

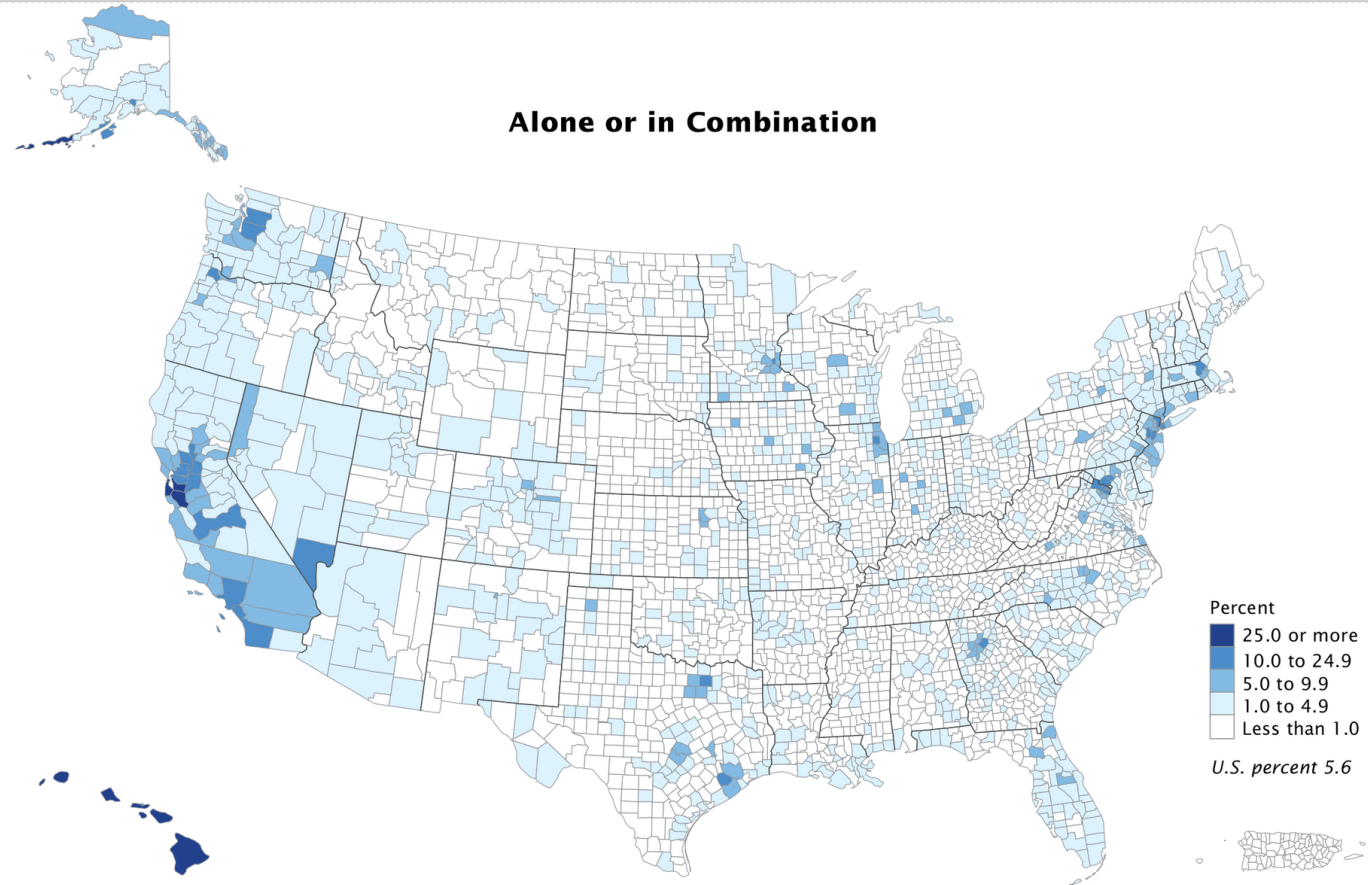
# AAPI Communities: Health, Stigma, & Advocacy

