



A Portrait of the

Burmese Americans in the United States

Demographics, Refugee Arrival, Immigration, and Naturalization

Statistical Report 2024

**Network of Myanmar American Association
(NetMAA)**

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Network of Myanmar American Association (NetMAA)

The word "Burma" has been used in reports released by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to record populations and immigrant data. We understand that there is sensitivity around the use of this word. Also, we use the word Burmese Americans to refer to people of Burmese/Myanmar origins, recognizing that there are numerous ethnic groups who prefer to be identified by their respective ethnic identities.

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Table of Contents

Welcome 6

Burmese Americans in the United States: Brief History 7

United States Census: 2020 8

American Community Survey (ACS) 16

U.S. Citizenship (Naturalization) 27

Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) 29

Refugees and Asylums 31

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 Only) 40

References 42

Free Publication Order Form 43

Welcome

Dear Community Leaders, Members, and Friends.

Mingalarpar! I am pleased to present the "2024 Statistical Report of Burmese Americans in the United States." This report provides an in-depth analysis of the Burmese communities across the United States.

Thirteen years ago, NetMAA published its very first "2011 Statistical Report of Burmese Americans in the United States" based on data gathered from the 2010 Census, American Community Survey, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Department of Human Services, and other sources.

I hope that the 2024 Statistical Report will help policymakers, government agencies, courts, corporations, foundations, and community organizations to understand the needs of Burmese Americans. This statistical report is significant for the emerging Burmese communities. The data addresses critical concerns facing underserved Burmese communities, including newly arrived Burmese families and children in need of language assistance, education, employment, housing, and other necessities to survive and thrive in the United States.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, there are approximately 276,322 Burmese Americans living in the U.S. Over the past decade, the Burmese American population experienced the most significant growth among Asian Americans, increasing by approximately 176% between 2000 and 2010. As of today, more than 190,829 Burmese refugees have been admitted to the United States since recorded available data in 1990.

I would like to invite you to read and enjoy the 2024 Statistical Report. We're all in this together, and I'm honored to be part of the growing Burmese/Myanmar community in the United States.

NetMAA is the nation's leading Burmese/Myanmar American community organization, supporting and promoting education, social issues, arts, and culture in the United States. NetMAA is a community-based organization that understands the Myanmar culture and has worked closely with other Asian and Southeast Asian communities across the United States over the past eighteen years.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@netmaa.org. Thank you for your time and support.

With deepest gratitude,



Aung Min Naing, MSc, P.E
President
NetMAA

Burmese Americans in the United States

Burmese Americans:

Burmese Americans refer to individuals with Burmese ancestry who live in the United States (U.S), regardless of their race or immigration status. This term includes all ethnic groups and tribes from Burma, individuals born in the United States, and those born in other countries with one or both parents of Burmese descent. Burmese Americans are a subgroup of Asian Americans.

Brief History in the United States:

Burmese migration to the United States has been shaped by various historical and political factors. The significant waves of Burmese migration occurred in different periods. Here in the United States, the Burmese are descendants of at least three documented waves of migration to the United States over the last 60 years. During the first wave of migration in the late 1960s and mid-1980s, many Burmese expatriates arrived in the United States. Many Burmese, primarily of Anglo, Indian, and Chinese origins, began to migrate abroad after 1962, when General Ne Win established a military coup. The military coup in Burma in 1962 led to political instability and economic challenges¹.

A second influx occurred during the late 1980s and early 1990s after the 1988 national uprising, also known as the "8888" movement. It saw a more significant wave of Burmese refugees coming to the U.S., driven by political repression and human rights abuses in Burma (Myanmar). Many Burmese, including the majority of Bamar people, left the country in large numbers, seeking better opportunities.

A third wave of migration, from 2007 to 2016, has primarily been comprised of ethnic minorities, in particular Karen and Chin refugees from the Thai-Burma border and Malaysia. The U.S. government implemented refugee resettlement programs in 2005² to assist Burmese refugees in Thailand. Since then, the Burmese population in the United States increased significantly through these programs. The military ruled Burma from 1962 to 2011 and again seized power in 2021 after a brief period of democratization in the country.

Trends in recent data suggest the possibility of a fourth wave of migration that began to emerge in the U.S. as a result of the military coup in Burma/Myanmar. In February 2021, the democratically elected government was overthrown by the military in a coup, which led to a refugee influx. The refugee arrival data indicated that more than 6,178 Burmese refugees were admitted to the U.S. during the Fiscal Year 2023, which

represents a significant increase of 189% from the previous year's admission of 2,141 (See the graphical chart for the Refugee Arrival from Burma: Fiscal Years 1990 to 2023, page 36).

Based on the 2020 U.S. Census, it is estimated that there are around 276,322 Burmese Americans residing in the country. However, the actual number might be much higher, between 380,000 to 400,000. The Census data may not accurately represent the Burmese population in the United States. It is possible that some individuals with mixed ethnic backgrounds, such as Chinese-Burmese or Indian-Burmese, may have identified themselves as Chinese, Indian, or South Asian on the Census form rather than as Burmese, leading to an undercounting of the Burmese population. Most of the Burmese immigrants who arrived in the early two waves settled in California and New York states, with about sixty to seventy-five percent being Chinese Burmese, born in Burma.

Additionally, language barriers could have hindered participation in the Census, particularly among newly arrived refugees who may not be fluent in English.

Communities:

The Burmese American community is diverse, with individuals from different ethnic groups and regions within Burma. Like other immigrant communities, many Burmese Americans have faced various challenges in the United States, including language barriers, discrimination, and difficulty accessing healthcare and other services. Nonetheless, they have made significant contributions to American society, particularly in the areas of arts, culture, and cuisine. They have also formed vibrant cultural and community organizations to maintain their cultural heritage.

Burmese Americans primarily reside in urban areas with large Asian immigrant communities. According to the 2020 Census, three main metropolitan areas hosting sizable Burmese populations are New York City, with approximately 6,530 Burmese residents; Greater Los Angeles, with 9,283 Burmese residents; and the San Francisco Bay Area, with 10,411 Burmese residents. Additionally, there are significant Burmese communities in the Midwest region, such as Dallas-Ft. Worth, Minneapolis- Saint Paul, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Omaha, and Milwaukee.

¹"Burmese Americans." In *Gale Encyclopedia of Multicultural America*, 3rd ed., edited by Thomas Riggs, 373-380. Vol. 1. Detroit, MI: Gale, 2014. *Gale eBooks*, accessed November 26, 2023

²"US Wraps up Group Resettlement for Myanmar Refugees in Thailand," UNHCR US, accessed November 26, 2023



About the 2020 U.S. Census:

The U.S. Census is conducted every ten years to count every person living in the United States and its territories. The 2020 Census marked the 24th count of the U.S. population, and it was the first time that households were invited to respond to the Census online³.

Why Do We Conduct A Census?

The Census is required by Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution, and its population count is used to determine the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and how many electoral votes each state will have for the following decade⁴. The census population numbers are also used to draw congressional district lines and to allocate billions of dollars in federal funds by state, local, and federal lawmakers every year for the next ten years.

How is the Census data used?⁵

The Census data allocates funding for communities, ensures public safety, and plans new schools and hospitals. It determines the number of seats each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives, influencing political representation. Also, the Census data provides valuable insights into the demographics of the population, helping understand trends, diversity, and societal changes. People use Census data to decide where to open businesses and offices, which creates jobs. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share the data with immigration or law enforcement agencies or allow it to determine eligibility for government benefits.

U.S. Population:

The U.S. population is the total number of individuals living in the United States and its territories. As per the 2020 Census, the U.S. population is counted as over 331 million people (see population table). The U.S. population is diverse, with people from all over the world living in the country. The population is spread across different states and regions, with some areas being more densely populated than others. The 2020 Census shows that 19.9 million people identified as Asian alone and 4.1 million people identified as Asian in combination with another race.

³ "Decennial Census of Population and Housing by Decades," Census Bureau

⁴ "Why Do We Conduct A Census," Census Bureau

⁵ "California Census Office Partner Toolkit, February 2020," California Census Office

Population: United States 2010 and 2020

| | 2010 Census | 2020 Census | Population Growth (%) |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| Total Population | 308,745,538 | 331,449,281 | 7.4% |
| Asian Americans | 17,320,856 | 24,000,998 | 38.6% |
| Southeast Asian Americans | 6,382,375 | 8,095,224 | 26.8% |
| Burmese Americans | 100,200 | 276,322 | 175.8% |

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Data and 2020 Census Data

- ◆ Between 2010 and 2020, the Census shows that the total population grew by 7.4%. In comparison, there was a population growth rate of 38.6% among Asian Americans and 26.8% among Southeast Asian Americans.
- ◆ The Burmese American population experienced the most significant growth within these groups, increasing by approximately 176% between 2000 and 2010.

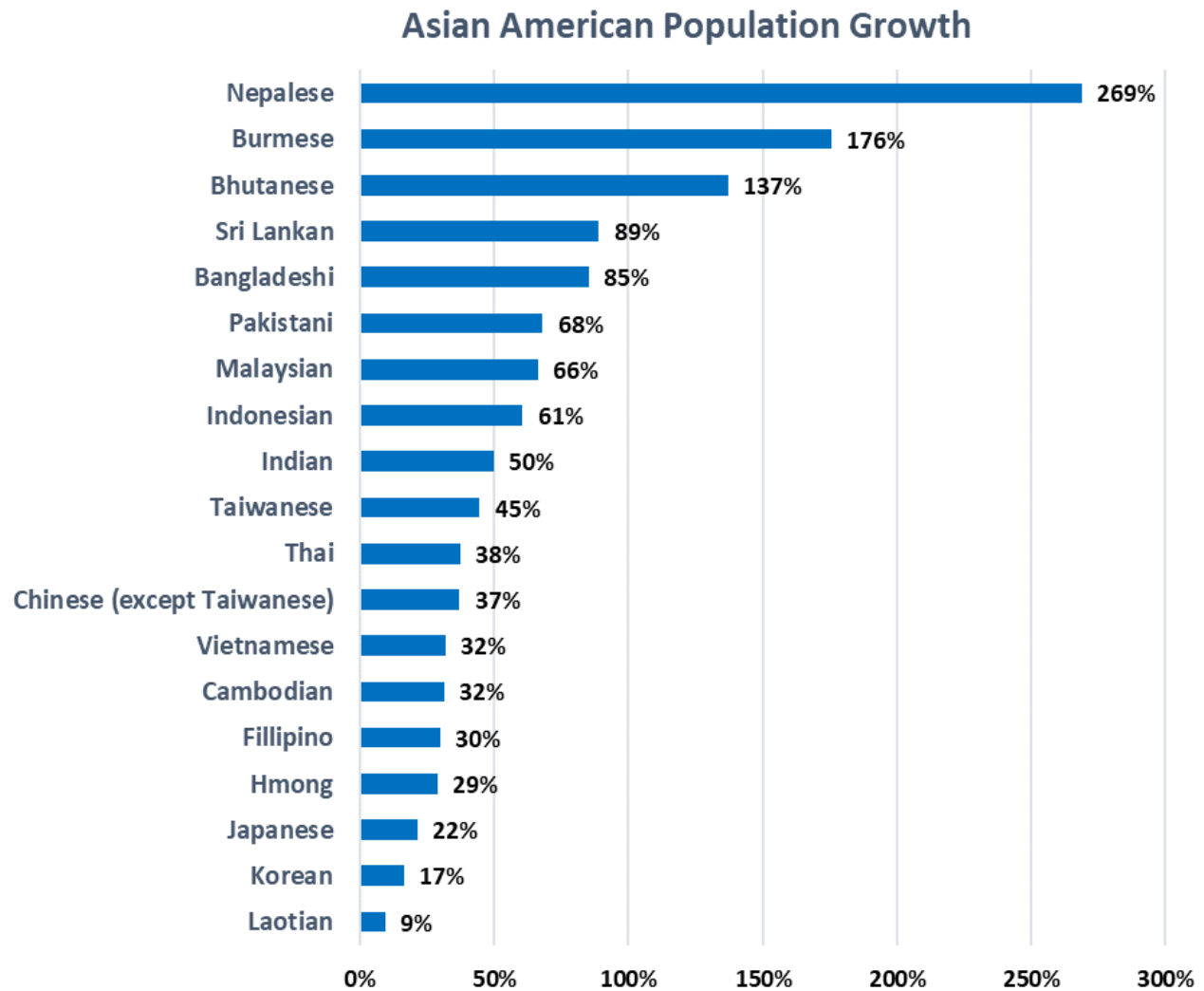
Asian American Ethnic Groups: U.S. 2020, Ranked in Order of Population

| Ethnic Group | Population | Ethnic Group | Population |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Chinese (except Taiwanese) | 5,205,461 | Burmese | 276,322 |
| Indian | 4,768,846 | Bangladeshi | 273,050 |
| Filipino | 4,436,992 | Laotian | 254,151 |
| Vietnamese | 2,293,392 | Nepalese | 219,503 |
| Korean | 1,989,519 | Indonesian | 153,115 |
| Japanese | 1,586,652 | Sri Lankan | 85,785 |
| Pakistani | 687,942 | Bhutanese | 46,146 |
| Cambodian | 364,006 | Malaysian | 43,580 |
| Hmong | 335,919 | Singaporean | 13,462 |
| Taiwanese | 333,289 | Bruneian | 227 |
| Thai | 326,758 | | |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Data

- ◆ Chinese Americans continue to be the largest Asian American ethnic group, with over 5.2 million nationwide. They are followed in size by Indian, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Korean Americans.
- ◆ Indian Americans now outnumber both Filipinos and Vietnamese nationwide.

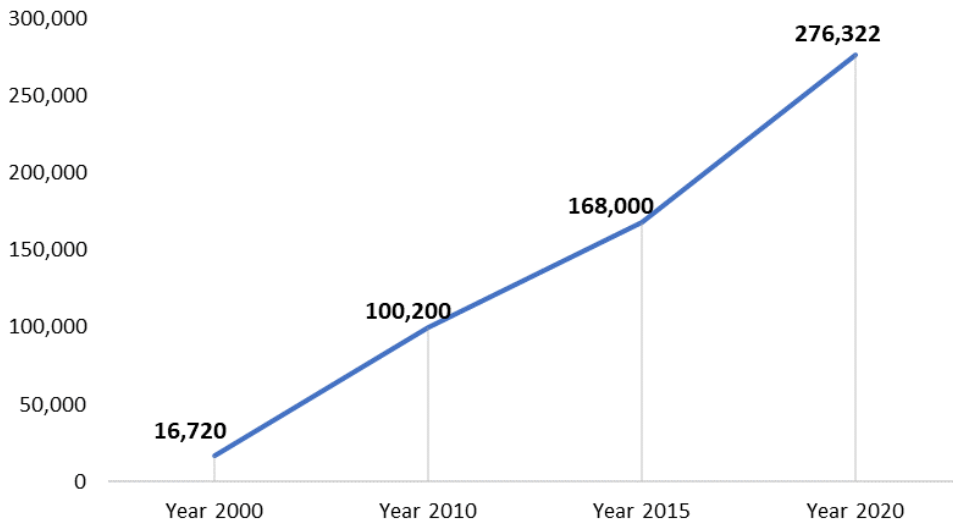
Asian American Population Growth: By Ethnic Group, U.S. 2010 to 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Data

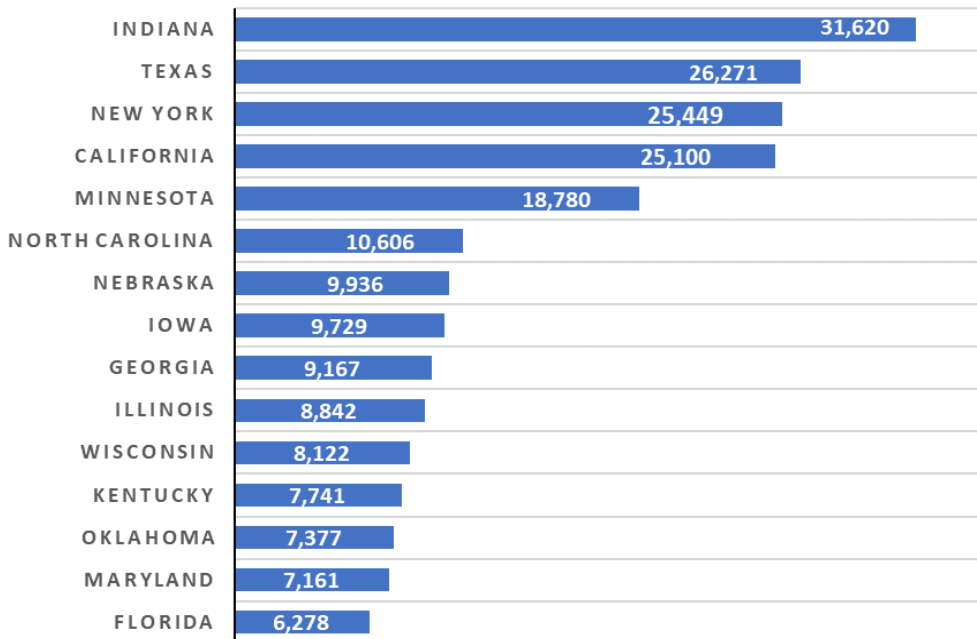
- ◆ The fastest-growing Asian American ethnic groups were Nepalese, Burmese, and Bhutanese in 2020.
- ◆ The Nepali population witnessed the fastest growth of the Asian group, from 59,490 in 2010 to 219,000 in 2020.
- ◆ Similarly, the Burmese population expanded almost threefold from 100,200 in 2010 to 276,322 people in 2020.

