



PROFILE

Asian and Pacific Islander Population in Montgomery County



Montgomery Planning
Prepared by
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Research and Strategic
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This publication highlights key demographic, household, and economic statistics for the Asian and Pacific Islander population in Montgomery County from U.S. Census data. The American Community Survey (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation. The data in this profile are from the 2022 American Community Survey, 1-year sample, unless otherwise noted.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

The Asian and Pacific Islander (API)^{1,2} population has grown tremendously since 1970, when 5,285 API residents lived in Montgomery County, making up 1% of the population. By 2022, the number of API residents was 162,062, outpacing countywide population growth, to reach **15%** of the population.³

Figure 1: API Population and Growth (1970–2022)

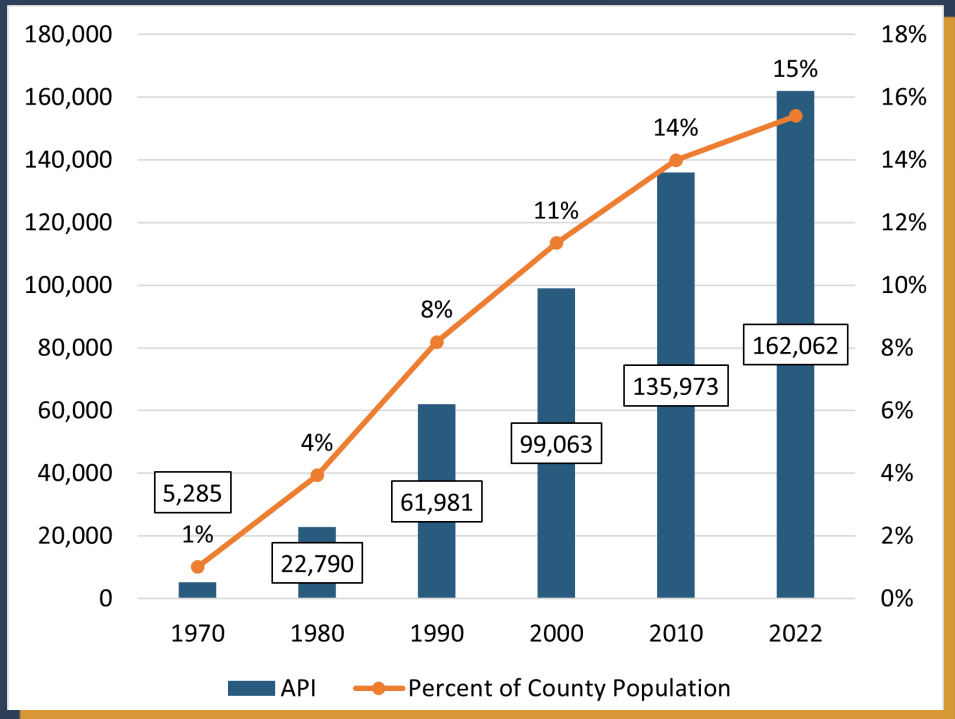
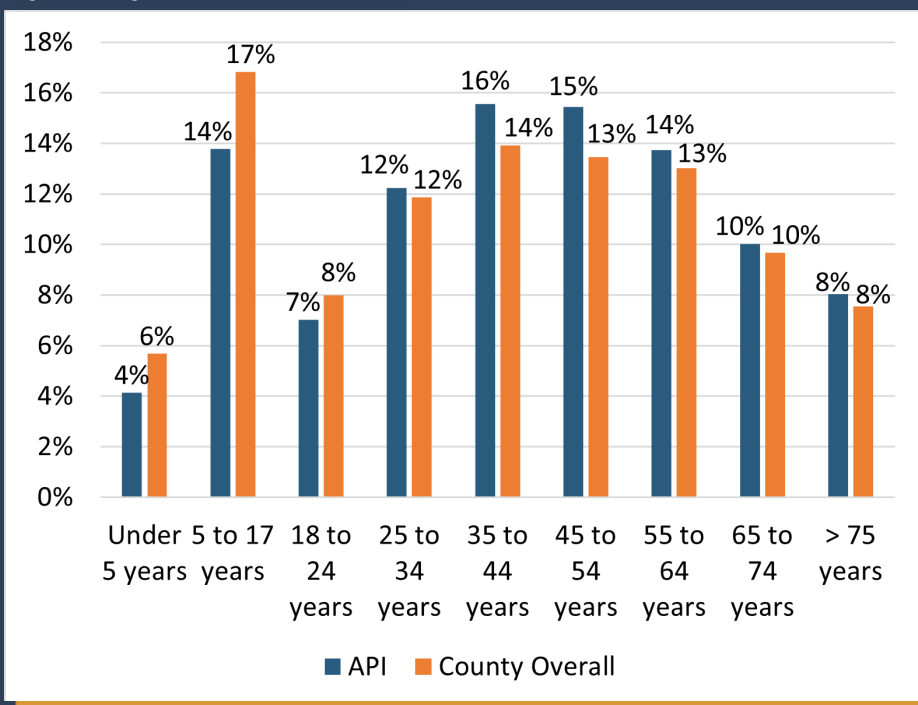


Figure 2: Age Distribution (2022)



AGE

API residents were somewhat older than residents of the county overall with a median age of 44 years, compared with the county median of 40 years. The age distribution for API residents closely mirrors that of the county overall, except for residents between 35 and 54 – the API population in this age group exceeded that of the county by approximately four percentage points. However, despite the slightly higher percentages of people at childbearing age, the percentage of API residents under 18 lags that of the county overall (18% versus 23%).

