

Health Data Needs for the Elimination of Health Disparities for Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Populations

Testimony to the
Subcommittee on Populations
National Committee on Vital
& Health Statistics (NCVHS)

Submitted by the
Asian & Pacific Islander
American Health Forum

November 13, 2003

Overview

- Who we are
- Who we represent
- Findings
- Recommendations

APIAHF = "Health Forum"

*National Advocates
for Asian & Pacific
Islander Health*



APIAHF = "Health Forum"

The mission of the Health Forum is to enable Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders attain the highest possible level of health and well being.

APIAHF Program Areas

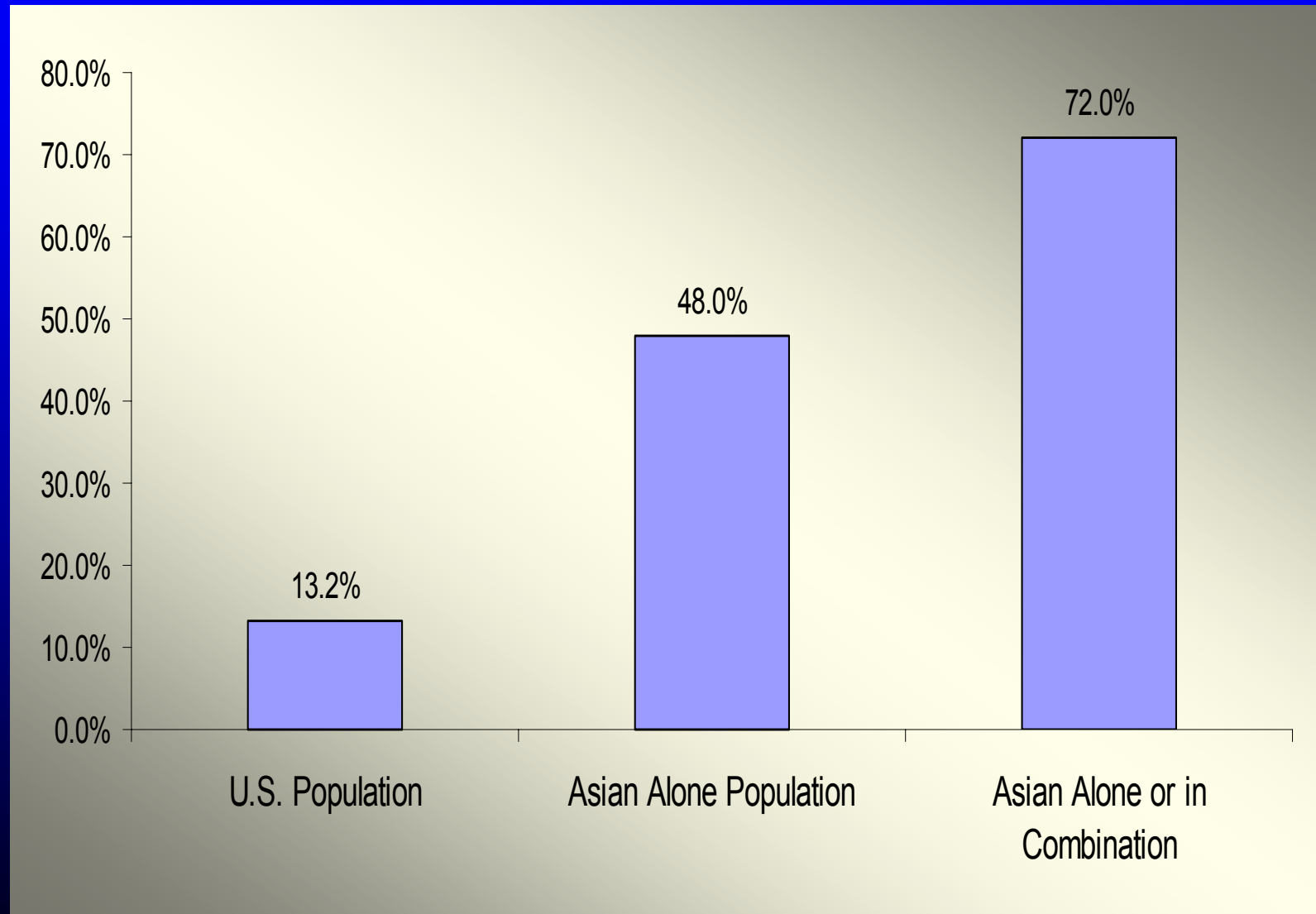
- Cancer Survivors Network
- Capacity Building for HIV/AIDS Prevention
- Census Information Center
- Health Information Network
- Institute on Domestic Violence
- Tobacco Education Network

