



Asian American Federation  
of New York

# **Asian Pacific American Same-Sex Households:**

A Census Report  
On New York, San Francisco And  
Los Angeles



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OVERVIEW

Based on an analysis of 2000 U.S. Census data, this report provides extensive demographic information on the Asian Pacific American gay and lesbian population in the United States. In unprecedented detail, it focuses on the three metropolitan areas with the largest Asian same-sex household populations: New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The report presents data on Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) individuals who identified themselves as living with a same-sex unmarried partner. It should be noted that there is no complete census count of Asian and NHOPI gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals.

Consisting of two sections, the report opens with a nationwide population overview and then focuses on socioeconomic traits of same-sex Asian American households in the New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles metropolitan areas. Socioeconomic information on Pacific Islander households is not provided in this report due to extremely limited Pacific Islander sample sizes. Population size, racial makeup of partnerships, immigration and citizenship, educational attainment levels, English language ability, household income, low-income households, the presence of children in households, and disability status are among the topics covered. Comparisons are made with non-Asian same-sex households, Asian opposite-sex households, and other population groups.

## **FINDINGS**

Major findings of this analysis include the following:

### **In the United States:**

- In 2000, there were 19,213 Asian Pacific American same-sex households counted. Of these households, 17,163 were headed by Asians and 2,050 were headed by NHOPIs.
- Same-sex households represented 0.5 percent of all Asian households and 0.9 percent of all NHOPI households.
- Male same-sex unmarried partner (gay) households slightly outnumbered female same-sex unmarried partner household (lesbian) households among Asians, while lesbian households were more common than gay households among NHOPIs. In each case, the dominant gender comprised 53 percent and the other gender made up 47 percent of the same-sex household population.
- Slightly more than half (52 percent) of Asian same-sex households were concentrated in five Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, and Washington, D.C., in that descending order.
- Exactly half (50 percent) of NHOPI same-sex households were concentrated in eight MSAs: Honolulu, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Seattle, San Diego, Phoenix, and Sacramento, Calif., in that descending order. Those same metropolitan areas except Phoenix also were home to 50 percent of the general NHOPI population.
- Among Asian same-sex households, as for the general Asian population, Chinese Americans were the largest ethnic group (with 22 percent, or 3,772) of gay and lesbian partner households, followed by Filipinos, Indians, Japanese and Koreans. Native Hawaiians were the largest ethnic group among NHOPI same-sex households (with 40 percent, or 386 households), followed by Samoans and Guamanians.

### **In the New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles metropolitan areas:**

- New York and San Francisco had more gay than lesbian Asian same-sex households, while the opposite pattern applied in Los Angeles. Gays represented 60 percent of the same-sex household population in New York and 58 percent in San Francisco, whereas 54 percent of Asian same-sex households in Los Angeles were lesbian.
- Same-race relationships predominated among Asian same-sex households, but to divergent degrees in different metropolitan areas. Percentages of Asians living with other Asians varied from 56 percent in San Francisco to 74 percent in New York. Asian/White was the most common combination for interracial partnerships.
- Asians in same-sex households were younger than the non-Asian same-sex household population, even younger than the opposite-sex Asian population, and still younger than the non-Asian opposite-sex population in New York and San Francisco. The median age of Asian

gay and lesbian partners in those cities and Los Angeles was 39 to 41, while median ages of the other population groups were as high as 45.

