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PACIFIC ISLANDER DEMOGRAPHICS REPORT

Regional Pacific Islander Taskforce, San Francisco - Bay Area
March 2020

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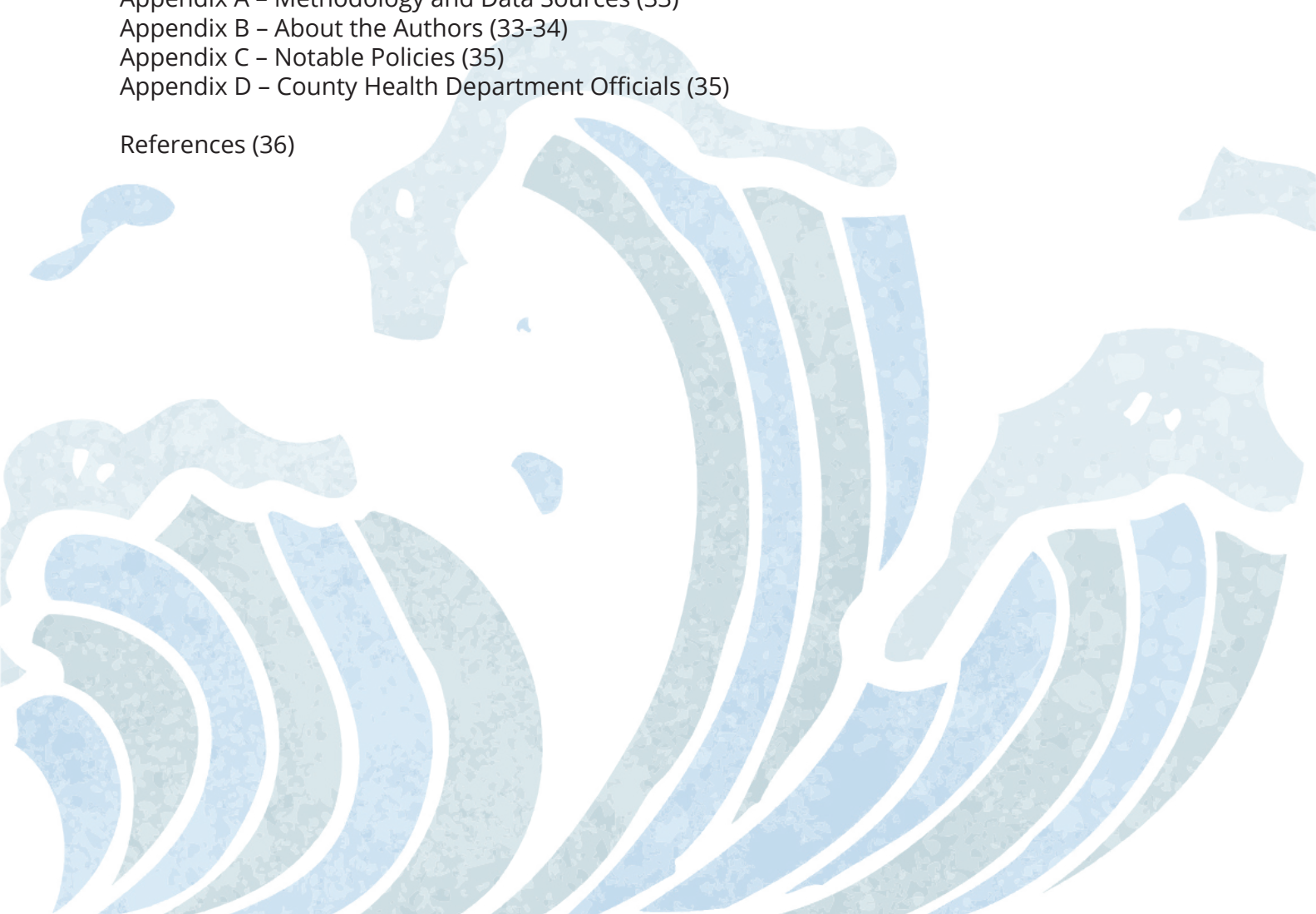
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 2000 and 2017, the Pacific Islander (PI) population grew by 29%, making these among the fastest growing ethnic groups in California. Pacific Islanders are tremendously diverse — the Census Bureau has identified 19 distinct ethnic communities within the Pacific Islander population.

Historically, Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans have been aggregated into a single race category in most surveys, analyses, and publications. However, the aggregation of Pacific Islanders with Asian Americans often masks substantial disparities that Pacific Islanders face across a variety of social and economic factors that influence health. Even among publications that do disaggregate Pacific Islanders and Asian Americans, most do not account for the many ethnic subgroups within Pacific Islander communities. Data that is disaggregated to the ethnic subgroup level has the power to reveal patterns of unique impact and need within Pacific Islander communities. Pacific Islanders as a race include origins across Polynesia (e.g., Hawaii, Samoa, Tonga), Micronesia (e.g., Guam, Marshall Islands), and Melanesia (e.g., Fiji, Solomon Islands), with different histories, languages, and cultural practices. Thus, lack of data at the ethnic subgroup level can cause further disparities to go unnoticed.

This report aims to highlight these disparities within three counties in the San Francisco Bay Area (San Francisco, Alameda, and San Mateo) and California to establish an evidence base for the design and implementation of programs to address the persistent causes of these disparities. In California, the Pacific Islander population accounted for 0.8% of the total state population as of 2015. Native Hawaiians represented the largest Pacific Islander ethnic subgroup, followed by Samoans and Guamanians/Chamorros. Almost 1 in 5 Pacific Islanders in California resided in the San Francisco Bay Area, with 53% of the Bay Area PI population living in the Counties of San Francisco, Alameda, and San Mateo. Among these three Bay Area counties, Alameda had the highest Pacific Islander population compared to San Francisco and San Mateo. Native Hawaiians were also the largest Pacific Islander ethnic subgroup across these three Counties, followed by Samoans and Tongans. Many Pacific Islanders are also of multi-racial descent.

MAJOR PACIFIC ISLANDER ISSUES

- **Populations/Demographics:** Across all races, Pacific Islanders have the second highest proportion of persons under 18 years old (ranging from 22.4%-26.5%) across the three counties, with Tongans having the highest proportion of persons under 18 years old (ranging from 33.0%-37.2%) among the PI ethnic subgroups.
- **Education:** Across all races, Pacific Islanders (PI) have the lowest proportion of persons with a Bachelor's degree or higher (ranging from 15.6%-27.9%) across the three counties, with Samoans having the lowest proportion of persons with a Bachelor's degree of higher (ranging from 8.6%-11.8%) among the PI ethnic subgroups.
- **Socioeconomic Status:** Across all races, Pacific Islanders have the second lowest median per capita income (ranging from \$23,054-\$25,930) across the three counties, with Tongans having the lowest median per capita income (ranging from \$13,685-\$16,726) among the PI ethnic subgroups.
- **Unemployment:** Across all races, Pacific Islanders have the second highest proportion of unemployed persons (ranging from 13.1%-14.8%) across the three counties, with Guamanians/Chamorros having the highest proportion of unemployed persons (26.1%) among the PI ethnic subgroups.
- **Food Insecurity:** Across all races, Pacific Islanders have the second highest proportion of persons receiving food stamps (ranging from 8.4%-20.7%) across the three counties, with

Samoans having the highest proportion of persons receiving food stamps (9.5%-45.0%) among the PI ethnic subgroups.

- **Housing:** Across all races, Pacific Islanders have the second highest proportion of overcrowded households (ranging from 4.1%-22.7%) across the three counties, with Tongans having the highest proportion of overcrowded households (37.2%-38.3%) among the PI ethnic subgroups.
- **Fertility:** Across all races, Pacific Islanders have the highest fertility rate (ranging from 6.9%-9.4%) across the three counties, with Samoans, Native Hawaiians, and Tongans having some of the highest fertility rates among the PI ethnic subgroups.

DATA AND RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Regional sampling and oversampling from community clusters with a high concentration of PIs to obtain robust data with minimal survey costs.
- Instead of adjusting for race, stratify and report by race groups for monitoring population health
- Indicate when no PI data can be reported, rather than aggregating Asian/Pacific Islander data
- Disaggregate by PI ethnic groups following federal and state data standards whenever possible
- Pool data across years of data to ensure adequate PI sample for reporting

ACCESS AND OUTREACH RECOMMENDATIONS

- Build a PI data infrastructure (PI liaison, cultural humility training, PI field interviewers)
- Engage communities in the design, planning, implementation, and dissemination of data on race, ethnicity, and language to ensure community participation and relevance
- Coordinate with faith-based organizations and community leaders to increase buy-in regarding community outreach efforts
- Linguistically appropriate survey administration (translating and/or interpreting surveys for individuals with LEP, survey materials are culturally relevant)
- Support state and local surveys, healthcare providers, and administered health programs to implement AB 1726 standards for Pacific Islanders
- Regional sampling from community clusters with high concentrations of Pacific Islanders to obtain robust data and keep survey costs down



INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY OF THE BAY AREA PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY

According to the 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate, there are 353,666 Pacific Islanders living in California, more than any state other than Hawai'i. Pacific Islanders are defined as the 20 or more communities with origins in Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. Each group carries their own distinct beliefs, practices, and languages. As this population continues to grow, they will make increasingly important contributions to the state's cultural, commercial, and civic landscape.

Currently, Pacific Islanders comprise 0.8% of California's population. Due to their relatively small numbers, Pacific Islanders have historically been aggregated with the larger Asian American population in most demographic and health surveys. As a result, very little is known about the unique health issues affecting these small populations. This demographic report aims to provide a more accurate, detailed picture of Pacific Islander communities that is often overshadowed by the greater Asian Pacific Islander umbrella. Acknowledging the vast diversity of communities that fall under the Pacific Islander label, as well as the specific cultural values, linguistic needs, and governmental relationships that define each community, is critical in order to understand and effectively serve these populations.

This publication features statistics representing the aggregated Pacific Islanders as a whole, as well as disaggregated statistics for individual ethnic subgroups where the information is available. 1 in 5 Pacific Islanders in California reside in the San Francisco Bay Area, and this report focuses on the three Bay Area counties with the highest Pacific Islander populations – Alameda, San Mateo, and San Francisco.

We hope this demographic report will aid readers in navigating the broad array of pressing issues facing Pacific Islanders, and anticipate it will also encourage meaningful partnerships to address these issues.



TOTAL POPULATION

The Pacific Islander population accounts for 0.8% of California's population as of 2015 (see Table 1). Almost 1 in 5 Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders (PIs) in California reside in the Bay Area (86,619), with 53% of the population living in Alameda, San Francisco, and San Mateo. Among these three Bay Area counties, Alameda had the highest PI population (24,048) followed by San Mateo (15,055) and San Francisco (6,773).

In California, Native Hawaiians (24.9%) represented the largest PI ethnic subgroup, followed by Samoans (19.1%) and Guamanians/Chamorros (14%). Native Hawaiians were also the largest PI ethnic subgroup in the Bay Area (22.8%), followed by Samoans (19.4%), and Tongans (18.0%). Many Pacific Islanders are also of multi-racial descent.

Table 1. Ethnic Composition of California

	CALIFORNIA	
	ALONE ¹	INCLUSIVE ²
TOTAL	38,421,464	38,421,464
Pacific Islander	150,370	308,113
Fijian	27,023	32,210
Guamanian/Chamorro	24,178	44,428
Native Hawaiian	23,437	76,650
Samoan	40,209	59,155
Tongan	19,663	25,044
Other Pacific Islander	11,350	68,906
Two or More PIs	3,106	DNA ³
American Indian or Alaska Native	287,028	2,854
Asian	5,261,978	6,001,393
Black or African American	2,265,387	2,710,216
Hispanic or Latino	14,750,686	14,750,686
White	14,879,258	DNA ³
Two or More Races	DNA ³	1,734,897
Other	4,974,791	5,411,623

1. The category "Alone" refers to the US Census definition for "Race alone," which includes people who reported a single entry and no other race, as well as people who reported more entries within the same major race group (e.g. Asian). US Census Bureau (2018). American Fact Finder Help Website. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau. Searched on February 26, 2019.

2. The category "Inclusive" refers to the US Census definition for "Race alone or in combination," which includes people who reported a single race alone (e.g., Asian) and people who reported race in combination with one or more of the other race groups.

