

# The AAPI Perspective on the Recession and the Recovery

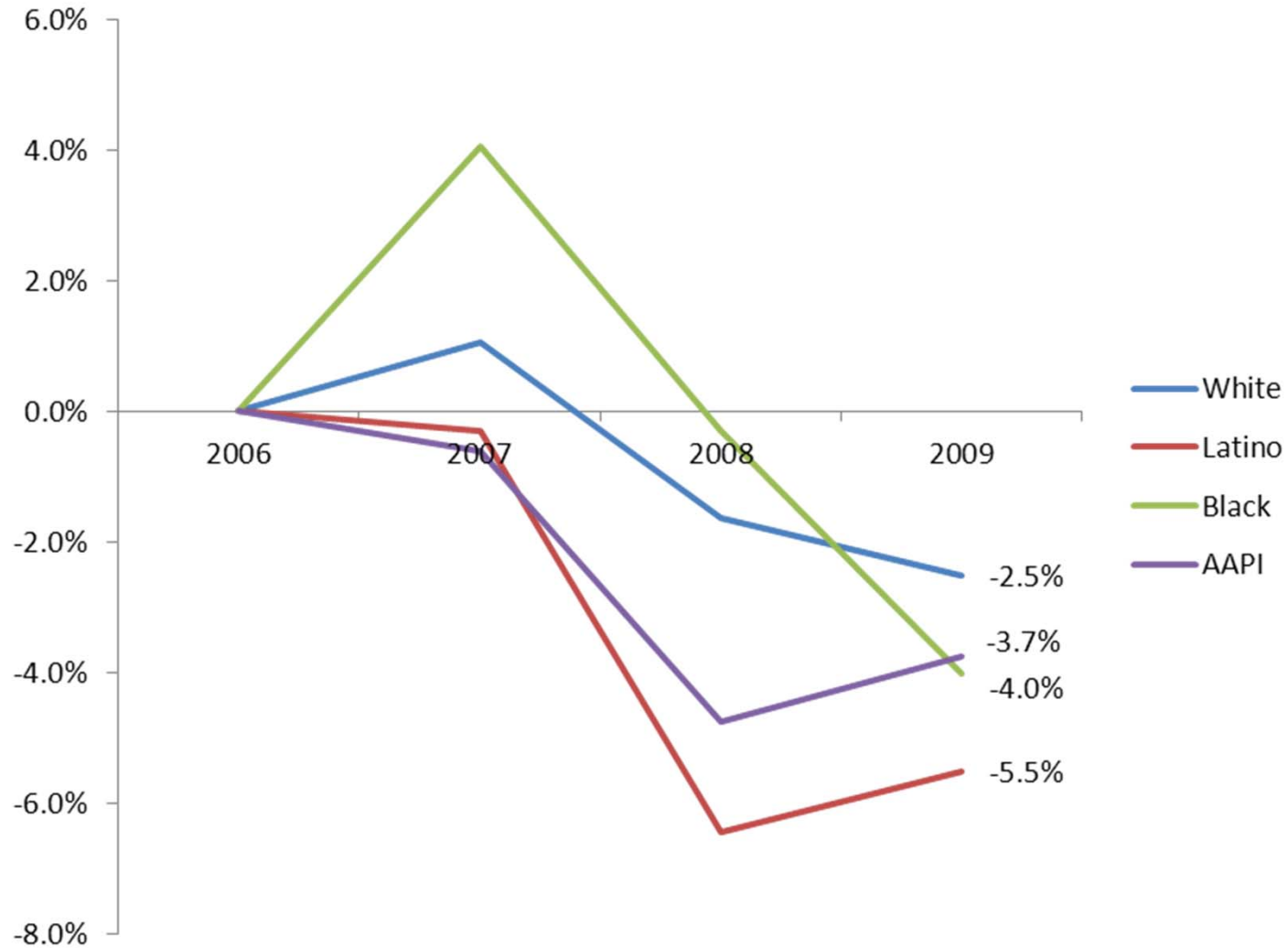
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## The AAPI Perspective on the Recession and the Recovery

- AAPIs suffered just as much as other racial/ethnic groups in the recession.
- **Aggregate** data about AAPIs mask remarkable diversity within the AAPI community.
- “Good policy requires good data.” There is a need for better **disaggregated** data about AAPIs.
- CEPR will release a major report about AAPI workers in July. The following slides are a preview of that work:

