

Democracy



The Colorado Lotus Project frames its work around seven areas to better understand the strengths and disparities faced by Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (AANHPI) communities. These include demographics, health, housing, income and economic opportunity, education, crime and justice, and democracy.

This fact sheet highlights data and community voices related to democracy, including opportunities or barriers to taking part in civic engagement and feeling represented by elected officials. Notably, Colorado lacks specific data related to civic engagement overall, with little ability to separate out AANHPI identities.

Spotlights

1. Community organizations and political parties don't often reach out to and may not follow through with AANHPI communities, which is a barrier to civic engagement.

According to national data, just over half (51%) of Asian adults reported the Democratic or Republican party reached out to them in the past year.¹ "There's no motivation [from the community] to engage due to the lack of representation... The relationship is so transactional. I see these leaders come in when they are running for elections, and then they never come back." – *Participant in the South Asian-identifying focus group*

2. Lack of in-language resources may be a barrier to voting.

Of Asians who reported they spoke a language other than English at home, 42% said they would use in-language voting assistance if it was available.¹

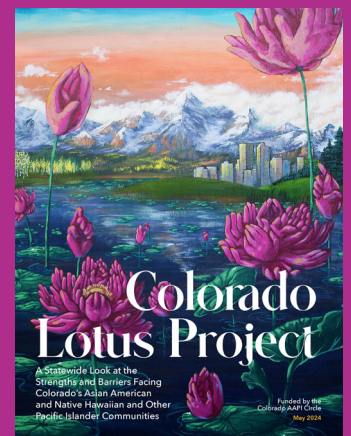
3. Colorado lacks AANHPI representation among its state and local leaders.

Across the U.S., AANHPI people make up 6.1% of the U.S. population, but only 0.9% of elected leaders nationwide identify as AANHPI. Colorado has no AANHPI state legislators.²

Colorado Lotus Project:

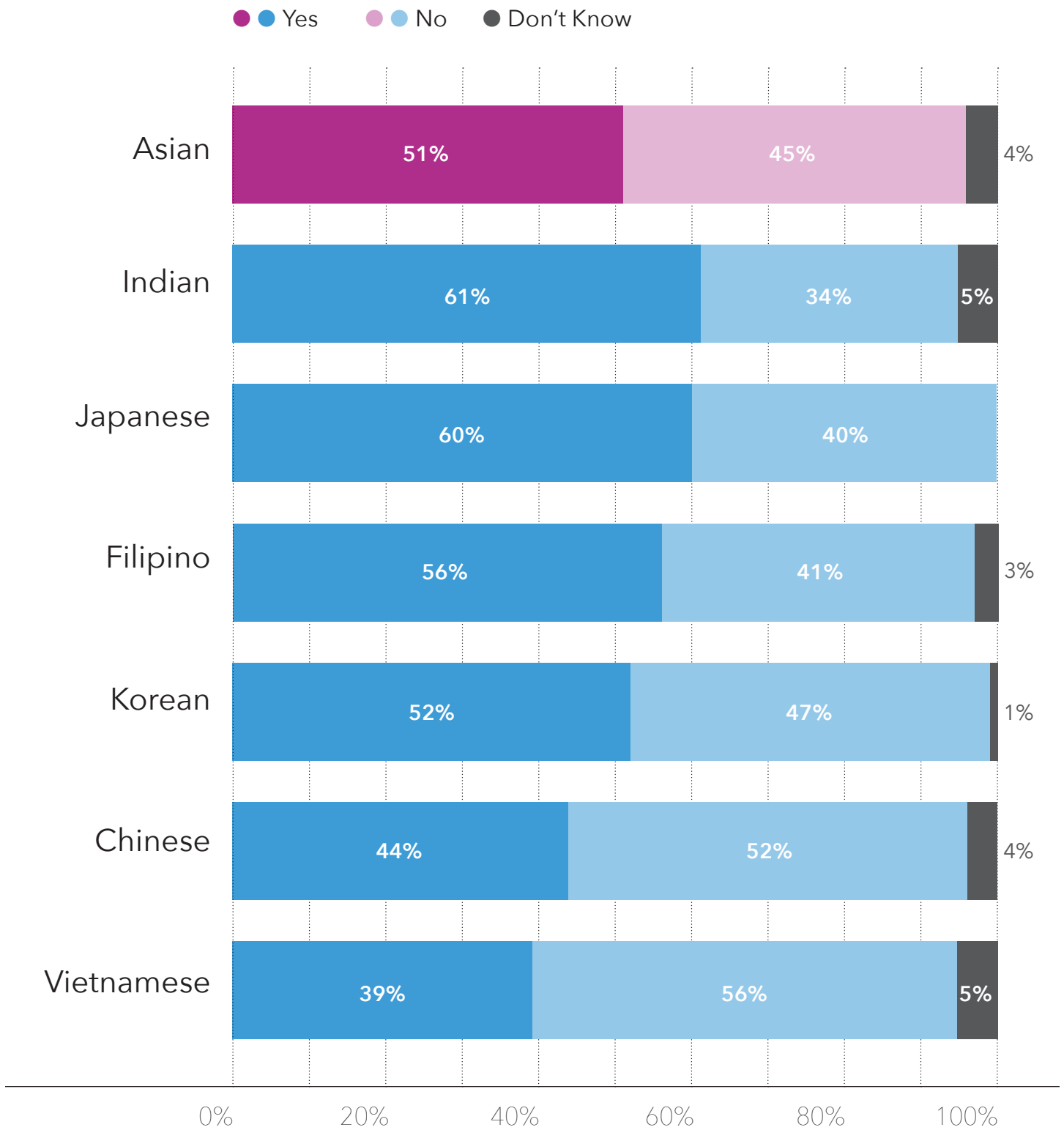
A Statewide Look at the Strengths and Barriers Facing AANHPI Coloradans

The Colorado Lotus Project is an effort to uplift the unique voices and experiences of Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (AANHPI) people living in Colorado, and to tear down the idea that the AANHPI community is a monolith. The goal of this work is to call attention to the need for better data and to achieve a more equitable allocation of resources.



For more data, a better understanding of the experiences of the people behind the numbers, and the methodology for reporting, read the full Colorado Lotus Project report colo.health/COlotus

Percentage of People 18 and Older Who Reported Being Contacted by the Democratic or Republican Party in 2022, by Asian Identity (National)¹



* Note: Due to the way data are collected, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders as an overall category is not available.



Sources

¹ Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote. 2022 Asian American Voter Survey. (2022)

² The Reflective Democracy Campaign. RDC AAPI Leadership Report - Data and Analysis - May 2021. (2021)