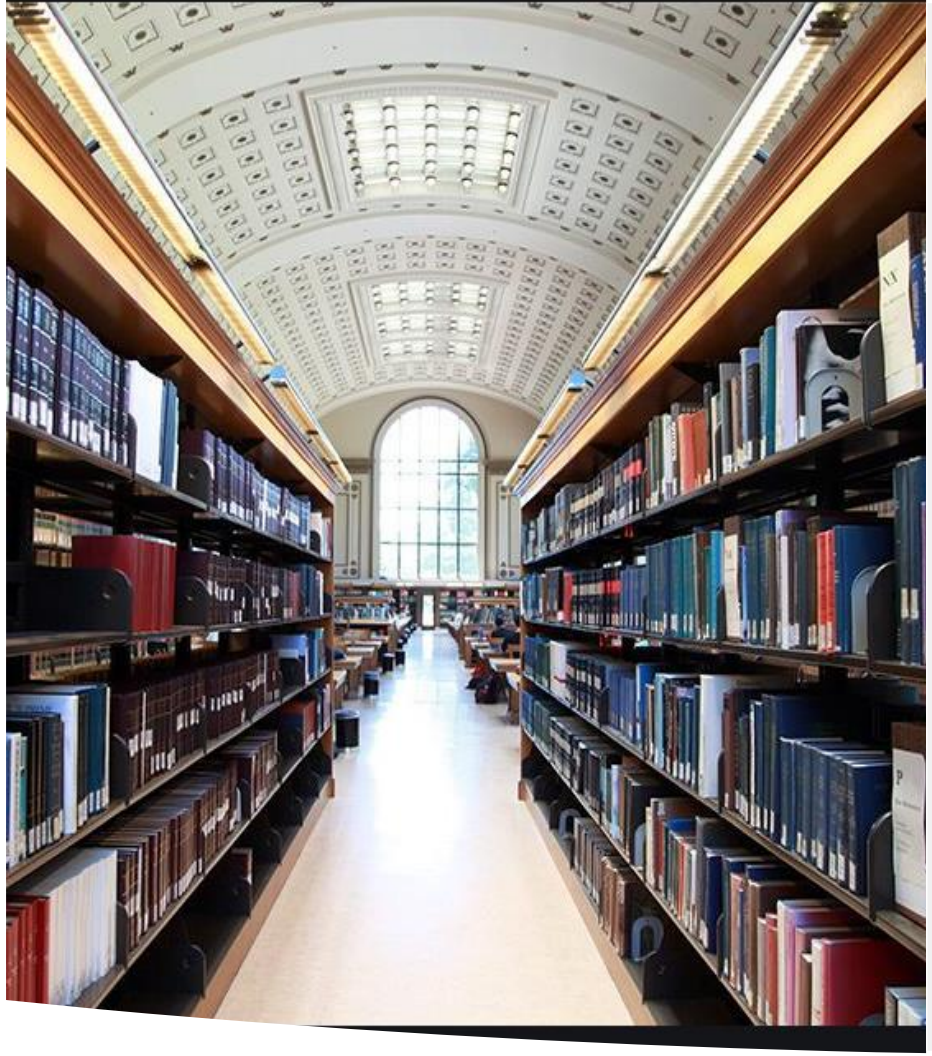
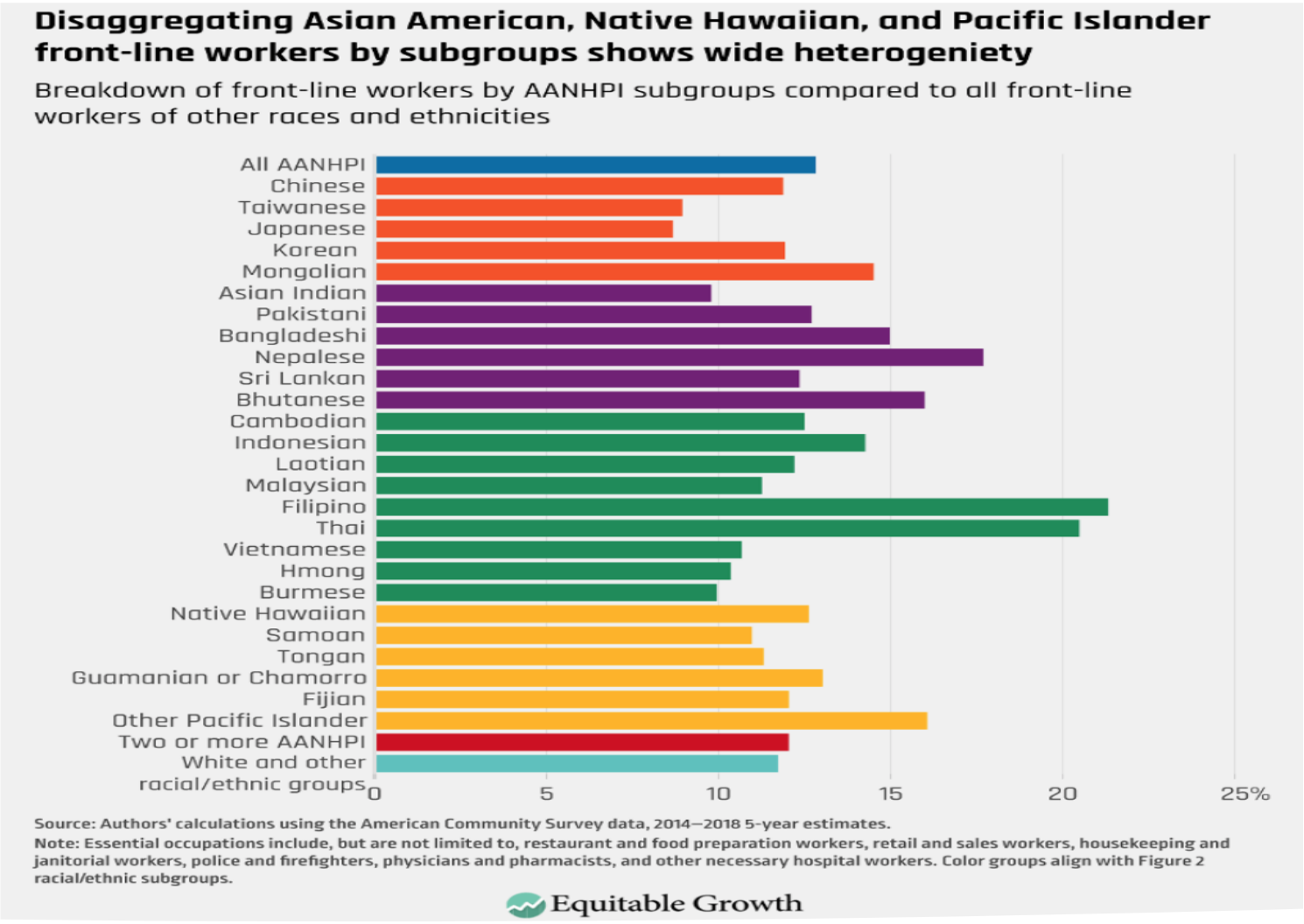
Asian Americans: A diverse and growing population