Burmese Population Growth in the United States: Year 2000 to 2020



Sources: 2000, 2010, and 2020 population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. 2015 and 2019 population estimate from 2015 and 2019 American Community Survey 1-year estimates (Census Data)

Top 15 States With the Largest Burmese Community: United States 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Data

What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.

Chinese Vietnamese Native Hawaiian

Filipino Korean Samoan

Asian Indian Japanese Chamorro

Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

B u r m e s e

Some other race – Print race or origin.

What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

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Chinese Vietnamese Native Hawaiian

Filipino Korean Samoan

Asian Indian Japanese Chamorro

Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

C h i n e s e - B u r m e s e

Some other race – Print race or origin.

What is this person's race?
Mark one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.

Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.

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Chinese Vietnamese Native Hawaiian

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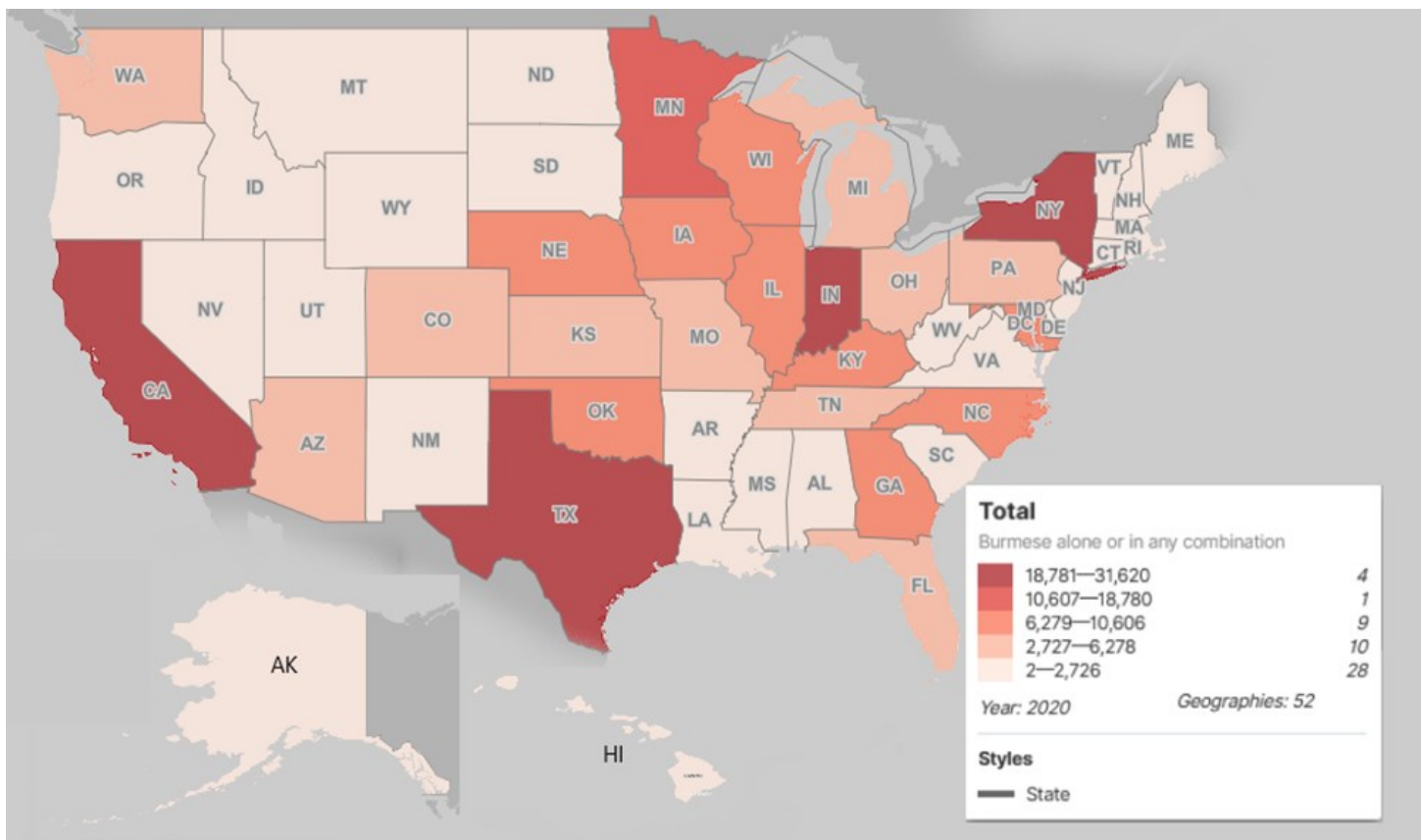
Asian Indian Japanese Chamorro

Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.

I n d i a n - B u r m e s e

Some other race – Print race or origin.

Population Map: Burmese Population in the U.S., 2020 Census



Source: 2020 population data from the U.S. Census Bureau

- ◆ **Population size between 18,781 and 31,620:** California (25,100), New York (25,449), Texas (26,271), and Indiana (31,620).
- ◆ **Population size between 10,600 and 18,780:** Minnesota (18,780).
- ◆ **Population size between 6,279 and 10,606:** Maryland (7,161), Oklahoma (7,377), Kentucky (7,741), Wisconsin (8,122), Illinois (8,842), Georgia (9,167), Iowa (9,729), Nebraska (9,936), and North Carolina (10,606).
- ◆ **Population size between 2,727 and 6,278:** Missouri (3,954), Pennsylvania (4,047), Ohio (4,274), Kansas (4,278), Washington (4,511), Tennessee (4,741), Arizona (5,082), Colorado (5,151), Michigan (6,258), Florida (6,278).

Burmese Population in the U.S.: 2010 Census and 2020 Census

| States | 2010 Census ^[3] | 2020 Census ^[3] | Growth Rate (%) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| ALABAMA (AL) | 146 | 334 | 129% |
| ALASKA (AK) | 30 | 63 | 110% |
| ARIZONA (AZ) | 2,675 | 5,082 | 90% |
| ARKANSAS (AR) | 53 | 1,432 | 2,602% |
| CALIFORNIA (CA) | 17,978 | 25,100 | 40% |
| COLORADO (CO) | 1,822 | 5,151 | 183% |
| CONNECTICUT (CT) | 763 | 1,122 | 47% |
| DELAWARE (DE) | 51 | 108 | 112% |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC) | 134 | 205 | 53% |
| FLORIDA (FL) | 2,578 | 6,278 | 144% |
| GEORGIA (GA) | 2,646 | 9,167 | 246% |
| HAWAII (HI) | 281 | 446 | 59% |
| IDAHO (ID) | 399 | 870 | 118% |
| ILLINOIS (IL) | 2,950 | 8,842 | 200% |
| INDIANA (IN) | 7,868 | 31,620 | 302% |
| IOWA (IA) | 1,260 | 9,729 | 672% |
| KANSAS (KS) | 1,204 | 4,278 | 255% |
| KENTUCKY (KY) | 1,524 | 7,741 | 408% |
| LOUISIANA (LA) | 270 | 659 | 144% |
| MAINE (ME) | 65 | 89 | 37% |
| MARYLAND (MD) | 3,450 | 7,161 | 108% |
| MASSACHUSETTS (MA) | 1,072 | 1,915 | 79% |
| MICHIGAN (MI) | 1,856 | 6,258 | 237% |
| MINNESOTA (MN) | 3,763 | 18,780 | 399% |
| MISSISSIPPI (MS) | 37 | 129 | 249% |
| MISSOURI (MO) | 842 | 3,954 | 370% |
| MONTANA (MT) | 14 | 81 | 479% |

| States | 2010 Census ^[3] | 2020 Census ^[3] | Growth Rate (%) |
|---------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| NEBRASKA (NE) | 2,250 | 9,936 | 342% |
| NEVADA (NV) | 349 | 641 | 84% |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH) | 67 | 226 | 237% |
| NEW JERSEY (NJ) | 1,197 | 1,308 | 9% |
| NEW MEXICO (NM) | 89 | 229 | 157% |
| NEW YORK (NY) | 12,174 | 25,449 | 109% |
| NORTH CAROLINA (NC) | 3,779 | 10,606 | 181% |
| NORTH DAKOTA (ND) | 28 | 65 | 132% |
| OHIO (OH) | 1,356 | 4,274 | 215% |
| OKLAHOMA (OK) | 1,146 | 7,377 | 544% |
| OREGON (OR) | 977 | 2,726 | 179% |
| PENNSYLVANIA (PA) | 1,822 | 4,047 | 122% |
| RHODE ISLAND (RI) | 108 | 134 | 24% |
| SOUTH CAROLINA (SC) | 425 | 1,192 | 180% |
| SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) | 669 | 2,626 | 293% |
| TENNESSEE (TN) | 1,324 | 4,741 | 258% |
| TEXAS (TX) | 10,451 | 26,271 | 151% |
| UTAH (UT) | 1,090 | 2,457 | 125% |
| VERMONT (VT) | 126 | 254 | 102% |
| VIRGINIA (VA) | 1,668 | 2,449 | 47% |
| WASHINGTON (WA) | 2,058 | 4,511 | 119% |
| WEST VIRGINIA (WV) | 109 | 133 | 22% |
| WISCONSIN (WI) | 1,197 | 8,122 | 579% |
| WYOMING (WY) | 10 | 37 | 270% |
| Grand Total | 100,200 | 276,322 | |

[3] Alone or in any combination race

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Data and 2020 Census Data

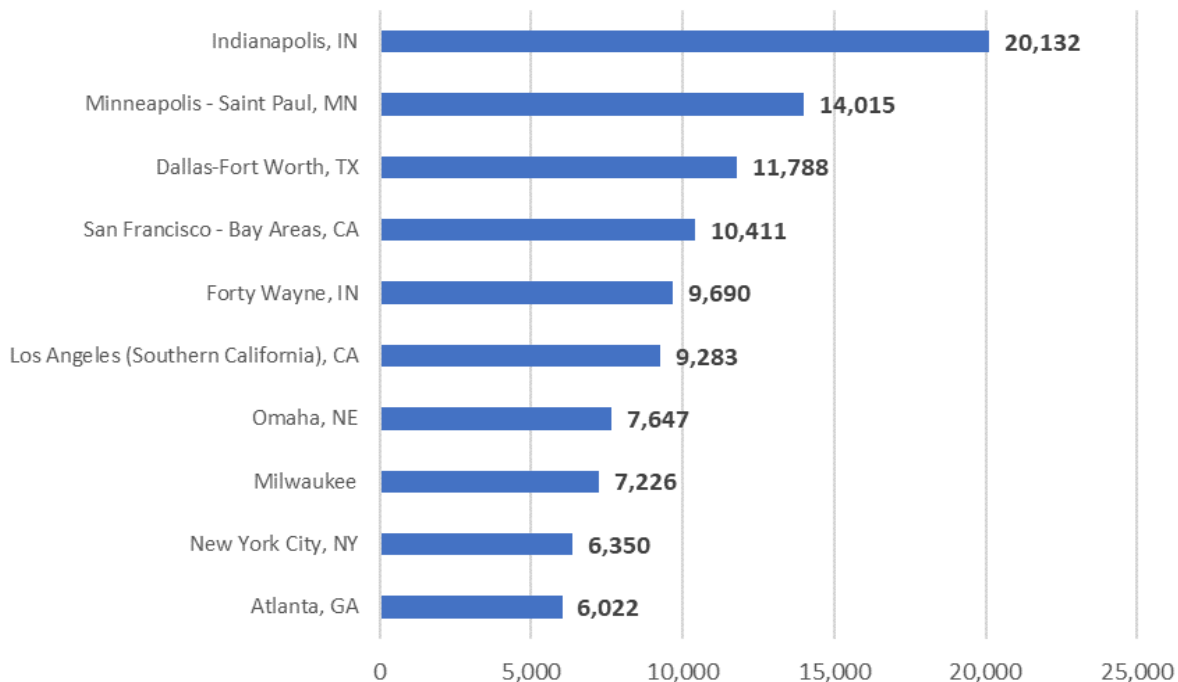
State With Highest Growth Rates of Burmese Americans: United States 2010 to 2020

| | % Growth | | % Growth |
|--------------|----------|---------------|----------|
| Arkansas | 2,602 % | Indiana | 302 % |
| Iowa | 672 % | Wyoming | 270 % |
| Wisconsin | 579 % | Tennessee | 258 % |
| Oklahoma | 544 % | Kansas | 255 % |
| South Dakota | 518 % | Mississippi | 249 % |
| Montana | 479 % | Georgia | 246 % |
| Kentucky | 408 % | New Hampshire | 237 % |
| Minnesota | 399 % | Michigan | 237 % |
| Missouri | 370 % | Ohio | 215 % |
| Nebraska | 342 % | Illinois | 200 % |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Data

- ◆ Based on the results of the 2020 Census, Indiana has the largest Burmese population in the U.S., with 31,620 individuals. This is a change from the 2010 Census, which had California as the state with the most Burmese, at 17,978.
- ◆ Arkansas has the fastest-growing Burmese community, with a population increase of 2,602% over the last decade, while New Jersey has had the lowest growth rate at 9%.
- ◆ Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana State, has the largest Burmese population out of all the U.S. Metropolitan areas, with 20,132 people. The second-highest Burmese population of 14,105 is in Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Top 10 U.S. Metropolitan Areas by Burmese Population: Year 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Data

- ◆ Indiana has the highest percentage of Burmese population as per the 2020 Census. The two counties with the largest Burmese population in Indiana are Allen County, with 9,690, and Marion County, with 20,132.
- ◆ In comparison, the most populated counties of Burmese people in other states were Douglas County, Nebraska, with 7,647; Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, with 7,226; Los Angeles County, California, with 6,941; Erie County, New York, with 6,643; and DeKalb County, Georgia, with 6,022.

Counties with the Highest Number of Burmese Population (1,000+): Year 2020

Ranked in Order of Highest Population State

| | All Burmese | | All Burmese |
|--|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Indiana (IN) | | Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) | 3,385 |
| Allen County (Fort Wayne) | 9,690 | Orange County | 1,266 |
| Marion County (Indianapolis) | 20,132 | | |
| | | Nebraska (NE) | |
| Texas (TX) | | Douglas County (Omaha) | 7,647 |
| Bexar County (San Antonio) | 1,473 | Lancaster County (Lincoln) | 1,787 |
| Dallas County (Dallas-Fort Worth) | 5,605 | | |
| Denton County (Dallas-Fort Worth) | 2,958 | Iowa (IA) | |
| Harris County (Houston) | 3,231 | Marshall County | 1,118 |
| Midland County | 1,328 | Polk County (Des Moines) | 5,790 |
| Potter County (Amarillo) | 3,160 | | |
| Tarrant County (Dallas-Forth Worth) | 3,225 | Georgia (GA) | |
| Travis County (Austin) | 1,383 | DeKalb County (Atlanta) | 6,022 |
| | | Gwinnett County | 1,863 |
| | | | |
| New York (NY) | | Illinois (IL) | |
| Albany County | 1,189 | Cook County (Chicago) | 2,645 |
| Erie County (Buffalo) | 6,643 | DuPage County | 2,181 |
| Kings County (Brooklyn) | 1,921 | Rock Island County | 1,838 |
| Monroe County | 1,282 | | |
| Oneida County (Utica) | 5,486 | Wisconsin (WI) | |
| Onondaga County (Syracuse) | 2,559 | Milwaukee County | 7,226 |
| Queens County | 3,678 | | |
| | | Kentucky, (KY) | |
| California (CA) | | Daviess County | 1,477 |
| Alameda County | 4,026 | Jefferson County | 1,749 |
| Los Angeles County | 6,941 | Warren County (Bowling Green) | 3,952 |
| Orange County | 1,261 | | |
| Riverside and San Bernardino Counties | 1,081 | Oklahoma (OK) | |
| San Diego County | 1,560 | Oklahoma County | 1,081 |
| San Francisco County | 1,723 | Tulsa County | 5,802 |
| San Mateo County | 3,284 | | |
| Santa Clara County | 1,378 | Maryland (MD) | |
| | | Baltimore County | 2,736 |
| Minnesota (MN) | | Frederick County | 1,007 |
| Mower County | 1,239 | Howard County | 1,465 |
| Ramsey County (Saint Paul-Minneapolis) | 14,015 | Montgomery County | 1,156 |
| | | | |
| North Carolina (NC) | | Florida (FL) | |
| Craven County | 1,414 | Duval County (Jacksonville) | 3,034 |
| Guilford County | 1,628 | | |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Data



American Community Survey:

The American Community Survey (ACS)⁶ is an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau that collects information on the U.S. population's demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics. It is a vital tool for policymakers, businesses, and researchers, as it provides data on smaller geographic areas and population groups that are unavailable in the decennial census. The ACS is conducted annually, including a sample of around 3.5 million addresses per year. The data collected from the ACS is used to allocate federal funding for programs such as Medicaid, the National School Lunch Program, and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, among others. It is also used to redraw legislative districts and to plan for infrastructure development and emergency management.

