Appendix C:

Asian American Population Projection by Nativity

The projection of the Asian American population in 2030 by na-
tivity starts with the two sets of projections produced by the Census
Bureau. The first dataset, the 1996 National Population Projections,
uses the cohort-component model to generate U.S. population pro-
jections by age, sex, race, and Hispanic-origin for the period of 1995-
2050. These projections are based on a 1994 population estimates
using 1990 Census data, and updated with observed fertility and sur-
vival rates, and net immigration statistics. The Bureau used three dif-
ferent sets of assumptions about fertility, mortality, and net
immigration to produce a low, middle, and high series of population
projections. Net immigration incorporated projected changes in legal,
refugee, and undocumented immigration. The projections are created
for 5 race groups: American Indians, Eskimo, and Aleuts; Asian and
Pacific Islanders; Blacks; Hispanics; and Whites.

The second dataset from the Bureau of the Census is the 2004
Interim Projections released by the U.S. Census Bureau in March of
that year. Similar to the previous dataset, the cohort-component
method is used to produce national projections by age, sex, race, and
Hispanic-origin for the period 1999-2100. Compared to the demo-
graphic assumptions used in the 1996 National Population Projec-
tions, the Bureau slightly reduced fertility, left mortality unchanged,
and slightly elevated immigration rates. The projections were de-
veloped for the following race groups: non-Hispanic White alone,
Hispanic White alone, Black alone, Asian alone, and all other groups
(American Indians and Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other
Pacific Islanders, and everyone who reported more than one of the
major race categories on the 2000 Census.)

According to the Census Bureau's 2004 projections, there will be
22.6 million Asian Americans (not including Pacific Islanders) in 2030.
This is only slightly lower than the earlier 1996 projection of 24.8 mil-

lion for APIs in 2030. However, some care needs to be taken in comparing the two numbers because of a change in definition. The two sets of projections are based different racial classifications. Starting in 2000, individuals could declare one or more races, while earlier decades allowed for only one response. Moreover, 2004 projections do not contain a breakdown by nativity.

To produce a 2030 projection of Asian Americans by nativity, the following approach was used. One, the 1996 National Population Projections for APIs were decomposed into separate projections for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This was done first by making projections of PIs, and then subtracting the PI projections from the API projections. Two, the Asian American projections are refined by breaking them down by nativity. The major assumption is that Asian Americans comprise most of the projected immigration assigned by the Bureau to its API projections. Three, the projections of immigrants are further refined by decomposing their counts into those who arrived during the decade between projections and those who survived from the start of the decade to the end of the decade. Four, the information from the previous steps are used to estimate the nativity composition of the Asian Americans in the 2004 Interim Projections.

The figure below summarizes the final Asian American projections by nativity based on the mid-range series. In 2000, an estimated 6.9 million APIs were foreign born, comprising about 60.9% of the total estimated API population. Most adult APIs were foreign-born (78.3%). Using the mid-projections for 2030, an estimated 13.0 million APIs will be foreign born, comprising about 52.2% of the total estimated API population. Most adult APIs will continue to be foreign-born (66.4%).[i]

Notes

[i] Using the low-projections for 2030, an estimated 7.5 million APIs will be foreign born, comprising about 44.9% of the total estimated API population. However, foreign-born will be a majority of adult APIs (56.3%).