In 2012, the Asian/Pacific Islander population was the nation’s fastest-growing racial or ethnic group. Between 2011 and 2012, the number of Asian/Pacific Islanders rose by 580,000 (2.9 percent) to 20.3 million.


In SY 2011-12, 89,000 ELs reported speaking Chinese, the most common of the top 10 Asian/Pacific Islander languages spoken by ELs.

Source: Consolidated State Performance Report, SY 2011-12.

Fact

Largest Percentage of ELs Who Were Asian/Pacific Islander, by State: 2008-12


Fact

Although Asian/Pacific Islanders comprise only 5 percent of the U.S. population, Asian/Pacific Islander ELs accounted for over 15 percent of the EL population in 17 states.
Numbers of Reported EL Speakers of Top Three Asian/Pacific Islander Languages: SY 2006-07 through 2011-12

Note: Figures reflect the combined number of speakers of a language in states where that language was one of the state’s five most common EL languages. Source: Consolidated State Performance Reports, SYs 2006-07 through 2011-12.

Fact
Three of the top five EL languages most commonly reported by states between SY 2006-07 and SY 2011-12 were Asian/Pacific Islander languages (Chinese, Vietnamese, and Hmong).

Fact
Sixty-four percent of school-age Trukese speakers, 57 percent of school-age Burmese speakers, and 57 percent of school-age Micronesian speakers were considered ELs in 2012.

Note: Percentages shown reflect specifically classified Asian/Pacific Islander languages only. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2008-12. Estimates generated by NCELA using Census DataFerrett.