

LGBT Asian and Pacific Islander Individuals and Same-sex Couples

2.8%

of API Adults Identify as LGBT

324,600

Estimated LGBT API Adults in the U.S.

32,931

API Individuals in Same-sex Couples in the U.S.

25.9%

of API Same-sex Couples Raising Children

Overview

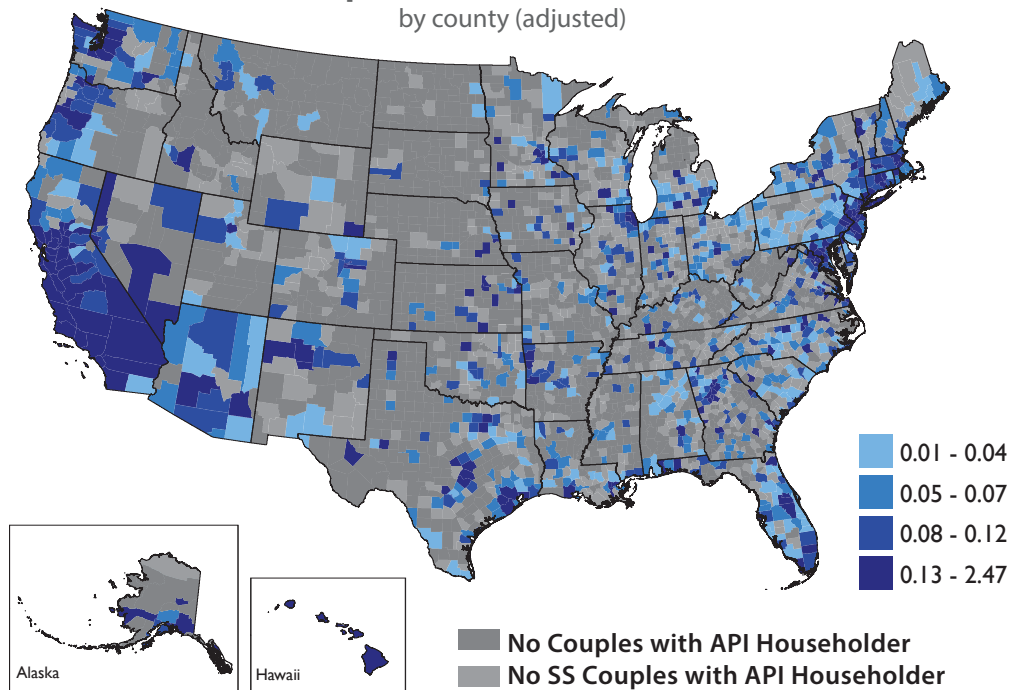
This report uses the best available data to provide a population estimate of LGBT Asian-Pacific Islander (API) individuals and API same-sex (SS) couples in the United States, along with a general overview of their socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.

Geographic Distribution

LGBT API adults tend to live in areas where there are higher proportions of API individuals, as opposed to areas with higher proportions of the broader LGBT population. About 1/3 of API same-sex couples live in California, Hawaii and New York.

The county-level maps use U.S. Census 2010 data measuring same-sex couples. The Census data describe both different-sex (DS) and same-sex (SS) couples by the race or ethnicity of the "householder," who was Person 1 on the Census form. Person 1 is usually the person in whose name the home is either owned or rented. Appendix A contains a detailed description of who is included in each section of this snapshot report, along with additional information on how to understand the map key.

Same-sex Couples with an API Householder per 1,000 Households by county (adjusted)



SOURCE: U.S. Census 2010 data (adjusted, see Data and Methodology section)

Key Findings

● Overall, API individuals in same-sex couples are faring better than their different-sex counterparts. However, specific subpopulations show signs of socioeconomic vulnerability, such as female API same-sex couples, couples raising children, and Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian individuals in same-sex couples.

● 25.9% of all API same-sex couples are raising children. API same-sex couples raising children are less likely to include two college graduates than comparable API different-sex couples (20% vs. 42%).



LGBT API adults have higher rates of unemployment than non-LGBT API adults (11% vs. 8%).



42% of LGBT API adults have completed a college degree or more, compared to 59% of non-LGBT API adults. Notably, rates of educational attainment vary among subpopulations within the API community.