3. DNA = Data not available.

Table 2. Ethnic Composition of San Francisco, Alameda, and San Mateo

	SAN FRANCISCO		ALAMEDA		SAN MATEO	
	ALONE	INCLUSIVE	ALONE	INCLUSIVE	ALONE	INCLUSIVE
TOTAL	840,763	840,763	1,584,983	1,584,983	748,731	748,731
Pacific Islander	3,649	6,773	13,760	24,048	10,516	15,055
Fijian	237	238	3,245	4,374	2,056	2,269
Guamanian/ Chamorro	653	947	1,500	3,053	599	867
Native Hawaiian	627	1,573	2,326	6,199	1,218	2,665
Samoan	1,650	2,262	2,846	4,012	1,567	2,642
Tongan	171	372	2,176	2,811	4,215	5,096
Other Pacific Islander	311	1,381	1,440	4,249	399	1,516
Two or More PIs	DNA	DNA	227	DNA	462	DNA
American Indian or Alaska Native	2,854	9,588	9,813	26,132	2,129	7,398
Asian	284,426	308,154	439,055	491,276	198,849	220,265
Black or African American	46,825	55,695	184,883	213,949	19,439	25,931
Hispanic or Latino	128,619	128,619	358,168	358,168	189,429	192,392
White	346,732	DNA	522,707	DNA	305,166	DNA
Two or More Races	DNA	38,940	DNA	97,575	DNA	35,437
Other	54,338	61,022	131,339	153,383	70,736	78,055

AGE

Figure 1. Median Age by Race

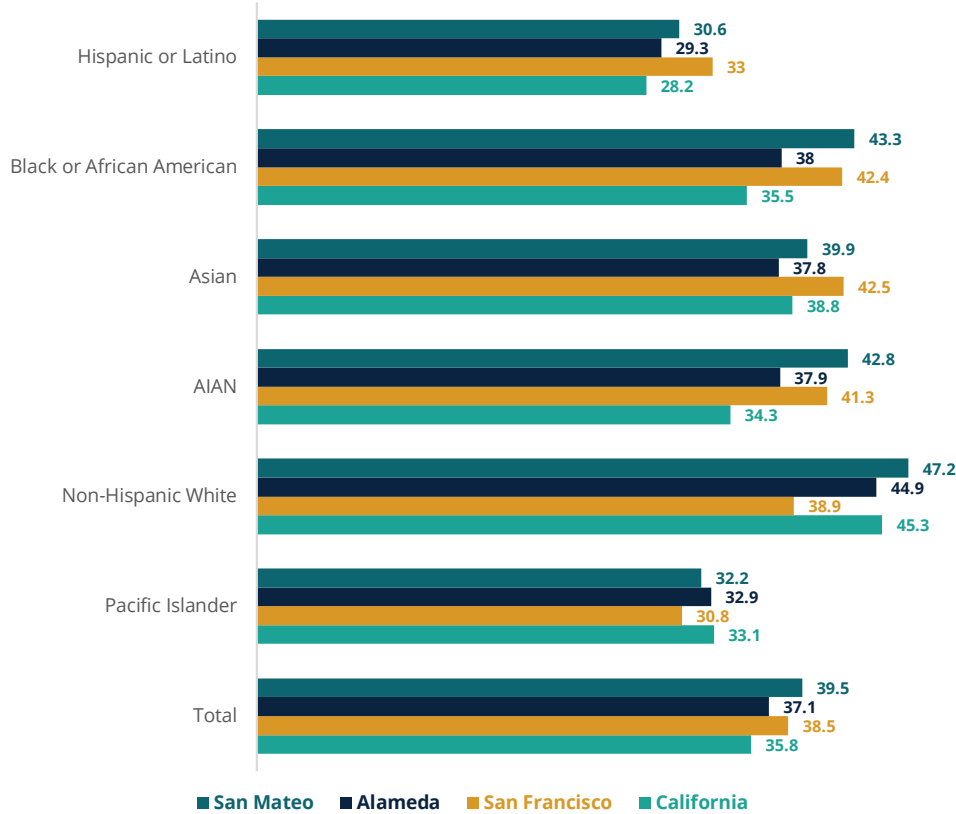
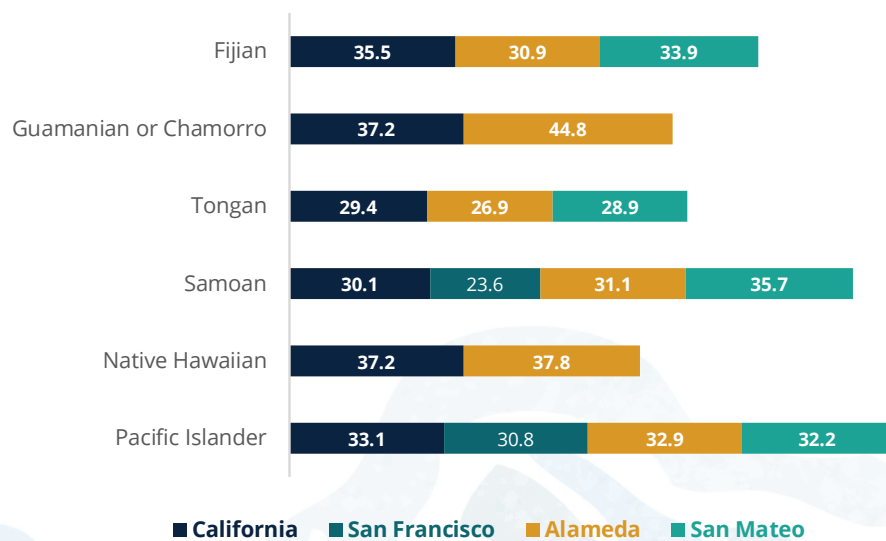


Figure 2. Median Age by Pacific Islander Ethnicity



The median age of Pacific Islanders in California (33.1 years) was lower than the California average (35.8 years) and substantially lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (45.3 years). Across counties, the median age of Pacific Islanders (SF: 30.8; A: 32.9; SM: 32.2) was 1.2-1.5 times younger than the median age of Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 38.9; A: 44.9; SM: 47.2). Across all races, Pacific Islanders were the second youngest group by median age following Hispanics/Latinos. By Pacific Islander

ethnic subgroups, Tongans had the lowest median age (A: 26.9; SM: 28.9), followed by Samoans (SF: 23.6; A: 31.1; SM: 35.7) and Fijians (A: 30.9; SM: 33.9).

Figure 3. Population Younger than 18 Years Old by Race

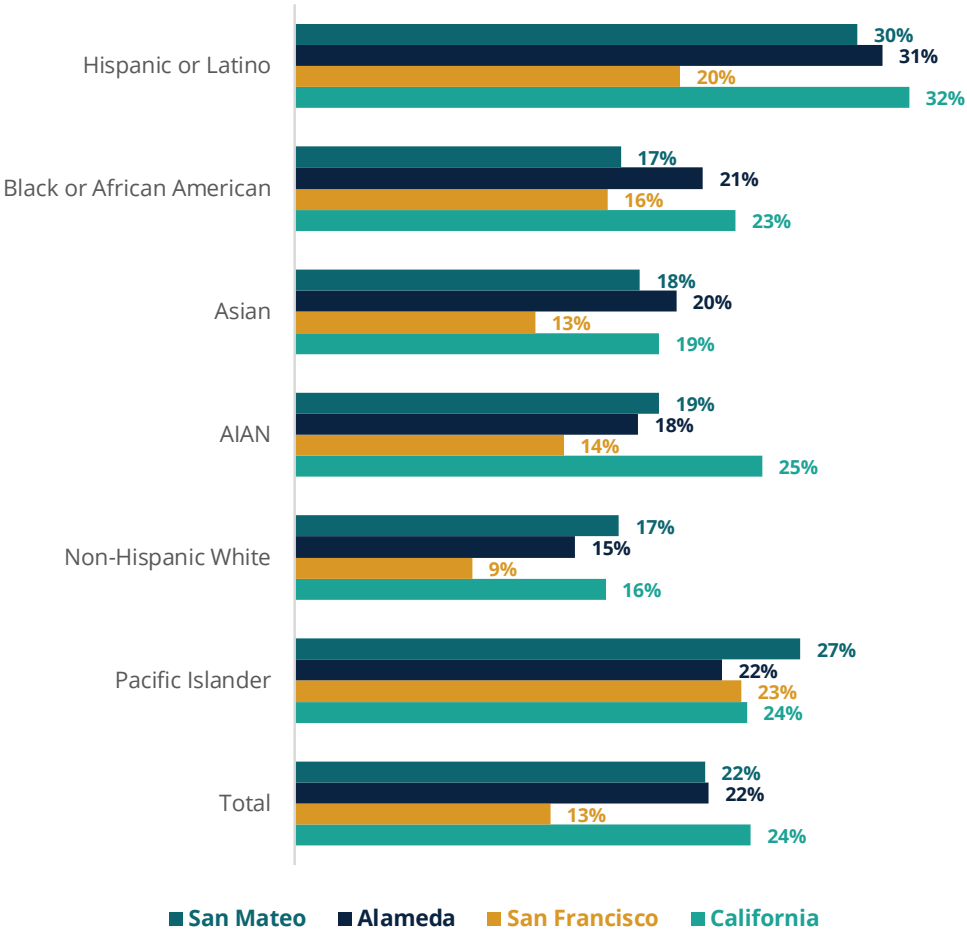
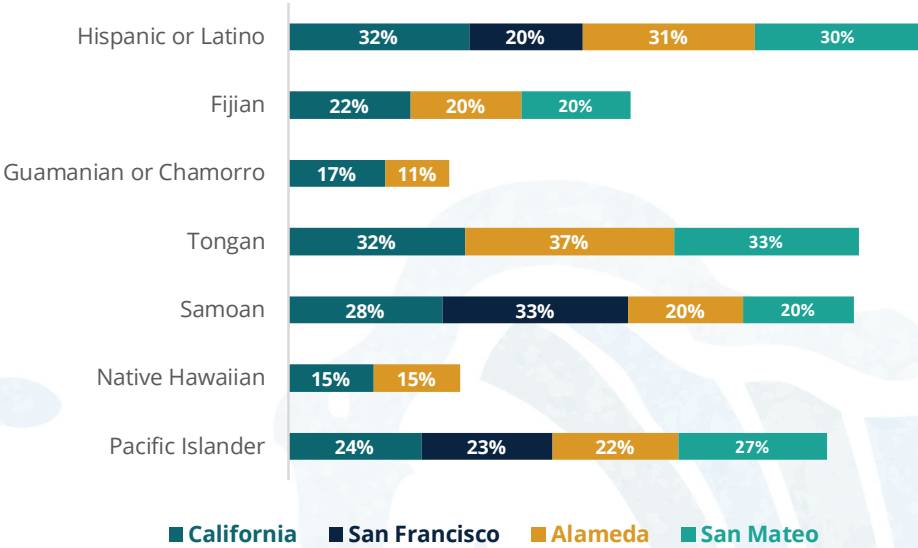


Figure 4. Population Younger than 18 years old by Pacific Islander Ethnicity



The proportion of Pacific Islanders under 18 years old in California (23.7%) was similar to the California average (23.9%) and substantially higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (16.3%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific Islanders under 18 years old (SF: 23.4%; A: 22.4%; SM: 26.5%) was 1.5-2.5 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 9.3%; A: 14.7%; SM: 17.0%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the second highest proportion of persons under 18 years old following Hispanics/Latinos. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Tongans had the highest proportion of persons under 18 years old (A: 37.2%, SM: 33.0%), followed by Samoans (SF: 33.1%; A: 20.4%; SM: 19.8%) and Fijians (A: 19.7%; SM: 19.5%).

Figure 5. Population 65 Years and Older by Race

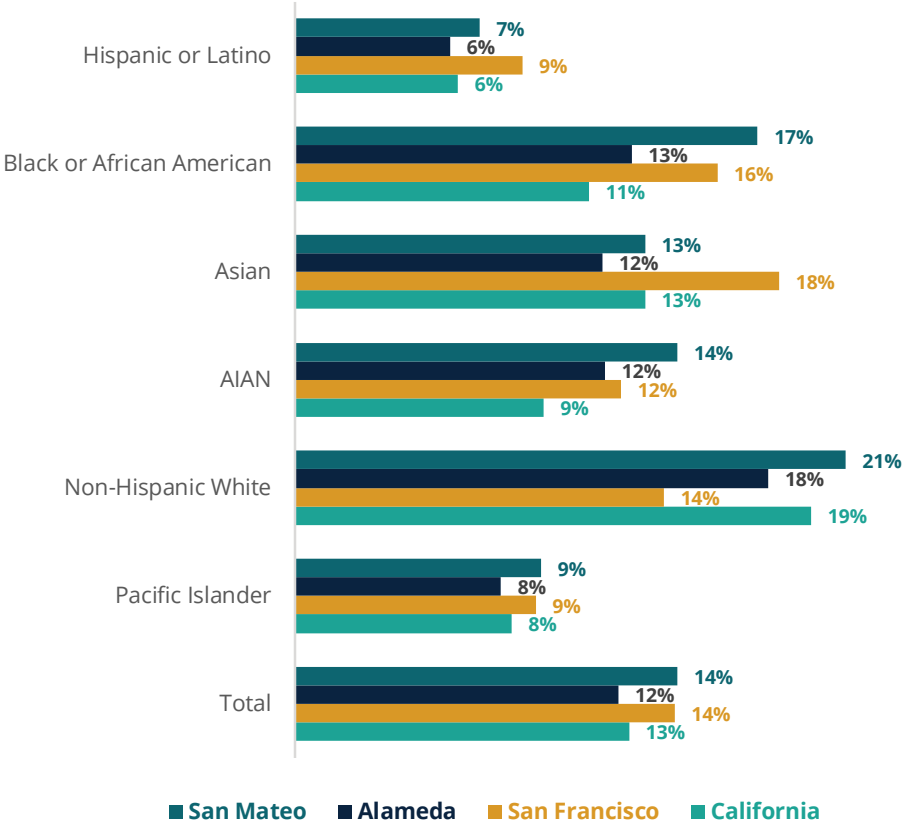
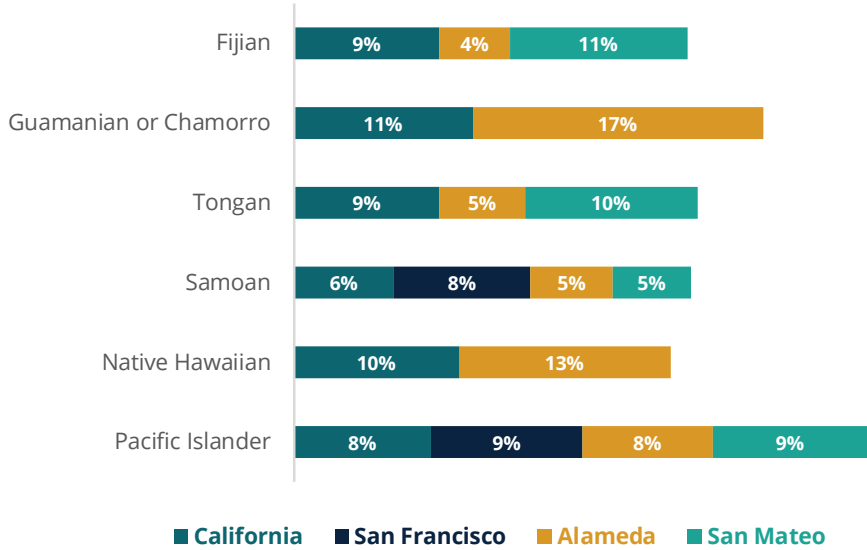


Figure 6. Population 65 Years and Older by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of Pacific Islanders 65 years old or older in California (8.1%) was lower than the California average (12.5%) and substantially lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (19.3%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific Islanders 65 years old or older (SF: 9.0%; A: 7.7%; SM: 9.2%) was 1.5-2.2 times lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 13.8%; A: 17.7%; SM: 20.6%). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the second lowest proportion of persons 65 years old or older following Hispanics/Latinos. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Guamanians had the highest proportion of persons 65 years old or older (A: 17.2%), followed by Native Hawaiians (A: 12.5%) and Tongans (A: 5.1%; SM: 10.2%).