Julia Liou, MPH & Thu Quach, PhD
Asian Health Services



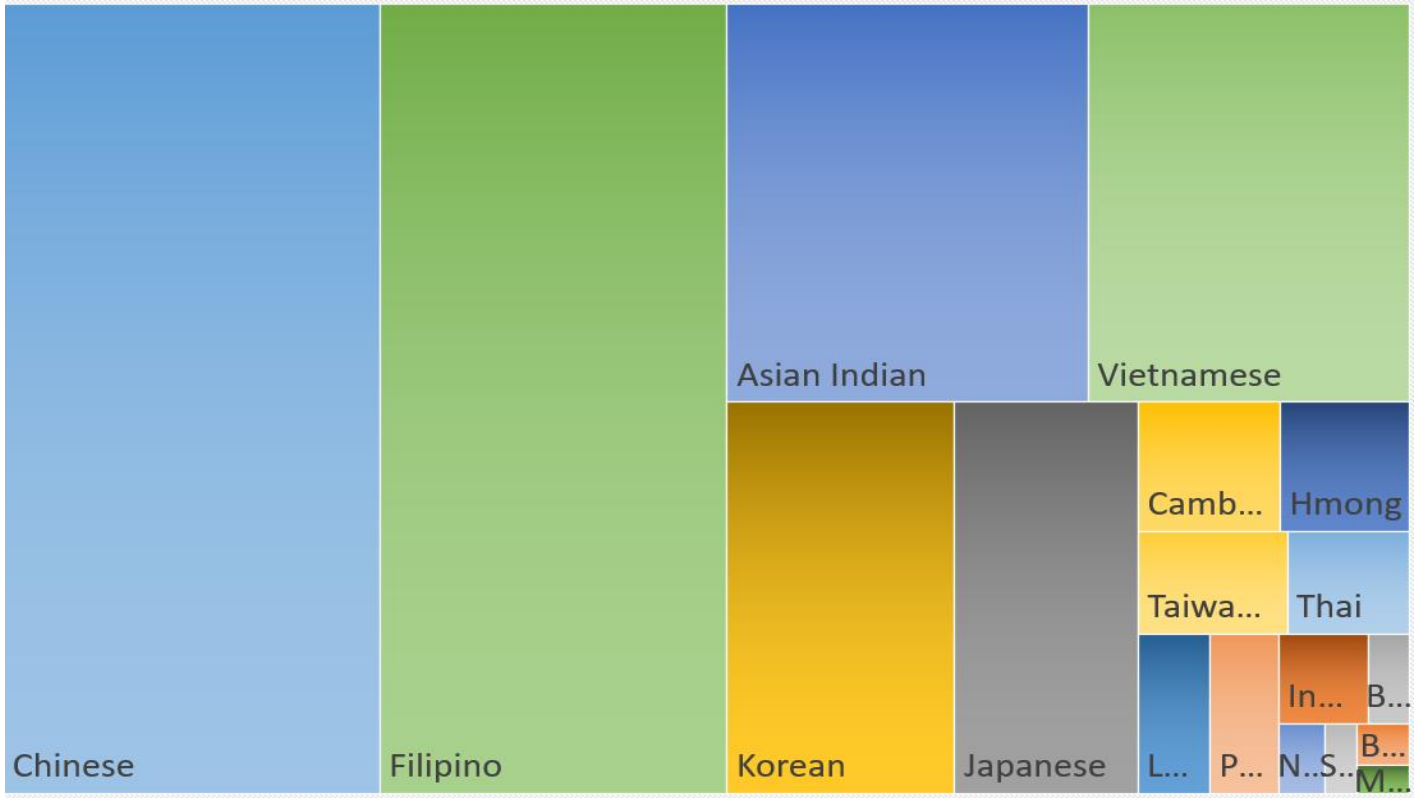


Public Health Literature AAPIs either lumped into Other, healthier, invisible, impotent

- SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS
- 3% > 7% > 16% >26% of the population, with many ethnicities, languages

Diversity of Asian American groups

Asian Indian
Bangladeshi
Bhutanese
Burmese
Cambodian
Chinese
Filipino
Hmong
Indonesian
Japanese
Korean
Laotian
Malaysian
Nepalese
Other Asian
Pakistani
Sri Lankan
Taiwanese
Thai
Vietnamese



