

“Higher education needs to name and recognize Asian American students who are undocumented immigrants.”

Tracy Poon Tambascia, Jonathan Wang, Breanne Tchong, Viet T. Bui, 2014.

In 2011-12, the University of California Office of the President estimated that approximately 750 undocumented students were enrolled in the UC System and that approximately 48% of these students were AAPI and 42% were Latinx.

A May 2015 publication entitled, “DREAMers at Cal: The Impact of Immigration Status on Undocumented Students at the University of California Berkeley,” estimated that 2000 undocumented students were enrolled in the UC System, with 32% identifying as AAPI and 61% as Latinx.

Learn More:

- Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Law Caucus
 - <http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/>
- Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Los Angeles
 - <http://www.advancingjustice-la.org/>
- Asian American Legal Defense Fund
 - <http://www.aaldef.org/>
- ASPIRE: Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights through Education
 - <http://sfbay.aspireforjustice.org/>
- Educators for Fair Consideration (EF4C)
 - <http://www.e4fc.org/>
- Chinese for Affirmative Action
 - <http://www.caasf.org/>
- Filipino Advocates for Justice
 - <http://www.filipinos4justice.org/>
- Korean Resource Center
 - <http://www.krcla.org/>
- National AAPI DACA Collaborative
 - <http://aapidaca.org/>
- SAALT: South Asian Americans Living Together
 - <http://saalt.org/>
- UPLIFT (formerly ASPIRE-LA)
 - <http://www.upliftlosangeles.org/>

Undocumented Asian and Pacific Islander Communities

Information Gathered By:

UndocuAlly Working Group

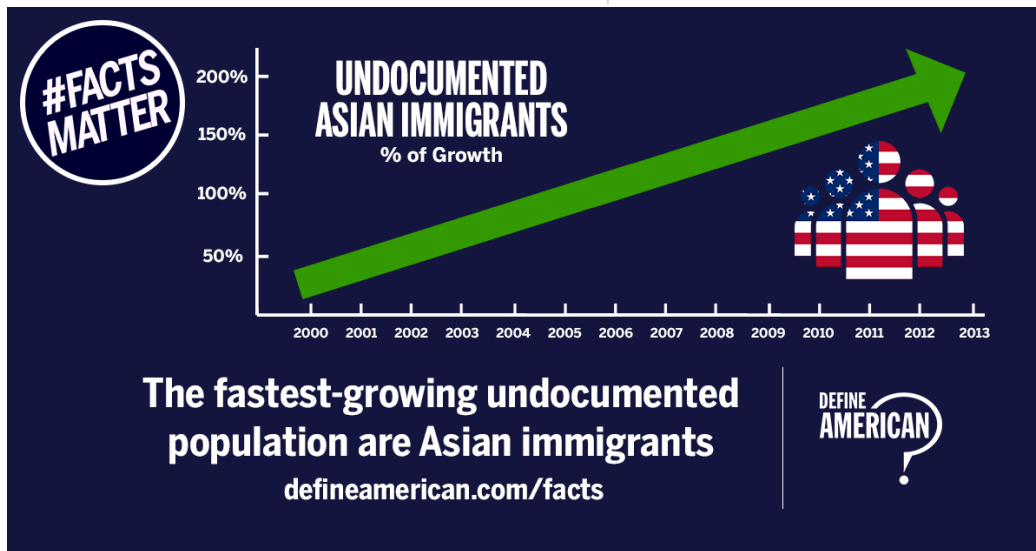
In Collaboration with:

Cal Poly Dream Center

Office of University Diversity & Inclusivity



Office of University Diversity & Inclusivity



Not All Undocumented Immigrants are From South of the Border

Esther Yoona Cho, 2016

“Why have only one in ten eligible undocumented Asian American and Pacific Islander youth and young adults requested Deferred Action to receive work authorization and shield them from deportation? Why aren’t more of them, and more African immigrants in California obtaining AB60 driver’s licenses, which explicitly don’t require legal residency? ... On all levels of government, personnel must be trained to tailor their services to diverse undocumented immigrants with the requisite linguistic and cultural understanding. Resources must be accurately translated into all necessary languages and disseminated widely.”

“Some immigrants from Asia come as legal immigrants, refugees, or asylees, while others enter without documentation or fall out of status due to the difficulty of obtaining a visa. How an individual enters the United States greatly affects her or his economic and social well-being in this country.”

- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, 2015.

Balancing Identities: Undocumented Immigrant Asian American Students and the Model Minority Myth

Tracy Poon Tambascia, Jonathan Wang, Breanne Tcheng, Viet T. Bui, 2014.

“Frustration and loneliness seem to permeate the experiences of students who are forced to learn and work on the margins of society. Limited dialogue about these issues in the Asian American and immigrant communities perpetuates these students’ feelings of isolation and invisibility. Conversations and sharing of resources occur only with confidantes and close relatives. Higher education needs to name and recognize Asian American students who are undocumented immigrants. Increased advocacy, in-service training for academic and student affairs, and the creation of safe spaces on campus will provide meaningful support to this marginalized community.”

