

Education



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 education – exploring what opportunities, such as educational attainment and access to higher education, look like for AANHPI students. This includes access to culturally and linguistically responsive resources.

Spotlights

1. The model minority myth and the inability to separate data allow school systems to overlook K-12 AANHPI students who need support.

Several focus group members said that the model minority myth paints all Asians as high-achieving or “good at math.” Data that combines all AANHPI students into one or two categories show that AANHPI students “are doing fine” academically. These issues compound, thereby preventing AANHPI students who are struggling from accessing needed resources.

2. AANHPI people have varied rates of high school completion and of continuing education after high school.

Among Asian identities, fewer than a third (29.8%) of Burmese people report continuing their education after high school. Among Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander identities, this rate is lowest among those who identify as Hawaiian (58.0%). This is compared to 66.4% of people in Colorado.¹ While many AANHPI people choose to pursue other opportunities, focus group members noted affordability and lack of representation in higher education settings as possible barriers for those wanting to continue their education.

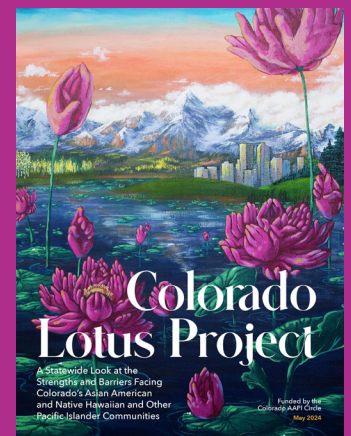
3. Adult education classes and other resources are needed to support immigrants, refugees, and non-native English speakers in gaining skills and knowledge to be self-sufficient.

In a focus group with recent immigrants and refugees who are also adult education students, participants spoke highly of the services provided by Aurora Mental Health and Recovery’s Cultural Development and Wellness Center (previously Asian Pacific Development Center). These include English classes and support for passing the General Education Development test. “The teachers are very nice, and everyone is family here. ... You can ask questions, and they seem happy when we ask questions.” – *Participant in the recent immigrant and refugee focus group*

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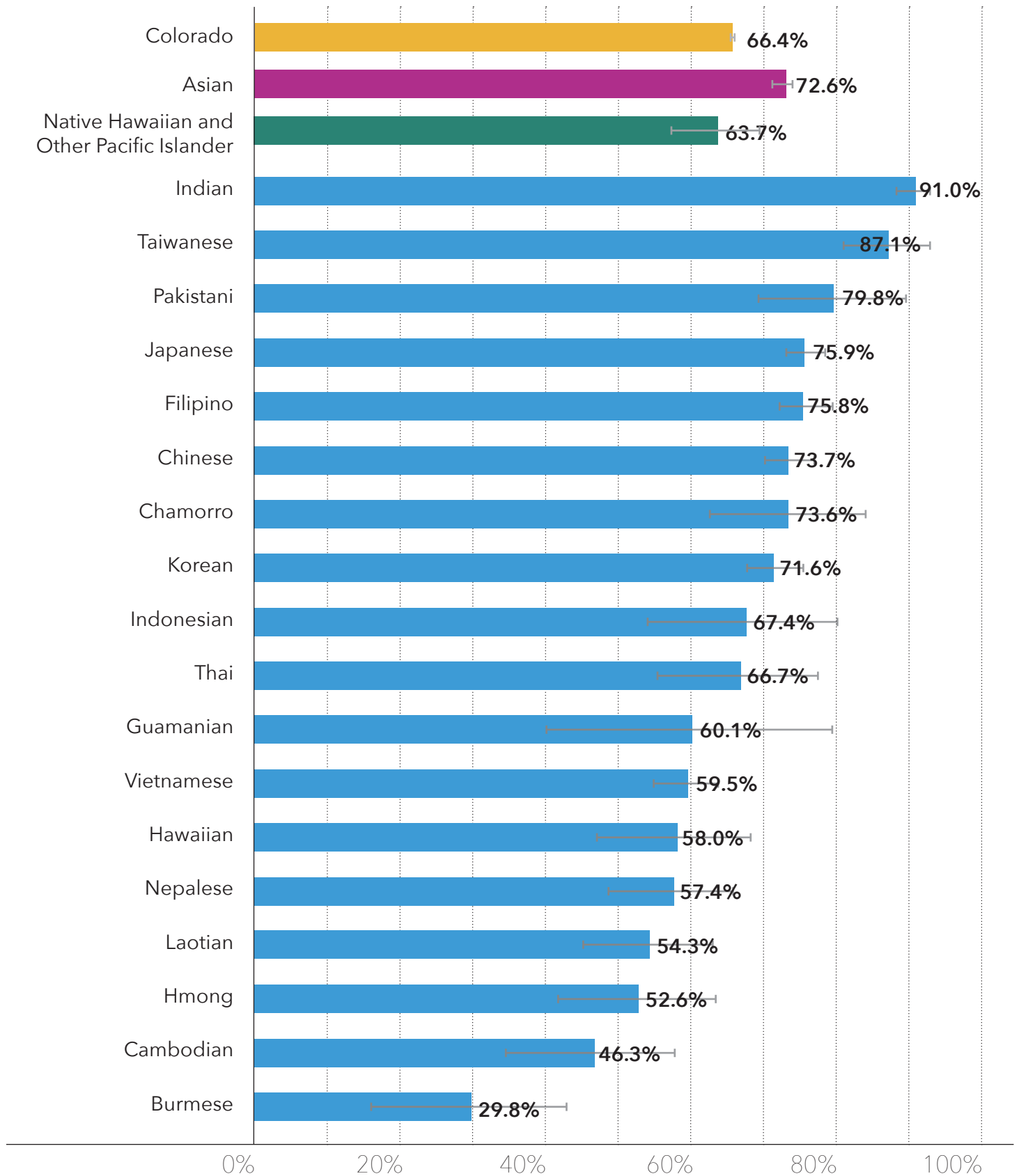
A Statewide Look at the Strengths and Barriers Facing AANHPI Coloradans

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 in Colorado 25 and Older Who Continued Education After High School, by AANHPI Identity (2021)¹



Identities not shown: Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Fijian, Marshallese, Malaysian, Mongolian, Okinawan, Samoan, Sri Lankan, Tongan.

Note: Gray lines represent confidence intervals, which show the degree of certainty of the data. There is 95% confidence that the true value lies between the range indicated by the interval.

Source

¹ United States Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2021: ACS 5-Year Estimates. (2021)