While the 2020 Census is a 10-year survey and primarily a population count determining each state's congressional representation, the ACS is different.

Populations and People:

Median Age and Age Group: U.S. 2022

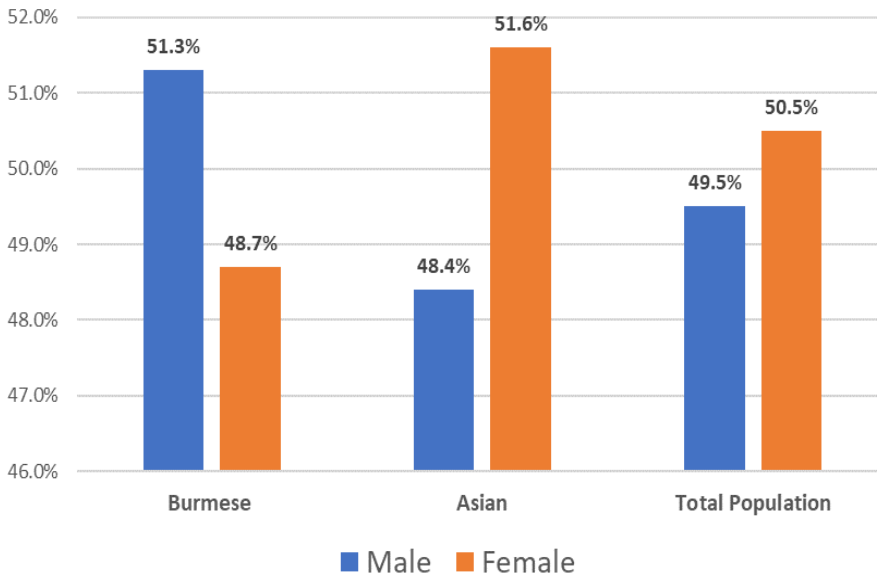
| Race | Median Age | 0-17 | 18-64 | 65+ |
|--------------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Total Population | 39.0 | 24.3% | 58.3% | 17.4% |
| Asian Americans | 35.7 | 23.8% | 63.7% | 12.5% |
| Burmese Americans | 29.0 | 34.3% | 60.3% | 5.4% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ The average median age of Burmese Americans is 29.0, a decade younger than the overall U.S. population median age of 39.0 and significantly younger than the median age for Asian Americans, which is 35.7. This indicates that the Burmese American community is a relatively young and growing population within the United States.

⁶ "American Community Survey (ACS)," Census Bureau, accessed November 2, 2023

Gender Ratio: Burmese vs. Asian vs. Total Population

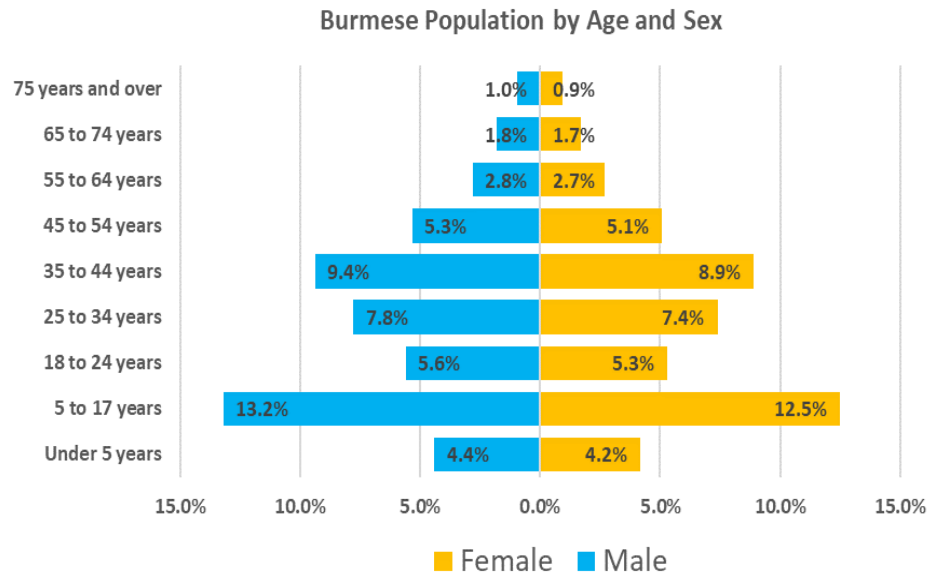


- ◆ Men comprise the majority of the Burmese American population, at 51.3% compared to 48.7% of women.
- ◆ Interestingly, the gender ratio of Asian Americans is the opposite trend, with women comprising 51.6% and men comprising 48.4% of the population.
- ◆ The total American population has a slightly higher percentage of women, with 50.5%, compared to men, who make up 49.5% of the population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

Population Pyramid: Burmese Population by Age and Sex

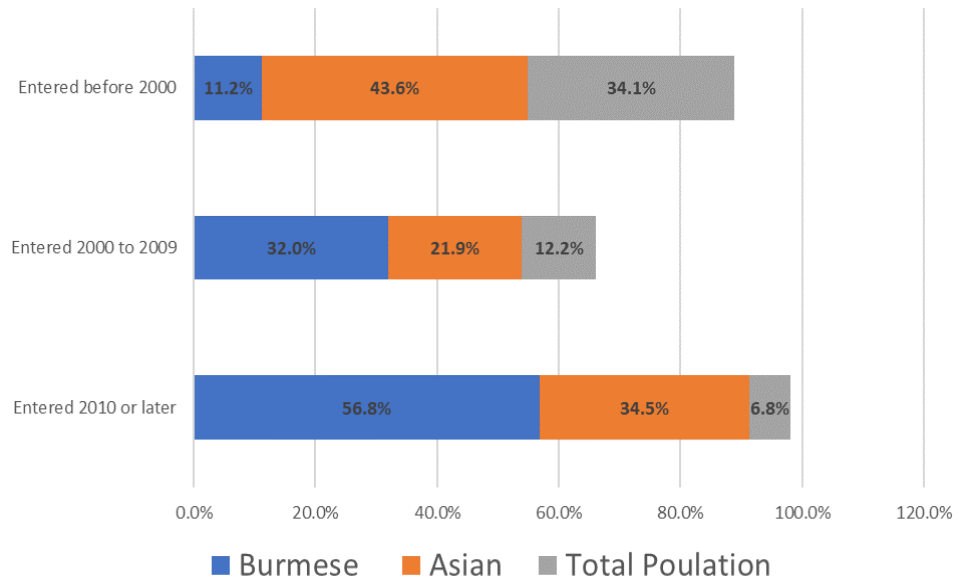
- ◆ The data suggests that the majority of Burmese Americans are between the ages of 5 and 17.
- ◆ 13.2% of Burmese people between 5 and 17 years old are males, while 12.5% are females.
- ◆ The second most populous age range is 35 to 44 years old, consisting of 9.4% males and 8.9% females.
- ◆ The age group with the smallest population is 75 years and older, with only 1% males and 0.9% females.
- ◆ These above results indicate that Burmese Americans are predominantly male and of a younger age group.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

Population Born Outside the United States: Burmese vs. Asian vs. Total Population

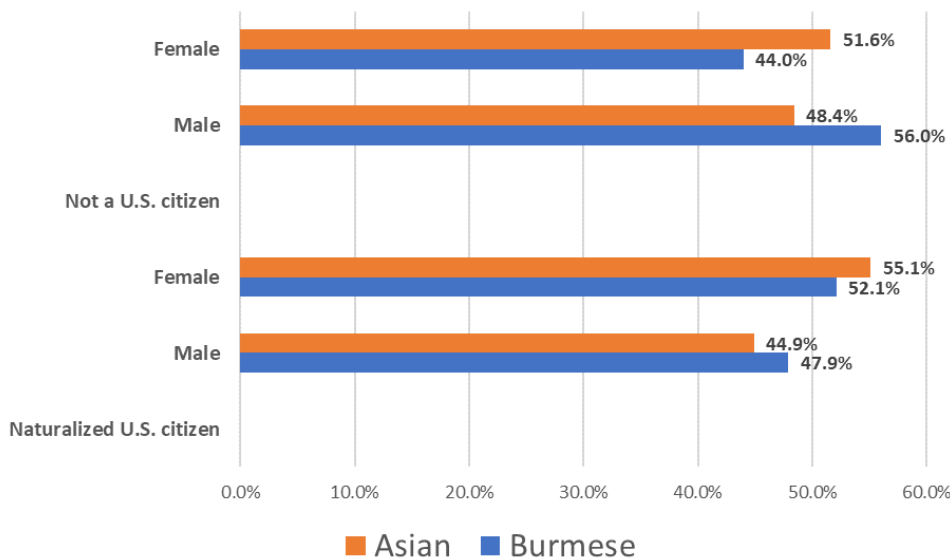
- ◆ According to data, only 11.2% of Burmese individuals migrated to the United States before the year 2000, indicating a low immigration rate from Burma to the U.S. during that period. This percentage is significantly lower compared to the immigration rates of Asian immigrants, at 43.6%, and other groups entering the U.S., at 34.1%.
- ◆ However, the rate of Burmese immigrants has gradually increased throughout the 2000s, with a 32% increase in Burmese individuals entering the U.S. between 2000 and 2009. This rate is nearly three times higher compared to the years before 2000. In comparison, Asian immigrants and other groups entered at lower rates of 21.9% and 12.2%, respectively.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ By far, the largest influx of Burmese immigrants to the U.S. began in 2010 and continued throughout the following years, with a significant 56.8% of Burmese people. This is in comparison to 34.5% of Asian immigrants and only 6.8% of the remaining groups.
- ◆ This data demonstrates that the vast majority of Burmese people who immigrated to the U.S. entered in the years after 2010.

Foreign-born Population - Citizenship: Burmese vs. Asian



- ◆ According to the ACS data, among the Burmese Americans who are non-U.S. citizens, 56% are male, and only 44% are female. The majority of U.S. non-citizens are male, while there is a wider gap between the percentages of men and women.
- ◆ In comparison to Asian non-U.S. citizens, a slightly lower 48.4% are male, while 51.6% are female. In the case of Asian non-U.S. citizens, women represent a slightly larger share, and there is less variance between the percentages of men and women.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ When it comes to U.S. citizens of Burmese Americans, the percentage of women is higher than that of men. Women make up the majority, at 52.1%, and men make up 47.9% - percentages that are closer in value than those of non-U.S. citizens.
- ◆ Compared to Asian U.S. citizens, women still make up the majority, at 55.1%, while men make up 44.9%.

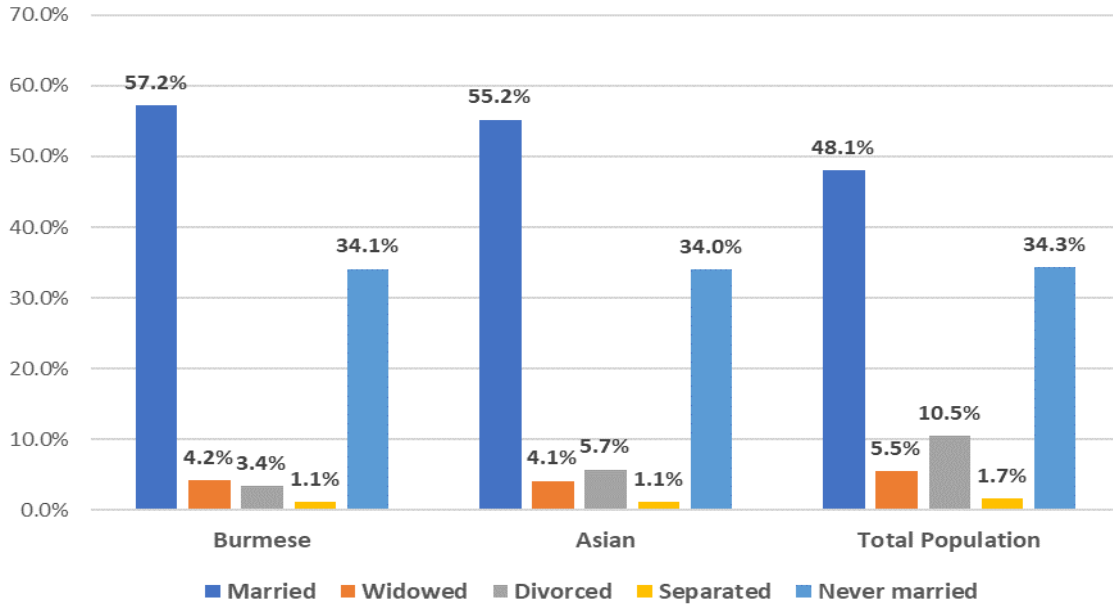
Housing Tenure: Burmese vs. Asian vs. Total Population

| | Burmese | Asian | Total Population |
|--|---------|-------|------------------|
| Owner-occupied housing units | 64.2% | 62.1% | 55.8% |
| Renter-occupied housing units | 35.8% | 37.9% | 44.2% |
| Average household size of owner-occupied unit | 4.31 | 3.08 | 3.24 |
| Average household size of renter-occupied unit | 3.29 | 2.36 | 2.86 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ Although the homeownership rates are similar across all three groups, the Burmese population has the highest percentage of homeowners. Specifically, 64.2% of the Burmese population live in owner-occupied housing, followed by 62.1% of the Asian population and 55.8% of the total population.
- ◆ The percentages of all three groups living in rental housing are also approximate in number, with 35.8% of the Burmese population, 37.9% of the Asian population, and 44.2% of the total population – representing the group with the highest percentage of renters.
- ◆ In homeowner households, the average size of Burmese households is approximately 4.31 members, while Asian households are 3.08 members, and households among the total population are approximately 3.24 members.
- ◆ In contrast, rental units generally have smaller-sized households, with Burmese households averaging 3.29 members, Asian households averaging only 2.36 members, and households among the total population averaging 2.86 members.
- ◆ Burmese households in both owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing generally have the largest average sizes across all three groups.

Marital Status:

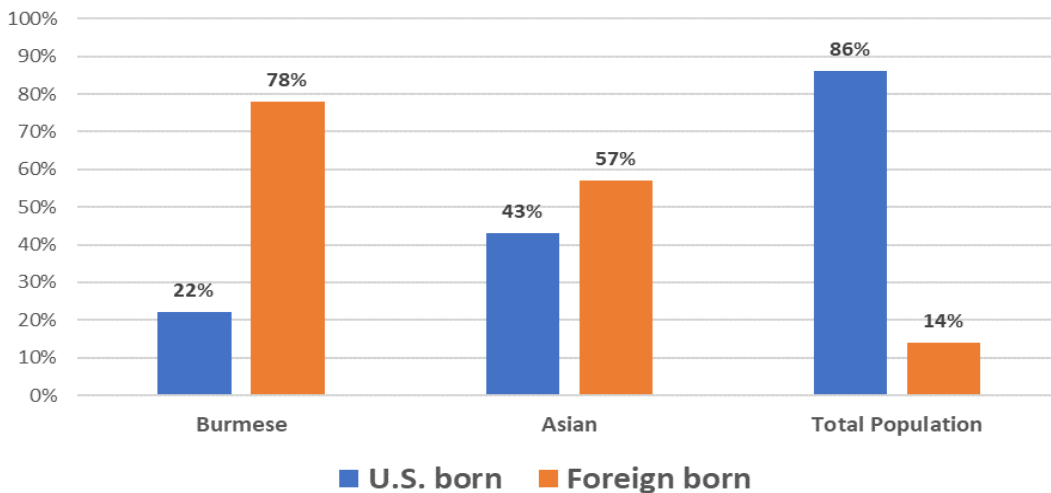


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ According to a survey conducted by the ACS, 57.2% of Burmese Americans are married, which is higher than the percentage of married Asian Americans (55.2%) and the overall American population (48.1%).
- ◆ The percentage of people who have never married is similar across all groups, with 34.1% of Burmese Americans, 34% of Asians, and 34.3% of the total population.
- ◆ The most significant percentage differences between the groups are seen in the number of divorced individuals. Only 3.4% of Burmese Americans are divorced, compared to 5.7% of Asian Americans and 10.5% of the total population. This indicates that Burmese Americans are almost three times less likely to get divorced than the overall population.

