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**San Jose Mercury News**



**Summary/Chartpack**

**San Jose Mercury News/ Kaiser Family Foundation**

# **Survey of Asians in the Bay Area**

**December 2004**

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## Methodology

The Survey of Asians in the Bay Area is a joint project of the San Jose Mercury News and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Representatives of the two organizations worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results. The Kaiser Family Foundation paid for the survey-related expenses, and each organization bears sole responsibility for the work that appears under its name.

The survey was conducted by telephone from May 27 to July 18, 2004 among 1,095 self-identified Asian adults, 18 years and older, who were selected at random. Selected questions were also asked of 1,054 non-Asians. All respondents live in the Bay Area of California, which was defined as Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Sonoma, and Solano counties. International Communications Research (ICR) of Media, PA conducted the fieldwork in English or one of four Asian dialects (Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Vietnamese). Interviewing in Hindi was considered, but it was determined that this would have a negligible effect due to the incredibly high percentage of Indians with sufficient English language skills. Of the total Asian interviews, 17% were conducted completely in an Asian dialect and 1% were conducted in both an Asian dialect and English.

The sample design employed a highly stratified disproportionate RDD sample, including oversamples of Indians, Filipinos, and Vietnamese. The results are weighted to represent the actual distribution of self identified Asian adults and non-Asian adults in the Bay Area.

The survey's margin of sampling error is +/- 3.9 percentage points for Asians and +/- 3.4 percentage points for non-Asians. This project also highlights results for various subgroups of Asians. The sample size and margin of sampling error for each of these groups are shown in the table below. Sampling error may be larger for other subgroups and sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

**Unweighted Number of Respondents and Margin of Sampling Error**

	<b>Unweighted Number of Respondents (n)</b>	<b>Margin of Sampling Error</b>
<b>Total Asians</b>	1,095	+/- 3.9%
Chinese	413	6.0
Asian Indian	147	12.1
Filipino	149	10.3
Vietnamese	186	10.1
Native-born Asians	231	7.5
Foreign-born Asians	863	4.5
<b>Total Non Asians</b>	1,054	3.4

Copies of this summary (#7218) can be found at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

## **SUMMARY OF SURVEY OF ASIANS IN THE BAY AREA**

The Bay Area is home to the largest Asian population in the continental United States. In 2002, the census estimated that roughly one in five Bay Area adults was of Asian decent. Recognizing the importance and impact of this population in our community, the San Jose Mercury News and the Kaiser Family Foundation joined forces to explore the attitudes and experiences of the Asian community in our *Survey of Asians in the Bay Area*.

The Bay Area Asian community (and the Asian community in general) is known for the diversity of its individuals. Asians come from distinct national origin groups and have different cultures, languages and religions. Furthermore, many Asian adults in the Bay Area were born in the United States but most were not. We designed our survey to capture this diversity and interviewed nearly 1,100 Asians from various backgrounds and groups.

In the summary that follows, we take a closer look at the key difference between Asians—the country of origin they or their ancestors are from—and ask the question: Do these groups share one culture and similar experiences or not? Next, we look at the experiences of Asian immigrants living in the Bay Area. Finally we discuss Asians' experiences with and attitudes about different aspects of their lives in the Bay Area, such as community, politics and government, the workplace, and the education of their children.

## **SECTION 1: ONE CULTURE AND EXPERIENCE OR MANY?**

**Bay Area Asians tend to have strong affiliations with others sharing their country of origin and prefer to describe themselves using country of origin identifiers such as “Vietnamese” or “Chinese”, rather than using pan-ethnic terms such as “Asian” or “Asian American.” Most say that they do not have a lot in common with other Asians from different countries of origin and about half say that Asians discriminating against other Asians from different country of origin groups is a problem.**

**A closer look at the four country of origin groups—Chinese, Filipinos, Indians, and Vietnamese— which represent the largest number of Asians in the Bay Area demonstrates that Asians from different areas differ demographically and in lifestyle and experience. In general, Indians tend to have higher levels of education than other Asians, particularly the Vietnamese. Furthermore, although most Vietnamese report having very good English language skills, they tend to be weaker than those of other country of origin groups. Perhaps as a result of these differences and the role that they play in finding jobs (particularly high paying jobs), Indians are the most positive about their success in the United States and their personal financial situation while Vietnamese tend to be the least positive in these areas.**

**Vietnamese and Indians are also the most likely to hold traditional views about interracial and interethnic marriage. Although most Asians say that it does not make a difference if people marry someone of their same race and ethnic background, Vietnamese and Indians are the least likely to feel this way.**

One third of self identified Asians in the Bay Area say that they are Chinese, however, there are significant numbers of Filipinos, Japanese, Indians, Vietnamese, Taiwanese, and Koreans as well. (Chart 1)

- Percent of Bay Area Asian adults who say they or their ancestors are from:
  - China (40%)<sup>1</sup>
  - Philippines (16%)
  - Japan (10%)
  - India (9%)
  - Vietnam (9%)
  - Korea (3%)

Most Asians in the Bay Area maintain ties to their country of origin, but the strength of these ties vary. Most Asians have been to or have returned to their country of origin and one in seven say that they own property in their country of origin. (Chart 2)

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<sup>1</sup> This includes 7% who say they or their ancestors are from Taiwan.

- Two thirds (66%) of Asians in the Bay Area have been to or returned to their country of origin, compared to one third (33%) who have not.
- Of those who have been to their country of origin (66% of all Asians in the Bay Area), 78% say that they go back less than once a year and 20% say they go back once a year or more. Nearly nine in ten (87%) say they go back for pleasure, 10% say they go back for business and pleasure, and 2% say they go back for business only.
- Those from India (87%) are more likely than those from China (64%) or the Philippines (69%) to have made the trip. Those from Vietnam (53%) are the least likely to say they have been (or gone back) to their country of origin.
- The cost of traveling to Asia most likely plays a role in who decides to go. Those with higher annual incomes are more likely to say they have been back to their country of origin than those with lower household incomes (78% of those who make \$100,000 or more compared to 62% of those who make less than \$100,000 per year).
- Foreign-born Asians are more likely to have returned to their country of origin than native-born Asians (71% vs. 55%).
- When asked if they own property in their country of origin, 14% of Asians in the Bay Area say that they do and 84% say that they do not.

Country of origin ties are also maintained through language. Most Asians living in the Bay Area are bilingual<sup>2</sup>. Although older Asians are equally likely as their younger counterparts to be bilingual, older Asians are slightly more likely to speak only an Asian language. (Chart 3)

- About two-thirds (64%) of Asians are bilingual. About one in four (26%) are English dominant and 11% speak primarily a language other than English.
- Asians who are 55 or older are more likely to be Asian language dominant than those who are younger than 55 (27% vs. 7%).

In general, Asians in the Bay Area say that they do not have a lot in common with Asians with different ethnic backgrounds or with people of other races. However, Asians tend to identify most with other Asians of Chinese heritage. (Chart 4)

- Percent of Asians who say that their country of origin group has a lot or a fair amount in common with<sup>3</sup>:
  - Chinese living in the United States (59%)
  - Vietnamese living in the United States (40%)
  - Whites (35%)
  - Filipinos living in the United States (34%)

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<sup>2</sup> Primary language was determined by asking Asians about their ability to hold a conversation in English and their ability to hold a conversation in an Asian dialect. Those who could do both “very” or “pretty” well were labeled bilingual.

<sup>3</sup> Asians were not asked this question of their own country of origin group.

- Latinos (27%)
- People from India living in the United States (26%)
- African Americans (21%)

Perhaps as a result, about half of Asians in the Bay Area say that Asians discriminating against other Asians from different countries of origin is a problem. (Chart 5)

- Just about half (52%) of Asians in the Bay Area say that Asians discriminating against other Asians from different countries is a problem (11% say it is a major problem, 42% say it is a minor problem). Four in ten (40%) say that it is not a problem.
- Percent of each group that say this type of discrimination is a problem:
  - Chinese (56%)
  - Filipino (52%)
  - Vietnamese (45%)
  - Indian (35%)

The way Asians choose to identify themselves further demonstrates their affinity with their own country of origin group. Although most have called themselves an Asian, an American, and an Asian American at some time, they are most likely to refer to themselves first or only by their country of origin group. (Chart 6)

- Percent of Bay Area Asians who have ever referred to themselves as:
  - Their country of origin group (90%)
  - An Asian (86%)
  - An Asian American (68%)
  - An American (61%)
- Percent of Bay Area Asians who say the first term they use to describe themselves is:
  - Their country of origin group (49%)
  - An Asian American (29%)
  - An American (10%)
  - An Asian (9%)

Asians from different country of origin groups do differ in ways that could dramatically influence their experiences and lifestyle. Indians and Vietnamese are more likely than Chinese and Filipinos to be foreign born. Indians, by far, are the most educated while Vietnamese are the least educated. And Vietnamese are the least likely to report speaking English well. (Chart 7)

- Percent of each group who say they were born outside of the United States:
  - Vietnamese (91%)
  - Indian (89%)
  - Chinese (66%)
  - Filipino (66%)

- Percent who say they or their spouse has a college degree or post graduate degree:
  - Indian (89%)
  - Chinese (60%)
  - Filipino (52%)
  - Vietnamese (33%)
- Percent who say they can carry on a conversation in English “very well”:
  - Filipino (100%)
  - Indian (98%)
  - Chinese (77%)
  - Vietnamese (58%)

The vast majority of Asians in the Bay Area feel that they have been successful in the United States and they are more likely to say that their personal financial situation has gotten better rather than worse in the past year. Indians are the most positive in this area, while Vietnamese are the least positive. (Chart 8)

- About eight in ten (81%) Asians in the Bay Area feel that they have been successful in the United States. Just about two in ten say that they have been “not too” (14%) or “not at all” (3%) successful.
- This varies by country of origin groups. Indians (96%) are the most likely to say that they have been successful in the United States, followed by Filipinos (83%), Chinese (73%), and Vietnamese (68%).
- About one in three (33%) Asians in the Bay Area say that their personal financial situation has gotten better in the past year, compared to 16% who say that it has gotten worse. About half (49%) say that it has stayed the same.
- Vietnamese are the least positive about the direction of their personal financial situation. Nearly two in ten (18%) say that it has gotten better in the past year, compared to 25% who say that it has gotten worse.

