



Factsheet: New Section 203 Coverage and Asian Americans

On October 13, 2011, the Census Bureau updated the Section 203 determinations based on 2005-2009 American Community Survey Data. Part of the federal Voting Rights Act, Section 203 requires jurisdictions designated in the determinations to provide bilingual voting assistance to Asian Americans, Latinos, American Indians and Alaskan Natives. Prior Section 203 determinations, including the last one released in 2002, were made every ten years based on decennial census data. Section 203 was amended in 2006 to provide that Section 203 determinations will now be made every five years based on American Community Survey data. The American Community Survey data is an ongoing survey that the Census Bureau conducts to collect data on the American population every year.

Under the new Section 203 determinations, jurisdictions within eleven states are covered for Asian American language groups, which includes an additional four states not previously covered for Asian American language groups:

States with covered jurisdictions under 2002 Section 203 determinations	States with covered jurisdictions under new 2011 Section 203 determinations
Alaska	Alaska
California	California
Hawaii	Hawaii
Illinois	Illinois
New York	Massachusetts*
Texas	Michigan*
Washington	Nevada*
	New Jersey*
	New York
	Texas
	Washington

* States that did not have previous Section 203 coverage for Asian American language groups.

Section 203 now covers 43 Asian American populations located in 22 counties, boroughs, census areas or cities, including 17 new Asian American populations that have been added to Section 203 coverage since the last list was released in 2002 (*see chart at end of factsheet*).

There are currently eight Asian American language groups covered by Section 203, including three not previously covered (as indicated by an asterisk):

Covered language group	Number of jurisdictions covered for language group in 2002	Number of jurisdictions covered for language group in 2011
Asian Indian*	0	3
Bangladeshi*	0	1
Chinese	12	16
Filipino	6	9 ⁺
Japanese	2	2
Korean	3	4
Other Asian – not specified*	0	1
Vietnamese	4	7

⁺ One jurisdiction in Alaska dropped from Section 203 coverage between 2002 and 2011.

Coverage for these eight language groups are as follows:

<u>Language group</u>	<u>Jurisdictions covered by Section 203 in 2011</u>
Asian Indian	Los Angeles County, California* Cook County, Illinois (Chicago)* Queens County, New York*
Bangladeshi	Hamtramck City, Michigan*
Chinese	Alameda County, California Los Angeles County, California Orange County, California Sacramento County, California* San Diego County, California* San Francisco County, California San Mateo County, California Santa Clara County, California Honolulu County, Hawaii Cook County, Illinois (Chicago) Quincy City, Massachusetts* Kings County, New York (Brooklyn) New York County, New York (Manhattan) Queens County, New York (Queens) Harris County, Texas (Houston)* King County, Washington (Seattle)

<u>Language group</u>	<u>Jurisdictions covered by Section 203 in 2011</u>
Filipino	Aleutians East Borough, Alaska* Aleutians West Census Area, Alaska* Alameda County, California* Los Angeles County, California San Diego County, California Santa Clara County, California Honolulu County, Hawaii Maui County, Hawaii Clark County, Nevada*
Japanese	Los Angeles County, California Honolulu County, Hawaii
Korean	Los Angeles County, California Orange County, California Bergen County, New Jersey* Queens County, New York (Queens)
Other Asian – not specified	Los Angeles County, California*
Vietnamese	Alameda County, California* Los Angeles County, California Orange County, California San Diego County, California* Santa Clara County, California Harris County, Texas (Houston) King County, Washington (Seattle)*

* Newly covered language group under Section 203.

2011 Section 203 Determinations For Asian American Language Groups

Jurisdiction	Covered Asian American Language Group
Alaska: ⁺	
Aleutians East Borough	Filipino*
Aleutians West Census Area	Filipino*
California:	
Alameda County	Chinese, Filipino*, Vietnamese*
Los Angeles County	Asian Indian*, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Other Asian – Not specified*, Vietnamese
Orange County	Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese
Sacramento County	Chinese*
San Diego County	Chinese*, Filipino, Vietnamese*
San Francisco County	Chinese
San Mateo County	Chinese
Santa Clara County	Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese
Hawaii:	
Honolulu County	Chinese, Filipino, Japanese
Maui County	Filipino
Illinois:	
Cook County	Asian Indian*, Chinese
Massachusetts:	
Quincy City	Chinese*
Michigan:	
Hamtramck City	Bangladeshi*
Nevada:	
Clark County	Filipino*
New Jersey:	
Bergen County	Korean*
New York:	
Kings County	Chinese
New York County	Chinese
Queens County	Asian Indian*, Chinese, Korean
Texas:	
Harris County	Chinese*, Vietnamese
Washington:	
King County	Chinese, Vietnamese*

* Asian American language groups marked with an asterisk are newly covered under Section 203.

+ Kodiak Island Borough in Alaska (Filipino) is no longer covered under Section 203.