



Asian American Health Disparities

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March 31, 2018

Introduction

손예리 (she, her, hers)

Immigrant - 1.5 generation KA

Californian (Bay Area)

Public Health & Social Work

What angers me:

Health Disparity +

Let's start with an activity!

What are some things you know, or have heard of, about Asian Americans?


AND

Asian American health?



1.

What is the Model
Minority Myth?



“Romanticization of Asian Americans as a ‘hardworking, successful, and law-abiding ethnic minority’ that overcome hardship, oppression, and discrimination to achieve great success.”

(Lee & Joo, 2005)

Success Story, Japanese-American Style

By WILLIAM PETERSEN
New York Times (1923-Current file); Jan 9, 1966;
ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times (1851 - 2006)
pg. 180



Success Story, Japanese - American Style

By WILLIAM PETERSEN

ASKED which of the country's ethnic minorities had been subjected to the most discrimination and the worst injustices, very few persons would even think of the Japanese American. "Yes, if the question refers to persons alive today, that may well be the correct reply. Like the Negroes, the Japanese have been the

object of color prejudice. Like the Jews, they have been feared and hated as hyperefficient competitors. And, more than any other group, they have been seen as the agents of an overseas enemy. Conservatives, liberals and radicals, local sheriffs, the Federal Government and the Supreme Court have cooperated in denying them their elementary rights—most notoriously in their World War II evacuation to internment camps.

WILLIAM PETERSEN is a professor of sociology at the University of California at Berkeley. His latest book is "The Politics of Population."

Generally this kind of treatment, as we all know these days, creates what might be termed "problem mi-



First introduced in 1966

"Success Story,
Japanese-American Style" by the
New York Times Magazine

"Success Story of One Minority
in the United States" by the *US
News and World Report*.

Additional publications followed
in 1980s, highlighting success
cases of Asian Americans

Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965

Eliminated: Quotas based on countries of origin

Focus: Family reunification; attracting skill-based workforce to U.S.*

*Created an immigration pathway for highly skilled professionals (ex. high concentration of medical professionals from India and from the Philippines)



'Model minority' is a socially constructed myth.

Attempt by the American ruling class to legitimize the 'American Dream,' including hard work, community spirit, and tolerance

https://youtu.be/uG_KHjd_PSc

An elite-class invention to disunite African Americans and Asian Americans during the Civil Rights Movement - justifying social inequality by holding African Americans and other groups to the model minority standard.



Why is the ‘model minority myth’ problematic?

It’s a “single story.”

It conceals the diversity of cultures, ethnic groups, backgrounds within the population

It’s a lie.

It dismisses the social disparities that the population is experiencing, as well as the disparities within the population

It leads to the misconception:

‘Asian Americans are self-sufficient, high-achieving, and hardworking minorities that have few social and health problems’

The myth, and its effects

Arthur Fletcher, the chair for the 1990 Civil Rights Commission on Asian Pacific Islanders, wrote in a letter to President Bush:

“Asian Americans suffer widely the pain and humiliation of bigotry and acts of violence...They also confront institutional discrimination in numerous domains, such as places of work and schools, in accessing public services, and in the administration of justice...[the model minority] stereotype leads federal, state, and local agencies to overlook the problems facing Asian Americans, and it often causes resentment of Asian Americans within the general public.”

Effect on health

- × Psychological Effects
 - × Negatively impact ethnic identity development, especially if the lived experiences of belonging to this “model” group is negative
 - × Ignore or minimize psychosocial difficulties - shame & stigma inhibits help-seeking behavior
- × Often excluded from national health databases



2.