GENDER

Figure 7. Female Population by Race

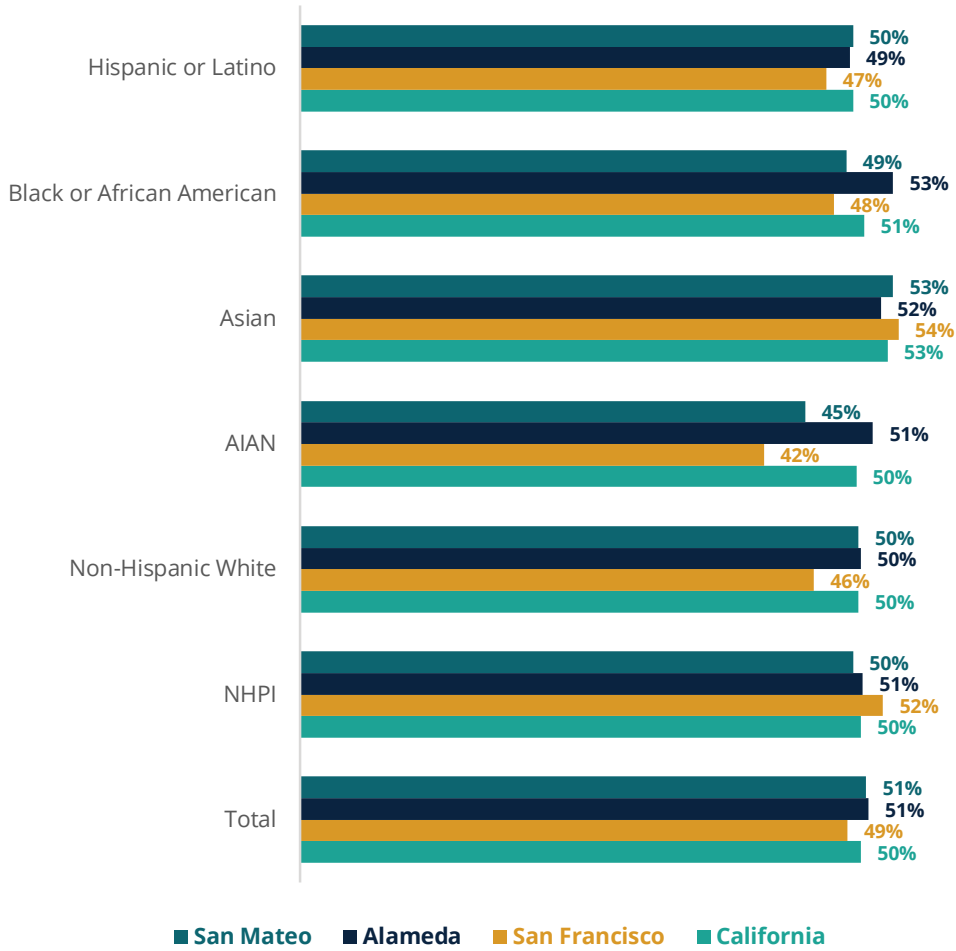
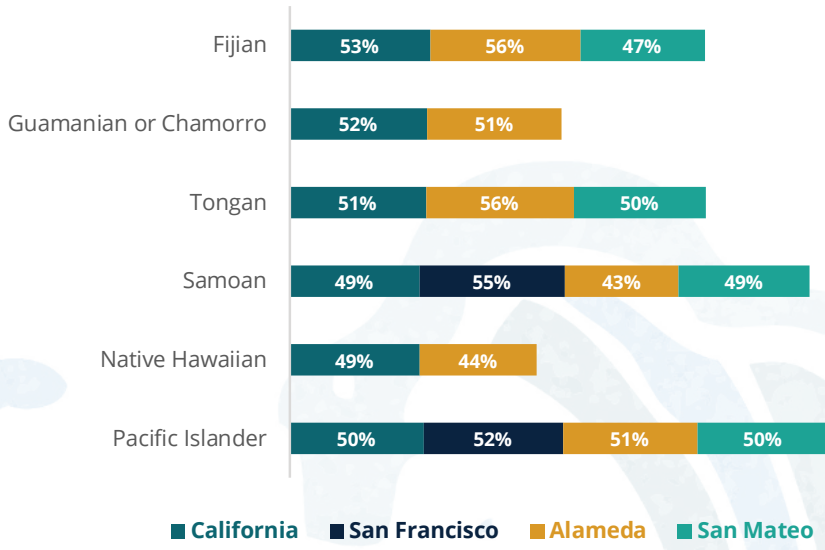


Figure 8. Female population by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of female Pacific Islanders in California (50.3%) was the same as the California average (50.3%) and slightly higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (50.1%). Across counties, the proportion of female Pacific Islanders (SF: 52.3%; A: 50.5%; SM: 49.6%) was slightly higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 46.1%; A: 50.3%; SM: 50.1%). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the second highest proportion of females following Asians. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Tongans had the highest proportion of females (A: 55.5%; SM: 49.8%), followed by Fijians (A: 56.4%; SM: 46.7%) and Guamanians (A: 50.5%).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Figure 9. Population with Less than a High School Diploma by Race

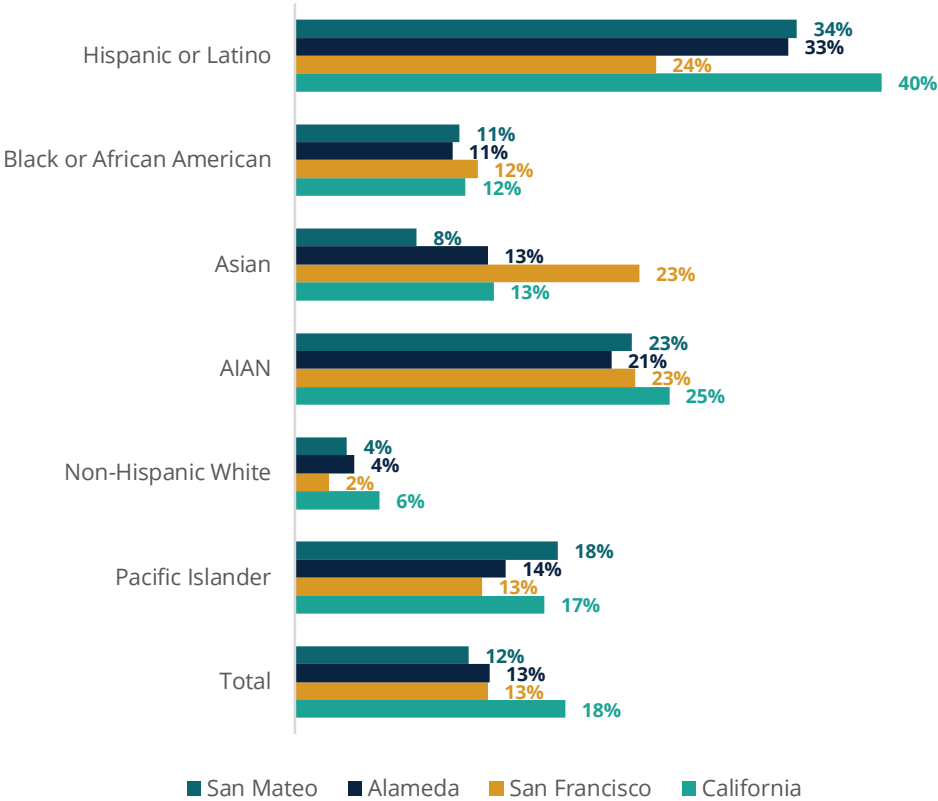
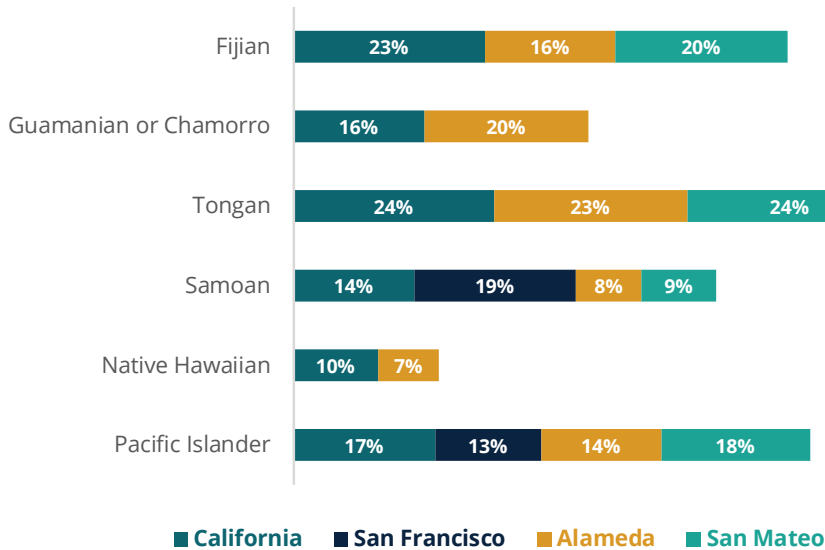


Figure 10. Population with Less than a High School Diploma by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of Pacific Islanders with less than a high school diploma in California (16.8%) was lower than the California average (18.2%), but substantially higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (5.7%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific Islanders with less than a high school degree (SF: 12.6%; A: 14.2%; SM: 17.7%) was 3.6-5.5 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 2.3%; A: 4.0%; SM: 3.5%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the third highest proportion of persons with less than a high school degree following Hispanics/Latinos and American Indians/Alaska Natives. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Tongans had the highest proportion of persons with less than a high school degree (A: 22.9%; SM: 24.4%) followed by Fijians (A: 15.5%; SM: 20.4%) and Guamanians (A: 19.5%).

Figure 11. Population with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher by Race

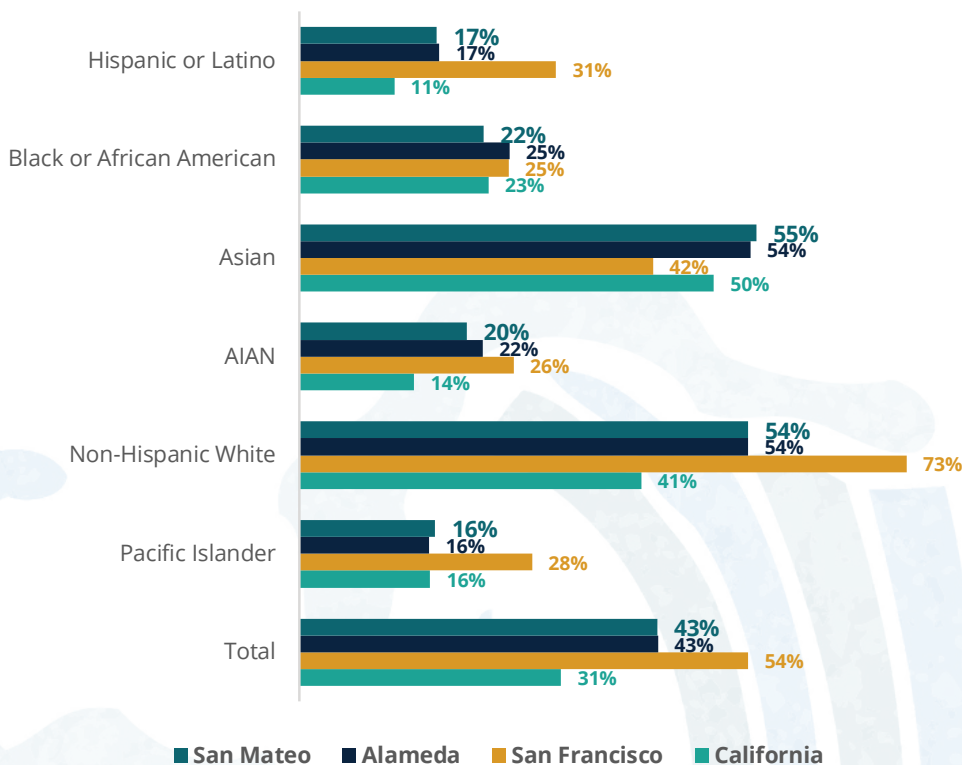
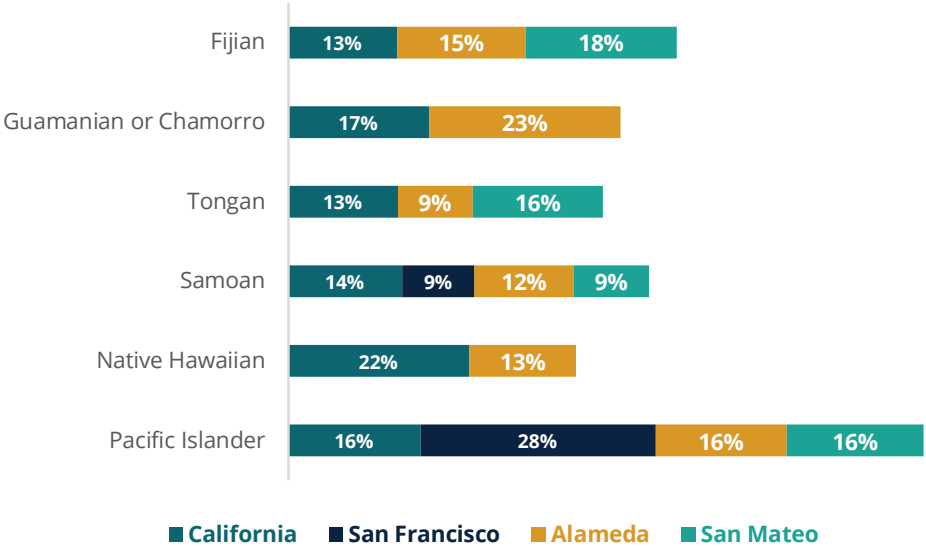


Figure 12. Population with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of Pacific Islanders with a Bachelor’s degree or higher in California (15.7%) was substantially lower than both the California average (31.4%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (41.0%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific Islanders with a Bachelor’s degree or higher (SF: 27.9%; A: 15.6%; SM: 16.3%) was 2.6-3.4 times lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 72.8%; A: 53.8%; SM: 53.8%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the lowest proportion of persons with a Bachelor’s degree or higher. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Samoans had the lowest proportion of persons with a Bachelor’s degree or higher (SF: 8.6%; A: 11.8%; SM: 9.0%) followed by Tongans (A: 8.9%; SM: 15.5%) and Native Hawaiians (A: 12.7%).



