

Asian American and Pacific Islander Health in Alameda County

February 26, 2024 | Alameda County BOS Health Committee
Special Series on Community Health

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Framework for Health Committee Special Series



- Identify trends and shifts in demographics and health needs for Alameda County residents
- Focused discussion on needs by race/ethnicity, gender, disabilities, age
- Highlight innovation and partnerships with community-based organization



Today's Focus: Asian American and Pacific Islander Health

- **Data trends**

- Life expectancy for Pacific Islander people was 11 years lower than for the general population of Alameda County in 2020-2021.
- Life expectancy for Asian people was 4.9 years higher than for the general population of Alameda County in 2020-2021.
- Very large disparities affect Pacific Islander residents, who are dying at younger ages of preventable conditions.
- Societal factors such as poverty, housing, and barriers to accessing health care and social service disproportionately affect Pacific Islanders and some Asian sub-groups
- Data disaggregation is needed to better understand health of Asian sub-groups.

- **Community strengths and what is working**

- Examples of HCSA's efforts to improve Asian American and Pacific Islander health
- Spotlights on innovation and partnerships with community-based organizations

- *Key takeaway: improving Asian American and Pacific Islander health warrants a focus on structural, policy and institutional drivers of health alongside deep partnerships with community*

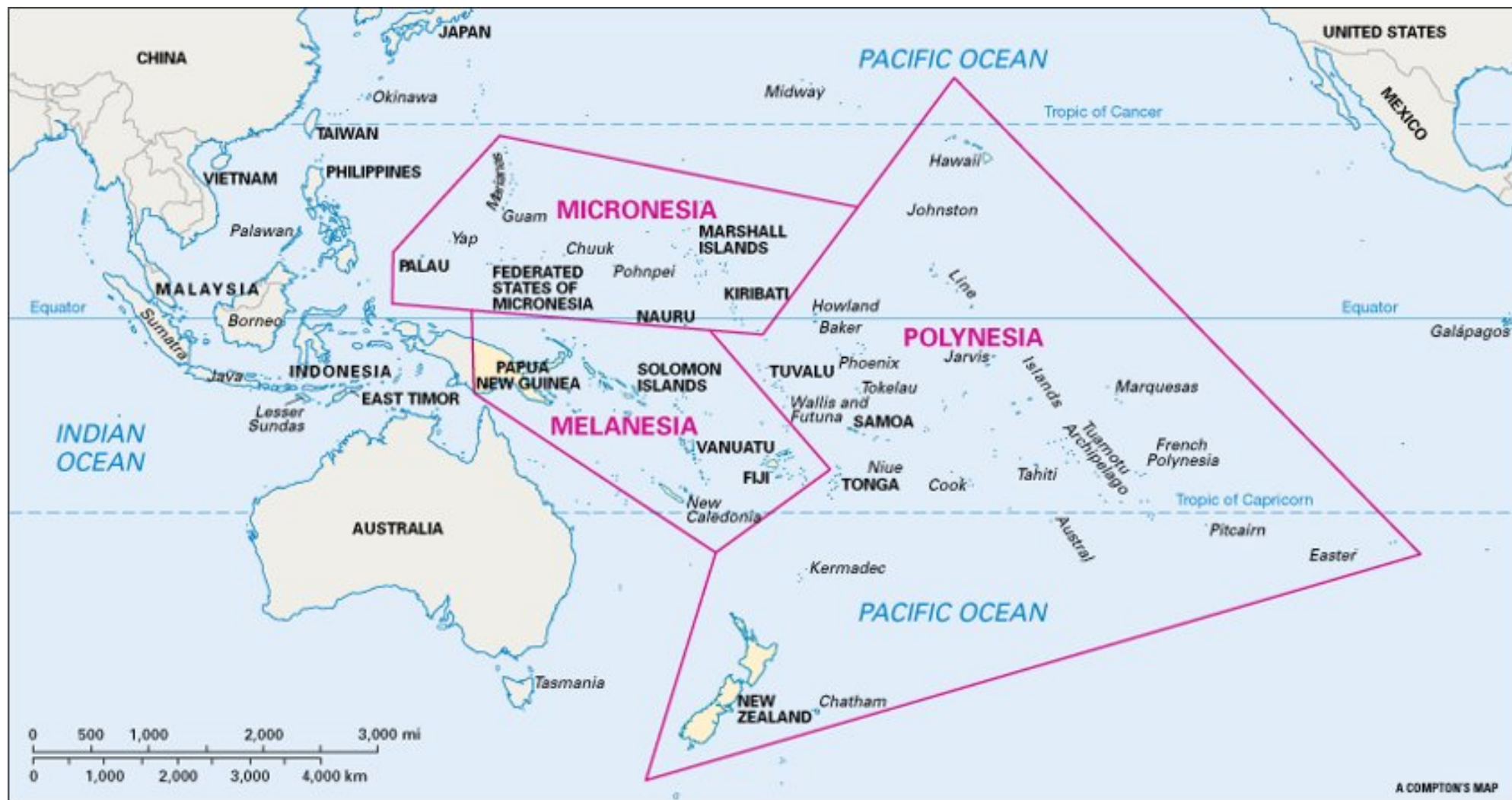


Historical & Demographic Overview

Key milestones and events shaping Asian American and Pacific Islander presence in Alameda County







HIP! HURRAH!

CHINESE EXCLUDED

—The—

Democratic Chinese Exclusion Bill

Has Been Signed by

OUR DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENT

Hip! Hurrah! The White Man is on Top.
Let every DEMOCRAT and all other GOOD Citizens turn out and Ratify this

DEMOCRATIC MEASURE

1941-1946

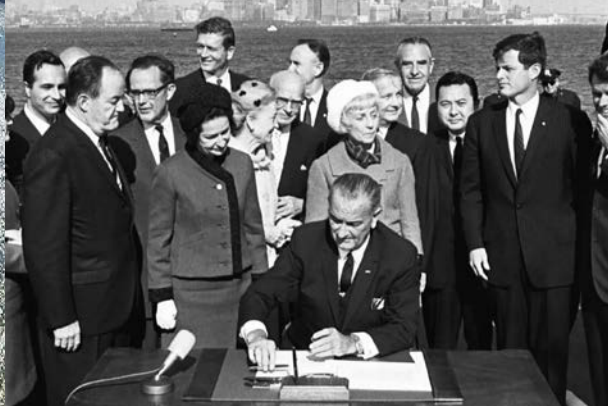
Japanese Internment



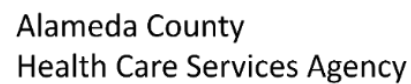
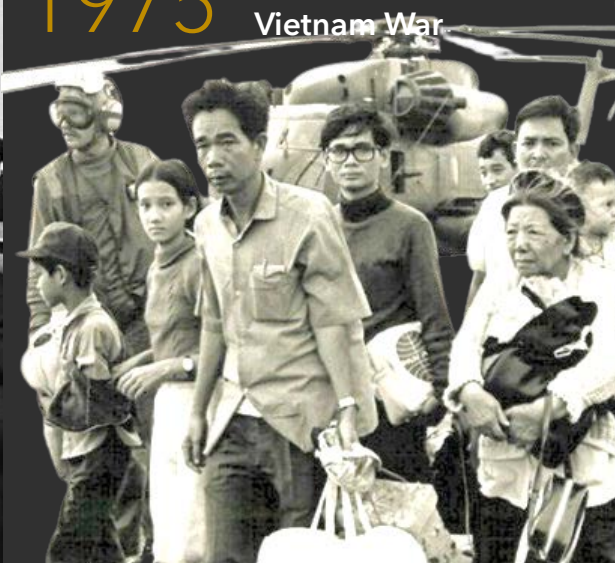
1950s US military base closures in the Pacific

An aerial photograph of a large naval base, likely in Japan, during the 1950s. A large aircraft carrier, marked with the number '59' on its bow, is docked at a long pier. The base is filled with numerous industrial buildings, hangars, and other ships. The water is dark blue, and the sky is clear. The text '1950s US military base closures in the Pacific' is overlaid on the top left of the image.

1965 Immigration Act of 1965



1975 US defeat in the Vietnam War



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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Asian American and Pacific Islander people have faced structural barriers that were created by discriminatory practices and policies throughout the 19th and 20th century.



Racial Bias and Stereotypes

Have portrayed Asian American and Pacific Islander people as perpetual foreigners (not fully American) and a threat, leading to targeted discrimination, scapegoating, and violence. Stereotypes have also portrayed Asian American and Pacific Islander people as model minorities dismiss challenges these communities face. These racial biases ultimately shaped discriminatory policies and practices.



Language Access

Asian American and Pacific Islander people with Limited English Proficiency face barriers when navigating and accessing health insurance, medical providers, and other public services that were designed for English speakers only.



Employment

Sectors of Asian American and Pacific Islander workers, especially people with limited English proficiency, are exposed to occupational hazards and vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination in the workplace.



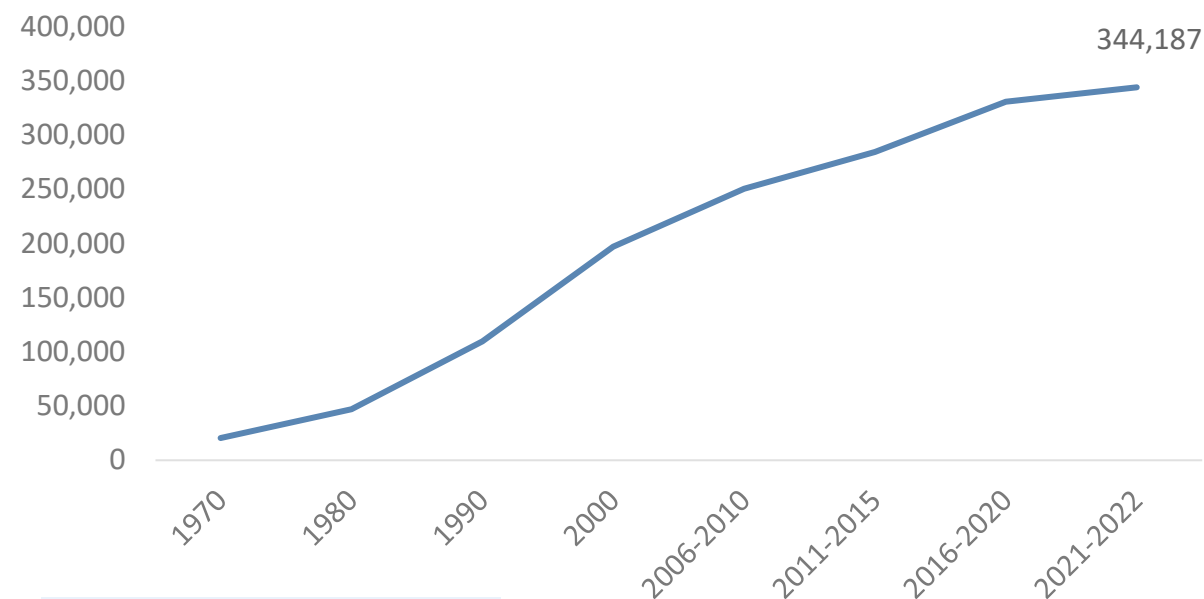
Housing

Redlining and restrictive covenants limited the housing options for Asian American and Pacific Islander people to historically segregated neighborhoods, as well as limited the opportunities to build wealth. High cost of housing continues to be a challenge for low-income Asian American and Pacific Islander people leading to issues like overcrowding.



Changes in Asian and Pacific Islander Immigrant Populations in Alameda County

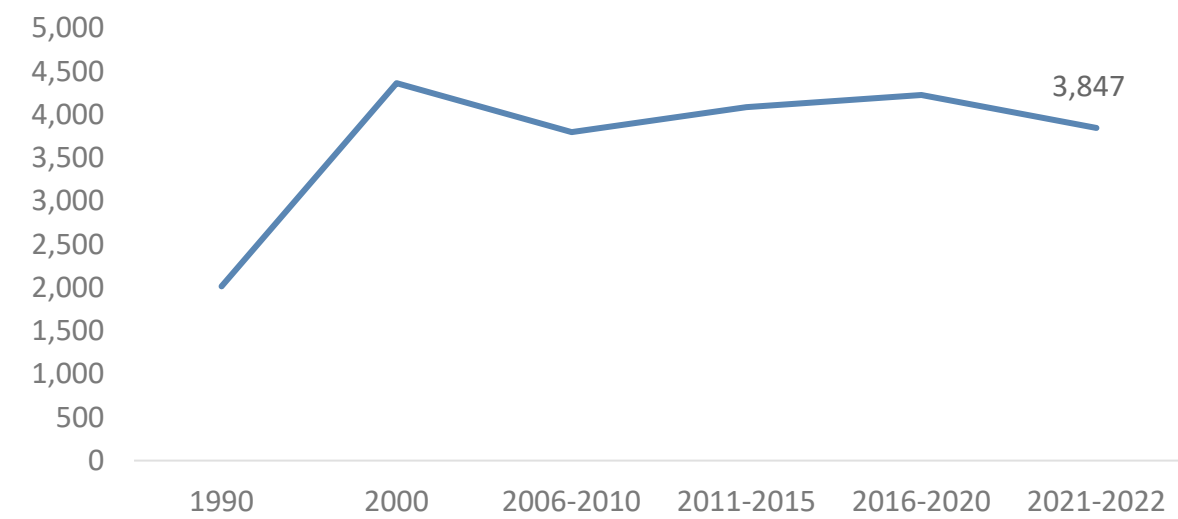
Asian Immigrants



32.7% of Alameda County residents identify as Asian (alone)

