

Other Pacific Islander-alone population and the term “non-Hispanic White” is used to refer to the White-alone, not Hispanic population. Similarly, references to population groups such as Samoan refer to the single-race or “alone” segments of those populations.

The Pacific Islander population is not homogeneous; it includes many groups that differ in language and culture, and they primarily represent people of Polynesian, Micronesian, and Melanesian backgrounds. People who reported one or more Pacific Islander groups on the ACS question on race, such as Samoan or Tongan, are included as Pacific Islanders.

Polynesians numbered about 260,000 and include Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Tongans, and other Polynesian groups (Table 2). Micronesians numbered about 100,000 and include primarily Guamanians or Chamorros and other Micronesian groups such as Mariana Islanders, Marshall Islanders, and Palauans. Melanesians numbered about 23,000 and are predominantly Fijian and include other Melanesian groups such as Papua New Guineans.

Native Hawaiians were the largest Pacific Islander group, with a population of 155,000 or 38 percent of the Pacific Islander-alone population. Guamanians or Chamorros, with a population of 68,000, represented about 17 percent of the Pacific Islander-alone population. Samoans, with a population of 61,000, represented about 15 percent of the Pacific Islander-alone population.⁶ These three groups—Native Hawaiians, Guamanians or

⁶ There is no statistical difference between the percentages of Guamanians or Chamorros and Samoans in the total Pacific Islander-alone population.

Table 2.

Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Household Population by Detailed Group: 2004

(Data based on sample limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/exp_acs2004.html)

Detailed group	Population	Percent of Pacific Islander-alone population	Margin of error ¹ (±)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	403,832	100.0	(X)
Polynesian	256,406	63.5	5.12
Native Hawaiian	154,666	38.3	4.43
Samoan	60,520	15.0	3.14
Tongan	39,052	9.7	2.41
Other Polynesian	2,168	0.5	0.41
Micronesian	101,335	25.1	4.10
Guamanian or Chomorro	68,336	16.9	3.49
Other Micronesian	32,999	8.2	2.49
Melanesian	22,912	5.7	2.11
Fijian	22,840	5.7	2.10
Other Melanesian	72	—	0.03
Other Pacific Islander	23,179	5.7	1.43

(X) Not applicable.
— Rounds to 0.0.

¹ This number, when added to and subtracted from the estimate, produces the 90-percent confidence interval around the estimate.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Detailed Tables, B02007.

Chamorros, and Samoans—accounted for about 70 percent of the Pacific Islander population. In the future, as the ACS goes to full implementation and multiple-year estimates are produced, more information about additional groups may be available.

HIGHLIGHTS

The majority of Pacific Islanders resided in two states in 2004—Hawaii and California. Most of the Pacific Islander-alone population lived in California (about 30 percent), with about another 26 percent in Hawaii. In comparison, Pacific Islanders who reported one or more races were most likely to live in Hawaii (about 37 percent), followed by California (about 23 percent).

Compared with the non-Hispanic White population, the Pacific

Islander population had a larger proportion of younger people and a smaller proportion of older people. Pacific Islanders were more likely never to have married than non-Hispanic Whites, and a larger proportion of their households were family households. Compared with non-Hispanic White women, Pacific Islander women were more likely to have given birth in the past 12 months.⁷

Most Pacific Islanders were high school graduates and about 1 of every 7 had a bachelor's degree or more education. Compared with non-Hispanic White workers, Pacific Islanders were less likely to be

⁷ The summary statistics mentioned in these highlights often refer to different segments of the Pacific Islander-alone population. For example, birth rates are estimated for women 15 to 50 years old, and educational attainment refers to the population aged 25 and older. The figures in the report contain information on the universe for each statistic.