¹ American Community Survey respondents self-identify their race. Data in this profile include Montgomery County residents who chose “Asian” or “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” as their race category (collectively referred to as “API”). Persons who identify as API and Hispanic are included because the latter is an ethnicity, not a race. People who identify with two or more different races are not included due to data limitations.

² The U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines “Asian” as “A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.” OMB defines “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander” as “A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.”

³ 1970–2020 Decennial Census, U.S. Census Bureau

NATIVITY AND CITIZENSHIP STATUS

The rapid growth of the API population over the past few decades was driven by immigration, resulting in over two-thirds (69%) of the group being foreign born,⁴ compared with only 34% of residents being foreign born in the county overall. The share of foreign born API residents who were naturalized U.S. citizens was more than double the rate of county residents (**45% vs. 19%**) and approaches half of all API residents in the county. The large share of the foreign-born API population who are naturalized citizens is likely related to the historically higher naturalization rates among Asian immigrants at the national level.⁵

Figure 3: Nativity and Citizenship Status, API (2022)

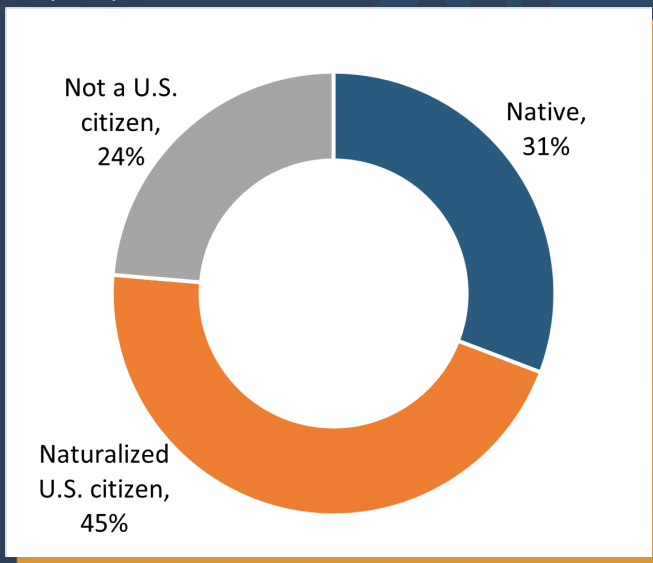
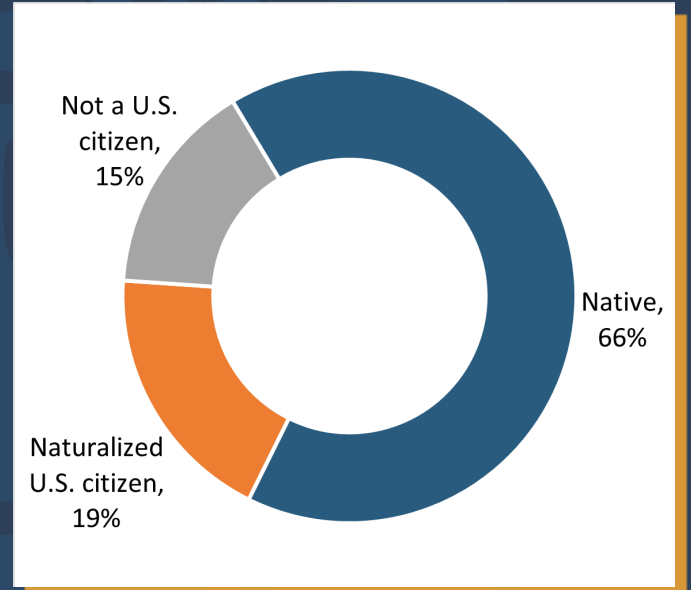


Figure 4: Nativity and Citizenship Status, County Overall (2022)



⁴ "Foreign born" includes both persons who are naturalized U.S. citizens and persons who are not U.S. citizens.

⁵ Caterina, Camille. (2023). U.S. Naturalizations: 2022. United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics.

HERITAGE

Figure 5 shows the self-reported heritage or ancestry of the API population. These data include both API residents born in the United States and API residents born abroad. Chinese (27%) and Asian Indians (26%) were the largest categories, followed by Koreans at 10%, then Vietnamese and Filipino at 8% each.

Additional Asian and Pacific Islander groups not shown individually in the graph (“Other API” below) include those with less than 2% each: Burmese (0.9%); Cambodian (0.6%); Indonesian (1.0%); Malaysian (0.1%); Thai (1.3%); Bangladeshi (1.2%); Other Central Asian (0.9%); and Other Asian, not specified (1.2%). Other groups not listed may be found in very small numbers.