- 20 distinct Asian American ethnic groups

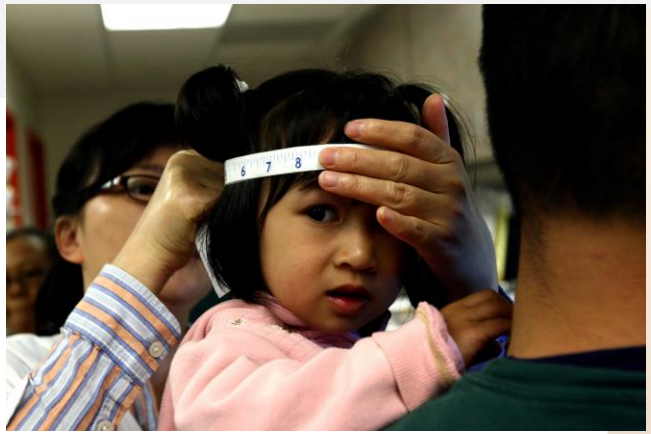
Unpacking Hidden Disparities

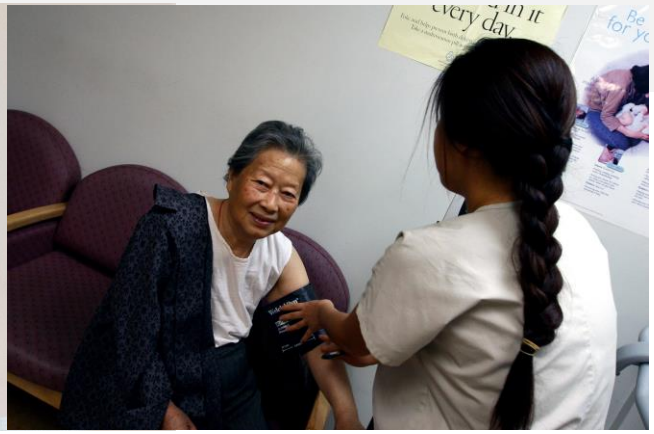
- In the US, Filipino nurses make up 4% of workforce
- Nearly 31.5% of deaths among registered nurses
- In CA, Filipinos are ¼ of Asian American population, but make up 1/3 of the deaths; and nearly 40% with COVID have died

Nursing ranks are filled with Filipino Americans. The pandemic is taking an outsized toll on them

By USHA LEE MCFARLING @ushamcfarling / APRIL 28, 2020 Reprints

Asian Health Services





- Founded in 1974 by students who saw language and cultural barriers to health care in Oakland Chinatown
- Federally qualified community health center with two pillars of **service** and **advocacy**
- Provides primary care, dental, behavioral health care to nearly 50,000 patients AND advocacy
- Cultural competency: 14 Asian languages, bicultural staff from communities we serve: *Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Cambodian*, *Mien, Hmong, Lao, Mongolian, Tagalog, Burmese, Karen, Karenni, and Thai*
- Built in accountability: 51% patient/ consumer board and patient leadership councils

ASIAN HEALTH SERVICES

Patient General Meetings

with Simultaneous Interpretation in 12 languages (like United Nations)

"Our measure of success is not only in how many patients we see, but also in how many are empowered to assert their right to health care." -Sherry Hirota, CEO