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# Background Characteristics

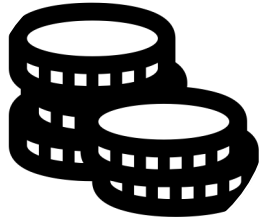
- **5.4% of US Population is AAPI**
- **17.3 Million People** in US Population are AAPI
- AAPI Population grew by **72%** b/w 2010 & 2015
- CA, NY, TX, NJ, IL & WA had largest share of AAPI Community



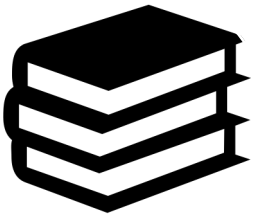
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Table P1.

# Background Characteristics (Cont.)

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AAPI adults have lower rates of unemployment than non-Hispanic white Americans (3.4% vs. 3.9%)

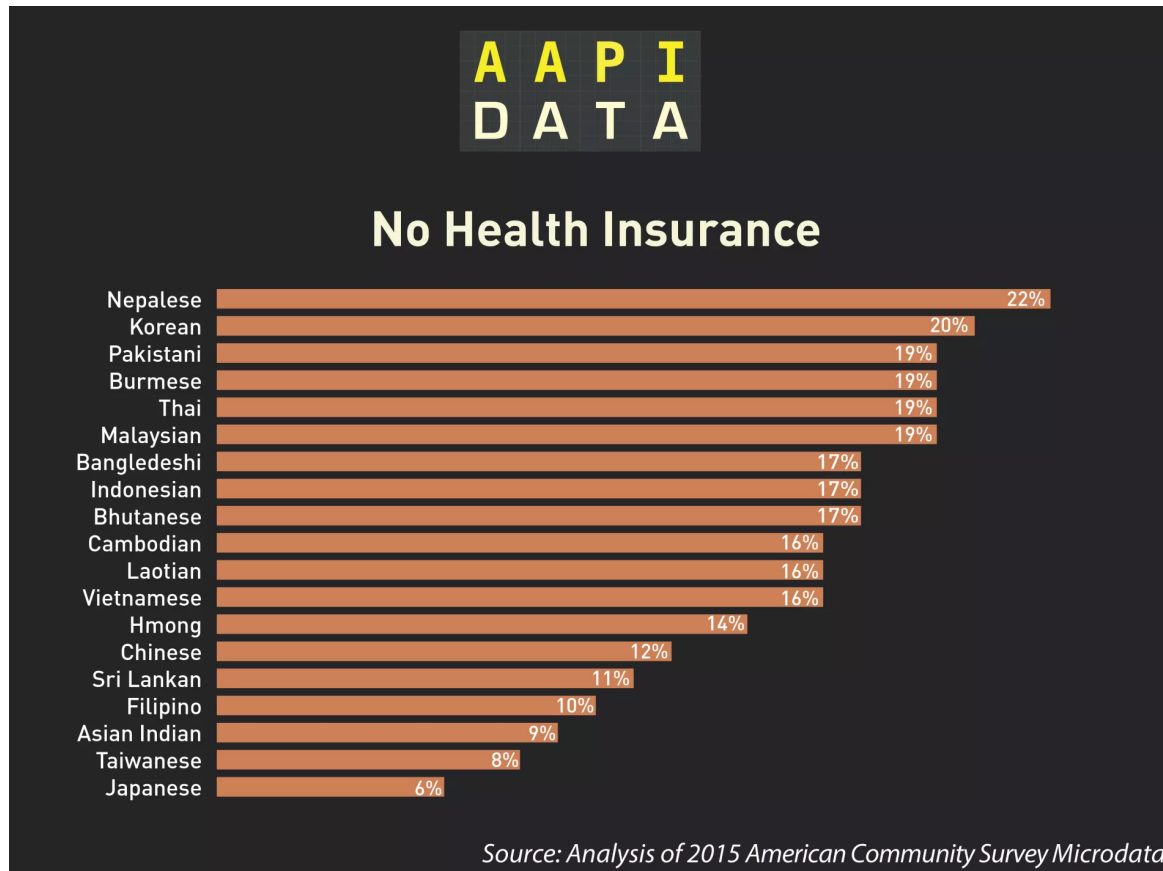


52.3% of AAPI Americans in comparison to 34.2% of total non-Hispanic white Americans earned at least a bachelor's degree



