

National Technical Assistance Center for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities

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National Technical Assistance Center for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities (NTAC-AAPI)



Based at:

University of Hawai`i at Mānoa,
Center on Disability Studies/
University Center for Excellence

In collaboration with:

Hawai`i Centers for Independent Living
and
Hawai`i Vocational Rehabilitation and
Services for the Blind Division

Funded by:

U.S. Department of Education
Rehabilitation Services Administration

www.ntac.hawaii.edu

NTAC-AAPI Mission

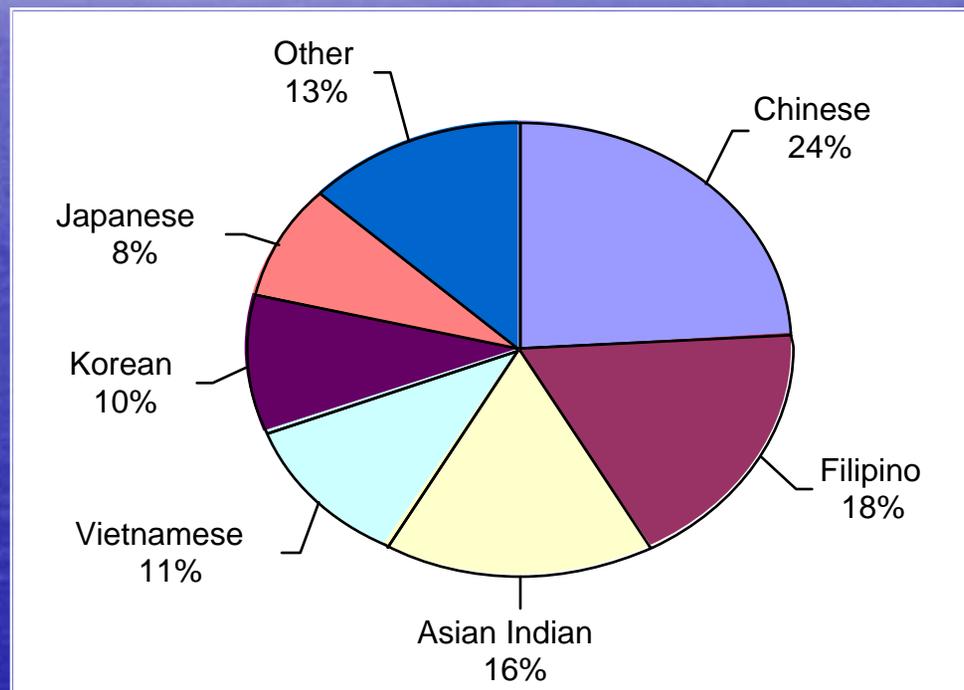
- To create a Technical Assistance Center that will increase employment opportunities
- To develop and provide technical assistance that will result in increased, culturally relevant vocational rehabilitation services
- To respond to the changing needs for technical assistance by AAPI
- To increase employment outcomes through expanding and improving the provision of rehabilitation and other services for persons with disabilities of AAPI cultures

Why?

- Differences exist in the way Asian and Pacific Island populations perceive disability compared with mainstream American populations
- The majority of AAPIs live in the five states of California, Hawai`i, New York, Illinois, and Texas
- By 2050, AAPSs will constitute more than 10 percent of the nation's population.