Although most Asians say that it doesn’t make a difference, about three in ten Asians say that it is better for people to marry someone of their own race or cultural background. (Chart 9)

- About three in ten (28%) Asians in the Bay Area say that it is better for people to marry someone of their own race or cultural background, compared to 65% who say it does not make a difference. Four percent say that it is better for people to marry someone of a different race or cultural background.

Filipinos followed by Chinese are the most likely to say that it does not matter if people marry someone of their own cultural background. Indians and Vietnamese are the least likely to say this. (Chart 9)

- Percent who say it does not make a difference:
  - Filipino (82%)
  - Chinese (65%)
  - Vietnamese (49%)
  - Indian (43%)
- Percent who say it is best for people to marry someone of their own race or cultural background:
  - Indian (45%)
  - Vietnamese (41%)
  - Chinese (29%)
  - Filipino (16%)

Following the trend above, Indians and Vietnamese are the least likely to say that they would be fine with someone in their family marrying someone that was not of their same racial or ethnic background. In general, groups would be least accepting of a family member marrying someone who is African American. (Chart 11)

- Percent of Filipinos who say they would be fine if someone in their family was going to marry someone who is:
  - Chinese (93%)
  - White (90%)
  - Vietnamese (90%)
  - Latino (89%)
  - Indian (88%)
  - African American (80%)
- Percent of Chinese who say they would be fine if someone in their family was going to marry someone who is:
  - White (77%)
  - Vietnamese (71%)
  - Filipino (70%)
  - Latino (65%)
  - Indian (63%)
  - African American (58%)

- Percent of Indians who say they would be fine if someone in their family was going to marry someone who is:
  - Filipino (60%)
  - Vietnamese (59%)
  - Chinese (59%)
  - White (55%)
  - Latino (54%)
  - African American (49%)
  
- Percent of Vietnamese who say they would be fine if someone in their family was going to marry someone who is:
  - Chinese (60%)
  - White (56%)
  - Filipino (54%)
  - Indian (53%)
  - Latino (52%)
  - African American (44%)

Foreign-born Asians are more likely than native-born Asians to say that it is better for people to marry someone of their own race or cultural background. They are also less comfortable with someone in their family marrying someone from a different race or ethnic background. (Chart 10)

- About one third (35%) of foreign-born Asians say that it is better for people to marry someone of their own race or cultural background, compared to 13% of native-born Asians.
- Percent of foreign-born Asians compared to native-born Asians who say they would be fine if someone in their family was going to marry someone who is:
  - Chinese (82% vs. 92%)
  - Vietnamese (71% vs. 88%)
  - White (70% vs. 87%)
  - Filipino (68% vs. 88%)
  - Indian (66% vs. 82%)
  - Latino (63% vs. 85%)
  - African American (56% vs. 78%)

## SECTION 2: THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

**The adult Asian population in the Bay Area is primarily made up of immigrants. They say that they came to the United States for a variety of reasons, but they are most likely to cite reasons having to do with economic success, education, and family. Although most experienced problems learning English, finding a home, or finding a job, most appear to have overcome these obstacles. The vast majority are fluent in English and most say that they have been successful in the United States. As discussed earlier, there is incredible diversity within the Asian population and not all Asians say they have been successful. However, most foreign-born Asians say they intend to stay in the United States and they are more likely to consider the United States their true homeland rather than the country where they were born.**

Most Asian adults in the Bay Area are immigrants. (Chart 12)

- Nearly seven in ten (69%) Asians in the Bay Area were not born in the United States. Three in ten (31%) say they were.

Although foreign-born Asians in the Bay Area say they came to the United States for a variety of reasons, they are most likely to say they came to do better economically, to get an education, to be with family members already in the United States, or to give their children better futures. (Chart 13)

- Percent of foreign-born Asians who say a major reason they immigrated to the United States was:
  - To do better economically (47%)
  - To get an education (46%)
  - To be with family members already in the United States (41%)
  - To give their children a better future (41%)
  - Because conditions are very bad in the country they are from (19%)
  - To flee political or religious persecution (11%)
  - To get social services and health care in the United States (9%)
  - To get married (8%)

Most Asian immigrants living in the Bay Area say they had a problem with at least one of the following: learning English, finding a home, or finding a job when they first moved to the United States. (Chart 14)

- Over half (54%) of foreign-born Asians in the Bay Area say they had a problem with at least one of the following: finding a place to live (19%), finding a class to help them learn English (20%), finding a job (31%), or learning English (38%). Forty-six percent say that they did not experience any of these problems.

In most cases, Vietnamese immigrants were the most likely to report having experienced these problems, while those from India were the least likely to report having problems. (Chart 15)

- Percent who had a problem:
  - Finding a place to live (Vietnamese 43%, Chinese 23%, Filipino 16%, Indian 4%)
  - Finding a class to help them learn English (Vietnamese 50%, Chinese 23%, Filipino 12%, Indian 5%)
  - Finding a job (Vietnamese 51%, Chinese 34%, Indian 34%, Filipino 21%)
  - Learning English (Vietnamese 61%, Chinese 51%, Filipino 17%, Indian 4%)

The vast majority of foreign-born Asians have learned how to speak English. Those who did not learn English tend to say that their English language skills have been a problem. (Chart 16)

- Over eight in ten foreign-born Asians in the Bay Area say that they can carry on a conversation in English “very” (81%) or “pretty” (4%) well. Just one in seven say that they can only carry on a conversation in English a little (12%) or not at all (2%).
- These language skills were demonstrated by the choice of foreign-born Asians taking this survey. Three in four (75%) chose to speak English, 23% chose to speak in an Asian dialect, and 2% chose to speak in English and an Asian dialect.
- Of foreign-born Asians who say they can not speak English “very well” (19% of foreign-born Asians), 72% say that it has been a problem for them and 25% say that it has not been a problem for them.

Most foreign-born Asians do not think that they will move back to the country where they are from and they are more likely to consider the United States their true homeland rather than the country where they were born. (Chart 17)

- Two thirds (66%) of foreign-born Asians who live in the Bay Area say that they will not move back to their country of origin. However, the remaining one third say that they intend to move back (21%) or they do not know if they will move back (11%).
- About half (51%) of foreign-born Asians say that they consider the United States their true homeland, compared to four in ten (40%) who consider the country where they were born their true homeland.

### **SECTION 3: LIFE IN THE BAY AREA**

**Asians in the Bay Areas are involved in their community and in general Asians are positive about Asians' impact, particularly on the economy and the high tech industry. Most Asians say that they live in neighborhoods that are predominantly non-Asian and when they think of their ideal neighborhood Asians are much more concerned with things like the quality of schools rather than whether or not the neighborhood is "Asian." Asian adults say they primarily socialize with other Asians, however those who are older say this more often than their younger counterparts.**

**Historically Asians faced severe discrimination and persecution in the United States and for many Asians in the Bay Area race still plays a role. Although the vast majority of Asians say that they have been successful in the United States, there is still the perception that they are not as successful as whites. About half of Asians in the Bay Area say that Asians have less opportunity in life than whites and just over half say that discrimination against Asians is preventing Asians from succeeding in America. Furthermore, although the vast majority of Asians say that they do not think Asian success is viewed as negative, there are many Asians who still feel this way.**

In general, Asians tend to say that Asians get involved in their communities. They are also positive about the effect Asians have had on the Bay Area, particularly on the high tech industry and the economy. (Chart 18)

- Most Asians (57%) disagree with the statement "Asians don't get involved in their communities." About four in ten (38%) Bay Area Asians agree with the statement.
- The percent of Asians that say Asians in their community have made each "better":
  - High tech industry (79%)
  - Economy (70%)
  - Public schools (61%)
  - Property values (58%)
  - Identity (50%)
  - Race relations (46%)

Most Asians say they live in neighborhoods that are predominantly non-Asian, and say that when thinking about their ideal neighborhood things like the quality of schools are more important than the ethnic makeup of the community. (Chart 19)

- About seven in ten (69%) Asians say that zero to less than a quarter (35%) or a quarter to less than half (34%) of their neighborhood is Asian. About one in four

(24%) say half to less than three quarters (18%) or three quarters to all (6%) of their neighborhood is Asian.