64% of them are immigrants

Pacific Islander Immigrants

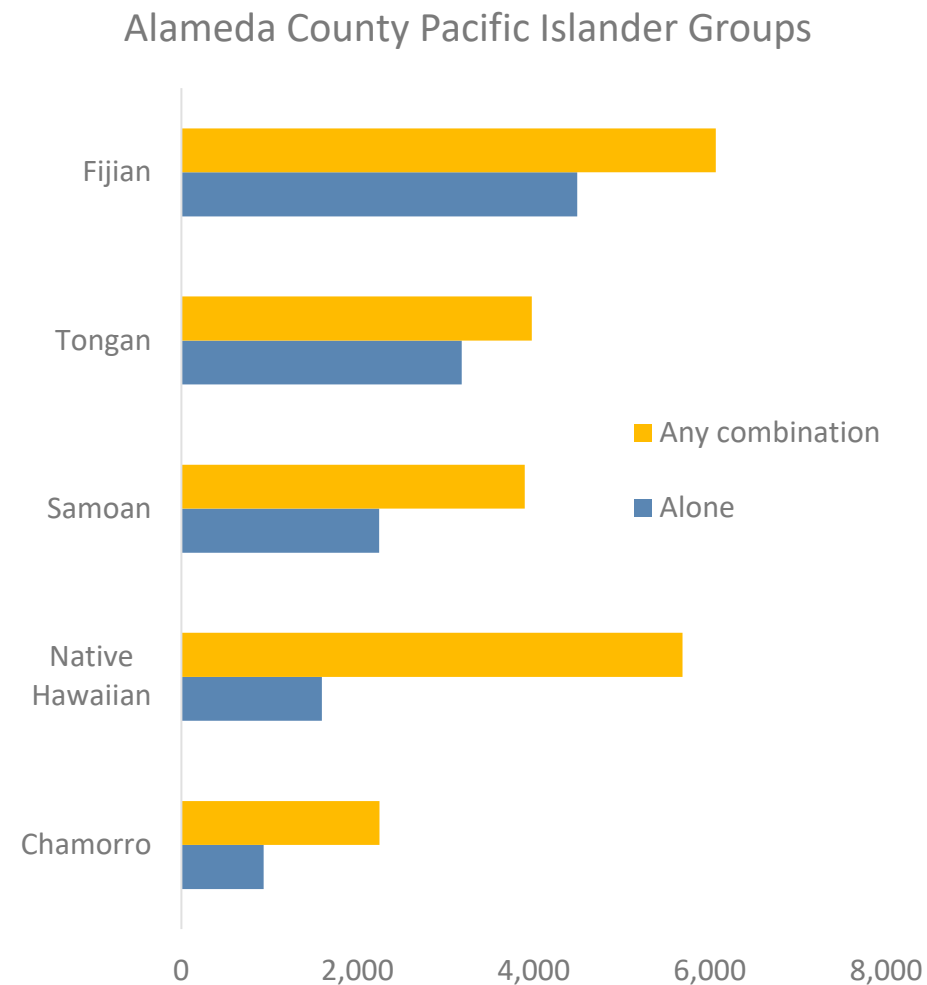
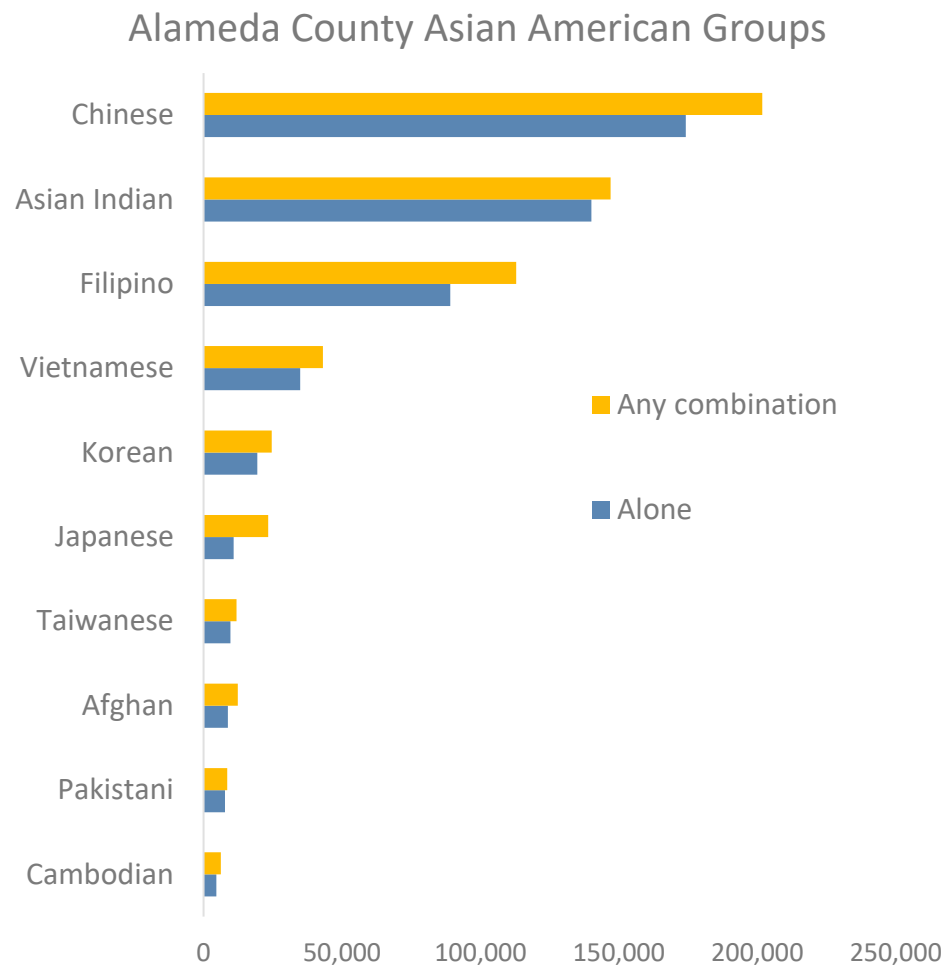


0.7% of Alameda County residents identify as Pacific Islander (alone)

35% of them are immigrants

Source: American Community Survey and decennial census PUMS data.
Note: For Asian for 1970 and 1980, this is likely an undercount due to the Census Bureau practice of combining Asian and Pacific Islander. For the same reason, Pacific Islander data is not available for 1970 or 1980.

The Diverse Asian and Pacific Islander Populations in Alameda County



Source: Census Bureau, 2020 decennial census.

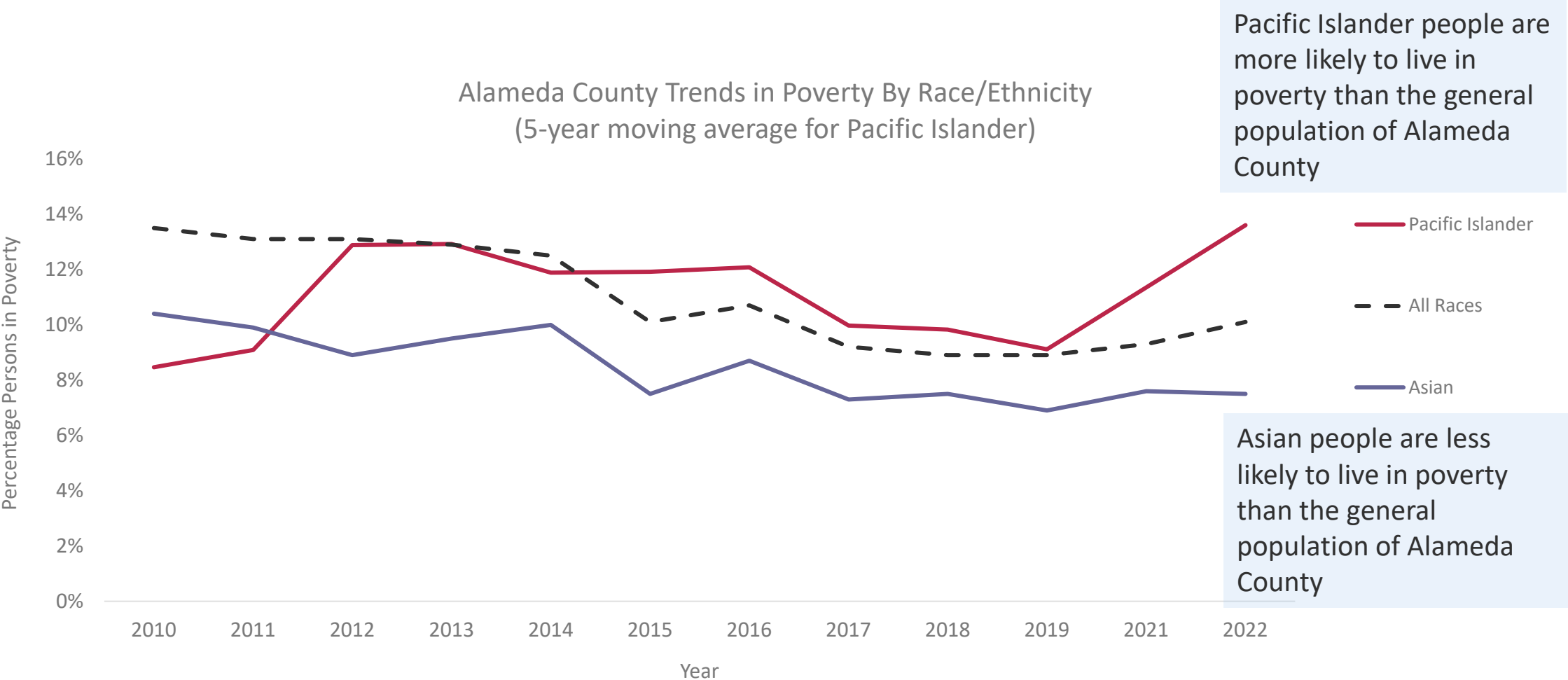


Social Determinants of Health

Poverty, Housing, Access to Services



Disparities in poverty



Source: American Community Survey.

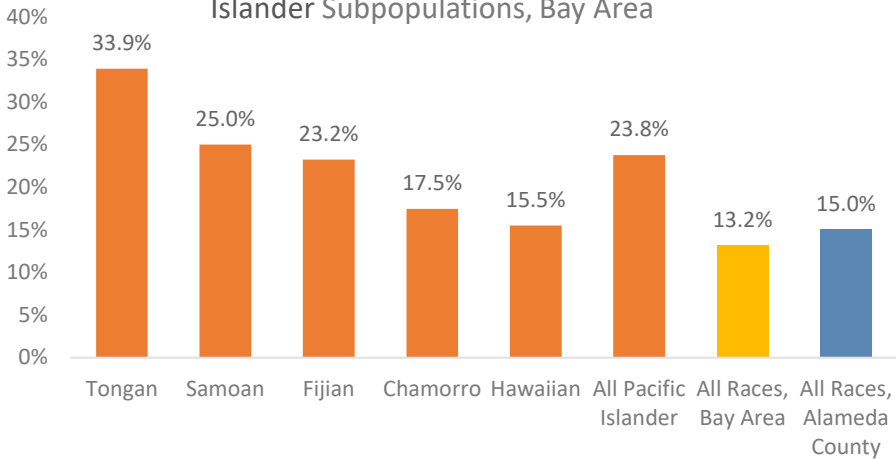
Note: Single-year data is not available for 2020 due to the pandemic.



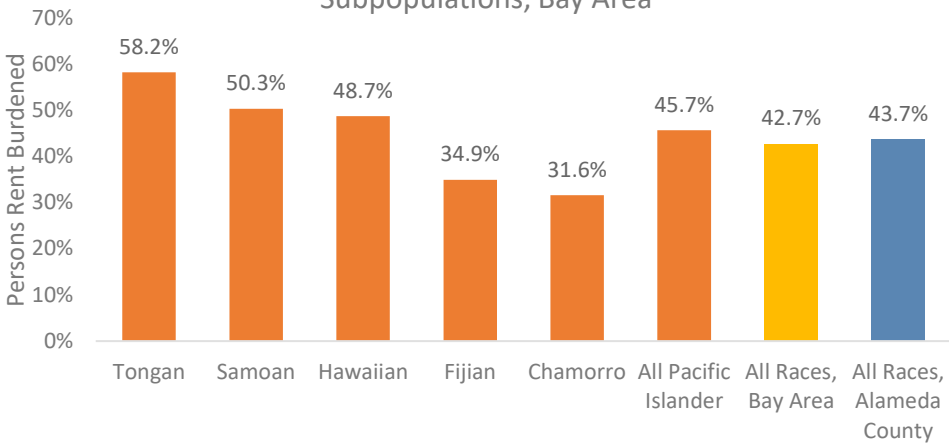
Disparities in Overcrowded Housing & Rent Burden

Persons in Overcrowded Households

Overcrowded Housing for Pacific Islanders and Pacific Islander Subpopulations, Bay Area



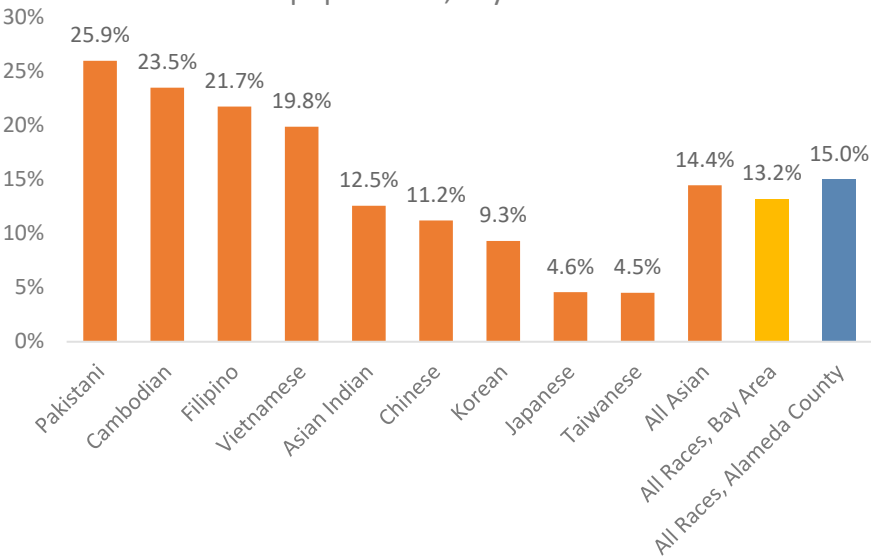
Rent Burden for Pacific Islanders and Pacific Islander Subpopulations, Bay Area



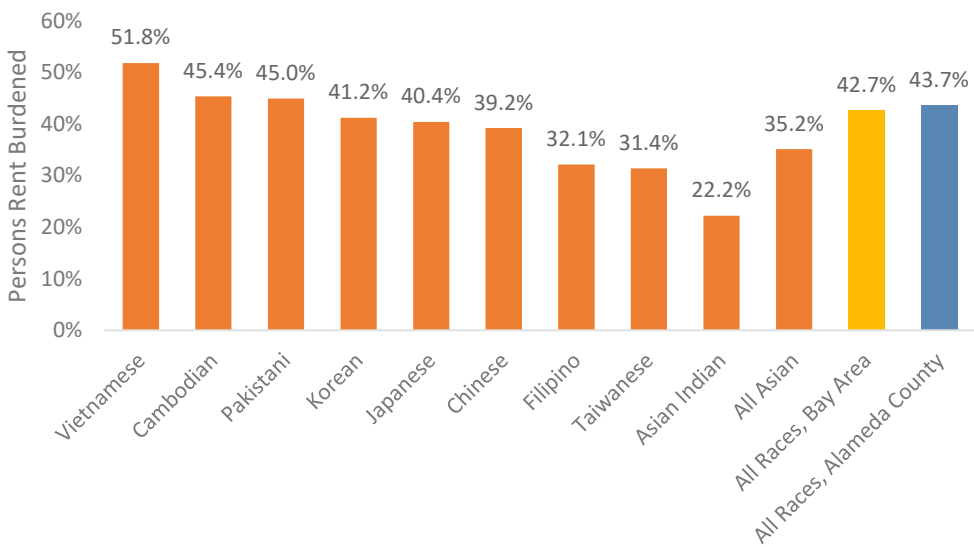
Pacific Islander people are more likely to live in overcrowded housing and to have high rent burden than the general population of the Bay Area