## Percent Change in Median Annual Household Income by Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2009

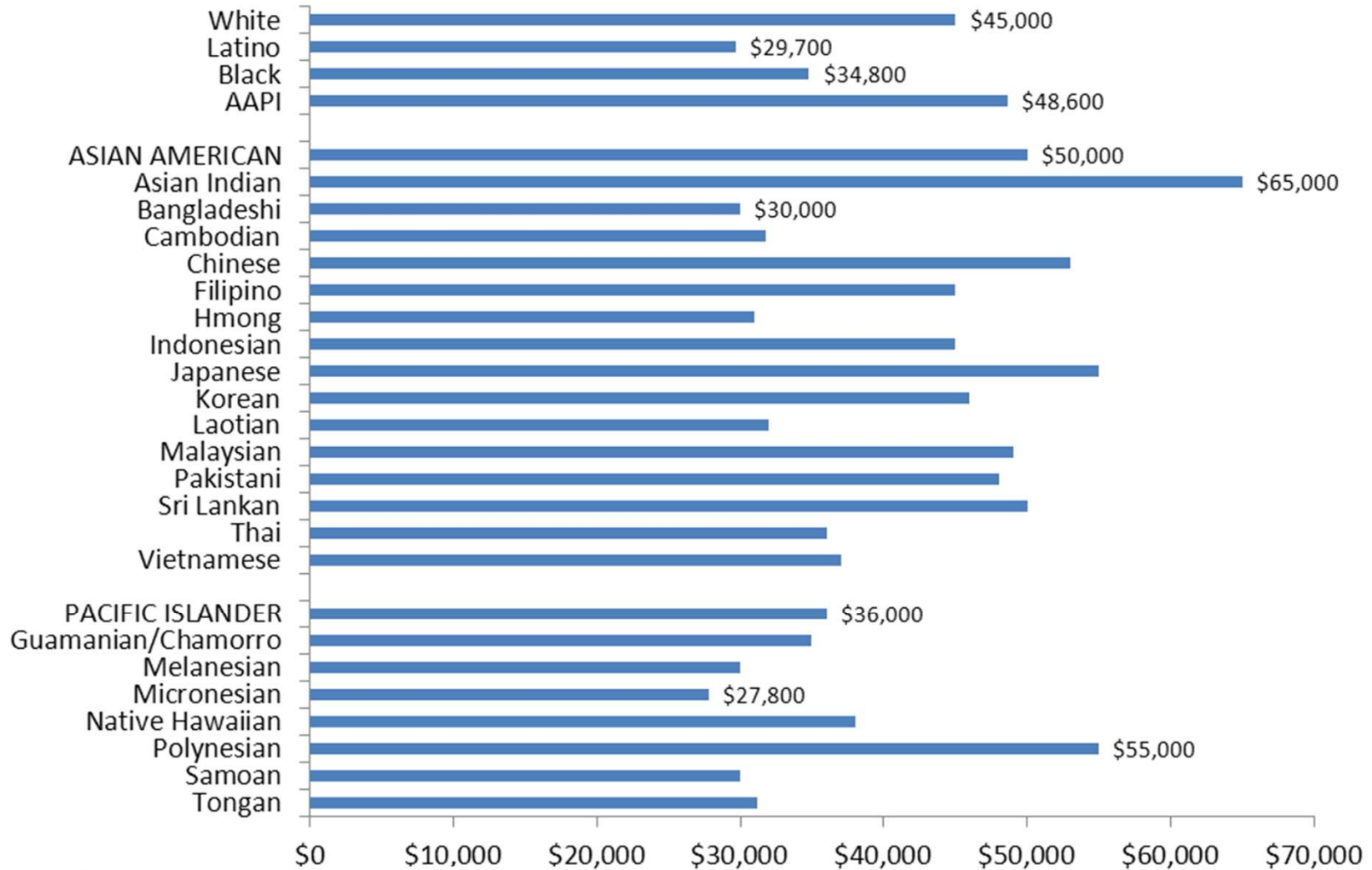


Source: Authors' analysis of March Current Population Survey (CPS)

## AAPIs suffered just as much as other racial/ethnic groups in the recession

- The *prior* slide shows:
  - From 2006 (the year before the recession started) to 2009, the median income of AAPIs dropped about the same as other groups.
- The *following* slide shows:
  - AAPIs *in aggregate* have a higher median wage than other groups, but...
  - the aggregate data masks a *wide range* of wage levels among AAPI ethnic subgroups.

