

Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service 2018 APAOC Demographic Report

Introduction

The purpose of the 2018 Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAOC) demographic report is to show the specific ethnic and language diversity among APAOC officers of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS). This report contains data which was self-reported by APAOC officers in 2018. This report is a follow-up to the 2014 USPHS Demographic Report, in which all Asian or Pacific Islander (API) officers were reported as one group. In this current survey, APAOC's goal is to recognize the diversity among the API officers to better understand the composition of the group. In the 2010 United States (US) Census, Asian Americans made up 5.6% of the total US population and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) Americans made up 0.2 % of the total US population.^{1,2} Over 20 different Asian detailed groups were listed in the 2010 US Census, with Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, and Korean as the top five largest ethnic groups.¹ Over 20 different NHPI groups were listed in the 2010 US Census, with Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Guamanian/Chamorro as the top three largest groups.² The 2018 APAOC demographics report is prepared by the APAOC Career Development and Advancement Subcommittee. It will be utilized in planning outreach activities and supporting initiatives and future disaster responses to a diverse API population.

Method Utilized

The APAOC Career Development and Advancement Subcommittee collected self-reported data from APAOC officers via a SurveyMonkey portal from September 19, 2018 to October 5, 2018. APAOC officers were emailed a link to the SurveyMonkey survey and data was collected anonymously. Eleven questions were asked in the survey: Asian-related ethnicities were broken down into specific categories for officers to select (officers were able to select and write-in multiple ethnicities that they identified with); additional languages spoken by the officers and corresponding language proficiency levels were requested (officers were able to select and write-in multiple languages and proficiency levels); rank, years of service in USPHS, number of deployments, prior service and corresponding number of years of prior service, current Operating Division (OPDIV), professional category, and the state(s) or territory/territories of the current duty station and residence were also requested.

Findings

We received responses from 255 of the 535 active duty APAOC officers (response rate of 48%). Based on the responses from 220 APAOC officers, 14 Asian-related ethnicities were reported (Figure 1): Asian Indian, Bangladeshi, Burmese, Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Thai, and Vietnamese, and 3 NHPI groups were reported (Figure 2): Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Chamorro. Of the 14 Asian-related ethnicities reported, the top five were Chinese (~38%), Vietnamese (~16%), Filipino (~16%), Korean (~13%), and Asian Indian (~8%), which correlates to the top five Asian-related ethnicities listed in the 2010 US Census. The top NHPI groups reported were Samoan (50%), Native Hawaiian (25%), and Chamorro (25%), which also correlates to the 2010 US Census. Please note that ten officers may have selected more than one ethnicity.

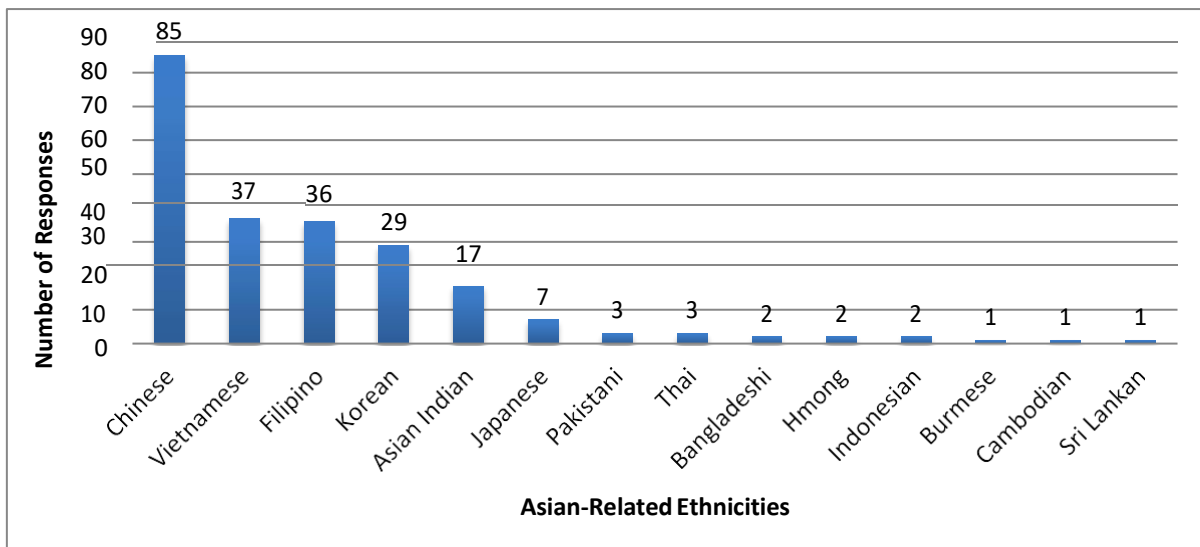


Figure 1 – Number of Asian-Related Ethnicities Reported.