- The preponderance of Asian gay and lesbian household partners were immigrants. Foreign-born majorities ranged from 73 percent in San Francisco to 83 percent in Los Angeles. Most of these immigrants had moved to the United States in 1980 or later except in New York, the majority of them were naturalized U.S. citizens.
- Median household income for the Asian same-sex population generally was lower than for non-Asian same-sex households but higher than for Asian opposite-sex households. For instance, median household incomes in New York were \$55,500 for Asian gay and lesbian partners, \$69,300 for non-Asian same-sex partners, and \$48,600 for Asian opposite-sex partners. In addition, among Asian same-sex households in the three cities studied, gay partners earned considerably more than their lesbian counterparts – with as much as a 56 percent difference, in Los Angeles.
- Low income, as indicated by household income of less than \$25,000 a year, was more common among Asian same-sex partners than among non-Asian gay and lesbian partners. Percentages of Asian same-sex households in this income bracket were as high as 17 percent, in New York and Los Angeles. Gender also was a factor – particularly in New York, where 27 percent of lesbian households but only 11 percent of gay households earned less than \$25,000.
- Children lived in substantial numbers of Asian same-sex households, representing a much greater presence than in non-Asian gay and lesbian homes. Close to half (44 percent and 43 percent, respectively) of Asian same-sex households in Los Angeles and New York had children in them, while children lived in more than one-fourth (27 percent) of such households in San Francisco. Comparable rates of children in the home for non-Asian gay and lesbian households were 32 percent in Los Angeles, 27 percent in New York and 18 percent in San Francisco.
- Educational levels for Asian adults in same-sex households in New York and San Francisco were lower than for the non-Asian same-sex population but higher than for the Asian opposite-sex population. More than one-fourth (26 percent) of Asian gay and lesbian partners lacked a high school diploma in New York, followed by 21 percent in Los Angeles and 13 percent in San Francisco.
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) among Asian gay and lesbian partners was much more common than in the non-Asian gay and lesbian population but less prevalent than among Asians as a whole. The incidence of Asian same-sex partners speaking English “not well” or “not at all” ran from 9 percent in San Francisco to as high as 23 percent, in Los Angeles.
- Frequencies of physical, mental or emotional disability among Asian same-sex partners were similar to those for non-Asian same-sex partners, Asian opposite-sex partners and non-Asian opposite-sex partners in a given city. Disability rates for Asian same-sex partners ranged from 19 percent in San Francisco to 25 percent in Los Angeles.
- Asian same-sex partners’ patterns of renting or owning homes corresponded with local trends. Among Asian gay and lesbian partners, renting predominated in New York, while homeownership prevailed in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

# INTRODUCTION

Using data from the 2000 U.S. Census, this report provides a national overview of Asian Pacific American same-sex households and a demographic profile of Asian Americans living in same-sex unmarried households in metropolitan areas of New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.<sup>1,2</sup>

The data used in this report are derived from two major sources: Summary Files Two (SF Two) and a custom tabulation of the 5 percent Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS).<sup>3,4</sup> This report does not directly measure the number of Asian Gays and Lesbians in these cities, but describes the features of Asian Americans who responded that they were living with a same-sex unmarried partner. It is important to note that there is currently no census measure of the population of lesbians, gays, bisexual, and transgender in the United States, Asian or otherwise.<sup>5</sup>

With these data limitations in consideration, this report provides Asian Pacific American Same-sex household statistics on population size, immigration and citizenship status, educational attainment, English language abilities, household income, low-income households, housing patterns, children in the household and disability status. For context, the report compares these patterns with non-Asian same-sex households, non-Asian gays and lesbians, Asian and non-Asian opposite-sex households and individuals living in these households, the overall Asian population, and the overall population.

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<sup>1</sup> For a larger perspective on the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Asian Pacific American communities, see Wat, E. (2003). Building Community in Los Angeles and Elsewhere. In Eric Lai & Dennis Arguelles (Ed.), *The New Face of Asian Pacific America: Numbers, Diversity, & Change in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (pp. 245-249). San Francisco: *AsianWeek/UCLA's Asian American Studies Center Press*.

<sup>2</sup> Due to extremely small Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) sample sizes, this report was not able to capture the socioeconomic features of NHOPIs living in same-sex households.

<sup>3</sup> For an overview of data sources on the overall gay and lesbian population in the United States prior to the 2000 U.S. Census, see Black, D., Gates, G., Sanders, S., and Taylor, L. (1999). "Demographics of the Gay and Lesbian Population in the United States: Evidence from Available Systematic Data Sources". <http://www-cpr.maxwell.syr.edu/cprwps/wps12abs.htm>

<sup>4</sup> Please note that population numbers between Section I and Section II are not comparable as they were obtained using two different sets of census data sources and methodologies.

<sup>5</sup> Please refer to the Technical Notes section at the end of this report for a full disclosure on data limitations, definitions and methodologies.