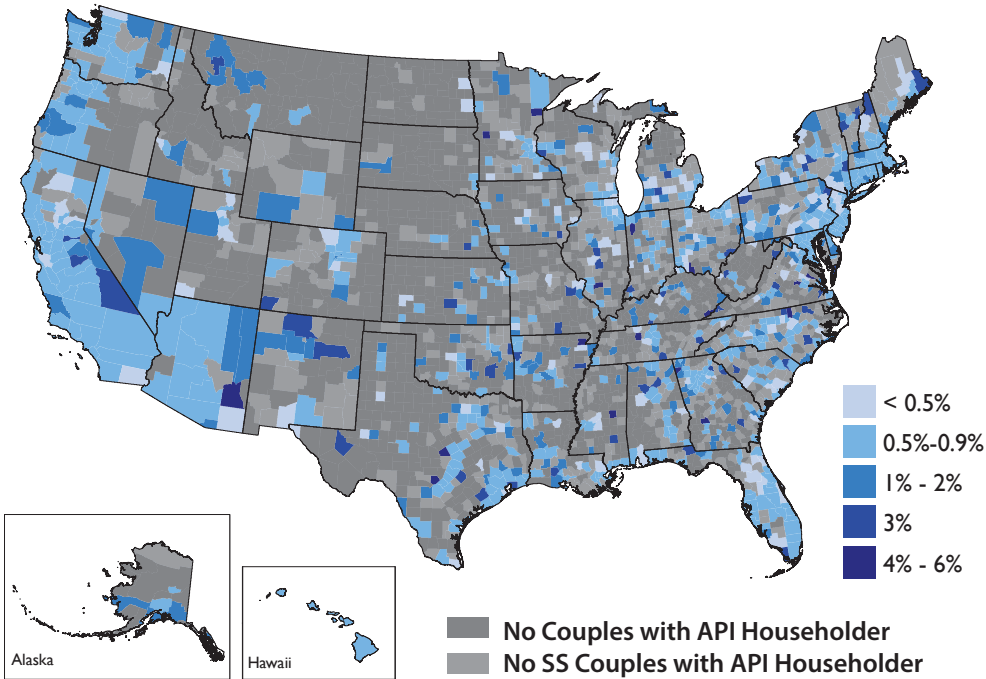
API male same-sex couples out-earn API female same-sex couples by more than \$25,000. However, female API same-sex couples report a similar average household income when compared to API different-sex couples.



API individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to be a U.S. citizen than their counterparts in different-sex couples (81% vs. 68%). Binational couples make up 1 of every 5 API same-sex couples. Furthermore, 1 in 4 API same-sex couples raising children have at least one partner who is not a citizen.

● API individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to be born in the U.S. than API individuals in different-sex couples (35% vs. 13%). The top three countries of origin reported for API individuals in same-sex couples born outside the U.S. are the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan.

% of All API Households Headed by Same-sex Couples

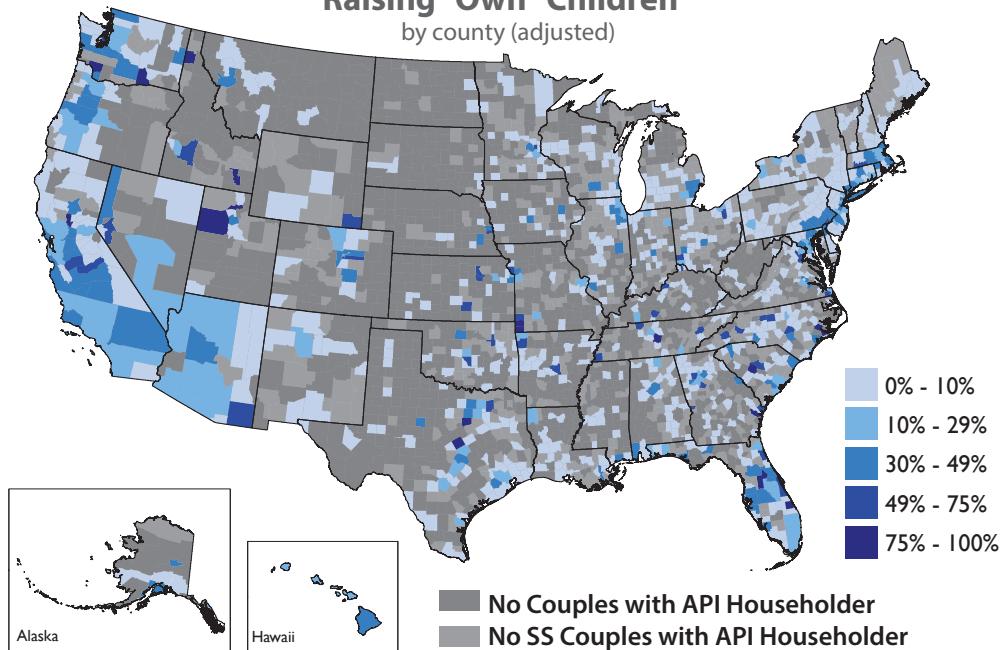


SOURCE: U.S. Census 2010 data(adjusted)

Among API Households

Nationally, 1 in about 240 API households are led by a same-sex couple (0.4%). Counties where there is a higher proportion of API same-sex couples than the national average tend to be in areas where there are fewer API households overall, meaning the same-sex households make up a large part of the API population in those areas. These counties can be found in the South and Midwest regions of the country. Notably, large portions of the Midwest report very few API households in general.