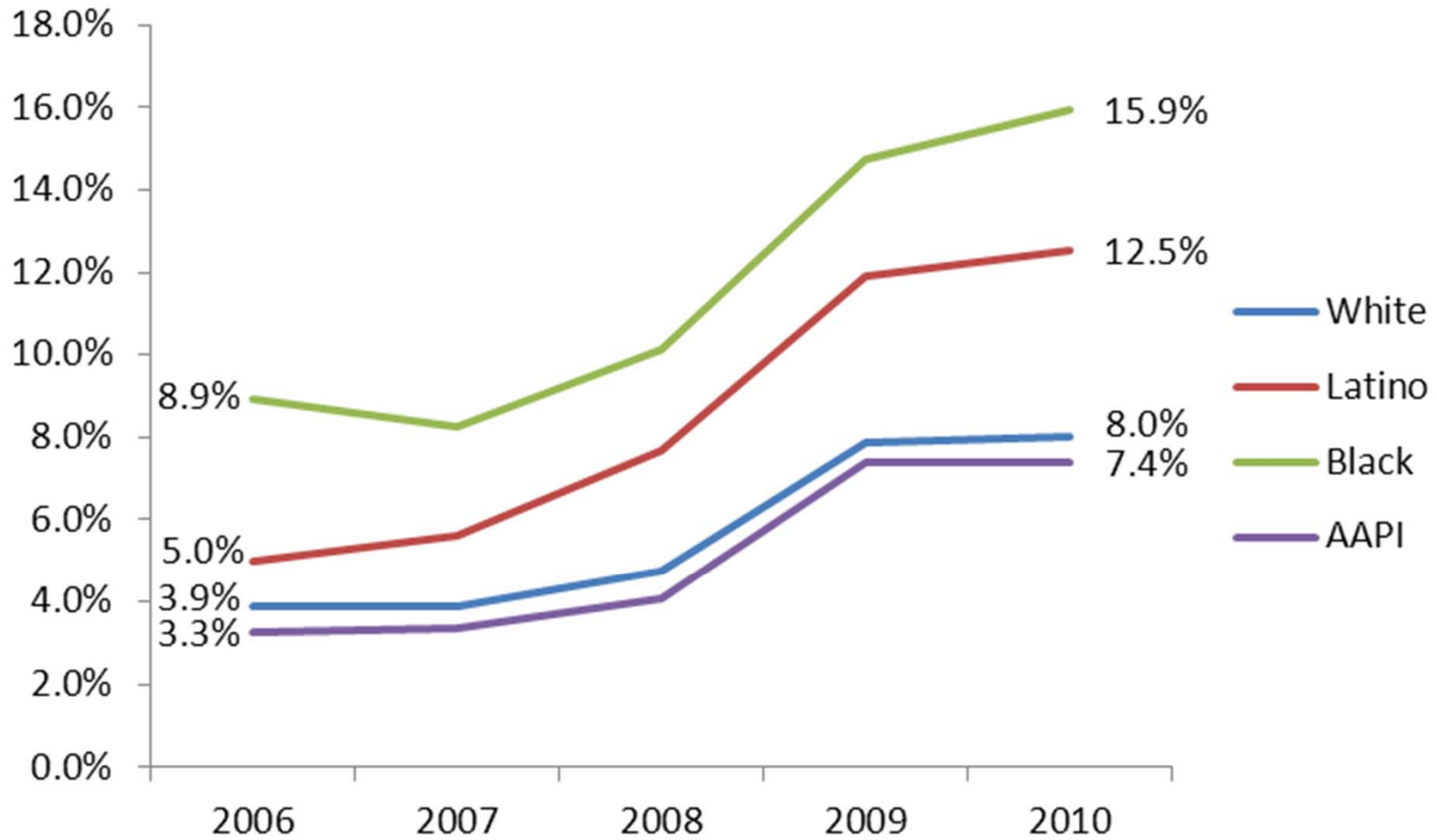
## Median Annual Wage of AAPI Workers Full-Time, Full-Year , Ages 16+, by Ethnicity, 2009



