

About 400 women of Asian descent give birth each year in Washtenaw County.

## Why is it important to look at differences between Asian populations?

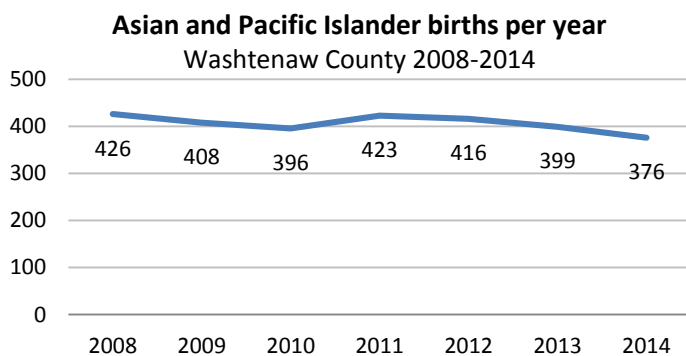
There are about 400 babies born to women of Asian descent in Washtenaw County each year. When reporting health outcomes, Asian populations are often combined together into one racial group. However, traditional cultural experiences and practices often lead to health differences among people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

Most pregnancies and births are healthy, but women can experience a variety of risks. Recent research indicates that the first 1000 days of a child's life (in utero to 2 years of age) can affect health and development throughout their entire life. It is critical to understand differences within a population in order to make every pregnancy, birth, and infant as healthy as possible.

Babies Born to Women in Each Racial or Ethnic Group Washtenaw County 2008-2013 total		
Racial or Ethnic Group	Average number of babies per year	Total number of babies
Asian Overall	394	2447
Asian Indian	98	623
Chinese	134	832
Filipina	13	75
Japanese	31	189
Korean	70	424
Vietnamese	11	64
Other Asian/Pacific Islander	39	240
White or Caucasian	2279	14333
Black or African American	601	3761
Hispanic or Latina (all races)	221	1377

## Key Findings:

- **The information in this data report** is from analysis of birth records of babies born to women of Asian descent between 2008 and 2013 in Washtenaw County.
- As a whole group, Asian women are **more likely to have commercial insurance** compared to other racial and ethnic groups.
- **Asian women have fewer babies at young ages:** Only 3% of Asian women had a baby when they were less than 25 years old, compared to 20% of Washtenaw County overall.
  - Filipina and Japanese women were more than twice as likely to have a baby after 35 years, compared to Washtenaw County overall.
- **Asian women have lower BMI before pregnancy:** Asian women are half as likely to be obese, and more likely to be underweight before pregnancy, compared to other racial and ethnic groups.



Data Source: MDHHS Vital Records

<sup>i</sup> **Definitions:** Low birth weight (LBW)-Less than 2500g (5.5 lbs) at birth; Singleton-being pregnant with one baby

<sup>ii</sup> Tables and charts developed from Washtenaw County Public Health analysis of de-identified singleton birth records from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Vital Records from the years 2008 to 2013.

# Socioeconomic disparities between different Asian subpopulations

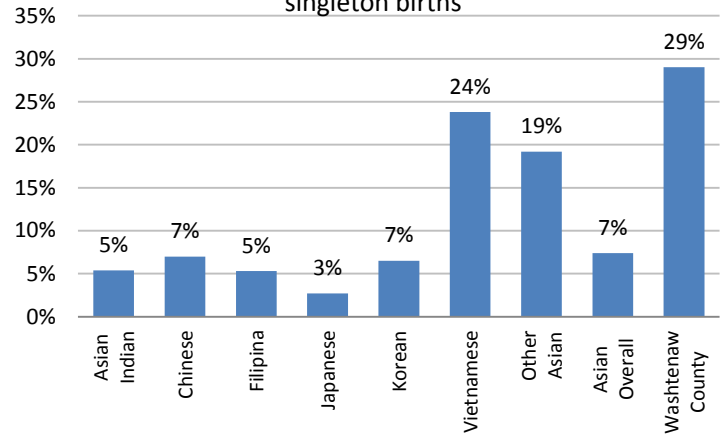
There are socioeconomic disparities between women in different Asian subpopulations. Chronic stress or unhealthy behaviors may put mothers at higher risk of health issues, both for themselves and their babies.

As a whole group, Asian women are more likely to have commercial health insurance compared to other women in racial and ethnic groups.

- This is true for Asian women in Washtenaw County overall, not just Asian women who have recently given birth (data source HIP 2015, not shown).
- Vietnamese women are more likely to have Medicaid rather than commercial health insurance coverage compared to other Asian subpopulations.
- Medicaid is used as a proxy for poverty.

## Rate of Women with Medicaid Coverage

Washtenaw County 2008-2013, Analysis of singleton births

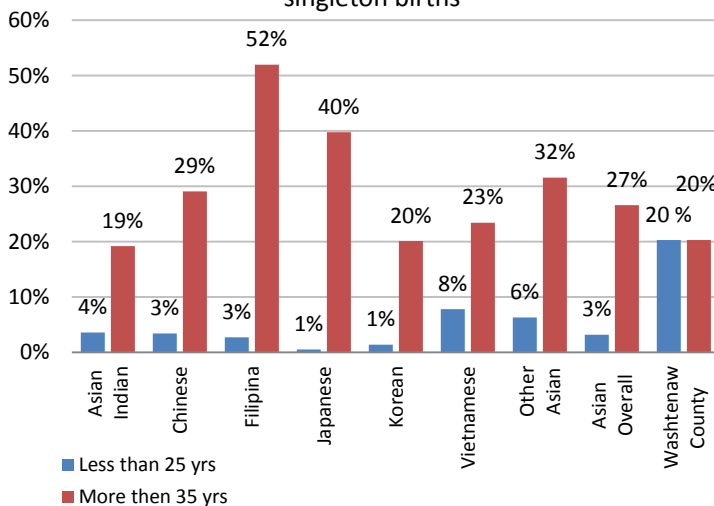


On average, Asian women have children at an older age and after achieving higher levels of education.