Figure 5: Asian and Pacific Islanders by Specific Origin (2022)

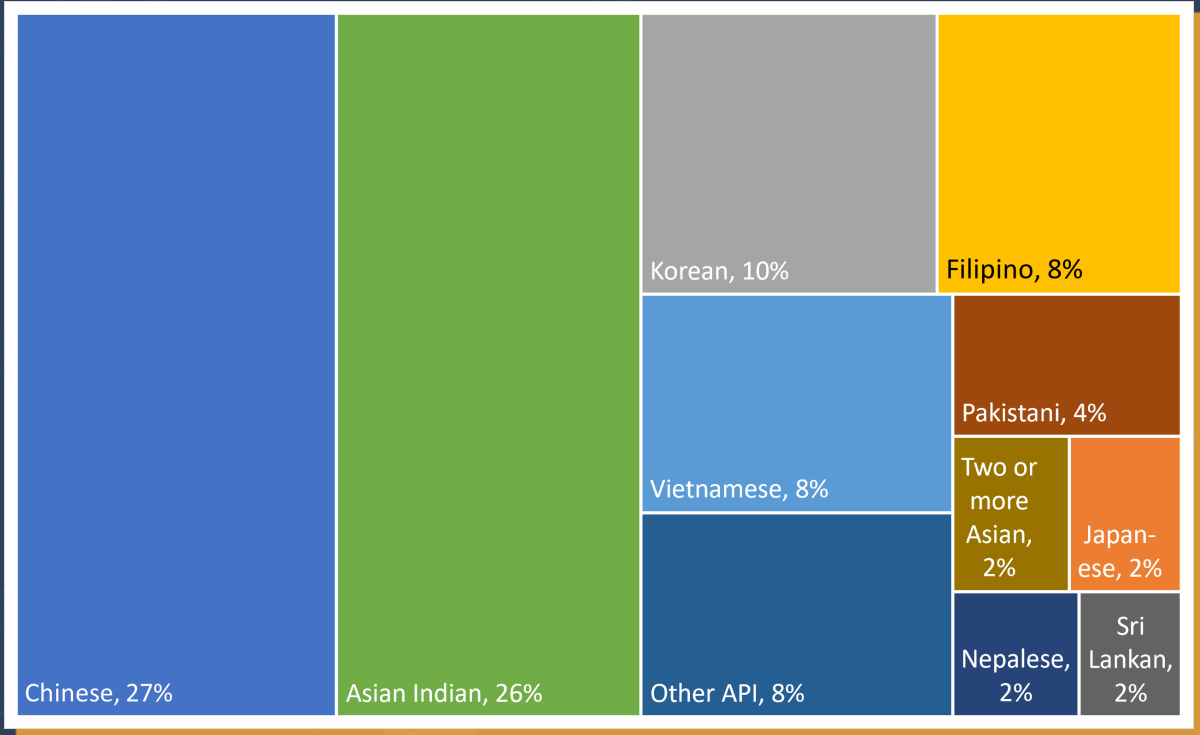
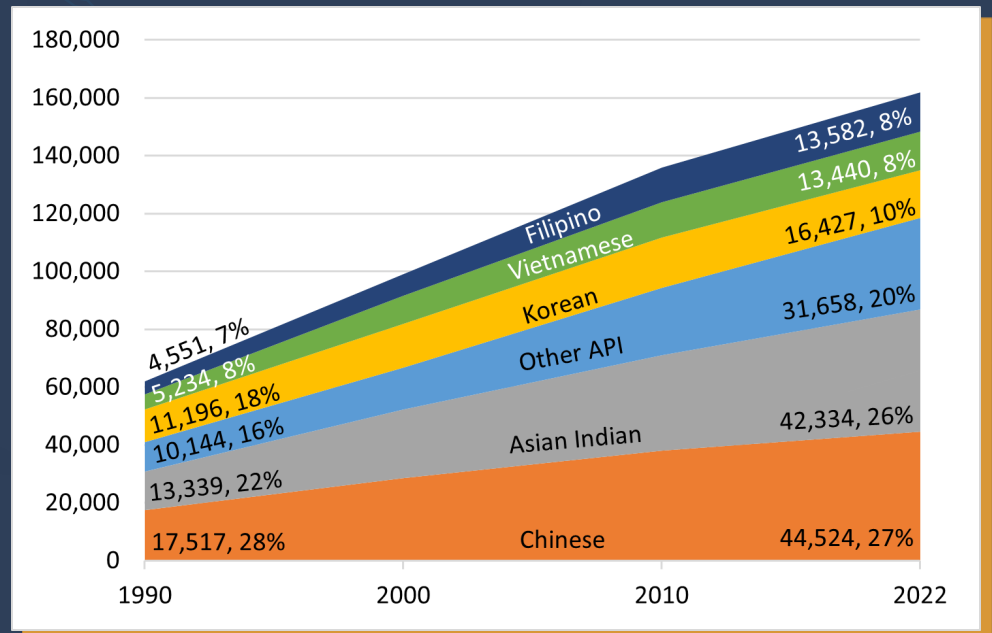