Persons in Overcrowded Households

Overcrowded Housing for Asians and Asian Subpopulations, Bay Area



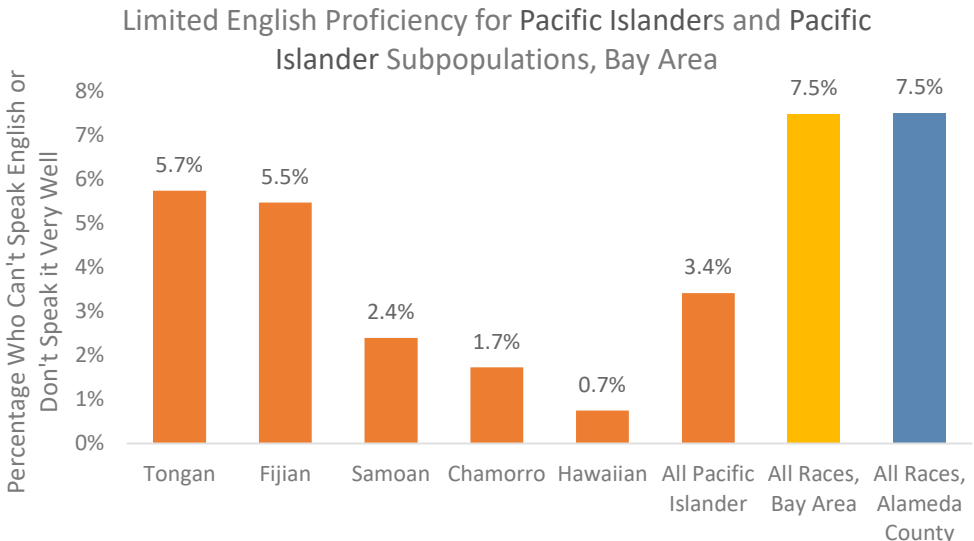
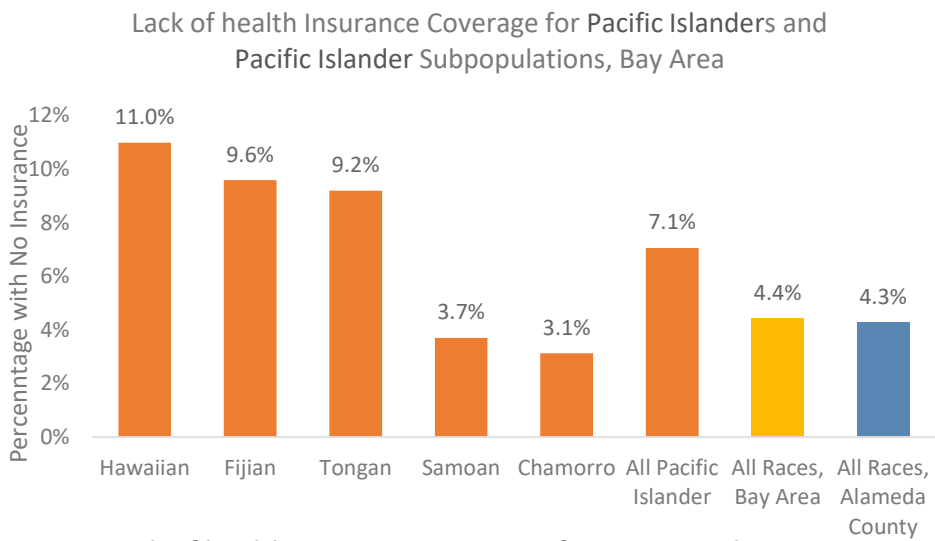
Rent Burden for Asians and Asian Subpopulations, Bay Area



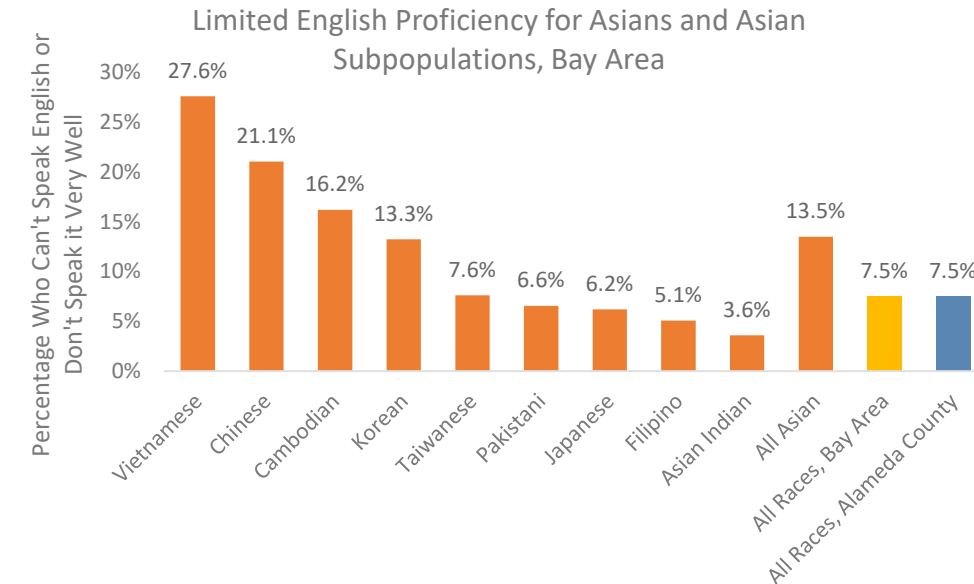
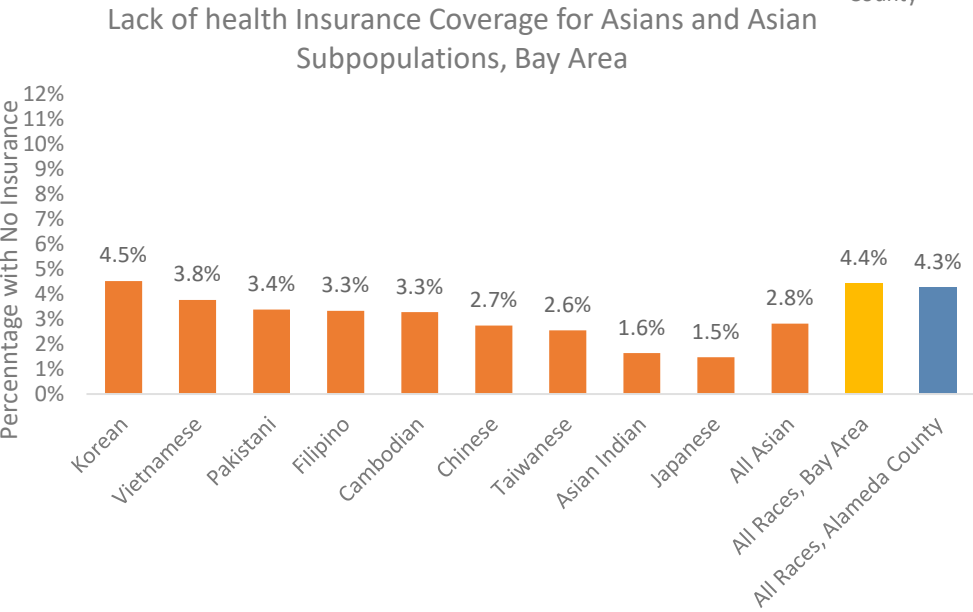
Asian people are less likely to live in overcrowded housing and to have high rent burden than the general population of the Bay Area



Disparities in health insurance coverage & Limited English Proficiency



Pacific Islander people are more likely to lack health insurance and less likely to have limited English proficiency relative to general population in the Bay Area

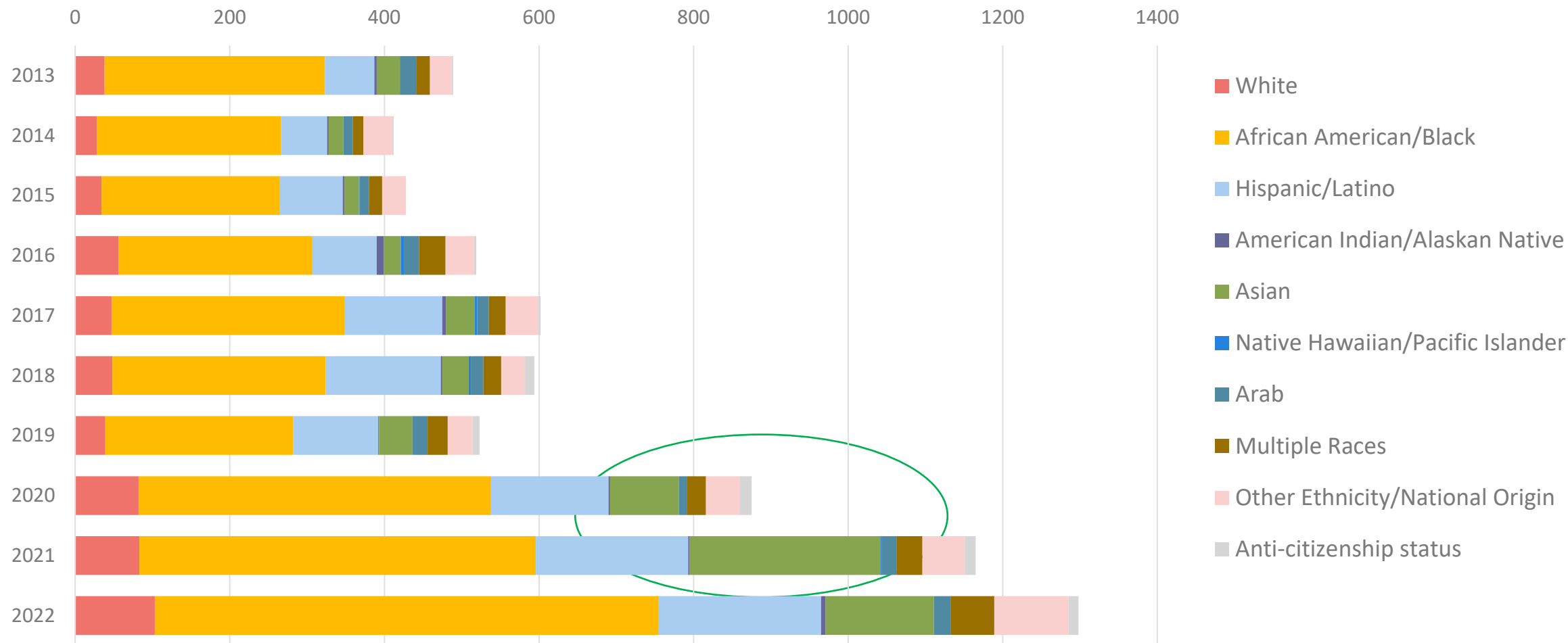


Asian people are less likely to lack health insurance and more likely to have limited English proficiency relative to general population in the Bay Area



Anti-Asian Hate Crimes

HATE CRIMES, 2013-2022
Single-Bias Events by Race/Ethnicity/National Origin



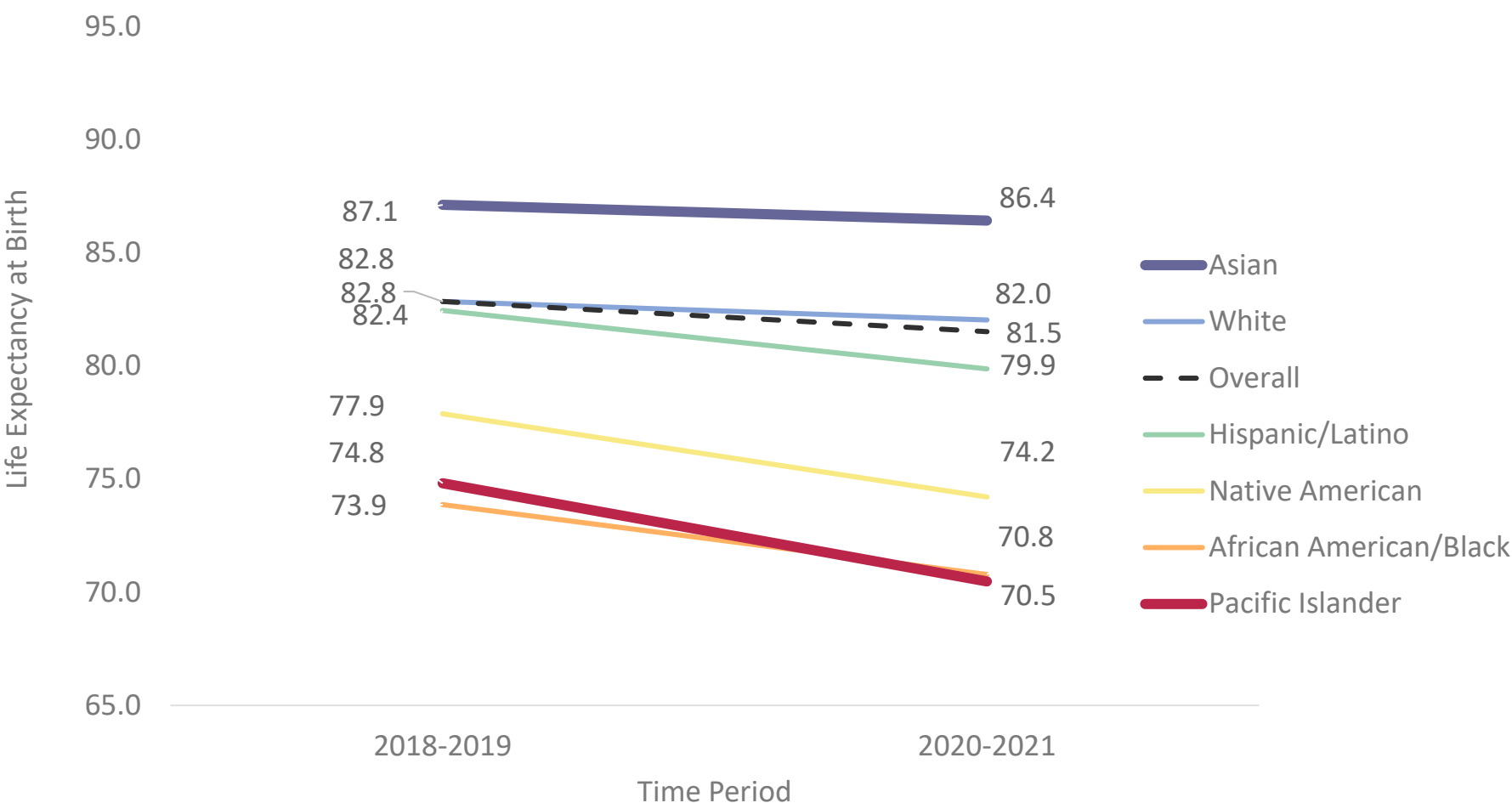
Health Outcomes

Life Expectancy, Chronic Illness and Infectious Disease



Disparities in Life Expectancy in Alameda County

Life Expectancy at Birth in Alameda County by Race/Ethnicity

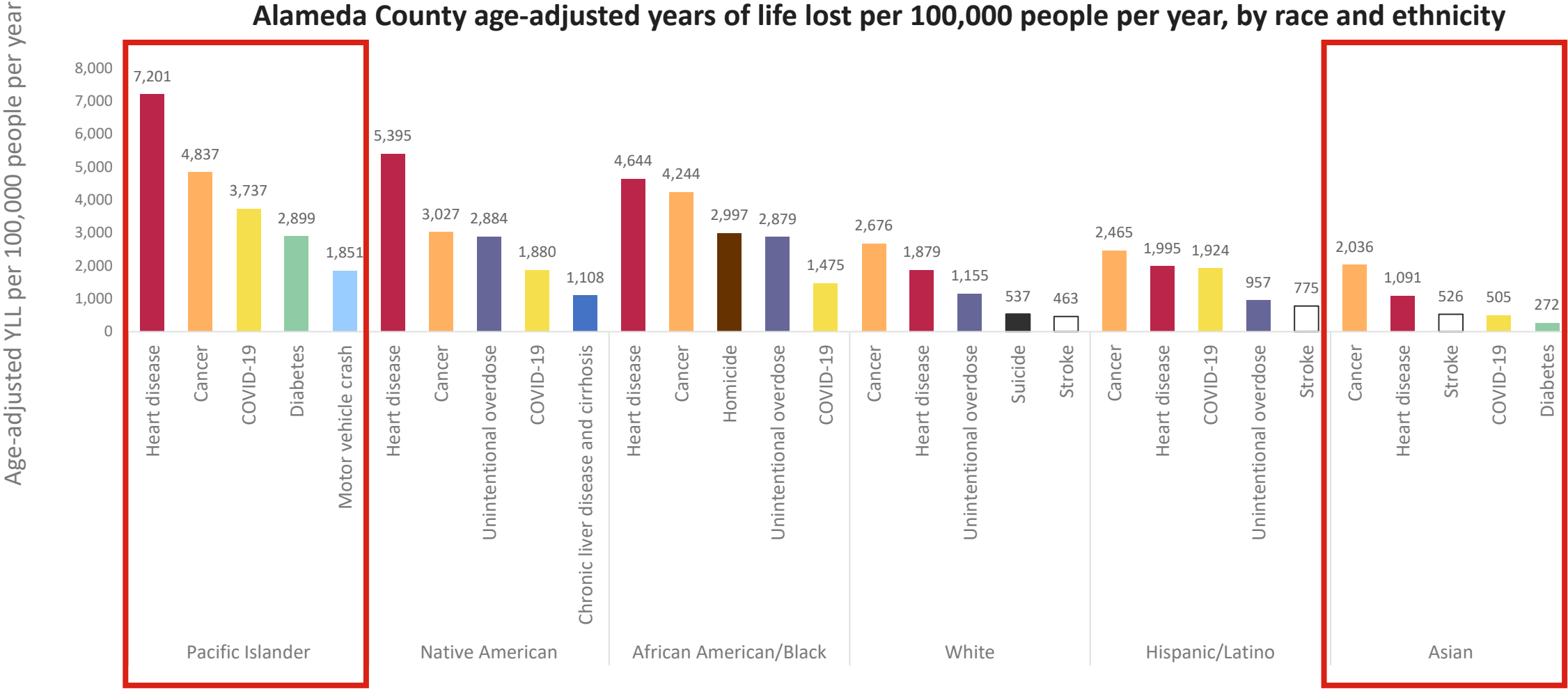


Life expectancy for Asian people was 4.9 years higher than for the general population of Alameda County in 2020-2021. Life expectancy for Asian people declined by 0.7 years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Life expectancy for Pacific Islander people was 11.0 years lower than for the general population of Alameda County in 2020-2021. Life expectancy for Pacific Islander people declined by 4.3 years during the COVID-19 pandemic.

