76%
- Against Latinos - 55%
- Against White - 38%
- Against Black - 36%

• \*Black on Asian Crime Statistics ([financegeek.org](http://financegeek.org))



# Black on Asian Crime

- 280 times more common than Asian on Black crime

- \*Black on Asian Crime Statistics ([financegeek.org](http://financegeek.org))





# Black on Asian Crime



- 2018 Crime Stats
- 563,940 Violent Incidents against Blacks, less than .1% of offenders were Asian
- 182,230 Violent Incidents against Asians, 27.5% of offenders were Black

• \*2018 Crime Stats



## 2nd Highest Workplace Homicide

Convenience store employees  
suffer from high rates of  
workplace homicide, second  
only to taxicab drivers. <sup>14</sup>

[http://www.popcenter.org/problems/robbery\\_convenience/](http://www.popcenter.org/problems/robbery_convenience/)



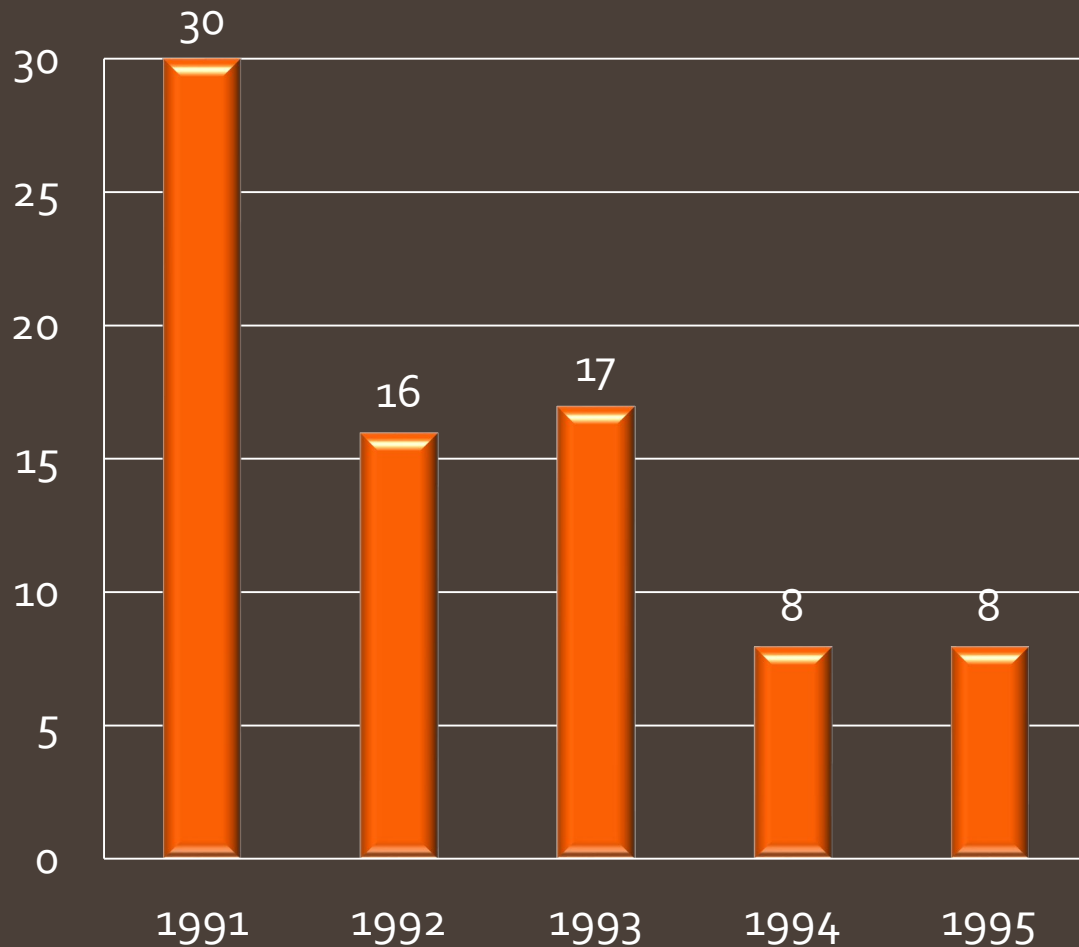
# # Korean Americans Killed (LA County)