Figure 6: Growth in API Populations Since 1990

Figure 6 shows the largest API groups in Montgomery County. The graph labels include the number of residents in each group and the percentage of API residents that each group represented in 1990 and 2022. Chinese and Asian Indians have consistently been the largest groups by a wide margin. The Indian population has seen the most growth, gaining about 29,000 residents in Montgomery County since 1990, for a growth rate of 217%.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY

Many API residents speak languages other than English. More than half (53%) of native born API residents reported speaking another language, and 86% of those born abroad do. Of those who spoke another language, 74% of native born API residents reported speaking English “very well,” and among foreign born residents, 43% reported the same. Data are self-reported and subject to how respondents determine their own ability to speak English “very well.”

Figure 7: English Language Skill in Native-Born API residents (Population over 5 years old, 2022)

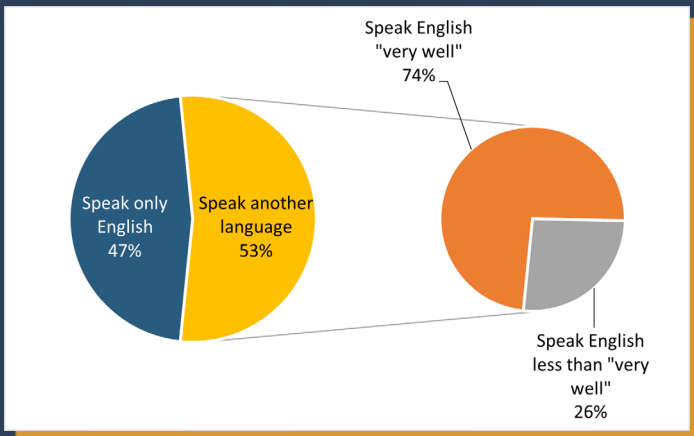


Figure 8: English Language Skill in Foreign-Born API residents (Population over 5 years old, 2022)

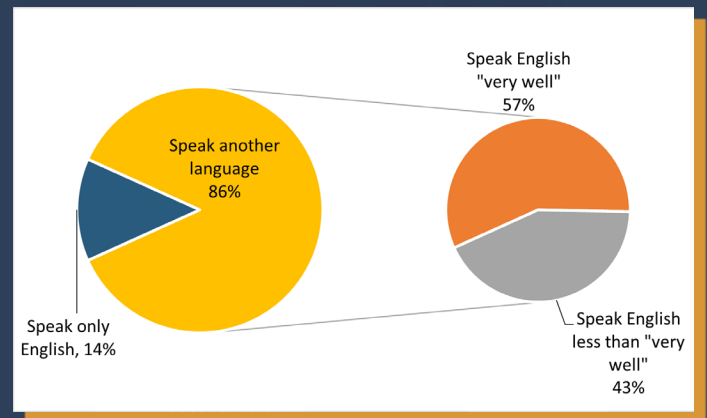
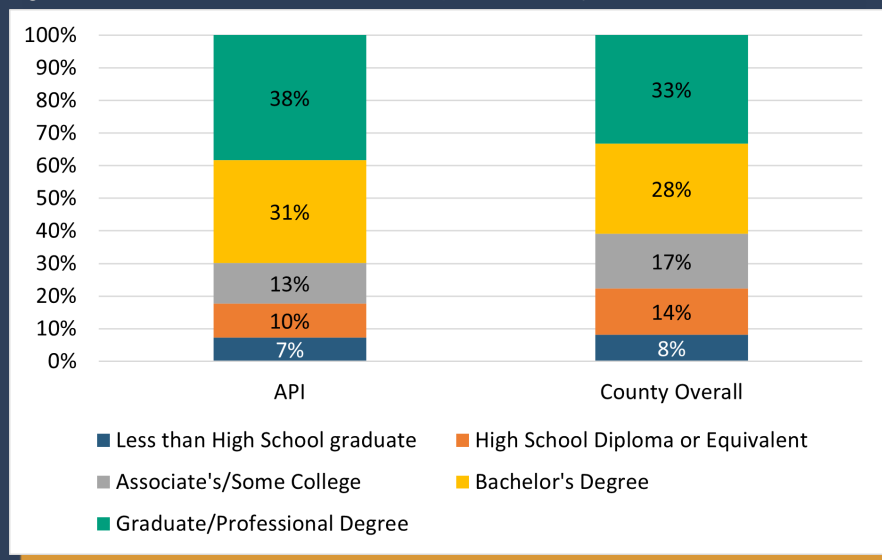


Figure 9: Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older, 2022)



EDUCATION

The API population is very highly educated. Among those aged 25 years or older, **69%** of the API population achieved a bachelor’s degree or greater, outpacing the 61% of county residents overall who achieved the same.

Notably, the percentage of API residents with a graduate or professional degree (38%) was five percentage points higher than the overall percentage of the population with advanced degrees.

HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

Asians and Pacific Islanders were more likely to live in married couple households with or without children than the county overall, at rates 8 percentage points and 6 percentage points higher, respectively. In contrast, county residents overall were much more likely to live alone (28% of households) than the API community (17%). The smaller percentage of households with API residents living alone and larger percentage of married-couple API households relate to their larger average household size (Table 1).

Figure 10: Distribution of Household Types (2022)

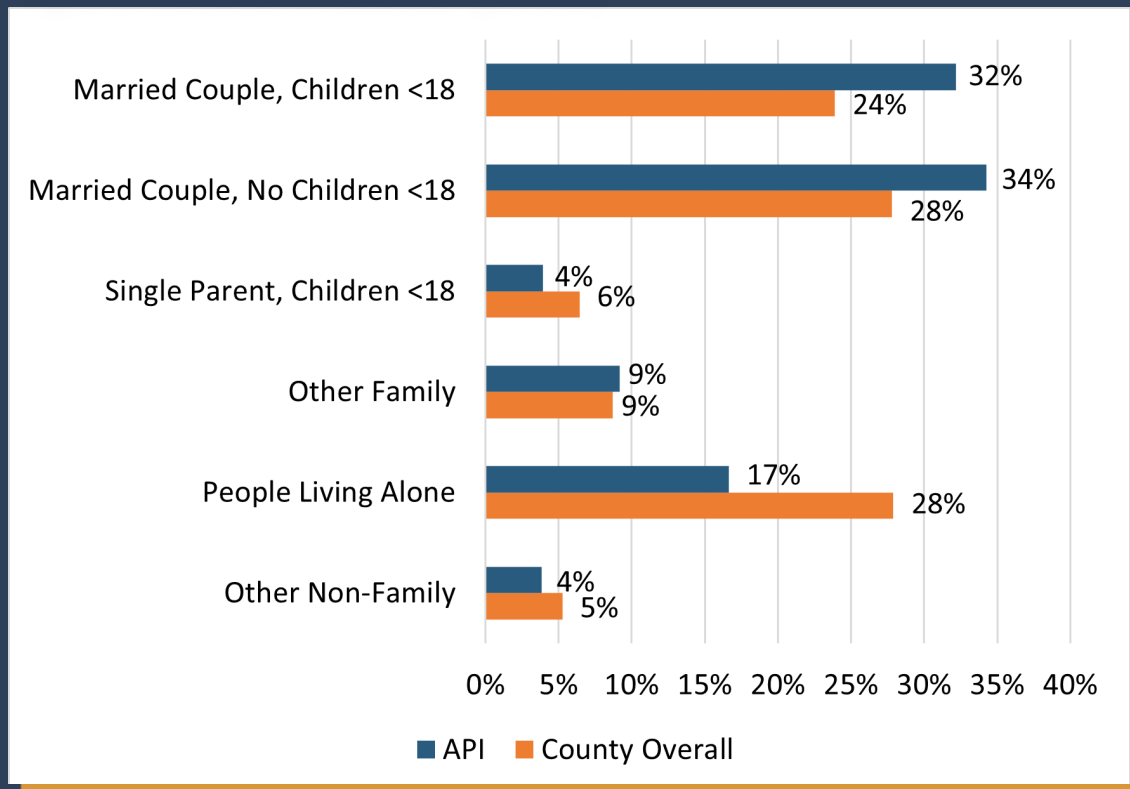


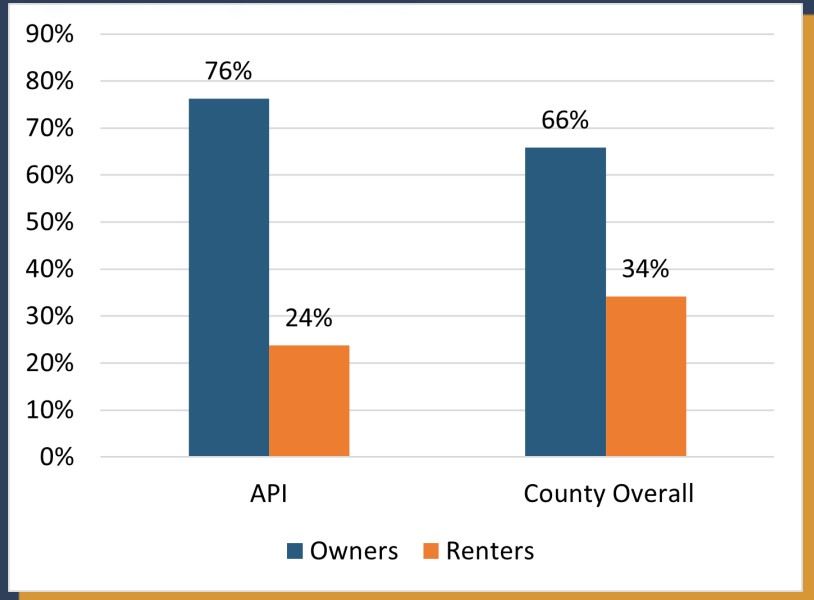
Table 1: Average Household and Family Size (2022)

