

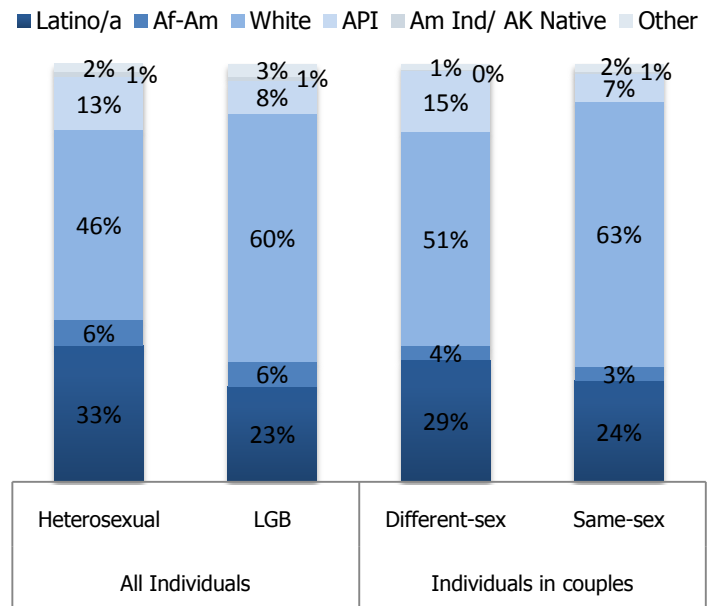
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This report provides a general overview of Asian and Pacific Islanders (API) in same-sex couples as well as the broader API lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) population in California.

We use data from the 2005/2006 American Community Survey (ACS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, to compare the characteristics of APIs in same-sex couples to their different-sex married counterparts. In all cases, when this report describes characteristics of couples, the data source is the ACS. While the ACS provides an excellent source of information about those in same-sex couples, it cannot provide information about the larger API LGB population since it includes no explicit question about sexual orientation.

The 2003 and 2005 California Health Interview Surveys (CHIS) ask respondents to disclose their sexual orientation and collect much of the same demographic information included in the ACS. We use data from the CHIS to compare demographic traits between API LGB and heterosexual men and women (both single and coupled) to provide a more well-rounded demographic portrait of California's API LGB community. In all cases where this report describes characteristics of the LGB community, the data source is the CHIS.¹

Race/Ethnicity



Key Findings

- There are more than 66,000 Asians and Pacific Islanders in California who identify as lesbian, gay or bisexual and more than 14,500 APIs who are part of a same-sex couple.
- Over one-third of all APIs in same-sex couples in the United States live in California, a greater percentage than any other state.
- Over 34% of APIs in same-sex couples in California are of Filipino descent; the largest percentage of APIs in different-sex married couples are of Chinese descent (28%).
- Nearly a third (31%) of API women and 21% of API men within same-sex couples are raising children.
- API same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than those in married couples, with an average household income of \$96,290 compared to \$109,091 for APIs in different-sex married couples. API parents are also less likely than APIs different-sex married parents to own their homes (65% vs. 70%).

MORE THAN 66,000 API LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL ADULTS LIVE IN CALIFORNIA; 14,570 APIs IN SAME-SEX COUPLES

- There are an estimated 66,000 LGB APIs in California, comprising 1.5% of API adults in the state.
- APIs make up 8% of the state’s total LGB population versus 13% of the total heterosexual population.
- Just over 7% of men and women in same-sex couples are API, compared to 15% of those in different-sex married couples.