NATIVITY AND ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

Figure 13. Population born outside the United States by Race

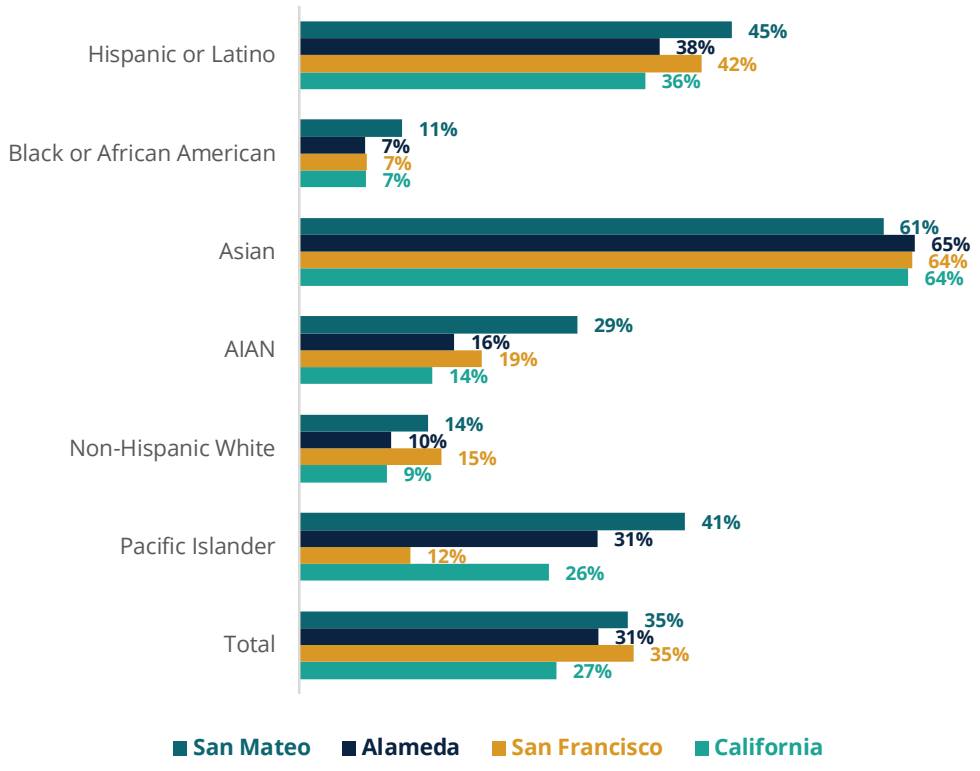
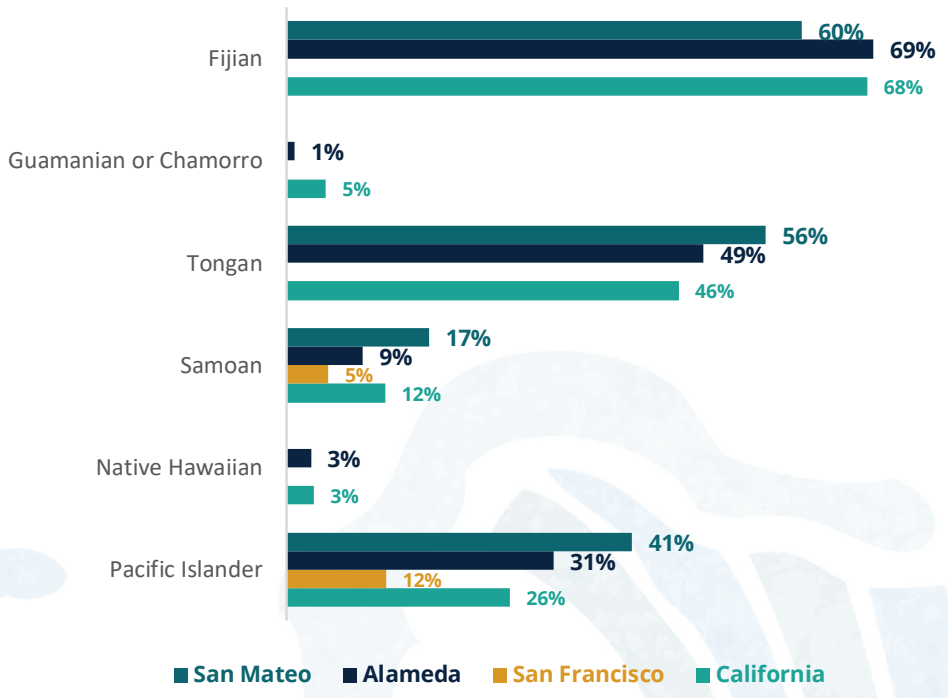


Figure 14. Population born outside the United States by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of foreign-born Pacific Islanders in California (26.2%) was slightly lower than the California average (27.0%), but substantially higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (9.2%). Across counties, the proportion of foreign-born Pacific Islanders (SF: 11.7%; A: 31.3%; SM: 40.5%;) was 1.3 times lower to 3.2 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 14.9%; A: 9.7%; SM: 13.5%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the third highest proportion of foreign-born persons following Asians and Hispanics/Latinos. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Fijians had the highest proportion of foreign-born persons (A: 68.8%; SM: 60.4%), followed by Tongans (A: 48.9%; SM: 56.2%) and Samoans (SF: 4.9%; A: 9.0%; SM: 16.7%)

Figure 15. Population with Limited English Proficiency by Race

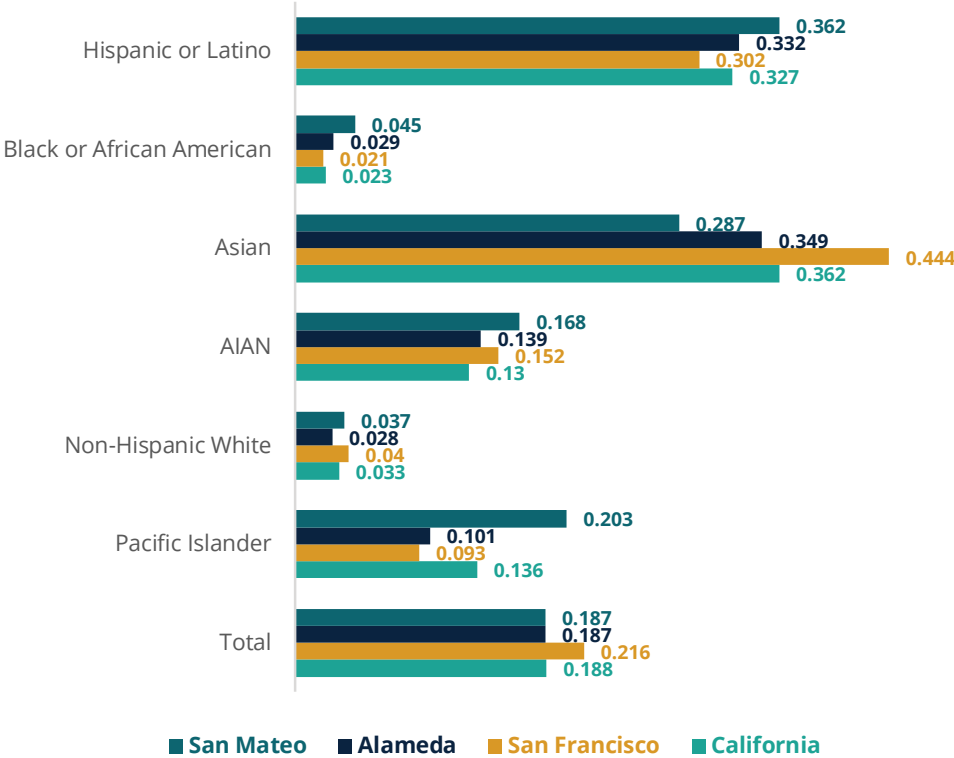
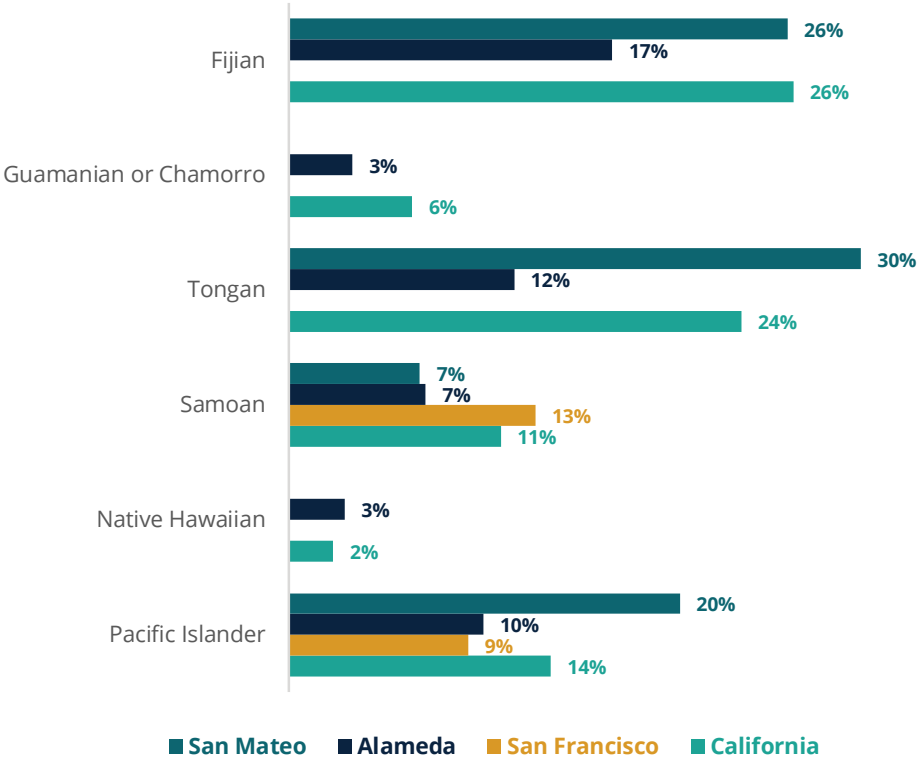


Figure 16. Population with Limited English Proficiency by PI Ethnicity



The prevalence of Limited English Proficiency (LEP), defined as individuals age 5 and over speaking English “less than very well,” varies widely among PI ethnic subgroups. Typically, LEP is more common among ethnic subgroups that originate from outside the US and its territories. The proportion of Pacific Islanders with LEP in California (13.6%) was lower than the California average (18.8%), but substantially higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (3.3%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific Islanders with LEP (SF: 9.3%; A: 10.1%; SM: 20.3%) was 2.3-5.5 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 4.0%; A: 2.8%; SM: 3.7%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the fourth highest proportion of persons with LEP following Asians, Hispanics/Latinos, and American Indians/Alaska Natives. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Fijians had the highest proportion of persons with LEP (A: 16.8%; SM: 25.9%) followed by Tongans (A: 11.7%; SM: 29.7%) and Samoans (SF: 12.8%; A: 7.1%; SM: 6.8%).



POVERTY

Figure 17. Population Below Federal Poverty Level by Race

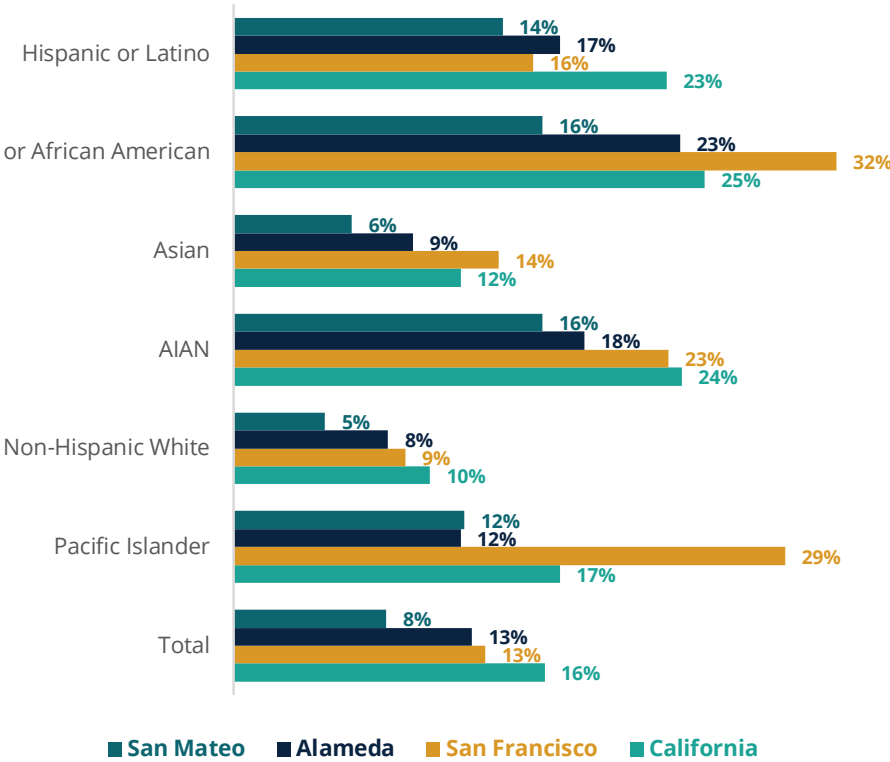
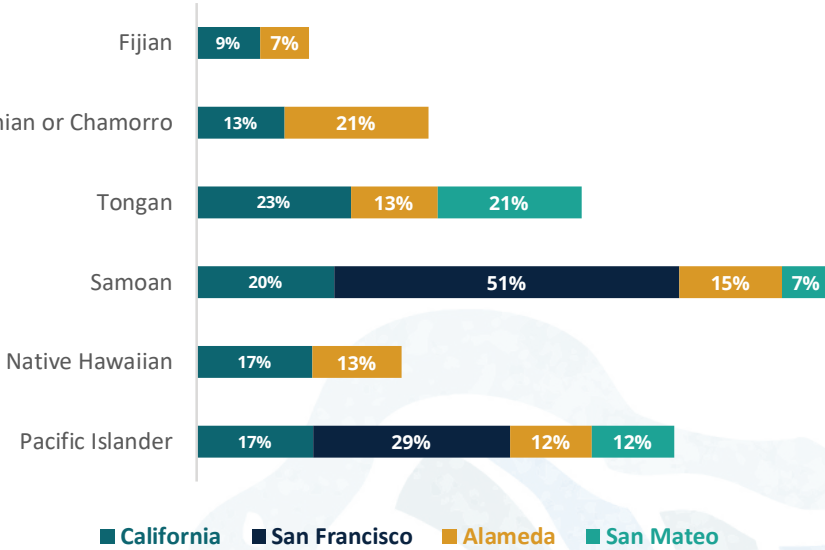


