

Western Occupational & Environmental Medical Association

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WOEMA Honors Asian American, Native American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month

This month, WOEMA celebrates Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month and the diverse contributions of these communities to all fields and, especially, medicine and public health. The Asian American community is diverse, dynamic, and growing, encompassing a wide range of experiences from Native Hawaiians, to 1800s pioneers from East Asia and the Philippines, to immigrants from South and Southeast Asia.

As health care providers and practitioners, it is important that we also recognize social trends and health disparities that impact the well-being of the AAPI community—and work to offer culturally competent care. An estimated 24 million Asian Americans and 1.6 million Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders currently live in the U.S. The Asian American community is the fastest growing demographic group in the country, increasing by more than 35% over the last decade. Meanwhile, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are the third fastest growing population.

Unfortunately, anti-Asian violence increased sharply during the pandemic. Recognizing that AAPIs seek mental health care at the [lowest rate of any racial or ethnic group](#), these trends have a significant [impact on the AAPI community](#) and inform relevant research and care.

To learn more about offering culturally competent care to the AAPI community, please visit:

- [Mental Health Recommendations for Treating AAPI Community Members](#)
- [Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum](#)
- [Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease in South Asians in the United States: Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Treatments: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association](#)
- [31 Stories for 31 Days of AAPI Heritage Month](#)

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