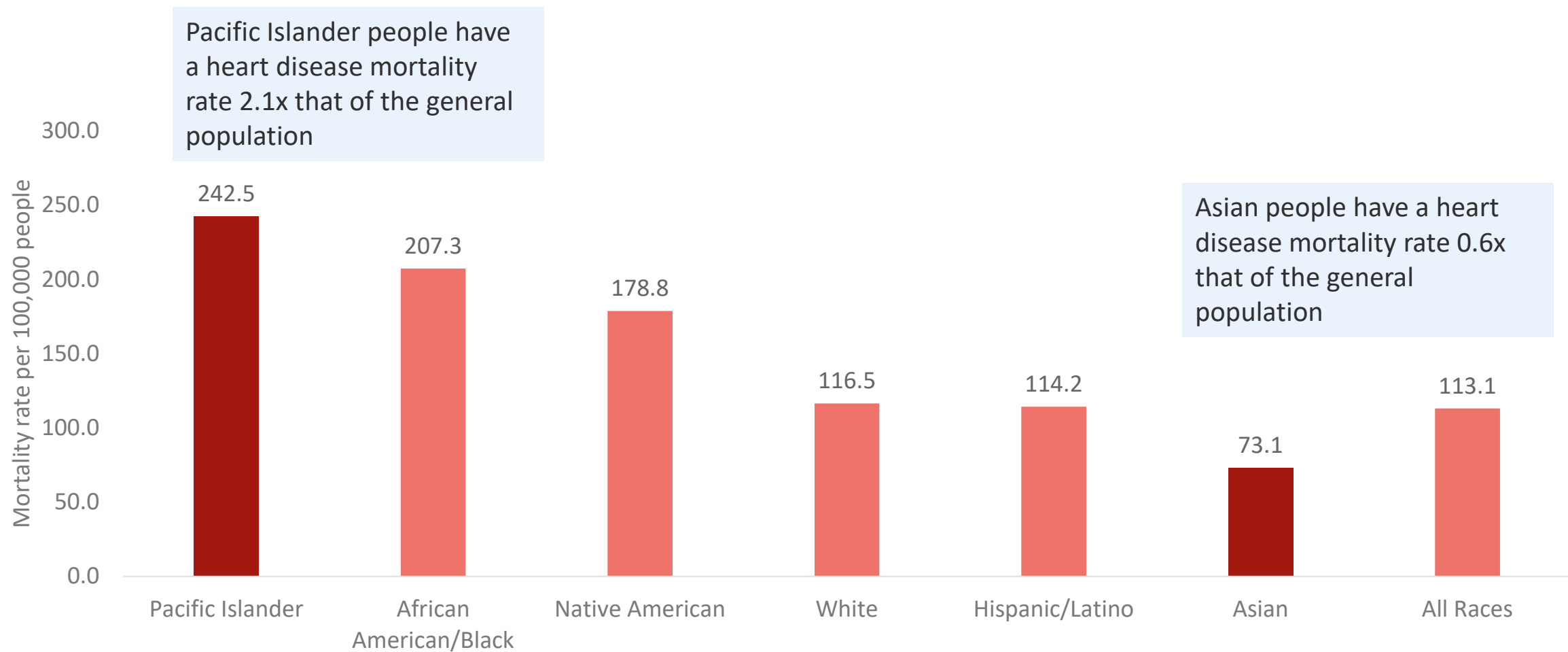


Premature Mortality by Race and Ethnicity

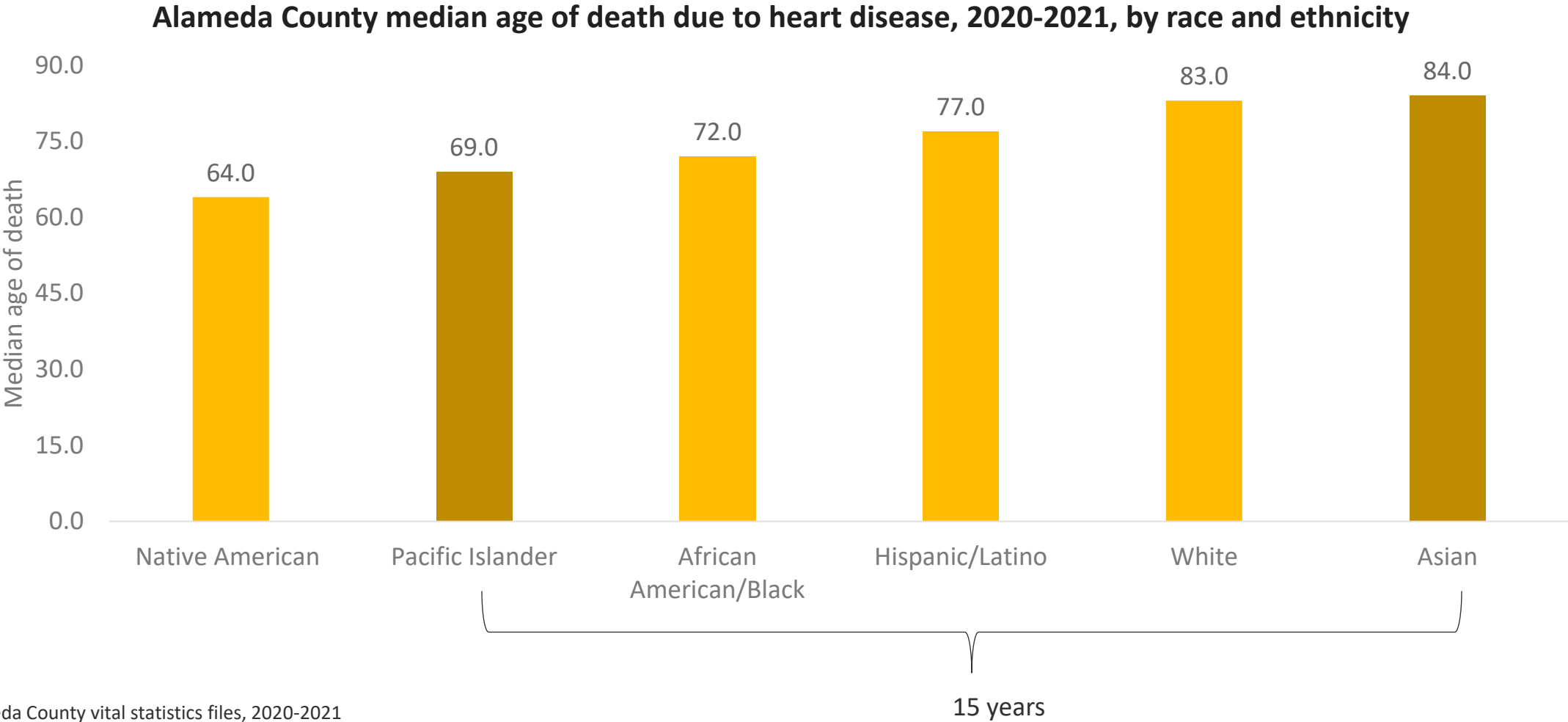


Racial and ethnic disparities in heart disease mortality rate

Heart disease mortality rate by race and ethnicity, 2020-2021



Racial and ethnic disparities in age of death due to heart disease

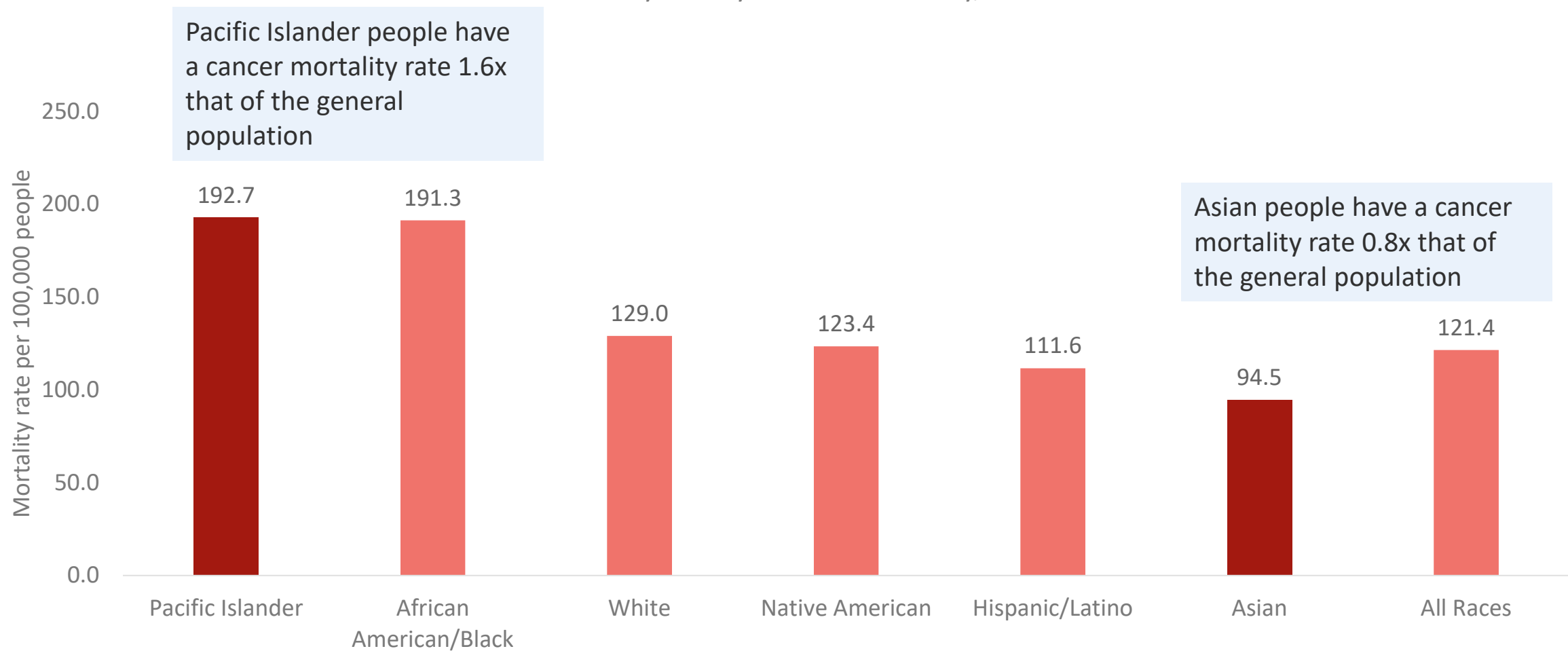


Source: Alameda County vital statistics files, 2020-2021



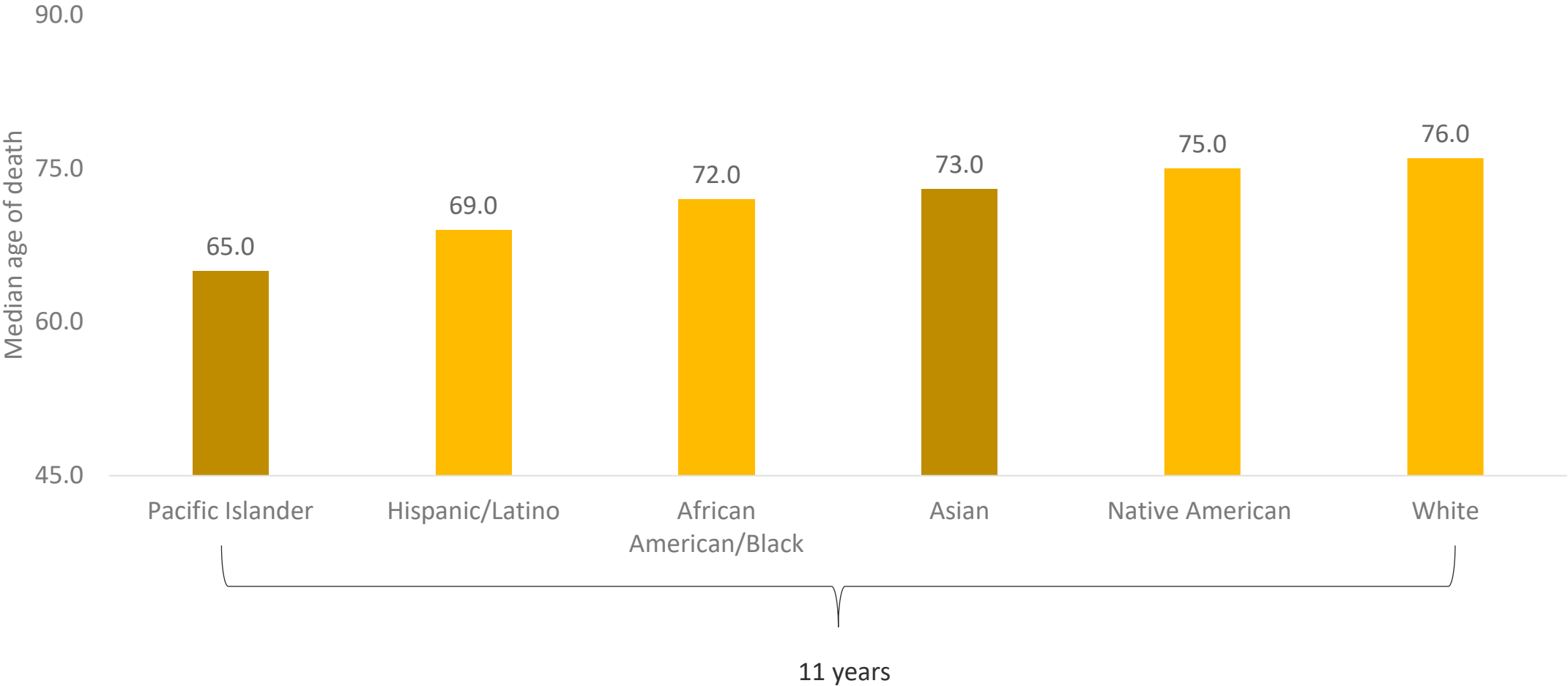
Racial and ethnic disparities in cancer mortality rate