% of Same-sex Couples with API Householder Raising "Own" Children* by county (adjusted)

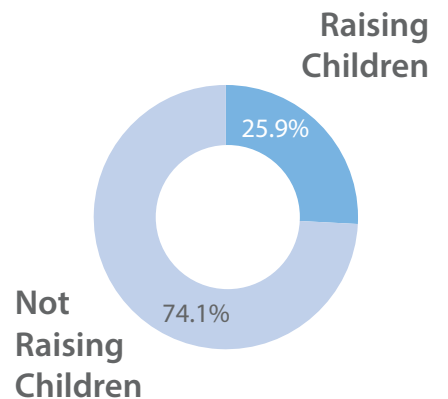


*"Own" children are never-married children under 18 who are sons or daughters of one partner or spouse (Person 1) by birth, marriage (stepchild), or adoption.

SOURCE: U.S. Census 2010 data(adjusted)

Couples Raising Children

Although 25.9% of same-sex couples with a API householder are raising children, these couples are not concentrated in major metropolitan areas. The map on the left indicates that API same-sex couples raising children are scattered throughout counties where API households are found.




Geography

API adults in same-sex couples tend to live in areas where there are higher proportions of API individuals, as opposed to areas with higher proportions of the broader LGBT population. This is evident by the inclusion of several Western States in the top ten list which tend to be areas known for API residency, but not LGBT residency. Several states on the East Coast also make the cut. Notably, within the counties listed below, the percent of API same-sex couples raising children ranges from 8% to 68%.

Top 10 States: Same-sex Couples with API Householder

State Rank	State	Same-sex couples with API Householder (adjusted)	Same-sex couples with API Householder per 1,000 Households (adjusted)
1	Hawaii	1,035	2.27
2	California	6,617	0.53
3	District of Columbia	114	0.43
4	Nevada	404	0.40
5	Washington	811	0.31
6	New York	2,025	0.28
7	Alaska	69	0.27
8	New Jersey	677	0.21
9	Massachusetts	433	0.17
10	Maryland	349	0.16

Top 20 Counties: Same-sex couples with API Householder*

State Rank	US County Rank*	County	Same-sex couples with API Householder (adjusted)	Same-sex couples with API Householder per 1,000 Households (adjusted)	% Raising "own" children among same-sex couples with API Householder (adjusted)
2	1	San Francisco County, California	855	2.47	10%
1	2	Honolulu County, Hawaii	741	2.38	22%
1	3	Kauai County, Hawaii	53	2.29	19%
1	4	Hawaii County, Hawaii	138	2.05	30%
1	5	Maui County, Hawaii	104	1.93	25%
2	6	San Mateo County, California	295	1.14	15%
2	7	Alameda County, California	615	1.13	22%
2	8	Solano County, California	129	0.91	25%
6	9	New York County, New York	558	0.73	8%
6	10	Queens County, New York	558	0.71	36%
2	11	Santa Clara County, California	431	0.71	18%
8	12	Hudson County, New Jersey	171	0.69	24%
5	13	King County, Washington	523	0.66	20%
2	14	Contra Costa County, California	233	0.62	28%
2	15	Los Angeles County, California	1,865	0.58	18%
13	16	Arlington County, Virginia	49	0.50	13%
4	17	Clark County, Nevada	357	0.50	23%
2	18	Sacramento County, California	251	0.49	31%
14	19	Ramsey County, Minnesota	98	0.48	68%
2	20	San Diego County, California	506	0.47	22%

*Including only those counties with 20+ same-sex couples with an API householder

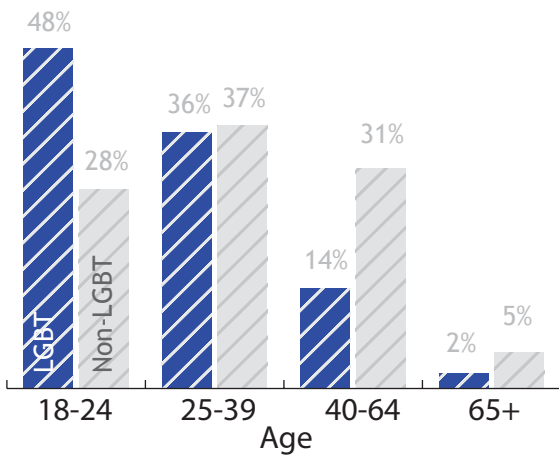
Characteristics of API Individuals

The unit of analysis in this section is the individual. We use Gallup Daily tracking survey data to report on characteristics for those that self-identify as LGBT (both single and coupled). We use ACS data to report on characteristics of individuals in couples. We highlight several characteristics in the charts below, with additional information listed in Appendix B.

