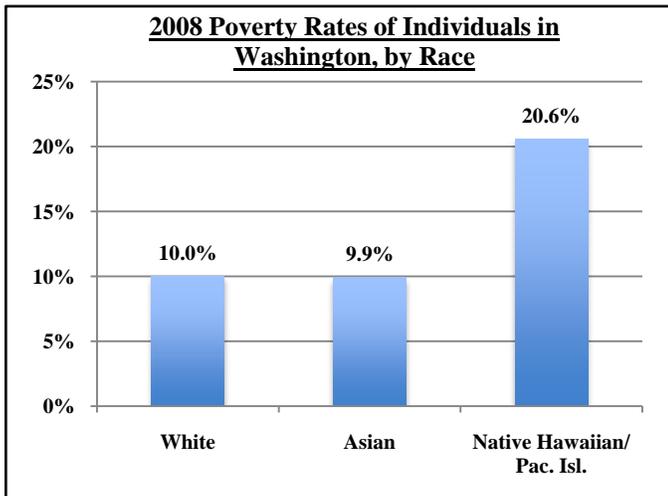


The Costs of Impoverished Asian American & Pacific Islanders

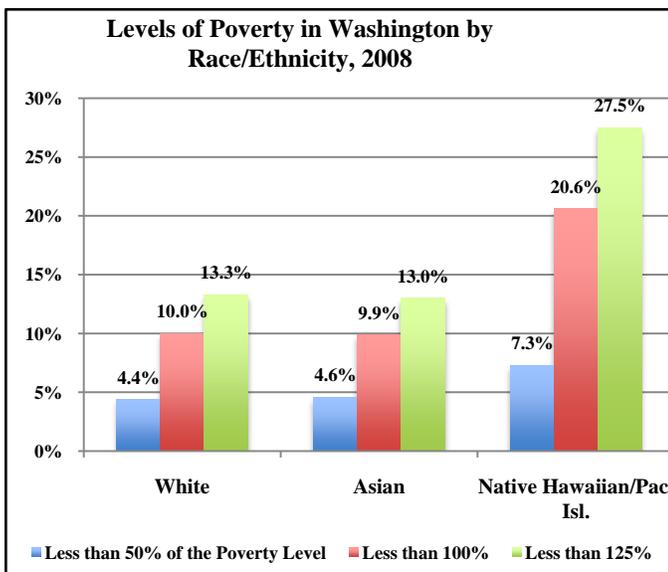
WHO ARE THE IMPOVERISHED IN WASHINGTON?

It is easy to see that racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented among the impoverished in Washington, but it is difficult to determine which groups are most adversely affected, because most data systems do not account for the diversity within the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

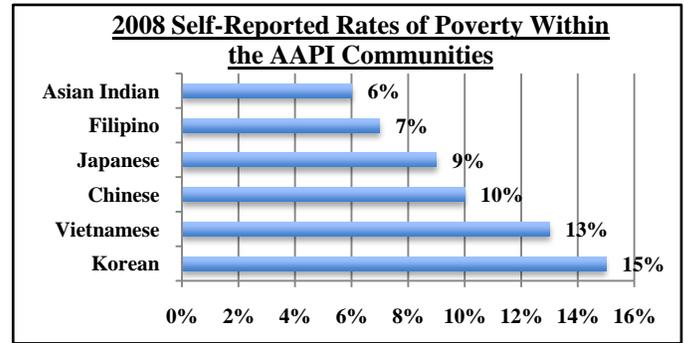


*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS data, 2006-08

Among the poor, there are also the very poor—those that earn only 50% of the income specified as the federal poverty line. With an income as low as that of the very poor, it is impossible to live with any security in Washington.



*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS data, 2006-08



*U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, PUMS data, 2006-08

WHAT IS THE COST OF LIVING IN KING COUNTY?

Using the cost of living in areas throughout Washington helps to better illustrate the struggles that individuals and families are facing. The federal poverty line (FPL) is currently \$10,830 for an individual, and \$22,050 for a family of four. As shown below, the cost of living in selected areas in Washington is more than double that. Therefore, a family would have to be making 200% of the FPL to even survive in Seattle or King County.

Cost of Living for a Family of Four in Washington

Expenditures	Seattle/King County	Spokane/Spokane County	Chelan County
Rent/Utilities	\$11,304	\$8,088	\$8,028
Food	\$7,878	\$7,878	\$7,878
Childcare	\$17,312	\$11,647	\$9,502
Health Insurance	\$2,474	\$2,474	\$2,474
Out-of-pocket Medical	\$732	\$732	\$732
Transportation	\$1,296	\$4,843	\$5,613
Other Necessities	\$5,179	\$4,311	\$4,294
Payroll Taxes	\$3,812	\$3,193	\$3,044
Total	\$49,835	\$41,738	\$39,795
% of 2008 FPL	235%	197%	188%

*National Center for Children in Poverty, Budget Needs Calculator

Further, the budget estimate above assumes zero debt, two working parents, and one preschool child and one school age child. All of these factors, which are highly variable, if changed slightly, could drastically change the budget needed to simply survive in towns throughout Washington.