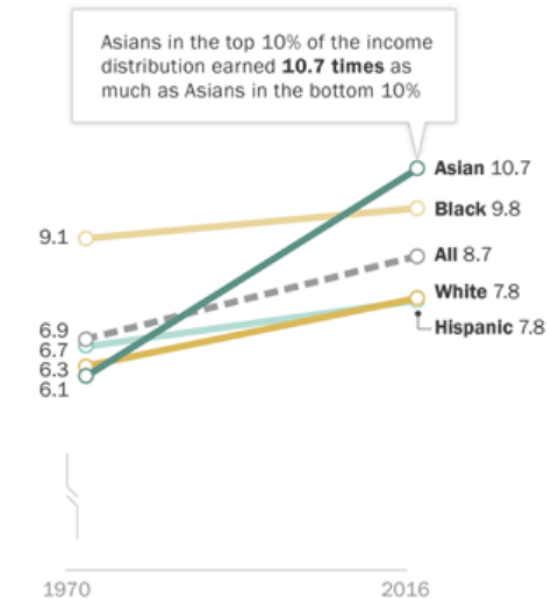
AAPI-Americans accounted for one-quarter of all immigrants who arrived to the U.S. since 1965

# Background Characteristics (Cont.)



## From lowest to highest: Income inequality in U.S. increased most among Asians from 1970 to 2016

*Ratio of income at the 90th percentile to income at the 10th percentile*

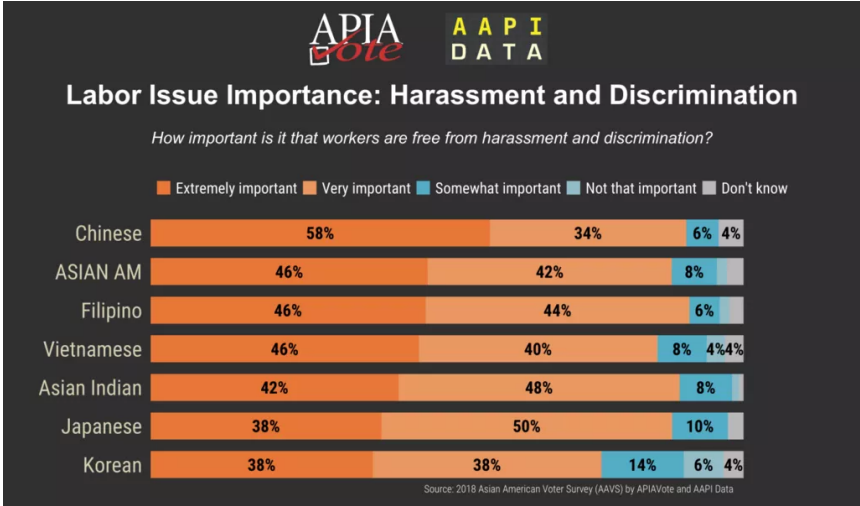
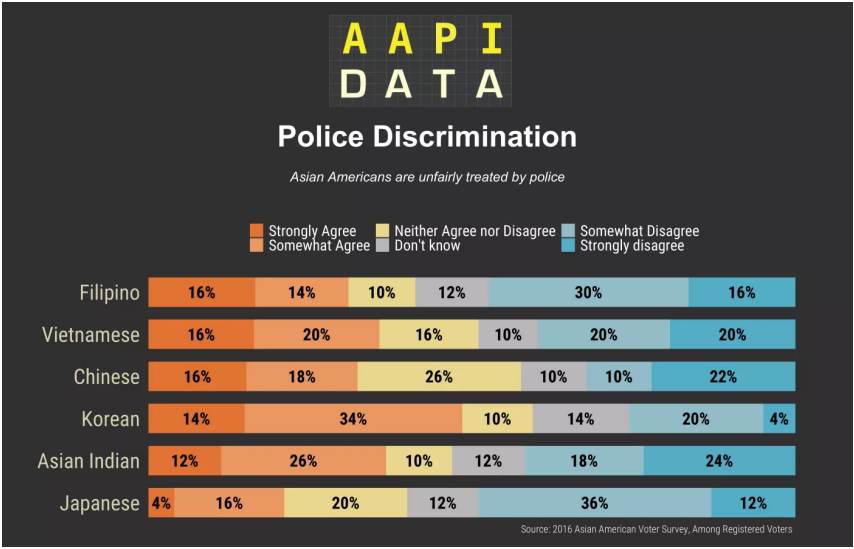