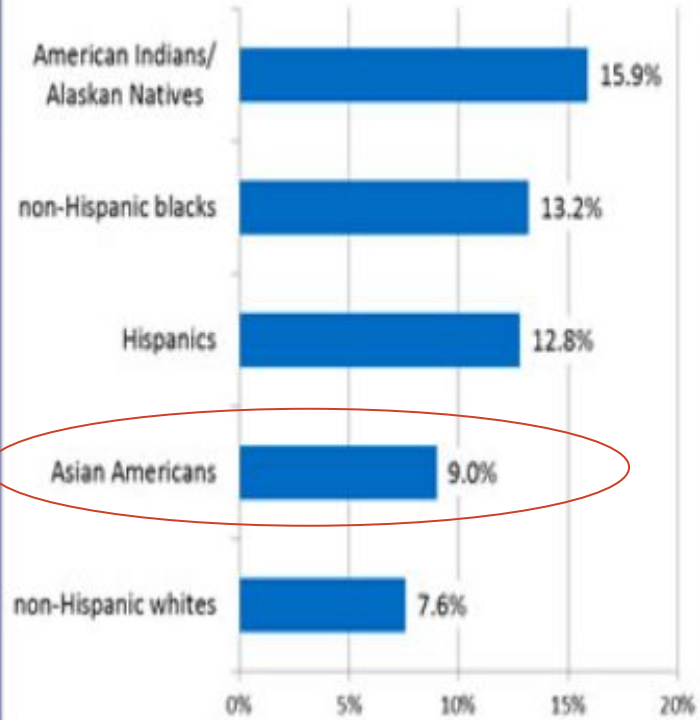
Health Disparities among Asian Americans

Data, data, and more data.