## AAPIs suffered just as much as other racial/ethnic groups in the recession

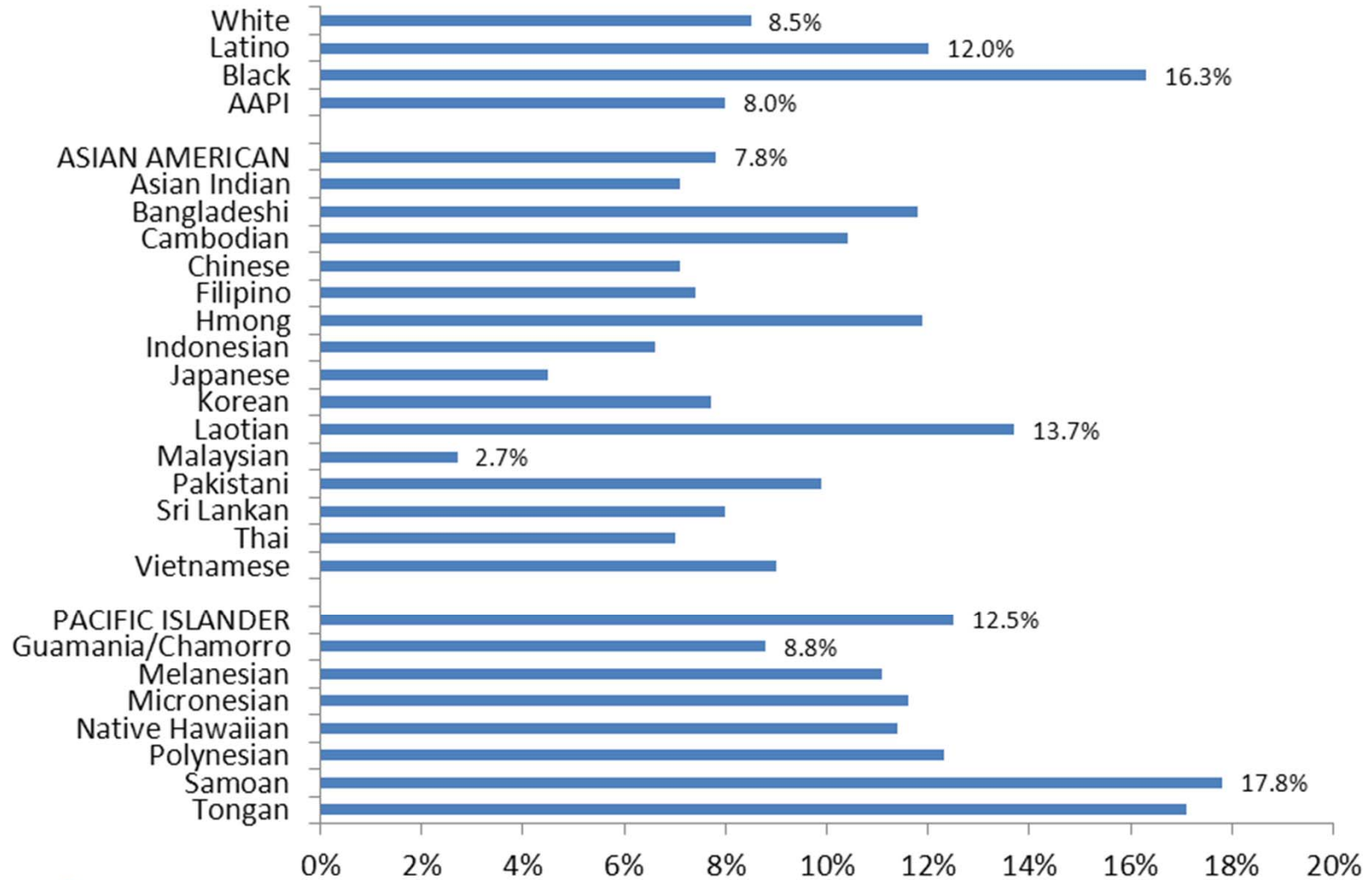
- The *following* slides tell a similar story, this time looking at unemployment rates:
  - The unemployment rate of AAPIs ***more than doubled*** between 2006 and 2010, as it did for other groups.
  - The ***aggregate*** data shows that AAPIs have the lowest unemployment rate .
  - But, again, that masks a ***wide range*** of unemployment rates among AAPI ethnic subgroups.

# Unemployment Rate by Race/Ethnicity, 2006-2010



Source: Authors' analysis of CPS Outgoing Rotation Group

## Unemployment Rate, AAPI Workers Ages 16+, by Ethnicity, 2009



Source: Authors' analysis of American Community Survey (ACS)



The following table is from EPI's ***Hidden Disadvantage: Asian American Unemployment in the Great Recession***

- On average, Asian Americans have more formal education than other workers do. Comparing them to white workers with the *same* educational levels shows that:
  - For workers without high school diplomas, Asian Americans have a lower unemployment rate than white workers.
  - But, for those with some college or a Bachelor's degree only, Asian Americans have a *higher* unemployment rate than white workers.
  - On net, "Asian Americans are disadvantaged relative to white workers."