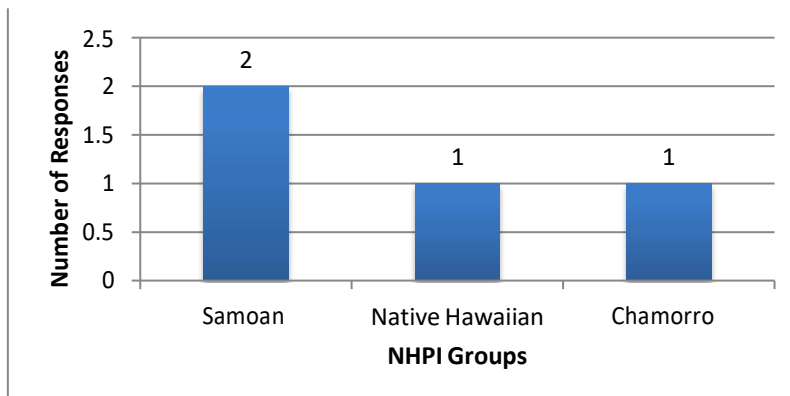


Figure 2 – Number of NHPI Groups Reported.

In total, APAOC officers reported being able to speak an additional 30 languages (Figure 3), with Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese), Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Spanish, and Hindi as the top six languages. Proficiency levels for the top six languages are reported in Table 1.

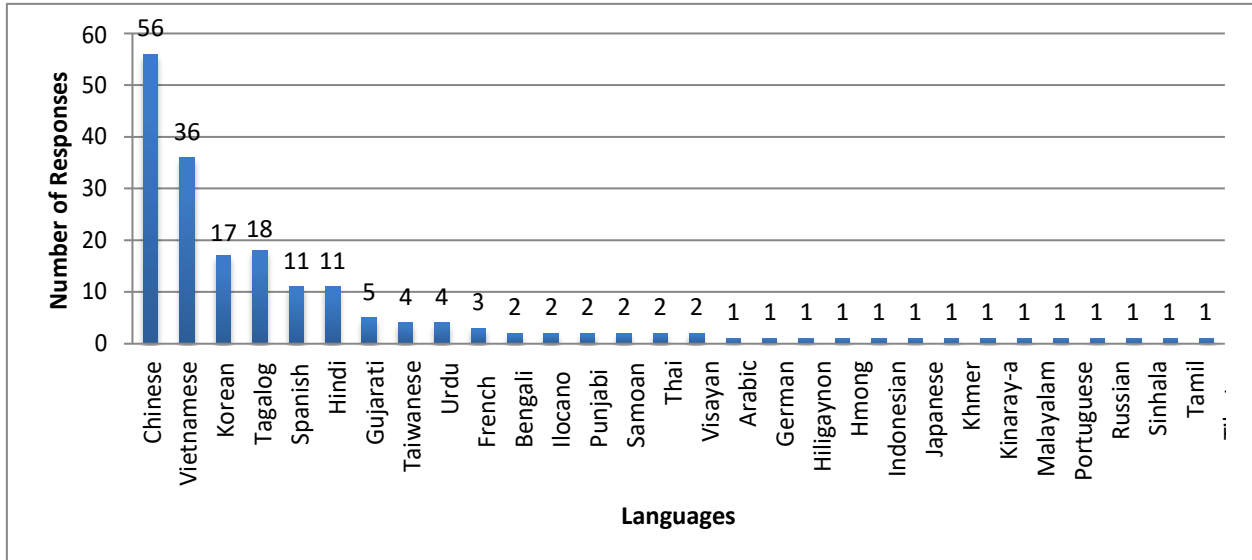


Figure 3 –Reported Number of Additional Languages (Besides English) Spoken.