Nativity:

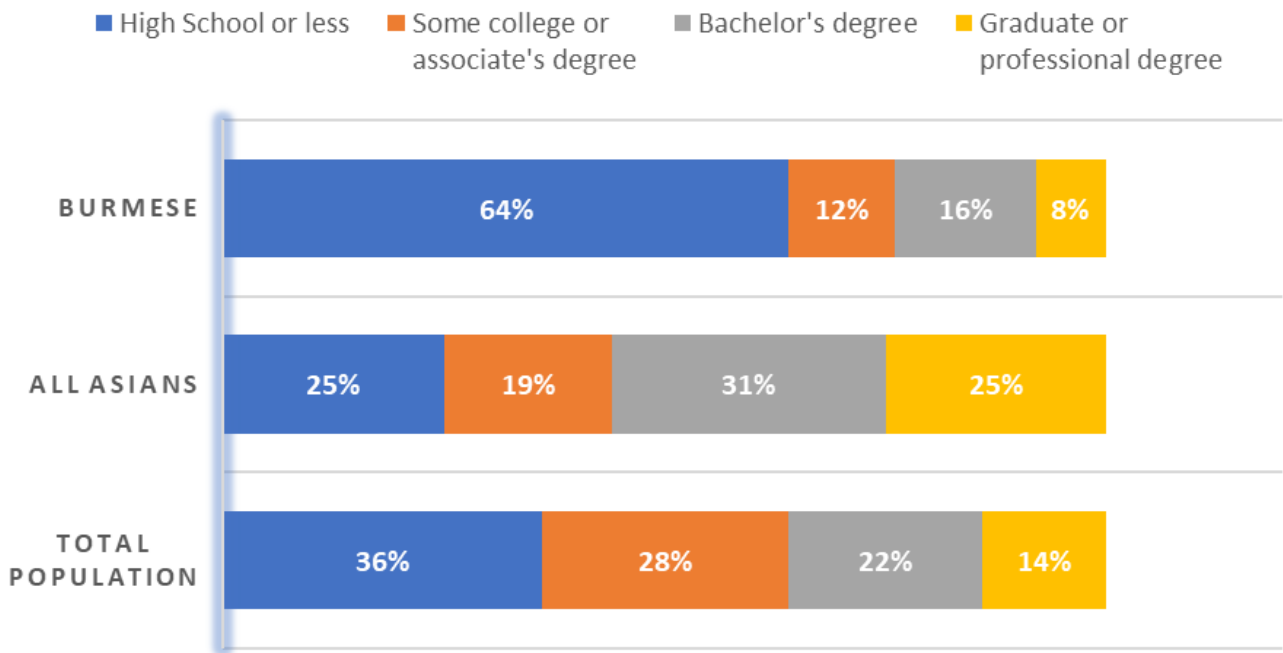
Burmese vs. Asian vs. Total Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ Approximately 8 out of 10 Burmese Americans are foreign-born compared to 1 out of 10 for the overall U.S. population.
- ◆ Similarly, 6 out of 10 Asian Americans are foreign-born, which is slightly lower than that of Burmese Americans.
- ◆ In contrast to the Burmese American population, Asian Americans have a more balanced ratio of U.S.-born to foreign-born individuals. In the Asian American population, 43% are born in the U.S., and 57% are born outside of the U.S.
- ◆ However, only 22% of Burmese Americans are born in the U.S., which indicates that the majority of Burmese Americans emigrated to the U.S. from Myanmar or other countries.

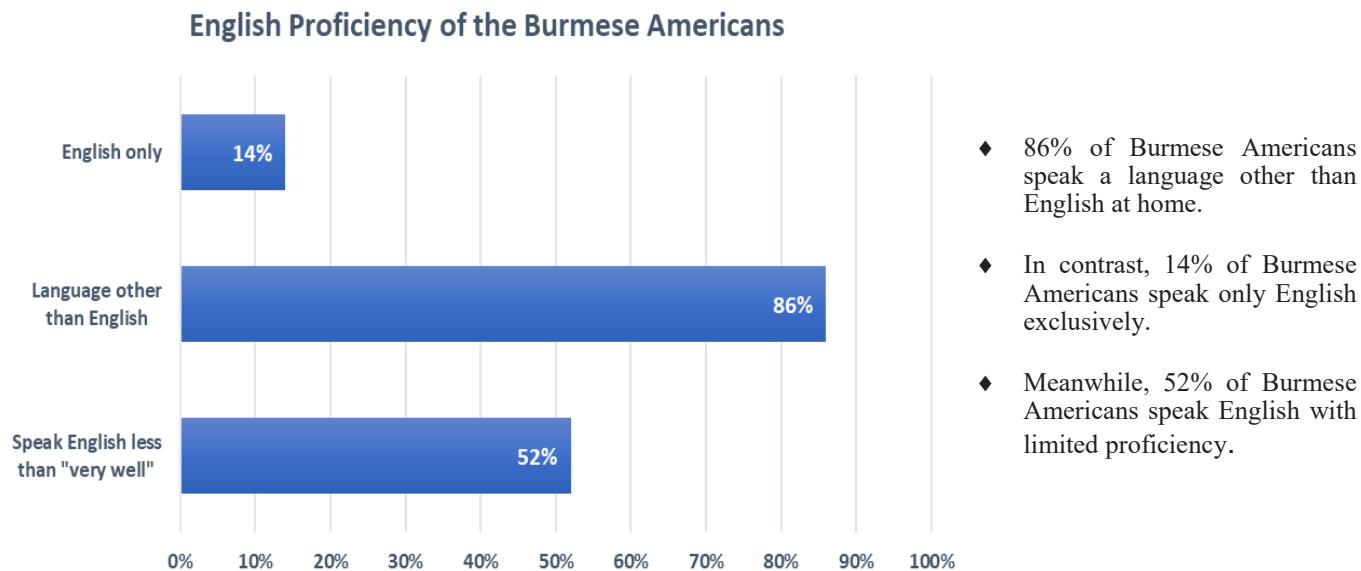
Educational Attainment: Burmese Population Aged 25 and Over in the U.S., 2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ It is noteworthy that 64% of Burmese Americans either did not complete high school or completed only high school, while the same statistic for Asian Americans is 25% and for all Americans is 36%.
- ◆ An estimated 24% (16% + 8%) of Burmese Americans have at least a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 56% of Asian Americans and 36% of the overall population.

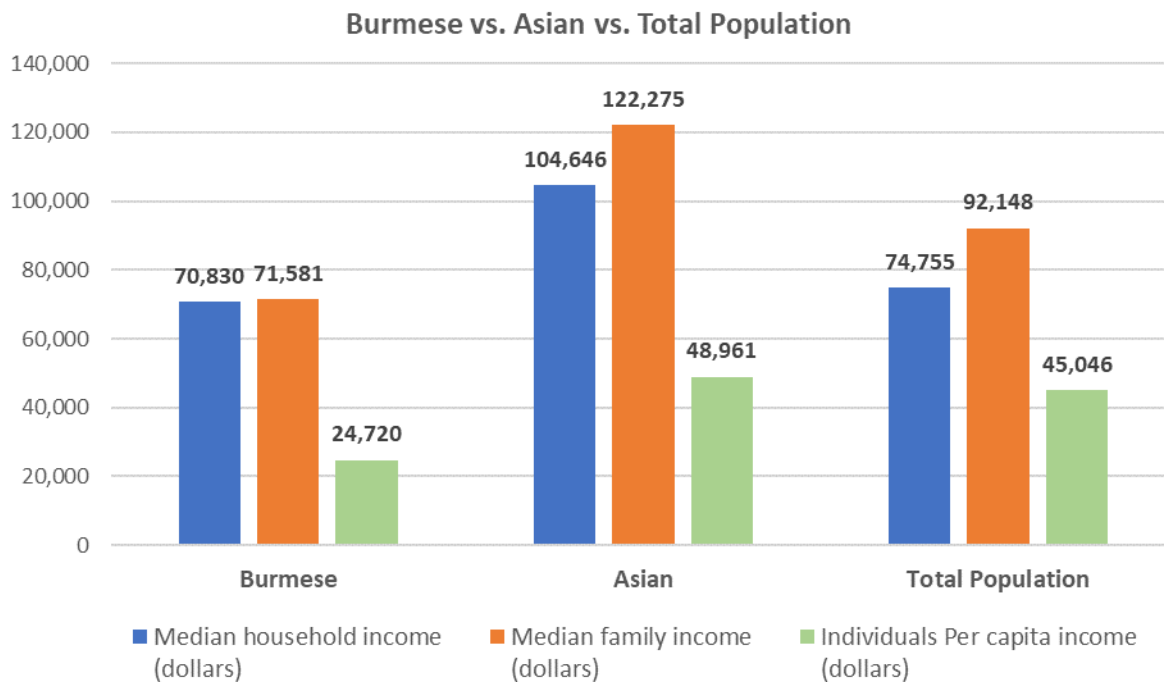
English Proficiency of the Burmese Population in the U.S., 2022:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

Income and Poverty:

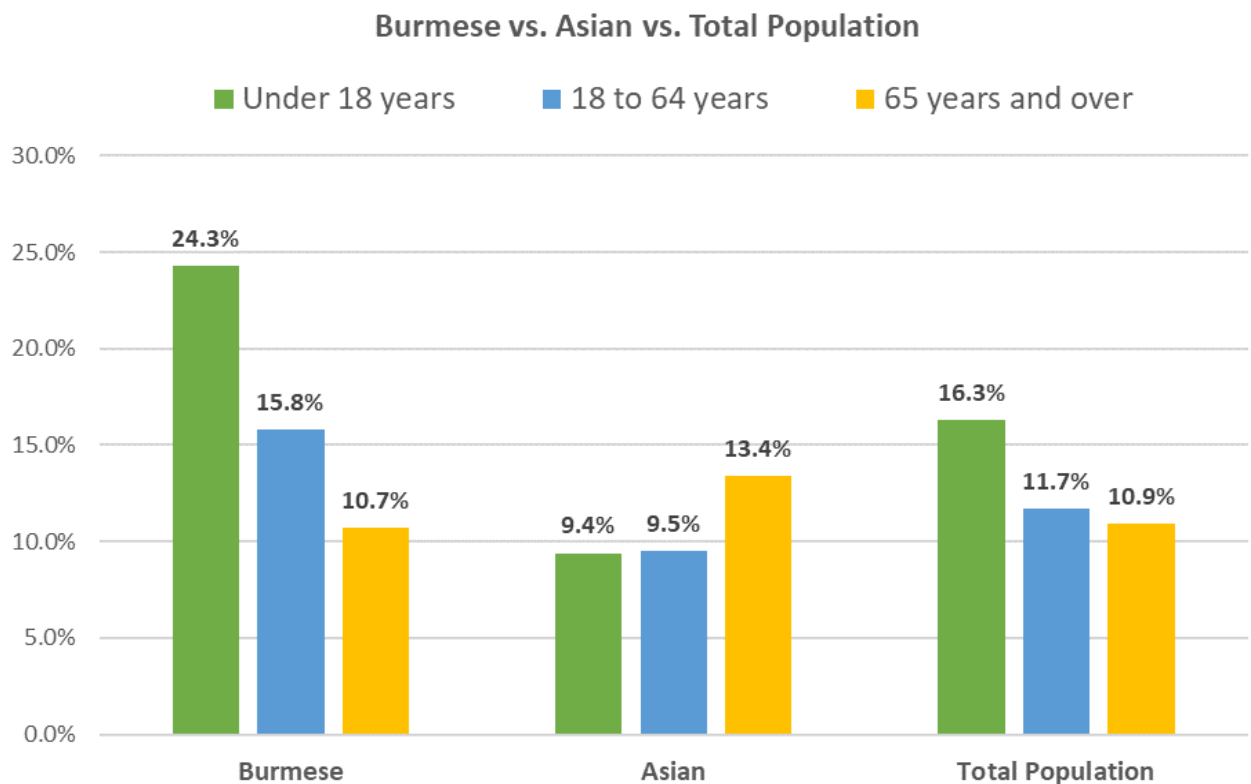
Median Income by Types of Families in 2022: Burmese and Other Populations



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ In 2022, the median household income of Burmese Americans was \$70,830, which is significantly lower than the average household income of Asian Americans, which stands at \$104,646.
- ◆ Also, the median family income of Burmese Americans is \$71,581, much lower than the average of Asian Americans, who have an average family income of \$122,275 and an overall population income of \$92,148.
- ◆ Burmese Americans were found to be the second lowest-earning ethnic group per capita in the U.S., with a per capita income of \$24,720. This is less than half of the average per capita income of Asian Americans, which is \$48,961.

Poverty by Age:

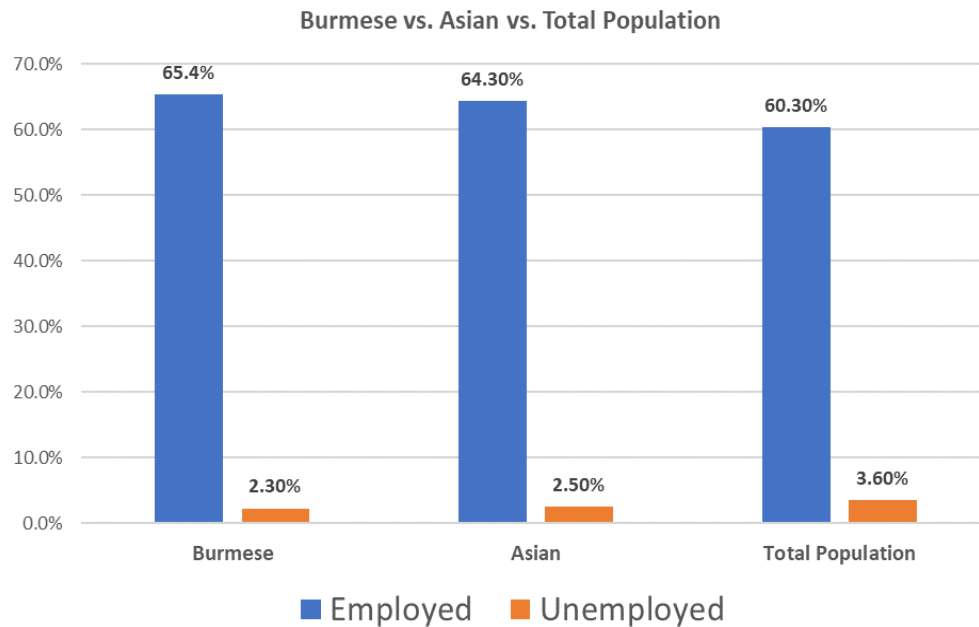


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ The majority of Burmese Americans living in poverty are under the age of 18 years old and constitute 24.3% of the impoverished population. This percentage is higher than that of Asian Americans (9.4%) and the overall population (16.3%).
- ◆ Similarly, 15.8% of impoverished Burmese Americans are between the ages of 18-64, compared to 9.5% of Asian Americans and 11.7% of the total population.
- ◆ The age group with the lowest proportion of Burmese Americans in poverty is 65 years and over, which is at 10.7%. This is close to the percentage of the total population living in poverty, which is at 10.9%. In contrast, the age group with the highest proportion of Asian Americans living in poverty is 65 years and over, which is at 13.4% of the population.