	API	County Overall
Average Household Size	2.89	2.67
Average Family Size (Number of Family Members)	3.25	3.27

HOUSING TYPE

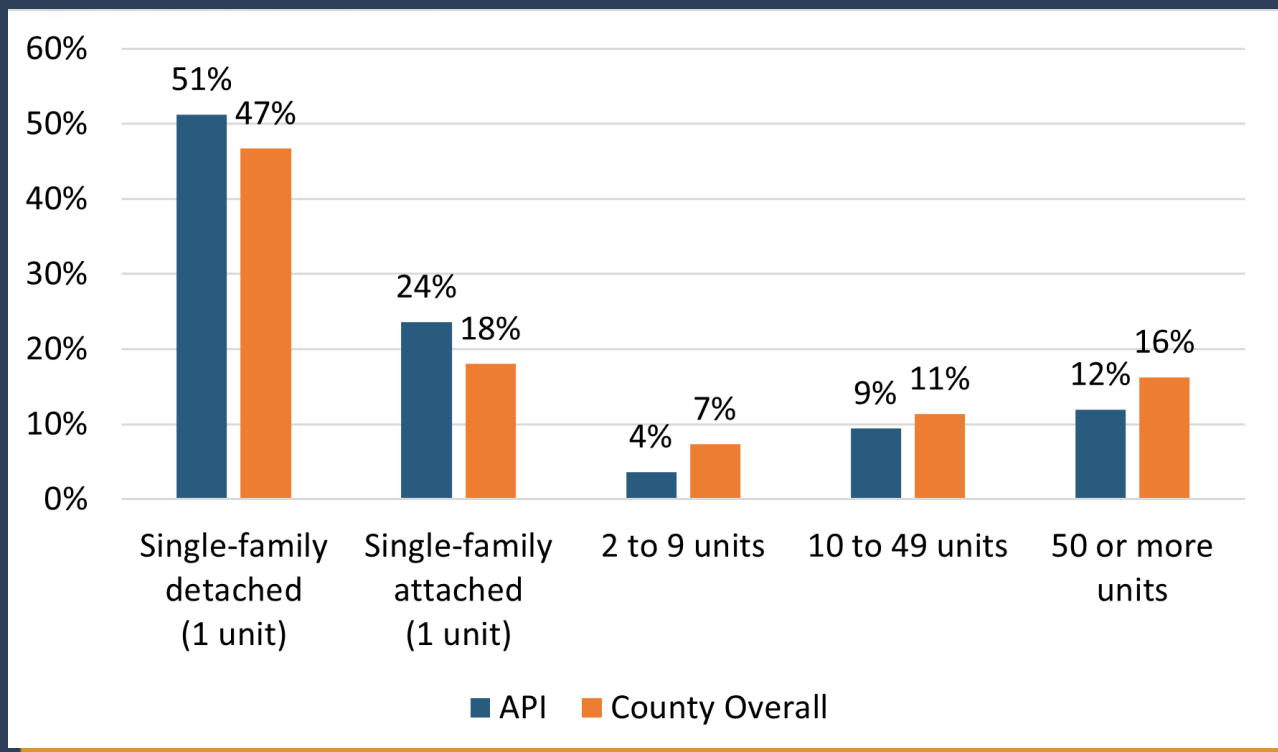
The API homeownership rate of **76%** was greater than the county's 66%. Only 24% of the API population were renters, versus the county average of 34%.

Figure 11: Housing Tenure (2022)



API households lived in single-family detached units at a slightly higher rate than county households overall (51% vs. 47%) and were more likely to live in single-family attached units than county households overall (24% vs. 18%). County residents as a whole were more likely to live in all categories of multifamily housing by a margin of 2 to 4 percentage points.

Figure 12: Units in Structure (2022)