Language	Native Proficiency Level	Professional Proficiency Level	Conversational Proficiency Level
Chinese	48.0%	9.0%	43.0%
Vietnamese	60.0%	9.0%	31.0%
Korean	47.0%	6.0%	47.0%
Tagalog	72.0%	0%	28.0%
Spanish	45.5%	9.0%	45.5%
Hindi	55.0%	9.0%	36.0%

Table 1 – Proficiency Level Percentages of the Top Six Languages Reported.

Reported ranks of the APAOC officers are provided in Figure 4.

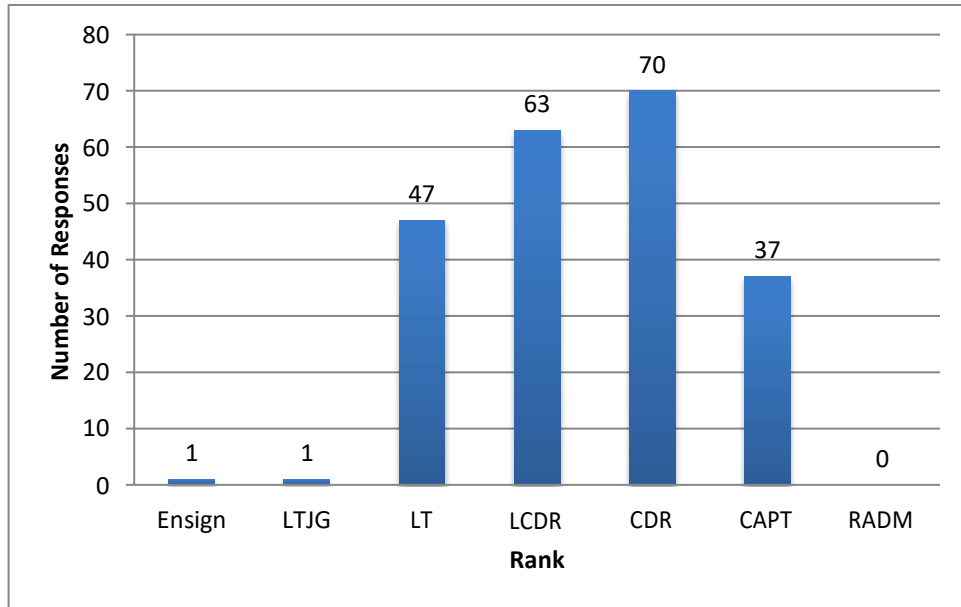


Figure 4 – Number of Reported Ranks.

Years of service in USPHS reported by APAOC officers is presented in Figure 5.

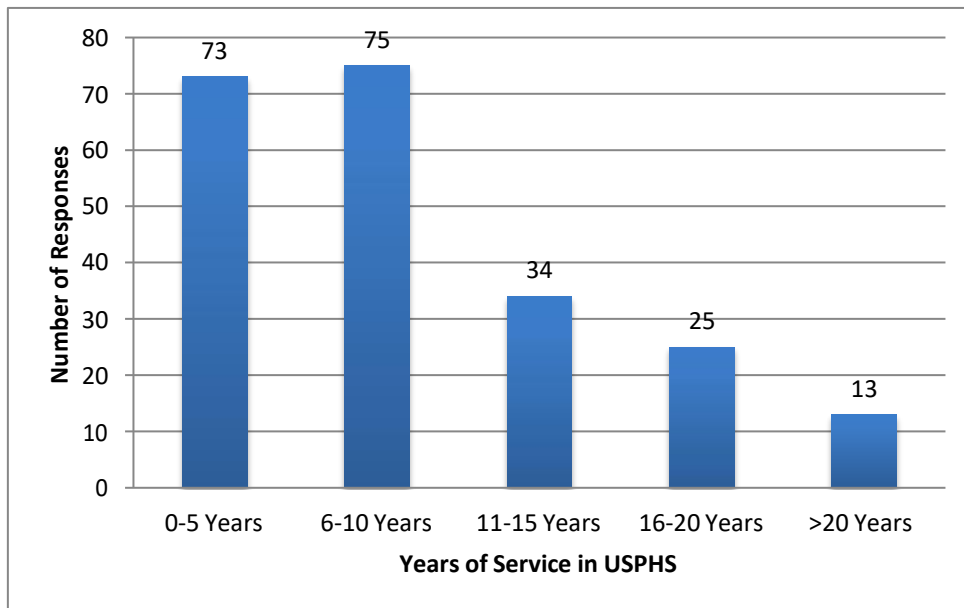


Figure 5 – Number of Reported Years of Service in USPHS.