Figure 18. Population Below Federal Poverty Level by PI Ethnicity



The Federal Poverty Level (FPL) has steadily increased since 2011 and was defined as \$11,770 per person per household for the state of California in 2015. The proportion of Pacific Islanders below the FPL in California (17.1%) was slightly higher than the California average (16.3%) and substantially higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (10.3%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific

Islanders below the FPL (SF: 28.9%; A: 11.9%; SM: 12.1%) was 1.5-3.2 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 9.0%; A: 8.1%; SM: 4.8%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the third highest proportion of persons below the FPL following Blacks/African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Samoans had the highest proportion of persons below the FPL (SF: 50.6%; A: 15.0%; SM: 7.0%), followed by Guamanians/Chamorros (A: 21.1%) and Tongans (A: 12.7%; SM: 21.1%)

PER CAPITA INCOME

Figure 19. Median Per Capita Income by Race

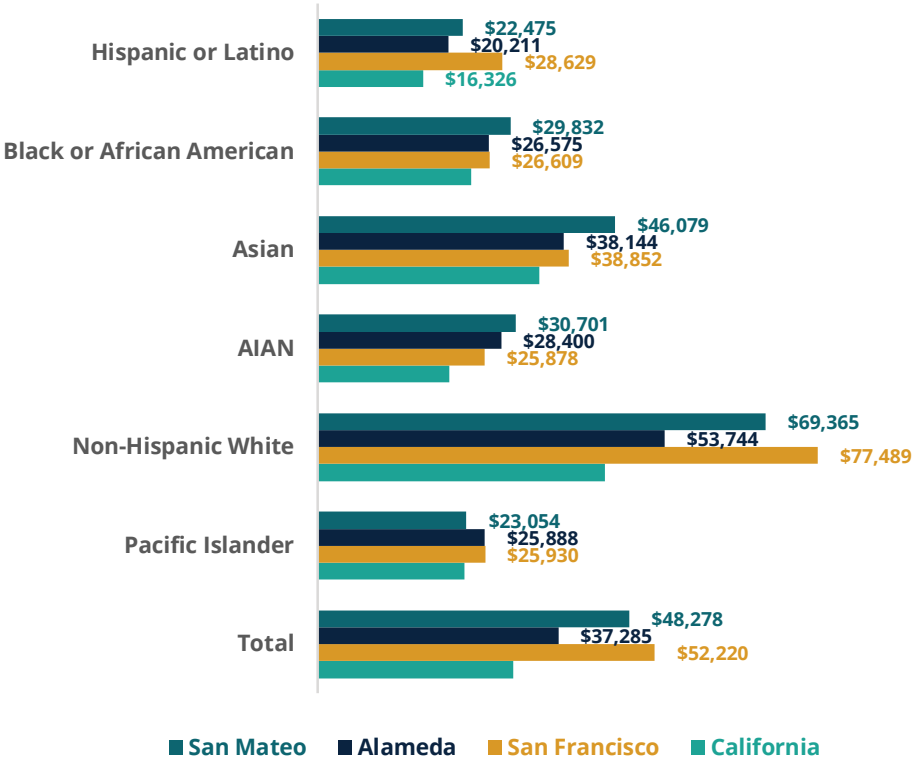
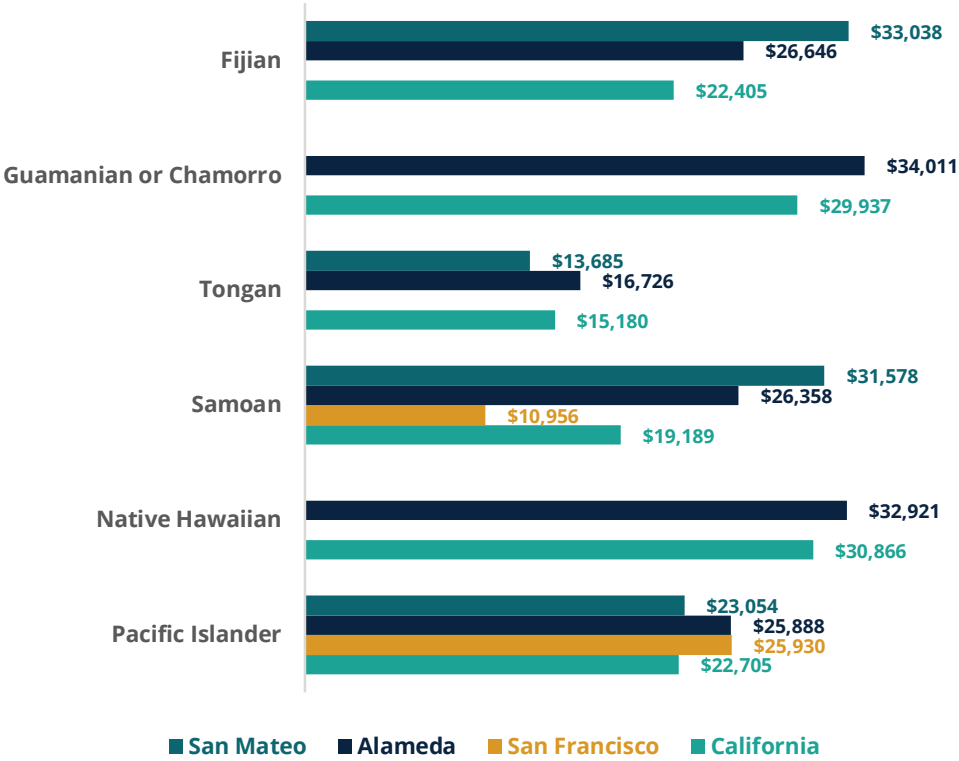


Figure 20. Median Per Capita Income by PI Ethnicity



The median per capita income of Pacific Islanders in California (\$22,705) was lower than the California average (\$30,318) and substantially lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (\$44,443). Across counties, the median per capita income of Pacific Islanders (SF: \$25,930; A: \$25,888; SM: \$23,054) was 2.1-3.0 times lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: \$77,489; A: \$53,744; SM: \$69,365). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the second lowest median per capita income following Hispanics/Latinos. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Tongans had the lowest median per capita income (A: \$16,726; SM: \$13,685), followed by Samoans (SF: \$10,956; A: \$26,358; SM: \$31,578) and Fijians (A: \$26,646; SM: \$33,038).



UNEMPLOYMENT

Figure 21. Unemployment Rate by Race

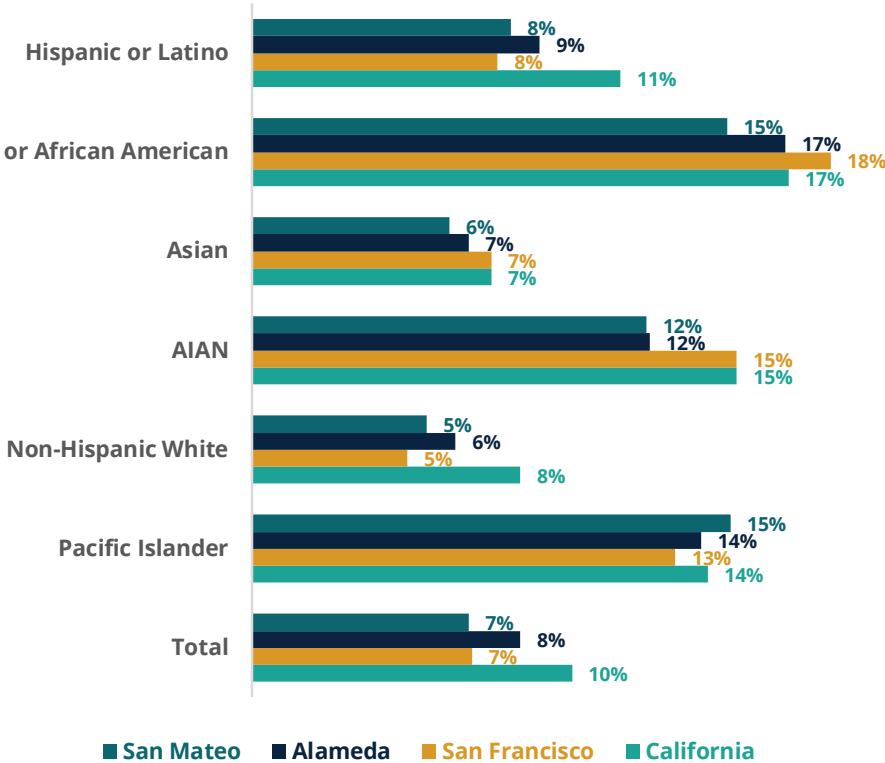
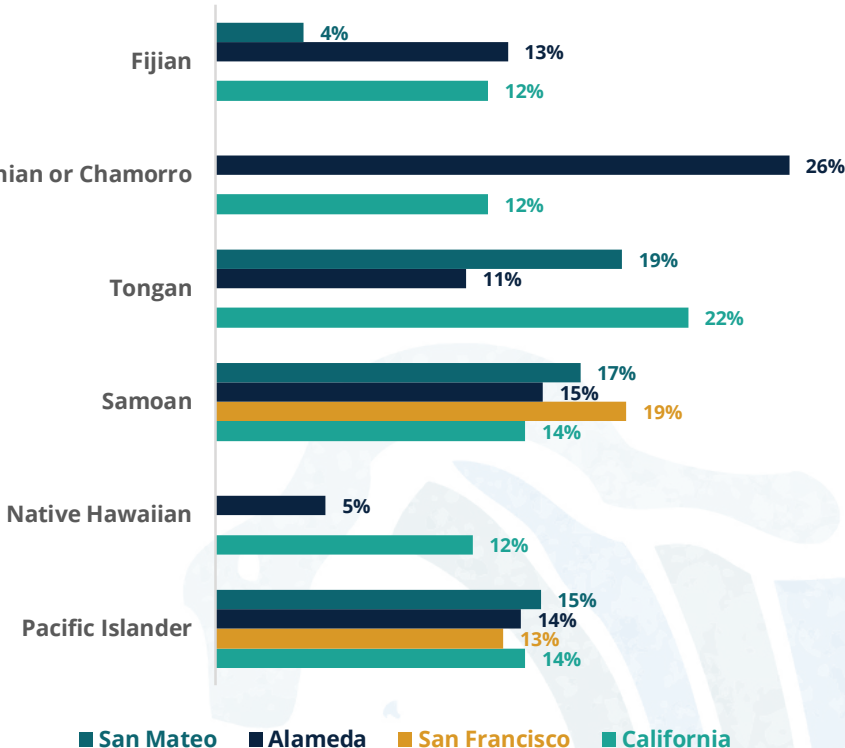


Figure 22. Unemployment Rate by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of unemployed Pacific Islanders in California (14.1%) was higher than both the California average (9.9%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (8.3%). Across counties, the proportion of unemployed Pacific Islanders (SF: 13.1%; A: 13.9%; SM: 14.8%) was 2.2-2.7 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 4.8%; A: 6.3%; SM: 5.4%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the second highest proportion of unemployed persons following Blacks/African Americans. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Guamanians/Chamorros had the highest proportion of unemployed persons (A: 26.1%), followed by Samoans (SF: 18.7%; A: 14.9%; SM: 16.6%) and Tongans (A: 11.4%; SM: 18.5%).