# Economic Policy Institute

Research and Ideas for Shared Prosperity

**TABLE 4**

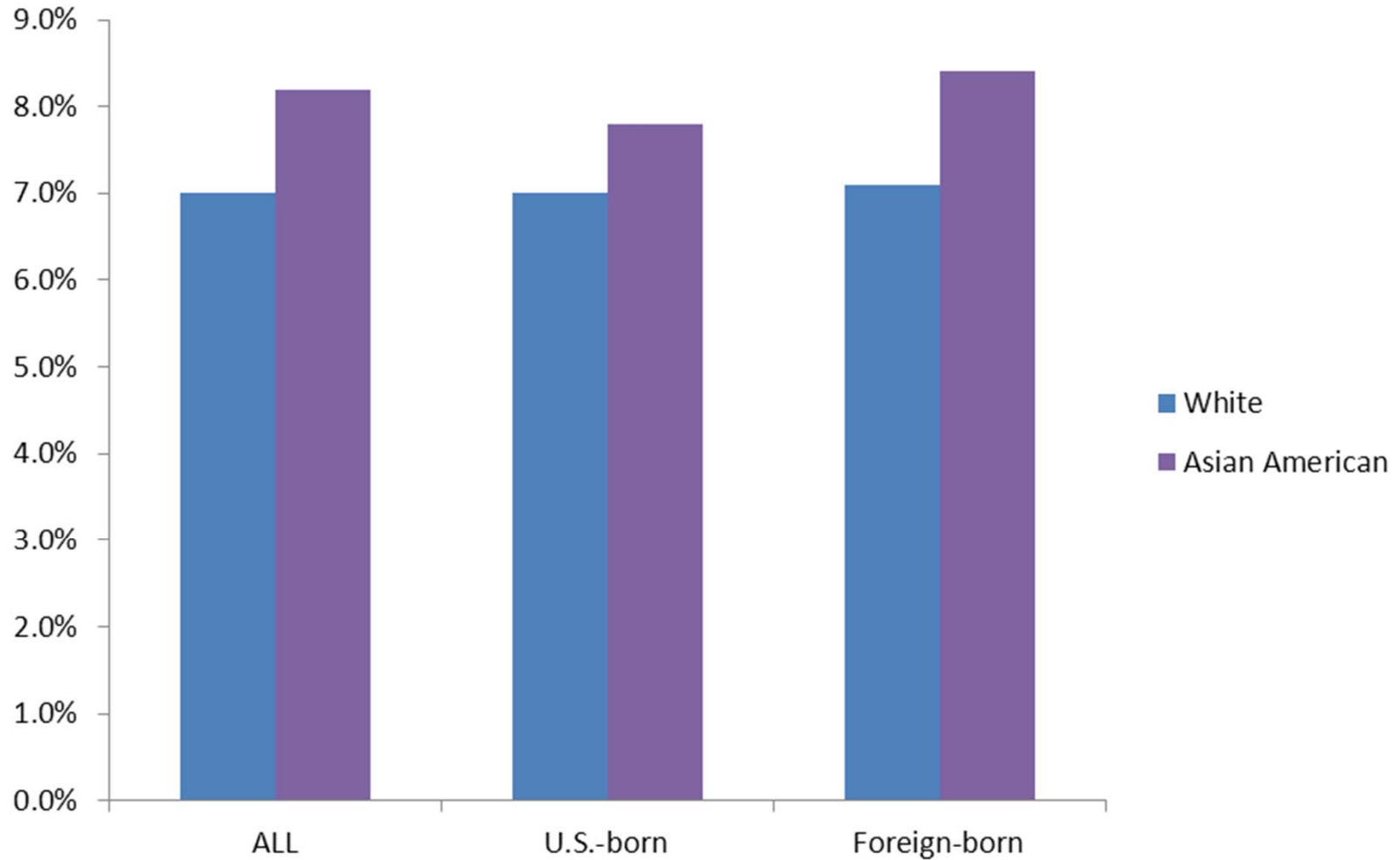
## Asian American and white annual unemployment rates by education level and nativity, 2007-09

Education level	2007		2008		2009	
	Asian American	White	Asian American	White	Asian American	White
<b>All</b>						
<i>Advanced degree</i>	1.8%	1.6%	2.1%	2.0%	3.9%	3.2%
<i>Bachelor's degree</i>	2.7	2.0	3.2	2.5	6.7	4.6
<i>Some college</i>	3.8	3.1	3.7	3.9	8.2	7.0
<i>High school diploma or GED</i>	3.2	3.8	4.2	4.9	7.3	8.7
<i>Less than high school</i>	3.0	7.3	6.3	8.3	7.9	14.4
<b>U.S.-born</b>						
<i>Advanced degree</i>	2.0%	1.5%	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%	3.1%
<i>Bachelor's degree</i>	3.5	2.0	3.4	2.4	6.1	4.5
<i>Some college</i>	2.3	3.1	2.1	3.9	7.8	7.0
<i>High school diploma or GED</i>	2.2	3.8	4.9	4.8	7.6	8.7
<i>Less than high school</i>	2.9	7.5	2.9	8.3	7.4	14.6
<b>Foreign-born</b>						
<i>Advanced degree</i>	1.8%	2.4%	2.1%	2.9%	4.3%	4.5%
<i>Bachelor's degree</i>	2.4	2.9	3.2	4.0	6.9	7.7
<i>Some college</i>	4.3	3.6	4.4	5.4	8.4	7.1
<i>High school diploma or GED</i>	3.5	4.1	4.1	5.1	7.3	8.5
<i>Less than high school</i>	3.0	4.3	6.8	8.1	7.9	10.7

