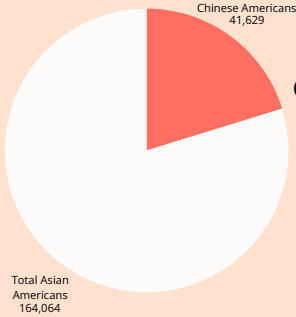
Immigration History

1849-1882
Many immigrants from China moved to the US for better financial opportunity and prospects.

1882-1965
As Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which banned immigration of Chinese laborers, with diplomats and travelers being the only exception. The Act limited immigrants' rights by barring them from citizenship and required all Chinese migrants to carry identification certification when travelling in or out of the country. Following this, the Scott Act was passed in 1888, which barred all Chinese migrants from re-entering the US after going back to visit China.

1965-Now
After the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Immigration Act of 1965, Chinese immigration surged—especially in the 1980s-90s, causing the Chinese American population to grow from about 800,000 in 1980 to over 2 million by 2000. According to ACS, there are 4.5 million Chinese Americans in the US in 2024.

Chinese Americans in Montgomery County



Chinese Americans comprise 25.4% of the Asian population in Montgomery County, making them the 2nd largest Asian subgroup in the county.

About AAHI

The mission of the Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI), part of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, is to improve the health and wellness of Asian American communities in Montgomery County by applying equity, community engagement, and data-driven approaches.

Asian American Health Initiative
1401 Rockville Pike, 3rd Floor,
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: 240-777-4517
Website: aahiinfo.org
Email: AAHI@montgomerycountymd.gov

Link to learn more about the organizations serving Chinese Americans in Montgomery County
aahiinfo.org/aapiorganizations/

Data sources available upon request from AAHI

Asian American Health Initiative
Together To Build A Healthy Community

Asian American Health Initiative
Together To Build A Healthy Community

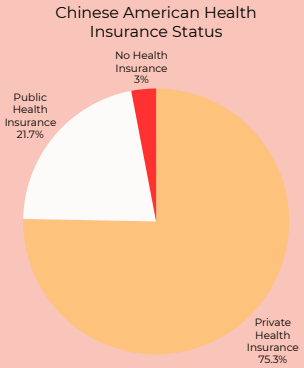
WHO ARE CHINESE AMERICANS?

An exploration into the Chinese American community of Montgomery County, Maryland:

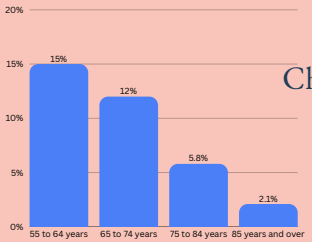
- Immigration History
- Demographics
- Health Status and Disparities
- Barriers to Care

Income:

- Median household income – $125,580
- Overall poverty rate: 8.5%
- 6.7% of Chinese Americans receive SNAP benefits

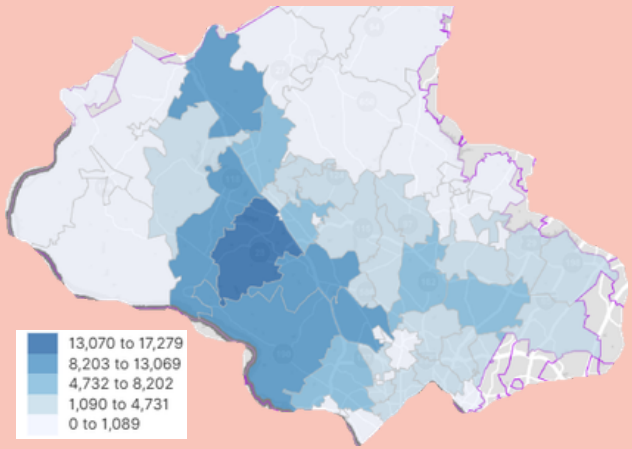


26.4% Chinese American households in Montgomery County speak English less than "very well".



In the county, 34.9% of Chinese Americans are older adults (55+), the largest aging population among Asian subgroups.

Chinese Americans in Montgomery County by Zip Code



HEALTH DISPARITIES

More than half of Asian Americans with diabetes are undiagnosed, and a large proportion of these are Chinese Americans

Chinese Americans have poorer control of high blood pressure than Non-Hispanic Whites and are at higher risk for hypertension, cardiovascular disease and stroke

The stomach cancer incidence rate in Chinese females is twice that of Caucasian women in the US.

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG CHINESE AMERICANS IN THE US

1. Cancer
2. Cardiovascular Disease
3. Cerebrovascular Disease
4. Influenza and Pneumonia
5. Diabetes

Barriers to Care

- Language barriers
- Systemic Issues
- Cultural differences
- Trust Issues
- Limited disaggregated data specific to Chinese Americans masks the real health needs of this group