- 1991 – 30 Koreans shot and killed
- 1994 – 18 Koreans shot and killed

\*Criminal Justice Department 1991 - 2000 & Memoir of Cashier,  
Korean Americans, Racism and Riots, p. 88



# Korean American Homicides Los Angeles County (1991-1995)



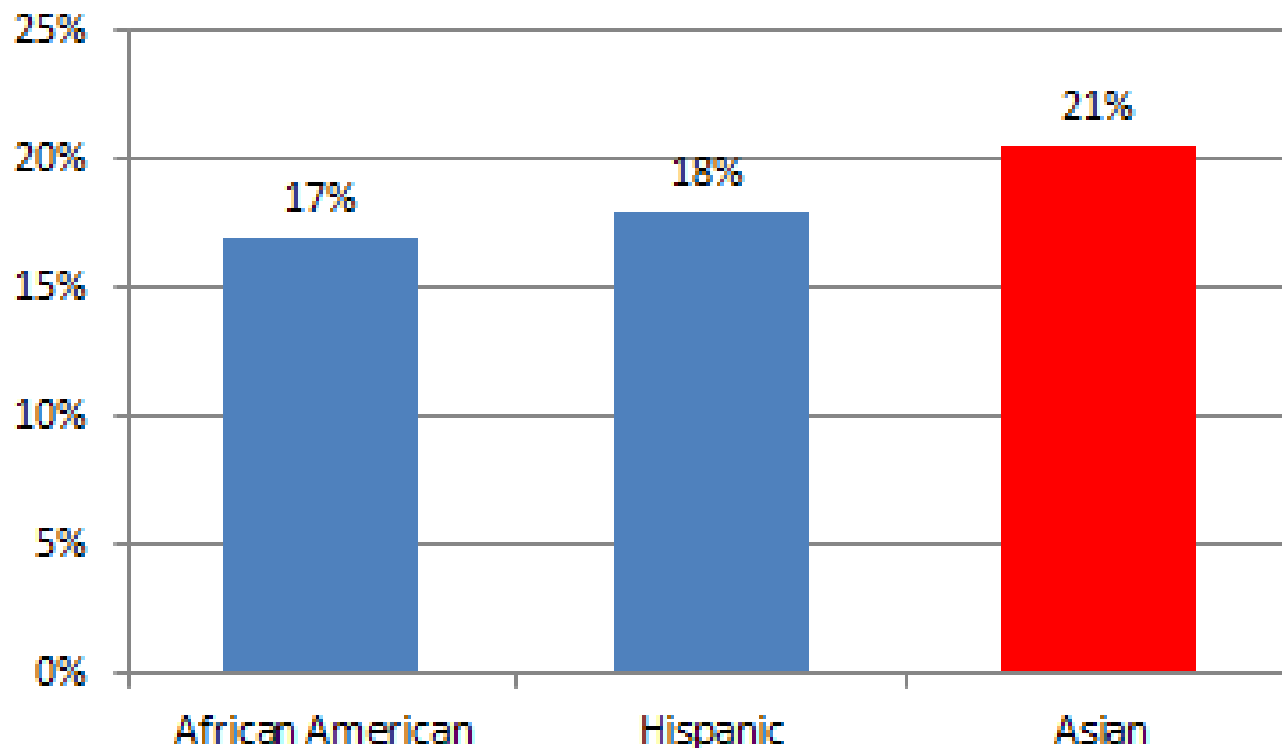
## Why Long Working Hours?