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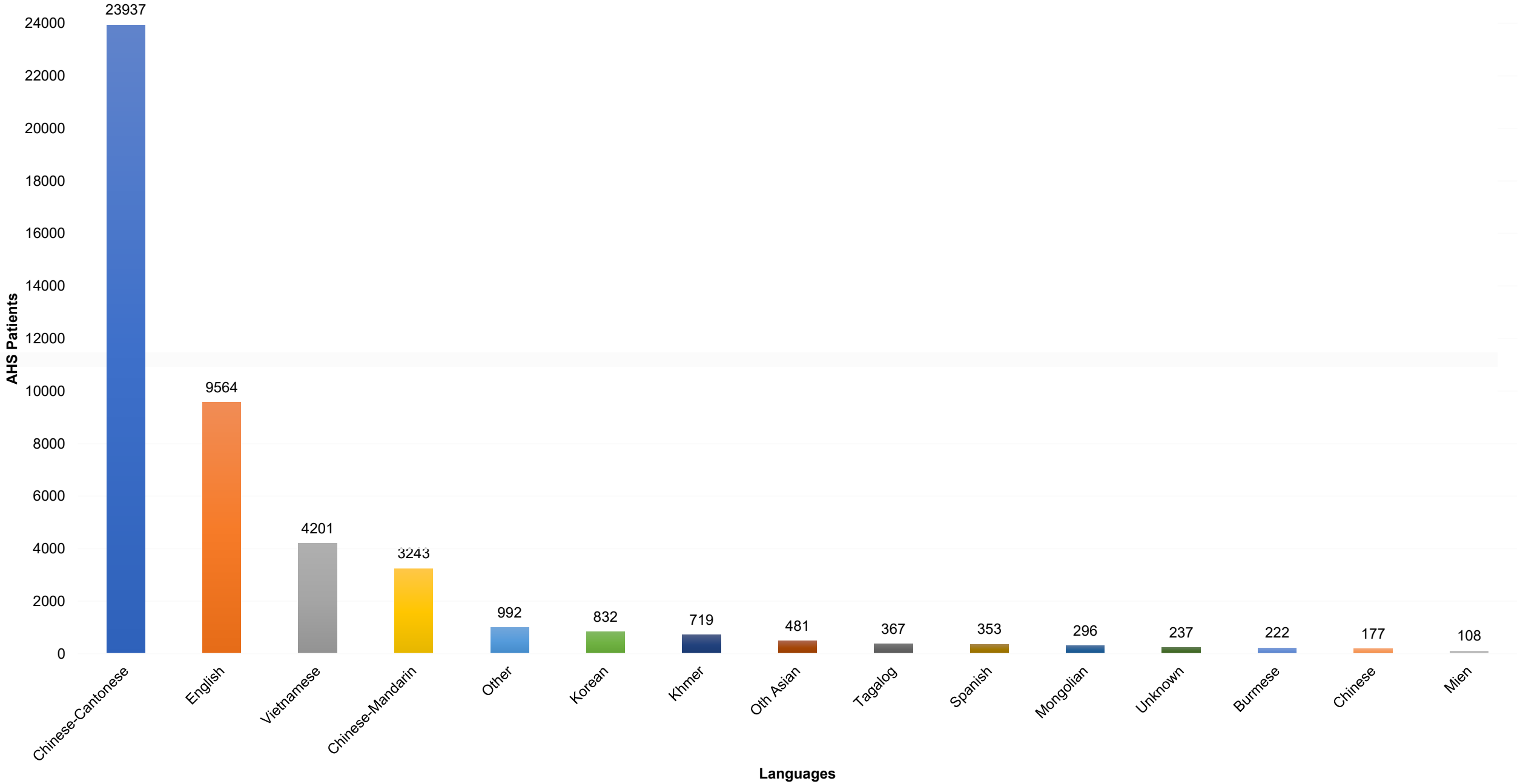
AHS Patients by Language
Top 15



Leadership Action for Healthy Community Approach

City Planning Process

Multi-Sector Collaboration

- Partnered with City to conduct workshops in language about urban planning, development, specific plans
- Community needs assessment with over 1100 community members
- Patients trained on conducting surveys and worked with researchers (traffic, env, etc.), commissioned reports
- Worked in collaboration with schools, churches, recreation and art centers, urban planners, researchers, etc.

Elevating Community Voices

Mobilizing Against Harmful Public Charge Rule Change

- **Public Charge** rule change penalizing immigrants for using basic services
- Mobilizing and leveraging the Asian American and Pacific Islander voice through formation of **One Nation AAPI Coalition**
- Over 100 national, state-based and local organizations under banner of #OneNation (www.onenationaapi.com)

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Public Charge Rule Change 2019

Public Comments = Public Voice

Total 267,000 submitted comments!!!