- Filipina and Japanese women are more likely to give birth after age 35 than other racial and ethnic groups and subgroups.
- Only 5% of Asian women overall have high school education or less when they have a baby. Compare this to 22% of women in Washtenaw County overall giving birth with high school education or less (not shown).
  - 31% of Vietnamese women who gave birth had a high school education or lower.

## Woman's Age at Birth of Her Child

Washtenaw County 2008-2013, Analysis of singleton births



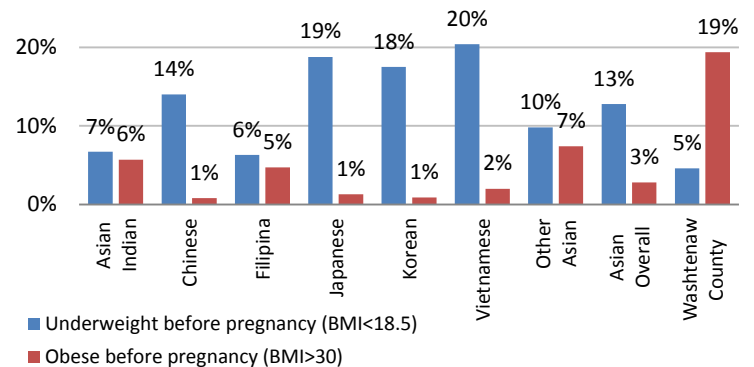
Asian women are less likely to be obese, and more likely to be underweight before pregnancy, compared to other racial and ethnic groups.

Asian women are also less likely to smoke. 1% of women of Asian descent reported that they smoked during pregnancy, compared to 13% of women in Washtenaw County overall (Vital Statistics 2008-2013)

- Data not shown – for more information, please visit the [Infant Mortality](#) page on ewashtenaw.org.

## Woman's Prepregnancy BMI

Washtenaw County 2008-2013, Analysis of singleton births



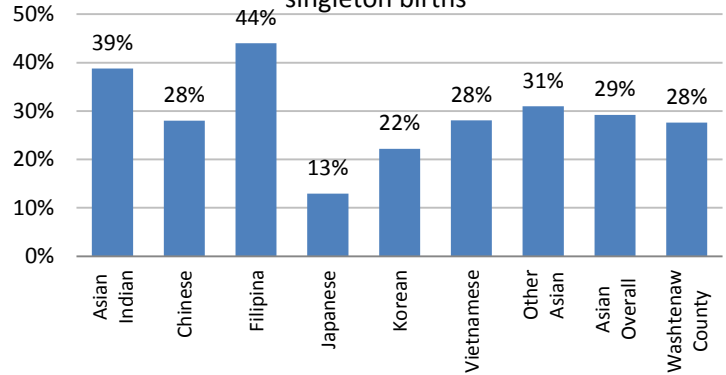
# Birth vary outcomes for women in different Asian subpopulations

Some Asian women are more likely to have a baby via cesarean or have a baby that was born with low birth weight<sup>1</sup>.

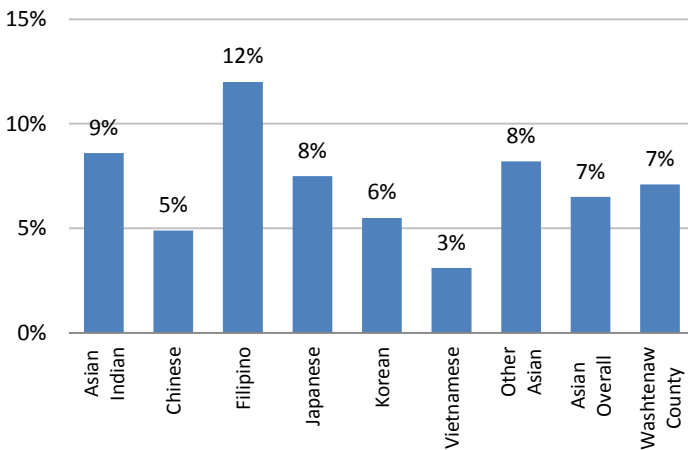
Nearly 1 in 3 Asian women give birth via cesarean. This is not different from Washtenaw County overall.

- Filipina and Asian Indian women have higher rates of giving birth via cesarean.
- Japanese women have the lowest rates of cesarean birth of any racial or ethnic group.

**Cesarean Delivery Rate by Mother's Race**  
Washtenaw Count 2008-2013, Analysis of singleton births



**Low Birth Weight Rate by Mother's Race**  
Washtenaw County 2008-2013, Analysis of singleton births



Asian women overall are slightly less likely to give birth to a low birth weight baby (born weighing less than 2500 g or 5.5 lbs) compared to women in Washtenaw County overall.

- Filipina women are more likely to have a baby with low birth weight, compared to Asian women and Washtenaw County overall.
- Chinese women are less likely to have a low birth weight baby. Vietnamese women are only half as likely to have a low birth weight baby, compared to Asian women and Washtenaw County overall.

## Other birth outcomes:

- Preterm birth (baby born before 37 weeks gestation): Japanese women have very low rates of preterm birth (2.7% compared to 7.1% in Wash Co overall, and 6.8% in Asian overall).
- Babies born to Filipina, Vietnamese and Asian Indian have higher levels of going to NICU after birth.
- Chronic infection with the Hepatitis B virus is more common in people of Asian descent, especially those born outside of the United States. Of women who gave birth between 2008 and 2013, and also had Hepatitis B at the time of birth, more than half of were Asian women.