- The percent of Asians who say each is the most important when thinking about an ideal neighborhood:
  - The quality of schools (64%)
  - That it is an integrated neighborhood (15%)
  - That the neighborhood is made up mostly of people with incomes like their own (4%)
  - That it is a neighborhood made up of new homes (2%)
  - That it is an “Asian” neighborhood (2%)

In general Asian adults say that they tend to socialize predominantly with other Asians. This may be generational, however, because those who are older say this more often than their younger counterparts and Asian parents say that their children’s friends are mostly non-Asian. (Chart 20)

- Most Asians in the Bay Area say that all (9%) or most (46%) of their friends are Asian. Fewer say that a few (38%) or none (5%) of their friends are Asian.
- Those who are over 55 are more likely to say that all or most of their friends are Asian compared to those who are 55 or younger (67% vs. 53%).
- Most Asian parents say that few (48%) or none (14%) of their children’s friends are Asian. About three in ten say that all (3%) or most (26%) are Asian.
- Foreign-born Asians are more likely to say that all or most of their friends are Asian compared to native-born Asians (65% vs. 34%).

The vast majority of Asians in the Bay Area feel that they have been successful in the United States. However, there is a perception among Asians that, in general, they are not as successful as whites, but they are more successful than African Americans or Latinos. There is also variation among country of origin groups. Chinese and Indians are thought of as more successful than Vietnamese and Filipinos. (Chart 21)

- About eight in ten (81%) Asians in the Bay Area feel that they have been successful in the United States. Just about two in ten say that they have been “not too” (14%) or “not at all” (3%) successful.
- Percent of Bay Area Asians who say that each group is “extremely” or “very” successful in the United States:
  - Whites (70%)
  - Chinese (51%)
  - Indians (47%)
  - Vietnamese (23%)
  - Filipinos (19%)
  - African Americans (14%)
  - Latinos (12%)

About half of Asians in the Bay Area say that Asian accomplishments get too little recognition. Although the vast majority say that they do not think Asian success is viewed as negative, there are many Asians who do feel this way. (Chart 21)

- About half (52%) of Asians in the Bay Area agree that Asian accomplishments get too little recognition. About four in ten (39%) disagree.
- Three in four (75%) do not feel that Asian success is viewed negatively. However, about two in ten (18%) say that it is.

About half of Asians in the Bay Area say that Asians have less opportunity in life than whites. Furthermore, just over half say that discrimination against Asians is preventing Asians from succeeding in America. (Chart 22)

- Bay Area Asians are most likely to say that Asians have less opportunity in life than whites (49%). About four in ten (39%) say that the two groups have about the same opportunities, and very few (5%) say that Asians have more opportunities in life than whites have.
- Chinese (58%) are the most likely to say that Asians have less opportunity in life than whites. Filipinos (43%), Indians (39%), and Vietnamese (34%) are less likely to say this.
- Just over half of Asians say that discrimination against Asians is a problem in preventing Asians in general from succeeding in America (13% say it is a major problem, 40% say it is a minor problem). Four in ten (40%) do not think that discrimination against Asians is a problem.

However, when it comes to education and income Asians in the Bay Area are much more positive. They are more likely to say Asian Americans are better off than whites when it comes to education and only slightly more likely to say they are worse off when it comes to income. (Chart 23)

- Over four in ten (42%) Asians in the Bay Area say that Asian Americans are better off than whites when it comes to education, compared to 6% who say they are worse off. Over four in ten (45%) say they are just about as well off as whites.
- About one in three (34%) Asians in the Bay Area say that Asian Americans are better off than whites when it comes to income, compared to 9% who say they are worse off. Nearly half (47%) say they are just about as well off.

## **Life in the Bay Area: The Workplace**

**As discussed earlier, Asians tend to say that they have found success in the United States and Bay Area residents say that they have had a positive effect on the economy and the high tech industry. However, Most Asians say that discrimination against Asians in the workplace is at least a minor problem and one in ten say that there has been a time when they did not get hired or promoted because of their race or ethnic background.**

**Although most Asians say they primarily associate with non-Asians at work, about one in four say that they tend to associate mostly with Asians. There is a general sense among Asians that primarily associating with people of your same race does not affect ones chances for success. In fact, Asians are more likely to say this will help ones chances for success rather than hurt them.**

Asians have a large presence in Bay Area workplaces, particularly in the high tech industry. Furthermore, nearly two in ten Asians in the Bay Area say that they or someone in their household owns a business in the United States. Most of these businesses have ten or fewer employees. Most Asians in the Bay Area do not think that Asian immigrants have taken jobs that Americans want away from U.S. citizens.

(Charts 24, 25 and 26)

- Two thirds (66%) of Asian adults say they are employed—51% full time and 15% part time. Those who are not employed, say that they are retired (11%), a student (9%), a homemaker or stay at home parent (6%), or they say that they are unemployed (6%) or have been laid off (2%).
- Four in ten (40%) Asians in the Bay Area say that they or someone in their household works in the high tech industry.
- Nearly half (48%) of those employed in the high tech industry say that they are engineers, 17% say they are upper management executives, and 14% say they are in manufacturing or a technician.
- Eighteen percent of Asians in the Bay Area say that they or someone in their household owns a business in the United States. Most of these businesses (67%) have 10 or fewer employees.
- Two thirds (66%) of Asians in the Bay Area say that Asian immigrants have not taken jobs away from U.S. citizens. One in four (25%) say they have.

Most Asians say that discrimination against Asians in the workplace is at least a minor problem and over one in ten say that there has been a time when they were not hired or promoted for a job because of their race or ethnic background. On the other hand, many Asians say that their race or ethnic background, speaking a language other than English, or having ties to their country of origin has been a factor in being hired or promoted for a job. (Charts 27 and 28)

- Just over half of Asians say that discrimination against Asians is a problem in the workplace (13% say it is a major problem, 41% say it is a minor problem). Four in ten (40%) do not think that it is a problem.
- Over one in ten (12%) Asians in the Bay Area feel that there has been a time when they were not hired or promoted for a job because of their race or ethnic background. Eighty-three percent say this has never happened to them.
- Percent of Asians who say that there has been a time when each has been a factor in their being hired or promoted for a job:
  - Speaking a language other than English (21%)
  - Their race or ethnic background (17%)
  - Having ties to their country of origin (12%)

About one in four employed Asians say that all or most of the people they associate most with at work are Asian. Of those who own businesses, about one in four say that all or most of the people they do business with are Asian. (Chart 29)

- Of employed Asians (66% of all Asians), about one in four say that all (4%) or most (20%) of the people they associate most with at work are Asian. Three in four say that a few (51%) or none (24%) of the people they associate most with are Asian.
- About one in four Asians who own their own business or have someone in their household who owns their own business (18% of all Asians) say that all (2%) or most (21%) of the people that they do business with are Asian. Most say that a few (50%) or none (18%) are Asian.

Most Asians in the Bay Area think that when Asians primarily associate with other people of their same race and ethnicity in the workplace it does not affect their chance for success. In fact, Asians are more likely to say this will help ones chances for success rather than hurt them. (Chart 29)

- Over half (57%) of Asians in the Bay Area say that when Asians primarily associate with other people of their same race and ethnicity in the workplace it does not affect their chance for success.
- However, 19% say that when Asians primarily associate with other people of their same race and ethnicity it helps their chance of success while 11% say that it hurts their chance for success.

## Life in the Bay Area: Politics and Government

**Despite the fact that most Bay Area Asian adults are foreign-born, most are registered to vote and say they have voted in a U.S. election. Asians say race plays a role in getting them to the polls and it may affect their voting choices, particularly for the foreign born. However, Asians are split as to whether or not Asians from different countries of origin are working together politically. Perhaps this is why about half say they are partial to Asian candidates of their own country of origin.**

Although most Asians in the Bay Area are foreign born, most have been politically active in the United States. Three in four say that they are citizens of the United States and just over half say that they are registered to vote and have voted in a U.S. election.

(Charts 30 and 31)

- About three in four (76%) Asians in the Bay Area say they are U.S. citizens. This includes the majority of Asians who were born in another country.
- The 24% of Asians in the Bay Area who say they are not U.S. citizens includes 10% who say they plan to apply for citizenship and 3% who are currently applying for citizenship. It also includes 8% who say they are not planning on becoming a citizen.
- Just over half (55%) of Asians in the Bay Area say they are registered to vote, compared to one in five (20%) who say they are citizens but not registered to vote.
- The vast majority of Asians who are registered to vote say they have also voted in an election in the United States. The 55% of registered voters includes 48% who say they have voted in a U.S. election and 7% who say they have never voted.

