



*A campaign to ensure that Asian Pacific Americans in New York City and New York State are accurately counted and represented*

### Why Data Disaggregation?

Asian Pacific Americans (APA) in New York State are incredibly diverse, with a wide variety of ethnicities, cultures, religions, and languages. They are by percentage the **fastest growing group in the country and New York State**, which is home to the second largest APA population of all states. There are currently 1.9 million residents of Asian descent ~ 9% of the NY State's population.

***Data disaggregation is integral to accurately addressing language, health, and social service needs for the growing and diverse New York State APA community***

The **APA community in New York State is almost 70% immigrant**. While APAs are often misrepresented as a homogeneous group, they are an extremely diverse group. Although Asian American communities in this state share geographical and cultural commonalities, they also experience **diverse social, educational, health, and economic differences that are unique to their respective communities**. Aggregated and inaccurate data *masks the diversity of experiences and the real challenges* many APA children and families face.

- Even though there is a persistent “Model Minority” myth for Asian Americans, the data even without the accuracy granted from disaggregation shows:
  - 15% of Asian Americans in New York are below the poverty line
  - 21% of Asian Americans in New York do not have a high school diploma
- Data on APAs is *suppressed* and categorized simply as “**Asian**” or “**Other**,” and **many APAs are grouped with “Whites”** for purposes of comparison with other communities of color.
- APAs are often **not mentioned** in State reports.

Collecting and using disaggregated data is an essential step toward identifying disparities and addressing inequality amongst the Asian American community. Without disaggregated data, policymakers and researchers have to rely on data in the aggregate as released by various state and local agencies. Said data is not consistent and varies in different jurisdictions. Neglecting to disaggregate data denies Southeast Asian American communities the resources and support they need to thrive. Without disaggregated data, APA groups are made unseen, and their needs are not considered in important policy and programmatic decisions. As a result, they are caught in the vicious cycle of invisibility, marginality, and persistent underrepresentation.

**Priority Asks:** Support the passage of **A677/S3662** to require the collection of certain demographic information by certain state agencies, boards and commissions as well as **S4937/A6729** to establish a health care disparities data collection system, which would allow CHCs as well as other non-profits understand the needs of their communities much more.