Age Distribution

Direct comparisons between individuals in same-sex couples and all LGBT individuals must be made with caution, as the age distribution of LGBT individuals in the Gallup survey differs from that of API individuals in same-sex couples identified in the ACS. LGBT API individuals are much younger than both the non-LGBT API population and API individuals in same-sex couples. These differences in age could help to explain patterns in other demographic characteristics, like education and employment, that can be affected by age.

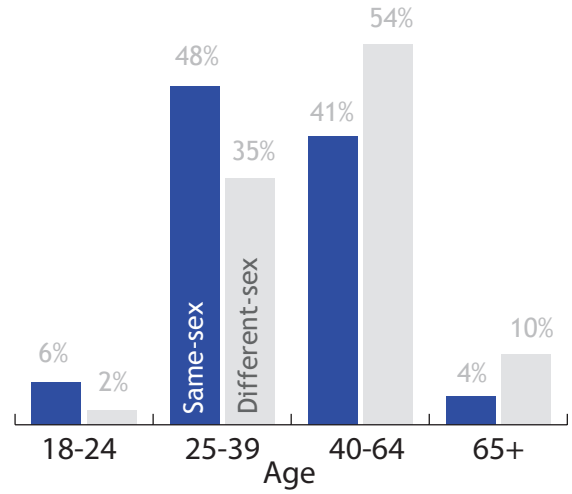
API Individuals
(Gallup 2012)



Average Age: LGBT=29.4 Non-LGBT=35.8

SOURCE: Gallup

API Individuals in Couples
(ACS 2010)



Average Age: SS=40.1 DS=45.9

SOURCE: ACS



Completed a College Degree or More

API individuals who identify as LGBT in the Gallup survey report lower rates of college completion (42%) when compared to API non-LGBT adults (59%). However, API individuals in same-sex couples have higher rates of educational attainment than their different-sex counterparts (58% vs. 54%). The different results could be in part because LGBT API individuals are much younger than their coupled counterparts.

API Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

API Individuals in Couples



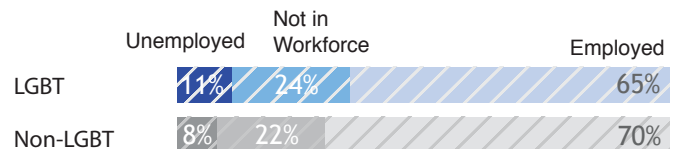
SOURCE: ACS



Employment Status

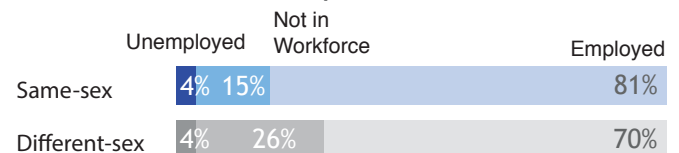
Unemployment rates are higher for API individuals who identify as LGBT compared to non-LGBT individuals (11% vs. 8%). However, API individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to be employed than their counterparts in different-sex couples (81% vs. 70%). For coupled API adults, the unemployment rate is similar for individuals in same-sex couples and different-sex couples (4%).

API Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

API Individuals in Couples



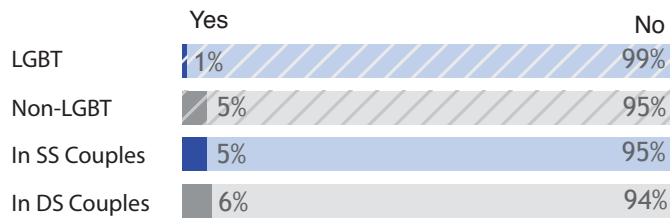
SOURCE: ACS



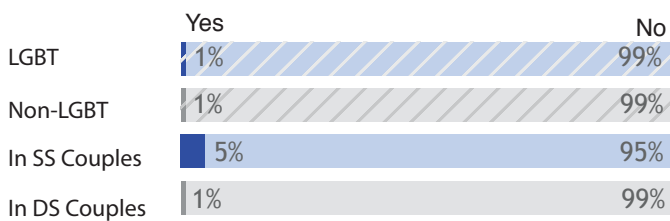
Military Status

In general, API men are more likely than women to have served in the military. LGBT API men, both individuals and those in same-sex couples, are less likely than comparable non-LGBT API men to report having performed military service. However, API women in same-sex couples are more likely to report having served in the military than comparable women in different-sex couples. Notably, API women in same-sex couples are five times more likely to enter the military than their different-sex counterparts (5% vs. <1%).

