

CELEBRATING ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS IN BOSTON

May 2025



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Planning Department
RESEARCH DIVISION

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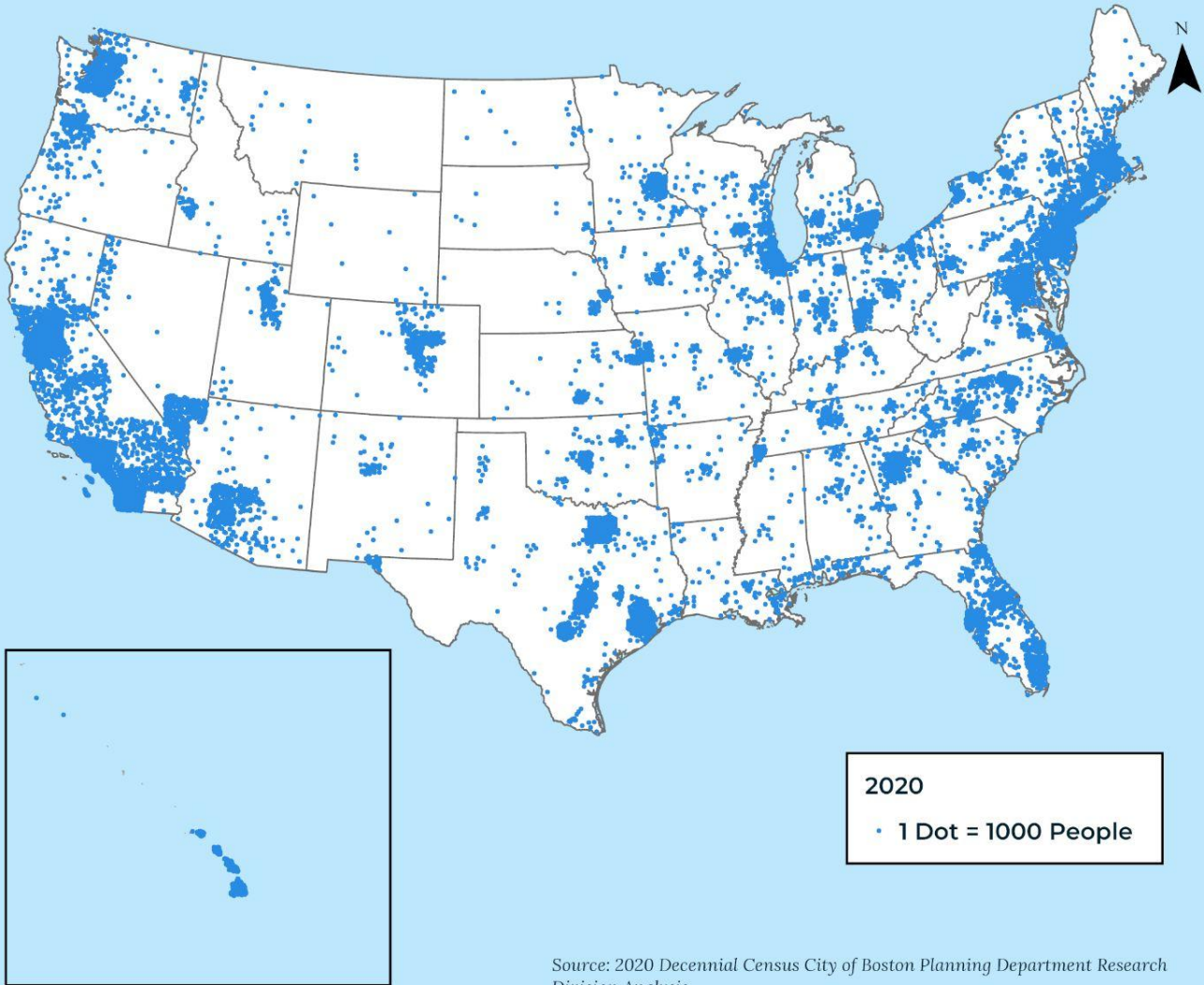
Celebrating APIA Heritage Month

- 1** Boston's APIA population compared to Massachusetts and the country
- 2** APIA residents in Boston
- 3** APIA workers in Suffolk County

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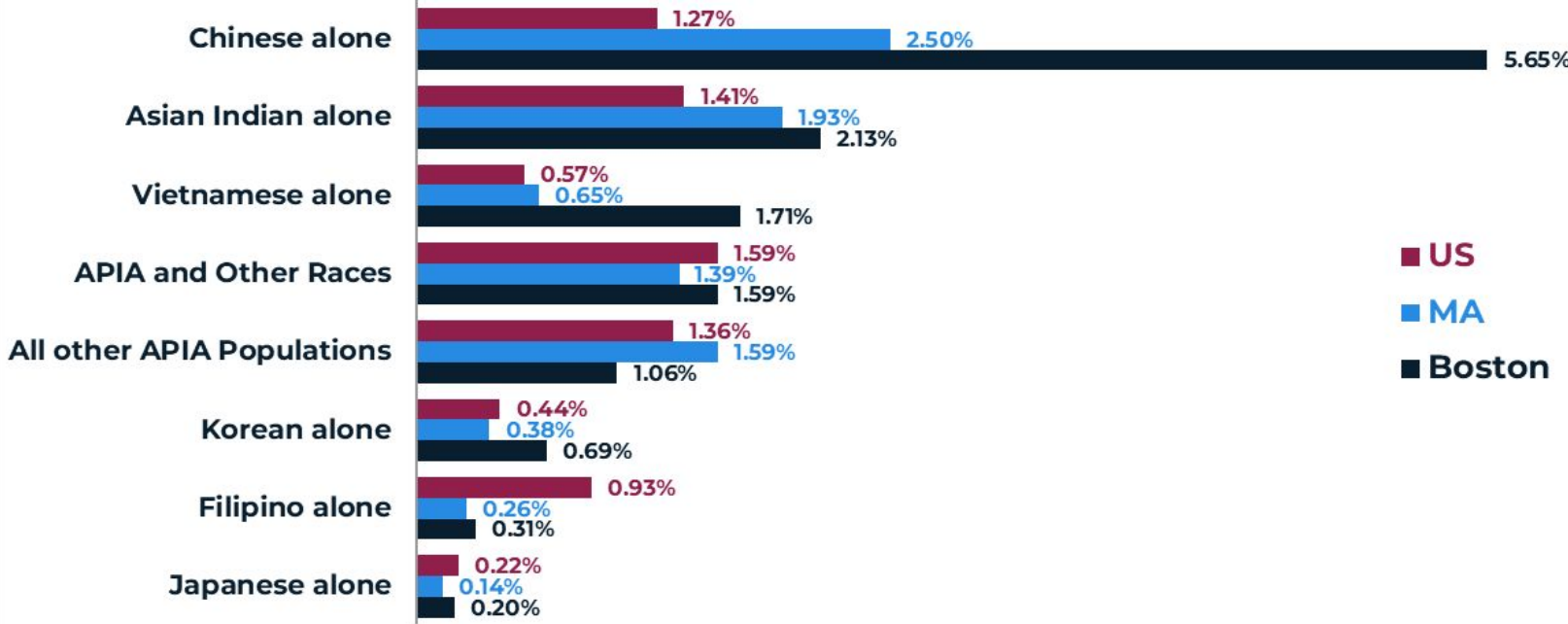
**In 2020,
Hawaii,
California, and
Washington,
had the largest
APIA
populations.
Massachusetts
ranked 27th.**



Source: 2020 Decennial Census City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Boston has higher shares of Chinese, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, and Korean populations than the state or the nation

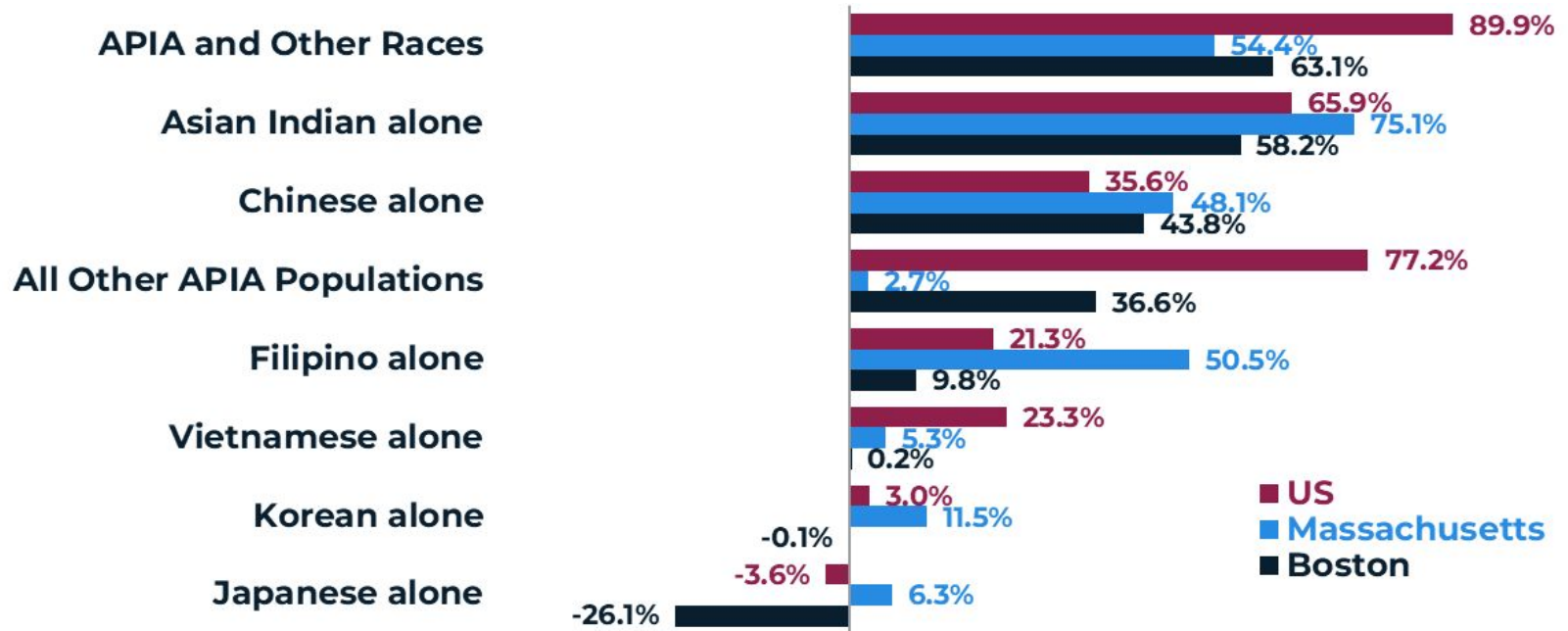
Shares of APIA Populations, 2023 (US and Massachusetts), 2024 (Boston)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 1-Year American Community Survey, 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Multiracial APIA, Asian Indians, and Chinese are the fastest growing APIA groups in Boston

