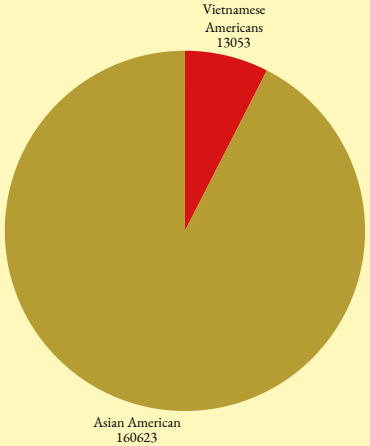
IMMIGRATION HISTORY

The first large wave of Vietnamese immigrants came after the Vietnam War in 1975. Those that entered the U.S. were transferred to refugee centers for up to six months of education and cultural training to facilitate their assimilation into their new society.

The second wave of refugees began in 1978 and lasted into the mid-1980s, totaling almost 2 million people who fled communist re-education camps and the 1979 Chinese invasion of Vietnam. Thousands of these asylum seekers fled Vietnam in "rickety wooden boats" and would become known as 'Boat People.'

Over the decades, Vietnamese people have moved beyond defining themselves just as refugees in a new country.



Vietnamese Americans make up 8.1% of Montgomery County's population and are the 5th highest Asian American 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 Vietnamese 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... VIETNAMESE AMERICANS?

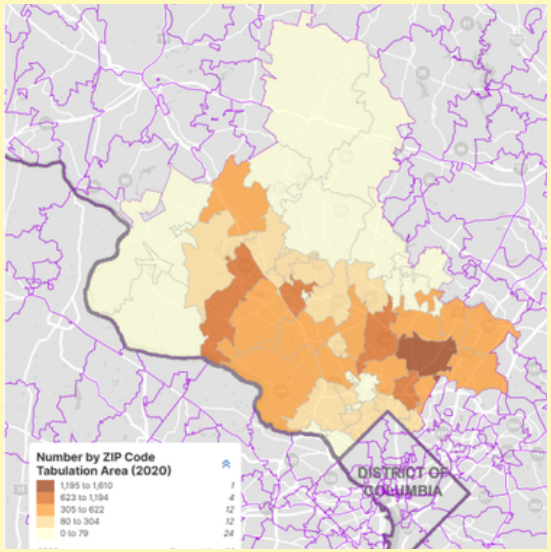
An exploration into the Vietnamese American community of Montgomery County, MD

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

Vietnamese Americans in Montgomery County

- Median household income: $125,000
- Overall poverty rate: 3.5%

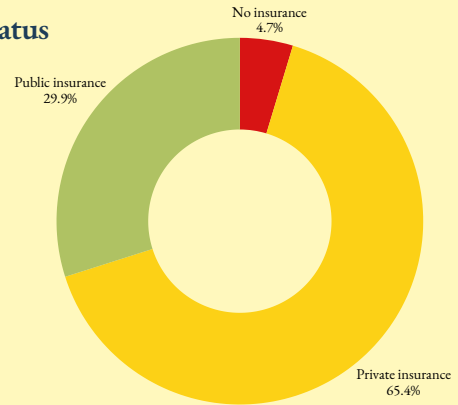
Vietnamese Americans in Montgomery County by Zip Code



30%

Vietnamese Americans household speak English less than "very well".

Insurance Status



Health Status & Disparities

Use of tobacco is very high among Vietnamese Americans and they have the 2nd highest cigarette-smoking prevalence among Asian American groups at 16.3%.

1 in 15 Vietnamese American men and 1 in 20 Vietnamese American women have diabetes.

The risk of stomach cancer is 7 times higher in Vietnamese Americans compared to non-Hispanic white people.

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

1. Cancer
2. Heart disease
3. Cerebrovascular Disease
4. Accidents
5. Diabetes

Barriers to Care

Lack of health insurance

Language Barriers

Transportation

Money for out-of-pocket costs