- Two Employees, Two Shifts for typical store
- Under-resourced, highly leveraged
- Usually, one person takes two shifts, and recruits family member for free labor



# AAPI-Higher Discrimination Rate than Blacks and Hispanics during the Homebuying Process

2000-2001

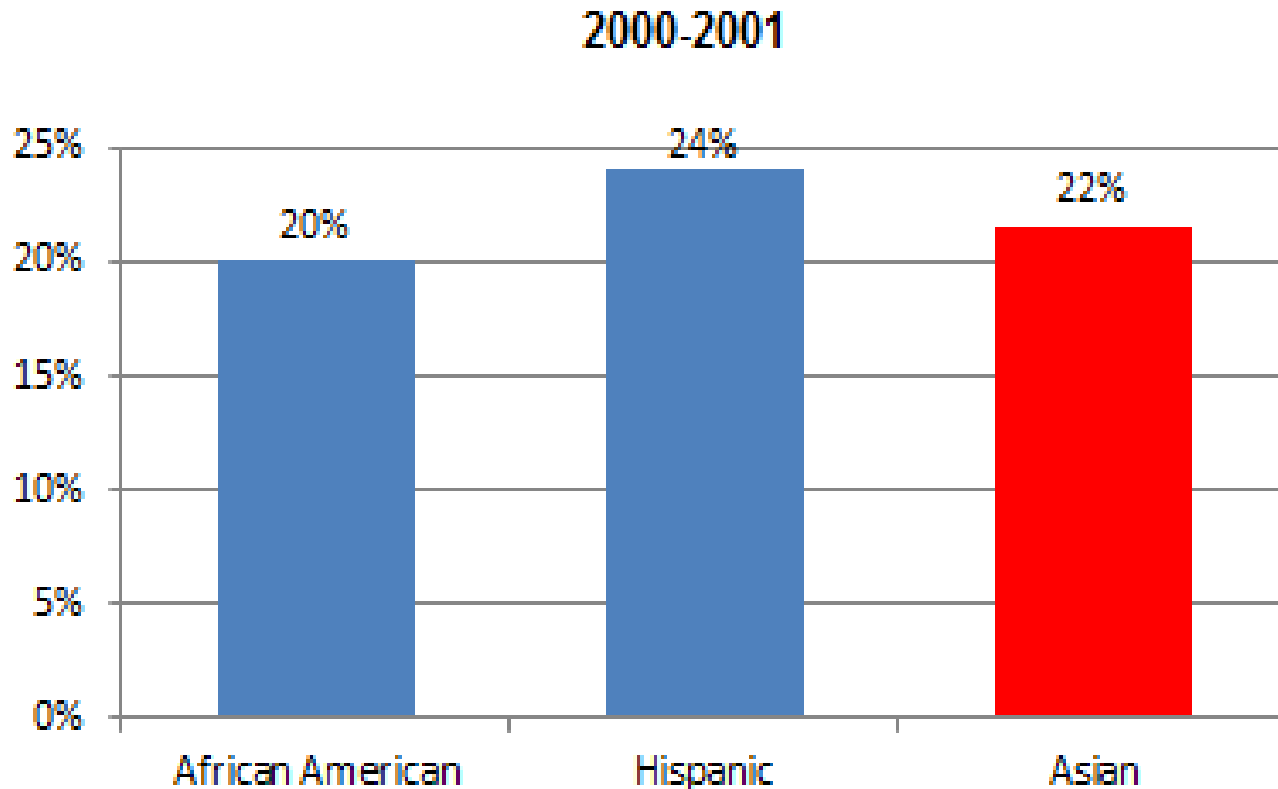


Data from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Source: [http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/phauc2\\_final.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/phauc2_final.pdf)



