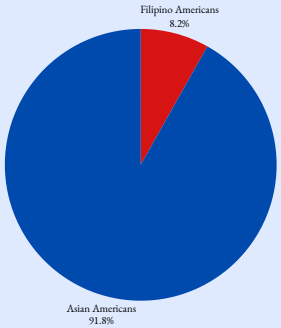
IMMIGRATION HISTORY

The first recorded arrival of Filipinos in the U.S. was in 1763 in St. Malo, Louisiana. These early settlers were Filipino sailors who escaped forced labor and enslavement during the Spanish galleon trade.

Increasing numbers of Filipinos arriving in the U.S. first occurred in 1898, after the Philippines became a U.S. colony. Filipinos were classified as U.S. nationals, not citizens, but allowed to migrate more freely until immigration restrictions were introduced in 1934. The United States officially recognized the Philippines' independence, ending American colonial rule, on July 4, 1946.

The Filipino population in the U.S. has grown from about 2 million in 2000 to over 4 million in 2023. As per ACS 2023, there are 14,265 Filipino Americans residing in Montgomery County.

Filipino Americans in Montgomery County



Filipino Americans comprise 8.9% of the Asian population in Montgomery County, making them the 4th 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
Email: AAHI@montgomerycountymd.gov

Link to learn more about the organizations serving Filipino 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... FILIPINO AMERICANS?

An exploration into the Filipino American community of Montgomery County, MD

- Immigration history
- Demographics
- Health disparities
- Barriers to healthcare

Filipino Americans in Montgomery County

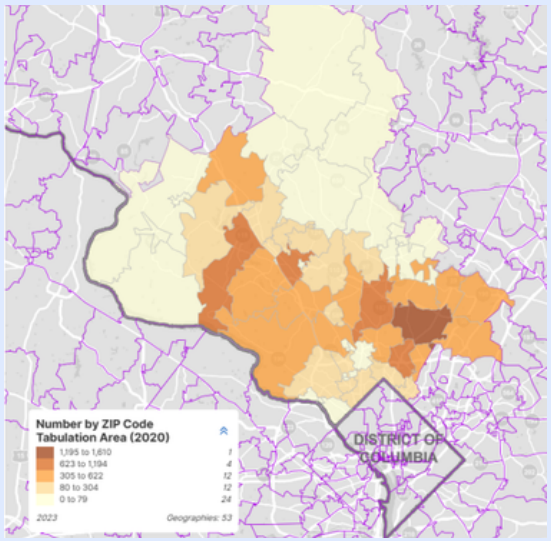
Income:

- Median household income: $124,103
- Overall poverty rate: 3.3%

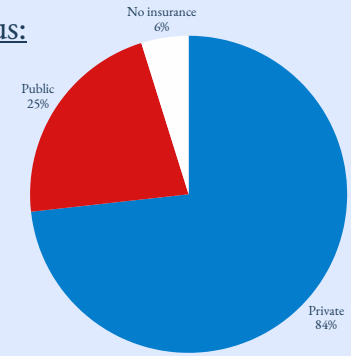
9.1%

Filipino American households speak English less than "very well".

Filipino Americans in Montgomery County by Zip Code



Insurance status:



Health Status & Disparities

- Filipino Americans are at a 70% higher risk of getting diabetes compared to other Asian subgroups
- Filipino women have the second-highest incidence of breast cancer among Asian women
- A study found that among Asian subgroups Filipinos faced the most disparities, with higher prevalence of fair or poor health and having high blood pressure, diabetes, or asthma compared with non-Hispanic Whites

Leading causes of death among Filipino Americans in the U.S.:

1. Heart Disease
2. Malignant neoplasm/cancer
3. Cerebrovascular Disease
4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
5. Diabetes

**Due to limited data availability, disparities are country-level rather than specific to Montgomery County. Further, much data is not disaggregated beyond the "South East Asian" category.*

Barriers to Care

Low emphasis on preventive care

Language barriers

Cultural factor- leaving it to fate

bahala na

Fear of diagnosis and cost

Experiences or expectations of discrimination by healthcare providers

Data on Filipino Americans' health are limited, preventing understanding of health needs