Employment:

Employment and Labor Force Status:



- ◆ Burmese Americans have the highest employment rate of 65.4% compared to 64.3% of Asian Americans and 60.3% of Americans.
- ◆ The Burmese American population also has the lowest unemployment rate of 2.3% compared to 2.5% of Asian Americans and the highest rate of 3.6% of Americans.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

Occupation for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over:

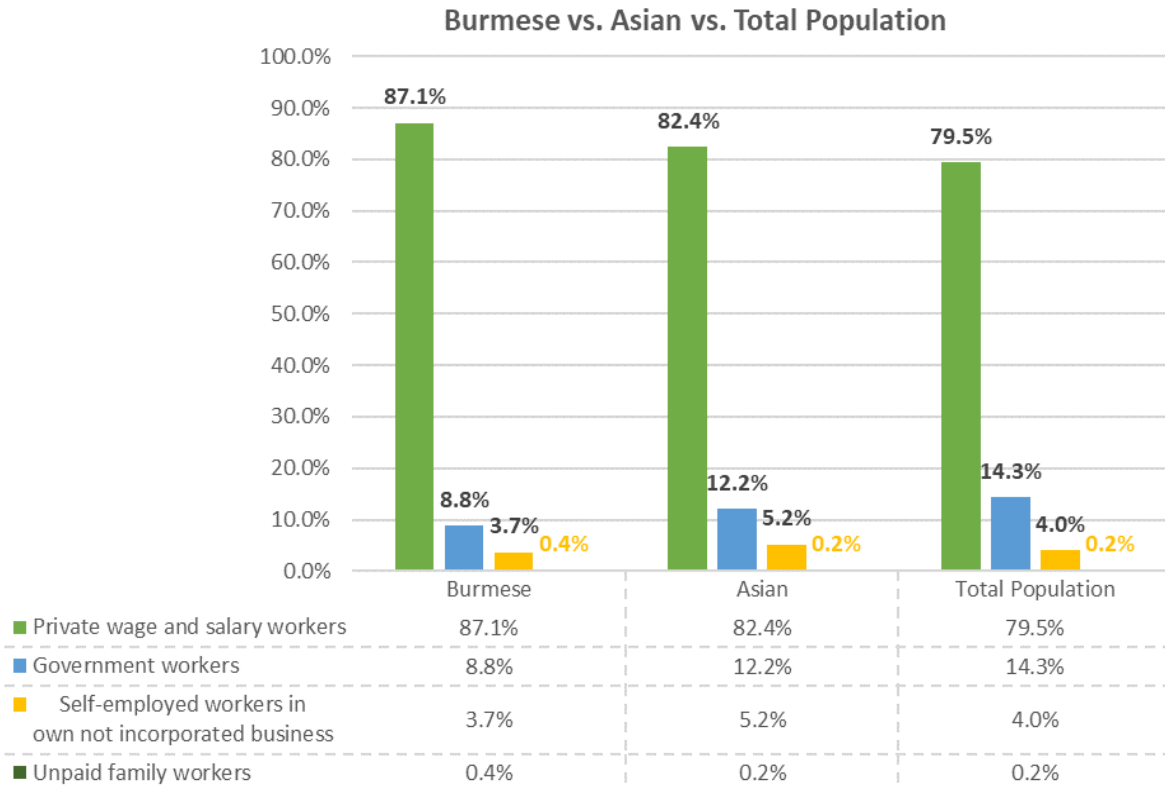
| | Burmese | Asian | Total Population |
|--|---------|-------|------------------|
| Management, business, science, and arts occupations | 24.6% | 56.5% | 42.5% |
| Service occupations | 19.3% | 14.9% | 16.2% |
| Sales and office occupations | 14.4% | 16.1% | 19.8% |
| Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations | 5.8% | 3.0% | 8.5% |
| Production, transportation, and material moving occupations | 35.9% | 9.5% | 13.0% |

- ◆ According to the 2022 ACS statistics, the most significant proportion of the Burmese population works in the production, transportation, and material moving occupations, which accounts for 35.9% of the workforce. This is significantly higher than the corresponding figures for the Asian population (9.5%) and the total U.S. population (13%).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ On the other hand, the least populated occupations across all three groups were natural resources, construction, and maintenance, with only 5.8% of the Burmese population, a mere 3% of the Asian population, and 8.5% of the total population working in these sectors.
- ◆ As for the management, business, science, and arts occupations, much of the Asian population (56.5%) and the total population (42.5%) are employed in these fields. However, the proportion of the Burmese population working in these sectors is almost half of the percentages for the other populations, at 24.6%.

Class of Worker for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ Burmese Americans have the highest proportion of private wage and salary workers, at 87.1% of the Burmese population. In comparison, the proportion of such workers is 82.4% among Asian Americans and 79.5% among the total population.
- ◆ The Burmese American population has a lower proportion of government workers, at 8.8%, compared to 12.2% among Asian Americans and 14.3% among Americans.
- ◆ Following the same trend, 3.7% of Burmese Americans are self-employed workers in unincorporated businesses, compared to 5.2% among Asian Americans and 4% among Americans.
- ◆ Burmese Americans have a slightly higher population of unpaid family workers, at 0.4% of the population, compared to 0.2% among Asian Americans and the total population.

Industry for the Civilian Employed Population 16 Years and Over:

| | Burmese | Asian | Total Population |
|--|---------|-------|------------------|
| Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining | 0.7% | 0.4% | 1.6% |
| Construction | 3.4% | 2.3% | 6.9% |
| Manufacturing | 29.1% | 10.8% | 9.9% |
| Wholesale trade | 3.4% | 2.0% | 2.2% |
| Retail trade | 11.4% | 10.3% | 11.1% |
| Transportation and warehousing, and utilities | 9.1% | 5.0% | 6.0% |
| Information | 0.8% | 2.9% | 1.9% |
| Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing | 3.9% | 7.6% | 6.7% |
| Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services | 7.2% | 16.6% | 12.6% |
| Educational services, and health care and social assistance | 14.1% | 24.3% | 23.1% |
| Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services | 11.2% | 9.1% | 8.7% |
| Other services (except public administration) | 2.9% | 5.1% | 4.7% |
| Public administration | 2.8% | 3.7% | 4.6% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

- ◆ The industry with the highest percentage of Burmese American workers is manufacturing, at 29.1% of the population, which is larger than the 10.8% of Asian Americans and 9.9% of the total population in this field.
- ◆ Only 0.7% of Burmese Americans are employed in the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining industries, compared to 0.4% of Asian Americans and 1.6% of the total population.
- ◆ In contrast, the highest percentage of workers in the Asian American and total populations are employed in the educational services, health care, and social assistance industry, at 24.3% and 23.1%, respectively. Meanwhile, just 14.1% of Burmese Americans are employed in this industry.

Health Insurance Coverage:

| | Burmese | Asian | Total Population |
|-------------------------------|---------|-------|------------------|
| With private health insurance | 44.7% | 74.8% | 67.2% |
| With public coverage | 49.1% | 27.5% | 37.2% |
| No health insurance coverage | 12.4% | 5.4% | 8.0% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey (ACS), 1-Year Estimate

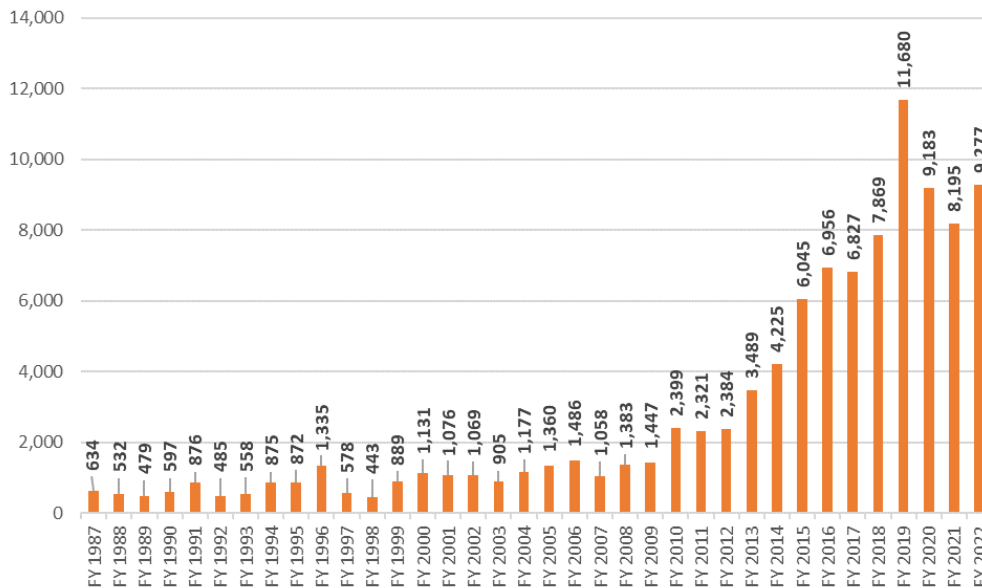
- ◆ Across these groups, Burmese Americans have the lowest enrollment rates in private health insurance, at 44.7% of the population. This number is just slightly higher than half of the 74.8% of Asian Americans and 67.2% of the total population who have private health coverage.
- ◆ The most significant proportion of Burmese Americans have public health coverage, at 49.1%, compared to 27.5% of Asian Americans and 37.2% of the total population.
- ◆ 12.4% of Burmese Americans have no health insurance coverage, which is a higher proportion than the 5.4% of Asian Americans and 8% of Americans who lack insurance.



U.S. Citizenship (Naturalization):

U.S. Citizenship can be obtained through birth within the United States or through a process called naturalization. Naturalization requires an individual to meet specific eligibility criteria, such as being a legal permanent resident for a specified amount of time, passing a citizenship test, and demonstrating proficiency in English⁷. Naturalization refers to persons aged 18 and over who become citizens of the United States. Most legal permanent residents can apply for naturalization within five years after obtaining Legal Permanent Residents (LPR)⁸.

Persons Naturalized by Country of Birth: Burma, Fiscal Years 1999 to 2022



- ◆ Between 1988 and 1989, there was a significant increase in the number of Burmese migrating to the U.S. This coincided with the second wave of Burmese migration after the national uprising in 1988. (See page 7, Burmese/Myanmar Americans in the United States)

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, 2022 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics

- ◆ After 2007, the number of naturalized Burmese individuals began to climb due to the third wave of Burmese migration. This wave was propelled by the U.S. government's implementation of refugee resettlement programs in 2005, incentivizing many Burmese people to immigrate to the U.S.
- ◆ In 2019, the number of naturalized Burmese individuals reached its highest point at 11,680.

⁷ "Citizenship Resource Center," USCIS, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship>

⁸ "2022 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics," Department of Homeland Security, introduction, page 1.

Persons Naturalized by State of Residence and Region and Country Of Birth:

Burma, Fiscal Year 2022

| States | Fiscal Year 2022 | States | Fiscal Year 2022 |
|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| ALABAMA (AL) | 7 | NEBRASKA (NE) | 199 |
| ALASKA (AK) | 5 | NEVADA (NV) | 13 |
| ARIZONA (AZ) | 166 | NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH) | 6 |
| ARKANSAS (AR) | 38 | NEW JERSEY (NJ) | 27 |
| CALIFORNIA (CA) | 572 | NEW MEXICO (NM) | 7 |
| COLORADO (CO) | 158 | NEW YORK (NY) | 565 |
| CONNECTICUT (CT) | 27 | NORTH CAROLINA (NC) | 255 |
| DELAWARE (DE) | 5 | NORTH DAKOTA (ND) | 5 |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC) | 5 | OHIO (OH) | 110 |
| FLORIDA (FL) | 178 | OKLAHOMA (OK) | 343 |
| GEORGIA (GA) | 444 | OREGON (OR) | 118 |
| HAWAII (HI) | 8 | PENNSYLVANIA (PA) | 202 |
| IDAHO (ID) | 30 | RHODE ISLAND (RI) | 0 |
| ILLINOIS (IL) | 353 | SOUTH CAROLINA (SC) | 25 |
| INDIANA (IN) | 1,306 | SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) | 43 |
| IOWA (IA) | 310 | TENNESSEE (TN) | 128 |
| KANSAS (KS) | 159 | TEXAS (TX) | 925 |
| KENTUCKY (KY) | 322 | UTAH (UT) | 49 |
| LOUISIANA (LA) | 29 | VERMONT (VT) | 5 |
| MAINE (ME) | 0 | VIRGINIA (VA) | 46 |
| MARYLAND (MD) | 254 | WASHINGTON (WA) | 178 |
| MASSACHUSETTS (MA) | 30 | WEST VIRGINIA (WV) | 6 |
| MICHIGAN (MI) | 174 | WISCONSIN (WI) | 562 |
| MINNESOTA (MN) | 738 | WYOMING (WY) | 9 |
| MISSISSIPPI (MS) | 3 | UNKNOWN | 44 |
| MISSOURI (MO) | 81 | TOTAL | 9,277 |
| MONTANA (MT) | 5 | | |

◆ In the year 2022, a total of 9,277 Burmese individuals were granted naturalization in the U.S.

◆ Among the states with the highest populations of Burmese Americans, Indiana also reported the highest number of naturalizations in 2022, with 1,306 individuals being naturalized. This represents approximately 14% of the total naturalizations of Burmese individuals.

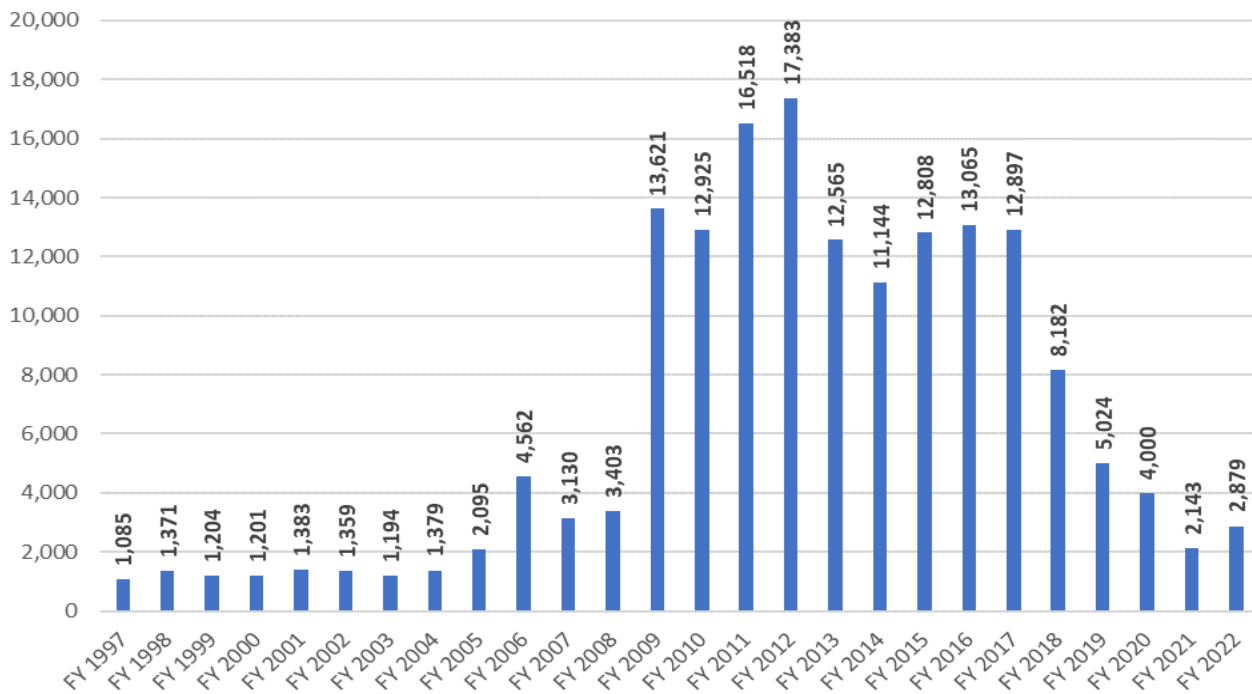
◆ Other states with significant numbers of naturalizations included Texas with 925, Minnesota with 738, California with 572, New York with 565, and Wisconsin with 562.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, 2022 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics

LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENTS

A Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) is an individual who has been granted the right to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis. They are also known as green card holders. LPRs are authorized to work and live in the United States indefinitely, but they are not U.S. citizens. They are still subject to certain restrictions, such as not being able to vote in federal elections, but they are entitled to many of the same rights and protections that citizens have, such as freedom of speech and due process under the law. LPR status may be obtained through various channels, including family sponsorship, employment-based sponsorship, refugee or asylee status, and the diversity visa lottery program. While LPRs have permanent residence, they may choose to pursue U.S. citizenship through a naturalization process after meeting specific eligibility criteria⁹.

Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status by Country of Birth: Burma, Fiscal Years 1997 to 2022



Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2003, 2013, and 2022)

- ◆ Between 2008 and 2009, there was a significant increase of 300.24% in the number of LPR (green card) applications approved from 3,403 to 13,261. This drastic jump is attributed to U.S. refugee resettlement programs implemented in the early 2000s. During 2004-2005, the U.S. worked to increase the number of refugee groups eligible for resettlement, culminating in this growth of approvals.
- ◆ Over the 9-year period between 2009 and 2017, there was an average of over 13,600 LPR applications annually, totaling 122,926 applications. In FY 2012, the highest number of LPR applications was reported at 17,383.