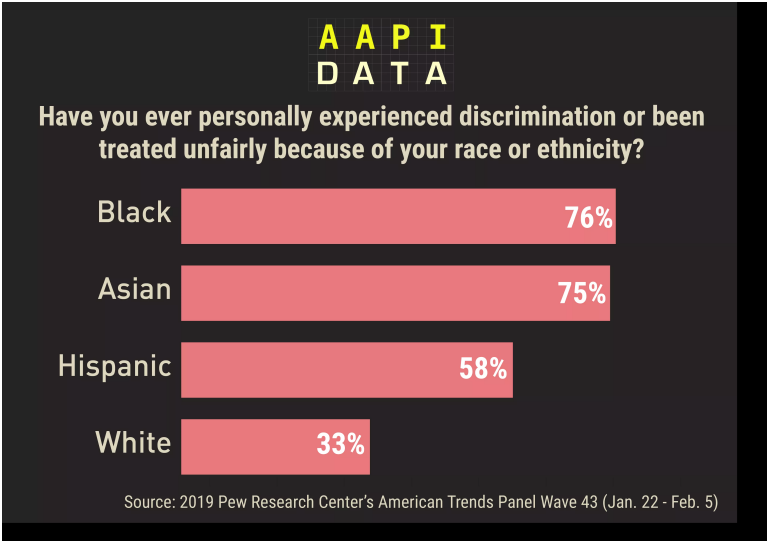


Note: Whites, blacks and Asians include only non-Hispanics and are single-race only in 2016. Hispanics are of any race. Asians include Pacific Islanders. Income is adjusted for household size. See [Methodology](#) for details.

Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 1970 decennial census and 2016 American Community Survey (IPUMS).  
 "Income Inequality in the U.S. Is Rising Most Rapidly Among Asians"