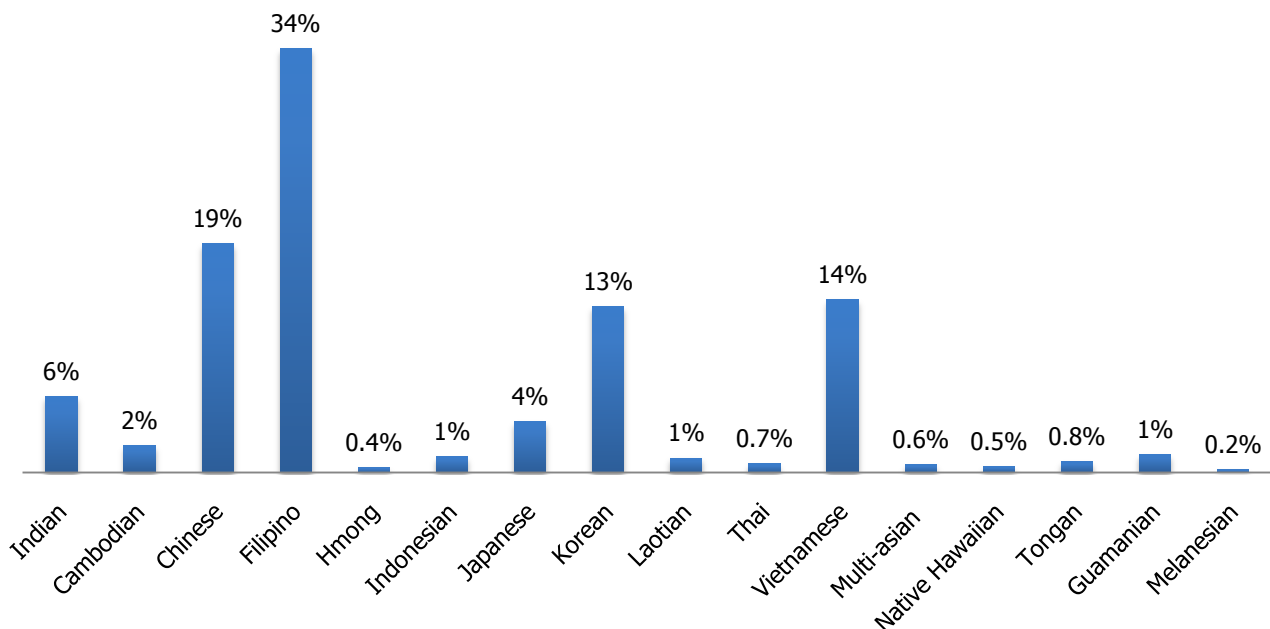
LGB APIs ARE YOUNGER AND MORE URBAN THAN HETEROSEXUAL APIs

- Approximately 38% of APIs in same-sex couples are aged 18-39 compared to 46% of APIs in different-sex marriages.
- Of LGB APIs, 74% are aged 18-39 compared to 64% of API heterosexuals.
- Almost 89% of LGB APIs live in urban areas compared to 76% of heterosexual APIs.
- Heterosexual APIs are more than twice as likely to live in a suburban area (21%) than their LGB (9%) counterparts; 3% of heterosexual and LGB APIs live in rural areas.

CITIZENSHIP PATTERNS DIFFER BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND COUPLING STATUS

- Although APIs in same-sex couples have similar citizenship rates to their API counterparts in different-sex marriages, those in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to be citizens by birthright as opposed to naturalization (26% vs. 15%).
- APIs in either couple-type are about equally likely to be a foreign citizen: 25% for those in same-sex couples versus 28% for those in different-sex married couples.
- A similarly unequal relationship in regards to citizenship by birthright is observed when comparing lesbian, gay, and bisexual APIs to their heterosexual counterparts. The 40% of LGB APIs born in the U.S. compares to only 20% of heterosexual APIs. LGB (18%) and heterosexual (30%) APIs also have disparate rates of non-citizenship.
- APIs in same-sex couples are most likely to be of Filipino (34%), Chinese (19%), Korean (13%), or Vietnamese descent (14%) whereas APIs in different-sex married couples are most likely to be of Chinese (28%), Filipino (23%), Indian (12%), or Vietnamese descent (10%).
- Aside from the aforementioned nationalities, only Cambodian, Indonesian, Japanese, and Laotian, measured over 1% for both couple types.