# **SECTION I: CHARACTERISTICS OF SAME-SEX ASIAN AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER HOUSEHOLDS IN THE UNITED STATES**

## **OVERVIEW**

Based on census responses from heads of households, this section provides national population information on Asian American and Pacific Islander same-sex households, covering Asian Americans and then Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (NHOPIs).<sup>6</sup>

2000 census data cited show similarities between each of these two groups and the total population for that racial category, in terms of geographic distribution and ethnic composition. However, the analysis also reveals some differences between Asian gay and lesbian households on the one hand and NHOPI households on the other hand. For example, same-sex households were more common, percentage-wise, among NHOPIs than among Asians; gay households outnumbered lesbian households for Asians, while the reverse gender trend applied to NHOPI same-sex households; and NHOPI gays and lesbians were more geographically dispersed than their Asian counterparts.

As for ethnicity, Chinese Americans were most represented among the overall and gay Asian same-sex household populations, but Filipino Americans were the largest ethnic group for Asian lesbian households. Native Hawaiians were the largest ethnic group among NHOPI same-sex households.

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<sup>6</sup> For a national view of all same-sex households, see Bradford, J., Barrett, K., and Honnold, J.A. (2002). The 2000 Census and Same-Sex Households: A User's Guide. <http://www.nglhf.org/library/census.htm> . Another source on the overall gay and lesbian population in the United States using 2000 census data can be found at the Urban Institute's Gay and Lesbian demographics website at: <http://www.urban.org/content/IssuesInFocus/GayandLesbianDemographics/GLDemographics.htm>

## ASIAN AMERICANS

### **Population Size**

On a national level, 17,163 Asian householders reported that they were living in a same-sex unmarried partner household. Collectively, Asian same-sex households represented 0.5 percent of total Asian households which is similar to the overall population in which all same-sex households represented 0.6 percent of total households. As a proportion of the overall same-sex household population, Asians made up 3 percent of the total same-sex household population in the United States, which is exactly the same as the overall proportion of Asian households to the general household population.

### **Gender**

Slightly more than half (53 percent, or 9,085) of Asian same-sex respondents reported that they were in a household with a male householder and a male partner (a gay household), while 47 percent (8,078) reported being in a household with a female householder and a female partner (a lesbian household). By comparison, of same-sex households overall, 51 percent were gay and 49 percent were lesbian.

### **Geographic Distribution**

By geography, 52 percent of Asian same-sex households were concentrated in five MSAs: New York (15 percent, or 2,653); Los Angeles (15 percent, or 2,534); San Francisco (14 percent, or 2,366); Honolulu (4 percent, or 679); and Washington, D.C. (4 percent, or 622). This settlement pattern was similar to the distribution of all Asian households, 50 percent of which were in the MSAs of Los Angeles (16 percent), New York (14 percent), San Francisco (12 percent), Honolulu (5 percent), and Washington, D.C. (4 percent).

<b>Asian Unmarried Same-Sex Partner Households by 10 Largest Metro Areas</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Metropolitan Area</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>%</b>
1	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA CMSA	2,653	15%
2	Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA CMSA	2,534	15%
3	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA CMSA	2,366	14%
4	Honolulu, HI MSA	679	4%
5	Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV CMSA	622	4%
6	Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI CMSA	580	3%
7	Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA CMSA	553	3%
8	San Diego, CA MSA	395	2%
9	Boston-Worcester-Lawrence, MA-NH-ME-CT CMSA	368	2%
10	Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD CMSA	366	2%
	<b>Total Asian Same-Sex Households in the United States</b>	<b>17,163</b>	

CMSA – Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area

MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Summary File Two

Specific national settlement patterns for Asian same-sex households varied slightly depending on gender, and the Chicago and Seattle MSAs also had sizable gay and lesbian populations, respectively. For Asian gay households, the five largest populations were found in New York (17 percent of all Asian same-sex households in the United States, or 1,508 households); Los Angeles (15 percent, or 1,330); San Francisco (14 percent, or 1,257); Washington, D.C. (4 percent, or

342); and Chicago (3 percent, or 311). For Asian lesbian households, the five largest populations were in Los Angeles (15 percent, or 1,204); New York (14 percent, or 1,145); San Francisco (14 percent, or 1,109); Honolulu (5 percent, or 381); and Seattle (4 percent, or 286).