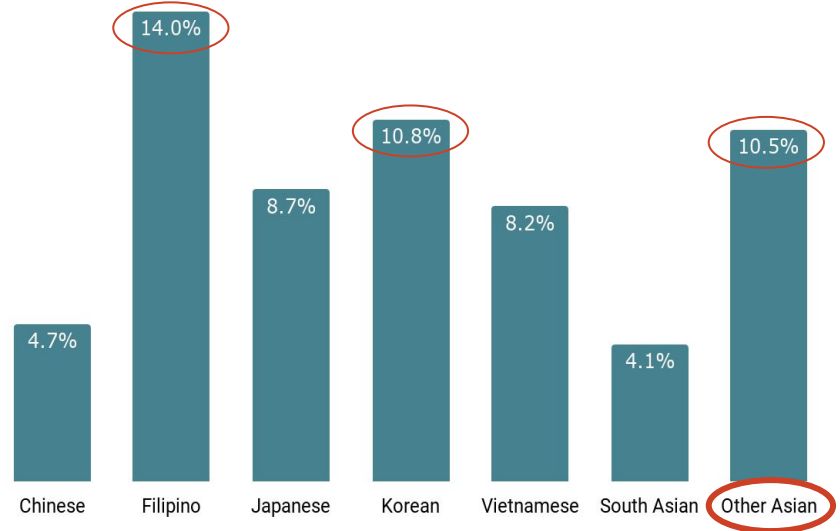


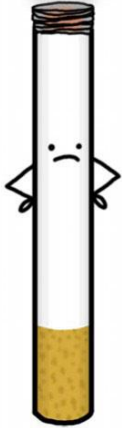
*Let's have a moment of
reflection.*

Rates of Diagnosed Diabetes



Ever Diagnosed w/Diabetes

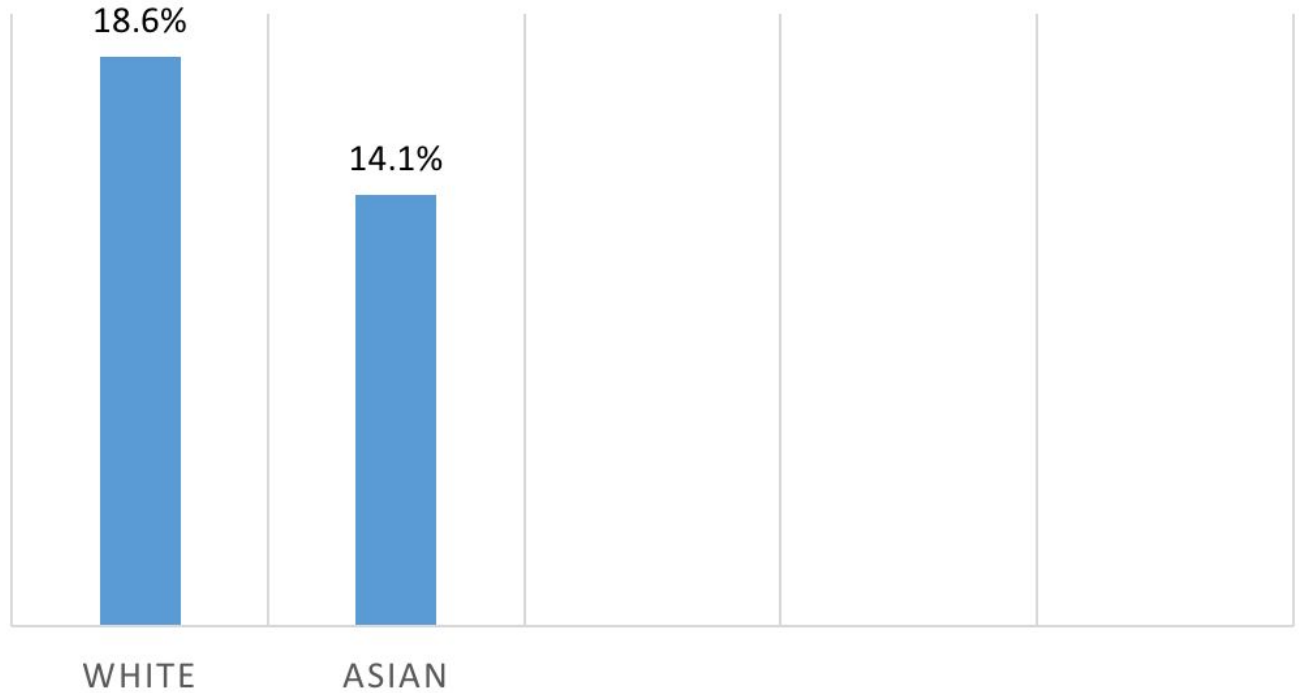


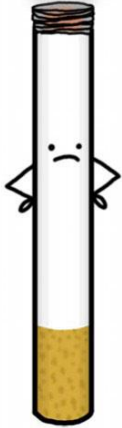


you'll be back... they
all come back.

Daily HAH

SMOKING RATE IN NYC (2013)