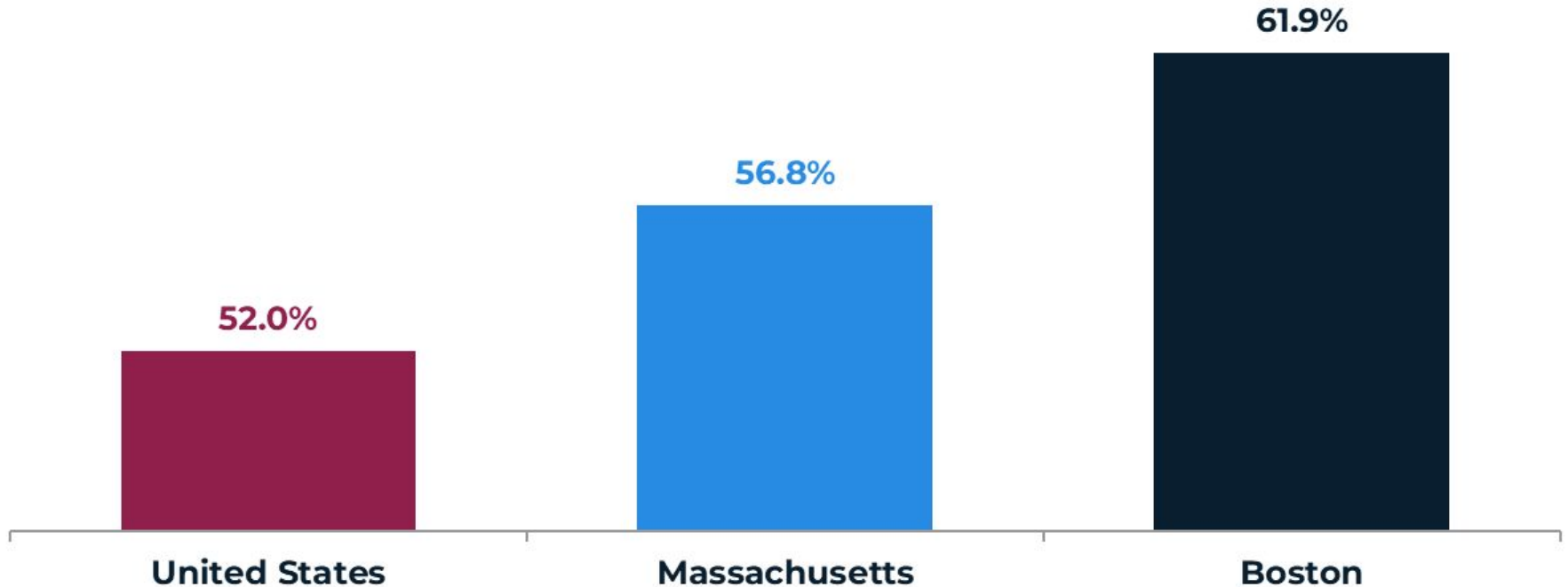
APIA Population Change, 2010 to 2024



Source: 2010 Decennial Census & 2023 1-year ACS & 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

The APIA population is predominantly foreign born and its growth has depended on US immigration policy

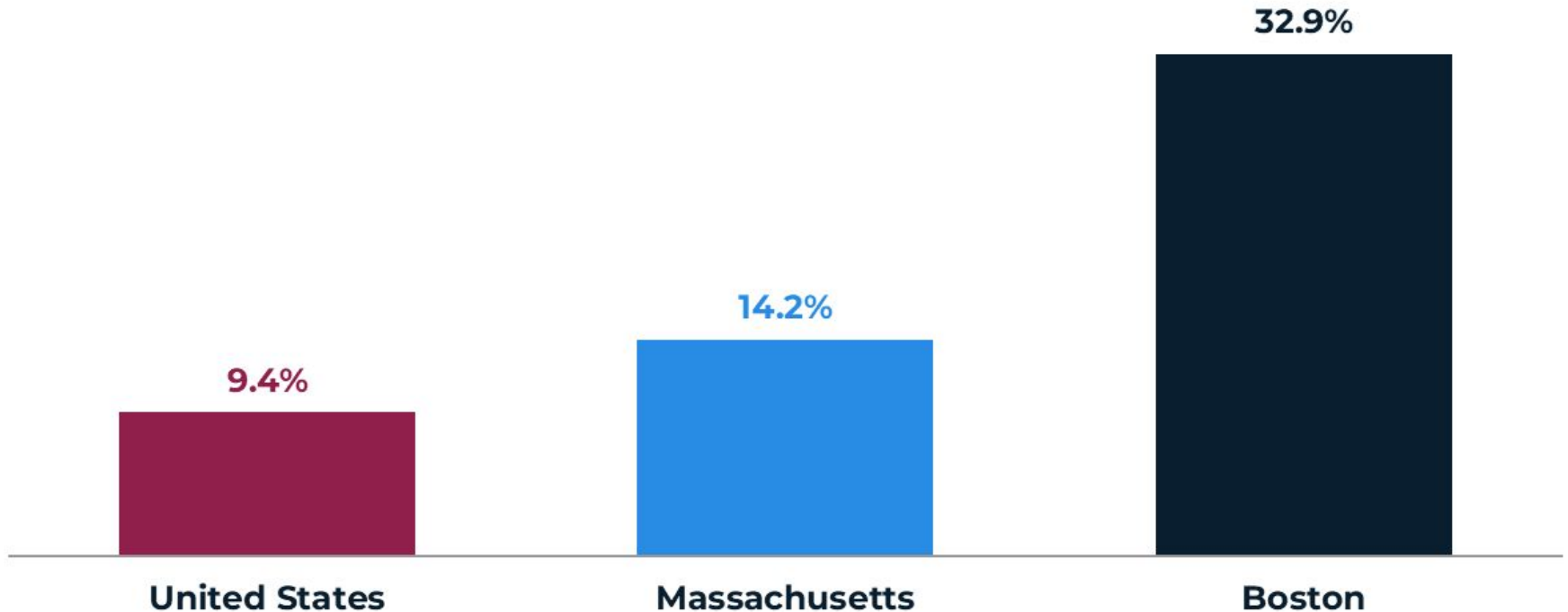
Foreign born shares of APIA populations, 2023 (US and Massachusetts), 2024 (Boston)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 1-Year American Community Survey, 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