Cancer mortality rate by race and ethnicity, 2020-2021



Racial and ethnic disparities in age of death due to cancer

Alameda County median age of death due to cancer, 2020-2021, by race and ethnicity

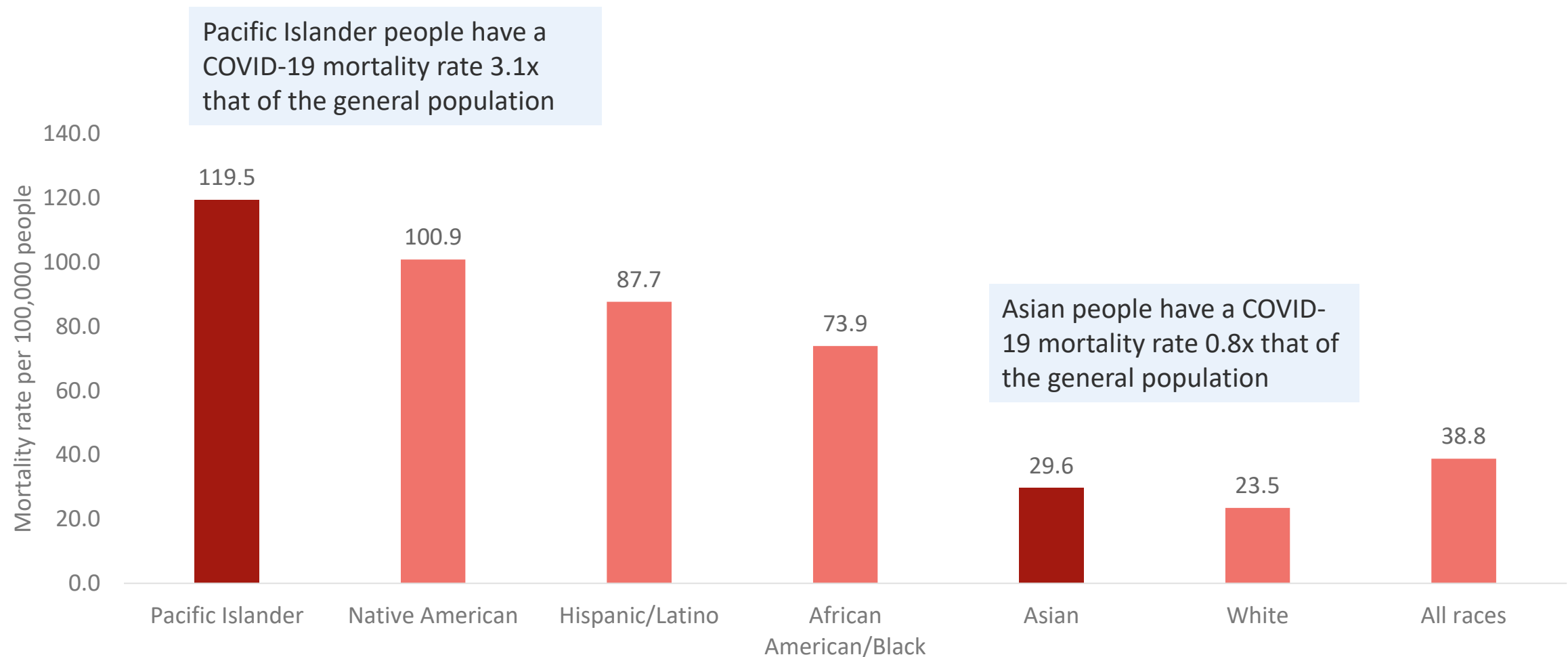


Source: Alameda County vital statistics files, 2020-2021

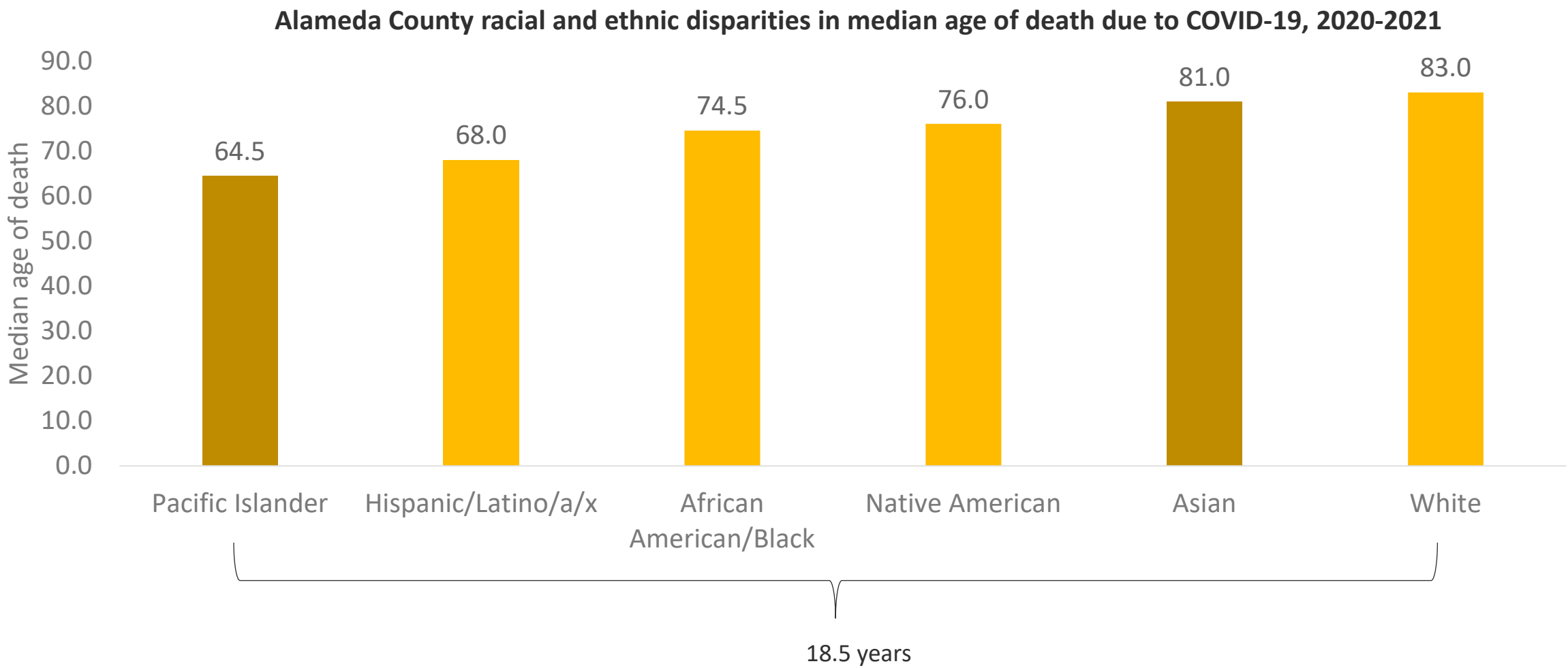


Racial and ethnic disparities in COVID-19 mortality rate

COVID-19 mortality rate by race and ethnicity, 2020-2021



Racial and ethnic disparities in age of death due to COVID-19

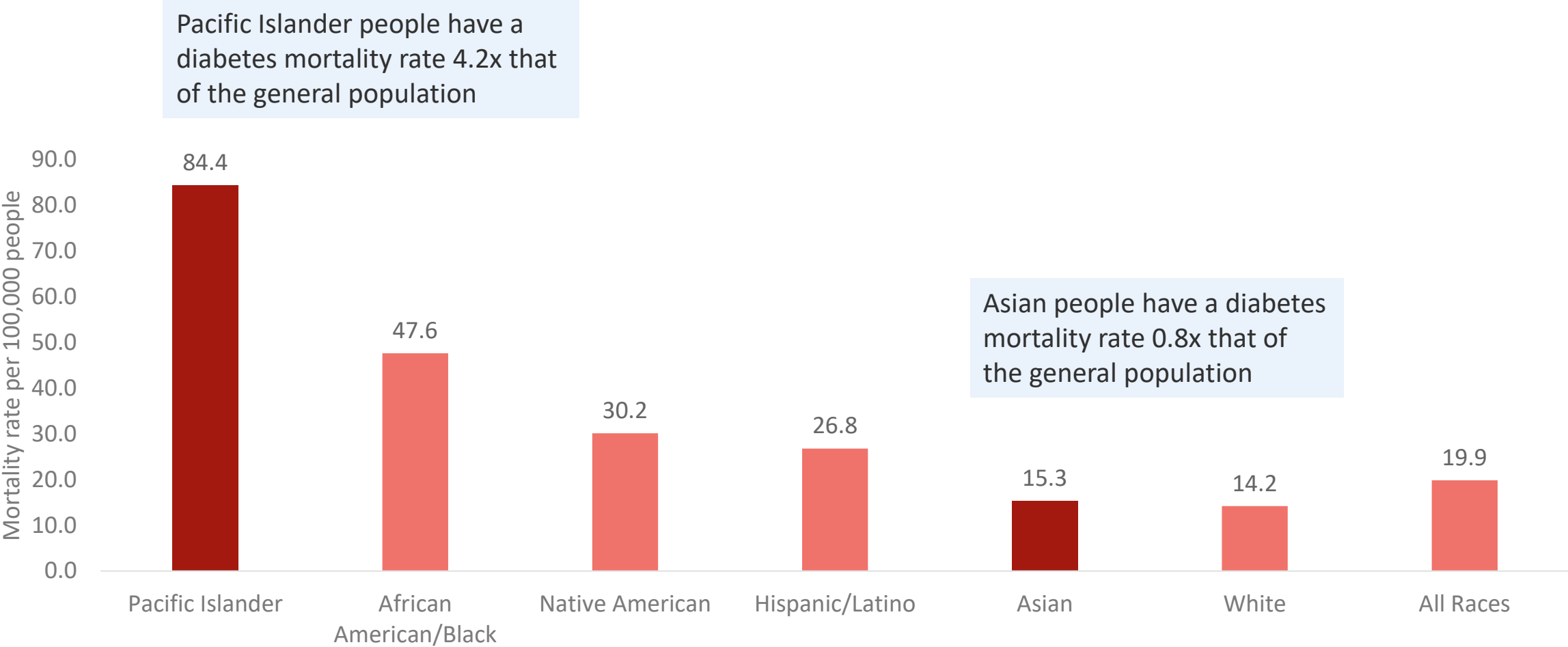


Source: Alameda County vital statistics files, 2020-2021



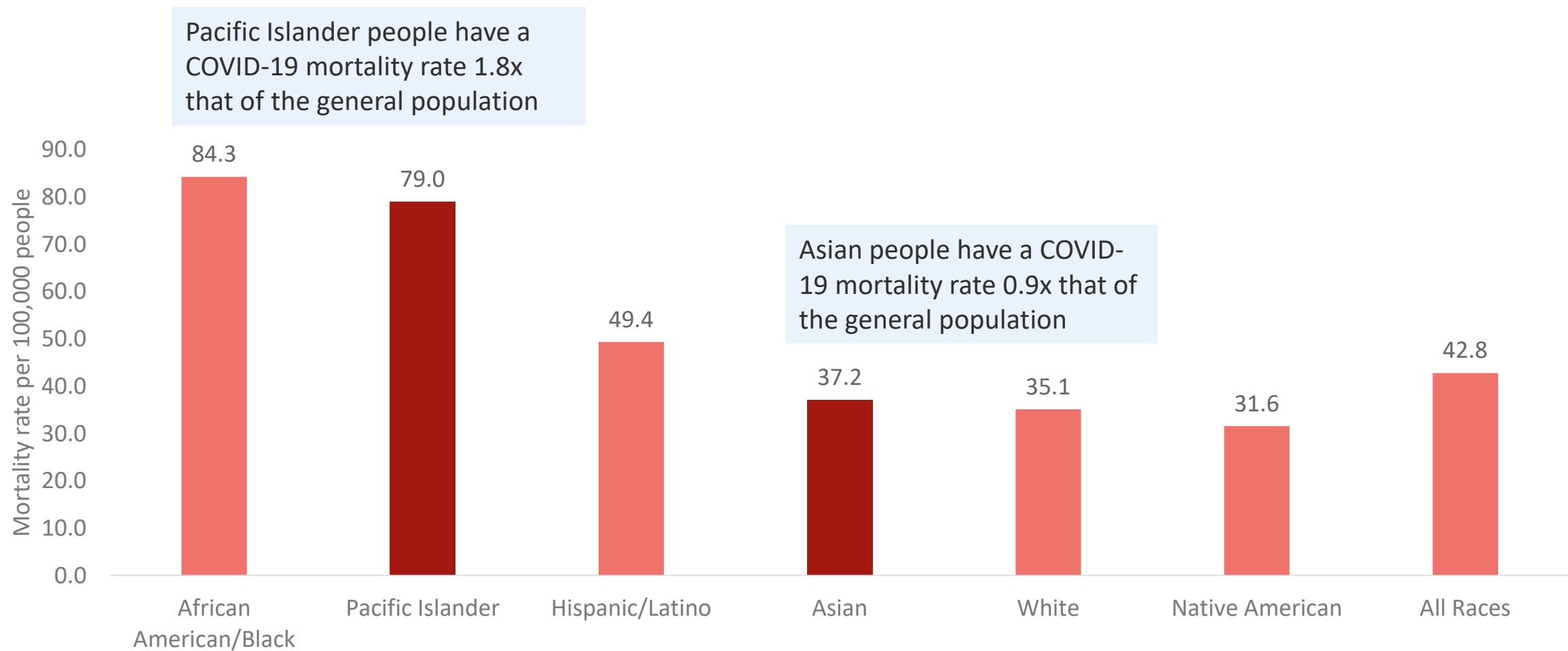
Racial and ethnic disparities in diabetes mortality rate