API Males



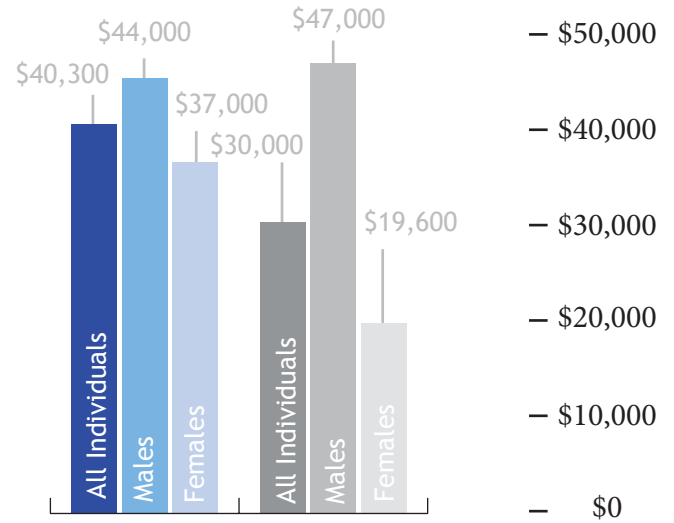
API Females



Median Individual Income

API individuals in same-sex couples report higher median annual income than those in different-sex couples (\$40,300 vs. \$30,000). When analyzed by gender, females in same-sex couples report much higher incomes than those in different-sex couples (\$37,000 vs. \$19,600), while males in same-sex couples report similar incomes compared to those in different-sex couples. We cannot provide comparable data for LGBT individuals from the Gallup survey, as they do not include a question regarding individual income.

API Individuals in Couples



SOURCE: ACS



Covered by Health Insurance

Both API LGBT individuals and API individuals in same-sex couples are covered by health insurance at lower rates than their heterosexual counterparts. API LGBT individuals report being uninsured at more than double the rate of API non-LGBT individuals (29% vs. 13%). The gap remains, but shrinks slightly, when focusing on coupled API individuals.

API Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

API Individuals in Couples



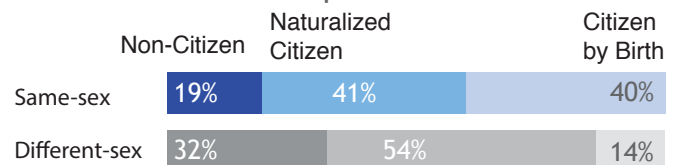
SOURCE: ACS



Citizenship Status

Overall, API individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to be citizens by birth than those in different-sex couples (40% vs. 14%). A difference in reported citizenship status between individuals in same-sex couples and different-sex couples can affect proportions of characteristics that may largely depend on citizenship, such as health insurance coverage and income. We cannot provide comparable data for LGBT individuals from the Gallup survey, as they do not include a question regarding citizenship status.

API Individuals in Couples



SOURCE: ACS

Characteristics of API Couples

In this section of the report, the unit of analysis is the couple. Using the couple as the unit of analysis allows us to view the household as a whole. Below, we present information for both same-sex and different-sex API couples, indicating whether both, one or neither partner has the attribute in question. We also highlight characteristics of those couples that are raising children.



Completed a College Degree or More

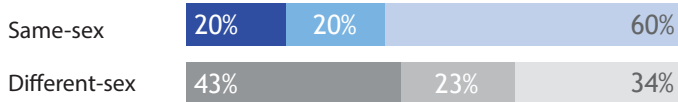
Almost three-quarters of all API same-sex couples (72%) include at least one partner with a college degree or more, compared to 65% of different-sex couples. However, the percent of same-sex couples that include two college graduates drops from 42% to 20% when focusing on couples raising children.



All API Couples



API Couples Raising Children



SOURCE: ACS



Covered by Health Insurance

API same-sex couples are less likely to have health insurance coverage for both partners than different-sex couples (80% vs. 85%). Notably, the gap between same-sex and different-sex couples gets even wider when looking only at couples raising children (69% vs. 86%).