### ***Ethnic Composition***

The ethnic makeup of Asian same-sex households as a whole was similar to that for total Asian households. For same-sex households, Chinese Americans (excluding Taiwanese) were the largest Asian ethnic group (with 22 percent, or 3,772, of households), followed by Filipinos (22 percent, or 3,703); Indians (17 percent, or 2,988); Japanese (10 percent, or 1,672); and Koreans (9 percent, or 1,555). For total households, Chinese Americans (25 percent) also were the largest ethnic group, followed by Indians (17 percent), Filipinos (17 percent), Japanese (12 percent), and Koreans (10 percent).

<b>Asian Unmarried Same-Sex Partner Households by Five Largest Groups, 2000</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Total Same Sex Households</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Chinese (except Taiwanese alone or in any combination)	3,772	22%
2	Filipino (alone or in any combination)	3,703	22%
3	Asian Indian (alone or in any combination)	2,988	17%
4	Japanese (alone or in any combination)	1,672	10%
5	Korean (alone or in any combination)	1,555	9%
	<b>Total Asian (alone or in combination with one or more other races)</b>	<b>17,163</b>	

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Summary File Two

Ethnicity of Asian same-sex households differed by gender. For gay households, Chinese Americans (23 percent, or 2,082) were the largest ethnic group, followed by Filipinos (20 percent, or 1,774); Indians (19 percent, or 1,695); Japanese (9 percent, or 854); and Vietnamese (9 percent, or 842). However, for lesbian households, Filipino Americans (24 percent, or 1,929) were the largest ethnic group, followed by Chinese (21 percent, or 1,690); Indians (16 percent, or 1,293); Japanese (10 percent, or 818); and Korean (10 percent, or 811).

## NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS

### **Population Size**

On a national level, 2,050 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) householders reported that they were living in a same-sex household. Collectively, gay and lesbian households represented 0.9 percent of total NHOPI households – a higher percentage than among Asian households or total households in the United States. NHOPI made up 0.3 percent of the total same-sex household population in the United States, which is similar to the proportion of all NHOPI households in the general household population (0.2 percent).

### **Gender**

Of these same-sex households, 53 percent (1,089) were lesbian while 47 percent (961) were gay.

### **Geographic Distribution**

NHOPI same-sex households were more geographically dispersed than Asian same-sex households. Specifically, 50 percent of NHOPI same-sex households were in eight MSAs: Honolulu (14 percent, or 284 households); San Francisco (10 percent, or 211); Los Angeles (9 percent, or 193); New York (6 percent, or 132); Seattle (4 percent, or 79); San Diego (3 percent or 55); Phoenix (2 percent, or 37); and Sacramento, Calif. (2 percent, or 37).

<b>NHOPI Unmarried Same-Sex Partner Households by 10 Largest Metro Area</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Metropolitan Area</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Honolulu, HI MSA	284	14%
2	San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA CMSA	211	10%
3	Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA CMSA	193	9%
4	New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA CMSA	132	6%
5	Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA CMSA	79	4%
6	San Diego, CA MSA	55	3%
7	Phoenix-Mesa, AZ MSA	37	2%
8	Sacramento-Yolo, CA CMSA	37	2%
9	Salt Lake City-Ogden, UT MSA	35	2%
10	Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD CMSA	28	1%
	<b>Total NHOPI Same-Sex Households in the United States</b>	<b>2,050</b>	

CMSA – Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area

MSA – Metropolitan Statistical Area

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Summary File Two

This settlement pattern was similar to that for the overall national NHOPI population. Of total NHOPI households, 51 percent were concentrated in seven MSAs, all among the top eight metropolitan areas for same-sex NHOPI households: Honolulu (20 percent), Los Angeles (10 percent), San Francisco (7 percent), New York (5 percent), Seattle (4 percent), San Diego (3 percent), and Sacramento (2 percent).

The overall national settlement patterns for NHOPI same-sex households also applied to gay households and to lesbian households within this racial category, but with somewhat different proportional distributions. Of gay households, Honolulu had 11 percent (108), San Francisco had 11 percent (103), Los Angeles had 10 percent (100), New York had 7 percent (64), and Seattle

had 4 percent (39). Of lesbian households, Honolulu had 16 percent (176), San Francisco had 10 percent (108), Los Angeles had 9 percent (93), New York had 6 percent (68), and Seattle had 4 percent (40).