Although most Asians in the Bay Area say they have not worked for a political candidate, attended a public meeting or demonstration, or contributed money to a candidate or political organization, some report engaging in these political activities. (Chart 31)

- Percent of Asians in the Bay Area who say in the past ten years they have:
  - Attended a public meeting or demonstration (19%)
  - Contributed money to a candidate or political organization (17%)
  - Worked as a volunteer or for pay for a political candidate (8%)

Many Asians who are U.S. citizens say race may play a role in getting them out to the polls and may affect their voting choices. On the other hand, Asians are split as to whether or not Asians from different countries of origin are working together politically. Perhaps this is why about half say they are partial to Asian candidates of their own country of origin. (Chart 32)

- About three in ten (31%) Asian citizens say that they are more likely to go to the polls to vote if there are Asians on the ballot. About six in ten (61%) disagree.

- About one in three (33%) Asian citizens would vote for an Asian candidate even if they were outside their political party.
- Nearly half (48%) of Asian citizens say that they are more likely to vote for an Asian candidate instead of a non-Asian candidate running for the same office if they have the same qualifications. Forty-three percent disagree and say that they would not be more likely to vote for the Asian Candidate.
- Four in ten (40%) say that Asians from different countries are working together to achieve common political goals. However, 44% say they are not working together politically. One in six (16%) say they do not know whether or not Asians from different countries are working together politically.

Race and ethnicity play a larger role for foreign-born Asians than with native-born Asians.

- Foreign-born Asians are more likely than native-born Asians to say that they are more likely to:
  - Go to the polls if Asians are on the ballot (39% vs. 20%)
  - Vote for an Asian candidate instead of a non-Asian if they have the same qualifications (53% vs. 41%)
  - Vote for a candidate of their same country of origin rather than another Asian with the same qualifications running for the same office (57% vs. 34%)

### **Life in the Bay Area: Schools**

**Asians have a large presence in Bay Area schools. The vast majority of Asian parents are involved in their child’s education and say that they regularly volunteer at their child’s school and pay close attention to their child’s grades. Asian parents are also very concerned that their child continues their education after high school. Nearly all want to see their children attend a four-year college and three in four say that it is very important for their child to go to graduate school.**

Nearly one in four Asians in the Bay Area say that they have a child in Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Just over half (56%) of Asians in the Bay Area are parents. This includes 23% who say that they have a child in Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The vast majority of Asian parents are involved in their child’s educational experience. A large majority of Asian parents with school aged children say that they volunteer at their child’s school and nearly all Asian parents say that they pay close attention to their child’s grades. (Chart 33)

- About seven in ten (69%) parents with school aged kids say that they volunteer at their child’s school. Thirty three percent say they volunteer once a month or more and 35% say they volunteer a few times a year or less.

- Three in ten (30%) parents of school aged kids say that they do not volunteer.
- The vast majority of parents say they pay a lot (84%) or some (11%) attention to their child's grade. Only four percent say that they pay "not too much attention" and no parents say they pay no attention at all.

Asian parents tend to think that it's important for their child to go to an elite college and also get a graduate degree. (Chart 34)

- The vast majority of Asian parents not only say that it is important for their child to go to college (99%), but that it is important that their child go to a four year college (95%). Although they do not feel as strongly, most parents (65%) say that it is important for their child to go to an elite college (including 36% who say that it is "very" important) and 75% say that it is important for their child to go to graduate school (including 43% who say that it is "very" important).

Most parents with kids in the Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade say their child participates in extracurricular activities. They are more likely to say their child participates in activities like sports and music rather than activities like church groups, classes about heritage and culture, or tutoring. (Chart 35)

- The percent who say in the past year their child has:
  - Played individual sports (63%)
  - Taken part in activities such as dance or music (62%)
  - Played team sports (60%)
  - Taken part in a church or religious group for people his or her age (43%)
  - Taken classes outside of school to teach them a language other than English or to teach them about the culture of his or her ancestors (39%)
  - Gotten tutoring outside of regular school hours (36%)

### **Life in the Bay Area: Health Care**

**For the most part, Asians in the Bay area are covered by health insurance and do not report being denied care because of their race or ethnic background. Most also say that they have not had a problem communicating with health care providers. However, there is a sizable minority who say that they have experienced problems within the health care community and one in four say that they would prefer to go to a doctor that is Asian.**

The vast majority of Asians in the Bay Area say that they are covered by health insurance and have not been denied care because of their race or ethnic background. Most also say they have not had a problem communicating with health care providers, however a sizeable minority say they have had this problem. (Chart 36)

- Nearly nine in ten (87%) Asians in the Bay Area say they have health insurance, compared to 12% who say they do not.
- Eight percent of Asians in the Bay Area say they have had a problem getting healthcare because of their race or ethnic background. However, nine in ten (90%) say that they have not had this problem.
- Nearly two in ten (17%) say communicating with doctors or other health care providers because of a language barrier has been a problem. However, over eight in ten (82%) say that it has not been a problem.
- Vietnamese are the most likely to say they have had problems communicating with a health care provider (35%) or having difficulty getting care because of their race or ethnic background (17%).

One in four Asians in the Bay Area prefer to go to a doctor who is Asian. Vietnamese followed by Chinese are the most likely to feel this way. (Chart 37)

- When asked, one in four (25%) Asians say that they would prefer to go to a doctor who is Asian. Three in four (75%) say that it does not matter to them.
- Percent who say they would prefer to go to a doctor that is Asian:
  - Vietnamese (51%)
  - Chinese (36%)
  - Indian (14%)
  - Filipino (14%)

Foreign-born Asians are more likely than native-born Asians to report having problems with a language barrier between them and their health care provider. They are also more likely to prefer going to a doctor that is Asian.

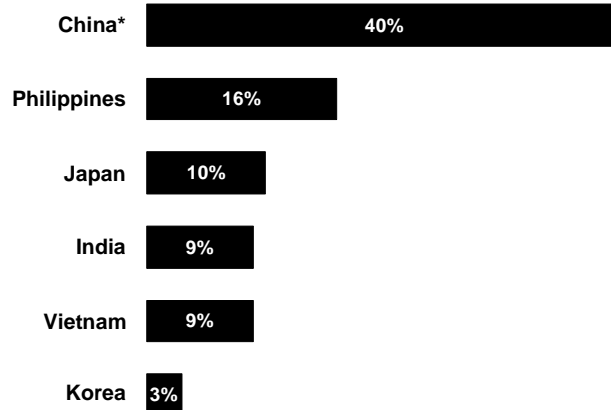
- Over two in ten (22%) foreign-born Asians in the Bay Area say that communicating with a doctor or other health care professional has been a problem, compared to 6% of native-born Asians.
- One third (33%) of foreign-born Asians say that they would prefer going to a doctor who is Asian, compared to 8% of native-born Asians.

# One Culture and Experience Or Many?

Chart 1

## Country of Origin

Percent of self identified Bay Area Asians who say they or their ancestors are from...



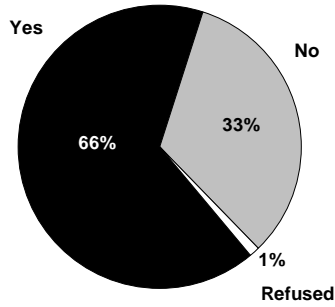
\*Note: Includes 7% who say they or their ancestors are from Taiwan.

Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

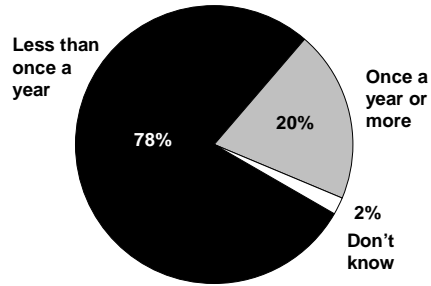
Chart 2

## Ties to Country of Origin

Have you ever been to/returned to your country of origin?



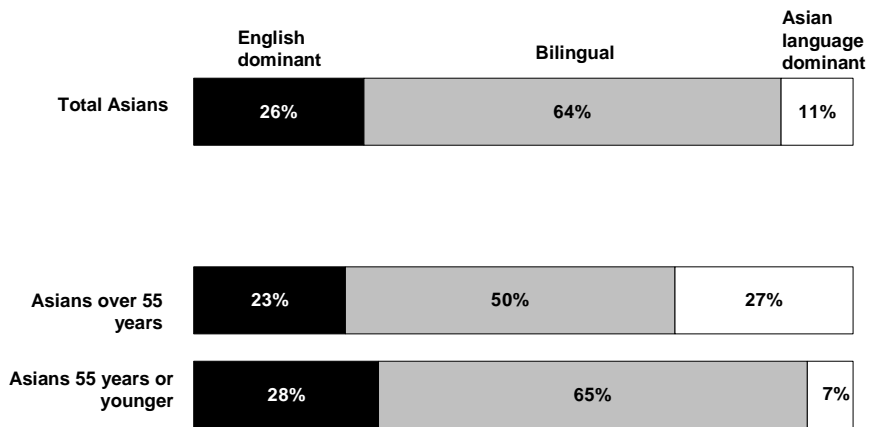
Of the 66% who have been to their country of origin, percent who say they go...



Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 3

## Primary Language

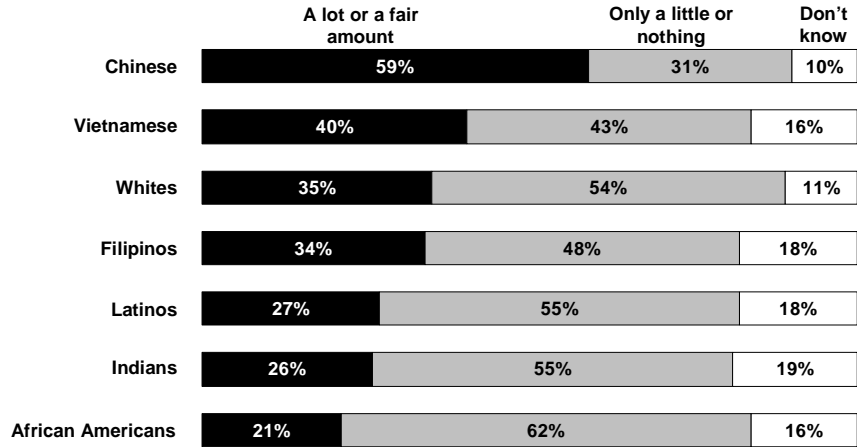


Note: Primary language was determined by asking Asians about their ability to hold a conversation in English and their ability to hold a conversation in an Asian dialect. Those who could do both "very" or "pretty" well were labeled bilingual.  
 Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 4

## Perceived Commonalities With Other Groups

How much does your country of origin group have in common with other groups living in the United States?

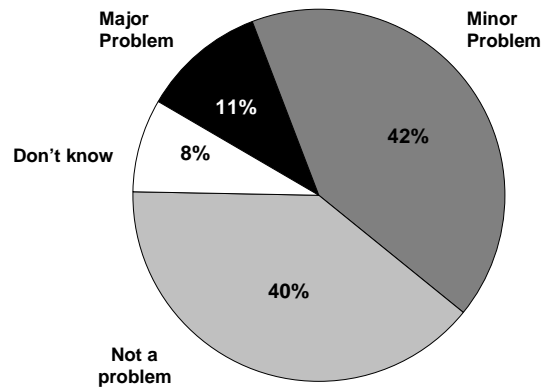


Note: Asians were not asked question of their own country of origin group. In question, respondent's were asked about their country of origin group by name.  
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 5

## Asians Discriminating Against Other Asians

Do you think that in the Bay Area Asians discriminating against other Asians from different countries of origin is a...

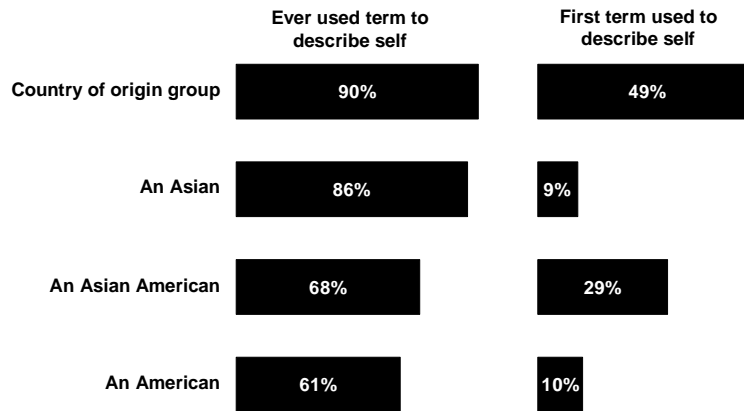


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 6

## Terms Used to Describe Self

Percent who say they use the following terms to describe themselves...

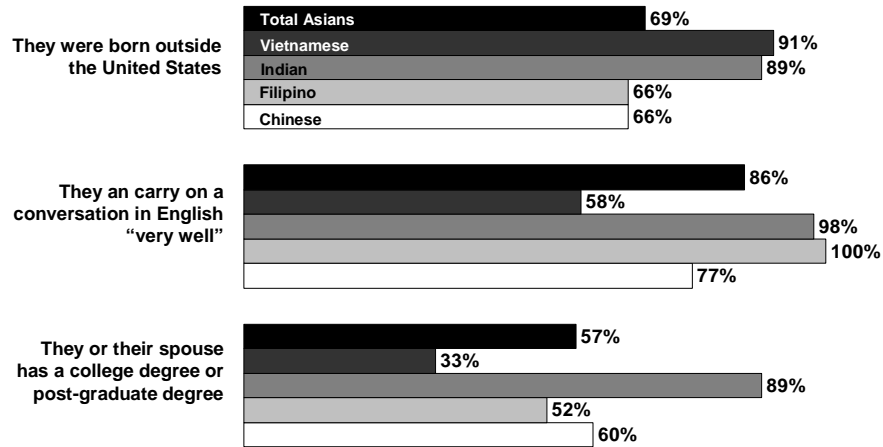


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 7

## Demographic Differences By Country Of Origin

Percent of Asians in the Bay Area who say...

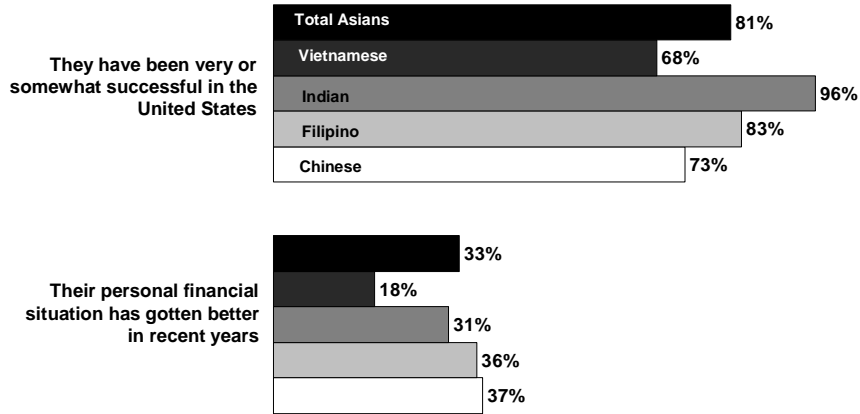


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 8

## Success In The United States

Percent of Asians in the Bay Area who say...

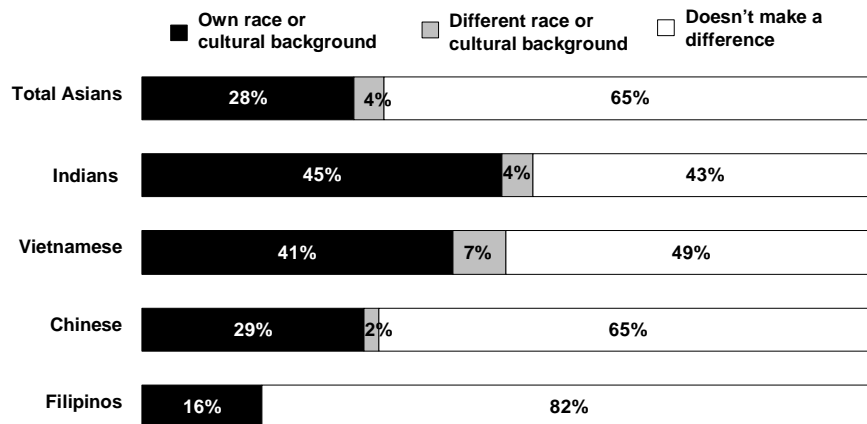


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 9

## Views Of Marriage Outside Group

Considering everything, do you think it's better for people to marry someone of their own race or cultural background, better to marry someone of a different race or cultural background, or doesn't it make any difference?



Note: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 10

## Marriage Outside Group

Percent who say they would be fine with someone in their family marrying someone who is...

	<i>Foreign-born</i>	<i>Native-born</i>
African American	56%	78%
Latino	63%	85%
White	70%	87%
Chinese	82%	92%
Indian	66%	82%
Filipino	68%	88%
Vietnamese	71%	88%

Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 11

## Marriage Outside Group

Percent who say they would be fine with someone in their family marrying someone who is...

	<i>Filipinos</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Indians</i>	<i>Vietnamese</i>
African American	80%	58%	49%	44%
Latino	89%	65%	54%	52%
White	90%	77%	55%	56%
Chinese	93%	94%	59%	60%
Indian	88%	63%	93%	53%
Filipino	96%	70%	60%	54%
Vietnamese	90%	71%	59%	92%

Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

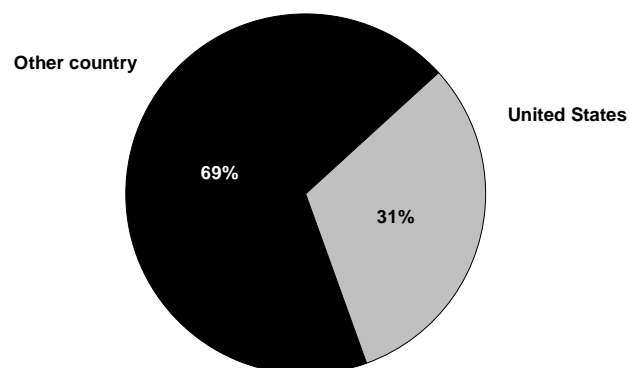
## The Immigrant Experience

Chart 12

### Country of Birth

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Were you born in the United States or some other country?