⁹“Green-card-processes-and-procedures,” USCIS, accessed January 10, 2024, www.uscis.gov/green-card/green-card-processes-and-procedures

Persons Obtaining Legal Permanent Resident Status: Fiscal Years 1997 - 2022
 By Class of Admissions, Burma, Fiscal Years 1997 to 2022

| Country of Birth (Burma) | Family - Sponsored Preferences | | Employment - Based Preferences | | Immediate Relatives of U.S. Citizens | | Diversity | | Refugees and Asylees | | Cancellation of Removal & Other | | Total |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----|----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|------|---------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| FY 2022 | 302 | 11% | 134 | 5% | 616 | 21% | 327 | 11% | 1,500 | 52% | 0 | 0.0% | 2,879 |
| FY 2021 | 73 | 3% | 60 | 3% | 527 | 25% | 56 | 2% | 1,427 | 67% | D | 0.0% | 2,143 |
| FY 2020 | 343 | 9% | 73 | 2% | 472 | 12% | 136 | 3% | 2,976 | 74% | D | 0.0% | 4,000 |
| FY 2019 | 582 | 11% | 78 | 2% | 860 | 17% | 193 | 4% | 3,311 | 66% | D | 0.0% | 5,024 |
| FY 2018 | 523 | 6% | 62 | 0.8% | 735 | 9% | 97 | 1% | 6,765 | 83% | 0 | 0.0% | 8,182 |
| FY 2017 | 576 | 4% | 59 | 0.5% | 864 | 7% | 154 | 1% | 11,243 | 87% | 1 | 0.0% | 12,897 |
| FY 2016 | 569 | 4% | 61 | 0.5% | 777 | 6% | 125 | 1% | 11,532 | 88% | 1 | 0.0% | 13,065 |
| FY 2015 | 486 | 4% | 57 | 0.5% | 688 | 5% | 134 | 1% | 11,443 | 89% | D | 0.0% | 12,808 |
| FY 2014 | 452 | 4% | 68 | 0.7% | 575 | 5% | 241 | 2% | 9,804 | 88% | 4 | 0.0% | 11,144 |
| FY 2013 | 476 | 4% | 101 | 0.8% | 687 | 6% | 190 | 2% | 11,110 | 88% | 1 | 0.0% | 12,565 |
| FY 2012 | 392 | 2% | 85 | 0.5% | 789 | 5% | 234 | 1% | 15,883 | 91% | 0 | 0.0% | 17,383 |
| FY 2011 | 634 | 4% | 76 | 0.5% | 699 | 4% | 275 | 2% | 14,833 | 90% | 1 | 0.0% | 16,518 |
| FY 2010 | 459 | 4% | 86 | 0.7% | 604 | 5% | 329 | 3% | 11,445 | 89% | 2 | 0.0% | 12,925 |
| FY 2009 | 399 | 3% | 111 | 0.8% | 628 | 5% | 258 | 2% | 12,221 | 90% | 4 | 0.0% | 13,621 |
| FY 2008 | 485 | 14% | 98 | 2.9% | 529 | 16% | 90 | 3% | 2,199 | 65% | 2 | 0.1% | 3,403 |
| FY 2007 | 510 | 16% | 109 | 3.5% | 587 | 19% | 148 | 5% | 1,774 | 57% | 2 | 0.1% | 3,130 |
| FY 2006 | 353 | 8% | 153 | 3.4% | 573 | 13% | 442 | 10% | 3,041 | 67% | - | - | 4,562 |
| FY 2005 | 362 | 17% | 149 | 7.1% | 371 | 18% | 279 | 13% | 931 | 44% | 3 | 0.1% | 2,095 |
| FY 2004 | 342 | 25% | 74 | 5.4% | 343 | 25% | 200 | 15% | 418 | 30% | 2 | 0.1% | 1,379 |
| FY 2003 | 254 | 21% | 43 | 3.6% | 221 | 19% | 348 | 29% | 327 | 27% | D | - | 1,194 |
| FY 2002 | 258 | 19% | 90 | 6.6% | 272 | 20% | 363 | 27% | 372 | 27% | 4 | 0.3% | 1,359 |
| FY 2001 | 496 | 36% | 116 | 8.4% | 306 | 22% | 282 | 20% | 181 | 13% | 2 | 0.1% | 1,383 |
| FY 2000 | 557 | 46% | 66 | 5.5% | 246 | 20% | 277 | 23% | 51 | 4% | 4 | 0.3% | 1,201 |
| FY 1999 | 601 | 50% | 72 | 6.0% | 220 | 18% | 265 | 22% | 45 | 4% | 1 | 0.1% | 1,204 |
| FY 1998 | 786 | 57% | 68 | 5.0% | 225 | 16% | 212 | 15% | 79 | 6% | 1 | 0.1% | 1,371 |
| FY 1997 | 500 | 46% | 64 | 5.9% | 256 | 24% | 180 | 17% | 82 | 8% | 3 | 0.3% | 1,085 |

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2003, 2013, and 2022)

D - Data withheld to limit disclosure

- ◆ In 1997, a total of 1,085 Burmese individuals were granted lawful permanent resident (LPR) status in the U.S. From 1997 to 2004, there was a consistent rate of acceptances, averaging around 1,249 per year. However, starting in 2006, there was an increase in the number of LPR acceptances, coinciding with the U.S. government's implementation of refugee resettlement programs.
- ◆ The number of green card acceptances jumped to 13,261 in 2009, which was around the same time that approximately 13,896 Burmese refugees arrived in the U.S. in 2007. It's worth noting that individuals can only begin applying for LPRs after residing in the U.S. for two years.
- ◆ Between 1997 and 2000, less than 10% of LPR acceptances comprised refugees and asylees. However, this percentage began to increase in the following years and peaked in 2009 and 2012, when refugees and asylees comprised 90% and 91% of Burmese individuals acquiring LPR status, respectively.
- ◆ 2012 was the year with the highest peak of acceptances, at 17,383. Since then, there has been a gradual decrease, with the most recent recorded year 2022, experiencing only 2,879 acceptances.



When seeking refugee status, the first step they usually take is to register with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the country they have fled to. UNHCR reviews the individual's case to determine whether they qualify as refugees¹⁰. If they do, UNHCR works towards finding the best solution for them - a safe return to their home country, local integration, or permanent resettlement in a third country.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) is administered by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) within the U.S. Department of State in collaboration with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)¹¹. Non-profit organizations, known as resettlement agencies, play a crucial role in assisting refugees with their initial resettlement needs.

Since the passage of the Refugee Act in 1980, which incorporated this definition of refugee into the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), the United States has admitted more than 3.1 million refugees¹².

Refugee Status vs. Asylum: While both refugees and asylees are individuals seeking protection due to persecution, the key difference is the location of the application. Refugees apply for protection outside the United States, whereas asylees apply from within the country¹³.

¹⁰ "Who We Protect Refugees," UNHCR, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-protect/refugees>

¹¹ "US Refugee Admissions Program," Refugee Processing Center, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.wrapsnet.org/US-Refugee-Admissions-Program/>

¹² "U.S. Refugee Admissions Program," U.S. Department of State, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.state.gov/refugee-admissions/>

¹³ "2022 Yearbook of Immigration Statistics," Department of Homeland Security, introduction, page 1.

Burmese Refugees Admitted to the United States: Fiscal Years 1990 to 2023

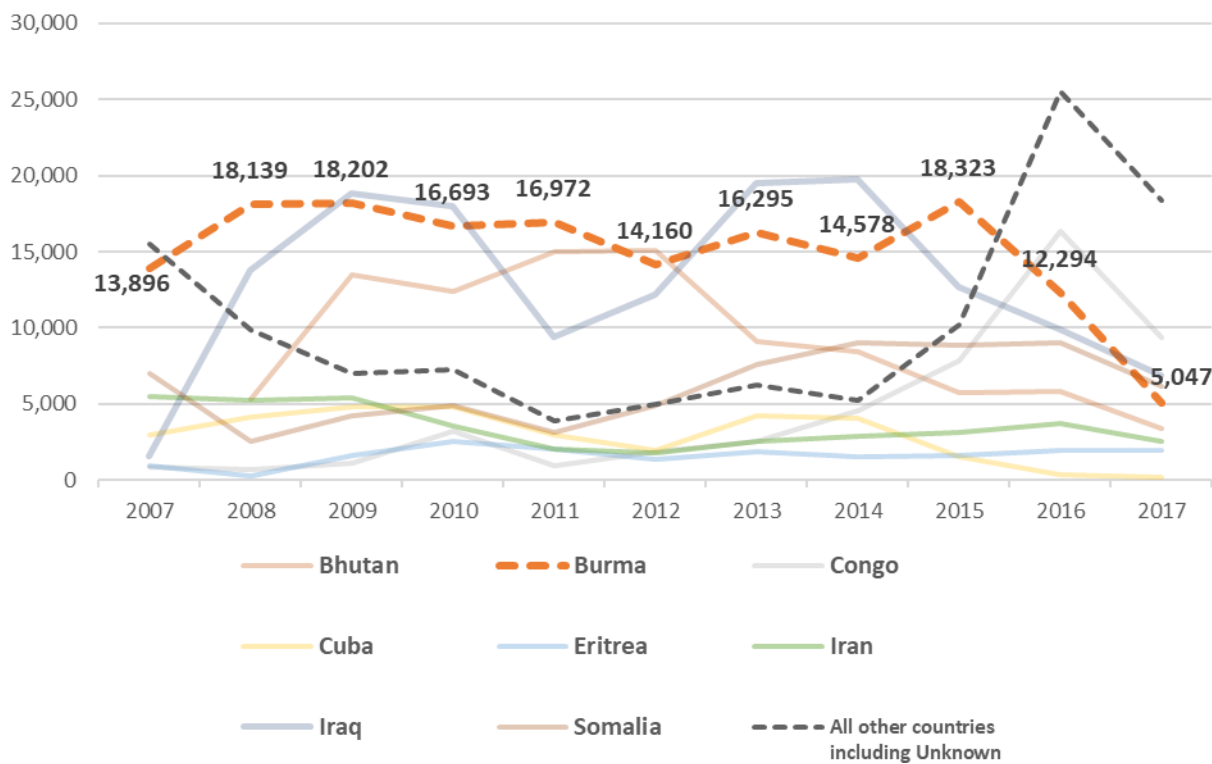
| Year | Number | Year | Number | Year | Number |
|---------|--------|---------|--------|--------------|----------------|
| FY 1990 | 3 | FY 2002 | 128 | FY 2014 | 14,578 |
| FY 1991 | 14 | FY 2003 | 203 | FY 2015 | 18,323 |
| FY 1992 | 55 | FY 2004 | 1,056 | FY 2016 | 12,294 |
| FY 1993 | 94 | FY 2005 | 1,447 | FY 2017 | 5,047 |
| FY 1994 | 75 | FY 2006 | 1,612 | FY 2018 | 3,525 |
| FY 1995 | 36 | FY 2007 | 13,896 | FY 2019 | 4,928 |
| FY 1996 | 11 | FY 2008 | 18,139 | FY 2020 | 2,112 |
| FY 1997 | 182 | FY 2009 | 18,202 | FY 2021 | 769 |
| FY 1998 | 186 | FY 2010 | 16,693 | FY 2022 | 2,141 |
| FY 1999 | 295 | FY 2011 | 16,972 | FY 2023 | 6,178 |
| FY 2000 | 637 | FY 2012 | 14,160 | Total | 190,829 |
| FY 2001 | 543 | FY 2013 | 16,295 | | |

◆ As of the year 2023, the recorded data shows that more than 190,829 Burmese refugees have been admitted to the United States since 1990.

◆ The Burmese population in the 2020 Census was 276,322, out of which 181,741 were Burmese refugees who had been granted admission since 1990. Therefore, refugees made up 66% of the Burmese community in the U.S. in 2020.

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2000, 2015, and 2022). 2011 Statistical Report of the Burmese Americans in the United States

Refugee Arrivals by Country of Nationality: Top 8 Countries, Fiscal Years 2007 to 2017



Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2007, 2012, and 2018). Refugee Processing Center, Refugee Arrivals by State and Nationality, Fiscal Year 2023. 2011 Statistical Report of the Burmese Americans in the United States

- ◆ This line graph represents the refugee arrivals by country of nationality through the U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program.
- ◆ In 2015, almost half of the U.S. refugees resettled in the U.S. were from Burma and Iraq. Specifically, there were 18,323 refugees from Burma and 12,676 refugees from Iraq.
- ◆ Compared to other countries, Burma reported a consistently higher rate of refugees from 2007 to 2017. Burmese refugees accounted for an average of 23% of total refugees entering the U.S. annually during this period. In fact, the highest number of refugee arrivals to the U.S. in four different years during this period was from Burma.

Refugee Arrivals by Country of Nationality: Top 8 Countries, Fiscal Years 2007 to 2018

| Country of Nationality | 2007 | | 2008 | | 2009 | | 2010 | | 2011 | | 2012 | |
|--|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total | 48,218 | 100% | 60,107 | 100% | 74,602 | 100% | 73,293 | 100% | 56,384 | 100% | 58,179 | 100% |
| Bhutan | - | - | 5,320 | 9% | 13,452 | 18% | 12,363 | 17% | 14,99 | 27% | 15,070 | 26% |
| Burma | 13,896 | 29% | 18,139 | 30% | 18,202 | 24% | 16,693 | 23% | 16,972 | 30% | 14,160 | 24% |
| Congo Democratic Republic | 848 | 2% | 727 | 1% | 1,135 | 2% | 3,174 | 4% | 977 | 2% | 1,863 | 3% |
| Cuba | 2,922 | 6% | 4,177 | 7% | 4,800 | 6% | 4,818 | 7% | 2,920 | 5% | 1,948 | 3% |
| Eritrea | 963 | 2% | 251 | 0% | 1,571 | 2% | 2,570 | 4% | 2,032 | 4% | 1,346 | 2% |
| Iran | 5,482 | 11% | 5,270 | 9% | 5,381 | 7% | 3,543 | 5% | 2,032 | 4% | 1,758 | 3% |
| Iraq | 1,608 | 3% | 13,822 | 23% | 18,838 | 25% | 18,016 | 25% | 9,388 | 17% | 12,163 | 21% |
| Somalia | 6,969 | 14% | 2,523 | 4% | 4,189 | 6% | 4,884 | 7% | 3,161 | 6% | 4,911 | 8% |
| All other countries, including unknown | 15,530 | 32% | 9,878 | 16% | 7,034 | 9% | 7,232 | 10% | 3,903 | 7% | 4,960 | 9% |
| Country of Nationality | 2013 | | 2014 | | 2015 | | 2016 | | 2017 | | 2018 | |
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Total | 69,909 | 100% | 69,975 | 100% | 69,920 | 100% | 84,989 | 100% | 53,691 | 100% | 22,405 | 100% |
| Bhutan | 9,134 | 13% | 8,434 | 12% | 5,775 | 8% | 5,817 | 7% | 3,340 | 6% | 2,016 | 9% |
| Burma | 16,295 | 23% | 14,578 | 21% | 18,323 | 26% | 12,294 | 14% | 5,047 | 9% | 3,525 | 16% |
| Congo Democratic Republic | 2,563 | 4% | 4,540 | 6% | 7,876 | 11% | 16,370 | 19% | 9,325 | 17% | 7,841 | 35% |
| Cuba | 4,205 | 6% | 4,062 | 6% | 1,527 | 2% | | | | | | |
| Eritrea | 1,824 | 3% | 1,488 | 2% | 1,596 | 2% | 1,949 | 2% | 1,912 | 4% | 1,260 | 6% |
| Iran | 2,579 | 4% | 2,846 | 4% | 3,109 | 4% | 3,750 | 4% | 2,575 | 5% | | |
| Iraq | 19,487 | 28% | 19,769 | 28% | 12,676 | 18% | 9,880 | 12% | 6,857 | 13% | 140 | 1% |
| Somalia | 7,608 | 11% | 9,000 | 13% | 8,858 | 13% | 9,020 | 11% | 6,122 | 11% | 257 | 1% |
| Syria | | | | | | | 12,583 | 15% | 6,566 | 12% | | |
| Ukraine | | | | | | | 2,526 | 3% | 4,254 | 8% | 2,637 | 12% |
| All other countries, including unknown | 6,214 | 9% | 5,258 | 8% | 10,180 | 15% | 10,466 | 12% | 7,515 | 14% | 4,626 | 21% |

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2007, 2012 and 2018). 2011 Statistical Report of the Burmese Americans in the United States

- ◆ An annual refugee admission limit is set on the total number of approvals granted by the President of the United States. During the Trump Administration (2017 to 2021), this number hit record lows at 15,000 per year. However, in fiscal year 2022, the Biden Administration raised the limit to 125,000.