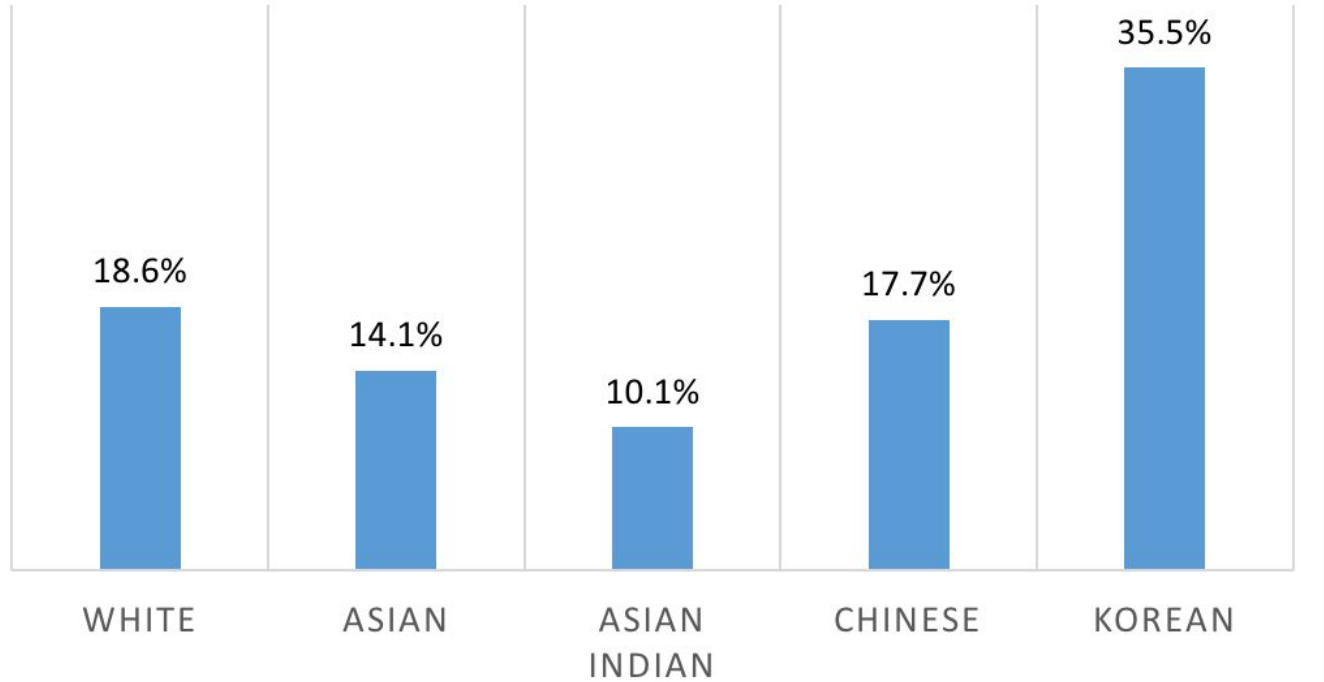




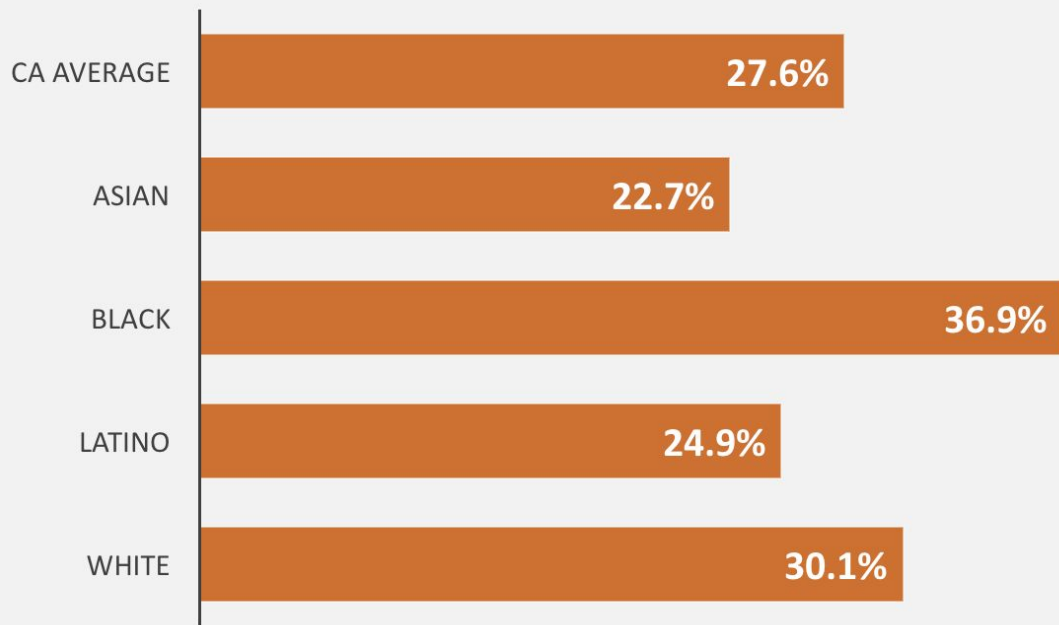