Diabetes mortality rate by race and ethnicity, 2020-2021

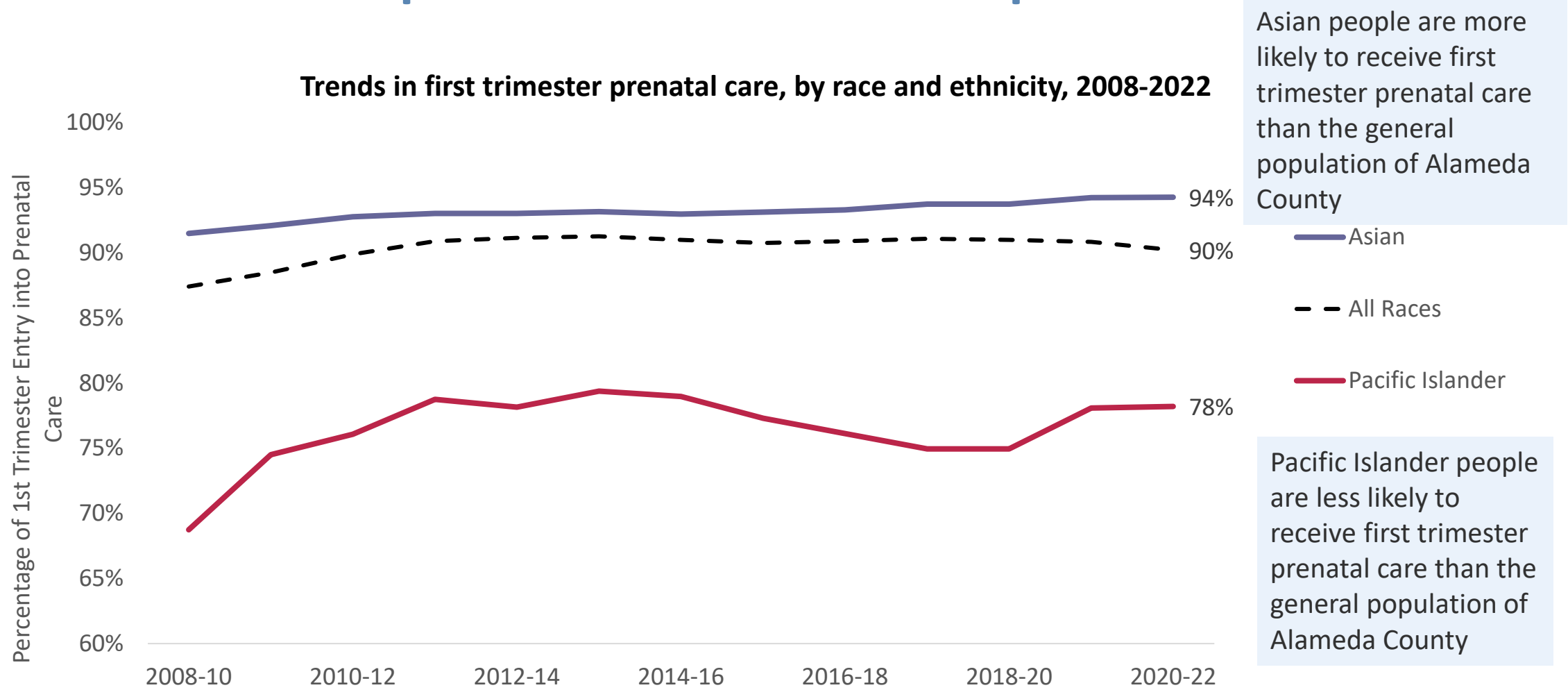


Racial and ethnic disparities in stroke mortality rate

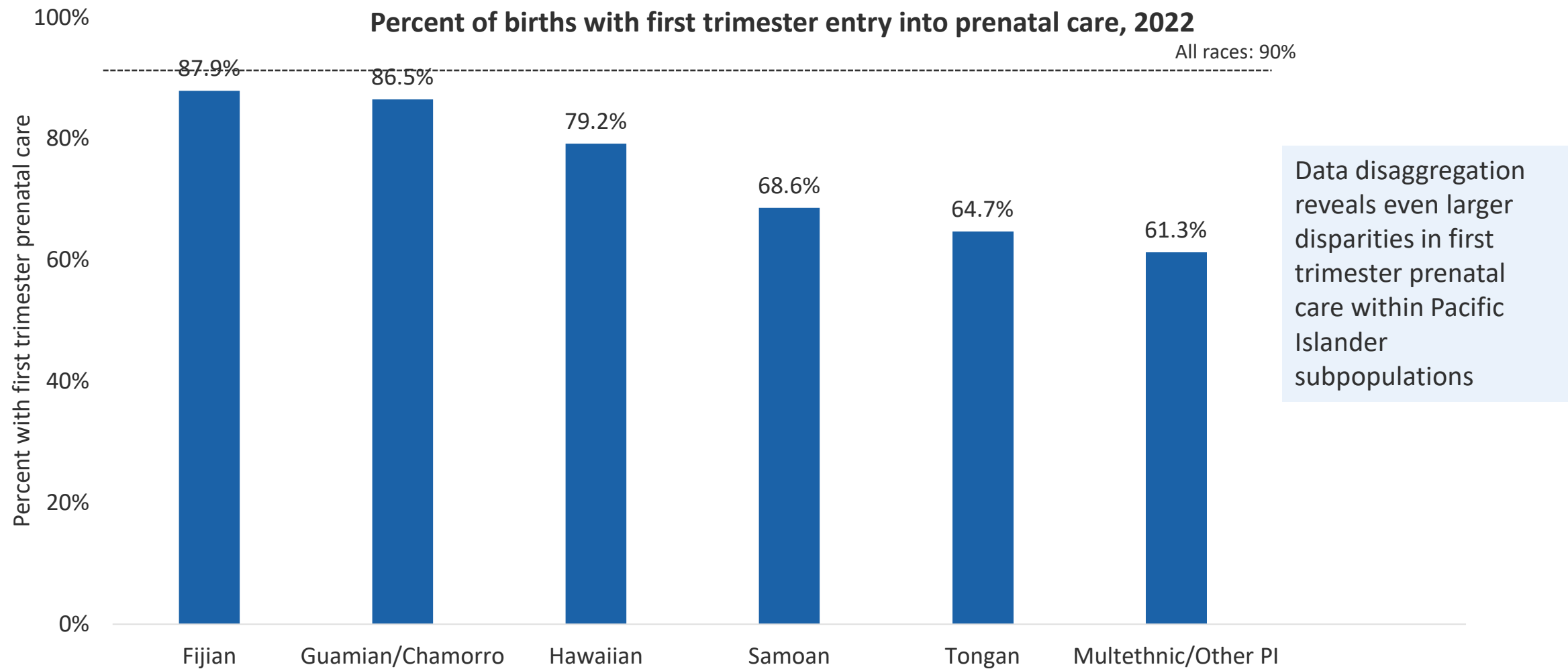
Stroke mortality rate by race and ethnicity, 2020-2021



Racial and ethnic disparities in first trimester prenatal care

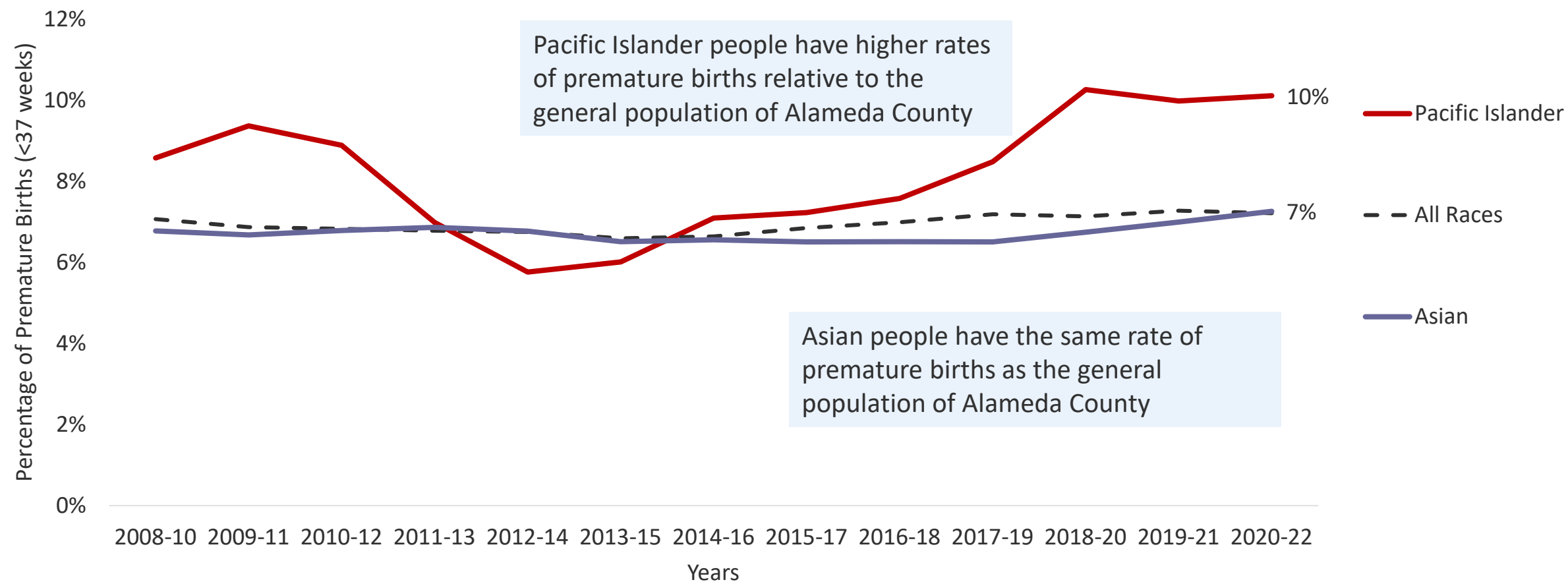


Pacific Islander subgroup disparities in first trimester prenatal care

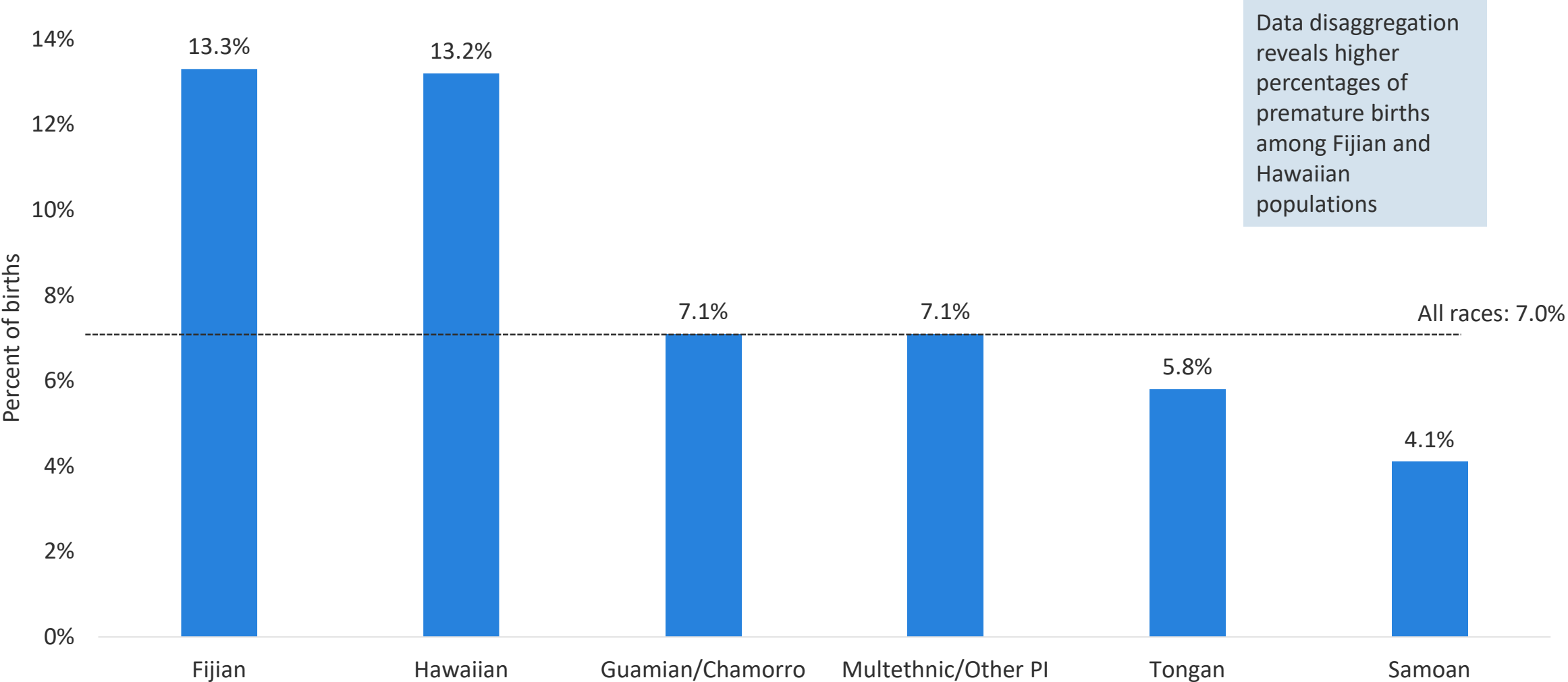


Racial and ethnic disparities in premature births

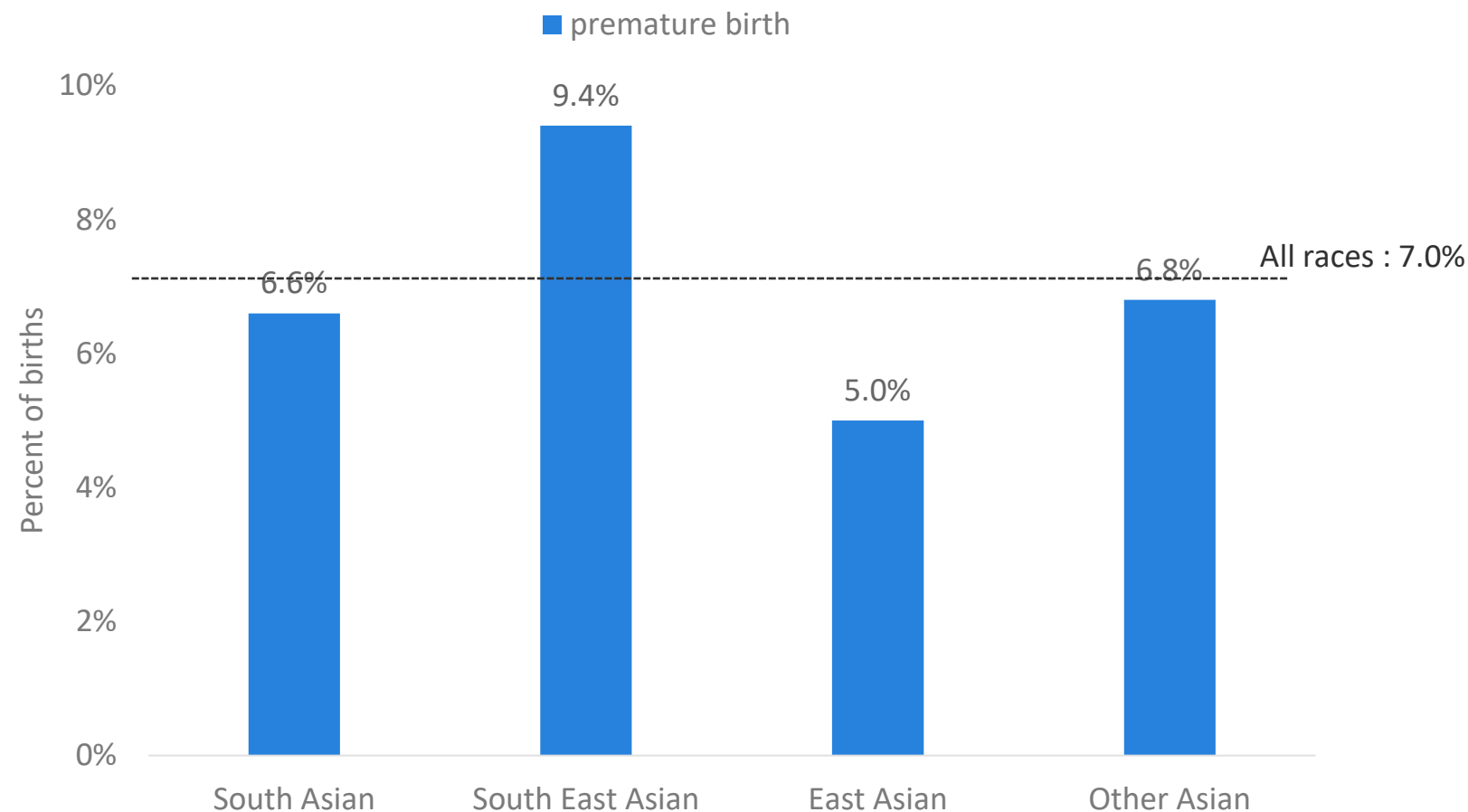
Trends in premature births, by race and ethnicity, 2008-2022



Percent of low birth weight and premature births by Pacific Islander subpopulation

