

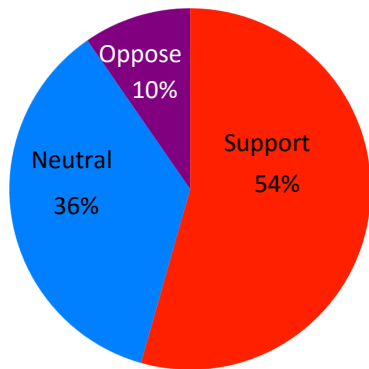


QUEER & API: ENGAGING WITH API COMMUNITIES

ACCEPTANCE IN THE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY

MAJORITY LGBTQ SUPPORT

More than half of Vietnamese Americans support LGBTQ people. Also, over one-third report a neutral attitude toward the LGBTQ community, an indication of opportunities for and perhaps openness to increased awareness and understanding of LGBTQ issues and identities.



54%

SUPPORT LGBTQ PEOPLE

OUR PURPOSE

BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

API Equality-LA, in partnership with Viet Rainbow of Orange County, API Equality-Northern California, and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy collected research on Asian and Pacific Islander communities (API) and views on same-sex marriage and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people.

These factsheets highlight key findings from a combination of one-on-one interviews, focus groups, surveys conducted in California's Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Vietnamese communities, and review of secondary sources. Research was conducted in each ethnic community in English and in the participants' primary languages: Mandarin, Tagalog, Korean and Vietnamese. 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 LGBTQ people.

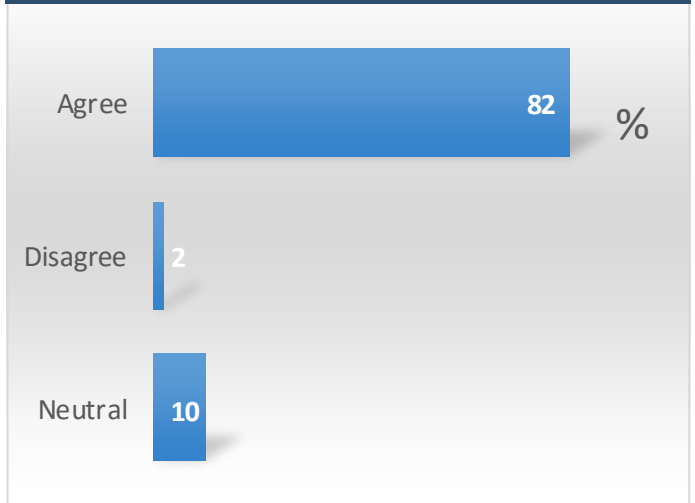
Factsheets are for community members and LGBTQ advocates seeking to gain a better understanding of these communities, so they can better reach out and build understanding across difference among and within our communities.

CHERISHING EQUALITY & RESPECT

An overwhelming majority (82%) of Vietnamese Americans believe in equality, dignity and respect for all, and an end to discrimination against LGBTQ people in all arenas of life.

Most agreed with the following statement:

“Every human being deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Discrimination against LGBT people at work, school, or anywhere else should not be permitted. It’s about equality.”



Even 76% of those who reported being neutral as to their support for LGBTQ people, strongly agreed with this statement.

Our survey of Vietnamese Americans in 2014 showed majority support and acceptance for marriage equality (44%) or other relationship recognition (18%) for same-sex couples. While 26% expressed indifference, only 9% stated opposition.

This represents a significant change from 2008 data which showed that 61% of Vietnamese American voters in Orange County, the heart of the Vietnamese community in California and the area we conducted our survey, voted to ban same-sex marriage for LGBTQ couples by supporting Prop 8.

TOWARDS LGBTQ ACCEPTANCE

In addition to change in public opinion in favor of LGBTQ equality, there are clear signs of increasing support in Vietnamese cultural institutions.

Since 2010 Vietnamese LGBTQ community members have organized participation in Westminster's Tet Parade in Orange County, one of the largest public events in the Vietnamese community. Reaction from Vietnamese community leaders to the LGBTQ presence and visibility has been mixed, with parade organizers even attempting to exclude LGBTQ Vietnamese participants in 2013 and subsequently imposing other restrictions. Still, Vietnamese American LGBTQ community members have maintained a consistent presence in the community and at the parade with favorable response from parade watchers and the community at large.

Support for the LGBTQ community is undoubtedly increasing. Viet Rainbow of Orange County has emerged as a respected LGBTQ-led group rooted in and serving the Vietnamese community. In 2015, Bao Nguyen, an out gay man, became the first Vietnamese-American mayor of a major U.S. city, Garden Grove. Even in Vietnam, LGBTQ support is growing; Hanoi hosted Vietnam's first gay pride parade in 2012.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Research and trends in our data suggest a high degree of neutrality and thus opportunity to increase support for equality with the following approaches:

EMPHASIZE DIGNITY AND RESPECT: Vietnamese Americans respond well to the notion that all people should have equality and no one should bear the brunt of discrimination. To promote understanding, messages that LGBTQ people deserve the same non-discriminatory treatment as others are likely to resonate.

RESPECT TRADITION AND CULTURE: Vietnamese Americans value traditions. LGBTQ equality should be understood as aligned with tradition and cultural values. Suggestions that "traditions change" to accept LGBTQ people may be more likely to elicit defensiveness or opposition. Thoughtful and respectful communication about existing Vietnamese traditions and values is critical.

REACH OUT TO BILINGUAL AND BICULTURAL VIETNAMESE AMERICANS: Given the language barriers that limit access to information for parts of the community, receptivity to any information depends on messengers and messages that can transcend those barriers. Providing Vietnamese language resources and engaging culturally competent people to share them, is necessary to reach substantial sectors of the community.

PROMOTE LGBTQ EQUALITY AND ACCEPTANCE THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKS: While exposure to favorable media coverage on LGBTQ equality correlates with public support, many reported that friends, co-workers, teachers and family influence their views. Efforts to increase dialogue among individuals' social networks are likely to be impactful.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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API EQUALITY-LA
Asians and Pacific Islanders for LGBT Equality

Founded in 2005, API Equality-LA is an LGBTQ rights and racial justice organization building grassroots community power and organizing for change in the Asian and Pacific Islander community. www.apiequalityla.org



VROC is a community-based organization founded by Vietnamese-Americans with a diverse prism of sexual orientations and gender identities. www.vietroc.org