**Ethnic Composition**

The ethnic makeup of NHOPI same-sex households matched that of total (same-sex and opposite-sex) NHOPI households. For same-sex households, Native Hawaiians were the largest ethnic group (with 43 percent, or 875, of households), followed by Samoans (13 percent, or 276) and Guamanians or Chamorro (11 percent, or 228). For total households, Native Hawaiians (41 percent) also were the largest ethnic group, followed by Samoans (19 percent) and Guamanians or Chamorro (16 percent).

<b>NHOPI Unmarried Same-Sex Partner Households by Five Largest Groups, 2000</b>			
<b>Rank</b>	<b>Group</b>	<b>Total Same Sex Households</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Native Hawaiian (alone or in combination)	875	43%
2	Samoan alone (or in combination)	276	13%
3	Guamanian or Chamorro (alone or in combination)	228	11%
4	Tongan (alone or in combination)	55	3%
5	Fijian (alone or in combination)	24	1%
	<b>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more other races</b>	<b>2,050</b>	

Source: 2000 U.S. Census Summary File Two

By gender, NHOPI same-sex households showed the same ethnicity patterns but with different proportional distributions. Of gay households, 43 percent (403) were Native Hawaiian, 14 percent (131) were Samoan, and 11 percent (109) were Guamanian or Chamorro. Of lesbian households, 43 percent (472) were Native Hawaiian, 13 percent (145) were Samoan, and 11 percent (119) were Guamanian or Chamorro.

## **SECTION II: DEMOGRAPHIC FEATURES OF ASIAN AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS LIVING IN SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES**

### **OVERVIEW**

Based on individual responses, this section presents 2000 census characteristics of Asian Americans living in same-sex households in the three metropolitan areas with the largest numbers of such households: New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles.<sup>7</sup>

This section describes traits and patterns regarding population size, gender, race and age, as well as immigration and citizenship, education attainment, English language ability, household income, poverty/low-income households, housing patterns, children in household, and disability status.<sup>8</sup> Asian same-sex household features are compared with those for other groups, which differ by characteristic and include non-Asian same-sex, Asian and non-Asian opposite-sex, overall Asian, and total populations. Gender-related variations also are covered.

Among other overall patterns, most Asian gays and lesbians living with their partners were recent immigrants; Asian gay households had substantially higher household incomes than Asian lesbian households; and Asian same-sex households were much more likely to have children than non-Asian same-sex households.

Please note that population numbers between Section I and Section II are not comparable as they were obtained using two different sets of census data sources and methodologies.

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<sup>7</sup> Tabulations for New York and Los Angeles are based on their Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas and the tabulations for San Francisco are based on its Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area. Please refer to see the Technical Notes section for more detail.

<sup>8</sup> Due to number rounding, some tables will not sum up to 100 percent.

## POPULATION

Male relationships predominated among same-sex Asians households in all three cities studied. The majority of Asians in same-sex households lived with Asian partners although percentages of respondents in same-race partnerships differed widely by city and gender. Asian/White relationships comprised the largest number of interracial partnerships for the total Asian same-sex household population in each of the three cities, but Asian lesbians in New York were most apt to live with Hispanics. With the exception for Los Angeles, Asian gays and lesbians collectively were younger than the non-Asian same-sex household population, even younger than the Asian opposite-sex population, and still younger than the non-Asian population.

<b>Asian Same-Sex Households By Racial Composition</b>						
<b>Couple Type (Race)</b>	<b>New York</b>	<b>New York %</b>	<b>San Francisco</b>	<b>San Francisco %</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>Los Angeles %</b>
Asian/Asian	3,524	74%	3,002	55%	2,880	71%
Asian/White	811	17%	1,986	37%	902	22%
Asian/Hispanic	268	6%	190	4%	126	3%
Asian/Other	108	2%	198	4%	15	0.4%
Asian/Black	38	1%	37	1%	114	3%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

### ***New York***

In New York, 4,749 Asians reported they were living in a same-sex household. The majority (60 percent, or 2,870) of these Asians were men, while 40 percent (1,879) were women.