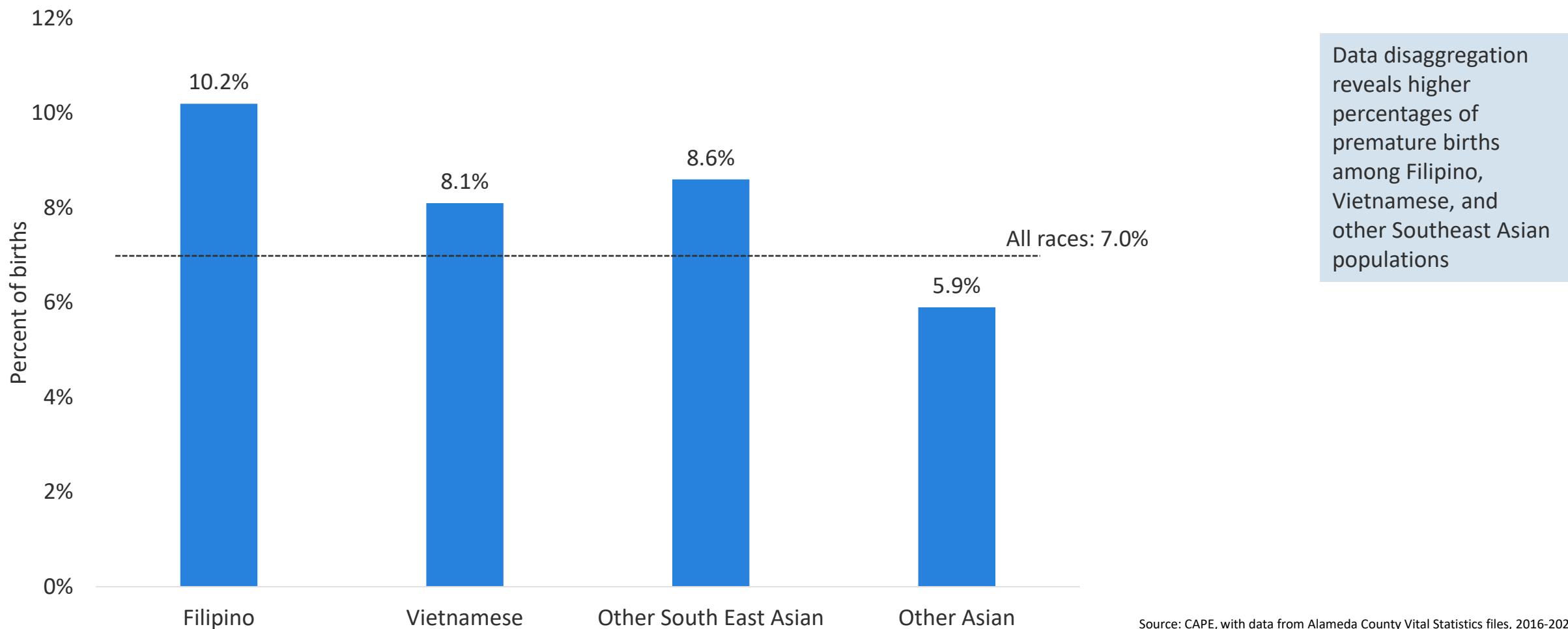


Percent of low birth weight and premature births by Asian region



Data disaggregation reveals higher percentages of premature births among South East Asian populations

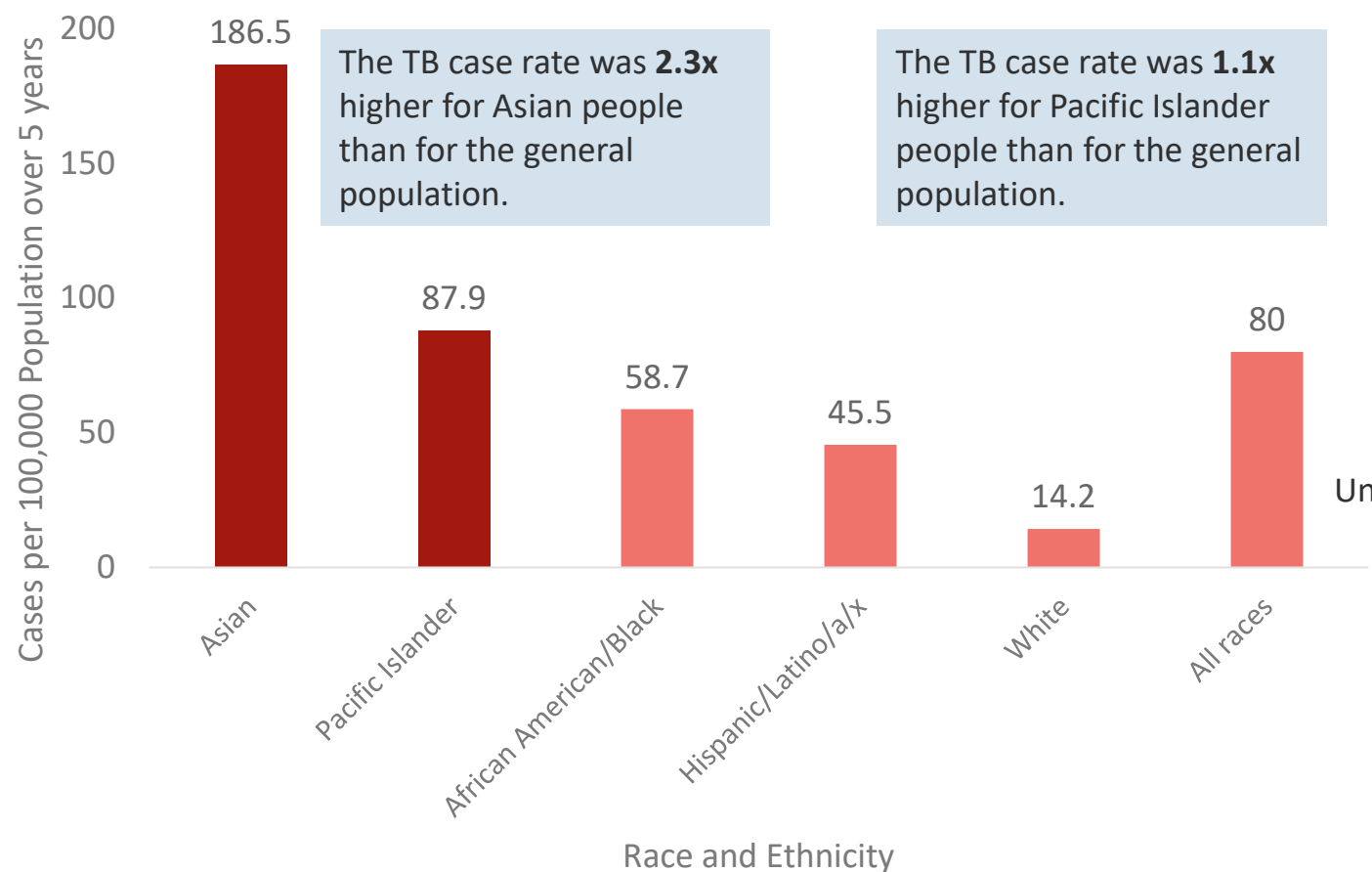
Percent of low birth weight and premature births by Southeast Asian subpopulations



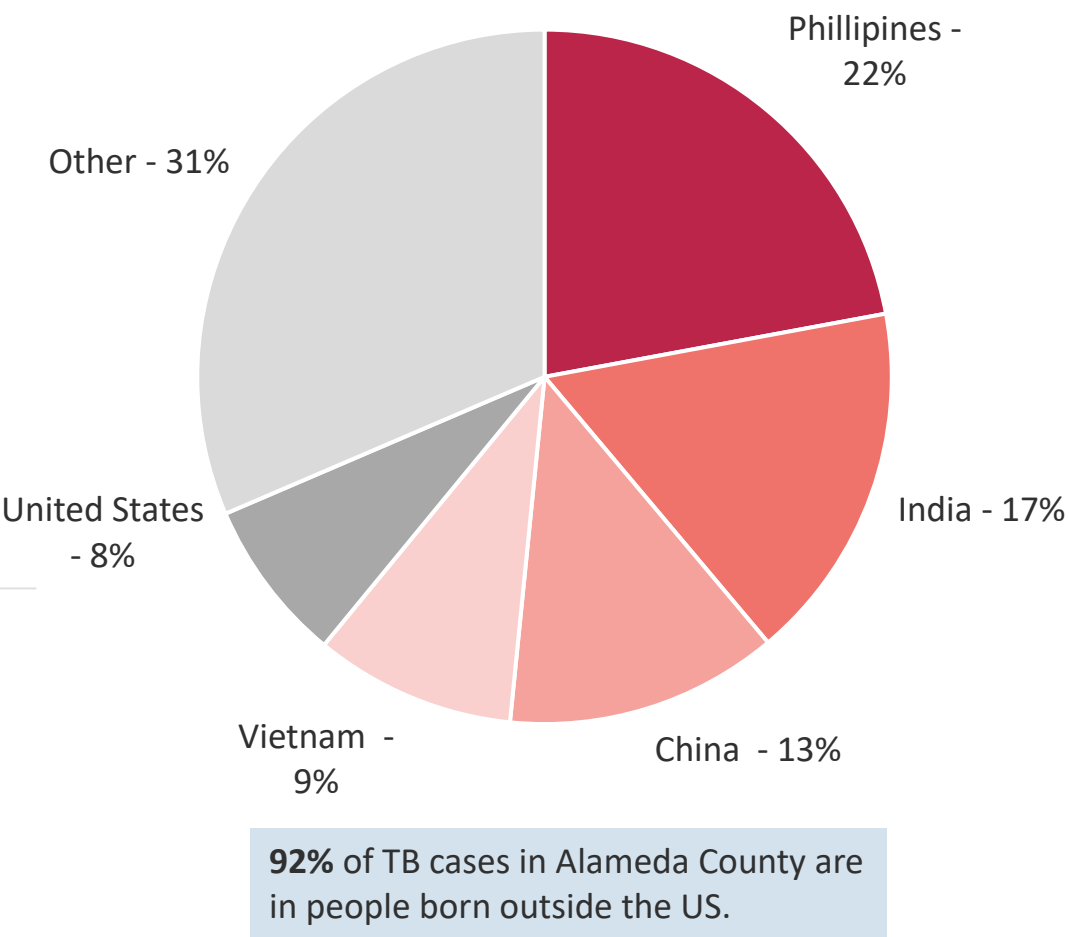
Source: CAPE, with data from Alameda County Vital Statistics files, 2016-2020.

Racial and ethnic disparities in tuberculosis case rates

10-Year TB Case Rate by Race and Ethnicity, 2014 - 2023, per 100,000 Population

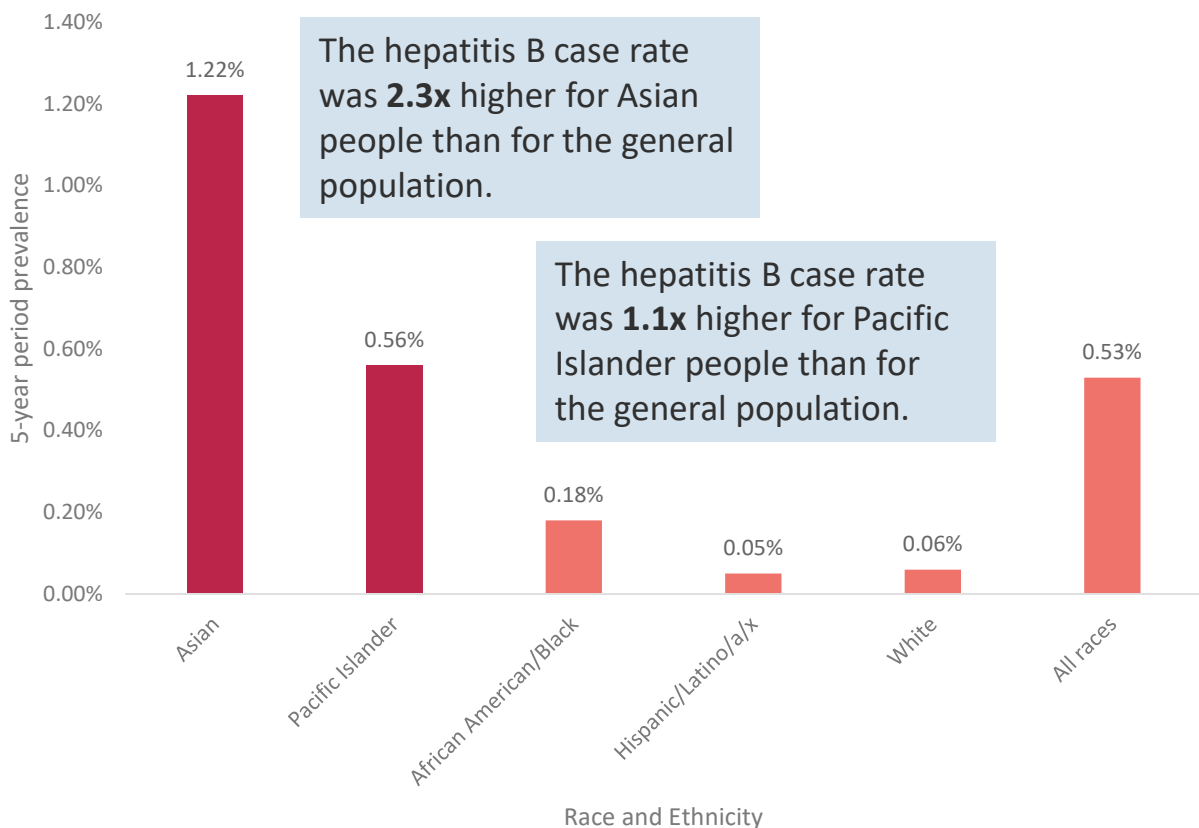


TB Cases by Country of Birth, 2019–2023

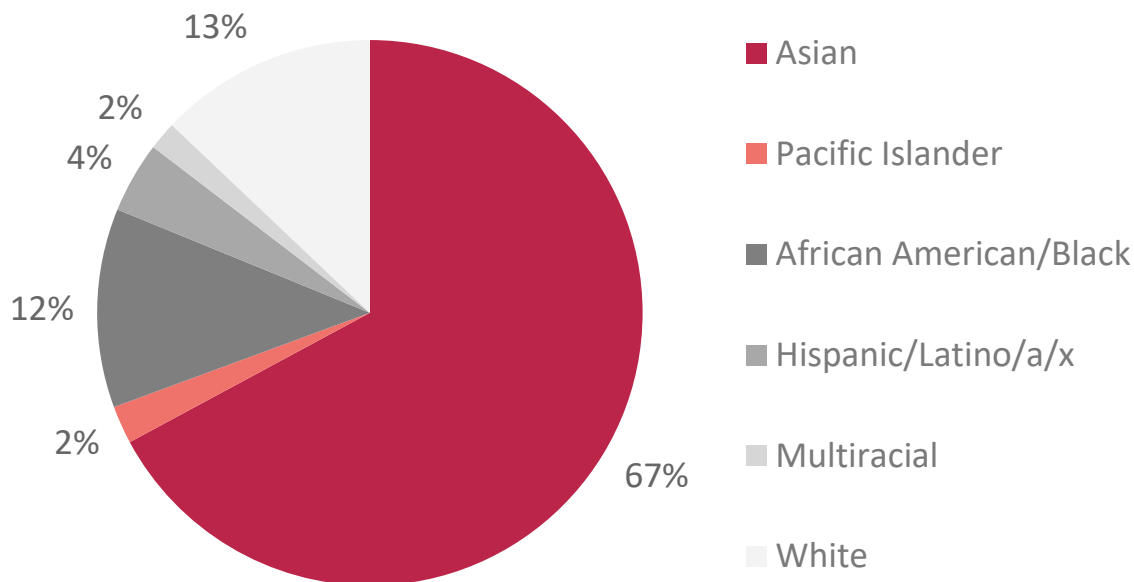


Racial and ethnic disparities in hepatitis case rates

Chronic Hepatitis B Five-year Period Prevalence, by Race and Ethnicity, Alameda County, 2017-2021



Hepatitis B Decedents, Alameda County, 2005-2022



During 2005-2022, almost **70%** of Alameda County residents whose death certificates included hepatitis B were Asian or Pacific Islander.