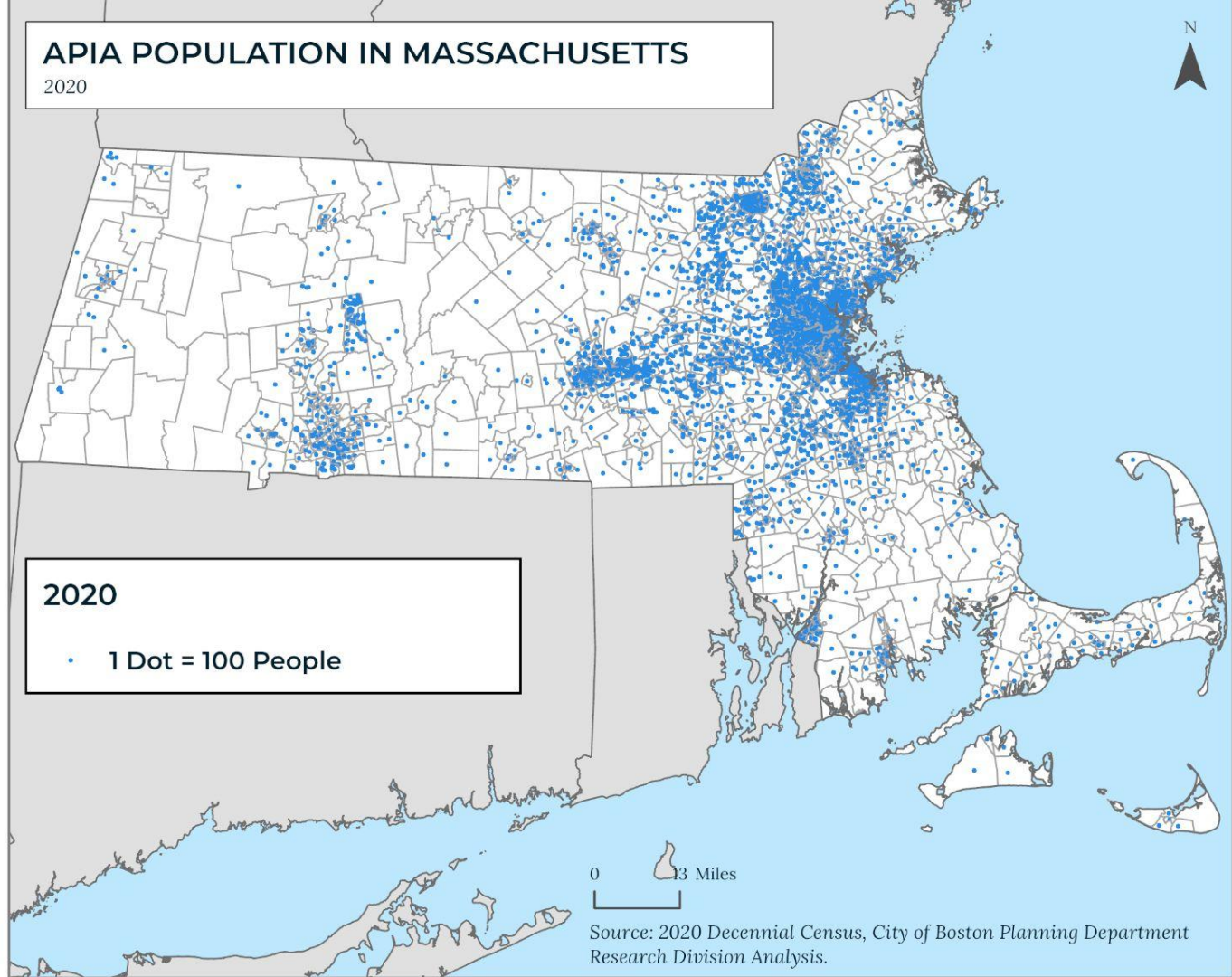
College students make up almost a third of Boston's APIA population, a higher share than in Massachusetts and the country

College enrollment shares of APIA populations, 2023 (US and Massachusetts), 2024 (Boston)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 1-Year American Community Survey, 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

**Boston, Quincy,
Lowell,
Cambridge, and
Malden were the
Massachusetts
cities with the
largest APIA
populations in
2020**

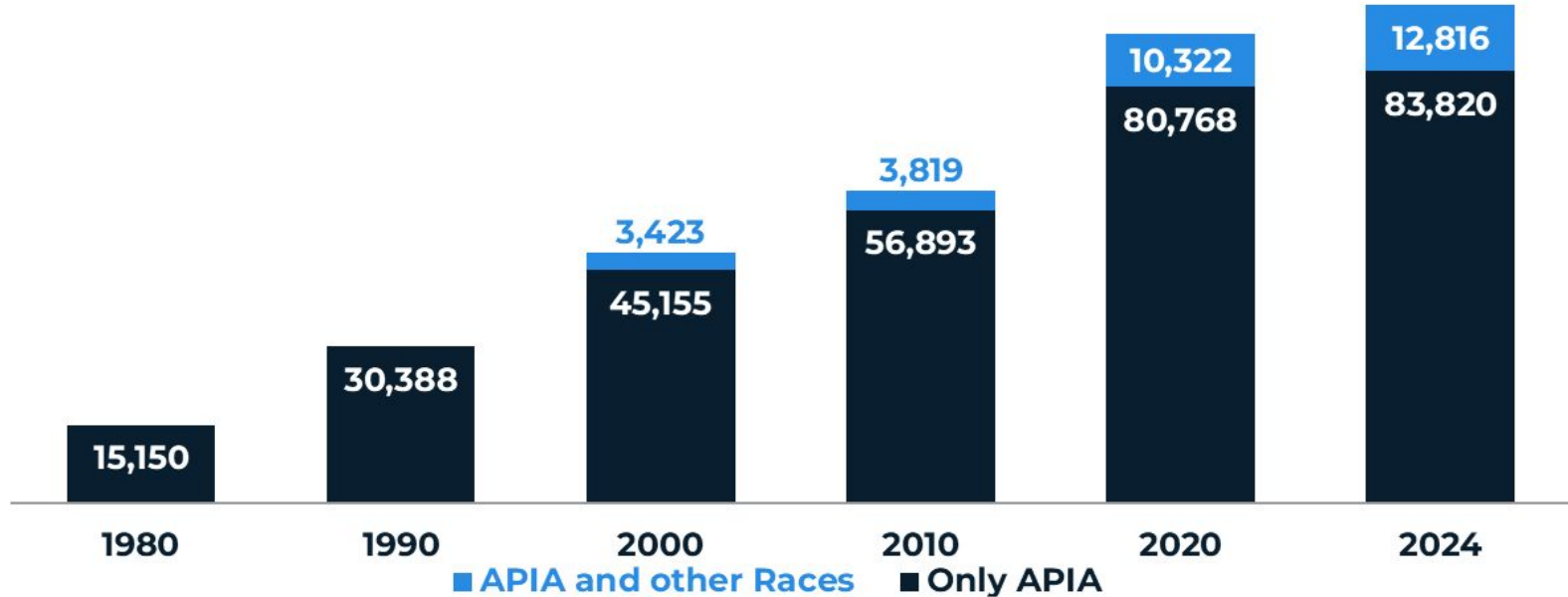


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- 1** Boston's APIA population compared to Massachusetts and the country
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The APIA population of Boston is more than 5 times larger than it was in 1980, reaching 96,636 - 13.6% of Boston's population - in 2024

Population of APIA Only and APIA and other Races, 1980 to 2024

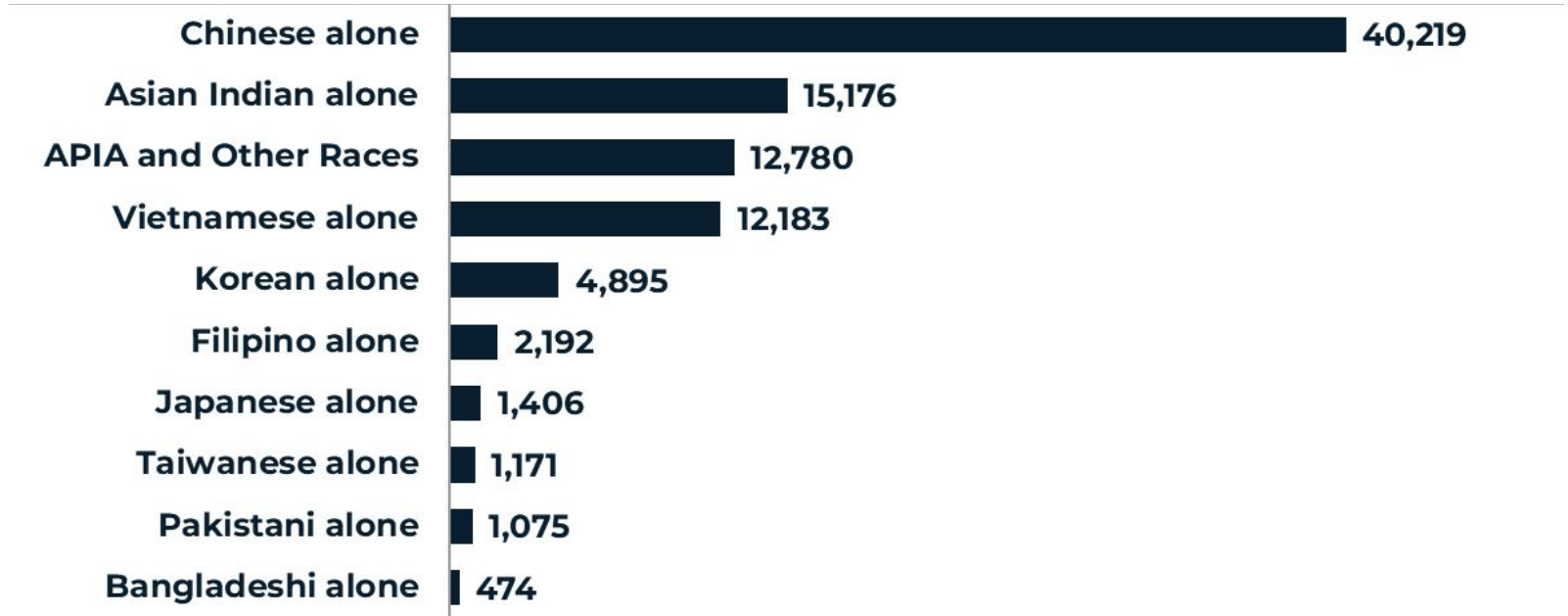


Note: Multiracial data was not collected prior to the 2000 Decennial Census

Source: 1980, 1990, 2000 Decennial Census, 2020 and 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates

Chinese, Asian Indians, and Vietnamese are the three largest APIA populations in Boston

Top 10 APIA Populations in Boston by Race/Origin, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