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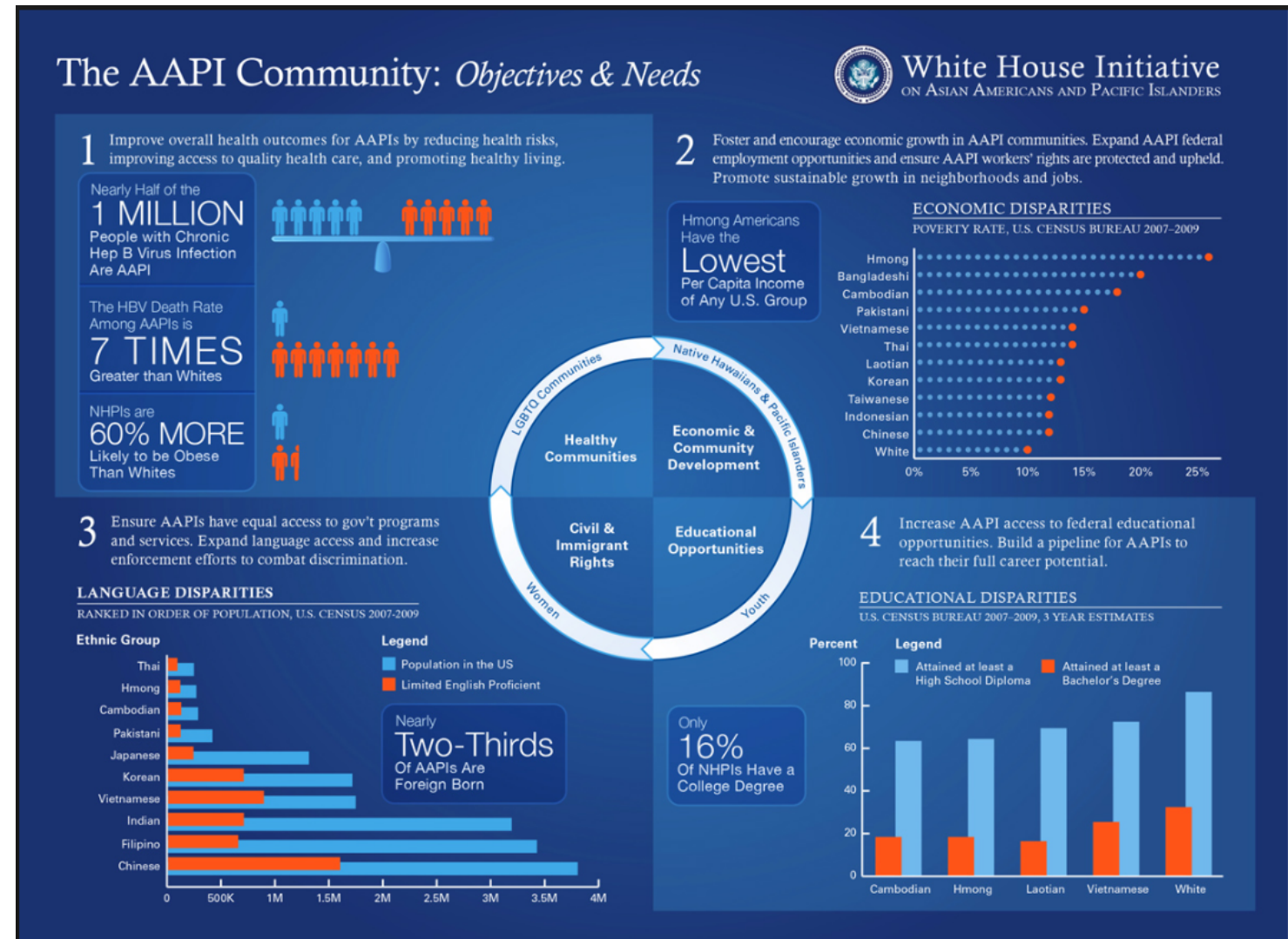
# Experiences of Discrimination