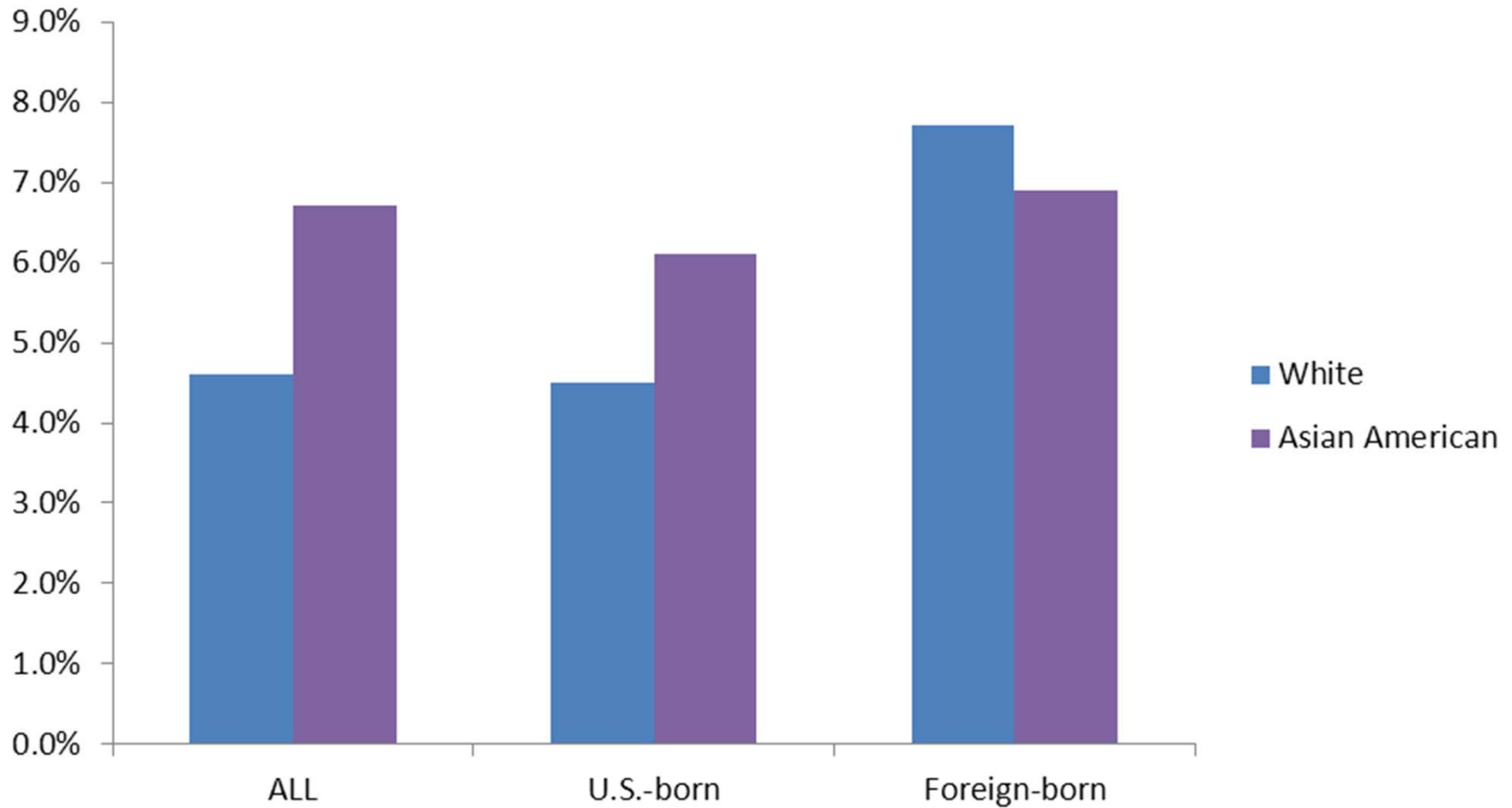
**NOTE:** These data exclude biracial or multiracial individuals, Pacific Islanders, and Hispanics.