Country of Origin - Asian/Pacific Islanders in Same-Sex Couples



APIs IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE IN INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONSHIPS

- About 90% of APIs in married different-sex couples are with another API individual, compared to only 65% of APIs in same-sex couples.

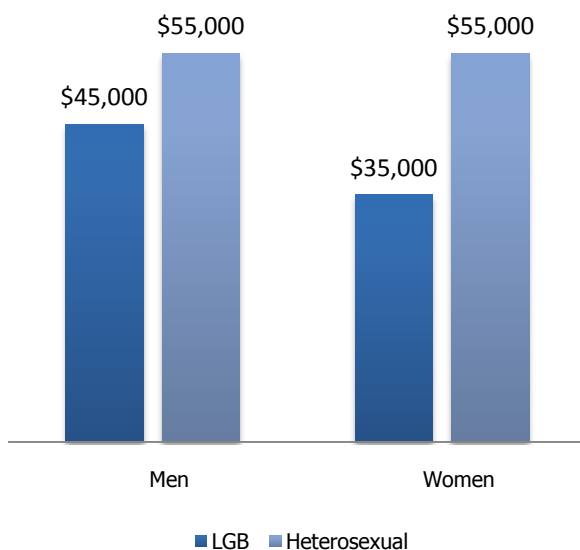
MEN COMPRISE A MAJORITY OF APIs IN SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB API POPULATION AT-LARGE

- Among APIs in same-sex couples, 62% are male and 38% are female.
- For the overall API LGB population, males make up 58% and females 42%.

LGB APIs ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY

- The percentage of employed APIs in a same-sex couple is 78%, significantly greater than the 67% for APIs in different-sex married couples.
- The percentage of LGB API individuals who are employed (76%) exceeds that of heterosexual APIs (68%).

Average Household Income of Asian/Pacific Islanders



LGB APIs HAVE HIGH LEVELS OF EDUCATION

- APIs in same-sex couples are more likely to have a college degree (59% vs. 51%) than their different-sex married counterparts.

- Similarly, LGB APIs are more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to have a college degree (61% LGB and 52% heterosexual).
- Compared to the 47% of all LGB Californians and the 32% of all heterosexuals who hold at least a college degree, APIs are more likely to obtain higher education (regardless of sexual orientation or coupling status).

LGB APIs HAVE ACTIVELY SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

- Despite the military's historic policies of excluding LGB people from service, 6% of API males in same-sex couples are veterans.
- Three percent of all gay/bisexual API males have served in the military compared to 7% of male API heterosexuals.
- Less than 1% of lesbian/bisexual API women and API women in same-sex couples are veterans.

LITTLE AVERAGE EARNING DIFFERENCE EXISTS BETWEEN API MEN IN EITHER COUPLE TYPE

- API men in same-sex couples have average individual earnings of \$67,044, slightly lower than the average earnings for API men in different-sex married couples (\$67,618).
- The figures for API women in California mirror previous national findings; females in same-sex couples have higher earnings than women in different-sex married couples.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME FOR API HETEROSEXUALS EXCEEDS THAT OF LGB APIs

- Gay/Bisexual API males have a median household income of \$45,000 and lesbian/bisexual API women have a median household income of \$35,000, compared to the \$55,000 of heterosexual males and females.
- LGB APIs of both genders have lower household incomes than the larger LGB population, also at \$55,000.

LGB APIs IN CALIFORNIA HAVE LOWER HOME OWNERSHIP RATES THAN HETEROSEXUALS

- APIs in same-sex couples have a homeownership rate of 71% compared to 69% among APIs in different-sex married couples

- The LGB API homeownership rate stands at 44%, significantly less than the 58% homeownership rate of heterosexual APIs.