# Community Needs & Concerns

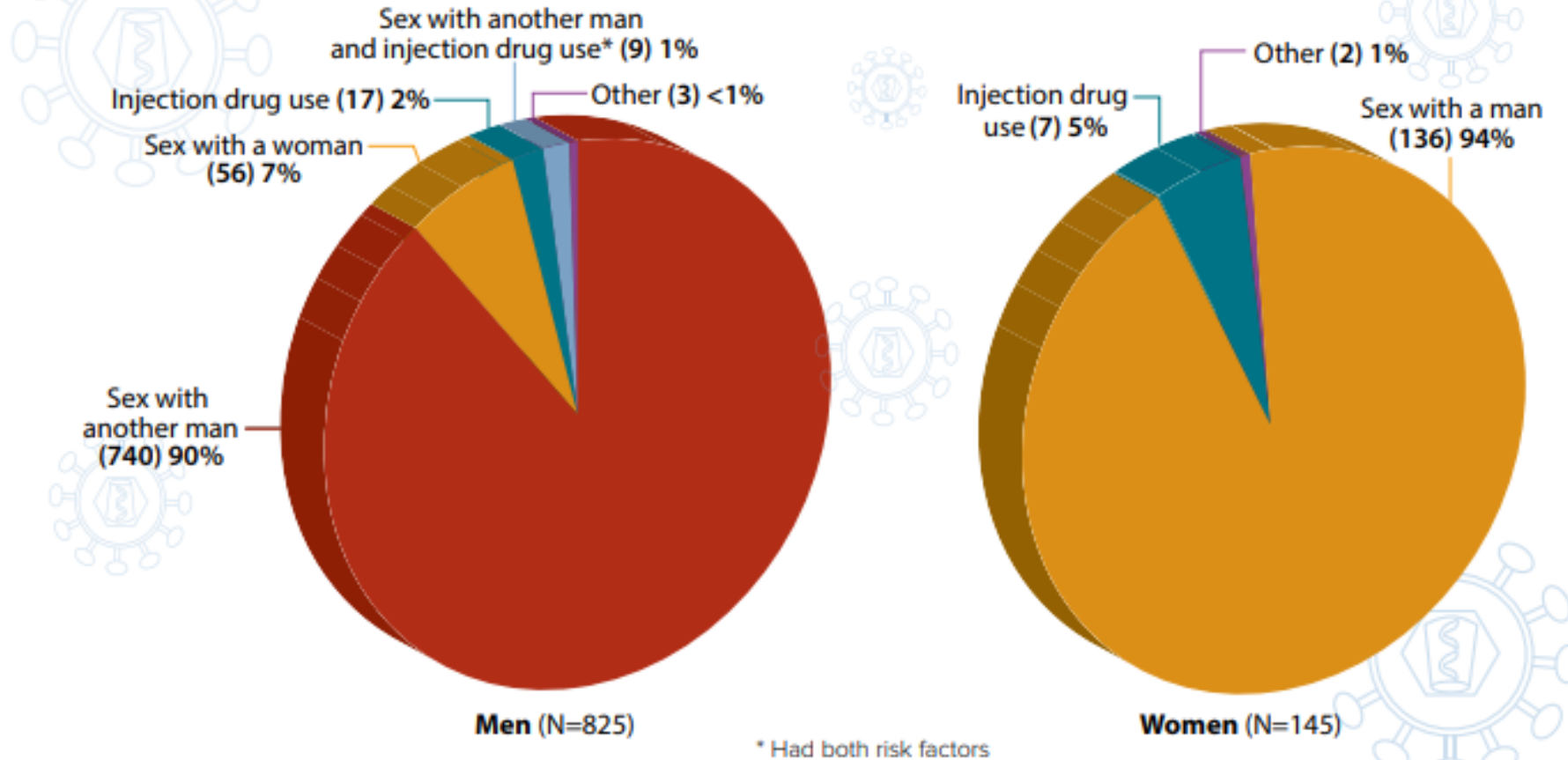
Respondents indicated that the four most important issues facing AAPI people were:

1. Health
2. Economy
3. Civil & Immigrant Rights
4. Education Opportunities



# AAPI: HIV

## How did Asians who received an HIV diagnosis in 2016 get the virus?





# AAPI: HIV (Cont.)

OF THE 40,324 PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WHO RECEIVED AN HIV DIAGNOSIS IN 2016:\*

970 WERE ADULT AND ADOLESCENT ASIANS

825 WERE ASIAN MEN

145 WERE ASIAN WOMEN

From 2011 to 2015, HIV diagnoses:"

increased  
**28%**  
among  
Asians  
overall

increased  
**35%**  
among  
Asian gay  
and bisexual  
men



# AAPI: HIV (Cont.)

## Why Higher Risk?

- May not seek testing, counseling, or treatment because of language and immigration issues, stigma, and fear of discrimination or shame
- Limited research about Asian health and HIV infection results in fewer prevention programs and behavioral interventions focusing on this population.



FOR EVERY 100 ASIANS  
LIVING WITH HIV IN  
THE US IN 2014:



received  
some  
HIV care

Accompanied by a faint icon of a virus particle with a caduceus symbol inside.



were  
retained  
in care

Accompanied by a faint icon of a virus particle with a caduceus symbol inside.



were virally  
suppressed

Accompanied by a faint icon of a virus particle with a caduceus symbol inside.