State of Initial Resettlement: Burmese Refugee Arrival: Fiscal Years 2000 to 2023 (23 Years)

| BURMESE/ MYANMAR | 2000 To 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|
| State: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALABAMA (AL) | 7 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 10 | 10 | 17 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 69 |
| ALASKA (AK) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 26 | 13 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 |
| ARIZONA (AZ) | 695 | 542 | 900 | 654 | 429 | 312 | 372 | 287 | 442 | 264 | 93 | 70 | 98 | 67 | 14 | 98 | 285 | 5,622 |
| ARKANSAS (AR) | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 13 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 59 |
| CALIFORNIA (CA) | 837 | 519 | 435 | 387 | 462 | 414 | 369 | 247 | 323 | 157 | 40 | 45 | 53 | 36 | 37 | 36 | 54 | 4,451 |
| COLORADO (CO) | 314 | 259 | 410 | 411 | 500 | 382 | 482 | 449 | 605 | 503 | 168 | 113 | 110 | 39 | 25 | 140 | 296 | 5,206 |
| CONNECTICUT (CT) | 152 | 93 | 75 | 144 | 500 | 60 | 54 | 75 | 37 | 22 | 15 | 9 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 1,255 |
| DELAWARE (DE) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 33 |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (DC) | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| FLORIDA (FL) | 544 | 583 | 553 | 621 | 588 | 433 | 352 | 376 | 457 | 232 | 113 | 30 | 26 | 18 | 1 | 29 | 76 | 5,032 |
| GEORGIA (GA) | 764 | 814 | 875 | 950 | 913 | 643 | 774 | 746 | 963 | 683 | 264 | 203 | 219 | 128 | 41 | 127 | 382 | 9,489 |
| HAWAII (HI) | 35 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 57 |
| IDAHO (ID) | 173 | 289 | 228 | 217 | 226 | 189 | 203 | 122 | 104 | 32 | 18 | 11 | 23 | 7 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 1,866 |
| ILLINOIS (IL) | 636 | 871 | 596 | 501 | 577 | 599 | 597 | 751 | 1,035 | 733 | 240 | 232 | 303 | 68 | 46 | 148 | 549 | 8,482 |
| INDIANA (IN) | 2,081 | 1,536 | 1,147 | 920 | 1,011 | 993 | 1,323 | 1,272 | 1,498 | 1,287 | 504 | 299 | 628 | 222 | 60 | 155 | 598 | 15,534 |
| IOWA (IA) | 208 | 232 | 289 | 140 | 177 | 240 | 349 | 408 | 407 | 313 | 115 | 124 | 218 | 33 | 32 | 38 | 107 | 3,430 |
| KANSAS (KS) | 123 | 135 | 168 | 120 | 162 | 181 | 230 | 190 | 352 | 199 | 141 | 87 | 82 | 33 | 20 | 15 | 60 | 2,298 |
| KENTUCKY (KY) | 445 | 404 | 580 | 561 | 496 | 334 | 374 | 420 | 494 | 438 | 123 | 133 | 213 | 105 | 21 | 54 | 200 | 5,395 |
| LOUISIANA (LA) | 42 | 29 | 108 | 101 | 121 | 102 | 50 | 53 | 34 | 17 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 687 |
| MAINE (ME) | 7 | 0 | 23 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 21 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 |
| MARYLAND (MD) | 382 | 333 | 250 | 220 | 334 | 353 | 397 | 366 | 562 | 269 | 121 | 31 | 52 | 19 | 16 | 44 | 74 | 3,823 |
| MASSACHUSETTS (MA) | 141 | 284 | 358 | 286 | 252 | 143 | 196 | 112 | 68 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 6 | 38 | 1,951 |
| MICHIGAN (MI) | 477 | 502 | 591 | 551 | 639 | 539 | 489 | 409 | 434 | 284 | 126 | 96 | 109 | 38 | 9 | 30 | 101 | 5,424 |
| MINNESOTA (MN) | 999 | 594 | 370 | 802 | 1,058 | 691 | 894 | 720 | 908 | 653 | 285 | 313 | 379 | 187 | 56 | 43 | 180 | 9,132 |
| MISSISSIPPI (MS) | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| MISSOURI (MO) | 193 | 354 | 344 | 337 | 279 | 245 | 268 | 233 | 241 | 126 | 32 | 47 | 68 | 40 | 5 | 12 | 104 | 2,928 |
| MONTANA (MT) | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |

- ◆ Indiana, New York, and Texas have been the top states for resettling Burmese refugees over the past 23 years, accepting more than 58,000 refugees in total. North Carolina and Georgia are also among the top five Burmese refugees resettled states, increasing the total among these five states to over 77,000 refugees.
- ◆ In contrast, the states of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia (Washington DC), Hawaii, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming have resettled the fewest initial Burmese refugees. Each of these states has accepted less than 100 refugees in total over the past 23 years.

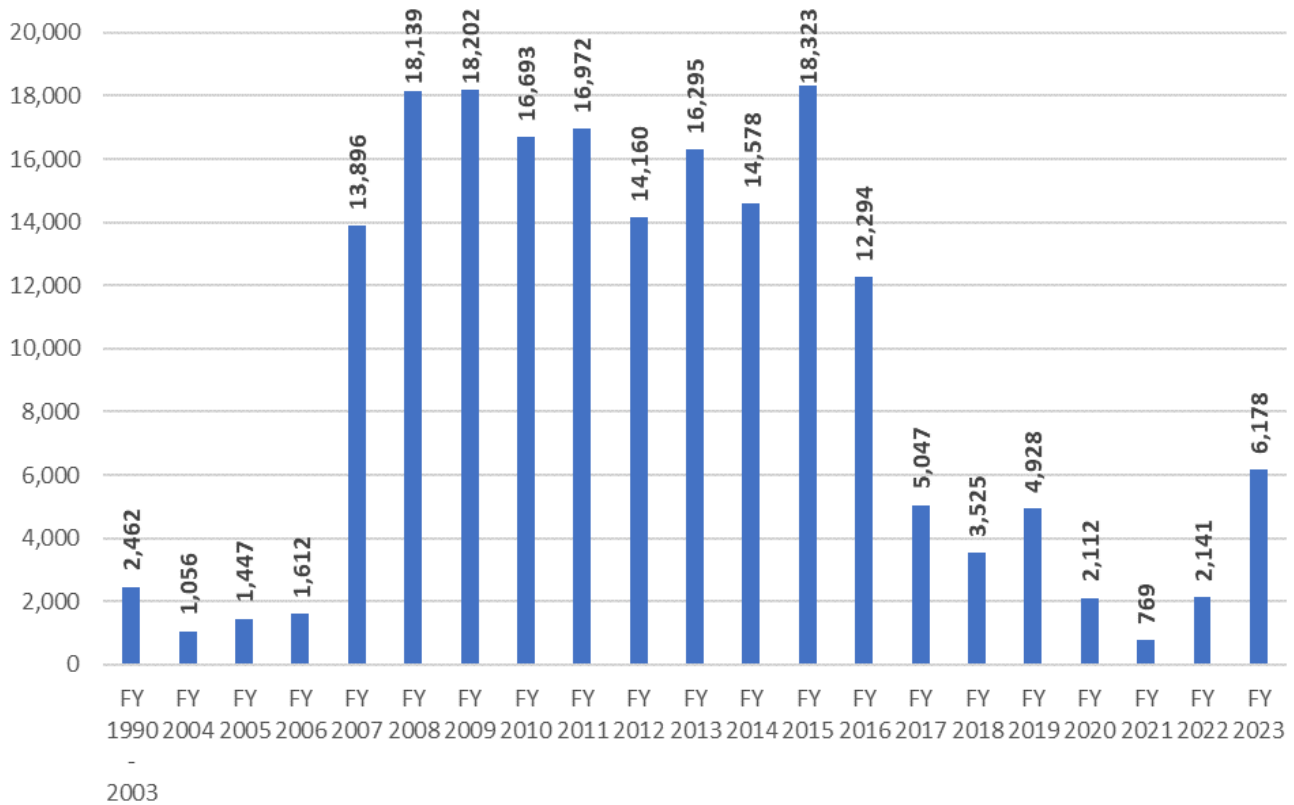
Burmese Americans in the United States

State of Initial Resettlement: Burmese Refugee Arrival (continued): Fiscal Years 2000 to 2023 (23 Years)

| BURMESE/ MYANMAR | 2000 To 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Total |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| State: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| NEBRASKA (NE) | 495 | 500 | 520 | 528 | 435 | 398 | 572 | 501 | 652 | 415 | 240 | 138 | 300 | 95 | 36 | 25 | 177 | 6,027 |
| NEVADA (NV) | 23 | 49 | 46 | 7 | 43 | 59 | 69 | 22 | 44 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 381 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH) | 0 | 0 | 17 | 4 | 13 | 31 | 52 | 25 | 58 | 85 | 48 | 19 | 13 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 396 |
| NEW JERSEY (NJ) | 230 | 308 | 507 | 261 | 66 | 40 | 67 | 25 | 33 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1,554 |
| NEW MEXICO (NM) | 3 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 48 | 53 | 38 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 188 |
| NEW YORK (NY) | 2,651 | 2,112 | 1,696 | 1,607 | 1,343 | 1,074 | 1,305 | 1,108 | 1,243 | 791 | 331 | 217 | 350 | 131 | 71 | 218 | 564 | 16,812 |
| NORTH CAROLINA (NC) | 1,104 | 1,180 | 880 | 789 | 916 | 792 | 955 | 806 | 868 | 552 | 157 | 178 | 297 | 66 | 17 | 108 | 265 | 9,930 |
| NORTH DAKOTA (ND) | 0 | 7 | 25 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 55 |
| OHIO (OH) | 413 | 362 | 277 | 253 | 299 | 209 | 215 | 184 | 296 | 136 | 55 | 44 | 54 | 37 | 2 | 39 | 69 | 2,944 |
| OKLAHOMA (OK) | 192 | 153 | 107 | 94 | 229 | 258 | 251 | 352 | 400 | 407 | 170 | 63 | 147 | 96 | 9 | 40 | 123 | 3,091 |
| OREGON (OR) | 233 | 199 | 102 | 204 | 250 | 127 | 161 | 197 | 260 | 152 | 46 | 74 | 46 | 40 | 6 | 25 | 124 | 2,246 |
| PENNSYLVANIA (PA) | 496 | 662 | 450 | 507 | 334 | 255 | 480 | 414 | 397 | 211 | 92 | 37 | 80 | 54 | 15 | 63 | 121 | 4,668 |
| RHODE ISLAND (RI) | 9 | 0 | 11 | 49 | 63 | 53 | 15 | 30 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 254 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA (SC) | 72 | 81 | 52 | 68 | 101 | 76 | 67 | 46 | 109 | 58 | 22 | 8 | 27 | 5 | 15 | 9 | 45 | 861 |
| SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) | 0 | 0 | 110 | 102 | 191 | 181 | 170 | 115 | 152 | 48 | 65 | 24 | 21 | 8 | 0 | 5 | 9 | 1,201 |
| TENNESSEE (TN) | 321 | 239 | 356 | 393 | 369 | 344 | 418 | 276 | 393 | 178 | 84 | 46 | 81 | 26 | 7 | 26 | 69 | 3,606 |
| TEXAS (TX) | 2,450 | 2,112 | 3,060 | 2,250 | 2,416 | 2,156 | 2,290 | 2,128 | 2,717 | 1,690 | 682 | 443 | 462 | 214 | 85 | 212 | 631 | 25,998 |
| UTAH (UT) | 289 | 381 | 358 | 225 | 252 | 129 | 217 | 128 | 248 | 112 | 81 | 44 | 71 | 24 | 7 | 18 | 46 | 2,630 |
| VERMONT (VT) | 0 | 78 | 41 | 54 | 39 | 42 | 17 | 24 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 15 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 337 |
| VIRGINIA (VA) | 340 | 304 | 280 | 127 | 107 | 91 | 132 | 49 | 68 | 30 | 13 | 9 | 10 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 18 | 1,611 |
| WASHINGTON (WA) | 550 | 663 | 655 | 823 | 592 | 481 | 466 | 334 | 417 | 213 | 82 | 56 | 93 | 29 | 17 | 27 | 96 | 5,594 |
| WEST VIRGINIA (WV) | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 |
| WISCONSIN (WI) | 387 | 359 | 338 | 367 | 435 | 396 | 501 | 548 | 942 | 961 | 430 | 260 | 254 | 196 | 80 | 323 | 654 | 7,431 |
| WYOMING (WY) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 19,520 | 18,139 | 18,202 | 16,693 | 17,330 | 14,160 | 16,295 | 14,578 | 18,346 | 12,314 | 5,047 | 3,525 | 4,928 | 2,122 | 769 | 2,141 | 6,178 | 190,287 |

Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2007, 2012 and 2018). 2011 Statistical Report of the Burmese Americans in the United States

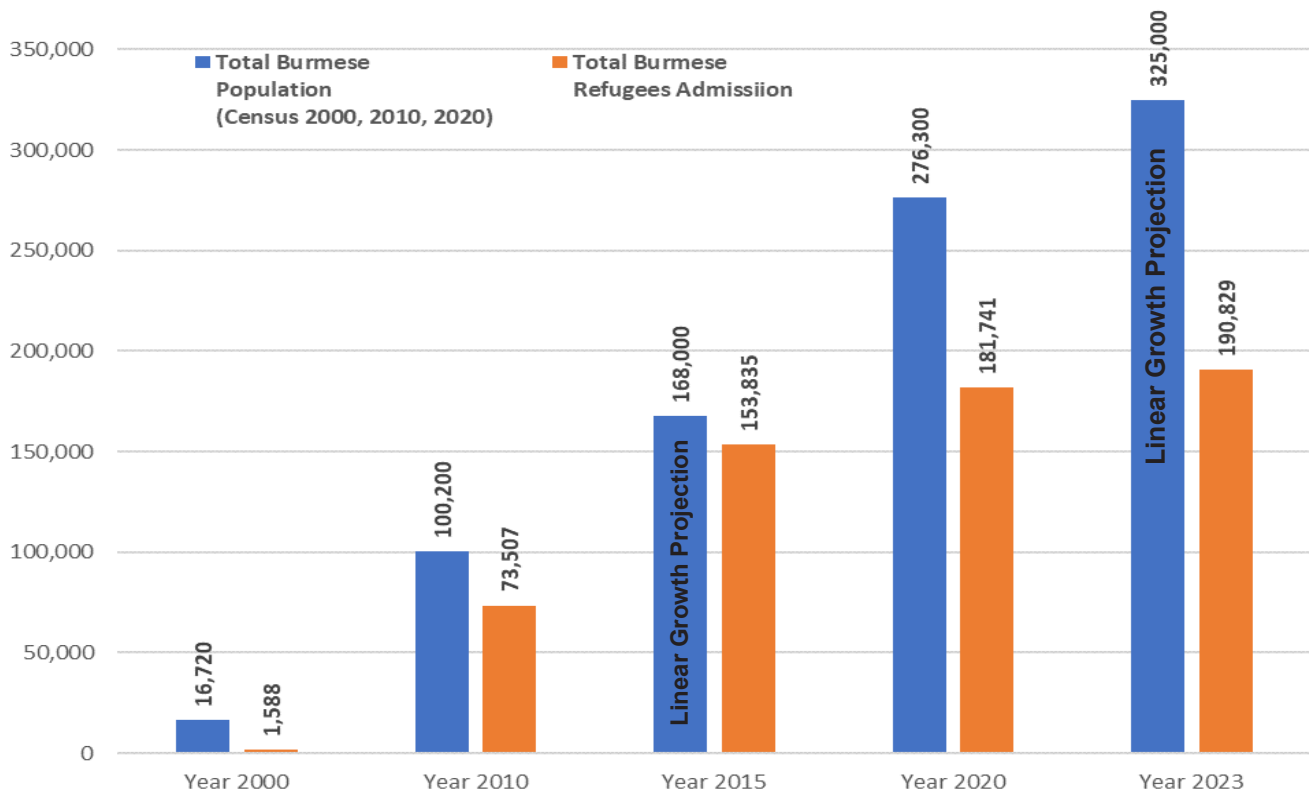
Refugee Arrivals from Burma: Fiscal Years 1990 to 2023



Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2007, 2012 and 2022). Refugee Processing Center, Refugee Arrivals by State and Nationality, Fiscal Year 2023. 2011 Statistical Report of the Burmese Americans in the United States

- ◆ The number of Burmese refugees entering the U.S. began to increase in 2007, with a tremendous 762 percent rise from 1,612 in 2006 to 13,896 in 2007.
- ◆ The year 2015 was the highest number of Burmese refugees entering the United States since 1990, with 18,323 refugees.
- ◆ Over the course of the ten years between 2007 and 2016, more than 159,552 Burmese refugees settled in the U.S.
- ◆ Since 2006, the majority of Burmese immigrants in the U.S. are refugees.
- ◆ In the fiscal year of 2023, the number of Burmese refugees admitted to the U.S. was 6,178, which is a substantial increase compared to the last three fiscal years of 2020, 2021, and 2022, all of which were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total Burmese Population vs. Refugees Admission: Years 2000 to 2023