APIAHF Policy Platforms

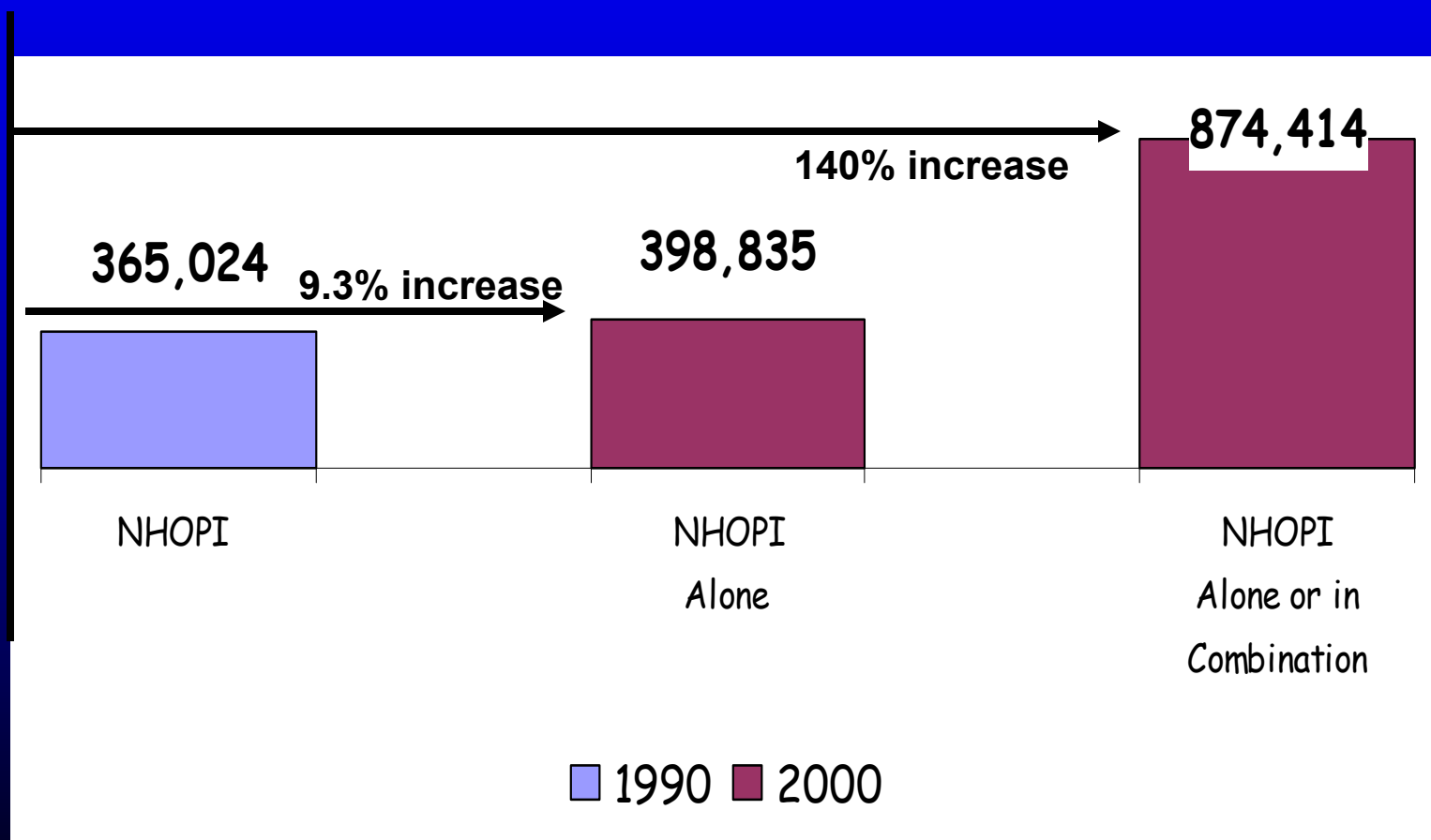
- Increase access to healthcare
- Improve quality of healthcare
- Ensure a diverse and competent healthcare workforce
- **Increase research and improve data collection**
- Increase community-based health promotion/disease prevention programs