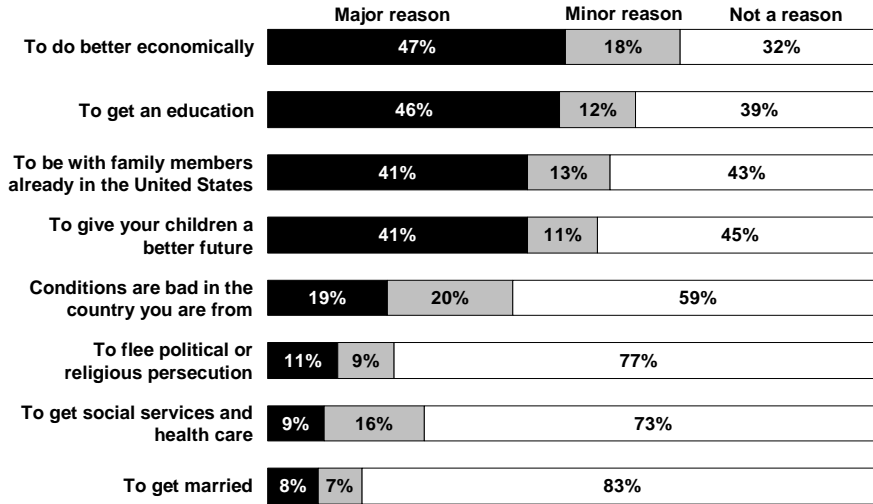


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 13

## Reasons For Coming To The United States

Among foreign-born Asians: Is this a reason you came to the United States?

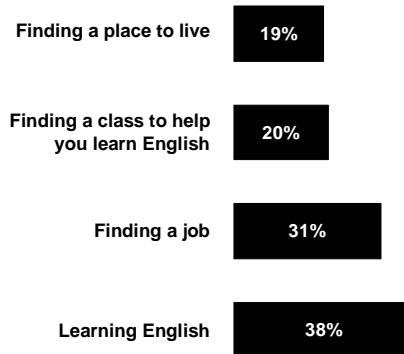


Note: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
 Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 14

## Problems Encountered On Arrival In United States

Among foreign-born Asians: When you first came to the United States did you experience any of the following problems?

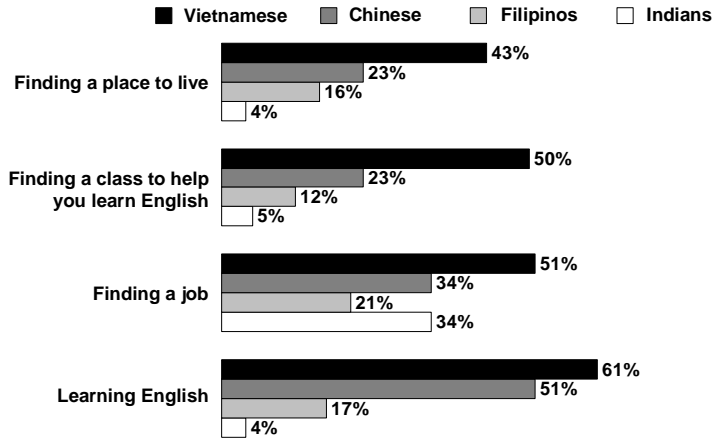


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 15

## Problems Encountered By Country Of Origin Group

Among foreign-born Asians: When you first came to the United States did you experience any of the following problems?



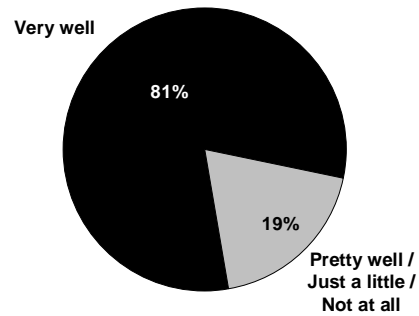
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 16

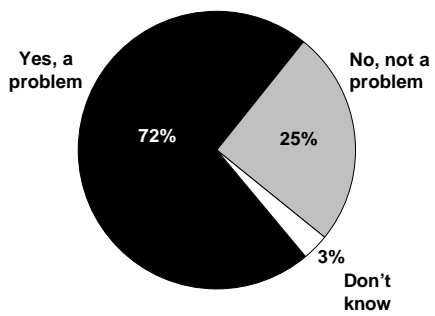
## English Language Skills

Among foreign-born Asians...

Would you say you can carry on a conversation in English, both understanding and speaking...



Of the 19% who say they can not speak English "very well": Have your English skills ever been a problem for you?



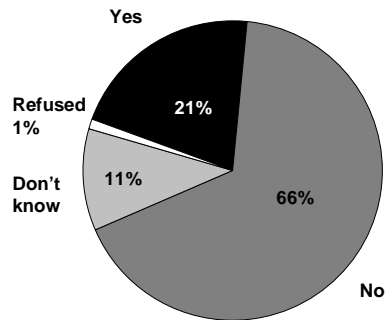
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 17

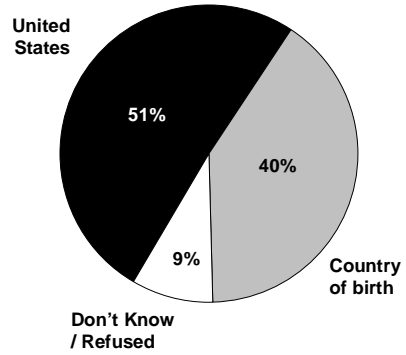
## Homeland

Among foreign-born Asians...

Do you plan to someday move back to the country you are from?



Which country do you consider your real homeland – the country where you were born or the United States?



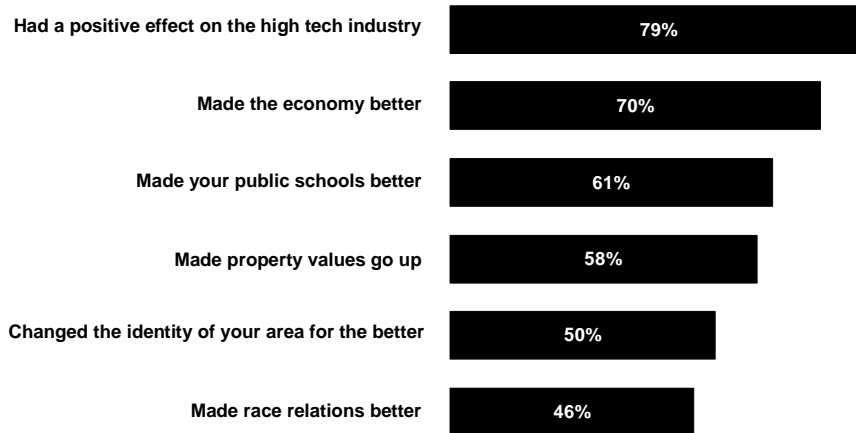
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

## Life In the Bay Area

Chart 18

## Perceived Impact of Asians On Community

Do you think Asians in your community have...

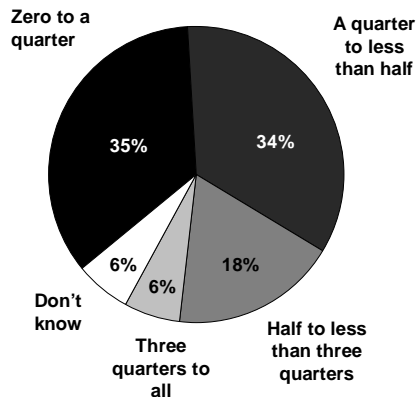


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

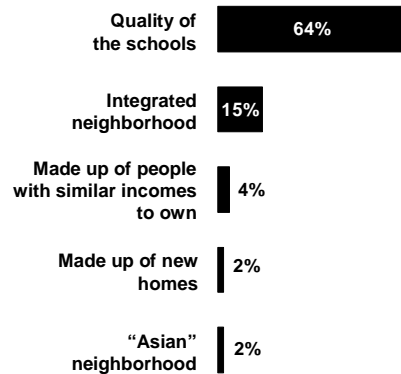
Chart 19

## Neighborhoods

What percentage of your neighborhood would you say is Asian?



Which of these is the most important when thinking about the ideal neighborhood?

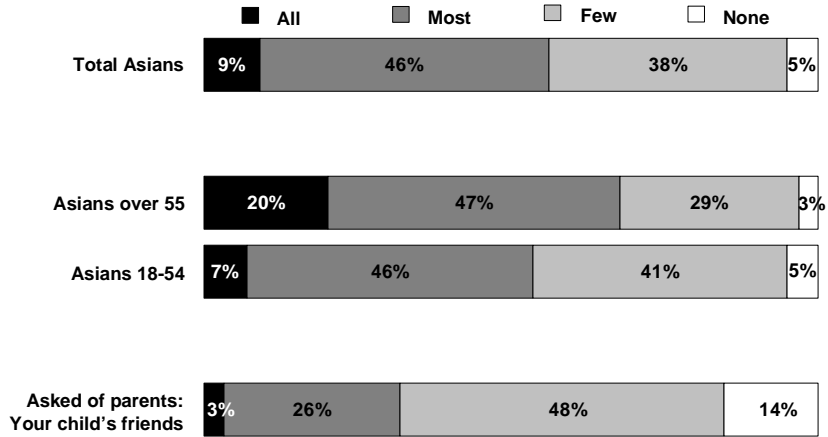


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 20

## Social Network

In general, how many of your friends or the people you socialize with are Asian?