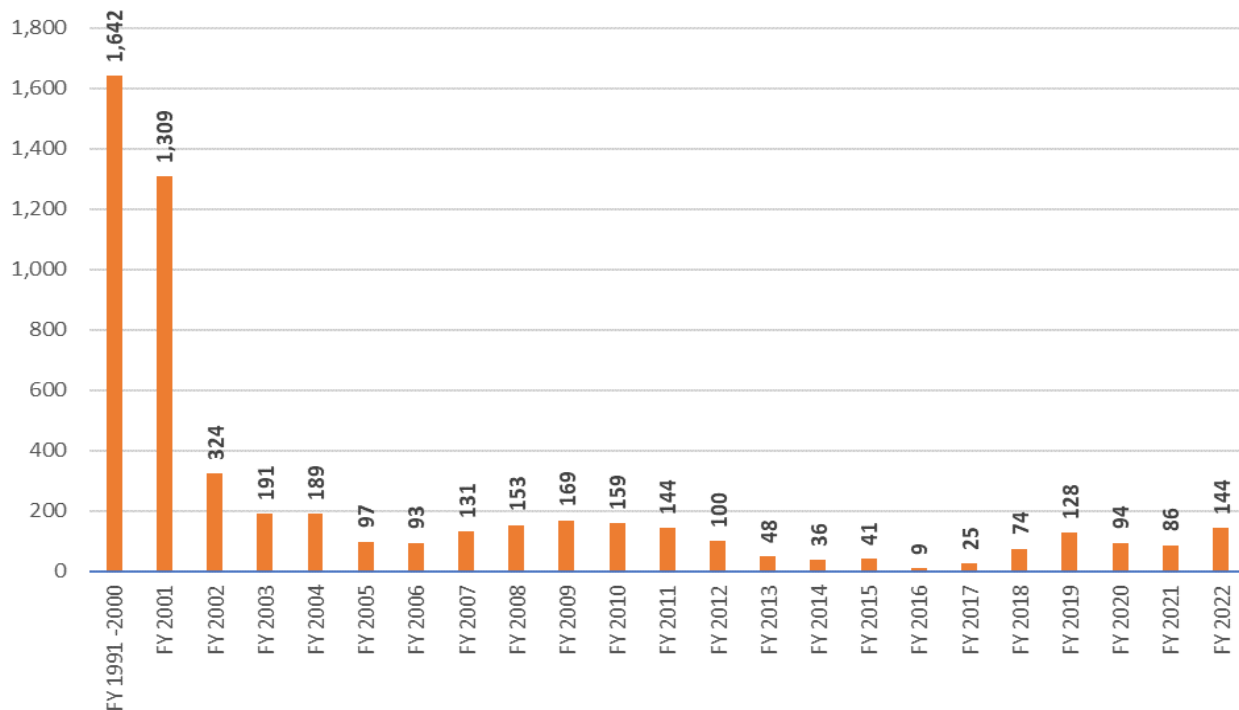
- ◆ According to the 2000 Census, the total population of Burmese people in the U.S. was 16,720. However, only 1,588 Burmese refugees were admitted that year, which was less than 1% of the total Burmese population.
- ◆ Within a span of the next 10 years, the total Burmese population in the U.S. had significantly increased to 100,200 by Year 2010. During the same period, 73,507 Burmese refugees were admitted into the country. This number was nearly 46 times higher than the number of Burmese refugees admitted in the previous decade. The total Burmese population had also experienced a significant increase of 73%.
- ◆ According to linear growth projections, the estimated total population of Burmese people in 2015 was around 168,000, and in 2023, it is expected to be approximately 325,000. In 2015, the number of Burmese refugees accounted for 92% of the estimated population, while in 2023, it is expected to be 59% of the total population.
- ◆ The population estimates for both years show a significant growth trend, with 2023 having the largest total Burmese population and the highest number of Burmese refugee admissions reported. However, in FY 2020, the number of Burmese refugees admitted to the U.S. was 181,741, while the total population was estimated to be 276,300. This value seems to be an underestimation and not fully representative of the actual larger Burmese population.
- ◆ It is likely that the total number of Burmese people living in the United States was undercounted during the 2020 Census. This may have been due to a number of factors, including the fact that certain Asian American communities in certain states were not accurately represented. Additionally, language barriers could have hindered participation in the Census, particularly among newly arrived refugees who may not be fluent in English.
- ◆ It is also possible that some individuals with mixed ethnic backgrounds, such as Chinese Burmese or Indian Burmese, may have identified themselves as Chinese, Indian, or South Asian on the Census form rather than as Burmese, leading to an undercounting of the Burmese population.

U.S. Asylum:

The U.S. asylum is designed to protect foreign nationals who have fled their home countries due to persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Asylum seekers must generally apply for asylum within one year of their arrival in the United States¹⁴. They can either apply affirmatively through the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or defensively in removal proceedings before the immigration judge of the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) of the Department of Justice.

Asylum applicants are generally eligible to apply for work authorization while their asylum cases are pending.

Burmese Individuals Granted Asylum Affirmatively: Fiscal Years 1991 to 2011

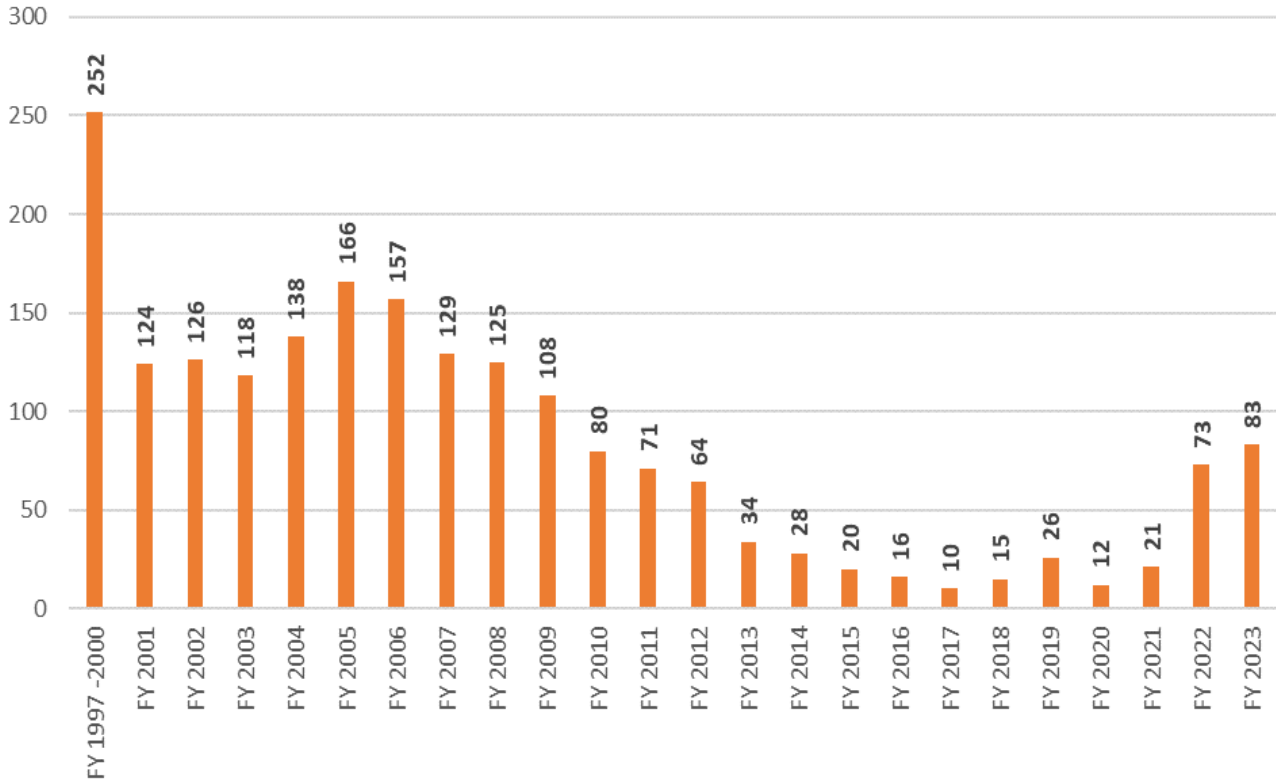


Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2007, 2012, and 2022). 2011 Statistical Report, Burmese Americans in the United States

- ◆ Between 1991 and 2000, 1,642 Burmese individuals were granted asylum affirmatively.
- ◆ In 2001, 1,309 people were granted asylum, but the number sharply declined by 75% to 324 acceptances in the following year.
- ◆ From 2002 to 2022, asylum has been granted affirmatively at low levels, with no more than an average of 170 acceptances per year. In 2022, the most recently recorded year, only 144 acceptances were reported.

¹⁴ "Asylum," USCIS, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/refugees-and-asylum/asylum>

Burmese Individuals Granted Asylum Defensively by U.S. Immigration Courts: Burma (Myanmar), Fiscal Years 1997 to 2023



Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, Yearbook of Immigration Statistics (2007, 2012, and 2022). 2011 Statistical Report, Burmese Americans in the United States

- ◆ Between 1997-2000, a total of 252 Burmese individuals were granted asylum on defensive grounds.
- ◆ In the following FY of 2001, there was a significant decrease of 51%, resulting in only 124 acceptances.
- ◆ From 2001 to 2005, there was a slight upward trend in acceptances, followed by a gradual decrease until 2021, when only 21 individuals were granted asylum.
- ◆ Within this period, there was a peak of 166 individuals in 2005 and a low of 10 individuals in 2017.
- ◆ There has been a positive trend in recent years, with 73 and 83 individuals being granted asylum in 2022 and 2023, respectively.



Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160)

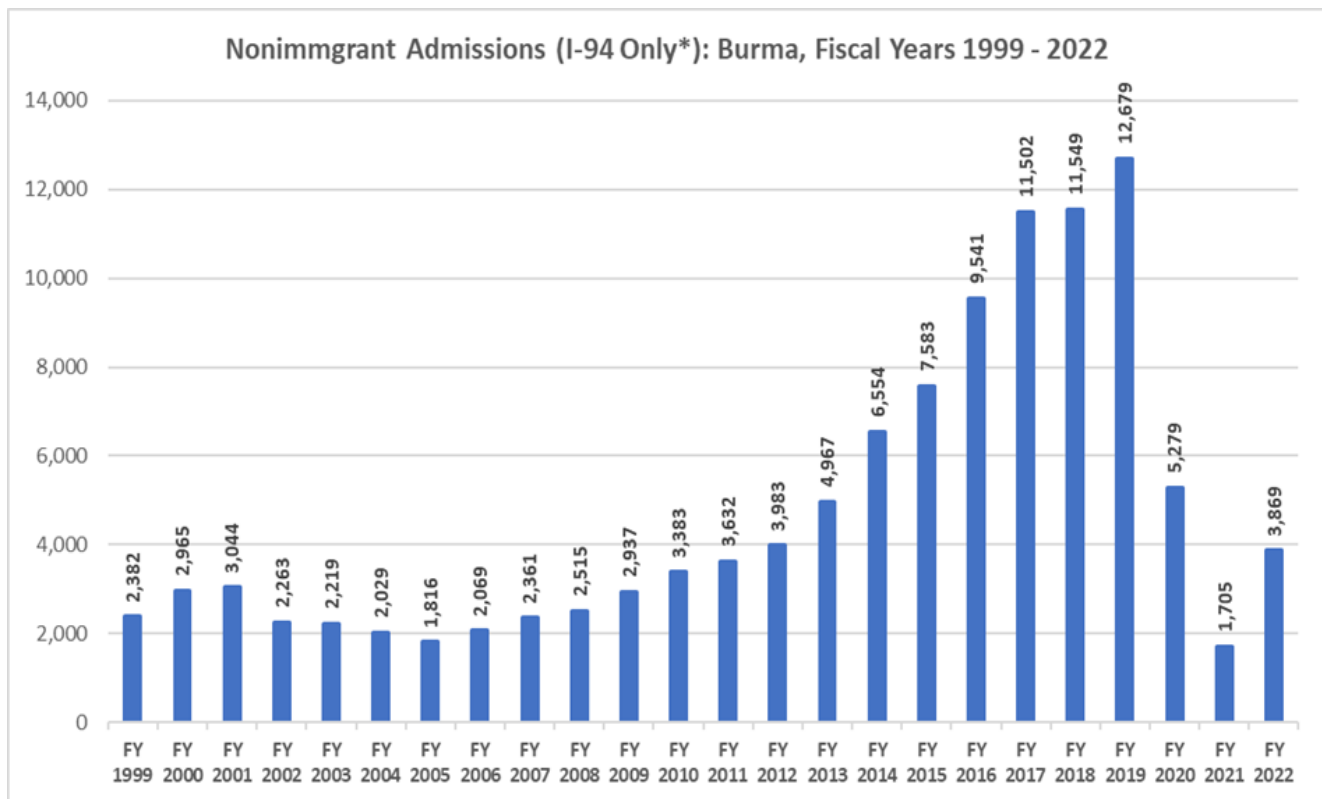
Apply For a Nonimmigrant Visa



Nonimmigrant admissions refer to arrivals of persons who are authorized to stay in the United States for a limited period of time. Nonimmigrants are typically issued a visa that states the specific purpose of their visit, such as tourism, business, education, or temporary work. Nonimmigrant visas have a limited validity period and usually require the individual to leave the country before the visa expires. Common examples of nonimmigrant visas in the United States include the B-1/B-2 visas for business visitors, the F-1 visas for students, the H-1B visas for temporary skilled workers in specialty occupations, and the J-1 visas for exchange visitors. Most nonimmigrants enter the United States as tourists or business travelers, but some come to work, study, or engage in cultural exchange programs¹⁵.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (I-94 ONLY): Fiscal Years 1999 to 2022

Burma, Country of Citizenship



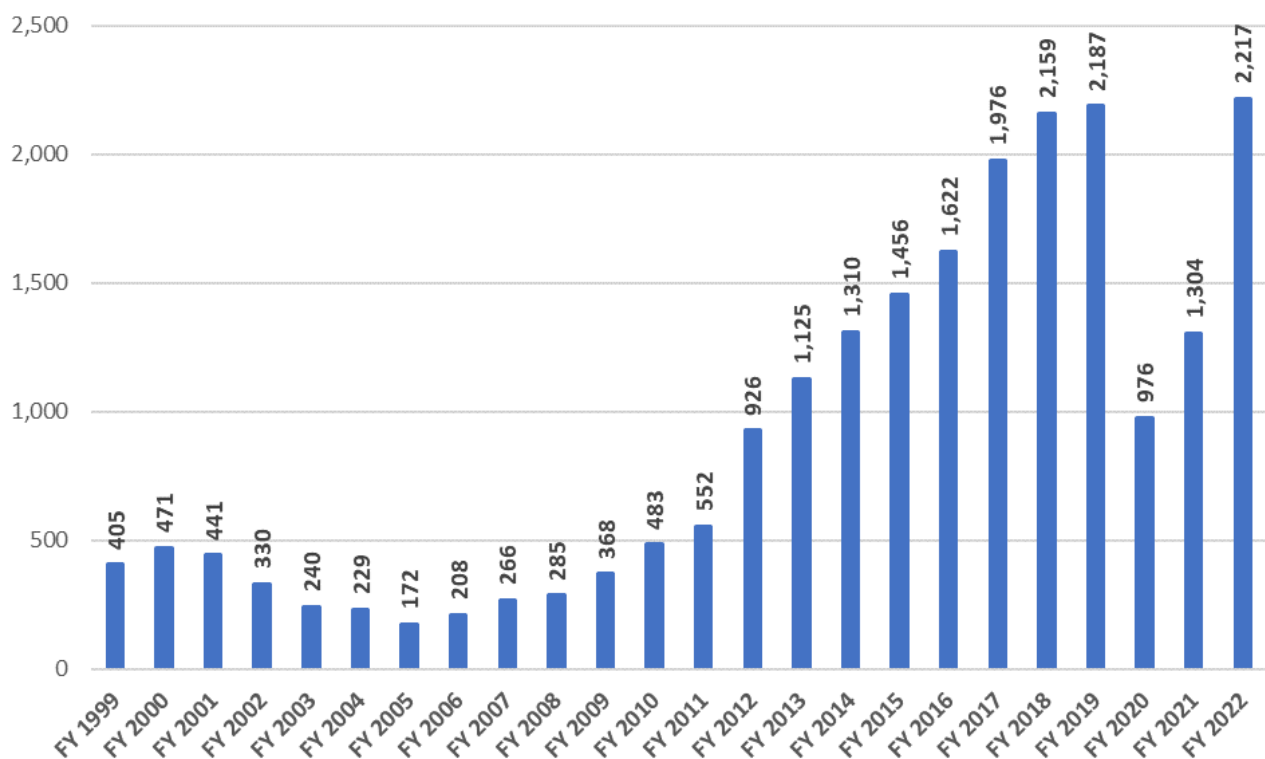
Sources: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, 2022, 2013, and 2003 Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics

* Includes B1, B2, F1, F2, J1, J2, M1, M2, Temporary workers, Diplomats and other representatives admissions

¹⁵ "Nonimmigrant Admissions", U.S. Department of Homeland Security, accessed January 15, 2024, <https://www.dhs.gov/ohss/topics/immigration/nonimmigrants>

- ◆ There were 2,382 reported nonimmigrant admissions (I-94) to the U.S. in the fiscal year 1999, followed by a brief increase and eventual decline until 2006.
- ◆ In 2005, there were 1,816 nonimmigrant admissions of Burmese individuals to the U.S. This marked the beginning of a gradual yearly increase in admissions, which hit a peak of 12,679 in 2019.
- ◆ In 2022, out of 3,869 nonimmigrant visas issued, 2,217 were student visas.

Nonimmigrant Admissions (Student and Exchange Visa - F1, F2, J1, J2, M1, and M2): Fiscal Years 1999 to 2022



Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Homeland Security Statistics, 2022, 2013, and 2003 Yearbooks of Immigration Statistics

- ◆ FY 1999 reported 405 nonimmigrant admissions to the U.S. through student and exchange visas from Burma/ Myanmar.
- ◆ Between 2000 and 2005, the admissions rate through student and exchange visas declined, reaching a low of 172 individuals in 2005. However, the rate gradually increased over the next several years, peaking at 2,187 admissions in 2019.
- ◆ Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, there has been a 55% drop in the number of nonimmigrant admissions through student and exchange visas, with only 976 admissions. However, the rate has been increasing gradually in recent years, with 2,217 admissions recorded in 2022.
- ◆ Overall, the average annual rate of nonimmigrant admissions through student and exchange visas is 846 admissions, which is more than five times lower than the I-94 admissions rate of 4,701 admissions.

References

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