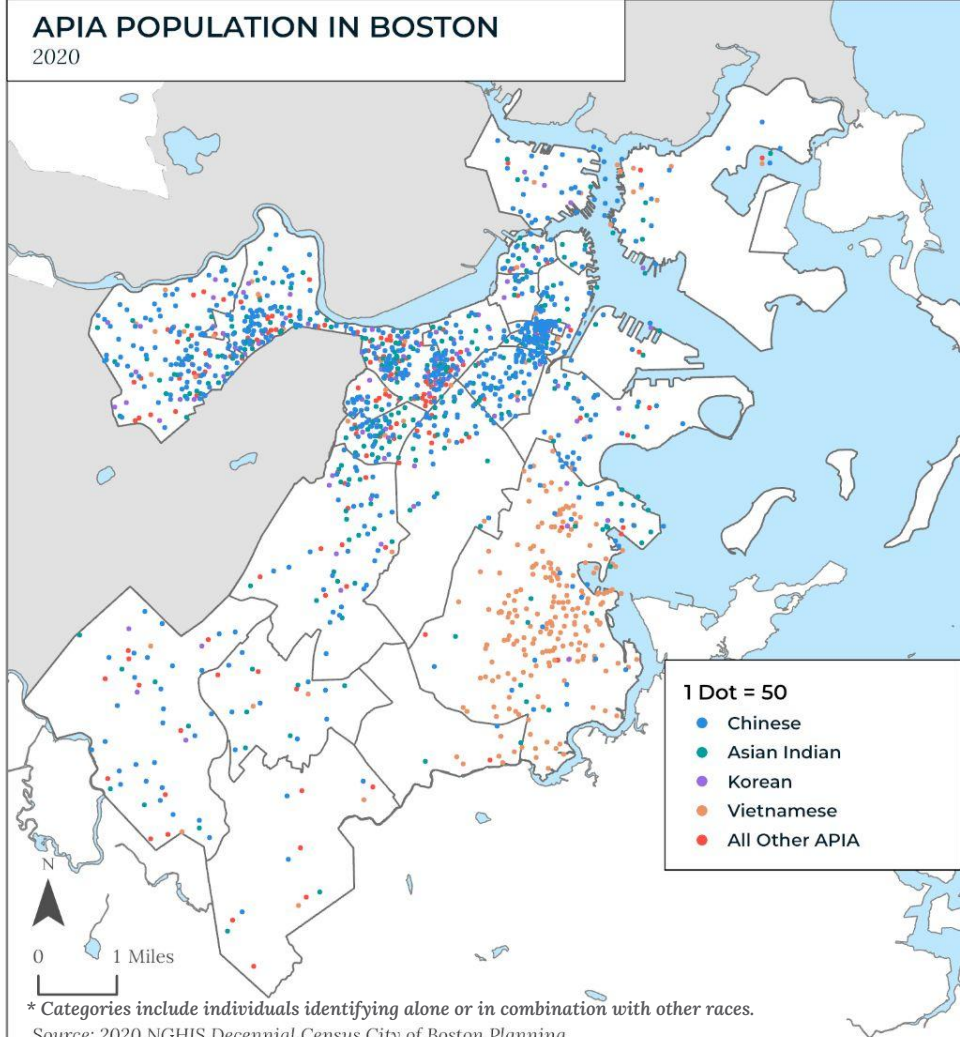
71% of the Vietnamese population in Boston is concentrated in Dorchester

Share of Specific APIA Populations Living in Top Neighborhoods

	Asian Indian alone or any combination	Chinese alone or any combination	Korean alone or any combination	Vietnamese alone or any combination
Allston	3.6%	2.9%	3.1%	0.5%
Brighton	8.1%	10.5%	11.9%	1.9%
Chinatown	3.0%	13.1%	3.7%	0.9%
Dorchester	6.7%	4.1%	2.9%	71.4%
Fenway	9.2%	8.7%	17.1%	1.5%
Mission Hill	8.4%	4.6%	6.9%	1.0%

Source: 2020 IPUMS NHGIS, University of Minnesota, www.nhgis.org. City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

APIA POPULATION IN BOSTON
2020



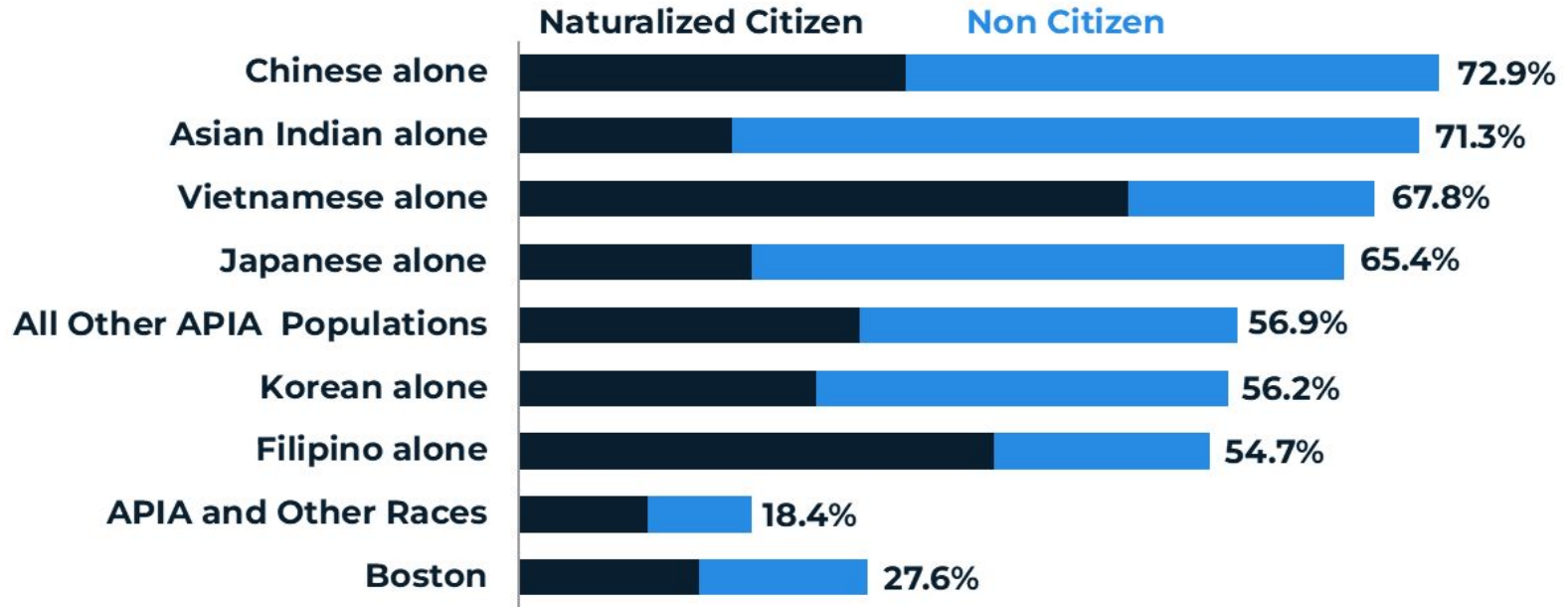
1 Dot = 50

- Chinese
- Asian Indian
- Korean
- Vietnamese
- All Other APIA

* Categories include individuals identifying alone or in combination with other races.
Source: 2020 NHGIS Decennial Census City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

APIA populations in Boston, especially Chinese and Asian Indians, are likely to be foreign born

Foreign born APIA Population Share by Citizenship Status, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Vietnamese in Boston have the highest median age (38) while multiracial APIA are the youngest (24)

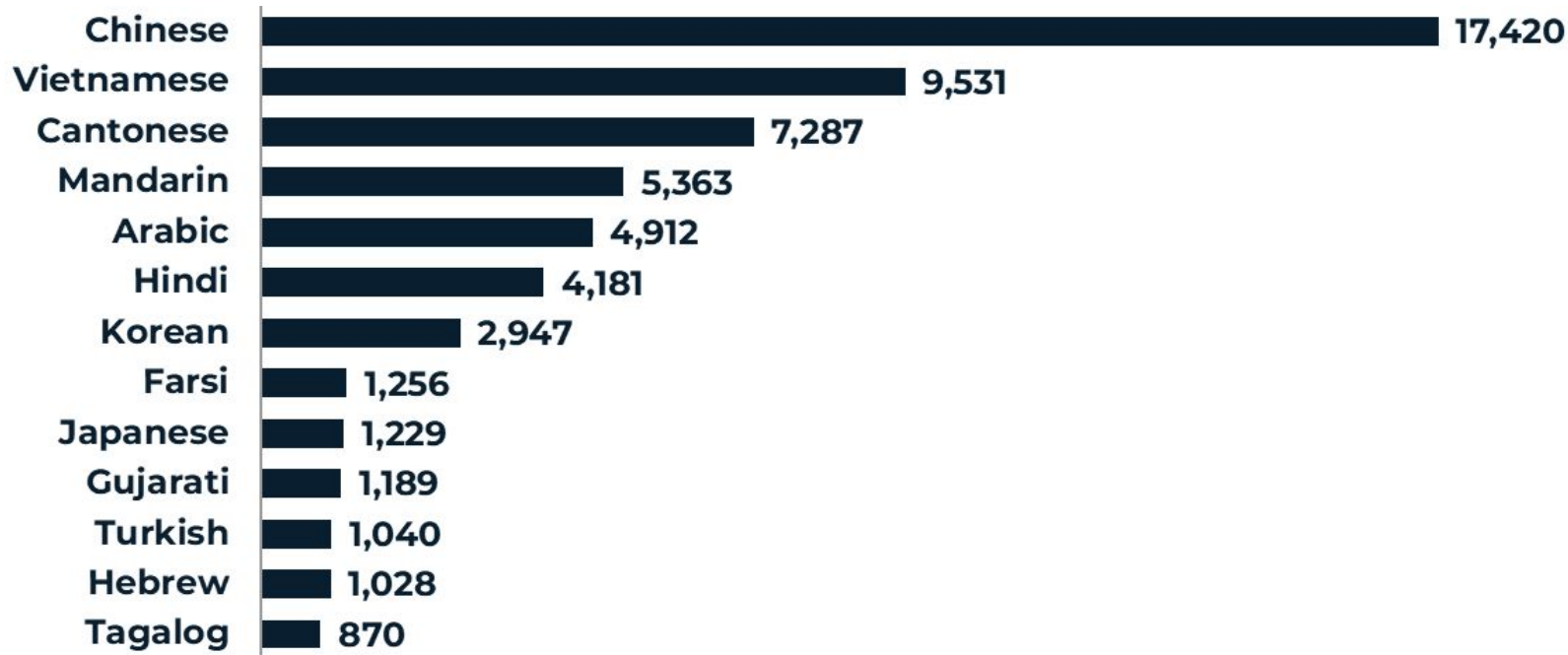
APIA Populations in Boston by Median Age, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