Asian American Populations

Figure estimated out of 10.6 million Asian Americans in the US in 2000

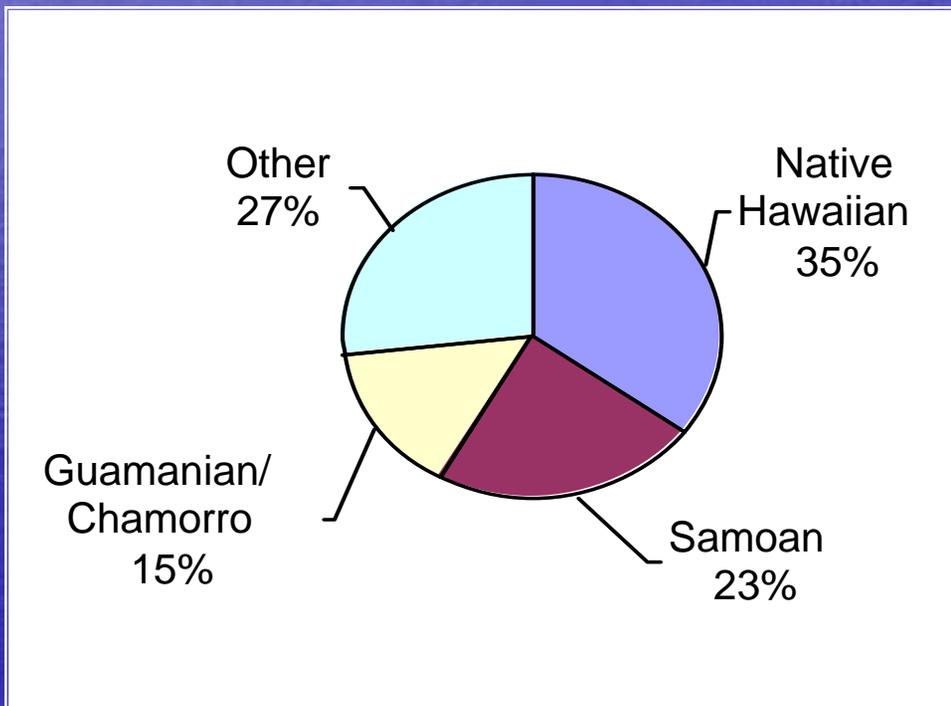


Source:

U.S. Census Bureau. Profiles of General Demographic Characteristics 2000. Populations Estimates Program. May, 2001.

Pacific Islander Populations

Figure estimated
out of 399,000
Pacific Islanders
in the US in 2000



Source:

U.S. Census Bureau. Profiles of General Demographic Characteristics 2000. Populations Estimates Program. May, 2001.

AAPIs with Disabilities

- In 1990, approximately 10% of Asian Americans between 16 and 64 years old had a disability. Of these, 62% had mobility or self-care limitations (U.S Bureau of the Census 1990).
- In 1997, the percentage of AAPIs with disabilities rose to 13% (all kinds of disabilities).
- AAPIs with disabilities have poorer outcomes in health, education, and employment in the United States than their counterparts in other ethnicities.

❖ Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Americans with Disabilities: 1997 – Table 1. Prevalence of Disability by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Survey of Income and Program Participation. November, 1997.

Critical questions

- 1: What are the disparities in **HEALTH**, **EDUCATION**, and **EMPLOYMENT** of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, particularly those with disabilities?
- 2: What issues must be addressed in order to provide culturally competent **HEALTH**, **EDUCATION**, and **EMPLOYMENT** services to AAPIs with disabilities?

AAPIs and Health

- Many Asian Americans communities (e.g., Chinatowns) are located in large cities, prone to poor sanitation, pollution and low air quality, overcrowded housing, high traffic, and other poor living conditions that can lead to health problems.
- Asian Americans suffer from a much higher rate of infection from Hepatitis B (15%) than the general population (1%).
- Asian Americans suffer from tuberculosis at a rate five times that of the general population.

AAPIs and Health

Specific Asian American populations suffer disproportionately from certain illnesses.

- Japanese Americans have twice the rate of Type II diabetes as white Americans (Fujimoto 1995).
- Korean Americans experience liver and stomach cancer at rates five and eight times higher than the general population.
- Japanese and Filipino American men have a high alcohol abuse rate.
- Cambodian and Vietnamese Americans experience high incidences of anxiety disorders (e.g., post-traumatic stress disorder) and depressive disorders.