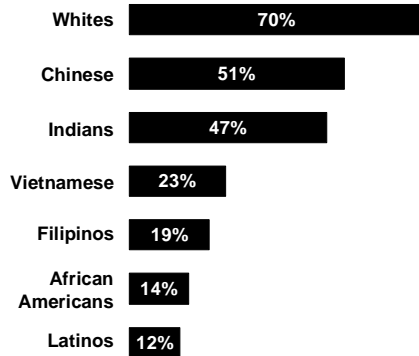
Note: Don't Know/Refused responses not shown

Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 21

## Perceived Success Of Other Groups

Percent of Bay Area Asians who say that each group is extremely or very successful in the United States...



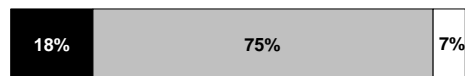
Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...

Legend: Agree (black), Disagree (grey), Don't know (white)

Asian accomplishments get too little recognition



Asian success is viewed as negative

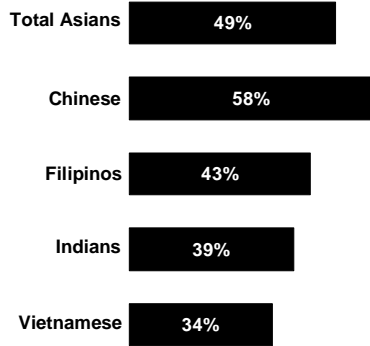


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

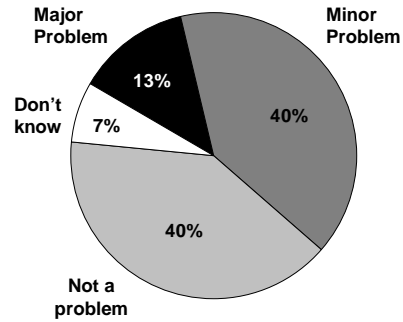
Chart 22

## Opportunities

Percent of Bay Area Asians who say that Asians have less opportunity in life than whites...



In the Bay Area, do you think discrimination against Asians is a problem in preventing Asians in general from succeeding in America?

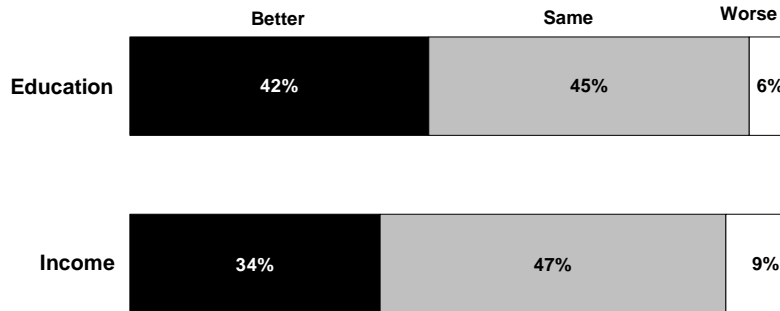


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 23

## Status Compared With Whites

Do you think the average Asian American is better off, worse off, or just about as well off as the average white person in terms of..

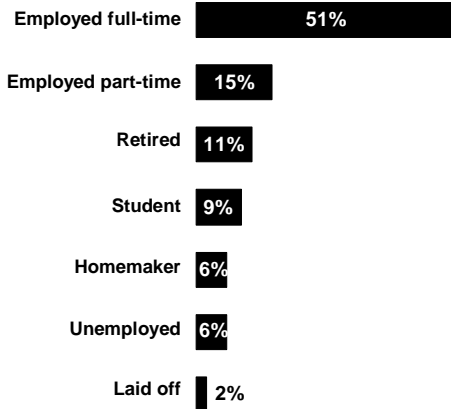


Note: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

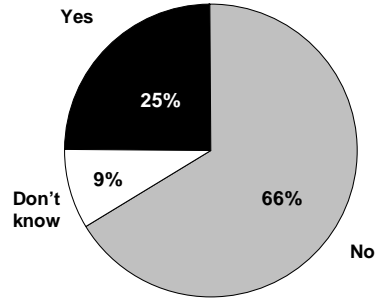
Chart 24

## Employment

What is your employment status?



Do you think that Asian immigrants have taken jobs that Americans want away from U.S. citizens?

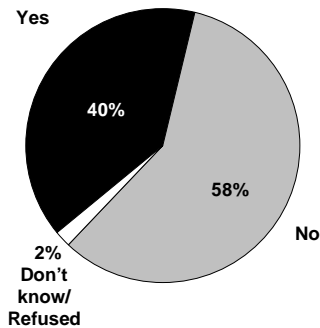


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

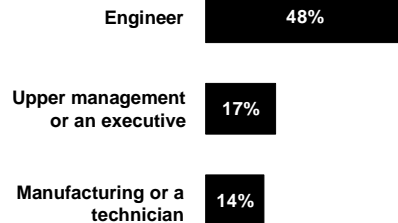
Chart 25

## Employment In The High Tech Industry

Asked of employed Asians: Do you or someone in your household work in the high tech industry?



Of the 40% who work or have a family member who works in high tech: What do you/they do?

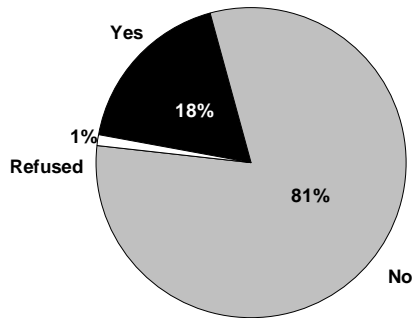


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

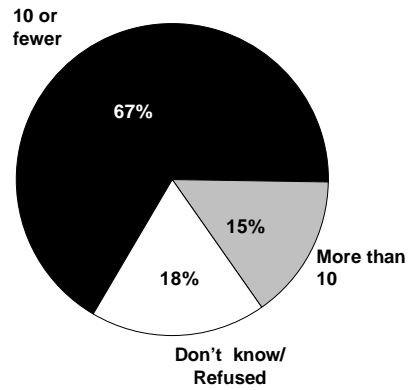
Chart 26

## Business Ownership

Do you or anyone else in your household own a business in the United States?



Of the 18% of Asians who own a business: About how many people are employed full time by this business?

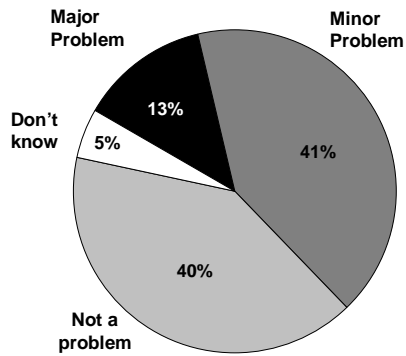


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

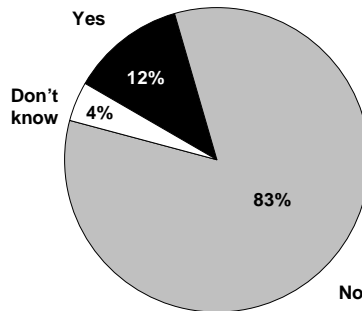
Chart 27

## Discrimination In The Workplace

In the Bay Area, do you think discrimination against Asians in the workplace is a...



Has there ever been a time when you have NOT been hired or promoted for a job because of your race or ethnic background?

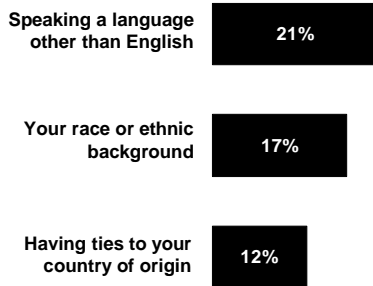


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

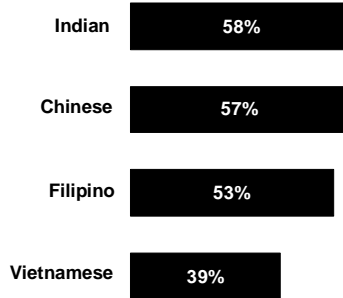
Chart 28

## Race and Ethnicity In The Workplace

Percent of Asians who say there has been a time when each has been a factor in their being hired or promoted for a job...



Percent of who say their country of origin group has a lot or some influence in the workplace...



Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

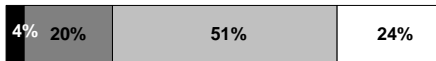
Chart 29

## Business Network

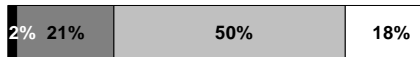
Percent who say that in general, most or all of the following groups are Asian...

All  
  Most  
  Few  
  None

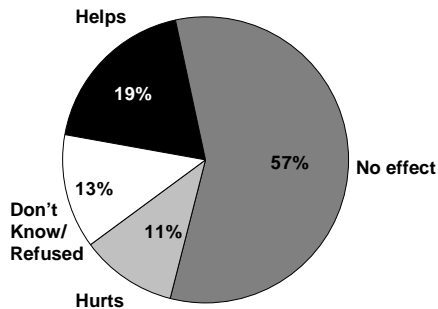
Asked of employed Asians: The people you associate with most at work ...