**SOURCE:** Author's analysis CPS data.

## Unemployment Rates, White and Asian American Workers Some college, 2009



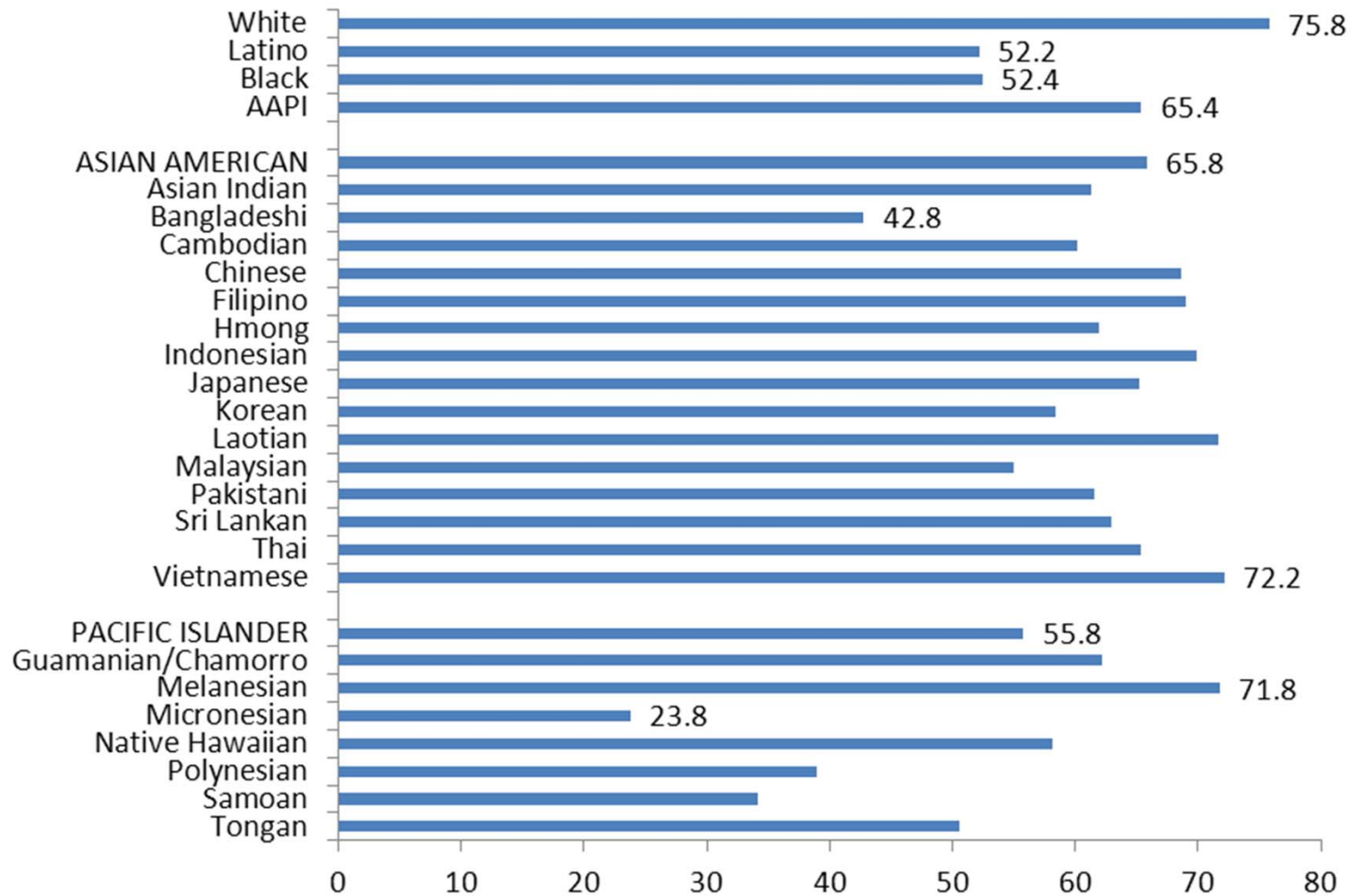
## Unemployment Rates, White and Asian American Workers Bachelor's degree, 2009