~25% of APIA residents speak only English at home, but Chinese and Vietnamese are the most common Asian languages spoken at home

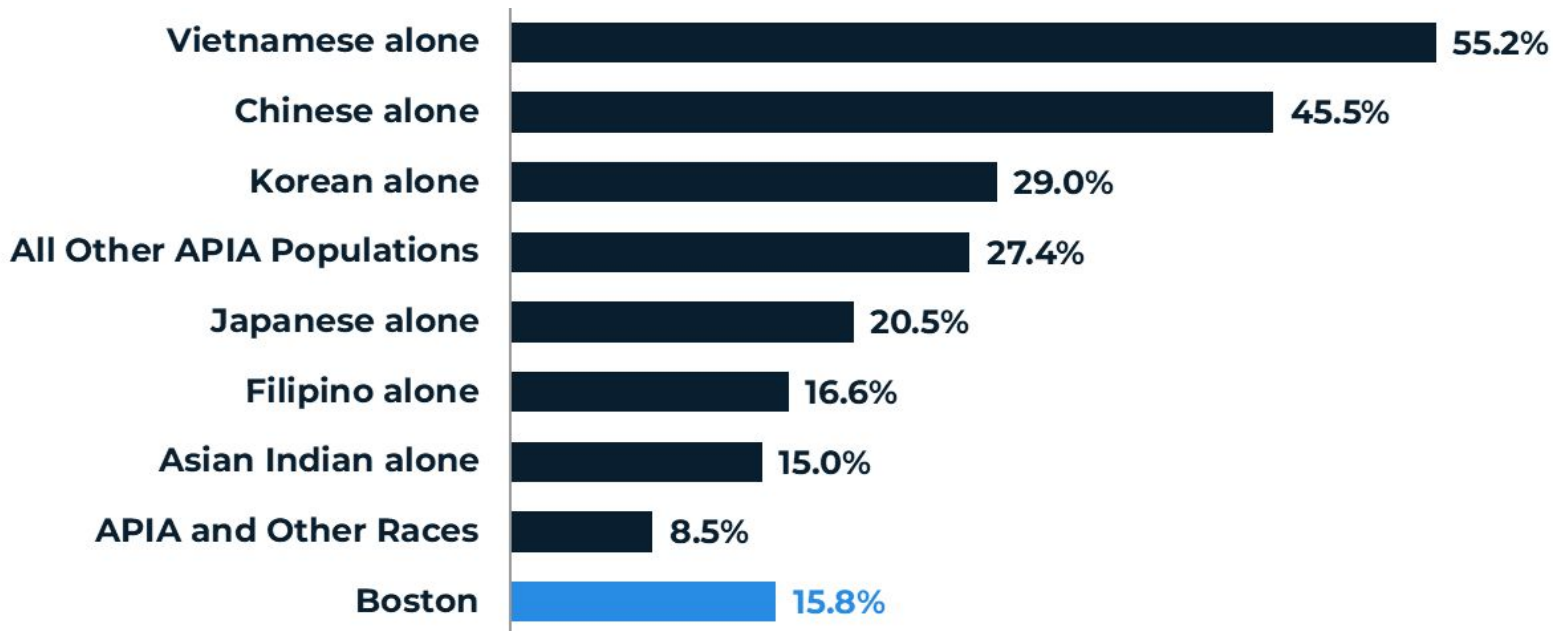
Top Languages Spoken by Boston APIA Populations at Home, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Close to half of Vietnamese and Chinese residents self-identify as speaking English “less than very well”

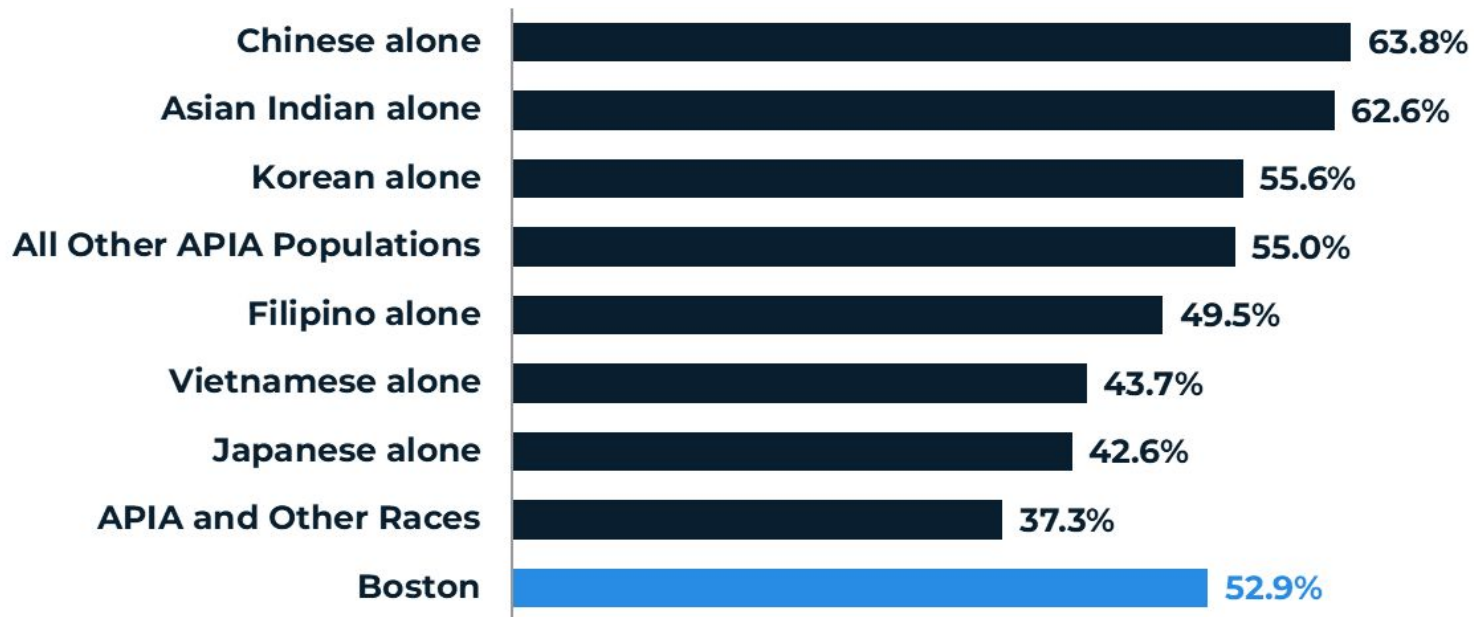
APIA Population in Boston by Share with Limited English Speaking Proficiency, age 5+, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Over 60% of Asian Indian and Chinese young adults in Boston are enrolled in college or university

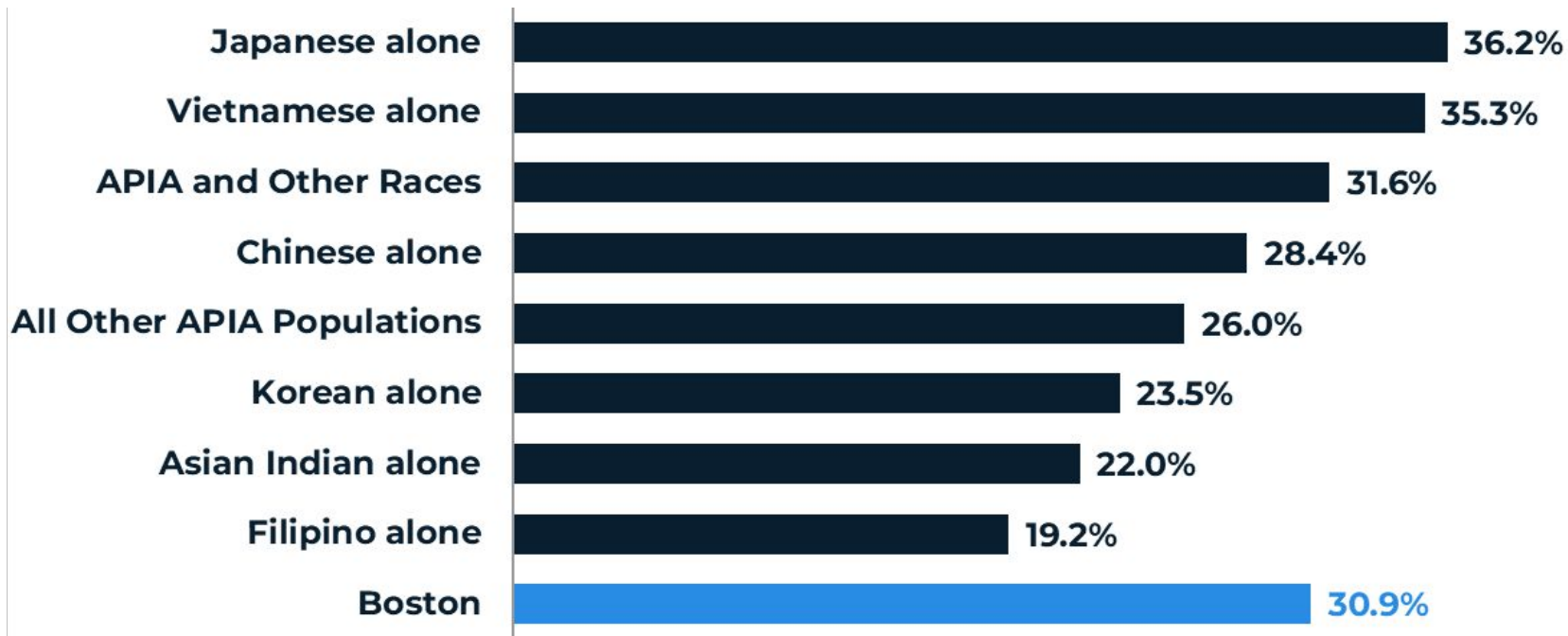
APIA Populations in Boston by Shares Enrolled in College or University, age 18-29, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