AAPIs and Mental Illness

- Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans suffer a disproportionate burden of mental illness. Suicide is one of the leading causes of death for AAPI women (Department of Health and Human Services)
- Asian Americans suffer from high rates of domestic violence.
Massachusetts: in 1992, Asian Americans composed 2.4% of the population, but 13% percent of women and children who died as a result of domestic violence . (Malhotra 1993)
Chicago: A 1997 survey of 150 Korean women revealed 60% reported physical abuse by a partner. (Louie 1997)

AAPIs with Disabilities

Specific Pacific Islander populations have higher rates of given disabilities:

- Native Hawaiians with Disabilities: Six percent of non-institutionalized Native Hawaiians have a mobility or self-care limitation. Native Hawaiians suffer from much higher rates of diabetes, circulatory, respiratory, and cancer-related diseases than the general population: 4.9% versus .7% for white Americans).
- Micronesians with Disabilities: Micronesians affected by the atomic bomb which fell in the 1950s still suffer the after effects manifested in various disabilities and birth defects. High rates of congenital blindness and deafness.

National Diabetes Information Clearinghouse. National diabetes statistics. NIH publication 02-3892. 2002. Fact sheet

Health Care Disparities

AAPIs with disabilities are often faced with:

- Unequal treatment by providers—receive lesser level of service.
- Dismissal of traditional medicine in favor of Western medicine.
- Misinterpretation of patient reaction, such as “noncompliance,” or seeming to not want health care. E.g., In some AAPI cultures, hospitalization is viewed as a sign of impending death. Thus, ill AAPI patients may refuse to be admitted regardless of their health care provider’s advice.

Causes of Health Care Disparities

- Per capita medical expenditures for Asian American children with disabilities is less than half of expenditures for white American children
 - Again, “model minority” myth—that AAPIs have little need for health care services
- The majority of elderly Asian Americans with disabilities do not have pensions and/or social security or other means of paying for health care and thus do not receive adequate services

Other Causes of Disparities

- AAPIs are less likely to seek help (medical, educational, etc.) than the general population
 - May be considered shameful or embarrassing if anyone other than family members has information about disability issues
 - High adherence to Asian cultural values tend to have negative attitudes toward help-seeking
 - Rely upon existing indigenous support systems: churches, temples, civic orgs.

(Sue and Sue, 1999)

Eliminating Disparities in Health

The United States health care system and its providers must address these issues in order to provide **culturally competent** health, education, and employment services to AAPIs with disabilities as it seeks to meet the *Healthy People, 2010 Goal* of eliminating health disparities.

People with Disabilities and Education

- 22% of Americans with disabilities fail to graduate from high school.
- 9% of those without disabilities fail to graduate high school.
- 1986; 4 out of 10 people with disabilities (39%) failed to complete high school; whereas,
- Today; 2 out of 10 people with disabilities (22%) have not completed high school.
- Many special education programs are not culturally, contextually, or linguistically designed for AAPI students.

Source: National Organization on Disability

AAPIs and Special Education

- AAPIs vary, with some groups over-represented and others underrepresented in special education (again, model minority myth—AAPI students with needs not identified), or inappropriately placed.
- Language barriers prevent communication between teachers or administrators and parents and students regarding IEP and other relevant services.

Educational Disparities for AAPIs: A Case study

A Study of Asian American nursing students at an urban public university revealed that they were:

- discouraged by faculty to become nurses;
- treated impatiently by clinical instructors;
- portrayed in nursing textbooks in stereotypical ways;
- ignored when they sought help in learning;
- judged for their accented English; and
- judged unfairly in academic as well as social settings.

(Lin Zhan, "Diversity Imperative: Reflections on the Learning Needs of Asian American Nursing Students," 2003)

Disparities in Employment

- U.S. economic climate is such that unemployment should be reduced in all populations
- National average unemployment at 5.2% in January 2005, down from 5.7% in January 2004 (Bureau of Labor Statistics)

BUT, the numbers differ when looking at persons with disabilities

- Unemployment of Persons with disabilities: national average has hovered around 70 percent over past several years
- In 2004, the National Organization on Disability/Harris Poll reported that
 - Only 35 percent of people with disabilities aged 18 to 64 worked full or part-time, (an increase of only 3 percent from the 2000 poll).
 - Of those not working according to the 2004 poll, almost two-thirds (63 percent) of people with disabilities would prefer to work.
- An Overlooked resource?