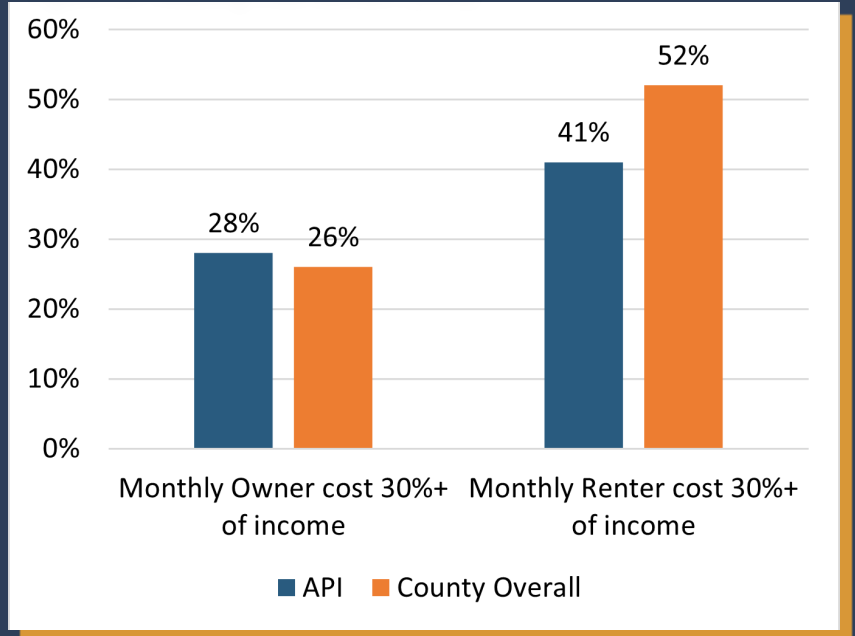


HOUSING COSTS

Median monthly housing costs for API homeowners with a mortgage were \$2,687, while median rent and associated costs for renters were \$1,869 in 2022. In the county overall, the median costs for homeowners were \$2,571, and median rent and associated costs were \$1,852.

API homeowners were burdened by housing costs (paying more than 30% of their household income for housing) at a similar rate as all county homeowners. However, fewer API renters were burdened by housing costs, with 41% paying at least 30% of their income on housing (compared with 52% for the county overall).

Figure 13: Housing Cost Burden (2022)



API Median Homeowner Cost
\$2,687

County Overall Median Homeowner Cost
\$2,571



API Median Renter Cost
\$1,869

County Overall Median Renter Cost
\$1,852

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

INCOME AND POVERTY

The higher educational attainment of API residents translates to higher household incomes. In 2022, the median household income in the API community was \$134,855, relative to \$118,323 for all county households.

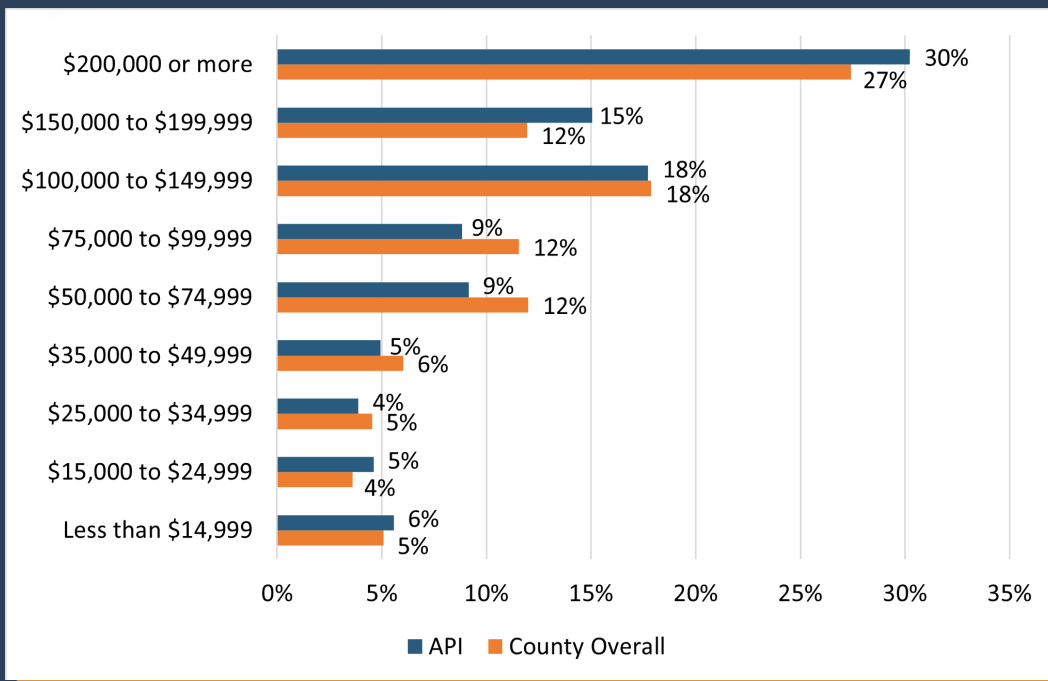
Unemployment among those aged 25 and older was 4% for the API community, which was the same rate as the county population as a whole.

A larger share of API households earned over \$150,000 annually (45%) than did households in the entire county (39%). A smaller share of API households earned \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually (18%), compared with the county (24%).

API Household Income is **114%** of the County figure



Figure 14: Household Income (2022)



API residents and county residents overall had similar levels of poverty (8% each). This similarity holds regarding those who were at two times the Federal Poverty Level (17% for the API community vs. 18% in the county), which is a broader measure of poverty that more accurately captures individuals who struggle to make ends meet.

Table 2: Poverty Rate (2022)

	API	County Overall
Individuals with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level	8%	8%
Individuals with incomes less than 2x the Federal Poverty Level ^{6,7}	17%	18%

⁶ Data on poverty in the United States often include this metric to account more fully for changes to cost of living over time. For example, as of 2022, two times the Federal Poverty Level was an annual income of \$27,180 for a one-person household and \$46,060 for a family of three.

⁷ United States Department of Health and Human Services. Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines. Federal Register, Vol. 87, No. 14, January 21, 2022, p. 3316.