Number of Deployments reported by APAOC officers is presented in Figure 6.

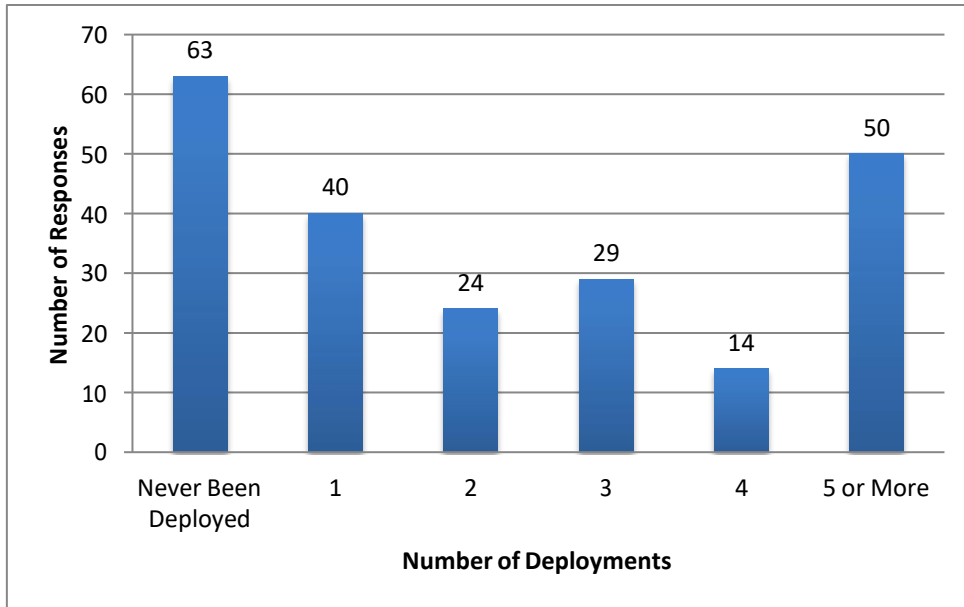


Figure 6 – Number of Reported Deployments.

Number of APAOC officers reporting prior military service is reported in Figure 7. Years of prior service ranged from 2 to 16 years, with an average of 7 years of prior service reported.

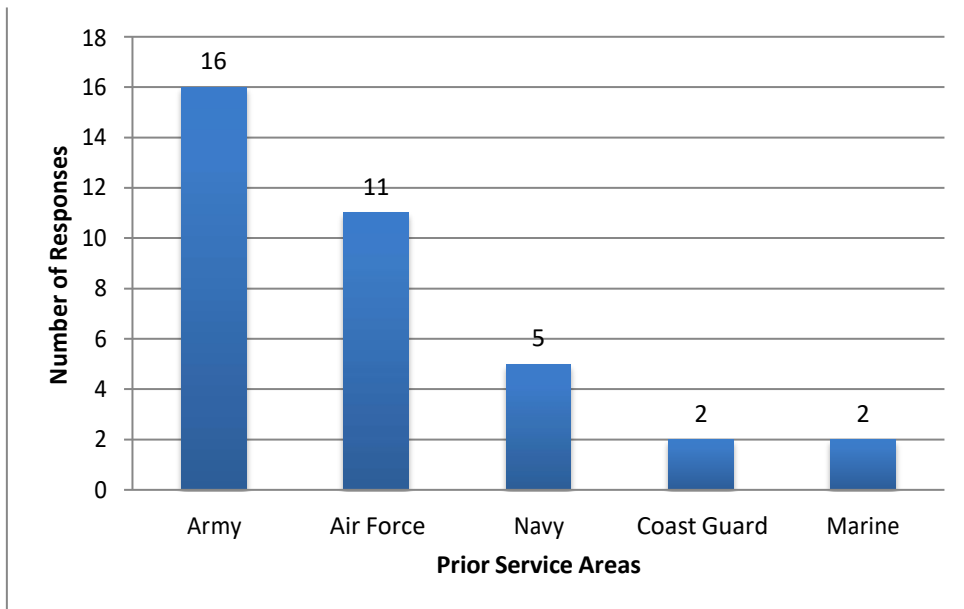


Figure 7 – Number of Reported Prior Service Areas.