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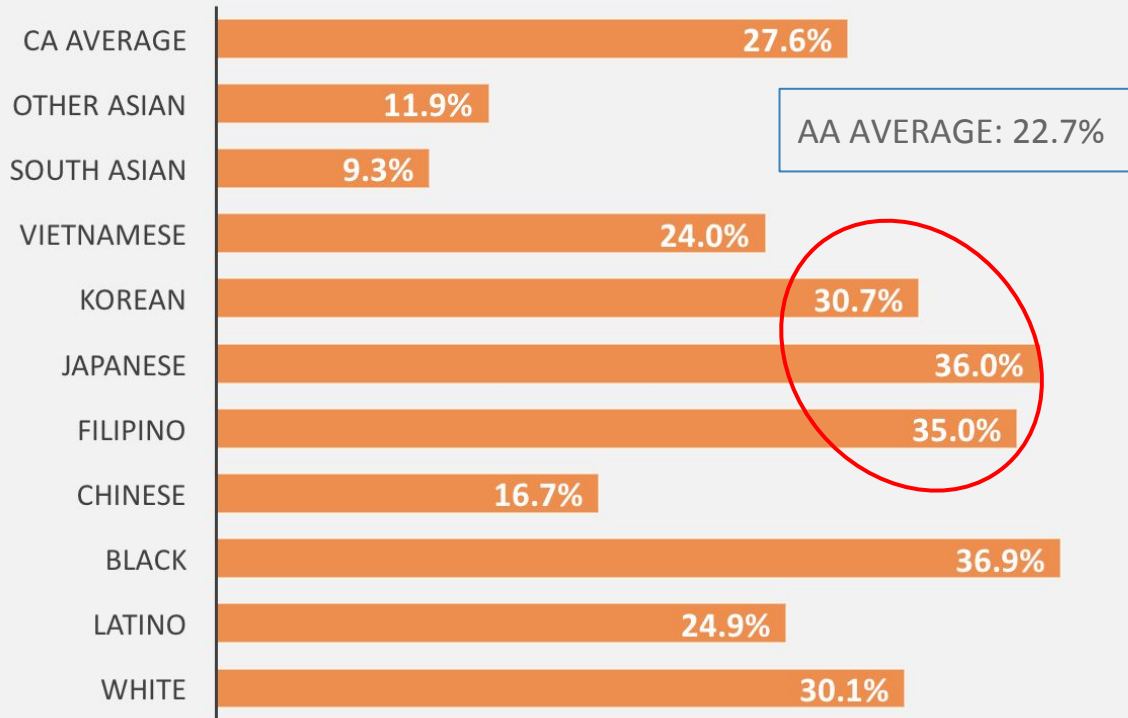
SMOKING RATE IN NYC (2013)