HOUSING

Figure 23. Median Household Income by Race

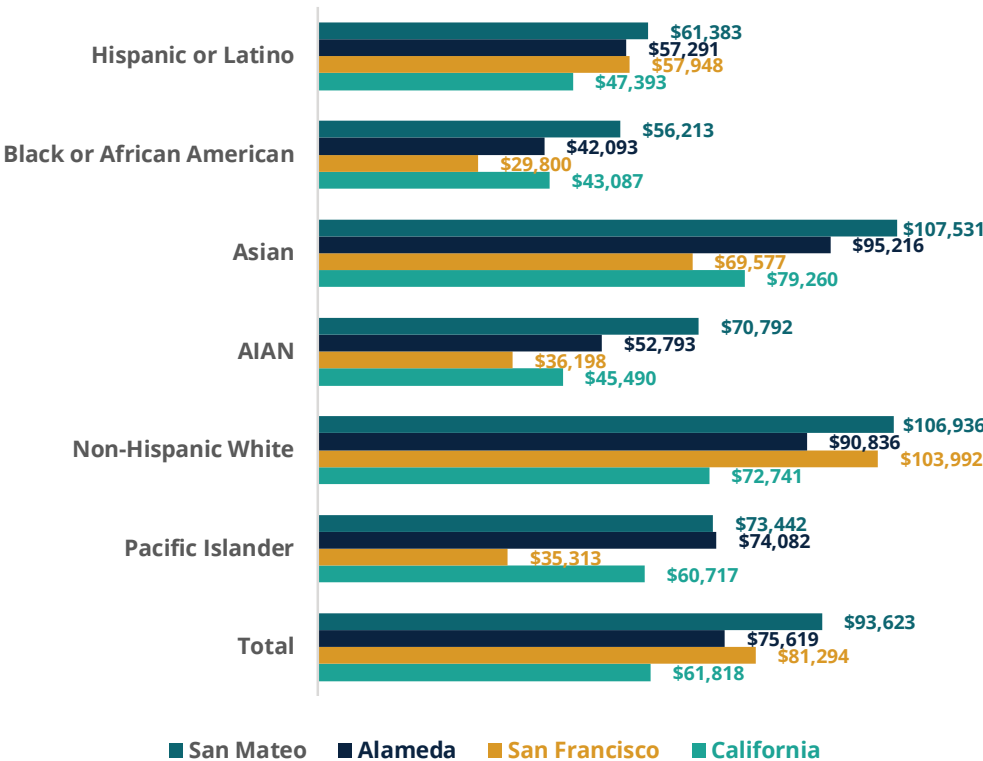
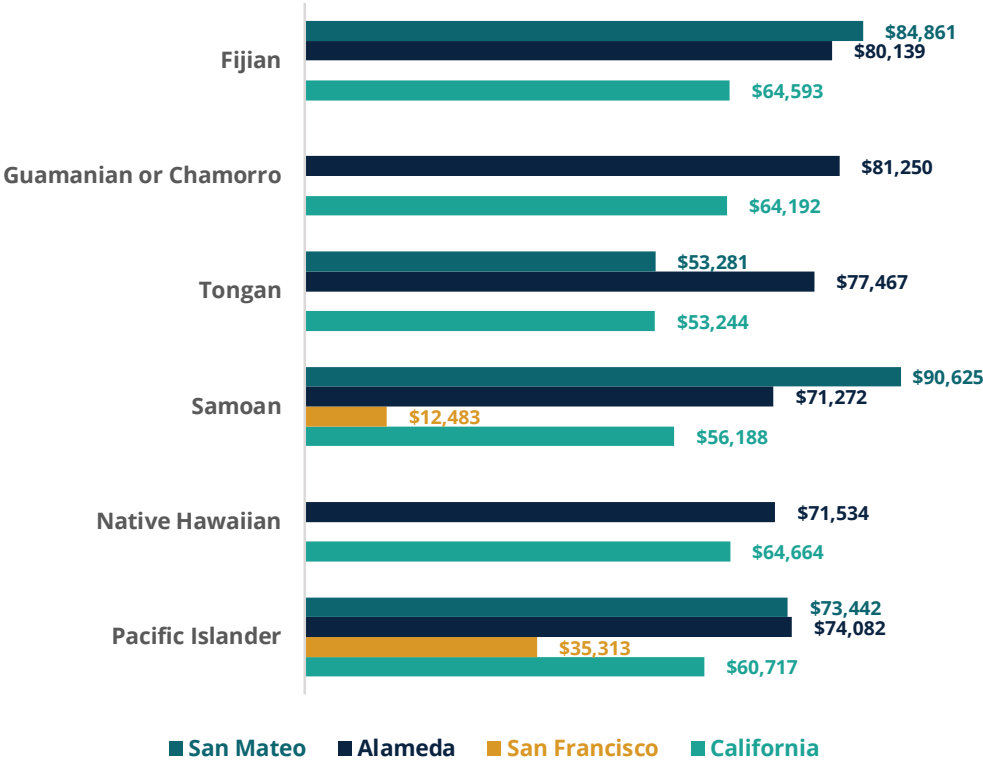


Figure 24. Median Household Income by PI Ethnicity



The median household income of Pacific Islanders in California (\$60,717) was lower than both the California average (\$61,818) and Non-Hispanic Whites (\$72,741). Across counties, the median household income of Pacific Islanders (SF: \$35,313; A: \$74,082; SM: \$73,442) was 1.2-2.9 times lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: \$103,992; A: \$90,836; SM: \$106,936). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the fourth lowest median household income following Blacks/African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Hispanics/Latinos. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Samoans had the lowest median household income (SF: \$12,483; A: \$71,272; SM: \$90,625), followed by Tongans (A: \$77,467; SM: \$53,281) and Native Hawaiians (A: \$71,534).



Figure 25. Population Receiving Food Stamps by Race

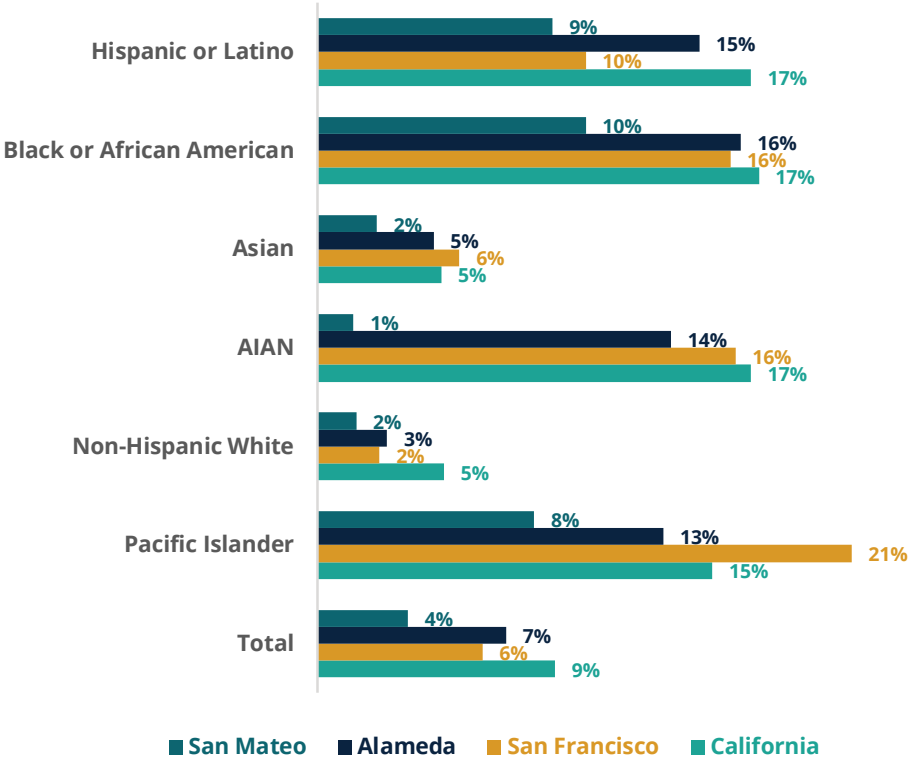
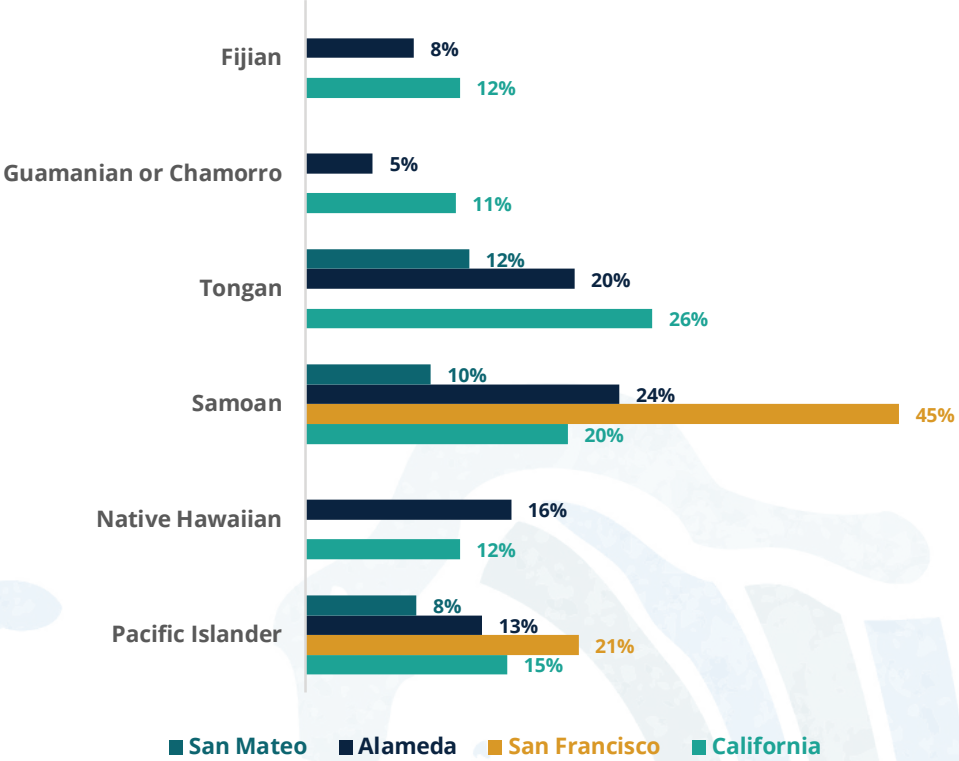


Figure 26. Population Receiving Food Stamps by PI Ethnicity



The federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is administered in California through the CalFresh Program, and offers financial assistance for the purchase of groceries, often referred to as food stamps, to individuals and families who meet certain income-based eligibility requirements. The proportion of Pacific Islanders receiving food stamps in California (15.3%) was higher than the California average (9.2%) and substantially higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (4.9%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific Islanders receiving food stamps (SF: 20.7%; A: 13.4%; SM: 8.4%) was 5.0-8.6 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 2.4%; A: 2.7%; SM: 1.5%). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the second highest proportion of persons receiving food stamps following Blacks/African Americans. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Samoans had the highest proportion of persons receiving food stamps (SF: 45.0%; A: 23.8%; SM: 9.5%), followed by Tongans (A: 20.4%; SM: 12.4%) and Native Hawaiians (A: 15.6%).

Figure 27. Population Living in Overcrowded Conditions by Race

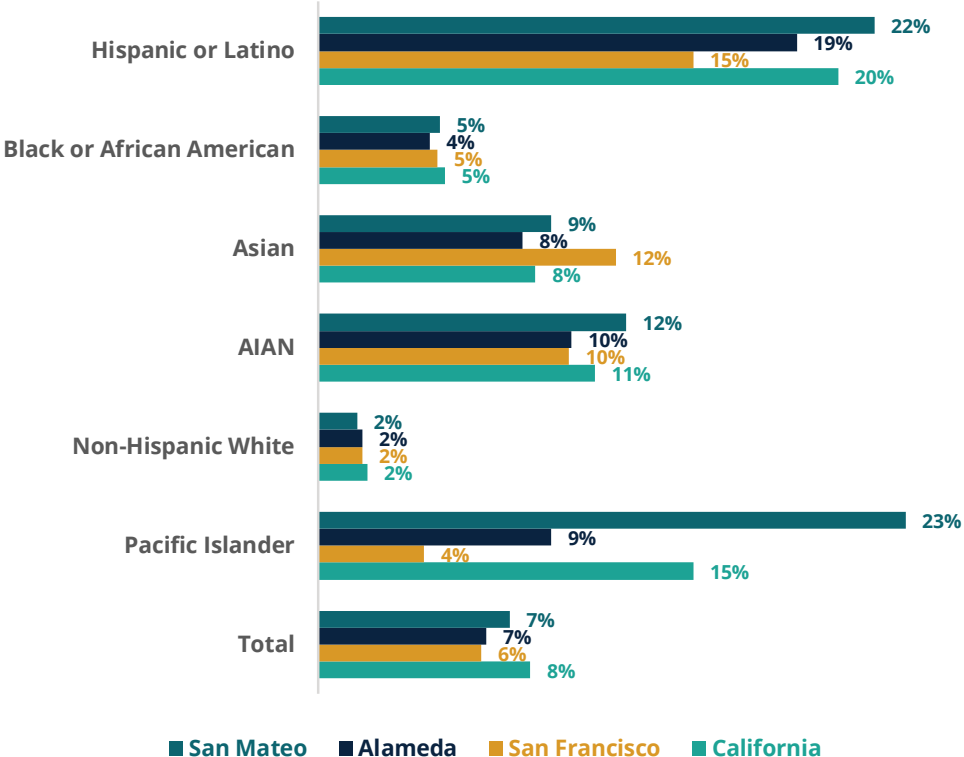
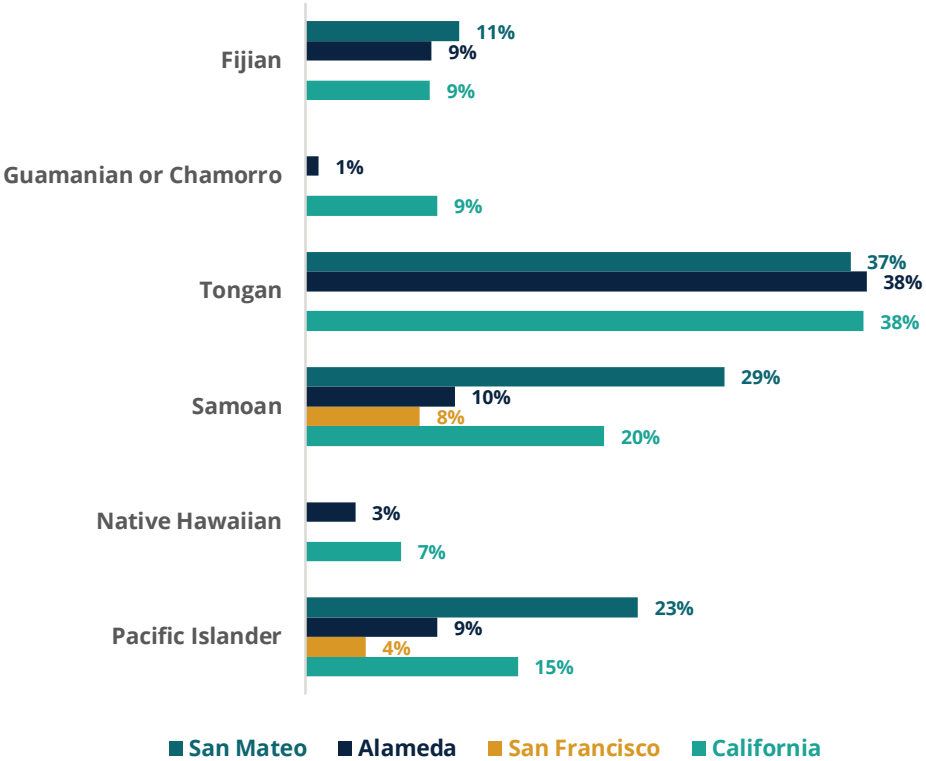


Figure 28. Population Living in Overcrowded Conditions by PI Ethnicity



Many Pacific Islanders live in overcrowded conditions. The proportion of overcrowded, as defined by the U.S. Census as having more than one person per room, Pacific Islander households in California (14.5%) was higher than the California average (8.2%) and substantially higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (1.9%). Across counties, the proportion of overcrowded Pacific Islander households (SF: 4.1%; A: 9.0%; SM: 22.7%) was 2.4-15.1 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 1.7%; A: 1.7%; SM: 1.5%) Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the second highest proportion of overcrowded households following Hispanics/Latinos. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Tongans had the highest proportion of overcrowded households (A: 38.3%; SM: 37.2%), followed by Samoans (SF: 7.8%; A: 10.2%; SM: 28.6%) and Fijians (A: 8.6%; SM: 10.5%). Due to limited housing options, many Pacific Islanders live with extended family members. At the same time, extended family households can be a protective factor in Pacific Islander communities.