APAOC officers reported currently working in 16 different OPDIVs (Figure 8). These agencies are: Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Indian Health Service (IHS), Federal Bureau of Prison (BOP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health (ASH), Department of Defense (DOD), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

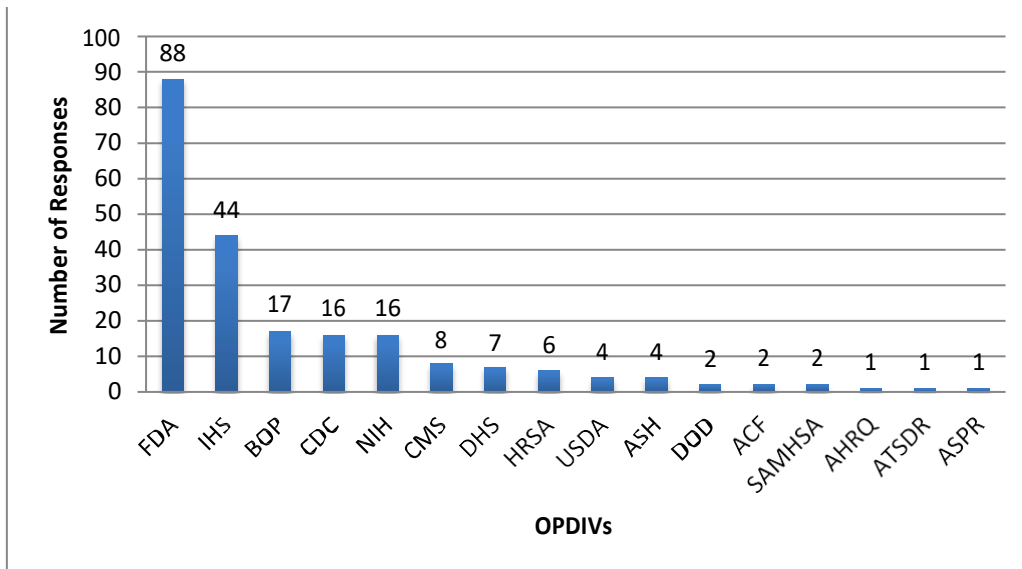


Figure 8 – Number of Reported OPDIVs.

APAOC officers are serving in various professional categories (Figure 9).

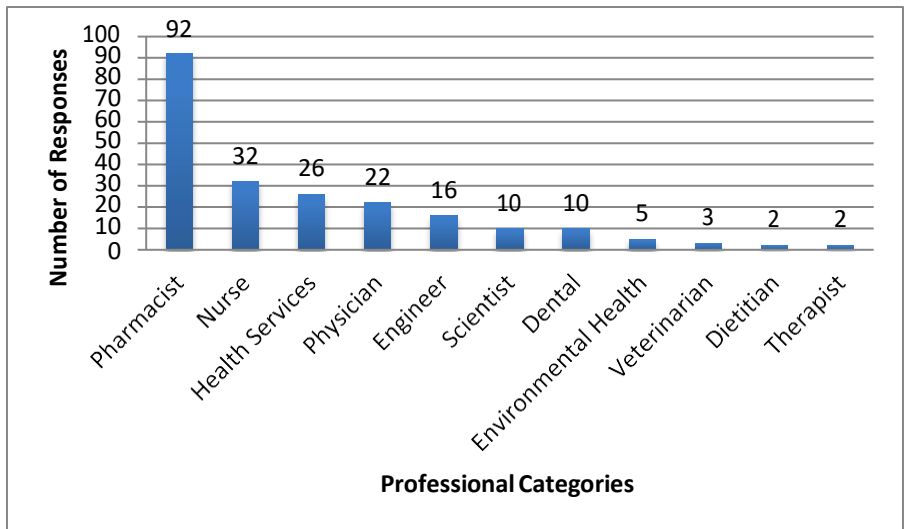


Figure 9 – Number of Reported Professional Categories.