~30% of APIA householders in Boston are homeowners, a similar rate to city overall

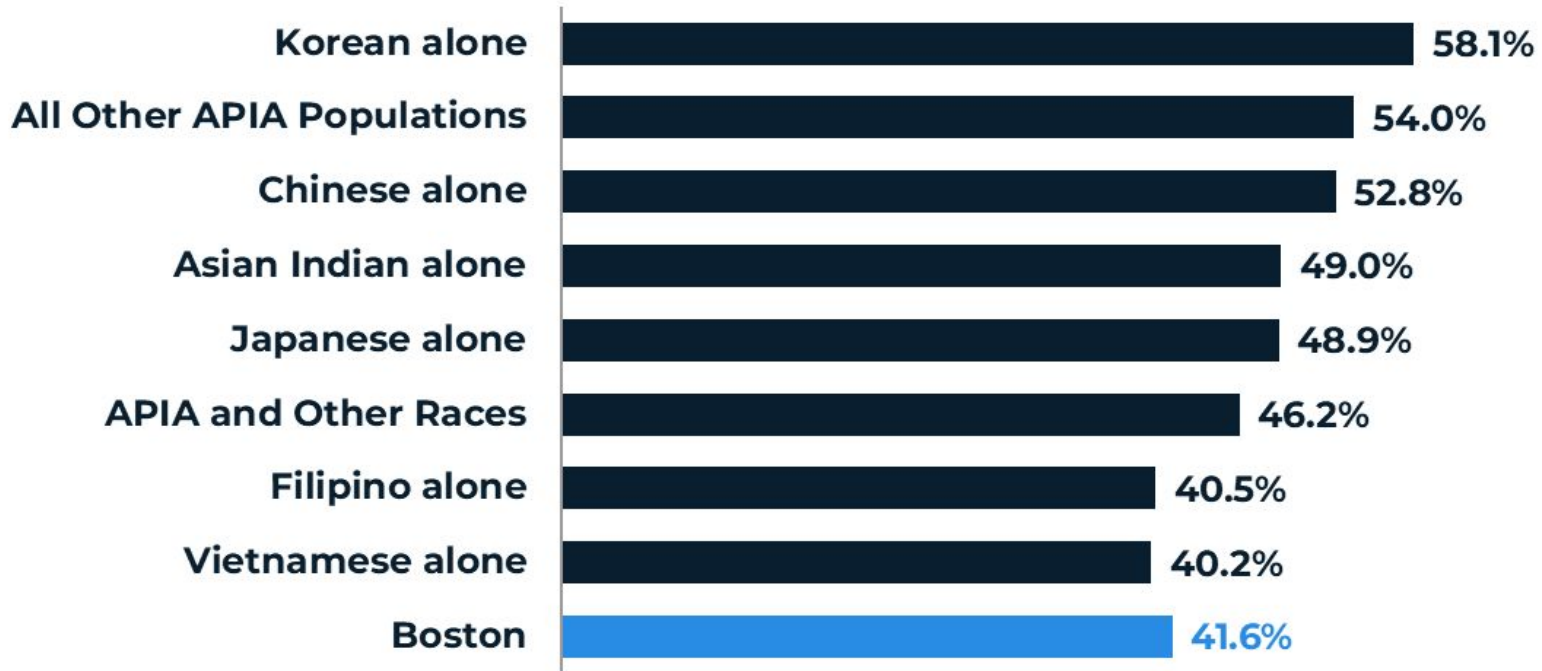
Share of APIA Householders who are owners of their residence, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Many APIA renting households are rent cost burdened

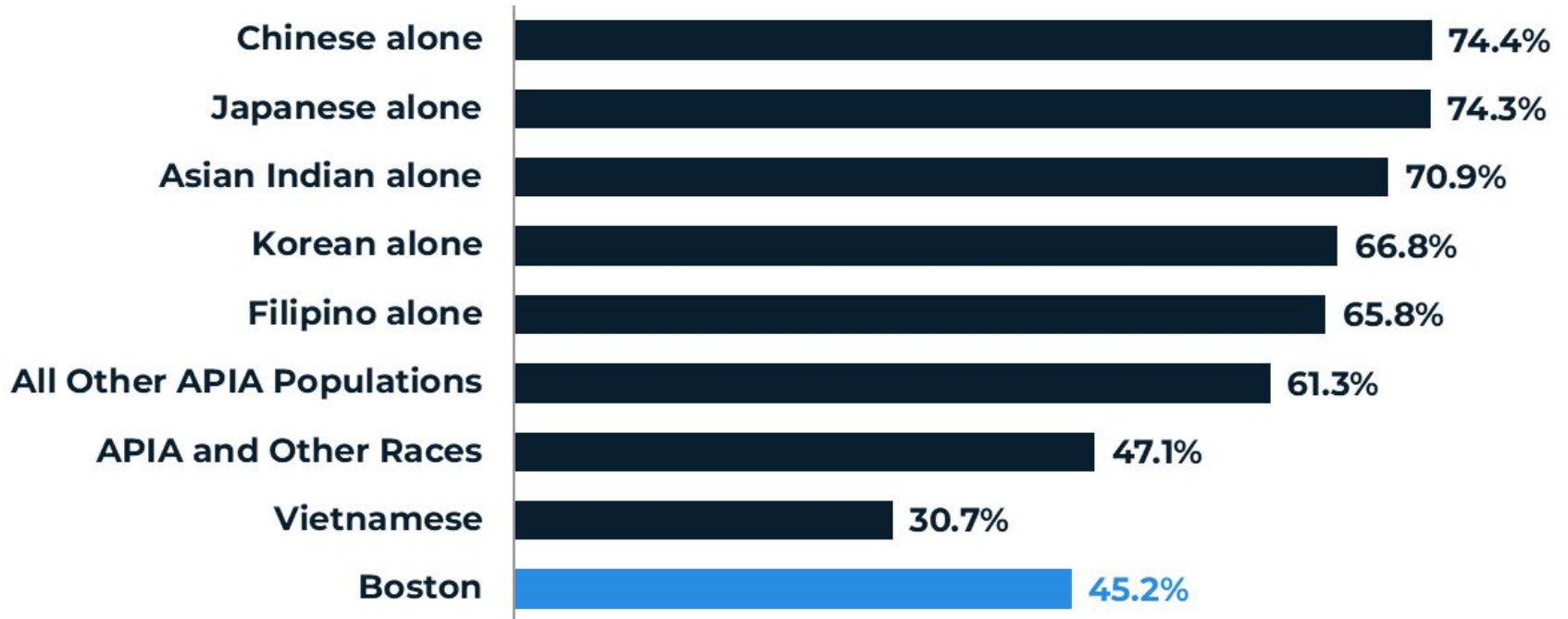
Share of APIA Renter Households Paying More than 35% of their Income on Rent, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

APIA residents are more likely to live in large buildings

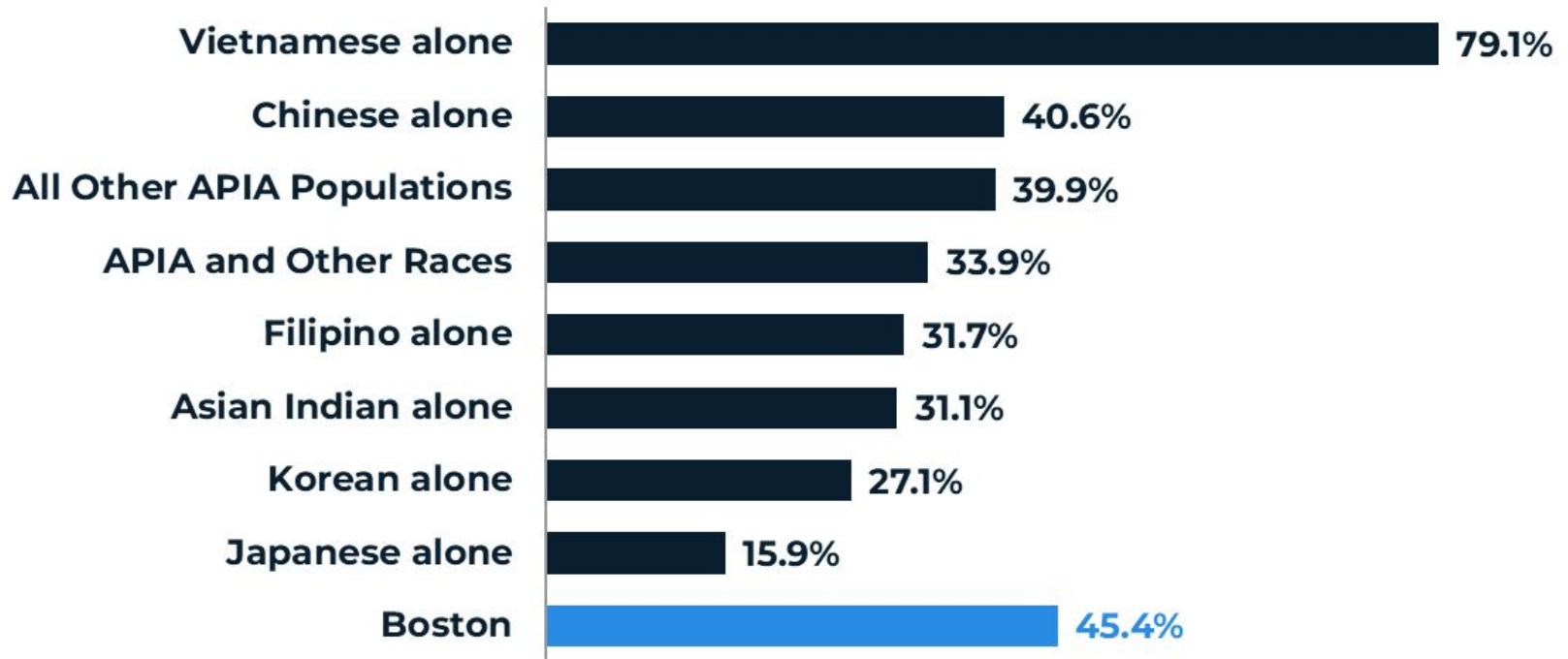
Share of APIA Households Living in Buildings with 5 or More Units, 2024