Nearly three-quarters (74 percent, or 3,524) of all Asian New Yorkers living in a same-sex household were in an Asian/Asian relationship. Percentages differed by gender, with 69 percent (1,983) of gays and 82 percent (1,541) of lesbians in a same-race relationship.

As for interracial households, 17 percent (811) of New York's total same-sex household population lived in an Asian/White relationship, followed by 6 percent (268) in an Asian/Hispanic partnership, 2 percent (108) in an Asian/Other Race relationship, and 1 percent (38) in an Asian/black partnership.

The racial composition of interracial coupling among Asian same-sex partners in New York varied by gender. For men, the largest number of interracial relationships were Asian/White, reported by 25 percent (720) of gay partners, while Asian/Hispanic relationships were second most common, reported by 4 percent (129). On the other hand, those two combinations were reversed for women, 7 percent (139) of whom lived with Hispanics and 5 percent (91) of whom lived with White partners.

The median age of Asians living in same-sex households in New York was 39 years – lower than the median ages of the city's non-Asians same-sex household population (41 years), and Asians (43) and non-Asians (45) living in opposite-sex households. The largest age group for Asian same-sex household respondents, as well as for the city's non-Asian same-sex population, was 35 to 44.

### ***San Francisco***

San Francisco had 5,413 Asians who reported living in a same-sex household. Men made up 58 percent (3,115) of these respondents, while women comprised 42 percent (2,298).

Slightly more than half (55 percent, or 3,002) of Asian San Franciscans in a same-sex household lived with an Asian partner. By gender, percentages of same-race relationships among same-sex households were almost the same: 55 percent (1,709) for men and 56 percent (1,293) for women.

In terms of interracial households, 37 percent (1,986) of all the city's Asian same-sex partners living together were in an Asian/White relationship, followed by 4 percent (198) in an Asian/Other Race partnership, 4 percent (190) in an Asian/Hispanic relationship, and 1 percent (37) in an Asian/Black partnership.

Asian/White was the most common combination for interracial relationships for Asian gays and Asian lesbians in San Francisco, but to different extents. Specifically, 39 percent (1,219) of Asian gays and 33 percent (767) of Asian lesbians in same-sex households reported having a White partner.

The median age of Asians living in same-sex households in San Francisco was 40 – lower than the median ages of the city's non-Asian same-sex household population (41 years), and Asian (43) and non-Asian (45) individuals living in an opposite-sex household. The largest age group for Asian same-sex household respondents was 25 to 34, younger than 35 to 44 for the city's non-Asian same-sex household respondents.

### **Los Angeles**

In Los Angeles, 4,037 Asians reported living in a same-sex household. The majority (54 percent, or 2,177) of these respondents were women, while 46 percent (1,860) were men. Seventy-one percent (2,880) of Asians living in a same-sex household were in a same-race relationship. However, the incidence of same-sex partnerships diverged by gender, with 57 percent (1,063) of Asian gays and 84 percent (1,817) of Asian lesbians in Asian/Asian relationships.

As for interracial households, 22 percent (902) of the total same-sex Asian population in Los Angeles lived in an Asian/White partnership, followed by 3 percent (126) in an Asian/Hispanic relationship, 3 percent (114) in an Asian/Black relationship, and 0.4 percent (15) in an Asian/Other Race partnership.

The largest numbers of Asian gays and Asian lesbians living in interracial households in Los Angeles had White partners, but percentages of Asian/White households varied greatly by gender. Specifically, 35 percent (645) of Asian men in same-sex households, compared with 12 percent (257) of their female counterparts, lived in Asian/White relationships.

The median age of Asians living in same-sex households in Los Angeles was 41 – older than the median age of the city's non-Asians in same-sex households (39), but younger than the Asian opposite-sex population (45) and non-Asian opposite-sex population (42). The largest age group for Asian same-sex household respondents was 25 to 34, younger than 35 to 44 for the city's non-Asian same-sex population.

## IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Most Asians living in same-sex households in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles were born outside the United States.<sup>9</sup> In each of the three cities, the Asian gay and lesbian population had a larger percentage of immigrants than the city's non-Asian gay and lesbian population. However, immigration time frames as well as naturalization rates for Asian same-sex household dwellers differed from city to city.<sup>10</sup>

Asian and Non-Asian Gays and Lesbians by U.S. Citizenship Status						
	New York		San Francisco		Los Angeles	
U.S. Citizenship Status	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian
Yes, Birth	18%	73%	26%	87%	17%	65%
Yes, Naturalization	39%	12%	44%	5%	55%	12%
No	42%	15%	29%	8%	28%	22%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

Asian and Non-Asian Gay and Lesbians by Year Entered the United States						
	New York		San Francisco		Los Angeles	
Year Entered U.S.	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian
Born in the U.S.	16%	68%	24%	86%	16%	65%
Prior to 1980	17%	11%	22%	6%	27%	13%
1980 to 1989	30%	10%	30%	4%	34%	13%
1990 to 2000	37%	11%	24%	4%	23%	9%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

### ***New York***

The vast majority (81 percent, or 3,880) of Asians living in same-sex households in New York were born outside the United States. This immigrant representation exceeded 27 percent of the non-Asian same-sex household population, 76 percent of all Asians and 33 percent of all residents in the city who were foreign-born.

The largest concentration and nearly half of New York's Asian gay and lesbian immigrants (37 percent, or 1,745) came to the United States from 1990 to March 2000, reflecting a pattern of more recent immigration than for the total population of foreign-born Asian New Yorkers (36 percent of whom arrived during that time period).

Among New York's Asian immigrants living in same-sex households, 48 percent (1,872) were naturalized citizens. This naturalization rate was slightly lower than for the city's non-Asian

<sup>9</sup> Note that U.S. Citizenship and Year Entered the United States will not be the same tabulations. More specifically, the responses of U.S. Citizenship by Birth (Yes, birth) will not be the same as those born in United States, citizenship by birth can be conferred to those who are born outside the U.S., by having a parent who is a U.S. citizen. Anyone who does not have citizenship by birth is considered "foreign-born." Consequently, we have used the foreign-born population as representative of the immigrant population.

<sup>10</sup> To provide a population comparison, immigration numbers and naturalization rates were generated for the overall Asian and total population using Summary File Four data.

same-sex immigrant population (50 percent), but higher than foreign-born Asians as a whole (44 percent), and entire immigrant population (43 percent).

### ***San Francisco***

Almost three-quarters (73 percent, or 3,979) of Asians living in same-sex households in San Francisco were immigrants. This foreign-born population component was larger than 13 percent of the non-Asian same-sex household population, 63 percent of all Asians and 27 percent of all residents in the city who were immigrants.

The largest grouping of Asian gay and lesbian immigrants in San Francisco (30 percent, or 1,644) moved to the United States from 1980 to 1989, which is different from immigration patterns for all foreign-born Asians in the city (40 percent of whom also came to this country during the 1990s).

Of San Francisco's Asian immigrants in same-sex households, 60 percent (2,407) were naturalized citizens. This naturalization rate was lower than for the city's non-Asian foreign-born gay and lesbian population (62 percent), but higher than Asian immigrants as a whole (54 percent) and entire immigrant population (45 percent).

### ***Los Angeles***

The preponderance (83 percent, or 3,361) of Asians living in a same-sex household in Los Angeles were immigrants. This percentage of immigrants was higher than 66 percent of all Asians in Los Angeles, 35 percent of all the city's non-Asian gays and lesbians, and 36 percent of all Los Angeles residents who were immigrants.

The largest percentage of Asian gay and lesbian immigrants (34 percent, or 1,377) came to the United States from 1980 to 1989, reflecting immigration patterns for all foreign-born Asians in Los Angeles (38 percent of whom arrived during the same decade).

Of Los Angeles' Asian immigrants in same-sex households, 66 percent (2,233) were naturalized citizens. This naturalization rate was higher than for the city's non-Asian foreign-born gay and lesbian population (61 percent), Asian immigrants as a whole (54 percent) and entire immigrant population (38 percent).

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

In New York and San Francisco, educational attainment for Asian same-sex partners generally was lower than for the non-Asian gay and lesbian population but higher than for Asian adults living in opposite-sex households.<sup>11</sup> With an exception for San Francisco, these patterns applied to graduation from high school (or lack thereof), as well as pursuit of post-secondary education. By contrast, in Los Angeles, Asian gays and lesbians collectively were more educated than the non-Asian same-sex household population but less educated than the Asian opposite-sex population.