% of Population Ever Diagnosed w/High Blood Pressure (2012-13, CA)



% of Population Ever Diagnosed w/High Blood Pressure (2012-13, CA)



Undocumented Population

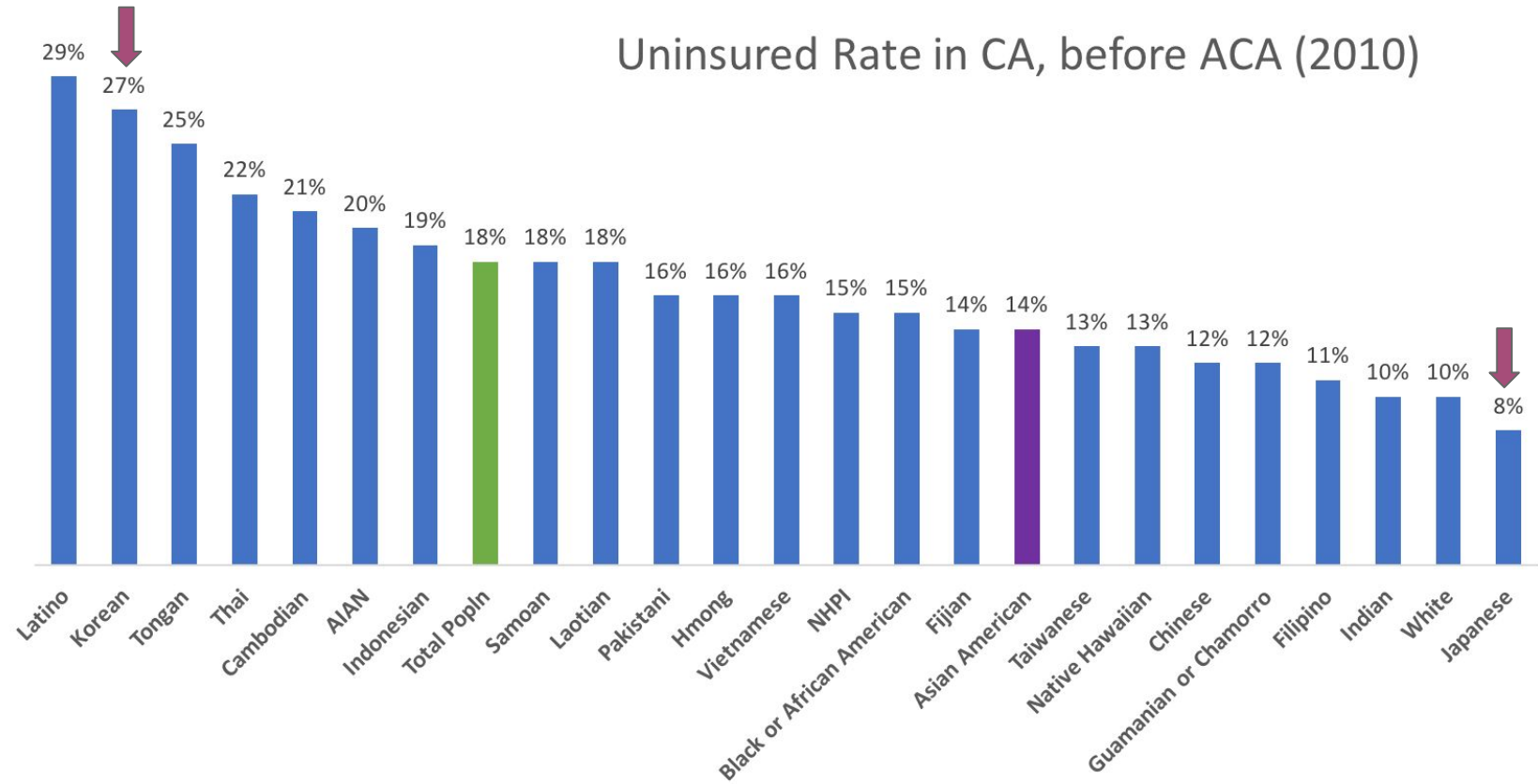
Country of Birth	# of Undocumented	% of Total Undocumented Population		
Mexico	6.65 Mil	55.9		
El Salvador	710,000	6.0	○	
Guatemala	610,000	5.1		
India	360,000	3.0	○	○
Honduras	400,000	3.4	○	
Philippines	370,000	3.1	○	
China	230,000	1.9		
Korea	270,000	2.3	○	
Vietnam	180,000	1.5		
Dominican Republic	140,000	1.2		○



Undocumented Population

Country of Birth	# of Undocumented	% of Total Undocumented Population	% of Total Ethnic Population	% Change (2008-2013)
Mexico	6.65 Mil	55.9	19.7	-5.4
El Salvador	710,000	6.0	54.4	24.5
Guatemala	610,000	5.1	46.8	41.9
India	360,000	3.0	10.6	125
Honduras	400,000	3.4	50.6	33.3
Philippines	370,000	3.1	10.2	23.3
China	230,000	1.9	5.3	4.5
Korea	270,000	2.3	13.5	4.2
Vietnam	180,000	1.5	9.6	125**
Dominican Republic	140,000	1.2	7.8	75

Uninsured Rate in CA, before ACA (2010)



The myth, and its effect on AA health

- × Often excluded from national health databases
- × When data is collected, often generalized without subgroup categorizations
- × Ex. National Health Interview Survey - collects data for 6 ethnic AA groups

