

The FACTS about Asian Americans, Affirmative Action, and Efforts to Repeal Prop. 209

To end discrimination against women and people of color we must raise all of our voices to ensure equal opportunity. Repealing Prop. 209 will allow us to make real progress on restoring the ability for the State of California to consider race and gender with the goal of eliminating discrimination in state contracts, public employment, and public education. We can't have shared success without shared opportunity.

FACT

The passage of Prop. 209 has allowed discrimination against Asian American Business Enterprises. Asian American Business Enterprises in cities that have allowed affirmative action (Chicago, Atlanta) receive disproportionately more public contracting dollars than Asian American businesses in cities where affirmative action is banned (San Francisco), even when a city has a large number of Asian American Business Enterprises.

See Oiyen Poon, O., et al. 2010. „Accurate data: Next Step in Giving Asian Pacific Americans Equal Access to Public Contracts.” Asian American Justice Center. Washington, D.C.

FACT

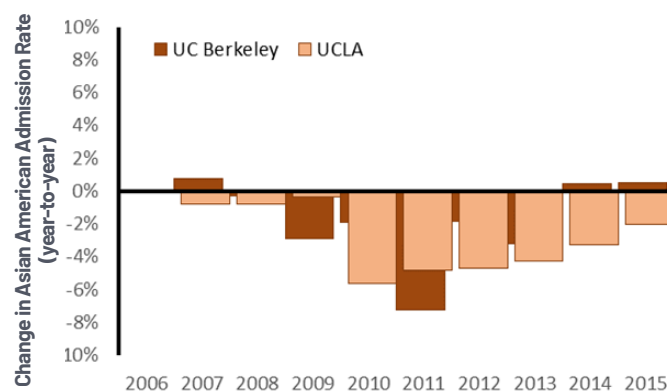
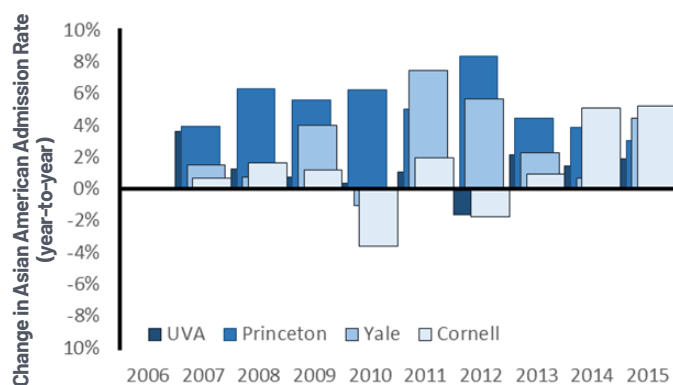
Recent court cases have allowed race to be used in college admissions, but only indirectly as one of many and never as the primary factor in admissions (Fisher v. UT Austin, 2016). The constitutional justification for considering race as described above is to improve ALL students' learning through diversity, and research has demonstrated the many ways Asian Americans, like other students, benefit. In 1996, Prop. 209 banned even this limited use of race in admissions at California public universities.

FACT

Universities that practice affirmative action see greater increases in Asian American admission rates than the UCs, where affirmative action is banned.

Universities where Race-Conscious Admissions are Allowed.

Universities where Race-Conscious Admissions are Banned.



Analysis by Jennifer S. Fang and Jason Fong (2017)

FACT

Colleges and universities CANNOT and WILL NOT use racial quotas to fill their classes and achieve diversity

The Supreme Court ruled that racial quotas are unconstitutional. Quotas have not been allowed in university admissions since 1978 (*UC Regents v. Bakke*). Repealing Prop. 209 will not lead to quotas, which are unconstitutional.

FACT

Asian Americans DO NOT HAVE TO SCORE HIGHER than other groups to be admitted into elite college.

The original study (Espenshade and Radford 2009) supposedly showing a test score gap between Asians and other groups has been misinterpreted. The model by Espenshade and Radford (2009) ignored how selective admissions has operated since 2003, by using data from the late 1990s. This study does not provide an actual score differential between groups. Dr. Espenshade himself has declared publicly that his data and analysis are not strong enough to be considered evidence of racial bias or discrimination. Even after California banned affirmative action, Asian Americans as a group demonstrated higher test scores on average than other groups because test scores are a function of family income and parental education.

See Julie J. Park *Race on Campus: Debunking Myths with Data*. Harvard Education Press 2018.

FACT

Asian American population has grown and so has the enrollment rate at elite colleges

Asian American growth from 2007 to 2014 in the U.S. was 3.4% annually. Since 2007, Asian Americans at selective universities like Yale and Princeton have grown about 20% over the same period (a little over 3% a year). Further, analysis of the most recent data from Harvard shows that the admission rate for Asian Americans is the same overall rate as all applicants.

See Jenn Fang, 2015. <http://reappropriate.co/2015/01/do-enrollment-data-really-show-a-cap-quota-against-asians-at-harvard-maybe-not-iamnotyourwedge/>

FACT

Standardized test scores are unfair and weak measures of merit and college potential

Among the most important correlates of high test scores are parents' education and income. Few who believe in meritocracy would advocate for admitting students based on these two criteria. In addition, the most consistent research finding over the past 20 years is that standardized tests, at best, predict about 15% of student success in the first year of college, and have almost NO relationship to student outcomes after the first-year. They are not good measures of college potential.

See Janelle Wong and Carson Byrd. 2019. "When a test supports myths about racial inequality." CONTEXTS <https://contexts.org/blog/varsity-blues-and-lawsuits-too/#wong>

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