

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 403
(A-19)

Introduced by: Young Physicians Section

Subject: White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Referred to: Reference Committee D
(Diana Ramos, MD, Chair)

Whereas, The Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is the fastest-growing racial group in the country, growing from 46% from 2000-2010, and projected to double to over 47 million by 2060¹; and

Whereas, There are approximately 18.9 million AAPIs and Native Hawaiians residing in the U.S., representing over 30 countries and ethnic groups that speak over 100 different languages and dialects¹; and

Whereas, Some AAPI subgroups have staggering educational needs and health disparities that are often overlooked or masked by aggregated data; and

Whereas, According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, 34% of Laotians, 38.5% of Cambodians, and 39.6% of Hmong adults do not have a high school diploma; and

Whereas, The 2006-2008 American Community Survey showed that 65.8% of Cambodian, 66.5% of Laotian, 63.2% of Hmong, and 51.1% of Vietnamese Americans have not attended college² and only 18.2% of Native Hawaiians have a bachelor's degree³; and

Whereas, There are differences in health outcomes among AAPIs when compared to other U.S. racial and ethnic groups, including:

- (1) Vietnamese women experience the highest incidence rate of invasive cervical cancer; however, cancer screening rates are dramatically lower among Vietnamese American women compared to women in other ethnic and racial subgroups, with one study reporting that 1 in 3 Vietnamese-American women had never had a Papanicolaou (Pap) smear.⁴
- (2) Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders are 2.4 times more likely to be diagnosed with diabetes, compared to non-Hispanic whites.⁵
- (3) Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders were 3 times more likely to be obese than the overall Asian American population in 2015.⁶
- (4) South Asians in the U.S. have higher hospitalization and mortality rates from atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease compared with other racial/ethnic minority groups, including a 2-fold higher prevalence of Type 2 Diabetes and a higher mortality from ischemic heart disease compared with non-Hispanic whites⁸; and

Whereas, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 13125 to establish the first White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders "in order to improve the quality of life of Asian Americans and Pacific islanders through increased participation in federal programs where they may be underserved (e.g., health, human services, education, housing, labor, transportation and economic and community development)"¹³; and

1 Whereas, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13216 to renew the Initiative and
2 changed the title to “Increasing Opportunity and Improving Quality of Life of Asian Americans
3 and Pacific Islanders,” and moved the Initiative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human
4 Services to the U.S. Department of Commerce to focus on economic development¹; and

5
6 Whereas, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13515, re-establishing the Initiative
7 and moving the Initiative from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Education^{1, 14};
8 and

9
10 Whereas, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13811 to re-establish the President's
11 Advisory Commission on AAPIs¹⁵; and

12
13 Whereas, According to the “Healthcare and Housing” section of the website on the White House
14 Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders¹⁶:

- 15 (1) 21.4% of Pacific Islanders have low or very low food security, compared to 8.9% of the
16 general population; and
17 (2) One in 12 AAPIs are living with chronic hepatitis B, making up 50% of Americans with
18 chronic hepatitis B; and
19 (3) The tuberculosis rate for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders is 18.2 per 100,000,
20 compared with 0.6 per 100,000 in non-Hispanic Whites; and

21
22 Whereas, Previous iterations of the White House Initiative Asian Americans and Pacific
23 Islanders have worked extensively on data disaggregation and published best practices on
24 providing disaggregated AAPI data from federal surveys, including the needs to:

- 25 (1) Conduct outreach activities with AAPI community organizations, advocates, and
26 respected leaders;
27 (2) Oversample the AAPI population to ensure adequate representation; and
28 (3) Develop language assistance programs to account for limited English proficiency; and

29
30 Whereas, Our AMA has policy that “urges existing federal agencies, commissions and Asian
31 American and Pacific Islander health organizations to study how to improve the collection,
32 analysis and dissemination of public health data on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders” but
33 does not have any specific policy regarding disaggregation of AAPI data by subgroups; and