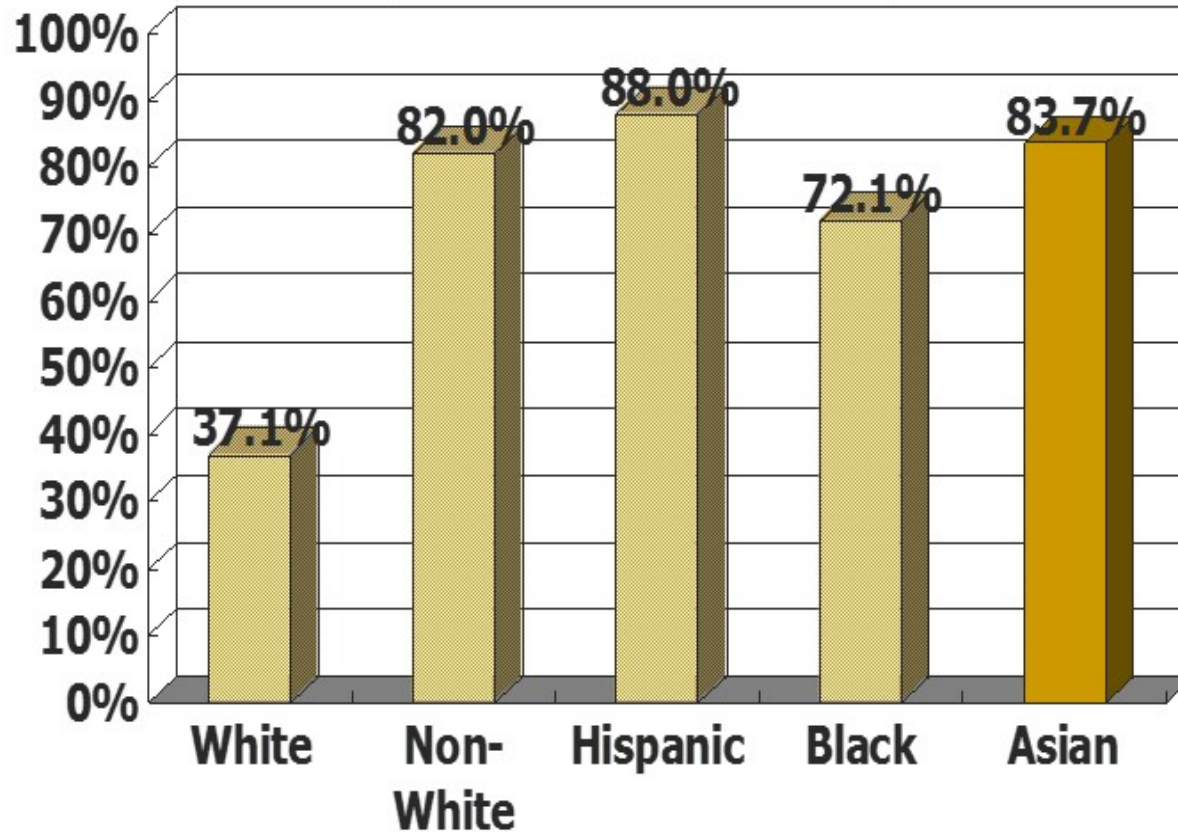
# AAPI-Face Comparable or Higher Rates of Discrimination than Hispanics and Blacks during the Rental Process



Data from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Source: [http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/chmrc2\\_final.pdf](http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/chmrc2_final.pdf)