All API Couples



API Couples Raising Children

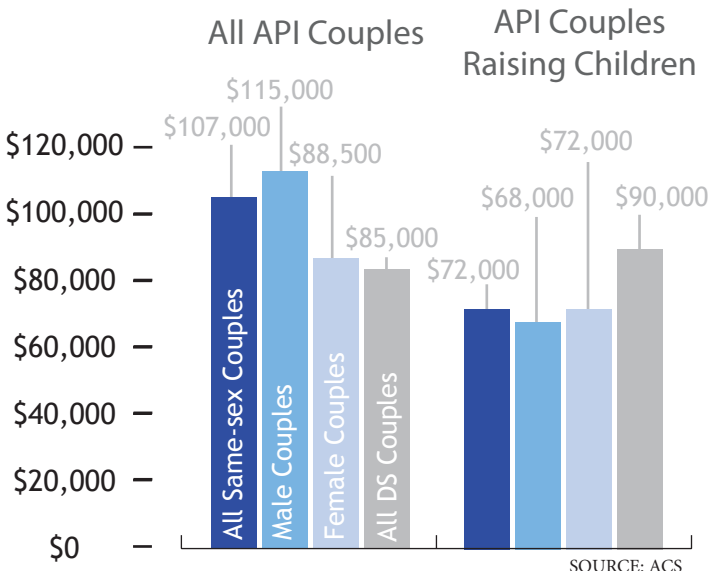


SOURCE: ACS



Median Household Income

API same-sex couples report a higher average household income than different-sex couples (\$107,000 vs. \$85,000). However, gender matters. Female same-sex couples report a mean household income more than \$25,000 less than male same-sex couples (\$88,500 vs. \$115,000). The gap in reported income shrinks when focusing on couples raising children.



SOURCE: ACS



Citizenship Status

Overall, API same-sex couples are more likely than API different-sex couples to have at least one partner with U.S. citizenship status, whether by birth or naturalization (97% vs. 81%). Almost 1 in 5 API same-sex couples have one partner who is a citizen and one partner who reported non-citizen status. Notably, about 1 in 4 API same-sex couples raising children have at least one partner who is not a citizen.



All API Couples



API Couples Raising Children



SOURCE: ACS

Partnership Patterns

In almost 80% of same-sex couples with an API partner, the other partner is not API. This is the case for only 30% of different-sex couples. Same-sex couples with only one API partner report a higher median household income compared to different-sex couples with one API partner. However, same-sex couples with two API partners make less than comparable different-sex couples (\$68,000 vs. \$82,800) and are less likely to have both partners complete a college degree than those in different-sex couples (33% vs. 44%).

	API Same-sex Couples	API Different-sex Couples
% of Couples with Two API Partners	20.3%	69.8%
% of Couples with Only One API Partner	79.7%	30.2%

SOURCE: ACS

Country of Birth

API individuals in same-sex couples are much more likely to be born in the United States than API individuals in different-sex couples (35% vs. 13%). Within those born outside of the U.S., the highest proportion of API individuals in same-sex couples are born in the Philippines (17%). For API individuals in different-sex couples, the highest proportion of individuals are born in India (17%). Vietnam, Taiwan and Korea round out the top five list of countries of origin reported by API individuals in same-sex couples.

Top 5 Countries of Birth: API Individuals in Couples

	In Same-sex Couples	In Different-sex Couples
United States	35.3%	12.5%
Philippines	16.7%	14.9%
Vietnam	9.3%	10.2%
Taiwan	5.4%	3.5%
Korea	4.5%	9.4%

SOURCE: ACS

Subpopulations within API Community

While API same-sex couples appear to be faring well socio-economically, this obscures the needs of subpopulations within the API community. Below, we report on specific characteristics for individuals in same-sex couples and individuals in different-sex couples by race subgroup as defined by the U.S. Census. On the next page, we take a look at reported differences in college completion by ancestry. Compared to similar individuals in different-sex couples, both Asian and Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian (PI/NH) individuals in same-sex couples report lower rates of health insurance coverage, lower rates of non-citizenship status and higher incomes. However, there are definite reported disparities between Asian and PI/NH individuals. Asian individuals in same-sex couples report more than double the rate of college completion compared to PI/NH individuals, while PI/NH individuals in same-sex couples report more than double the rate of unemployment than Asian individuals.

	Asian Individuals		Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian Individuals	
	In Same-sex Couples	In Different-sex Couples	In Same-sex Couples	In Different-sex Couples
Completed a College Degree	59.6% [^]	54.6% [^]	24.6% ^{^^}	15.7% ^{^^}
Covered by Health Insurance	82.6%	88.1%	86.2%	87.2%
Unemployed	3.8% ^{^^}	4.0% ^{^^}	8.8% ^{^^}	7.3% ^{^^}
Non-citizen	19.4%	32.4%	6.8%	18.6%
Median Individual Income	\$40,750	\$30,000	\$40,000 ^{^^}	\$26,000 ^{^^}



Completed a College Degree or More

College completion rates are often used as a measure of economic well-being. In order to highlight differences in socioeconomic characteristics among subpopulations within the API community, we include college completion rates by ancestry for individuals in same-sex couples and individuals in different-sex couples. For some API subpopulations, the number of respondents in same-sex couples is too low to provide accurate data. In those cases, we include the rates of educational attainment for individuals in different-sex couples as a reference for comparison.

