

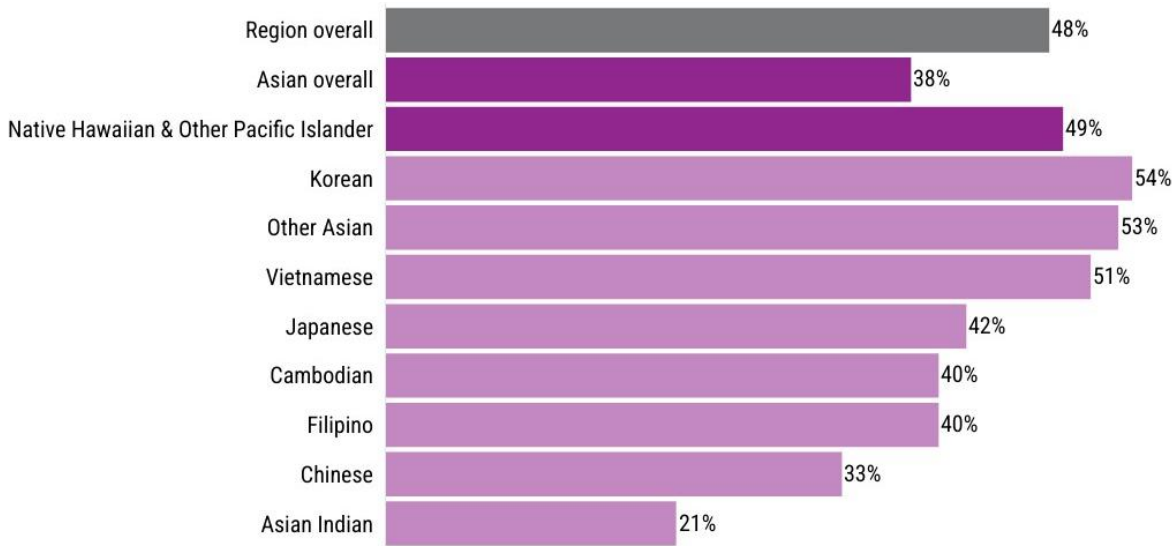
## The Housing Landscape for Asian American and Pacific Islander Populations

Securing affordable rental housing or purchasing a home continues to be a struggle for many in the region. For Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) heritage month, this Trend explores the diverse housing experiences and challenges of different [AAPI populations in King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties](#).

### Renter cost burden and homeownership rates vary widely across AAPI groups

While Asians as a whole have a relatively low poverty rate and the highest median income across all racial groups, there is considerable variation based on ethnicity, country of origin, and length of time in the U.S. Lower-income Asian groups—including refugees and immigrants without skills-based visas—are likely to experience housing barriers at levels similar to other less advantaged communities of color.

#### AAPI Renters Who Are Cost-Burdened



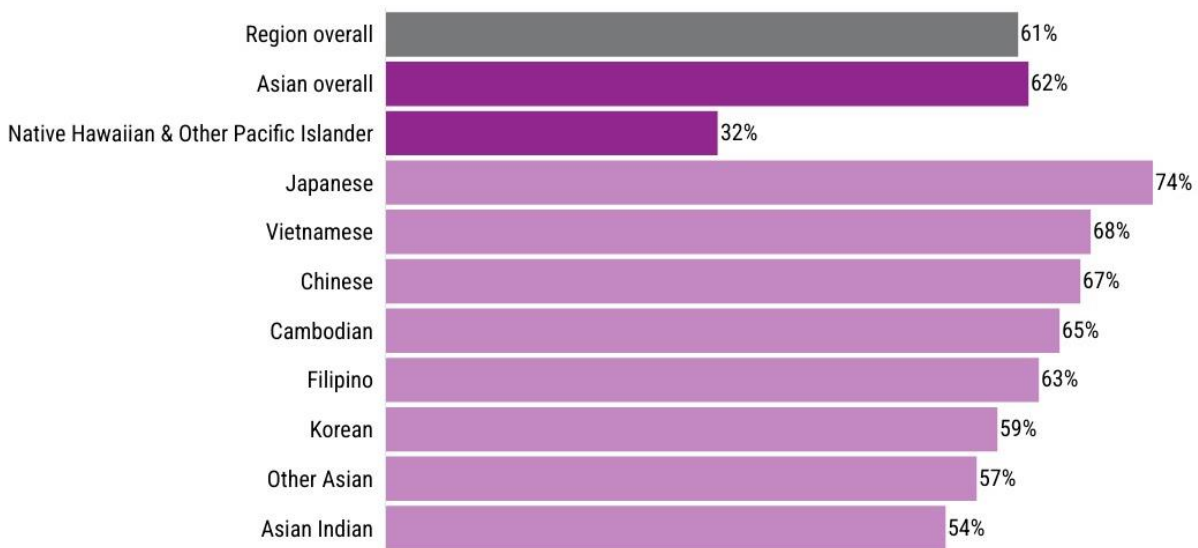
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample

Note: Renters are cost-burdened if they spend 30% or more of their monthly income on rent, leaving less income to cover other basic needs such as food, transportation, medical care and unexpected expenses.

Cost burden is a leading indicator of housing instability. While cost burden for Asian renter households (38%) is notably less than the regional average (48%), the rate varies considerably by AAPI group. Asian Indian and Chinese renters have the lowest rates of cost burden at 21% and 33%, respectively. Conversely, half or more Vietnamese (51%) and Korean (54%) renters are cost-burdened, as are about half of Pacific Islander renters (49%).

We find similar variations in homeownership rates across AAPI populations, ranging from 32% for Pacific Islanders to 74% for Japanese households. This can perpetuate disparities in the ability to build equity and intergenerational wealth.

### AAPI Homeownership Rates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2022 5-Year Public Use Microdata Sample

In addition to income, age can influence homeownership levels, with older residents owning homes at higher rates than their younger counterparts. Visa status and [disparities in access to mortgage financing](#) based on race and income may also serve as contributing factors.

[VISION 2050](#) and the [Regional Housing Strategy](#) call for increasing housing access and affordability for all. Understanding the unique housing needs and challenges faced by our diverse communities is an essential step to developing effective regional and local strategies to meet our housing goals.