EMPLOYMENT

Asian and Pacific Islander workers were heavily concentrated within two occupational categories: “Computer, engineering, and science” and “Management, business, and financial.” Among API residents, 29% had jobs in the first category (compared with 15% in the county overall), and 21% had jobs in the second category (compared with 23% in the county overall). The next most prevalent occupations were in the categories of “Education, legal, community service, arts, and media” (11%), then “Healthcare practitioners and technical” (9%), and “Office and administrative support” (6%).

Table 3: Occupations of API Residents (2022)

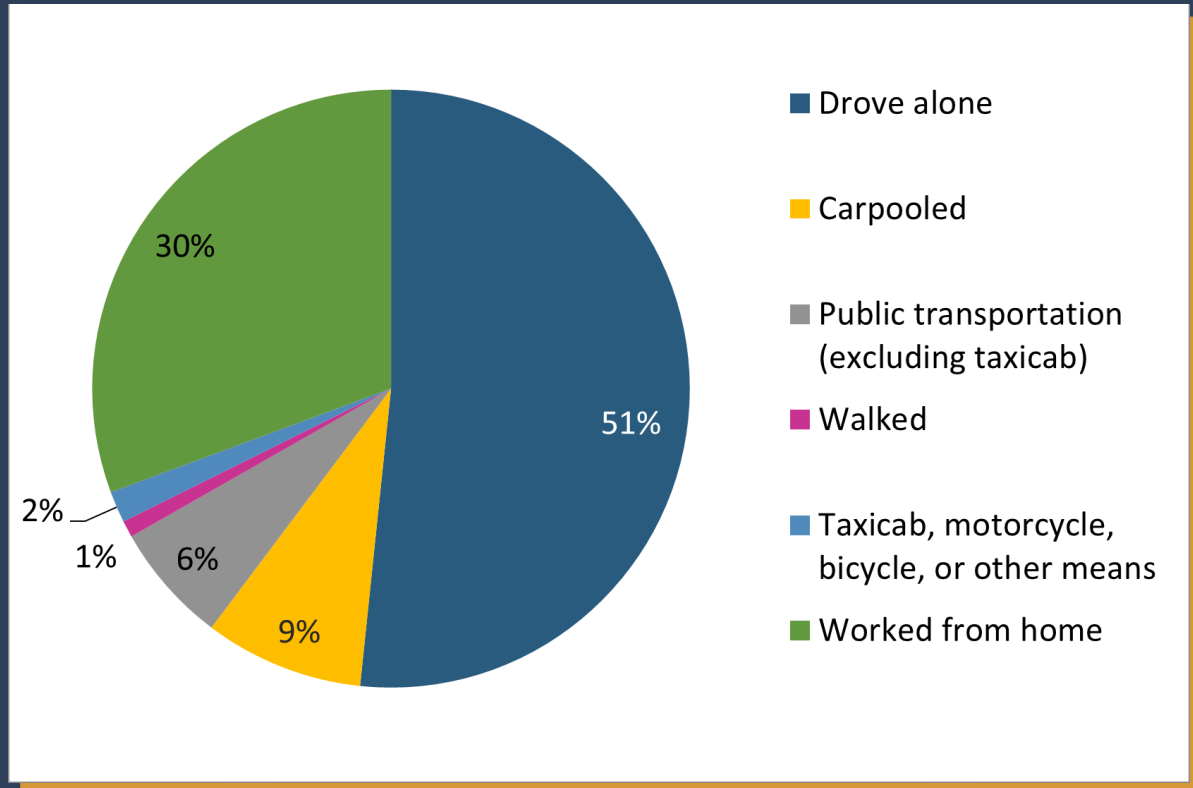
	API Estimate	API Percent	County Overall Percent
Computer, engineering, and science	25,164	29%	15%
Management, business, and financial	18,370	21%	23%
Education, legal, community service, arts, and media	9,331	11%	16%
Healthcare practitioners and technical	7,411	9%	6%
Office and administrative support	5,587	6%	7%
Sales and related	5,185	6%	7%
Food preparation and serving related	3,581	4%	4%
Personal care and service	3,006	3%	3%
Healthcare support	2,125	2%	2%
Installation, maintenance, and repair	1,939	2%	2%
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	1,448	2%	3%
Production	1,424	2%	2%
Transportation	739	1%	3%
Material moving	695	1%	1%
Construction and extraction	592	1%	5%
Protective service	262	0%	1%
Farming, fishing, and forestry	71	0%	0%

COMMUTE TO WORK

API residents' commutes closely resemble those of other county residents. In 2022, 60% of the working API population drove to work, either alone or with someone else (compared with 61% in the county as a whole). Another 30% worked from home, a share that reflects the occupations of this community and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The corresponding county figure was 28% of residents.

API and county residents' commute times were similar at 33 and 32 minutes, respectively.

Figure 15: Commuting Mode, API Residents (Workers 16 and Older, 2022)



Profile of the

Asian and Pacific Islander Population in Montgomery County

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