Regardless of ancestry, API individuals in same-sex couples tend to complete a college degree at higher rates than comparable individuals in different-sex couples. However, rates of college completion vary widely depending on individual ancestry. Individuals of Asian Indian, Taiwanese or Pakistani ancestry report high levels of educational attainment, while Laotian, Hmong, Cambodian and Hawaiian individuals report lower rates of college completion.

Further analysis by ancestry is needed to provide accurate information on API individuals in same-sex couples who are often overlooked when looking at the API community as a whole.

Completed a College Degree (by ancestry)

	Individuals in Same-sex Couples	Individuals in Different-sex Couples
Filipino	55.4%^^	53.4%^^
Chinese	76.8%	55.9%
Vietnamese	48.9%	25.7%
Korean	45.4%^^	55.7%^^
Japanese	68.4%^	52.0%^
Thai	-	42.6%
Taiwanese	-	73.1%
Asian Indian	-	79.8%
Hawaiian	-	17.3%
Pakistani	-	58.3%
Cambodian	-	13.2%
Laotian	-	12.6%
Hmong	-	14.3%
Bangladeshi	-	50.3%

Note: Sample sizes are small when breaking down individuals in same-sex couples by ancestry. Percentages are only reported for groups with more than 30 individuals.

Conclusion

Overall, API individuals in same-sex couples are faring better than their different-sex counterparts. They report higher annual incomes, are more likely to be employed, and are more likely to have completed a college degree. However, using the analysis put forth here to generalize for all groups within the API community can result in overlooking key differences within subgroups of the API community. In addition, the gender of a couple and whether a couple is raising children also makes a difference in reported characteristics. API same-sex couples raising children fare worse than comparable different-sex couples in educational attainment and health insurance coverage, while female API same-sex couples report lower annual income than male API same-sex couples. Notably, while API individuals in same-sex couples overall are much more likely to be born in the U.S., API same-sex couples raising children are more likely to have two non-citizen partners compared to API same-sex couples without children. This may have an affect on characteristics such as annual income and health insurance coverage.

Appendix A

Population Estimates and Maps: Who is included?

The county-level maps use adjusted U.S. Census 2010 data measuring same-sex couples. The Census data describe both different-sex (DS) and same-sex (SS) couples by the race or ethnicity of the “householder,” who was Person 1 on the Census form and is usually the person in whose name the home is either owned or rented. The dark grey areas of the map indicate counties where there are no couple households with an API householder (DS or SS). The light grey areas of the map indicate areas where there are no same-sex couples with an API householder. In the first map, the remaining counties are shaded blue according to the number of same-sex couples present with an API householder per 1,000 households. The second map is shaded blue according to the percent of API same-sex couples of all API households by county. In the last map, the counties are shaded blue according to the percentage of API same-sex couples raising children by county.

For all maps included in the document, we define an API couple as a couple with an API person as the householder (outlined in table below). These couples comprise 53% of same-sex couples that include an API individual. Notably, using this method, we miss same-sex couples where the householder is not API and the partner is API (shaded in table below). These couples make up 47.1% of same-sex couples that include an API individual. We include individuals who identified as Asian or Pacific Islander when asked to describe their race.

Same-sex Couples that Include an API Individual

Person 1	Person 2	
	API	Not API
API	20.3%	32.7%
Not API	47.1%	

Characteristics of API Couples: Who is Included?

In this section of the report, the unit of analysis is the couple. We use 2008/2009/2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data. While the ACS provides an excellent source of information about those in same-sex couples, it cannot provide information about the broader API LGBT population since it includes no explicit question about sexual orientation. Here, we define an API couple as a couple where one or both of the partners are API, thus including all the couples listed in the chart above. We include individuals who identified as Asian or Pacific Islander when asked to describe their race.

Characteristics of API Individuals: Who is Included?

Single and Coupled

The unit of analysis in this section is the individual. In order to provide a well-rounded demographic portrait of the API LGBT community, we use Gallup Daily tracking survey data to report on characteristics for those that self-identify as LGBT (both single and coupled). Self-identification is based on responses to the question, “Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender?” included in the Gallup survey. Again, we include individuals who identified as Asian or Pacific Islander when asked to describe their race.

In Couples

We use 2008/2009/2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data to report on characteristics of individuals in couples and include individuals who identified as Asian or Pacific Islander when asked to describe their race.