Culturally Affirming Programs and Services



Culturally Affirming Approaches

- Strive to have Bilingual & Bicultural staff whenever possible
- Investing in expanding translation of documents across agency and simultaneous translation and bilingual presentations for all community meetings
- Regular cultural competency training for staff and contractors
- Improving disaggregated data collection
- Increasing contracted partnerships with providers that provide linguistically appropriate and culturally competent & affirming services
- Increasing peer health provider opportunities across programming



Culturally Affirming Programs

- **Partnerships with Trusted Community Organizations to Engage Residents**
 - **Community Resilience Program:** Community-led Coalitions and Organizations supporting COVID-19 outreach, health education, resource linkage and navigation services, and pandemic recovery
 - **Community Navigators Network:** partnership with 40+ grassroots community organizations to improve equitable access to services
- **Clinical Services**
 - **Tuberculosis Control:** treatment, care coordination, case management for people testing TB positive
 - **Immunization Program:** partner closely with community resilience programs to provide vaccinations
- **Health Education Programs to Prevent and Control Illness**
 - **Nutrition Services and Diabetes Education Program:** promotes healthy eating and physical activity to prevent, delay, and manage heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and other chronic diseases; employs Asian American and Pacific Islander peer educators
 - **Healthy Nail Salon:** educates and partners with nail salon owners and workers to create safer and healthier working environment; serving over 80% Vietnamese, outreach and trainings provided in Vietnamese



Culturally Affirming Programs

Family Health Services

- o **Health Advancement for Pacific Islanders (HAPI):** care coordination for pregnant PI persons, linkage to healthcare, health education workshops

Office of Violence Prevention

- o Initially focused on prevention of community violence (with use of firearm), hate-motivated violence, intimate partner violence and youth suicide

Behavioral Health

- o **AANHPI Mental Health Initiative:** focused on increasing service penetration rates and removing barriers to care
- o **Asian American and Pacific Islander Older Adult Pilot:** working with partners in the City of Fremont to hire 2 bilingual full-time clinicians to provide Specialty Mental Health Services to the older adult Asian American and Pacific Islander community
- o **Mental Health First Aid:** trains participants to identify and respond to signs of crisis and to provide initial support and connection to appropriate care
- o **AANHPI Advisory Committee for Health and Wellness:** launching soon



Summary and Recommendations



Recommendations to Decrease Premature Death and Health Inequities for Asians and Pacific Islanders

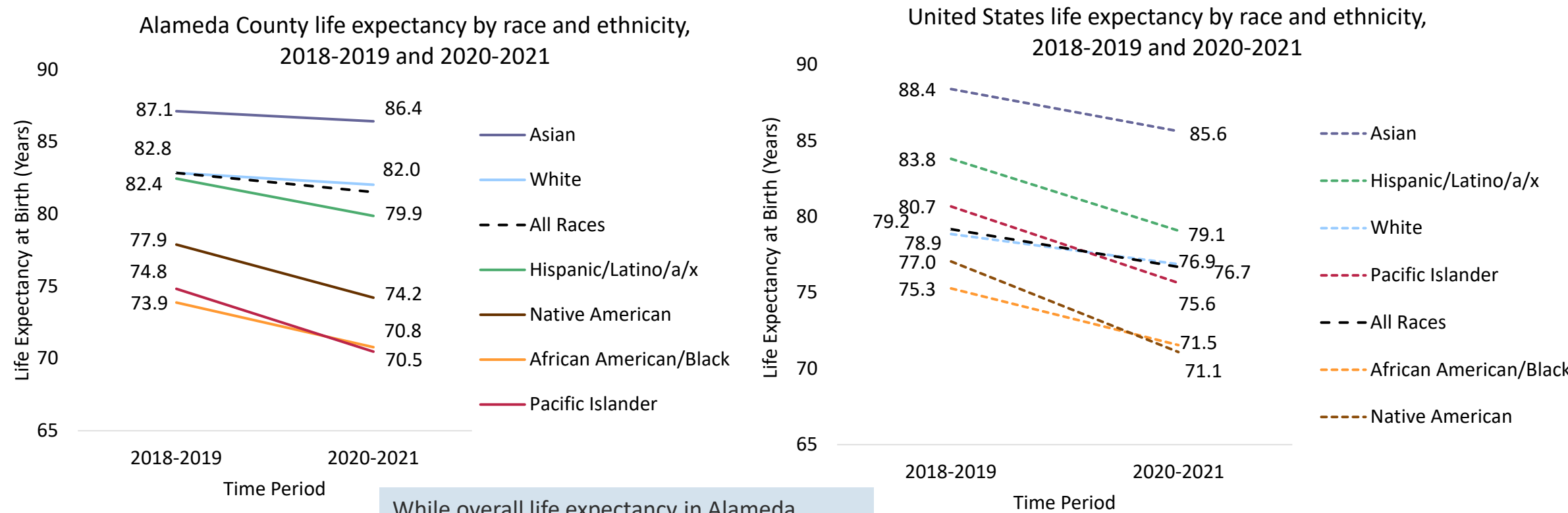
- Support data disaggregation across the County and State
 - Enables better assessment of diverse needs
 - Supports focused use of resources to reduce disparities
- Support improved language access
- Increase access to behavioral health resources
- Strengthen and enforce local tenant protections
- Increase public benefits information and access
- Support cash transfer programs, such as Guaranteed Basic Income



Appendix

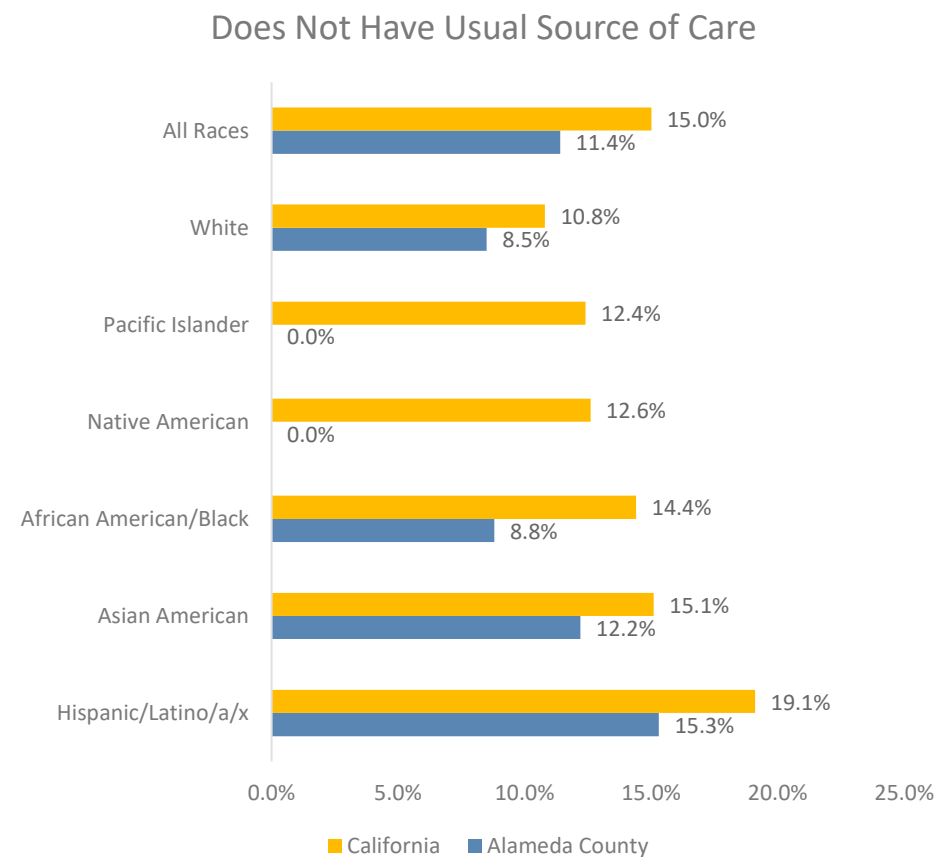


Life expectancy disparities in Alameda County relative to the United States

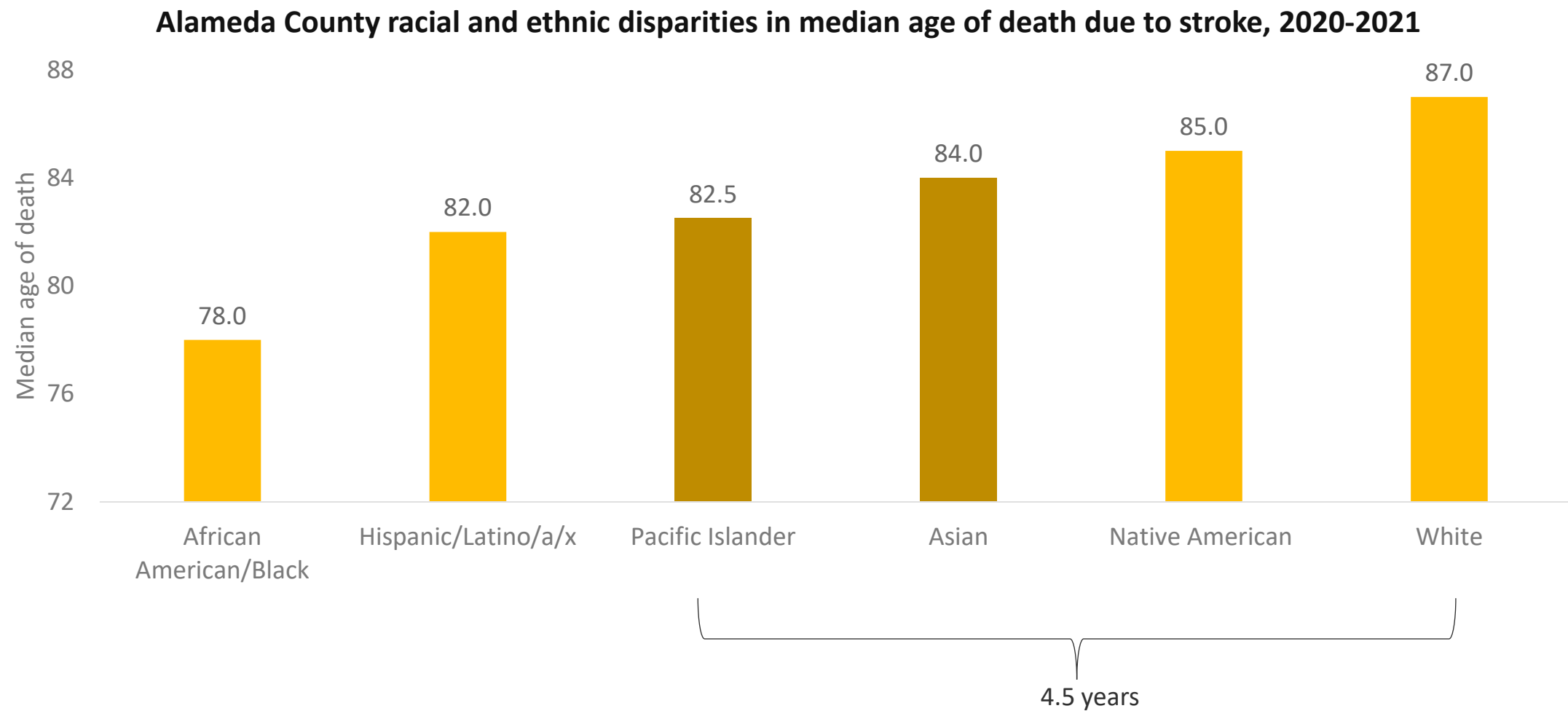


While overall life expectancy in Alameda County is higher than in the United States, the life expectancy for Pacific Islander people in Alameda County was lower than for Pacific Islander people in the United States

Usual source of care



Racial and ethnic disparities in age of death due to stroke

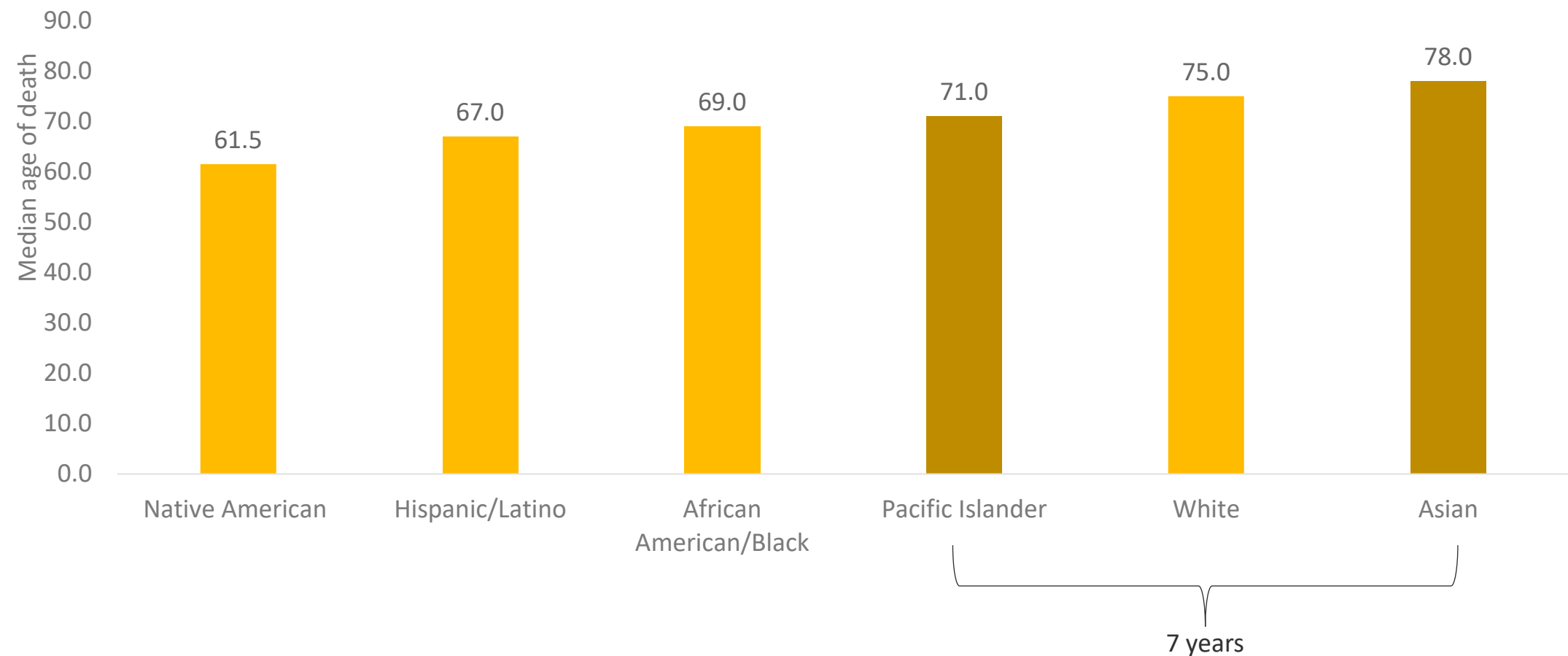


Source: Alameda County vital statistics files, 2020-2021



Racial and ethnic disparities in age of death due to diabetes

Alameda County racial and ethnic disparities in median age of death due to diabetes, 2020-2021



Source: Alameda County vital statistics files, 2020-2021



Gestational Diabetes Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2019-2020