Reality: 50+ different ethnicities, 100+ different languages

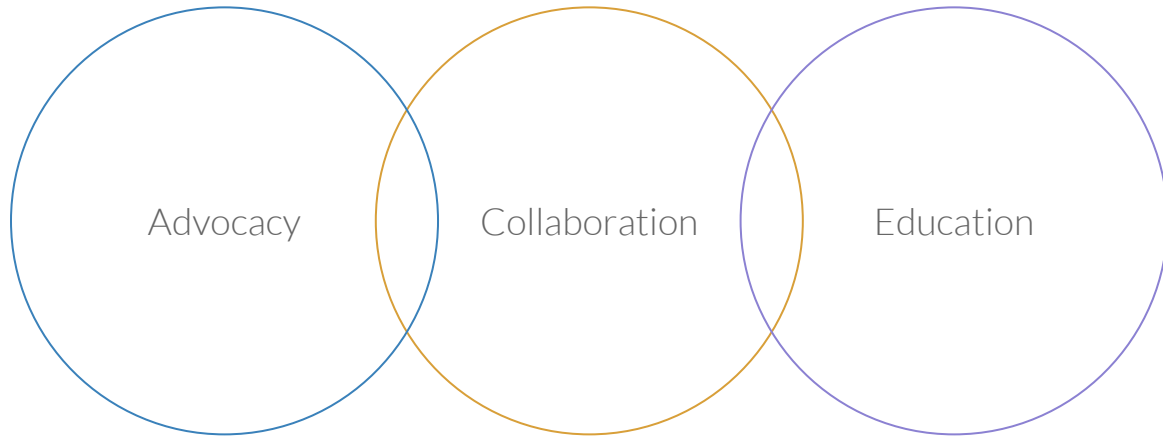
3.

Strategies Moving Forward



Data: How do we reach data disaggregation for better health outcomes?

Multi-level, multi-sector approach



California Data Disaggregation Bill Sparks Debate in Asian-American Community

by Chris Fuchs / Aug. 26, 2016 / 12:47 AM ET

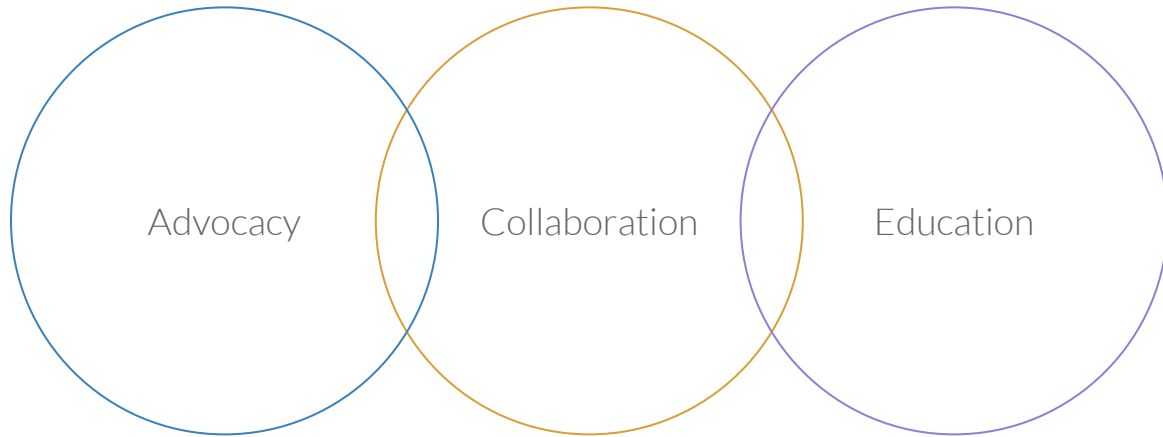


AB 1726 -

Beginning July 2022, the state Department of Public Health is required to collect demographic data broken down by ethnicity or ancestry for Native Hawaiians and Asian and Pacific Islanders. The reports would include rates for major diseases, leading causes of death, subcategories for leading causes of death, pregnancy rates, and housing numbers.

Some of the bill's most vociferous opposition come from parts of California's Chinese-American community.

Multi-level, multi-sector approach





Thank you.

Any questions?

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