

District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland (DC metro area) fact sheet: Asian and Pacific Islander (API) lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans

Of 863 survey respondents nationwide, 96 (11%) lived in the DC metro Area.

- 73% reported that they had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their sexual orientation
- 78% had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their race or ethnicity.
- According to DC metro area respondents, the most important issues facing API LGBT Americans are media representations (40%), hate violence/harassment (39%), immigration (37%), and marriage equality (34%).
- 87% of respondents from the DC metro area agreed that homophobia and/or transphobia is a problem within the broader API community.
- 83% of respondents from the DC metro area agreed that API LGBT people experience racism/ethnic insensitivity within the predominantly white LGBT community.
- API LGBT Americans in the DC metro area are very politically active: 57% reported that they planned to vote in the 2006 mid-term election (approximately 23% 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 40% of respondents said that English was their native language. Mandarin (14%), Vietnamese (10%), Tagalog (10%), Cantonese (6%), Korean (4%), and Urdu (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 DC metro area, including Chinese (33%), Filipino (18%), Vietnamese (14%), Korean (8%), Japanese (6%) and Asian Indian (5%). Smaller numbers of Malaysian, Pakistani, Cambodian and Thai respondents also participated.
- 60% of respondents identified as men, 38% as women, and 9% transgender. This adds up to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one option.
- 56% self-identified as gay, 15% as lesbian, and 6% bisexual. 19% identified as “queer.” The remaining chose various other categories.
- 35% of respondents reported being in a committed relationship, 5% had a domestic partner, 18% were dating, and 34% reported being single. The remaining chose various other categories.
- 37% reported being US-born citizens, 39% naturalized US citizens, and 25% non-US citizens.

API LGBT Organizations in the DC metro area

- Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sisters (APIQS)
Phone: 202.986.2393
E-mail: info@apiqsd.org
<http://www.apiqsd.org>
- Asian Pacific Islander Queers United for Action (AQUA)
E-mail: aquadc@gmail.com
<http://www.aquadc.org>
- Khush DC
PO Box 2807
Washington, DC 20013
Phone: 202.518.2265
E-mail: board@khushdc.org
<http://www.khushdc.org>

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.