34
35 Whereas, President Obama stated in his executive order on the AAPI Initiative: “Some Asian
36 American and Pacific Islanders, particularly new Americans and refugees, still face language
37 barriers...And then there are the disparities that we don't even know about because our data
38 collection methods still aren't up to par. Too often, Asian American and Pacific Islanders are all
39 lumped into one category, so we don't have accurate numbers reflecting the challenges of each
40 individual community. Smaller communities in particular can get lost, their needs and concerns
41 buried in a spreadsheet¹⁷; therefore be it

42
43 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for restoration of webpages on
44 the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) initiative (similar to those from prior
45 administrations) that specifically address disaggregation of health outcomes related to AAPI
46 data (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

47
48 RESOLVED, That our AMA support the disaggregation of data regarding AAPIs in order to
49 reveal the AAPI ethnic subgroup disparities that exist in health outcomes (Directive to Take
50 Action); and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That our AMA support the disaggregation of data regarding AAPIs in order to
 2 reveal the AAPI ethnic subgroup disparities that exist in representation in medicine, including
 3 but not limited to leadership positions in academic medicine (Directive to Take Action); and be it
 4 further

5
 6 RESOLVED, That our AMA report back at the 2020 Annual Meeting on the issue of
 7 disaggregation of data regarding AAPIs (and other ethnic subgroups) with regards to the ethnic
 8 subgroup disparities that exist in health outcomes and representation in medicine, including
 9 leadership positions in academic medicine. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 04/04/19

References:

1. Wikipedia entry on "White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_House_Initiative_on_Asian_Americans_and_Pacific_Islanders.
2. "Southeast Asian American Achievement Gaps through Many Factors." Available at <http://aapidata.com/blog/se-aa-achievement-gaps/>.
3. "Data and statistics on Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders." Available at <https://sites.ed.gov/aapi/data-and-statistics/>.
4. Ma GX, Fang CY, Feng Z, Tan Y, Gao W, Ge S, Nguyen C. "Correlates of Cervical Cancer Screening among Vietnamese American Women". *Infect Dis Obstet Gynecol* 2012; 2012: 617234.
5. "Diabetes and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders." Available at <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=78>.
6. "Obesity and Native Hawaiians/Pacific Islanders." Available at <https://minorityhealth.hhs.gov/omh/browse.aspx?lvl=4&lvlid=85>.
7. Jin H, Pinheiro P, Xu J, Amei A. "Cancer incidence among Asian American populations in the United States, 2009-2011."
8. Volgman AS et al. "Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease in South Asians in the United States: Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Treatments: A Scientific Statement from the American Heart Association." *Circulation*. 2018 Jul 3; 138(1):e1-e34.
9. "Health Insurance Coverage and Access to Care Among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders." Available at <https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/health-insurance-coverage-and-access-to-care-among-asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders.pdf>.
10. Li J, et al. "Healthcare Access and Utilization among Korean-Americans: The Mediating Role of English Use and Proficiency." *Int. Soc Sci Res*. 2016 Mar; 4(1): 83-97.
11. "Health Problems of Korean Americans: Access to Health Care." Available at <https://geriatrics.stanford.edu/ethnomed/korean/patterns/access.html>.
12. "Percent without health insurance prior to the Affordable Care Act." Available at <http://reappropriate.co/2017/01/1-in-15-asian-americans-pacific-islanders-will-lose-healthcare-with-obamacare-repeal/aapi-uninsured-data-disagg/>.
13. Executive Order 13125, "Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs." Available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-1999-06-10/pdf/99-14901.pdf>.
14. Executive Order 13515, "Increasing Participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Federal Programs." Available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-10-19/pdf/E9-25268.pdf>.
15. White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Available at <https://sites.ed.gov/aapi/about/> and <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/10/04/2017-21555/continuation-of-certain-federal-advisory-committees>.
16. White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Available at <https://sites.ed.gov/aapi/healthcare-and-housing/>.
17. Remarks by President Obama. Available at <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-aapi-initiative-executive-order-signing-and-diwali-event>.

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Health Initiatives on Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders H-350.966

Our AMA urges existing federal agencies, commissions and Asian American and Pacific Islander health organizations to study how to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of public health data on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Citation: (Res. 404, A-00; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-10)