APIs WITHIN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE RAISING CHILDREN

- Approximately 21% of API males within same-sex couples and 31% of API females within same-sex couples are raising children under the age of 18, compared to 55% of married different-sex API couples.
- Among all API LGB individuals, both single and coupled, 8% of men and 28% of women are raising children, rates higher than the overall LGB population in which 6% of men and 25% of women are raising children.

API SAME-SEX PARENTS ARE RAISING CHILDREN WITH FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES THAN DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED PARENTS

- API same-sex parents have less financial resources to support their children with an average household income of \$96,290 compared to \$109,091 for API different-sex married couples. Both figures rise above the average household income of all same-sex couples with children (\$81,673).
- API parents are also less likely than API different-sex married parents to own their homes (31% vs. 55%).

Household income: Asian/Pacific Islanders in couples raising children

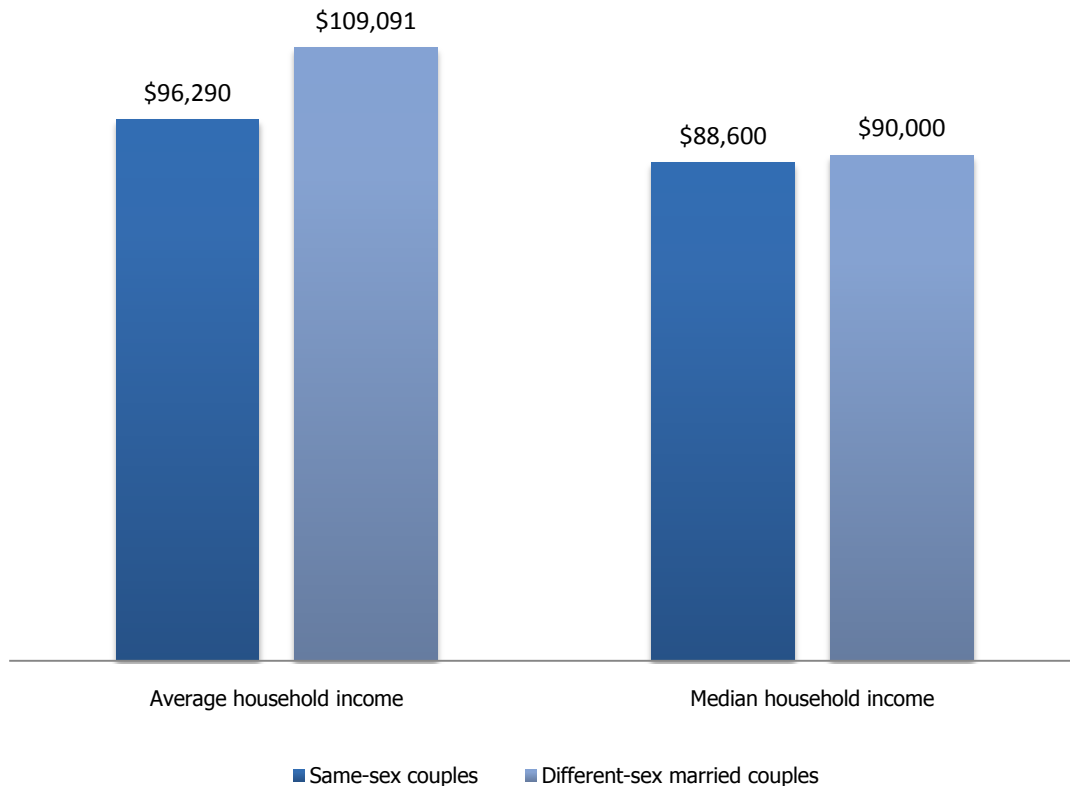


Table One: Characteristics of Asian/Pacific Islanders in California

	California Health Interview Survey 2003/2005, Age 18-70		American Community Survey	
	LGB	Heterosexual	In a same-sex couple	In a different-sex married couple
Sex				
Male	58.4%*	47.5%	61.8% [^]	38.0%
Female	41.6%	52.5%	38.2% [^]	52.0%
Average age				
18-24	15.1%	14.2%	3.5% [^]	0.8%
25-39	59.3%*	36.2%	34.5%	30.9%
40-64	24.8%*	44.1%	54.6%	57.1%
65+	0.8%*	5.6%	7.3%	11.3%
Country of origin				
Indian			6.1%	12.0%
Bangladeshi			0.0%	0.2%
Cambodian			2.2%	1.2%
Chinese			18.6%	27.5%
Filipino			34.4%	22.7%
Hmong			0.4%	0.9%
Indonesian			1.3%	0.7%
Japanese			4.1%	7.8%
Korean			13.5%	9.9%
Laotian			1.2%	0.9%
Pakistani			0.0%	0.6%
Sri Lankan			0.0%	0.2%
Thai			0.7%	1.0%
Vietnamese			14.0%	10.4%
Other Asian			0.0%	0.2%
Asian (not specified)			0.0%	0.5%
Multi-Asian			0.6%	1.1%
Native Hawaiian			0.5%	0.3%
Samoan			0.0%	0.6%
Tongan			0.8%	0.3%
Other Polynesian			0.0%	0.1%
Guamanian			1.5%	0.4%
Melanesian			0.2%	0.4%
Other Pacific Islander			0.0%	0.1%
Citizenship status				
Citizen by birthright	39.8%*	20.2%	25.9% [^]	15.3%
Naturalized citizen	42.1%	50.4%	49.3%	57.1%
Non-citizen	18.1%	29.5%	24.7%	27.6%
Place of residence				
Urban	88.8%*	76.4%		
Suburban	8.5%*	20.6%		
Rural	2.7%	3.0%		
Percent with a college degree or better	60.8%	51.8%	58.6%	51.4%
Percent Employed	76.1%	67.9%	78.1% [^]	67.3%
Median Household Income				