unite

#ONENATION

23,000 (1 in 11 comments) from One Nation partners

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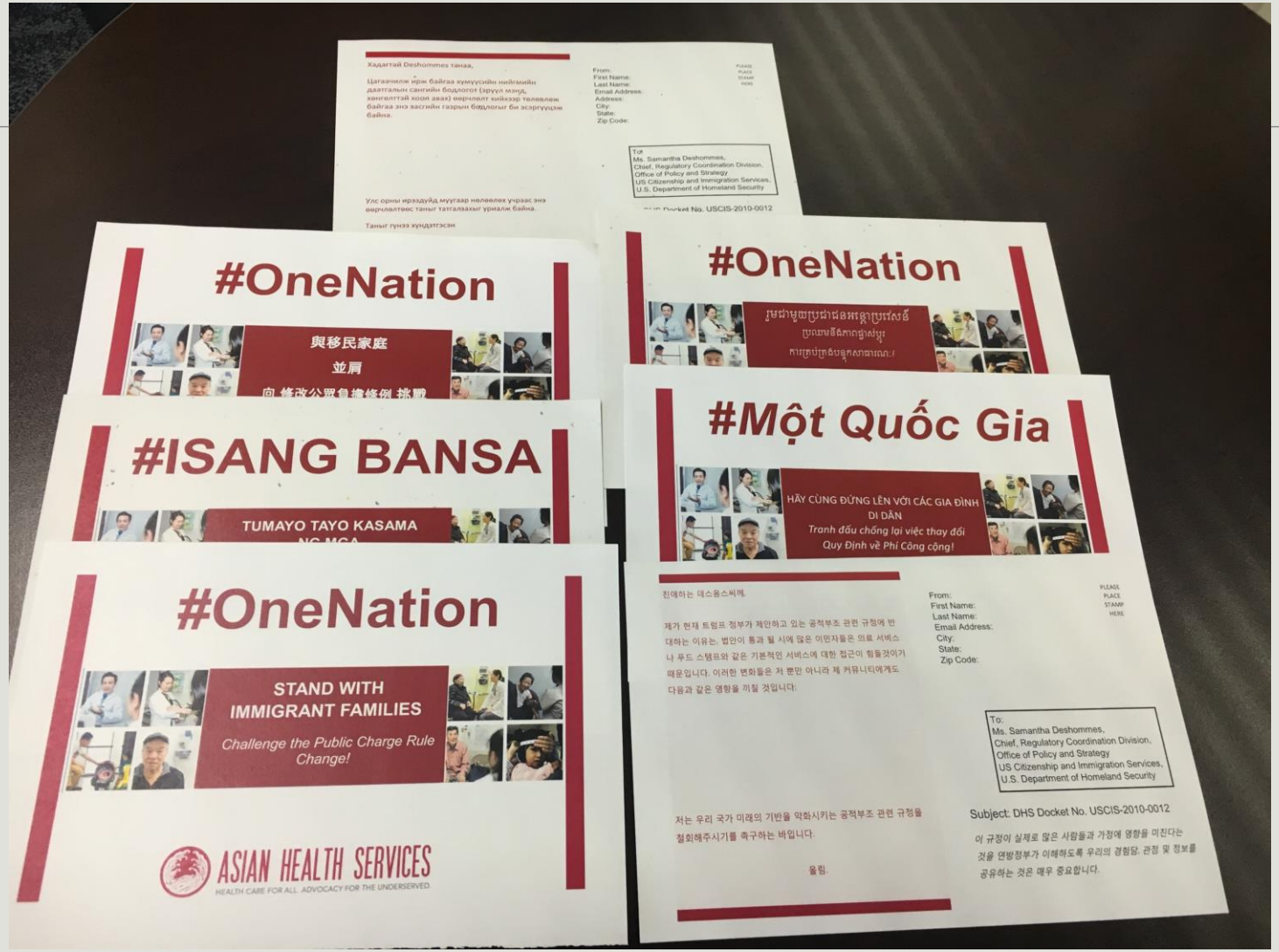
Postcards in Different Asian Languages



Addressing language barriers and digital divide

Recommendation #1 for Engaging Diverse Asian American Populations

- Invest in **community health centers** and **community-based organizations** who have deep roots, established trust, and in-depth understanding of diverse Asian American communities
  - Cultural and linguistic competency
  - Trusted source as messengers
  - Role of outreach, education, and engagement
  - Convene townhall meetings with stakeholders

Recommendation #2 for Engaging Diverse Asian American Populations

- **Engage with ethnic media and social media platforms specific to the diversity of Asian American communities**
  - Traditional TV
  - Radio
  - Print ethnic media
  - WeChat
  - YouTube