Figure 29. Home Ownership by Race

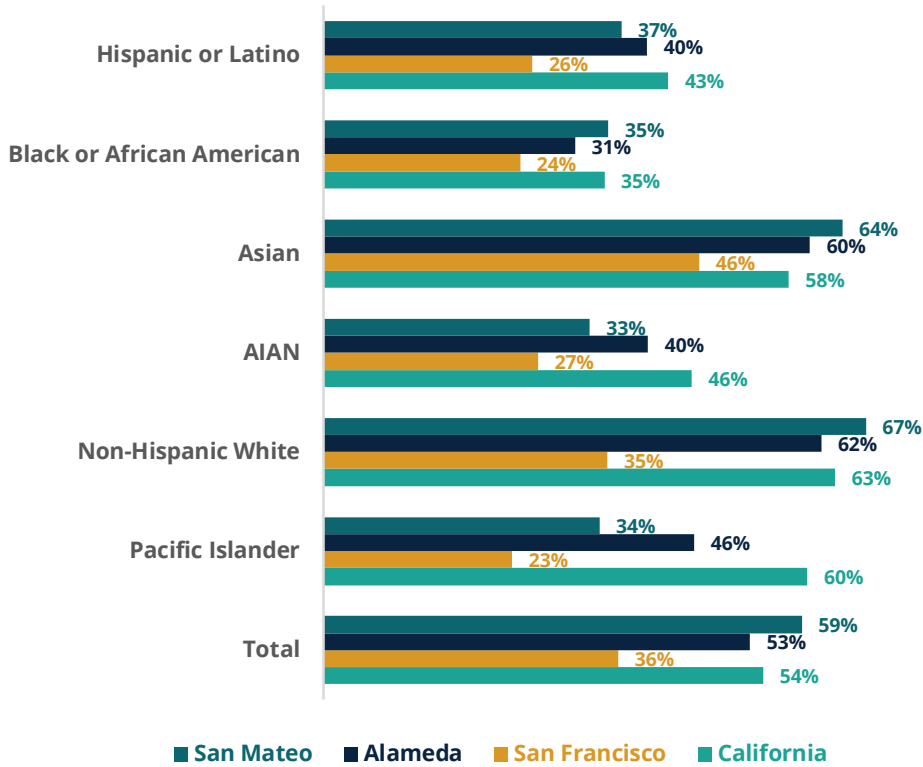
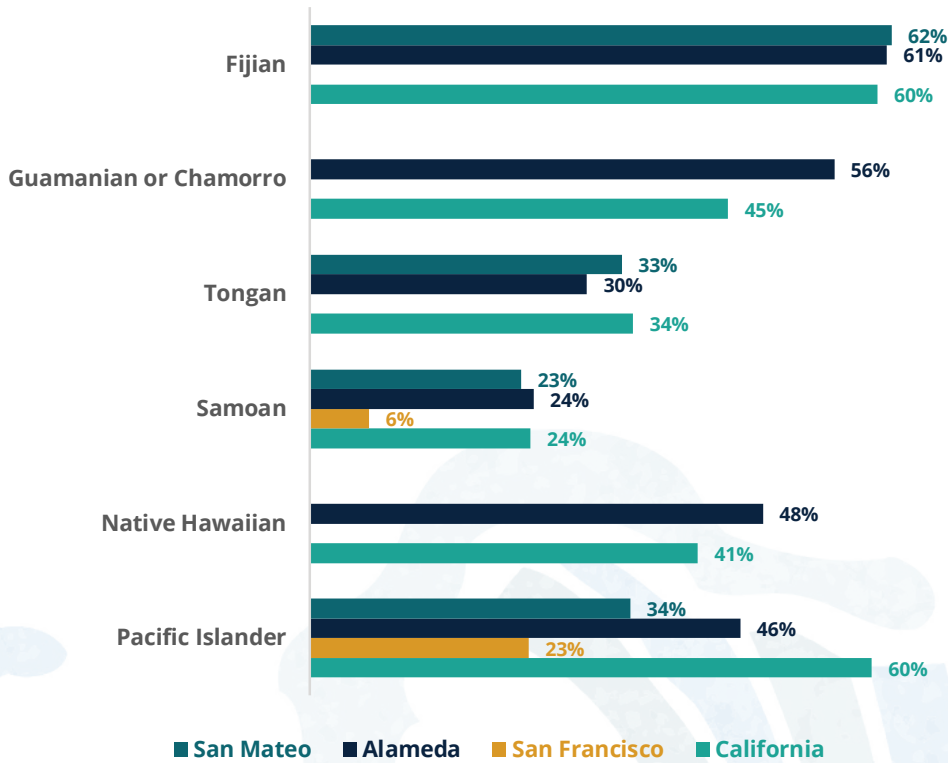


Figure 30. Home Ownership by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of Pacific Islander homeowners in California (59.8%) was higher than the California average (54.3%) and lower than Non-Hispanic Whites (63.2%). Across counties, the proportion of Pacific Islander homeowners (SF: 23.9%; A: 45.8%; SM: 34.1%) was 1.3-2.0 times lower than

Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 35.1%; A: 61.5%; SM: 67.0%). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the third lowest proportion of homeowners following Blacks/African Americans and American Indians/Alaska Natives. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Samoans had the lowest proportion of homeowners (SF: 6.3%; A: 23.8%; SM: 22.5%) followed by Tongans (A: 29.5%; SM: 33.2%) and Native Hawaiians (A: 48.2%).

FERTILITY RATE

Figure 31. Fertility Rate by Race

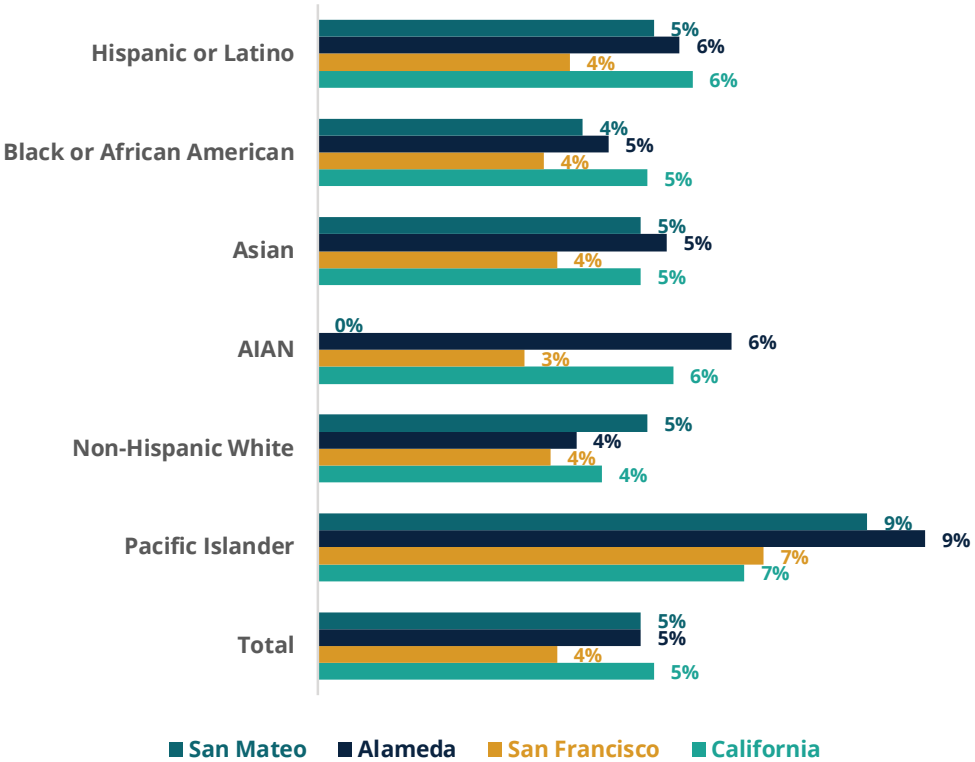
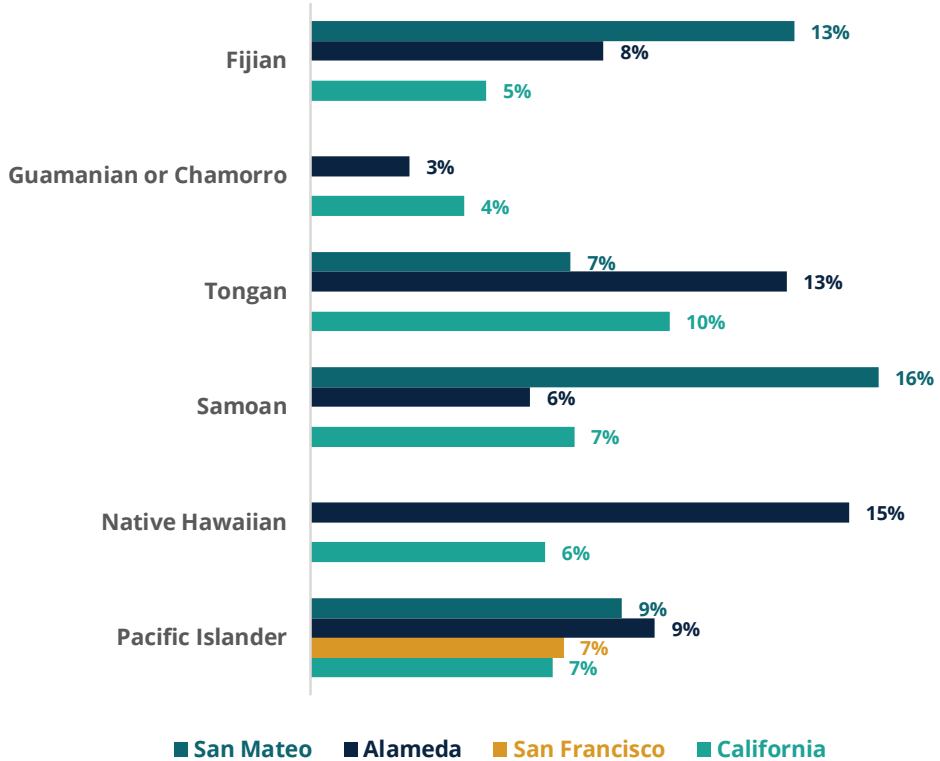


Figure 32. Fertility Rate by PI Ethnicity



1. For San Francisco County, data is not available for Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Tongans, Guamanians/Chamorros, and Fijians. For San Mateo County, data is not available for Native Hawaiians and Guamanians/Chamorros.

The fertility rate for Pacific Islander women (age 15-50 years old) is higher than any other racial group in the tri-county area. The Pacific Islander fertility rate in California (6.6%) was higher than both the California average (5.2%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (4.4%). Across counties, the Pacific Islander fertility rate (SF: 6.9%; A: 9.4%; SM: 8.5%) was 1.7-2.4 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 3.6%; A: 4.0%; SM: 5.1%). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the highest fertility rate. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Native Hawaiians had the highest fertility rate (A: 14.7%), followed by Fijians (A: 8.0%; SM: 13.2%) and Tongans (A: 13.0%; SM: 7.1%).