APAOC officers work across the country in a reported 26 states and the District of Columbia.

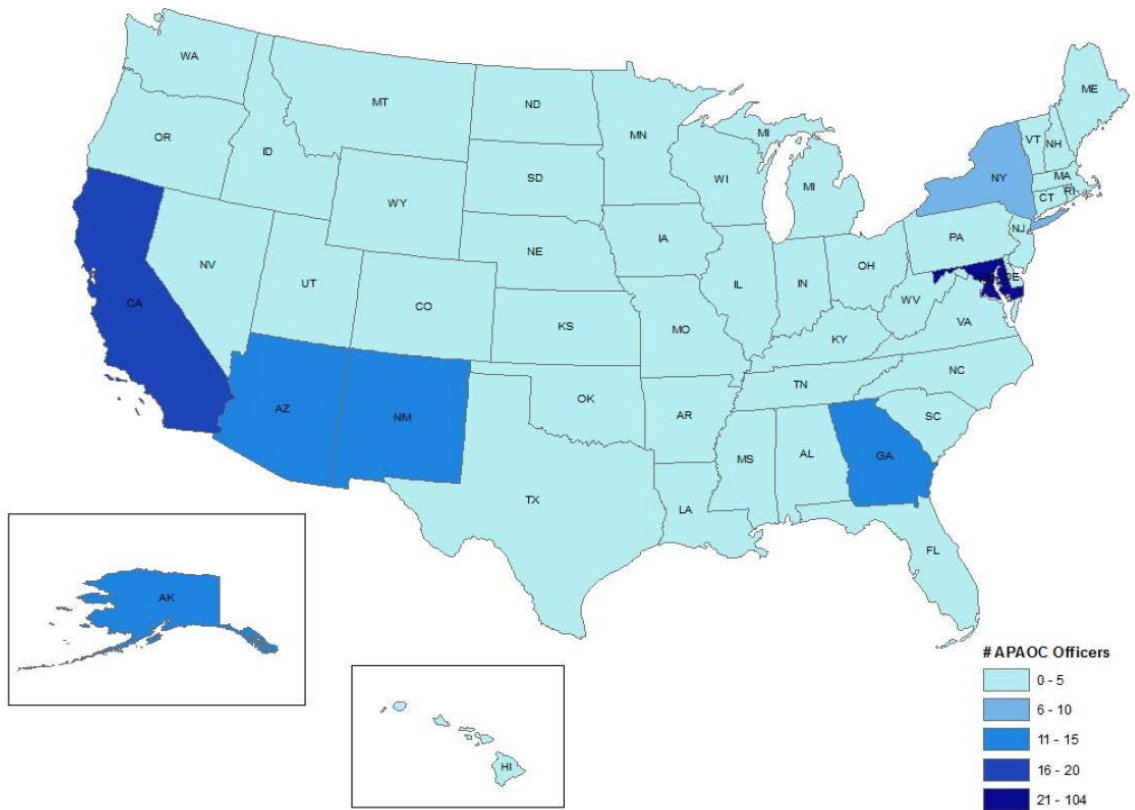


Figure 10 – Geographic Distribution of APAOC Officers.

Conclusions

The 2018 APAOC demographic survey report shows that APAOC officers are ready to serve the ethnically diverse API population in the US. APAOC officers have a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. This report will be critical for planning outreach activities and new initiatives where ethnic diversity and language proficiency levels can be utilized for assistance. In disaster responses, APAOC officers will be able to serve a diverse population, assisting in proper communication and continuity of care.

Limitations of this survey include: not distinguishing between different Chinese languages (i.e. – Cantonese and Mandarin) and not specifying if an individual is bi-racial or multi-racial. Future reports can further expand on classifying smaller subgroups and look more into racial diversity of APAOC officers.

Acknowledgements

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References

1. The Asian Population: 2010, 2010 Census Briefs.
(<https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-11.pdf>)
2. The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2010, 2010 Census Briefs.
(<https://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-12.pdf>)