



# Fact Sheet

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### **Social Security Is Important to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders**

**Social Security is neutral with respect to race or ethnicity – individuals with identical earnings histories are treated the same in terms of benefits. This Fact Sheet is provided by the Social Security Administration to highlight how Asian Americans benefit from the Social Security program and how certain demographic characteristics of Asian Americans compare with the entire population.**

Out of 37.8 million beneficiaries aged 65 and older in 2014, 1.4 million (or 3.6 percent) were Asian American and/or Pacific Islanders.<sup>1</sup>

- Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders benefit from the guaranteed benefit that is annually adjusted for inflation. With longer life expectancies, elderly Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will live more years in retirement and benefit from Social Security's [cost-of-living protections](#).
  - According to the Census Bureau, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders tend to have higher life expectancies at age 65 than the majority of the population.<sup>2</sup>
- In 2014, the average annual Social Security income received by Asian American and Pacific Islander men 65 years and older was \$15,496 and for women it was \$12,440.<sup>3</sup>
- In 2014, among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders receiving Social Security, 29 percent of elderly married couples and 52 percent of elderly unmarried persons relied on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income.<sup>4</sup>
- The Asian American and Pacific Islander population in the U.S. is expected to grow. [Today](#), about 5.6 percent of the population is Asian American and Pacific Islander.<sup>5</sup> This proportion is expected to grow to about 8.6 percent by 2050.<sup>6</sup>

*This fact sheet is designed to provide general information and may not apply to all individuals within each segment of the Asian American and Pacific Islander populations.*

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<sup>1</sup> Calculations are based on the U.S. Census Bureau, public-use March 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS) (income year 2014), and are subject to nonsampling error (such as respondent error in reporting characteristics and amount and type of income). These are all Social Security beneficiaries aged 65 or older in March 2016. Because more than one race can be reported in the CPS, the Asian American and Pacific Islander group includes individuals who identify themselves as that race alone or in combination with one or more races.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. Methodology and Assumptions for the 2014 National Projections. Table 2. Life Expectancy at Birth and Age 65 by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin: 2014 to 2060. Note: Use life expectancy at age 65 for Non-Hispanic White and API for year 2014. See under Male and Female. page 19. December 2014. Access at: <https://www.census.gov/population/projections/files/methodology/methodstatement14.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Calculations are based on the U.S. Census Bureau, public-use March 2015 Current Population Survey (CPS) (income year 2014), and are subject to nonsampling error (such as respondent error in reporting characteristics and amount and type of income).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, State and County QuickFacts, Access at: <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/00>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 National Population Projections: Summary Tables. Table 11. Percent Distribution of the Projected Population by Hispanic Origin and Race for the United States: 2015 to 2060. (NP2012-T6). Uses one race under total population in 2050. Access at: <http://www.census.gov/population/projections/data/national/2014/summarytables.html>