Who we represent

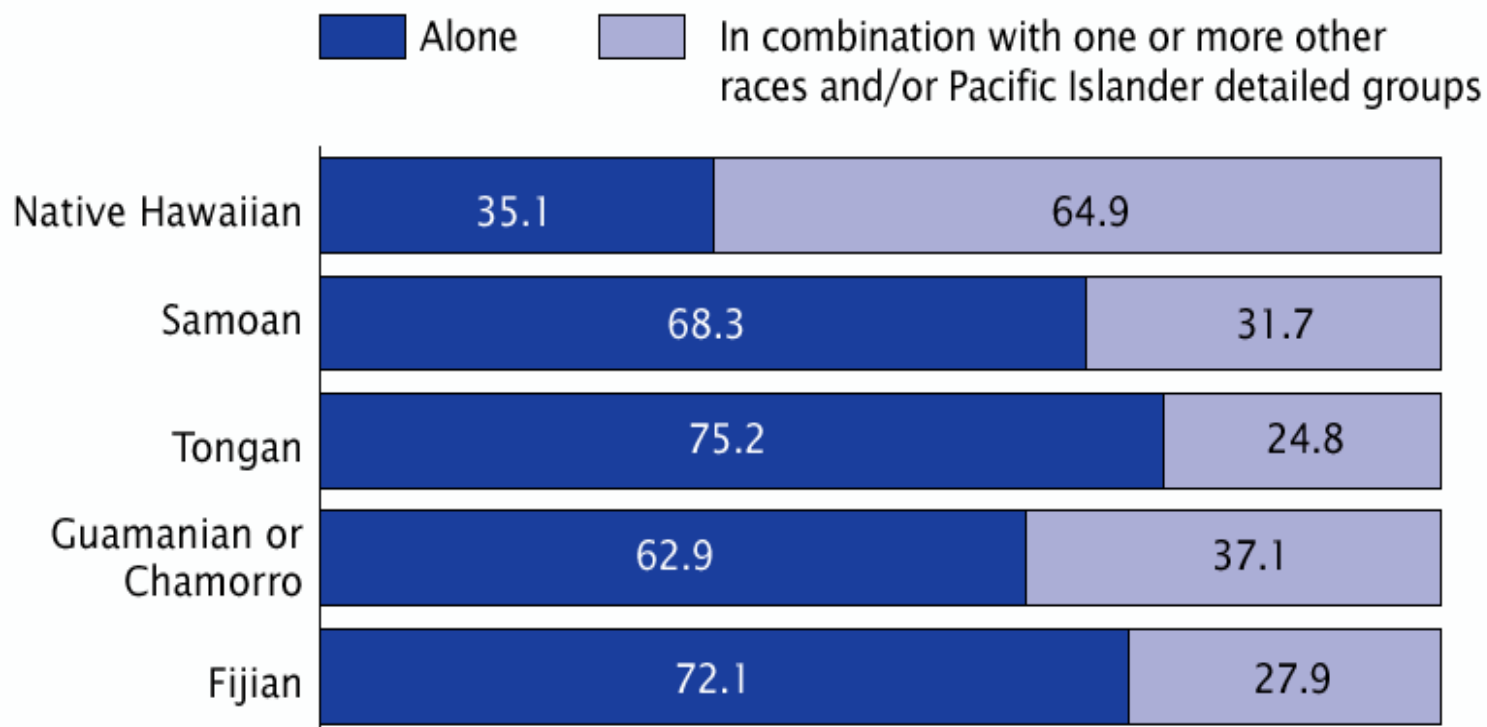
Asian Population: 1990-2000



Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 1990-2000



Percent Distribution of Selected Detailed Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Groups by Alone or In Combination Populations: 2000



Findings

- Implementation of 1997 OMB Standards
- Healthy People 2010

Implementation of OMB Standards

A recent GAO report found:

- HHS implemented the revised standards for 85 percent (149) of 175 forms.
- 128/175 used multiple race reporting

Healthy People 2010

When there is no Asian or Pacific Islander data, specify whether

- Asian or Pacific Islander data has not been collected at all (**DNC**)
- Asian or Pacific Islander data has been collected but has not yet been analyzed (**DNA**)
- Asian or Pacific Islander data has been analyzed but is not reported due to small sample size (**DSU**)

Healthy People 2010

Of 22 objectives:

- Only 3 currently comply with OMB
- 6 only have aggregated A&PI data
- 5 have both aggregated data and data for Asians but not for NHOPI
- 8 do not even have statistically reliable aggregated A&PI data

Consequence

The under-representation of AAPI and inadequate sample sizes in many national, state and local surveys render many databases useless for examining demographic and policy-related trends affecting AAPI.

Consequence

Previous attempts to create a health clinic failed when API population numbers were linked together as one group. The larger Asian population numbers rendered the actual PI statistics insignificant, therefore indicating PI as not having a health problem and not needing a health clinic.

--- Clinton Helenihi,
Pacific American Foundation
San Diego CA

Recommendations

- Collect more disaggregated data
 - Follow the Census's example in order to collect enough data--not only for the minimum five-- but for subgroups as well.

Reproduction of the Question on Race From Census 2000

6. What is this person's race? Mark *one or more races* to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

White

Black, African Am., or Negro

American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↘

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Asian Indian

Japanese

Native Hawaiian

Chinese

Korean

Guamanian or Chamorro

Filipino

Vietnamese

Samoan

Other Asian — *Print race.* ↘

Other Pacific Islander — *Print race.* ↘

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Some other race — *Print race.* ↘

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Recommendations

- Convene experts to determine solutions to the methodological problems posed by small populations
 - What are the valid and reliable methods for characterizing the health of small populations?

Recommendations

- Conduct more small targeted surveys that would assess populations of which we don't normally have in any sizeable numbers in the large national surveys.
- Analyze existing data as indicated in Health People 2010

Recommendations

- Collect primary language data more routinely.
- Conduct surveys in languages besides Spanish on a regular basis.
- Disseminate validated translations of survey questions and instruments

Recommendations

- Increase the capacity for ANHOPI researchers and organizations to conduct health disparities research.
- Ensure that ANHOPI are included in programs that target under-represented minorities, particularly at NIH.
- AAPI Serving Institutions (H.R. 333)

Recommendations

- Require the Social Security Administration to collect racial and ethnic data.
- Fund the American Community Survey

Recommendations

- Evaluate progress on previous recommendations
 - Health Data Needs of the Pacific Insular Areas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (NCVHS, 1999)

ncvhs.hhs.gov/9912islandreport.pdf