

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

### Of 863 survey respondents nationwide, 41 (5%) lived in Illinois.

- 66% reported that they had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their sexual orientation
- 93% had experienced discrimination and/or harassment based on their race or ethnicity.
- According to Illinois respondents, the most important issues facing API LGBT Americans are media representations (46%), hate violence/harassment (42%), immigration (34%), and domestic partnership/civil unions (32%).
- 90% of respondents from Illinois agreed that homophobia and/or transphobia is a problem within the broader API community.
- 78% of respondents from Illinois agreed that API LGBT people experience racism/ethnic insensitivity within the predominantly white LGBT community.
- API LGBT Americans from Illinois are very politically active: 51% of respondents planned to vote in the 2006 mid-term election (approximately 27% reported that they were ineligible to vote). Strong majorities also reported that they participate in other political activities, including signing petitions, participating in marches or rallies, and contacting their elected officials.
- Only 39% of respondents from Illinois said that English was their native language. Mandarin (15%), Cantonese (12%), Hindi (7%), and Tagalog (7%) 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 Illinois, including Chinese (34%), Filipino (22%), Asian Indian (17%), Vietnamese (7%) and Korean (7%). Smaller numbers of Japanese, Malaysian, Sri Lankan and Laotian respondents also participated.
- 56% of respondents from Illinois identified as men, 34% as women, and 12% transgender. This adds up to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one option.
- 49% of respondents from Illinois self-identified as gay, 17% as lesbian, and 17% bisexual. 12% identified as “queer.” The remaining chose various other categories.
- 44% of respondents from Illinois reported being in a committed relationship, 7% had a domestic partner, 7% were dating and 37% were single. The remaining chose various other categories.
- 42% of respondents from Illinois reported being US-born citizens, 32% naturalized US citizens, and 27% non-US citizens.

### Context: U.S. Census data on Asian and Pacific Islander Illinoisans in same-sex couples<sup>1</sup>

- According to analysis of data from the 2000 U.S. Census there are over 1,000 APIs in same-sex couples in Illinois, which ranks eighth 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.

### API LGBT organizations in Illinois

- Invisible 2 Invincible  
Asian & Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago  
<http://chicagoi2i.homestead.com>

**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](http://www.TheTaskForce.org).**

<sup>1</sup> 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.