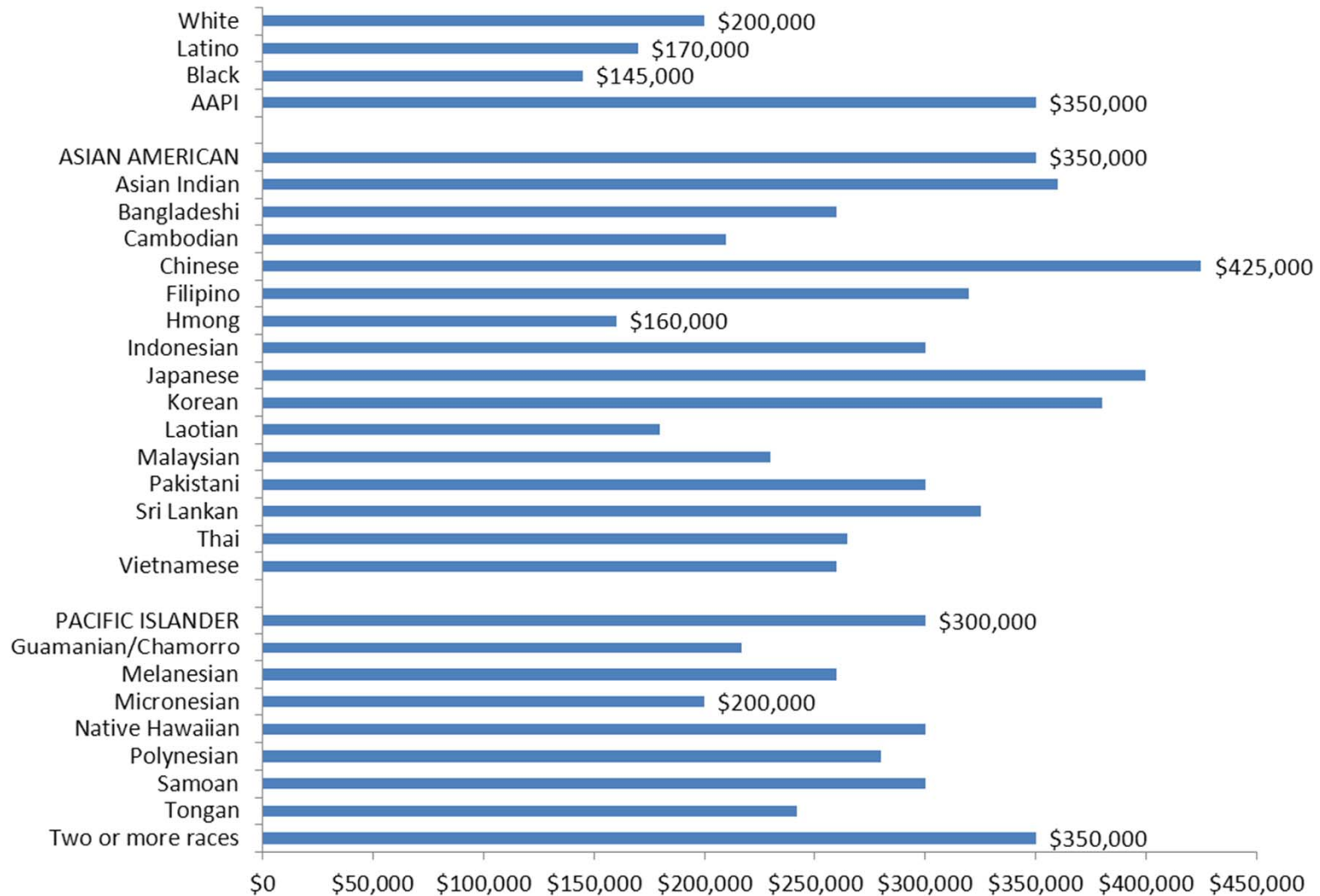
## AAPI homeownership rates and median home values

- Since this panel is also about housing, the following 2 slides look at housing among AAPIs:
  - The AAPI homeownership rate in **aggregate** is between that of whites and blacks/Latinos. The disaggregated data, however, shows a wide diversity among subgroups.
  - The median home value of AAPIs is much higher than that of other groups. Since AAPIs are concentrated in some of the most **expensive real estate markets** – such as California, New York, New Jersey and Hawaii – this may be an important factor.

## Home Ownership Rates of AAPI Workers by Ethnicity, 2009



## Median Home Value of AAPI Workers by Ethnicity, 2009



## The need for better disaggregated data about AAPIs

- The AAPI ethnic subcategory data in this presentation are from the American Community Survey. It is an excellent data source, but:
  - The ACS could be improved with better access for limited English proficiency households.
- Other data in this presentation are from the Current Population Survey, the best source for data about workers. Currently it does not include AAPI subcategories beyond “Asian American” and “Pacific Islander,” so:
  - The CPS could be improved with an increased AAPI sample size, and
  - the addition of more ethnic subcategories for AAPIs.



# CEPR's Research on AAPI Workers

Upcoming report on AAPI workers in the U.S. To be released in July 2011.

## ***Unions and Upward Mobility for Asian American and Pacific Islander Workers***

January 2011. [www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/unions-and-upward-mobility-for-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-workers](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/unions-and-upward-mobility-for-asian-american-and-pacific-islander-workers)

## ***Asian Pacific American Women Workers and Unions*** (issue brief)

August 2010. [www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions-apa-women.pdf](http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/unions-apa-women.pdf)

## ***Unions and Upward Mobility for Immigrant Workers***

March 2010. [www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/unions-upward-mobility-immigrant-workers](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/unions-upward-mobility-immigrant-workers)

## ***Unions and Upward Mobility for Asian Pacific American Workers***

November 2009. [www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/unions-apa](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/unions-apa)

## ***The Changing Face of Labor, 1983-2008***

November 2009. [www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/changing-face-of-labor](http://www.cepr.net/index.php/publications/reports/changing-face-of-labor)

# Thank You!

*Also thanks to my colleagues, John Schmitt, Senior Economist,  
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