Asked of Asians who own their own business: The people you do business with...



In general, do you think that when Asians primarily associate with other people of their same race and ethnicity in the workplace it helps their chances of success, hurts their chances, or does it not affect their success in the workplace?

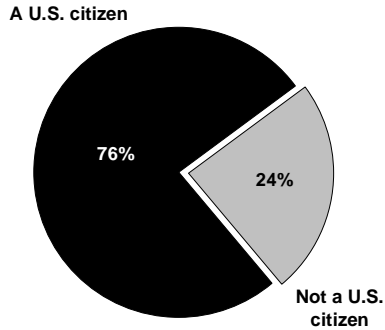


Note: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
 Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

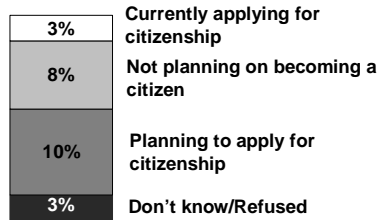
Chart 30

## Citizenship

Percent of Bay Area Asians who say they are...



Of the 24% who say they are not U.S. citizens, the percent who say they are...

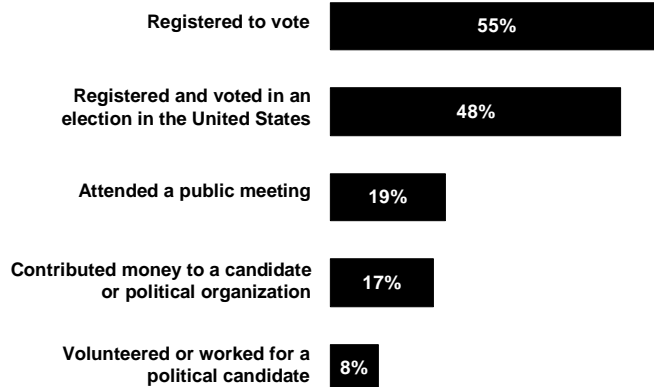


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 31

## Political Engagement

Percent of Bay Area Asians who say they have...



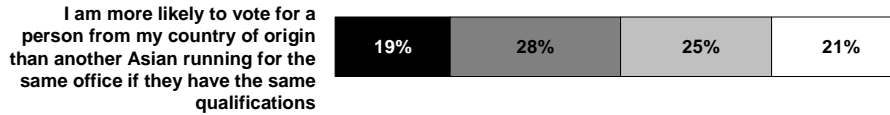
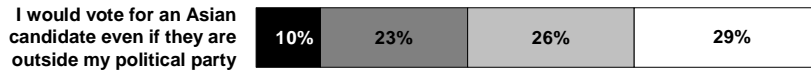
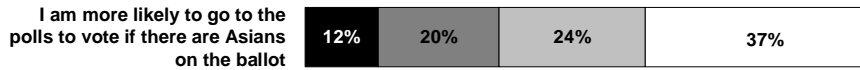
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 32

## Influence Of Race On Voting Behavior

Asked of citizens: Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements...

Agree strongly    
  Agree somewhat    
  Disagree somewhat    
  Disagree strongly



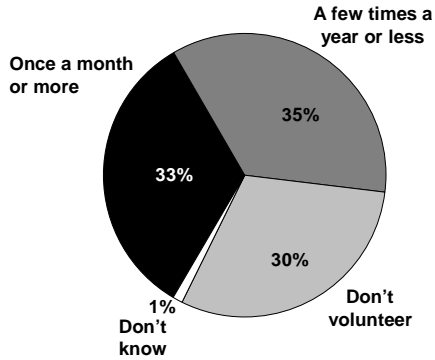
Note: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 33

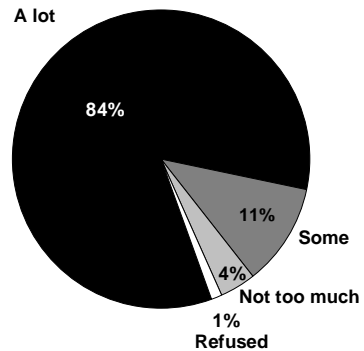
## Parental Involvement in Child's School

Asked of Asian parents with a child in Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade (23% of all Asians)...

How often do you volunteer at your child's school?



How much attention would you say that you pay to your child's grades?\*

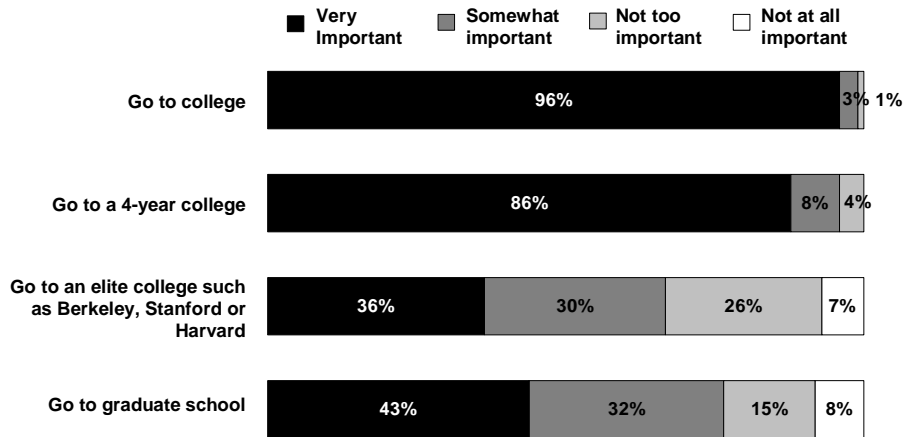


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 34

## Educational Priorities For Child

Asked of Asian parents with a child in Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade: How important do you think it is that your child ...

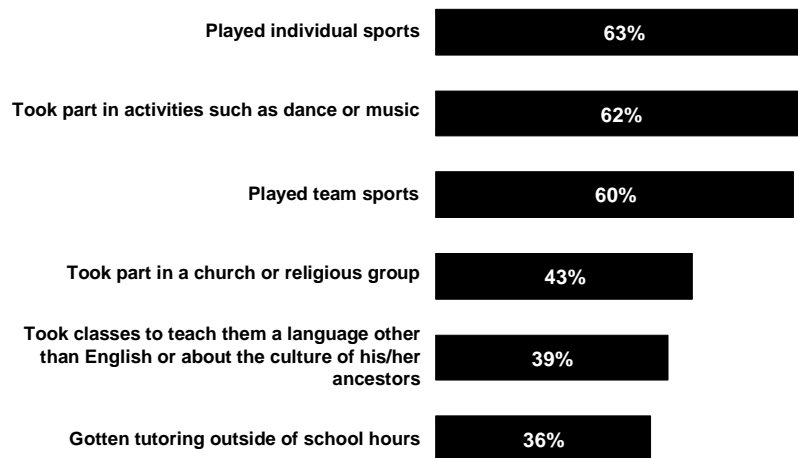


Note: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 35

## Child's Extracurricular Activities

Asked of Asian parents with a child in Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade: Percent who say that in the past year their child...

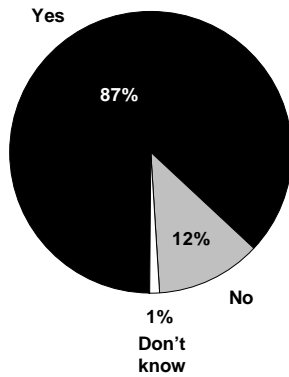


Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 36

## Health Care

Are you, yourself now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan?



Percent who say in the past year, they have had a problem...

Communicating with doctors or other health care providers because of language barriers **17%**

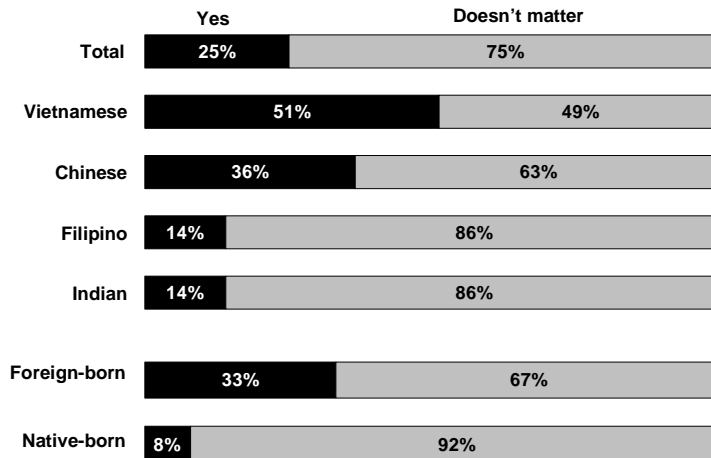
Getting healthcare because of your race or ethnic background **8%**

Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)

Chart 37

## Preference for Doctor Who Is Asian

Do you prefer to go to a doctor who is Asian?



Note: Don't know/Refused responses not shown.  
Source: San Jose Mercury News/Kaiser Family Foundation Survey of Asians in the Bay Area (conducted May 27–July 18, 2004)