

# Asian Profile Series: Singaporean Community

## Culture



Singapore is a multi-lingual, multi-cultural, and multi-ethnic country, and home to many people of different national, religious, and ethnic origins. The ethnic groups for Singapore are Chinese 74.2%, Malay 13.7%, Indian 8.9%, and other 3.2% (2021). Malay includes indigenous Malays and Indonesians, Indian includes Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, or Sri Lankan, and other ethnic groups includes Eurasians, Caucasians, Japanese, Filipino, and Vietnamese. Similar to their countries culture, Singaporean cuisine is largely influenced by different cultures and its main influences came from Chinese, Malay, and Indian cuisines. "Hawker culture" in Singapore is notable in Singaporean culture. Singaporean cuisine centers around the hawker culture in the country. They first began in the mid 1800s and were made up of street food stalls that sell a large variety of foods. In 2020, UNESCO inscribed Singapore's hawker culture on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. UNESCO described the hawker center as 'community dining rooms' where people from diverse backgrounds gather and share the experience of dining over breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

## Health

Singaporeans have a high standard of health, as the healthcare system focuses on primary prevention. They have the world's second highest life expectancy, 83 years old, and the second lowest infant mortality rate, 1.56 child deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births. Singapore ensures that their healthcare is affordable and accessible through government subsidies, individual private savings, and mandatory national medical saving schemes. Due to the effectiveness of healthcare, Singaporeans are living longer. By 2050, it is estimated that a third of the population will be made up of elderly individuals. The Singapore government must promptly invest in elderly medical specialists and facilities to address this growing population before it puts a strain on the healthcare system.



### References:

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Hirschmann, R. (2022, May 25). *Topic: Health in Singapore*. Statista. Retrieved August 20, 2022, from <https://www.statista.com/topics/5828/health-in-singapore/#dossierKeyfigures>  
"Singapore submits Unesco bid to recognize hawker culture". The Straits Times. 29 March 2019. Retrieved 8 August 2022.

# Center for Asian Health Equity (CAHE)

## Spotlights

### Community Partner

### South-East Asia Center (SEAC)



The South-East Asia Center (SEAC) is a community-based, educational and social service organization building bridges of understanding and cooperation amongst peoples of Old and New World cultures. SEAC specializes in building inter-ethnic bridges, serving peoples from China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Philippines, Singapore, neighboring peoples of South Asia and West Asian, and immigrants from Eastern Europe, the Caribbean, Africa, and Latin America. SEAC partnered with Asian Health Coalition to disseminate the Chicago Asian Health Survey, which collected disaggregated Asian information to identify and address health inequities among Chicagoland's Asian communities.

## CAHE Staff

Yicklun Mo joined the CAHE team in 2019 as Assistant Director. Yicklun oversees the operations of the Center and works with the Behavioral Health team to develop strategies to ensure a sustainable community-based programming by building the capacity of community partners. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Yicklun always embraces a passion for advancing social justice and health care for underserved populations.

