

New York, New Jersey and Connecticut (NY metro area) fact sheet: Asian and Pacific Islander (API) lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans

Of 863 survey respondents nationwide, 170 (20%) lived in the NY metro area.

- 75% reported that they had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their sexual orientation
- 84% had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their race or ethnicity.
- According to NY metro area respondents, the most important issues facing API LGBT Americans are immigration (42%), hate violence/harassment (39%), media representations (31%), and marriage equality (28%).
- 88% of respondents from the NY metro area agreed that homophobia and/or transphobia is a problem within the broader API community.
- 80% agreed that API LGBT people experience racism/ethnic insensitivity within the predominantly white LGBT community.
- API LGBT Americans in the NY metro area are very politically active: 61% reported that they planned to vote in the 2006 mid-term election (approximately 22% reported that they were ineligible to vote). Strong majorities of respondents also reported that they participate in other political activities, which included signing petitions, participating in marches or rallies, and contacting their elected officials.
- Only 51% of respondents from the NY metro area said that English was their native language. Mandarin (12%), Cantonese (9%), Japanese (4%), and Tagalog (3%) 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 the NY metro area, including Chinese (49%), Filipino (13%), Asian Indian (11%), Japanese (11%) and Korean (8%). Smaller numbers of Malaysian, Pakistani, Cambodian, Vietnamese and Indonesian respondents also participated.
- 54% identified as men, 40% as women, and 10% transgender. This adds up to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one option.
- 47% self-identified as gay, 21% as lesbian, and 5% bisexual. 23% identified as “queer.” The remaining chose various other categories.
- 34% of respondents reported being in a committed relationship, 12% had a domestic partner, 9% were dating and 34% were single. The remaining chose various other categories.
- 58% reported being US-born citizens, 20% naturalized US-citizens, and 22% non-US citizens.

Context: U.S. Census data on Asian and Pacific Islander New Yorkers in same-sex couples¹

- According to analysis of data from the 2000 U.S. Census there are over 4,700 APIs in same-sex couples in New York State, which ranks second out of the top ten states with the highest number of APIs in same-sex couples. There are over 38,000 APIs in same-sex couples nationwide.

¹ Source: Gates, G., Lau, H., & Sears, B. R. (2006). Asians and Pacific Islanders in same-sex couples in the United States: Data from Census 2000. *Amerasia Journal*, 32(1). pp. 15-32.

API LGBT organizations in the NY metro area

New York City

Audre Lorde Project
85 South Oxford Street
Brooklyn, NY 11217
Phone: 718.596.0342
E-mail: alpinfo@alp.org
<http://www.alp.org>

The Dari Project (formerly the Queer Korean Resource Project)
Phone: 212.629.7440
<http://www.dariproject.org>

Gay Asian Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY)
PO Box 1608
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113
Phone: 212.802.7423
E-mail: gapimny@gapimny.org
<http://www.gapimny.org>

Kilawin Kolektibo-Filipina Lesbian Collective
E-mail: kilawin@yahoo.com

Mandarin Connection
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Mandarin_Connection

Q-Wave: Queer.Asian.Visible.Empowered
E-mail: info@qwave.org
Phone: 917.838.4306
<http://www.q-wave.org>

South Asian Lesbian and Gay Association of NY (SALGA-NYC)
PO Box 1491
Old Chelsea Station
New York, NY 10113
Phone: 212.358.5132
E-mail: salganyc@hotmail.com

Religious groups

Queer Asian Spirit
Old Chelsea Station
P.O. Box 206
New York, NY 10113-0206
Phone: 646.722.8340
Email: patrick@queerasianspirit.org
<http://www.queerasianspirit.org>

Queer Asian Fellowship
E-mail: RevPatrick@att.net
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/QueerAsianFellowship>

University/youth groups

EquAsian - API LGBTQ youth group run by/for youth

Asian/Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS (APICHA)

150 Lafayette St, 6th Fl.

New York, NY 10013

Phone: 212.334.7940 ext. 219

E-mail: apicha@apicha.org

<http://www.apicha.org/apicha/pages/education/ypp>

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.