



QUEER & API: ENGAGING WITH API COMMUNITIES

THE CHINESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

NO STRANGERS TO DISCRIMINATION

In 1882, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, halting the immigration of Chinese women and preventing Chinese men working in the U.S. from starting families and settling down. This law was not repealed until 1943.

APIs share a history of marriage discrimination with gay and lesbian couples. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, the California state legislature passed a series of laws that banned all marriages between a white person and any “Mongolian.” By 1906, any pre-existing marriage between a white person and a Chinese person was declared “illegal and void”.

The Chinese Exclusion Act, combined with these anti-miscegenation laws, effectively undermined the growth of Chinese families.

OUR PURPOSE

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

API Equality-LA and API Equality-Northern California partnered with Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy to collect research on **Asian Pacific Islander (API) views on same-sex marriage and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people.**

These fact sheets highlight key findings from a combination of one-on-one in-depth interviews and focus groups among voters and individuals in California’s Chinese, Filipino, and Korean communities. Interviews and focus groups were conducted in each ethnic community in English and participants’ primary languages: Mandarin, Korean, or Tagalog. Participants were of varying genders, age, and education levels. This research was designed to explore views on same-sex marriage as well as values, attitudes, and feelings related to LGBT people.

Factsheets are for community members and LGBT advocates looking to gain a better understanding of these communities, so they can reach out and build better understanding across difference between and among our communities.



Source: API Equality-LA

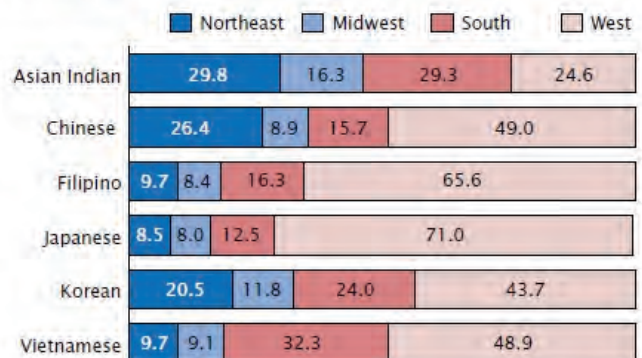
BASIC DEMOGRAPHICS

BASED ON THE 2010 CENSUS

- Total Population: 3,322,350—3,779,732 (these figures do not include those who self-identify as Taiwanese; the latter figure includes mixed-race Chinese people)
- 1.1% of the total population of the United States
- Chinese Americans are the largest API subgroup, accounting for 23% of the total API population in the U.S.
- States with the largest Chinese American presence include: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, and Washington

Percentage Distribution of Largest Detailed Asian Groups by Region: 2010

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/doc/sf1.pdf)



Note: Percentages are based on the alone-or-in-any-combination population for each group. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census special tabulation.

REACHING OUT IN THE CHINESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

CULTURE, VALUES, AND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

The Chinese American community is the largest and one of the most diverse API ethnic groups in the United States. With a rich and long history of migration to the U.S., the Chinese American community has varied views towards LGBT people. People who are younger, less religious, English proficient, and born in the United States are more likely to have pro-LGBT attitudes.

Among Chinese Americans, there are also differences along gender lines. Women's views are more polarized, with Chinese-speaking women above 40 overwhelmingly opposed to same-sex marriage, and younger English-speaking women overwhelmingly in support. Meanwhile, men's attitudes are evenly distributed across the spectrum. Additionally, women are more likely to change their minds in support of same-sex marriage; men are more likely to move towards opposition.

Chinese cultural influences shape attitudes towards same-sex marriage, particularly among Chinese immigrants, who express resentment against LGBT people for going against the grain of mainstream society by asking the majority to change its laws to accommodate a minority. However, this resentment softens when LGBT people demonstrate compliance with other cultural traditions, such as filial duty to parents. Meanwhile, American-born Chinese Americans are more receptive to messages that underscore unequal and unfair treatment of those in the minority.



THE POWER OF FAMILY UNITY

The value of family is so strong among Chinese Americans that there is universal appeal in the idea of a family standing beside and supporting an LGBT family member. Even opponents of same-sex marriage and LGBT people responded positively to the image above.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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API EQUALITY-LA
Asians and Pacific Islanders for LGBT Equality

API Equality-LA advocates in the Greater Los Angeles Asian and Pacific Islander communities for the fair treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and marriage equality for same-sex couples. API Equality-LA's vision is to create a society that celebrates the loves and lives of all people - free from discrimination and injustice.



API EQUALITY
Northern California

API Equality-Northern California works at the intersections of the Asian and Pacific Islander and LGBTQ communities to transform people, practices, and policies to make the world an equitable and safe place for everyone. API Equality-Northern California envisions a world where LGBTQ Asians and Pacific Islanders are empowered to practice self-determination, cultivate intergenerational connections, and live truthfully.