

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

Of 863 survey respondents nationwide, 30 (3.5%) lived in Washington State.

- 77% reported that they had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their sexual orientation
- 80% had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their race or ethnicity.
- According to Washington respondents, the most important issues facing API LGBT Americans are marriage equality (40%), Immigration (37%), media representations (33%), Job discrimination/ harassment (33%), and hate violence/harassment (33%).
- 87% of respondents from Washington agreed that homophobia and/or transphobia is a problem within the broader API community.
- 87% agreed that API LGBT people experience racism/ethnic insensitivity within the predominantly white LGBT community.
- API LGBT Washingtonians are very politically active: 80% reported that they planned to vote in the 2006 mid-term election (approximately 13% reported that they were ineligible to vote). Strong majorities of respondents also reported that they participate in other political activities, including signing petitions, participating in marches or rallies, and contacting their elected officials.
- 63% of respondents said that English was their native language. Tagalog (10%), Mandarin (7%), Korean (3%), Bengali (3%), and Cantonese (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

- Many ethnicities were represented in the sample from Washington, including Filipino (37%), Chinese (33%), Japanese (13%), Asian Indian (10%), and Korean (10%).
- 57% identified as men, 33% as women, and 10% transgender.
- 50% self-identified as gay, 27% as lesbian, and 3% bisexual, while 20% identified as “queer.” The remaining chose various other categories.
- 20% of respondents reported being in a committed relationship, 23% had a domestic partner, 7% were dating and 37% were single. The remaining chose various other categories.
- 63% reported being U.S.-born citizens, 23% naturalized U.S. citizens, and 13% non-U.S. citizens.

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

- According to analysis of data from the 2000 U.S. Census there are over 1,400 APIs in same-sex couples in Washington, which ranks seventh 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.

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.

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.