# AAPI: Viral Hepatitis



AAPI's make up less than 5% of the total population in the United States, but account for more than 50% of nearly one million Americans living with chronic hepatitis B



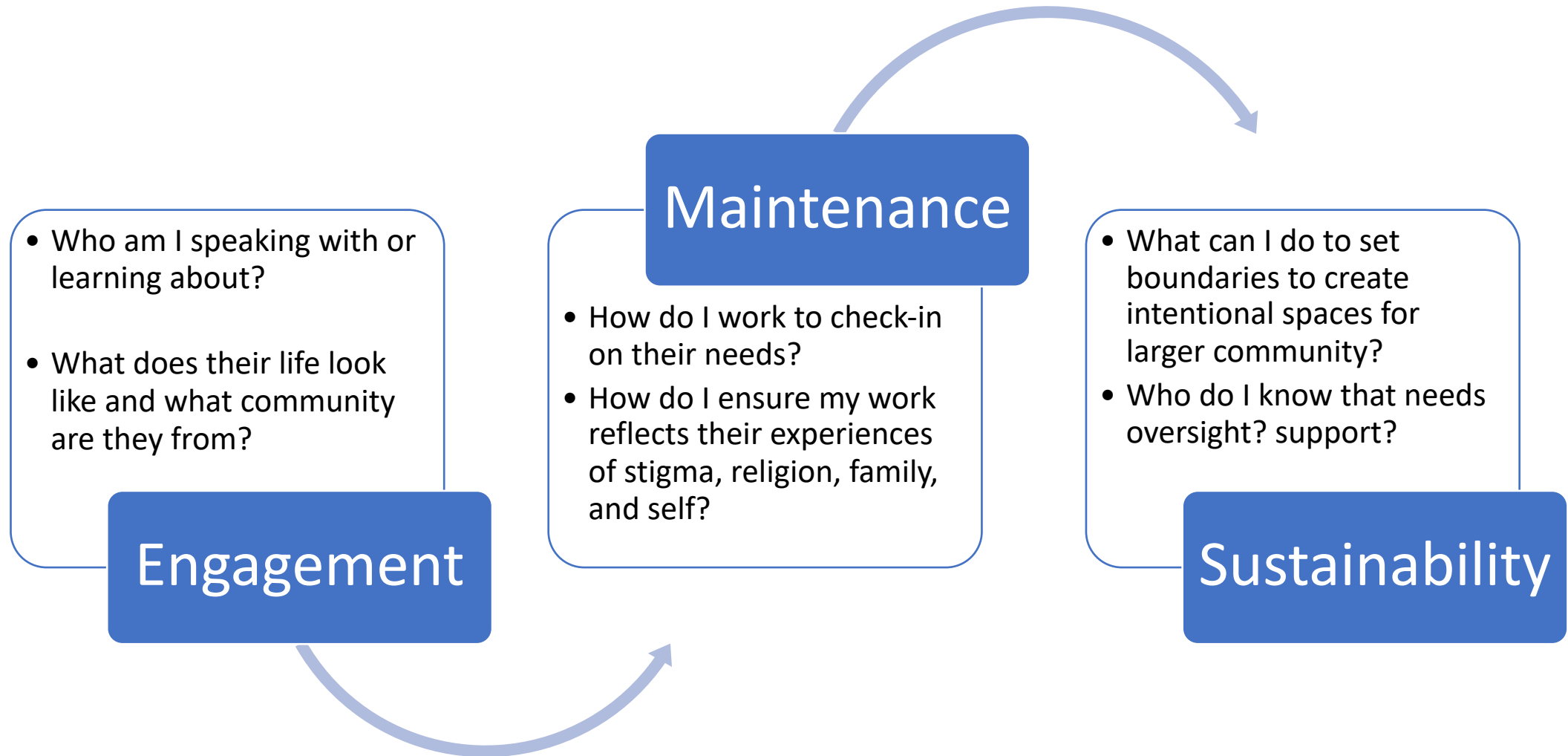
Nearly 70% of Asian Americans are foreign-born and estimates have found that approximately 58% of foreign-born people with chronic hepatitis B are from Asia



Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are 8-13 times more likely to develop liver cancer than other groups, primarily due to hepatitis B infection

# Centering AAPI Experiences

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# AAPI Advocacy & Language

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1. Recognize that the AAPI community is diverse and that no one voice can or should represent an entire community. AAPI people encompass a broad spectrum of life experiences.
  - We are a community that spans several languages, countries of origin, religions and are present in every region of this country and every economic class.
2. Differentiate between those who are American citizens and those who are citizens of other countries.
  - If talking about American citizens of Japanese descent, use "Japanese American" rather than "Japanese." This reduces implications that people of Asian descent are all foreign or foreign born.
  - If referring to Asians from both Asia and the U.S., the term "people of Asian descent" can alternately be used. This can also apply when describing specific ethnicities.
3. Avoid hyphenating racial and/ or ethnic identities.
  - Use "Chinese American" or "Asian American" rather than "Chinese-American" or "Asian-American". Hyphenation implies that a person is not a true American.
4. Engage Vulnerable AAPI communities, including the LGBT AAPI community.
  - It is important to acknowledge the many members of the AAPI community that continues to live in the shadows, and face compounding layers of persecution and discrimination. Engaging these communities in a culturally-competent way ensures the broader community is served meaningfully.

# Stigmas, Stories, & Lived Experiences

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“I feel like I don’t belong”

“Why am I fetishized?”

“We just don’t talk about that here...”

*“family is...tough”*



# Additional Resources

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- AAPI Data – <http://aapidata.com/>
  - Open-source data bank that posts tagged literature, data, statistics, and policy analyses surrounding AAPI related issues. Portion of site is dedicated to LGBT concerns, and has significant breadth of information for the community in general.
- White House Initiative on AAPI – <https://sites.ed.gov/aapi/>
  - Initiative works to improve the quality of life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the nation through increased access to, and participation in, federal programs in which they may be underserved. Visit for resources on national advocacy, health data, and community-level organizations.
- National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) – [www.nqapia.org](http://www.nqapia.org)
  - Federation of local LGBTQ Asian American, South Asian, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander (APIs) organizations that support LGBTQ APIs.
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) AAPI Health – <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/asian-health.htm>
  - Most Recent data on AAPI Health affecting AAPI communities, including Hepatitis B trends. There is a large level of aggregate data that can be obtained and publicly disseminated from here as well.

# Additional Organizations (Cont.)

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[APIA Vote](#): dedicated to increasing civic and voter participation among APIAs

[Asian Americans Advancing Justice \(AAAJ\)](#): dedicated to advancing APIA civil rights; note that there are six separate chapters of AAAJ that each do amazing work on their own. Donations should be directed to specific chapters.

[Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund \(AALDEF\)](#): dedicated to protecting and advocating for legal and civil rights of Asian Americans

[Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies \(APAIC\)](#): dedicated to improving APIA political participation

[Association of Filipinas, Feminists Fighting Imperialism, Re-feudalization, and Marginalization \(AF3IRM\)](#): National, empowering Filipino American feminism and fighting transnational imperialism

[Chinese for Affirmative Action \(CAA\)](#): progressives advocating for entire AAPI community and dedicated to immigrant rights, language diversity, and remedies for racial injustice

[Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics \(LEAP\)](#): dedicated towards fostering leadership within the APIA community

[National Asian Pacific American Bar Association \(NAPABA\)](#): dedicated to professional development and advocacy for APIAs working in the legal system

[National Association of Asian American Professionals \(NAAAP\)](#): leadership organization for APIA professionals

[National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development \(CAPACD\)](#): dedicated to addressing housing and community needs for lower-income APIAs

[OCA](#): dedicated to advancement of Asian Americans



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# Thank You!

*For more information or any follow-up questions, please contact Vrushabh Shah at [vshah@nastad.org](mailto:vshah@nastad.org)*