Employment Realities for Persons with Disabilities

- Average monthly income is less than two-thirds that of persons without disabilities
- Earn less per hour
- Work fewer hours per week
- More than twice as likely to live in poverty
- Lower employment rates
- Lower average household and personal expenditure
- More likely to receive Medicaid or Medicare/more often
- More nights in hospitals

Status in Hawai`i

- Hawai`i has highest percentage of AAPIs of any U.S. state.
 - And thus awareness of AAPI cultures
- But unemployment rates for persons with disabilities in Hawai`i, too, are higher than the average. Why?

So now....

What issues must be addressed in order to provide culturally competent HEALTH, EDUCATION, and EMPLOYMENT services to AAPIs with disabilities?

Institute Culturally-competent Practices

- Amplify outreach efforts to AAPI communities
- Institute training for health care providers, educators, and employers
- Involve AAPI consumers with disabilities in their health care, education, and employment decisions

Set Goals

- Empowering people with disabilities to choose, and providing the cultural context of what that freedom of choice means to a particular Asian American or Pacific Islander with a disability.
- Providing equal opportunities for health care, education, and employment for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with disabilities.

What NTAC-AAPI Does

Educates consumers, service providers and employers, by disseminating information through the following products and activities:

- Briefs on promising practices and other topics
- Scholarly articles, conference presentations
- Hire U.S.
- Semi-monthly E-newsletter
- Online course
- Films, DVDs, other media

Example of Brief

2004 Vol. 1 • Issue 2



Information Brief

A Guide to Foundation Funding: Creating a Successful Proposal

Prepared by Andrew Grant and Steven E. Brown

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Mission:

To increase employment opportunities for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with disabilities nationwide.

Based at:

University of Hawaii
at Manoa, Center on
Disability Studies

Introduction

Providing services for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) with disabilities presents numerous challenges due to their diversity of ethnicity, generation, language, dialect, culture, and socioeconomic status (Pi, 2001). Within AAPI cultures, many believe disabilities may be caused by something an individual did wrong in the past, or because of bad luck or misfortune. Fate, in these cases, is accepted, and individuals with disabilities in the AAPI community depend on the care and assistance of their immediate families (Kim-Rupnow, 2001). Many AAPI individuals with disabilities are reluctant to participate in broader communities because of fear and mistrust of individuals and authorities outside the AAPI community (Kim-Rupnow, 2001). AAPIs are also sometimes victims of another interesting phenomena described as the "model minority myth" (Lee, 1998; Hampton, 2000). This is a prevalent, stereotypical view of AAPIs as successful and affluent, which can lead to exclusion from entitlement and social service programs designed for U.S. minorities (Lee, 1998).

Promising Practices – For Serving AAPIs

- Bilingual support
- Coordinating services
- Hiring diverse providers
- Advocating for cultural brokers
- Networking