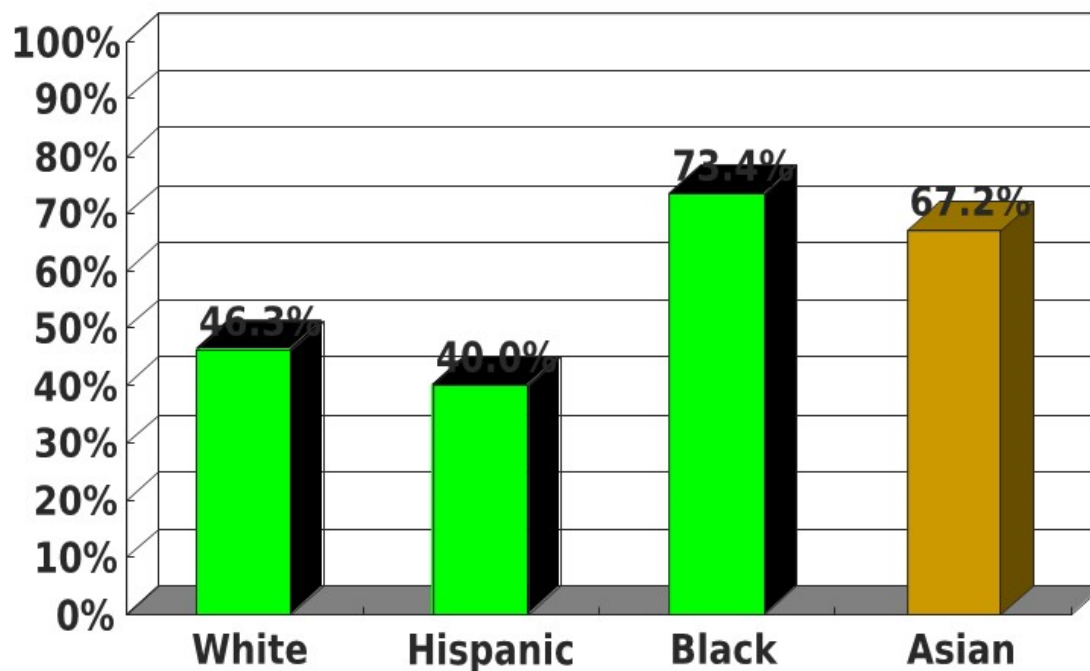
# Asian and Latino Youth Highest Rates of Tried in Adult Court (Violent Crimes)



Source: The Color of Justice: An Analysis of Juvenile Adult Court Transfers in California, January 2000, Figure 2.



## BLACK AND ASIAN YOUTH TRIED IN ADULT COURT ARE IMPRISONED MORE OFTEN



Source: The Color of Justice: An Analysis of Juvenile Adult Court Transfers in California, January 2000, Figure 3.

## Limited English Proficiency for the Population 5 Years & Older

by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Ethnic Group, City of Los Angeles, 2007 to 2013

Population Group	Percent	Number
White	8%	86,784
Black or African American	2%	9,172
Latino	48%	787,263
Asian American	37%	165,035
Korean	60%	60,872
Thai	53%	6,136
Cambodian	48%	2,286
Taiwanese	47%	1,593
Vietnamese	47%	10,698
Chinese (except Taiwanese)	40%	29,746
Japanese	24%	10,868
Filipino	23%	30,481
Indian	22%	7,386
Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander	12%	1,368
American Indian & Alaskan Native	19%	7,163
<i>Total Population</i>	30%	1,046,602

U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0201. Note: Only groups with more than 4,000 people were included due to data stability.



# AANHPI Unemployment

- 2013: Asian Americans were 10% of total unemployed in City of L.A.
- Filipinos had second highest unemployment growth rate (118%) in City of L.A. (2007-2013)
- California: 27% of unemployed Asian Americans out of work for one year or longer (average unemployment 41.3 weeks)



# City of L.A. Workforce Development and AANHPIs



- Asian Americans = 10% of unemployed in City of L.A.
- WIB served 3,827 AANHPIs or 6% of total clients (2009-2014).
- WIB - AANHPI job placements = 2,123 or 6% of total (2009-2014).
- **Asian Youth served: 2013: 46 out of 2,834 total (1.6%); 2014: 159 out of 9,980 total (1.6%); 2015: 65 out of 4,084 total (1.6%)**



## Contact Info



- Hyepin Im  
FACE (Formerly KCCD)  
[hyepin.im@facela.org](mailto:hyepin.im@facela.org)  
(213) 216-3676  
[www.facela.org](http://www.facela.org)

SAIGU Campaign  
Youth@Work Internships  
C2 Leadership Institute  
[www.facela.org](http://www.facela.org)