Appendix B

U.S. Census Data				
# of API Same-sex Couples	27,385			
Female Same-sex Couples	9,009			
Male Same-sex Couples	18,376			
% Same-sex Couples Raising Children	25.9%			

	American Community Survey(ACS)		Gallup Poll	
	Same-sex	Different-sex	LGBT	Non-LGBT
LGBT or Non-LGBT	-	-	2.8%	97.2%
Couple Type				
Male	67%	-	38%	53%
Female	33%	-	62%	47%
Characteristics of individuals in couples				
Age				
<18	0%	<1%		
18-24	6%	2%	48%	28%
25-39	48%	35%	36%	37%
40-64	41%	54%	14%	31%
65+	4%	10%	2%	5%
Average age	40.1	45.9	29.4	35.8
Percent Employed	81%	70%	65%	70%
Not in work force	15%	26%	24%	22%
Unemployed	4%	4%	11%	8%
% Insured	83%	88%	71%	87%
% with a Disability	4%	5%		
% with a college degree or higher	58%^	54%^	42%	59%
Median individual income	\$40,300	\$30,000		
Men	\$44,000	\$47,000		
Women	\$37,000	\$19,600		
Average individual income	\$58,918	\$47,736		
Men	\$63,679^^	\$65,484^^		
Women	\$49,487	\$32,531		
Veteran Status	5%	3%		
Men	5%	6%	1%	5%
Women	5%	<1%	1%	<1%
% that speak language other than English in the home	49%	82%		
Citizenship status				
Citizen by birth	40%	14%		
Naturalized citizen	41%	54%		
Non-citizen	19%	32%		

	American Community Survey(ACS)		Gallup Poll	
	Same-sex	Different-sex	LGBT	Non-LGBT
Characteristics of couples				
% with a college degree or higher				
Neither partner	28%	35%		
One partner	30%	24%		
Both partners	43%^	41%^		
Citizenship by Birth or Naturalization				
Neither partner	3%	19%		
One partner	19%^	18%^		
Both partners	78%	63%		
% Insured				
Neither partner	10%^	8%^		
One partner	11%	6%		
Both partners	80%	85%		
Median household income				
Men	\$107,000	\$85,000		
Women	\$115,000	-		
Average household income				
Men	\$88,500	-		
Women	\$132,982	\$107,348		
Men	\$146,486	-		
Women	\$105,439	-		
Characteristics of couples raising kids				
% Insured				
Neither partner	24%	9%		
One partner	7%^	5%^		
Both partners	69%	86%		
Citizenship by Birth or Naturalization				
Neither partner	6%	23%		
One partner	20%^	18%^		
Both partners	74%	59%		
Median household income				
Men	\$72,000	\$90,000		
Women	\$68,000	-		
Average household income				
Men	\$72,000	-		
Women	\$107,927^^	\$111,911^^		
Men	\$96,538	-		
Women	\$116,902	-		
% with a college degree or higher				
Neither partner	60%	34%		
One partner	20%^	23%^		
Both partners	20%	43%		

Note: All comparisons mentioned in this report are statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ unless values are marked with ^ or ^^ . Values marked ^ are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$. Values marked with ^^ are not statistically significant.

Data and Methodology

Gallup Daily tracking survey: Results are based on telephone interviews conducted Jun. 1-Dec. 1, 2012 with a random sample of 206,186 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. For more details on Gallup's polling methodology, visit www.gallup.com.

2008-2010 American Community Survey (ACS): The analyses use the 3-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) from the American Community Survey, 2008-2010.

Adjustments to Census 2010 same-sex couple data: Data are compiled using the US Census 2010 preferred estimates for same-sex couples by race and ethnicity and the presence of children. Same-sex couples are identified in households where Person 1 describes his or her relationship with another adult of the same sex as either a "husband/wife" or "unmarried partner." The Census Bureau preferred estimates adjust original same-sex couple tabulations reported in the Census 2010 SF-2 data (PCT19) to account for the likelihood that a small portion of different-sex couples miscode the sex of a spouse or partner and are incorrectly counted as a same-sex couple. Different-sex couple data presented in the report are all derived from the SF-2, PCT19 table.

The Census Bureau only released preferred estimates for same-sex couples by race and ethnicity at the national level. State and county data used in this report are adjusted by the authors and do not represent official Census Bureau tabulations. Like the Census Bureau preferred estimates, the adjustment procedure accounts for the likelihood that a small portion of different-sex couples miscode the sex of a spouse or partner and are incorrectly counted as a same-sex couple. Note that the adjusted figures do not take into account the possibility that some same-sex couples may not be counted in Census tabulations due to concerns about confidentiality or because neither partner was Person 1 in the household.

About the authors

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