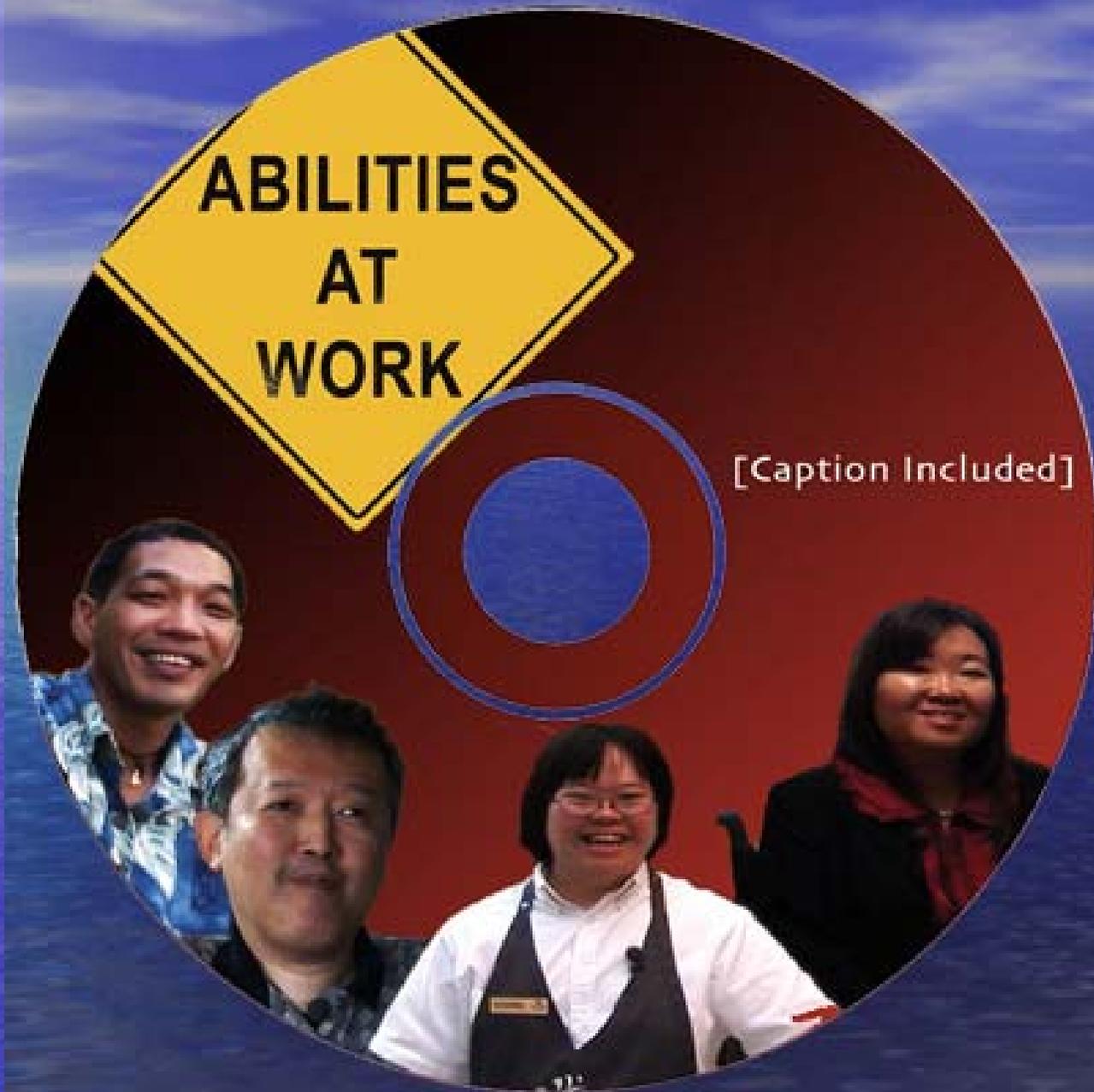
HIRE.US Program

The **HIRE.US Program** is a national on-line database where resumes of job-ready AAPI's with disabilities are entered and are accessible for potential employers who are seeking employees of diverse backgrounds.

Online Course

- Title: Introduction to Disability/Rehabilitation with Asian/Pacific Islander Americans
- Taught by Professors Paul Leung of the University of North Texas and Nan Zhang Hampton of San Diego State University
- Provides 10 Continuing Education Units
- Coordinated by NTAC

DVD



Collaborating Partners

- National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (Capacity Building Institute)
- Centers on Independent Living (Nationwide)
- State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies

NTAC-AAPI Products

To download NTAC-AAPI products, go to

<http://www.ntac.hawaii.edu/products/>

Both Text and PDF format files are available



For comments or questions,
contact us by postal mail,
email, or telephone



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