HEALTH INSURANCE

Figure 33. Population of Uninsured by Race

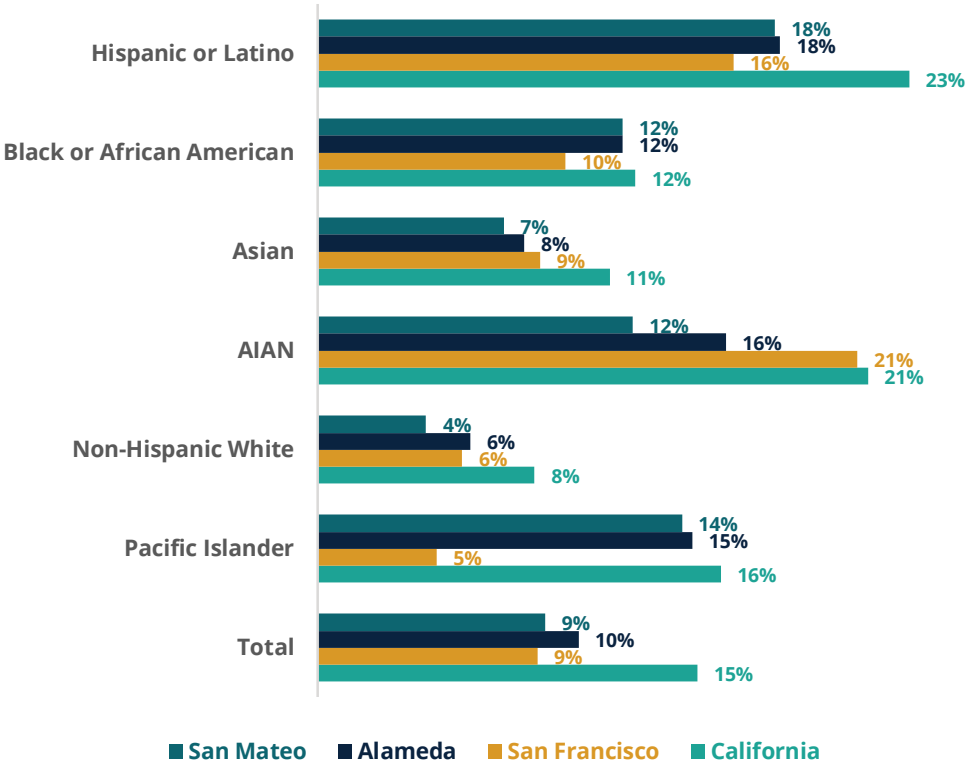
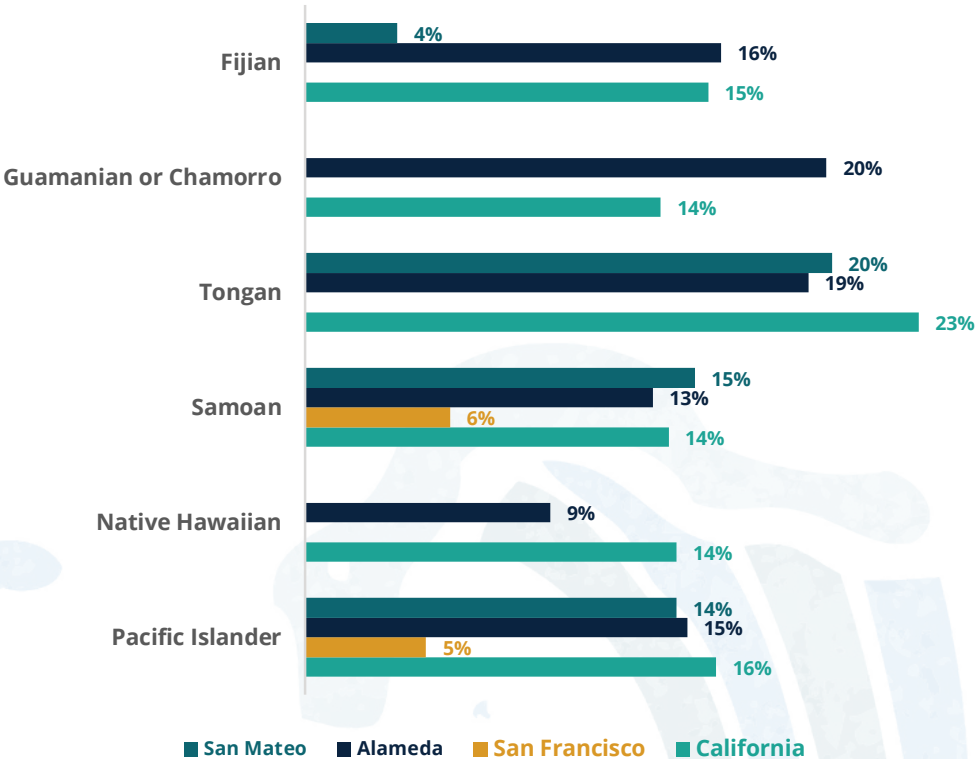


Figure 34. Population of Uninsured by PI Ethnicity



The proportion of uninsured Pacific Islanders in California (15.6%) was higher than both the California average (14.7%) and Non-Hispanic Whites (8.4%). Across counties, the proportion of uninsured Pacific Islanders (SF: 4.6%; A: 14.5%; SM: 14.1%) was 1.2 times lower to 3.4 times higher than Non-Hispanic Whites (SF: 5.6%; A: 5.9%; SM: 4.2%). Across all races, Pacific Islanders had the third highest proportion of uninsured persons following Hispanics/Latinos and American Indians/Alaska Natives. By Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups, Guamanians/Chamorros had the highest proportion of uninsured persons (A: 19.8%), followed by Tongans (A: 19.1%; SM: 20.0%) and Samoans (SF: 5.5%; A: 13.2%; SM: 14.8%).

CONCLUSIONS

The main findings about Pacific Islanders in comparison with other races/ethnicities across San Francisco, Alameda, and San Mateo Counties include:

- 1) Pacific Islanders are a fairly young population, with a considerable portion of the community being under 18 (SF: 13.4%, A: 21.7%, SM: 21.5%). This translates to a rate of 1 in 4 Pacific Islanders in the San Francisco, Alameda, and San Mateo Counties under the age of 18.
- 2) There is limited attainment to higher education among the Pacific Islander community, as this community has the lowest proportion of individuals with a Bachelor's degree or higher in comparison to other races in California (SF: 27.9%, A: 15.6%, SM: 42.9%).
- 3) Pacific Islanders show an elevated rate of poverty in comparison to other races in California (SF: 28.9%, A: 11.9%, SM: 12.1%).
- 4) Pacific Islanders had the second highest proportion of unemployed persons following Blacks/African Americans (SF: 13.1%; A: 13.9%; SM: 14.8%).
- 5) Pacific Islanders had the second highest proportion of persons receiving food stamps following Blacks/African Americans (SF: 20.7%; A: 13.4%; SM: 8.4%).
- 6) There is a higher rate of overcrowding in housing among Pacific Islanders in San Francisco, Alameda, and San Mateo Counties (SF: 4.1%, A: 9.0%, SM: 22.7%).
- 7) Pacific Islanders have the highest rate of fertility out of all ethnicities in California (SF: 6.9%, A: 9.4%, SM: 8.5%).

Some of the findings in this report can be attributed to the history, culture, and values that the Pacific Islander community possesses. One of the most apparent findings is related to the large rate of overcrowding seen in this population, with approximately 22.7% of the Pacific Islander population in San Mateo County living in overcrowded housing conditions. Part of this is explained in the importance of families (both immediate and extended) sharing housing in the community to reduce social isolation, which serves as a protective factor against many health and social issues in the community. At the same time, limited family finances also pose a challenge to Pacific Islanders and the need to share housing to reduce the economic burden on families. As a result, these dual issues lead to more Pacific Islanders residing in the same households.

In addition,

Several of our recommendations include the following. To address the limited access to higher education found in the Pacific Islander community, we recommend setting up culturally relevant pipeline programs that connect students to colleges and universities in order to expose students to options for achieving higher education, as that would allow encourage students to pursue higher education upon graduation from high school.

To address the relatively high unemployment rate among Pacific Islanders, we recommend forming job training programs and equip individuals with specific skill sets to be used various positions in the workplace.

Appendix A - Methodology and Data Sources

This report is a product of secondary data analyses of the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS, available at <http://www.census.gov/>). The ACS is a national household survey that collects population and housing information annually instead of every 10 years. The primary ACS data that the report utilized included the 5-year ACS estimates from 2011 to 2015. We chose to use 5-year estimates rather than yearly data in order to report statistically reliable information about the small data pool available on Pacific Islanders. Analyzing data that was sampled over a larger time period also enabled us to disaggregate the data and examine our various measures across individual Pacific Islander ethnic subgroups. Unless otherwise indicated, the data in this report is specific to single-race individuals.

Appendix B - About the Authors

Winston Tseng, PhD, is Research Scientist and Lecturer in Community Health Sciences and Ethnic Studies at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health and Department of Ethnic Studies. His research focuses on campus-community health collaborations with underserved immigrant communities of color to understand their assets and needs, and develop, test, and implement strategies and interventions to strengthen their community infrastructure and improve their health and social conditions. He utilizes a participatory approach by exchanging or sharing research and evaluation skills with his community partners to help them develop data and research skills, define community health inequities, identify critical community health resources, and design and conduct culturally relevant interventions and evaluations, with the aim of strengthening their community infrastructure and services. His research has included work on racial and ethnic health inequities with a focus on diabetes and other chronic conditions, health promotion and education in diverse communities, building healthy community infrastructure and policy development, and healthy aging. He served as Chair (2012–2014) of the Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section of the American Public Health Association and continues to serve as a member (2016–present) of APHA's Inter-Section Council Steering Committee. He was honored with the CHPPD Section's Award for Excellence in Membership Engagement in 2010 and the Section Award for Excellence in Mentorship in 2015. The American Public Health Association Asian Pacific Islander Caucus recognized Winston in 2012 for the Best Published Paper: "Reshaping Data and Research through the Affordable Care Act: Opportunities for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Health," and for leading work to build a national health research agenda for Asian American, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. He received his PhD in Medical Sociology from UC San Francisco and his BA in Biology from Johns Hopkins University.

Taunu'u Ve'e, MA, is Co-Chair of the Pacific Islander Task Force and is currently doing contract work on a national, state, and local level both in continental U.S. and the U.S affiliated Pacific Island (USAPI) jurisdiction. In addition, she's currently in her second year of her doctoral program at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. She has been a guest lecturer for Asian American Studies for the last four years at UC Berkeley. Prior to going independent, Taunu'u was the National Advisor on Pacific Islander Affairs and Program Officer on Social Justice work at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) for eight years. As an Anchor Institution for Kellogg Foundation's "America Healing" initiative; Tau led one of Health Forum's anchor programs, Racial Equity Initiative (REI) which she developed five collaborative partnerships

made up of 26 –community-based organizations across the nation in five states of California, Hawaii, Louisiana, Michigan, and Mississippi. She also provided liaison capacity with other API communities to formulate policy priorities, and develop strategies to advance those priorities, including through Federal and state legislative and administrative advocacy, coalition building, and media advocacy on issues related to Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders on the national, state and the six U.S. Affiliated Pacific Island jurisdictions (American Samoa, Guam, CNMI, FSM, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau).

Natalie Ah Soon, MPH, currently directs the Asian and Pacific Islander Mental Health Collaborative at RAMS, Inc. and also coordinates the Asian and Pacific Islander Health Parity Coalition, including serving a leadership role on San Francisco’s Joint Health Equity Coalition. Ms. Ah Soon is co-chair and founding member of the Pacific Islander Taskforce. She is a public health professional with over 10 years of experience working with AA&PIs in the areas of mental health, health, healthcare, health promotion, health education, and policy advocacy on the local, state, and national level. She is experienced in community organizing, community building, and coalition building. Further, Ms. Ah Soon has experience working with community health centers and organizations serving AA&PI populations in the U.S. and U.S. jurisdictions. Ms. Ah Soon has extensive experience in providing culturally and linguistically respectful health education and health systems navigation. She develops psycho-education curriculum, PI-specific non-clinical screening and assessment tools, and conducts evaluations. Ms. Ah Soon serves as a community board member of the Center for Youth Wellness. She served a 2-year term as a Caucus Director on the Board of Directors of the Asian & Pacific Islander Caucus for Public Health (APIC-APHA). She earned her MPH from San Jose State University. She guest lectures at UC Berkeley and City College of San Francisco on PI health and social determinants of health. She has presented at national conferences and regional coalition convening. Ms. Ah Soon previously worked as a Program Assistant for the Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) Health Disparities Programs, providing programmatic and administrative support. She is fluent in Samoan and is a proud native of American Samoa.

Jordan Schultz, BS, BA, is a first year Master of Public Health candidate at the Boston University School of Public Health in the departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Currently, Jordan’s research interests are in the intersection of infectious disease and social epidemiology. Prior to attending Boston University, Jordan was a Public Health Advisor with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, stationed at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum in Oakland, CA. Much of Jordan’s work at APIAHF centered on measuring and evaluating the extent of data disaggregation for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders in federal, state, and county datasets. Jordan received a BS in Public Health and a BA in Sociology from the University of Washington.

Nicole Keilani Oslance, BA, is a Research Assistant for the Pacific Islander Task Force and Ophthalmic Technician for Eye Physicians of the East Bay. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Biology with a minor in Music from UC Berkeley. During her time there, she founded Pacific Islanders at Cal, and served as the inaugural Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Community Advocate for the office of Asian Pacific American Student Development.

Mavis Asiedu-Frimpong, JD, MPH, serves as Assistant Director of Policy and Planning at the San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH). Born in New York City and raised mostly in Ghana, Mavis attended Brown University, where she majored in Human Biology. She was part of the public service community there and continued this trend by spending two years post-graduation at Children’s Rights, an organization bringing class-action litigation against states with failing child welfare systems. Her career interest in law and public health eventually led her to

Stanford Law School for a law degree and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health for a master's degree in public health. Before coming to SFDPH, she also spent time at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and ChangeLab Solutions

Appendix C – Notable Policies

HHS Data Standards for PIs (Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, Other Pacific Islander)

New data collection standards for race, ethnicity, sex, primary language, and disability status were introduced as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010. These standards were created as part of an effort to eliminate health disparities in America, outlined in Section 4302 (Understanding Health Disparities: data collection and analysis). The categories that can be chosen as self-identification of race (select one or more) for Pacific Islander individuals are: Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro, Samoan, and Other Pacific Islander.

AB 1088 (Eng) CA guidelines for PIs (Fijian, Guamanian/Chamorro, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, Tongan) (Dept Industrial Relations, Dept of Fair Employment & Housing)

AB 1088 aims to improve access to critical information on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. Under Section 8310.5, it requires the Department of Industrial Relations and Department of Fair Employment and Housing to follow the U.S. Census's standards for collecting ethnic data. Currently, information about Pacific Islanders is collected on Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Guamanian populations, and this law adds Fijian and Tongan as PI ethnic groups. Further, this data is required to be publicly accessible online in order to give legislators, policymakers, decision makers, foundations, government agencies, and community groups access to information that will help them better serve Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

AB 1726 (Bonta) new CA guidelines for PIs (Fijian, Guamanian/Chamorro, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, and Tongan) (Dept of Public Health)

AB 1726, the AHEAD Act, was written with the goal of helping expose disparities in healthcare, particularly for Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders, two minority groups whose specific health issues are often masked through aggregation of Asian and Pacific Islander data. Section 8310.7 requires the state Department of Public Health to disaggregate demographic data it collects by ethnicity or ancestry for Native Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Islander groups. Through this, it aims to provide information on rates of major diseases, leading causes of death, pregnancy rates, and housing numbers for each specific Asian American and Pacific Islander ethnic subgroup, enabling a better understanding of the needs of each group so targeted actions can be taken to address these needs.

Appendix D -- County Health Department Officials

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REFERENCES