Source: 2024 City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Population Estimates, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Vietnamese households are much more likely to be family households than other APIA groups

Share of APIA Family Households in Boston, 2024



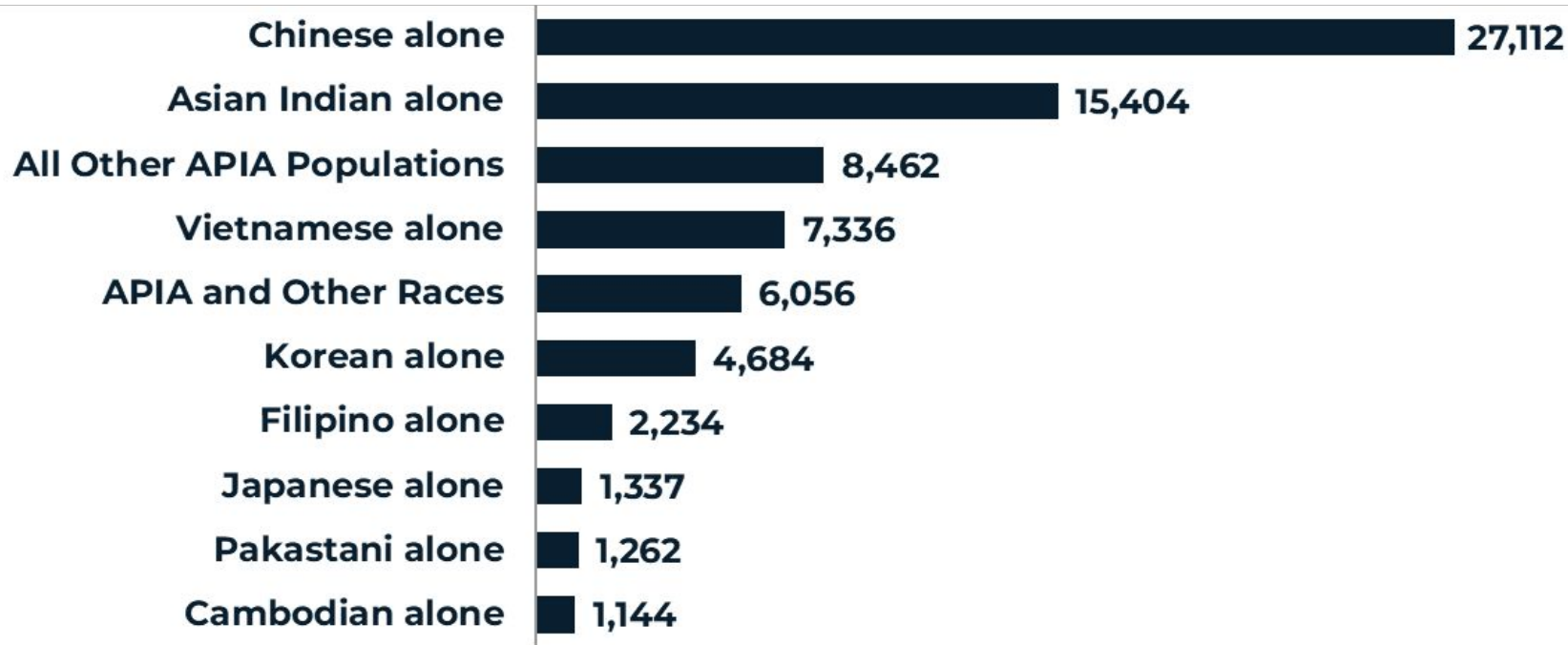
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Chinese, Asian Indians, and Vietnamese are the three largest APIA populations working in Suffolk County

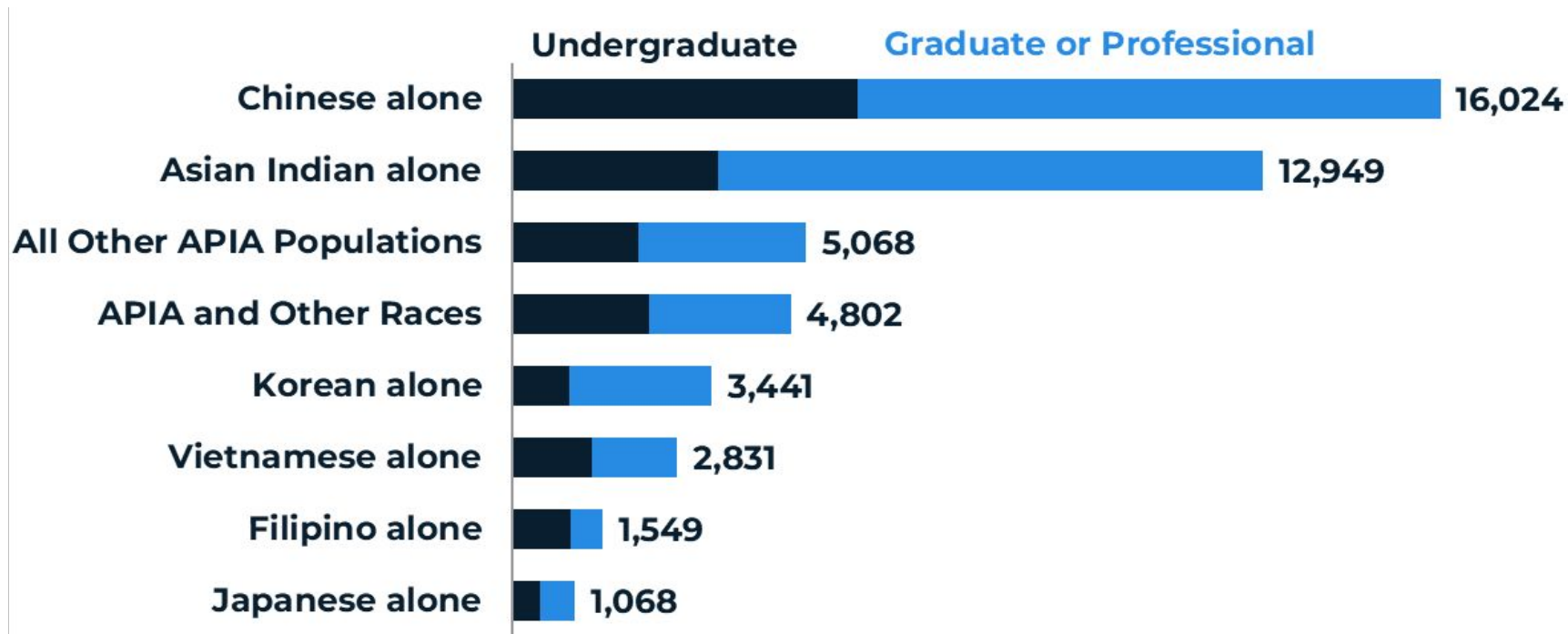
Top 10 APIA Populations in Suffolk County's Labor Force, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

~70% of APIA workers in Suffolk County have Bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees

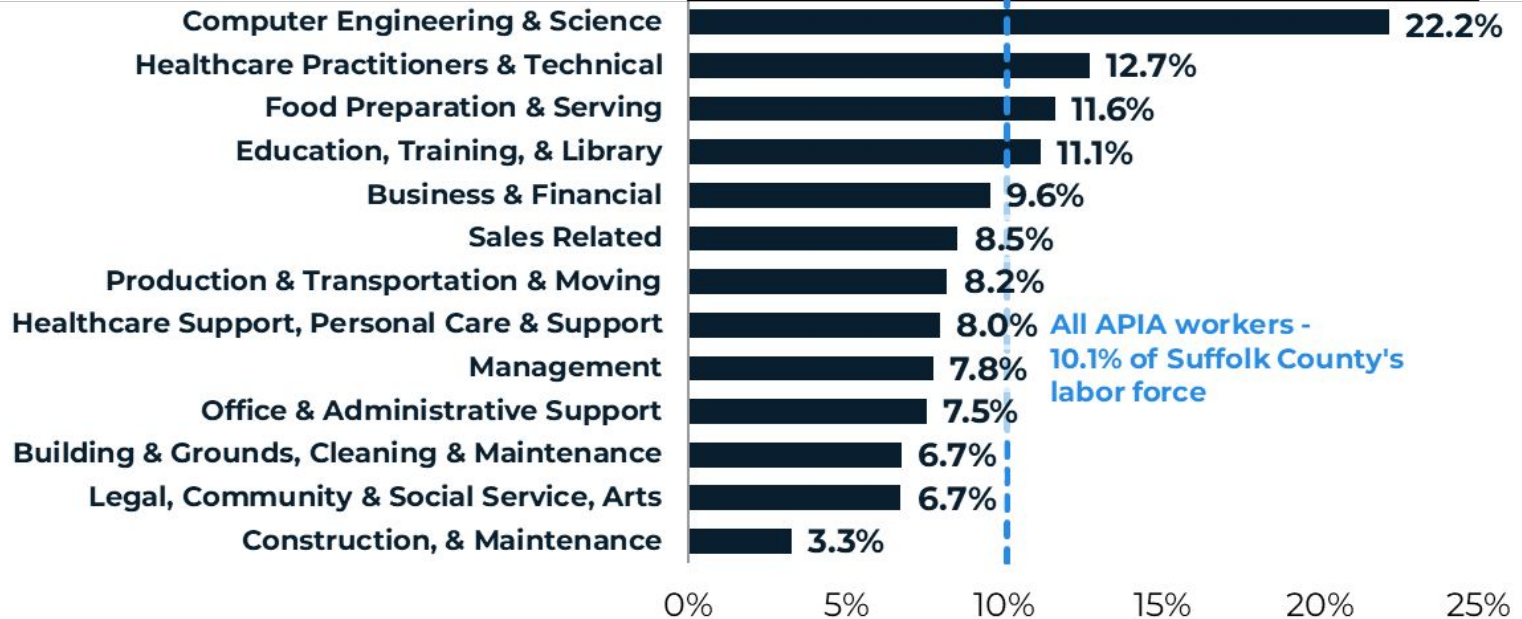
APIA workers with at least a college degree aged 25 and older, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

The ~66,000 APIA workers in Suffolk County are overrepresented in computer engineering, healthcare, education and food service

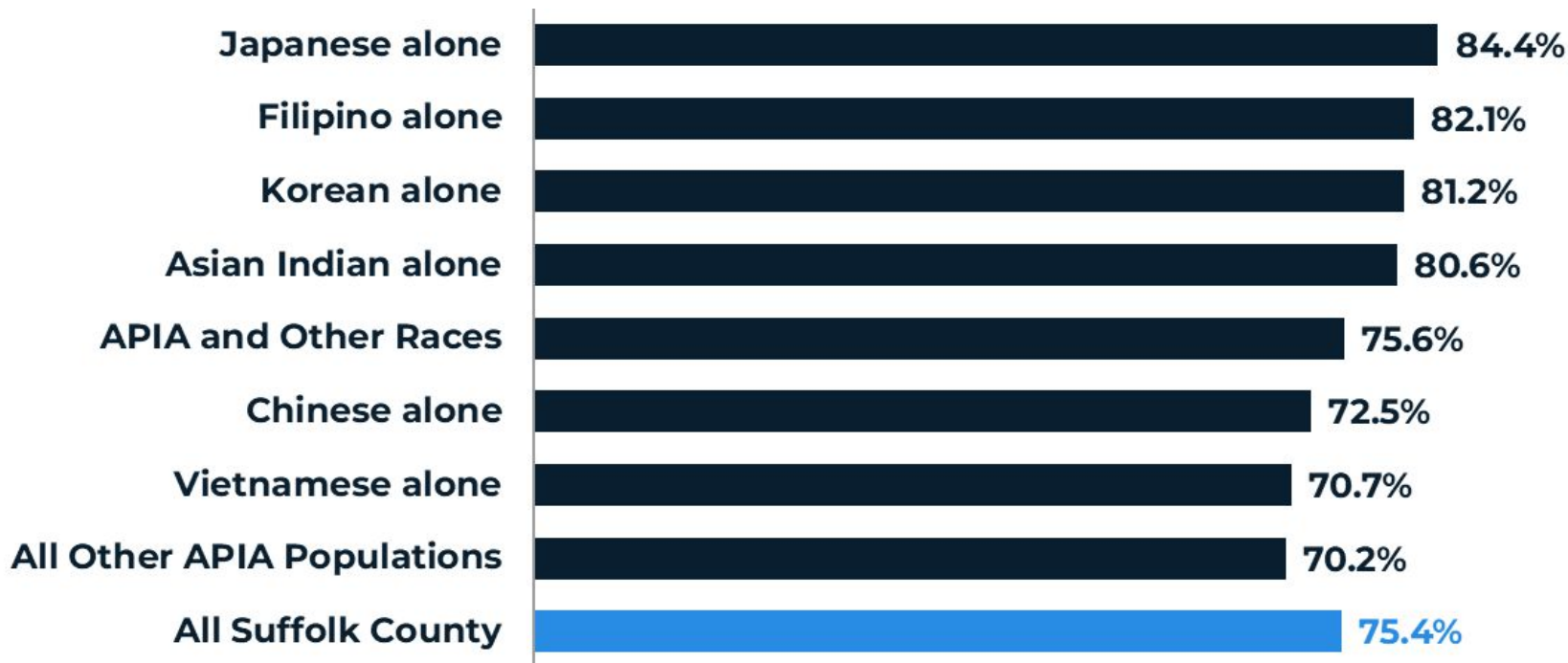
APIA workers by occupation, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Most APIA workers aged 18-to-64 working in Suffolk County are employed full time

Share of full-time APIA workers, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Asian Indian, Japanese, and Korean full time workers in Suffolk County earn more than the overall median personal earnings

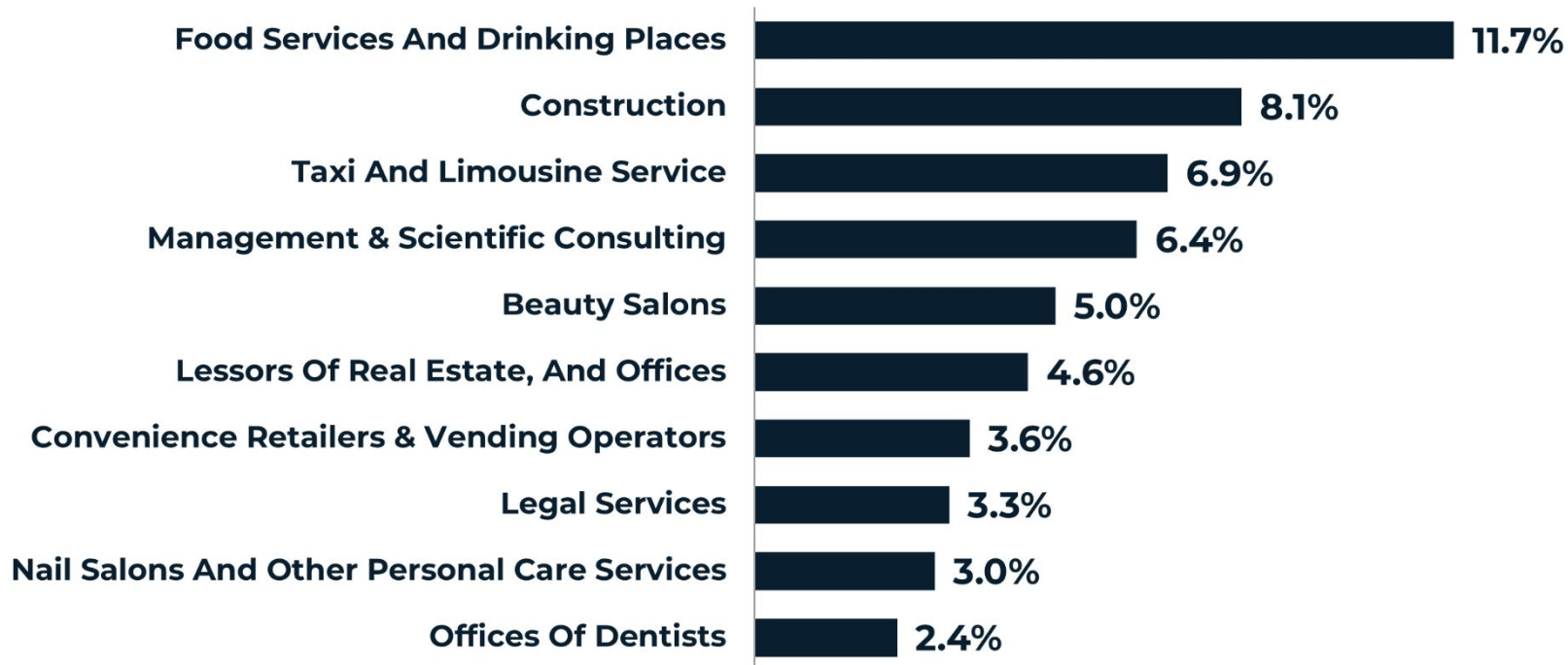
Median personal earnings of full time APIA workers, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, City of Boston Planning Department Research Division Analysis.

Nearly 20% of APIA businesses in Boston are restaurants or construction companies

APIA-owned businesses by type of establishment, 2023



**Interested in joining the
Asian & Pacific Islander
Employee Resource Group?**

**Please email
harry.dam@boston.gov to be
added to our mailing list.**