Men	\$45,000	\$55,000		
Women	\$35,000	\$55,000		
Average individual salary				
Men			\$67,044	\$67,618
Women			\$47,044	\$44,593
Median individual salary				
Men			\$54,000	\$52,000
Women			\$36,000	\$36,000
Veteran Status				
Men	2.9%	6.5%	5.5%	8.1%
Women	0.0%*	0.8%	0.0%	0.4 %
Homeownership	44.1%*	58.3%	70.5%	69.1%
Percent with children under 18				
Men	8.3%*	63.7%	21.1%^	55.0%
Women	28.0%*	40.8%	31.4%^	55.0%

* Difference significant from heterosexuals at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).

^ Difference significant from different-sex married couples at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).

Table Two: Characteristics of Asians/Pacific Islanders in couples with children, ACS only

	In a same-sex couple	In a different-sex couple
Average household income (parents)	\$96,290	\$109,091
Median household income (parents)	\$88,600	\$90,000
Homeownership	64.7%^	70.4%

* Difference significant from heterosexuals at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).

^ Difference significant from different-sex married couples at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).

¹Characteristics of California's gay/lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual population are derived from the 2003 and 2005 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The CHIS is conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services and the Public Health Institute. It is funded by public agencies and private organizations. It is considered a representative sample of the California population. Adults aged 18-70 are asked their sexual orientation along with a variety of questions about their demographic, economic, and health characteristics. In most cases, we combine samples from 2003 and 2005 to increase sample sizes and accuracy for the lesbian, gay, and bisexual respondents. CHIS surveyed over 40,000 California households in each of those years. Estimates of demographic characteristics for individuals in couples are made using an average of the 2005 and 2006 data of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS). The American Community Survey contains detailed information about all members of the household, including citizenship, country of origin, and a variety of demographic and economic characteristics.

² Computed by multiplying the number of same-sex couples times the percent of same-sex couples with children times the average number of children under 18 in the household.

About the Authors

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