



A Descriptive Analysis of Uninsurance among Asian & Pacific Islander American Seniors

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Background

- Population projections predict an increase from 1 million elderly Asians in 2010 to 7.5 million by 2050
- Little is known about health care disparities among Asian & Pacific Islander (API) groups

Objective

- Identify disparities in health insurance for API seniors of Medicare eligible age (≥ 65)

Methods

- The Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) of American Community Survey's (ACS) 2013 1-year estimates were analyzed in STATA using ACS sampling weights
- Results were tested for significance using Pearson's Chi-Squared tests, yielding $p=0.00$ for all reported results

Results

- About 3.8% of seniors identify as Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islanders
- 4.8% of Asian seniors have no source of health insurance, compared to 5.1% elderly Hispanics, 1.5% elderly Blacks, and 0.4% elderly Whites
- Disaggregated data show Pakistani American seniors have the highest rate of uninsurance at 17.7% and Asian Indian seniors are at 7.1%
- These rates are much higher than the uninsurance rates for elderly Hispanics or Blacks

Conclusions

- Significant disparities remain for API seniors who should be universally insured by Medicare
- Insurance rates for APIs are skewed by averages
- Further research should explore barriers to insurance for API seniors

Limitations

- Lack of statistical significance for smaller disaggregated groups