This is also important because rates of poverty are determined according to the federal poverty line. Therefore, over 5,770 Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and over 41,700 Asian Americans do not have enough income to live in selected areas of Washington.

Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs

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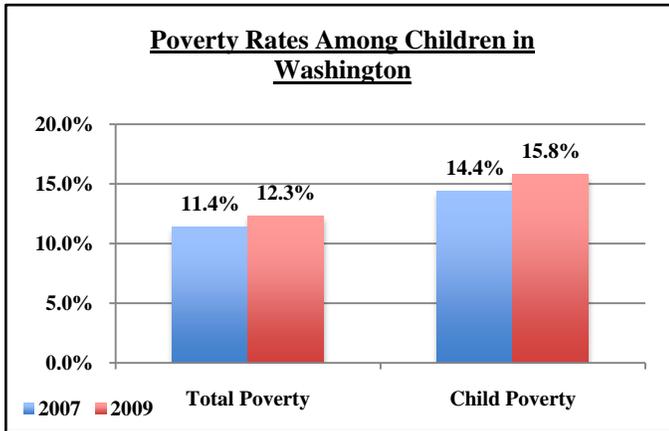
Mission: To improve the well-being of APAs by ensuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas.

Special Thanks to: Kathryn Kuhlenberg • Legislative Lawyering Project • Seattle University School of Law • Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law & Equality

The Costs of Impoverished Asian American & Pacific Islanders

WASHINGTON CAN DECREASE COSTS BY DECREASING POVERTY

Recent estimates suggest that allowing children to grow up in poverty costs Washington \$8.7 billion annually due to decreased earnings as adults, and the costs associated with involvement with crime and poor health outcomes. Impoverished children are less likely to graduate high school with an on-time graduation rate of only 62.7% and, then, more likely to rely on government funded health and welfare programs.



*Washington State Budget and Policy Center

For example, 24.2% of those with a high school diploma or less access the food stamp program and 9.9% access state or federal welfare programs. Additionally, 4.6% will access Washington's basic health plan and 13.9% will access Medicaid or another DSHS run program.

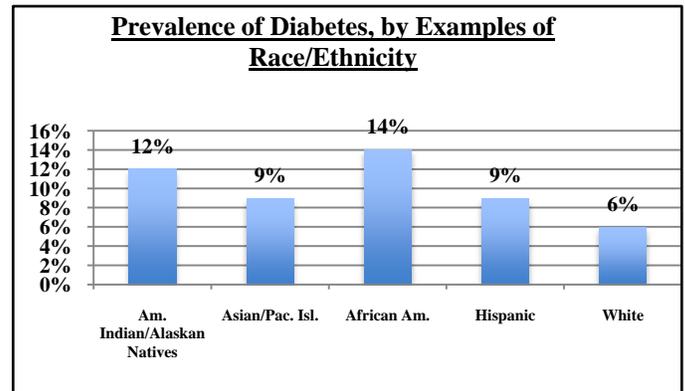
This results in a decrease in the state and federal tax base and an increase in state and federal expenditures. This is especially relevant during the current economic downturn because the rate of impoverished children has increased at a higher rate than total poverty levels.

Incarceration is also intricately linked to rates of poverty and can affect both those who will be incarcerated in the future and those who are re-entering society after being incarcerated. On the front-end, children from low-income families are more likely to dropout of high school, and high school dropouts are much more likely to be imprisoned. On the back-end, it is much more difficult for these people to find employment after being released. As a result, it becomes incredibly difficult for these individuals to break the cycle of poverty and become contributing members of society, despite a desire to do so.

INCREASED COSTS OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES...

In addition to lost tax revenues and increased expenditures on health and welfare programs, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders also face significant disparities in access to health and human services. Poverty has also been proven to be a significant link to health disparities. The interaction of these two characteristics puts Asian American and Pacific Islander populations at greater risk for health issues.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are less likely to have access to healthcare during the first trimester of pregnancy, which can result in significant health risks for both the mother and unborn child. These health issues can persist throughout the life of the child and cost the family and state hundreds of thousands of dollars.



*Washington State Department of Health, 2007

In addition, chronic diseases such as diabetes and stroke also disproportionately affect Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Moreover, 28.6 out of every 100,000 Asian Americans, and 10.6 out of every 100,000 Native Hawaiians are affected by tuberculosis. This is much higher than the rate of 1.1 whites out of every 100,000.

Again, critical data is missing because the major reporting systems used by Washington agencies do not track prevalence of disease, access to healthcare, and other their relation to poverty for all races and ethnicities within the Asian American and Pacific Islander populations. Data that did properly track these things would allow Washington to effectively address these concerns and benefit from a healthier population and less spending on government welfare programs.

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