

California fact sheet: Asian and Pacific Islander (API) lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans

Of the 863 survey respondents nationwide, 317 (37%) lived in California.

- 76% reported that they had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their sexual orientation.
- 86% had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their race or ethnicity.
- According to California respondents, the most important issues facing API LGBT Americans are Hate Violence/Harassment (41%), Media Representations (38%), and Marriage Equality (38%).
- 91% of respondents from California agreed that homophobia and/or transphobia is a problem within the broader API community.
- 79% of respondents from California agreed that API LGBT people experience racism/ethnic insensitivity within the predominantly white LGBT community.
- API LGBT Californians are politically active: 76% of respondents planned to vote in the 2006 mid-term election (approximately 11% reported that they were ineligible to vote). Strong majorities also reported that they participate in other political activities, including signing petitions, participating in marches or rallies and contacting their elected officials.
- Only 55% of respondents from California said that English was their native language. Mandarin (8%), Cantonese (7%), Vietnamese (7%), and Tagalog (7%) were the most frequently cited native languages. Nearly all LGBT informational and advocacy materials are produced in English. Few resources are available in any Asian language.

Who are APIs?

The term Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs) encompasses a vast collection of ethnic groups with unique histories, cultures and migrations within both their Asian or Pacific Islands ancestral country of origin and their experience living in the United States. API includes people with ancestral ties to ethnic groups located in:

- South Asian countries like India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;
- Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia;
- East Asian countries like China, Japan and Korea;
- Pacific Island countries like the Philippines and Indonesia;
- Indigenous people of Samoa, Guam and Hawaii.

Demographic profile

- More than a dozen ethnicities were represented in the sample from California, including Chinese (37%), Filipino (27%), Japanese (13%), Vietnamese (11%) and Asian Indian (6%). Smaller numbers of Korean, Malaysian, Thai and Pakistani respondents also participated. Cambodians (2%) and Native Hawaiians (3%) were a greater proportion of respondents in California than nationwide.
- 53% of respondents from California identified as men, 43% as women, and 11% transgender. This adds up to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one option.
- 44% of respondents from California self-identified as gay, 17% as lesbian, 10% bisexual, 23% as “queer” and 3% as “downe.”¹ The remaining chose various other categories.
- 31% of respondents from California reported being in a committed relationship and 10% had a domestic partner. Three percent reported being married to a person of the same sex, 40% reported being single and 8% dating. The remaining chose various other categories.
- 65% of respondents from California reported being U.S.-born citizens, 25% naturalized U.S. citizens and 9% non-U.S. citizens.

Context: U.S. Census data on Asian and Pacific Islander Californians in same-sex couples²

- According to analysis of data from the 2000 U.S. Census, there are over 13,000 APIs in same-sex couples in California, more than in any other state. There are over 38,000 APIs in same-sex couples nationwide.
- San Francisco County has the highest rate of API same-sex couples (2.2 per 1,000 households), while Los Angeles County has the largest number of API same-sex couples (1,929).
- 55% of API same-sex couples in California aged 25-55 are raising their own children.

¹ Downe is derived from “downlow” and is used by younger Asians and Pacific Islanders on the west coast to separate themselves from society’s stereotypes of gay Asians.

² Source: Gates, G., & Sears, B. R. (2005, September). *Asians and Pacific Islanders in same-sex couples in California: Data from Census 2000*. Los Angeles: The Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law and Policy.

API LGBT Organizations in California

San Francisco Bay Area

Asian Equality
170A Capp Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
Phone: 415.341.6415
E-mail: mail@asianequality.org
<http://www.asianequality.org>

API Family Pride
PO Box 473
Fremont, CA 94537
Phone: (510) 818-0887
Fax: 510.742.1102
E-mail: info@apifamilypride.org
<http://www.apifamilypride.org>

Asian Pacific Islander Queer Women & Transgender
Coalition (APIQWTC)
Phone: 415.292.3420 x 513
E-mail: apiqwtc@yahoo.com
<http://www.apiqwtc.org>

Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA)
PO Box 421884
San Francisco, CA 94142-1884
Phone: 415.282.GAPA
E-mail: info@gapa.org
<http://www.gapa.org>

Gay Vietnamese Alliance
PO Box 21423
San Jose, CA 95151
E-mail: info@gvalliance.org
<http://www.gvalliance.org>

South Bay Queer & Asian
938 The Alameda
San Jose, CA 95126
Phone: 408.293.2429
E-mail: info@sbqa.com
<http://www.sbqa.com>

Trikone
PO Box 14161
San Francisco, CA 94114
Phone: 415.487.8778

E-mail: trikone@trikone.org
<http://www.trikone.org>

Los Angeles

Asian Pacific Crossroads Orange County
A-PC c/o The Center O.C.
12832 Garden Grove Blvd, Suite A
Garden Grove, CA 92643
Phone: 714.534.0862
E-mail: chair@apc-oc.org
<http://www.apc-oc.org>

Gay Asian Support Network (GAPSN)
PO Box 461104
Los Angeles, CA 90046
Phone: 213.368.6488
E-mail: gapsn@gapsn.org
<http://www.gapsn.org>

O-Moi (The Vietnamese Lesbians, Bisexual Women
and Transgender Support Network)
E-mail: o-moi@o-moi.org
<http://www.o-moi.org>

SATRANG
1026 Concha St.
Altadena, CA 91001
Phone: 626.379.3649
E-mail: comments@satrang.org
<http://www.satrang.org>

University/Youth Groups

AQU25A
c/oAPI Wellness Center
730 Polk Street
4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94109
Phone: 415.292.3420 x315
E-mail: aqua@apiwellness.org
<http://www.myspace.com/aqu25a>

University of California, Los Angeles Mahu
E-mail: mahu@ucla.edu
<http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/mahu/home.html>

For more information and to download a copy of *Living in the Margins: A National Survey of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Asian and Pacific Islander Americans*, visit www.TheTaskForce.org.