Educational Attainment Levels for Individuals Living in Asian and Non-Asian Same-Sex and Asian Opposite-Sex Households									
Educational Attainment	New York			San Francisco			Los Angeles		
	Same-Sex Partners		Opposite-Sex Partners	Same-Sex Partners		Opposite-Sex Partners	Same-Sex Partners		Opposite-Sex Partners
	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian
Less Than High School	26%	18%	28%	13%	9%	15%	21%	25%	15%
High School Graduate	34%	39%	35%	41%	38%	37%	44%	41%	40%
Post-Secondary Education	39%	43%	37%	46%	53%	48%	35%	33%	45%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

### ***New York***

Slightly more than one-fourth (26 percent, or 1,254) of Asian gay and lesbian individuals in New York did not have high school diplomas, compared with 18 percent of their non-Asian counterparts and 28 percent of Asian adults living in an opposite-sex partnership.

Meanwhile, 39 percent (1,868) of Asian gays and lesbians had a post-secondary education, compared with 43 percent of non-Asian gays and lesbians and 37 percent of Asian opposite-sex adults in the city.

### ***San Francisco***

In San Francisco, 13 percent (698) of Asian gay and lesbian partners had not graduated from high school, compared with 9 percent of the non-Asian same-sex population and 15 percent of Asian opposite-sex adults.

Nearly half (46 percent, or 2,496) of Asian gays and lesbians had pursued post-secondary studies, compared with 53 percent of the non-Asian gay and lesbian population and – departing from the pattern cited above – 48 percent of opposite-sex Asian adults in the city.

<sup>11</sup> For education tabulations, adults were defined as individuals age 25 and older.

### ***Los Angeles***

Los Angeles presented a reversal of relationships with the two comparison groups from those generally found in New York and San Francisco. About one-fifth (21 percent, or 840) of Asian gay and lesbian partners in Los Angeles were not high school graduates, compared with 25 percent of the non-Asian same-sex household population and 15 percent of opposite-sex Asian adults in the city.

Thirty-five percent (1,415) of Asian gays and lesbians had a post-secondary education, slightly exceeding 33 percent of the non-Asian gay and lesbian population and falling short of 45 percent of Asian adults in an opposite-sex household.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY

Across the three cities examined, Asians living in same-sex households faced levels of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) that were much higher than the non-Asian gay and lesbian population but lower than for the general Asian opposite-sex population.<sup>12</sup>

English Language Ability of Asian and Non-Asian Individuals in Same-Sex Households									
	New York			San Francisco			Los Angeles		
English Speaking Ability	Asian Same-Sex	Non-Asian Same-Sex	Asian Opposite-Sex	Asian Same-Sex	Non-Asian Same-Sex	Asian Opposite-Sex	Asian Same-Sex	Non-Asian Same-Sex	Asian Opposite-Sex
English-Only	35%	66%	14%	32%	84%	17%	25%	60%	15%
Very Well / Well	49%	27%	53%	59%	13%	64%	52%	26%	61%
Not Well / Not At All	16%	7%	32%	9%	4%	18%	23%	13%	24%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

### ***New York***

Among Asian same-sex partners in New York, 16 percent (741) reported having LEP, in that they spoke English “not well” or “not at all.” This was more than twice the rate for non-Asian same-sex partners (7 percent) but half the rate for Asian opposite-sex partners (32 percent).

### ***San Francisco***

The LEP classification applied to 9 percent (511) of Asian gays and lesbians in San Francisco – more than twice the incidence for non-Asian same-sex partners (4 percent) but half the rate for Asian opposite-sex partners (18 percent).

### ***Los Angeles***

In Los Angeles, 23 percent (929) of Asian same-sex partners had limited English ability – a rate substantially higher than for non-Asian same-sex partners (13 percent) but slightly lower than for Asian opposite-sex partners (24 percent).

<sup>12</sup> Limited English Proficiency is defined by census categories as speaking English “not well” or “not at all.”

## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median household incomes for Asian same-sex households generally were lower than for non-Asian same-sex households but higher than for Asian opposite-sex households.<sup>13</sup> Meanwhile, in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, Asian gay households earned substantially more than Asian lesbian households.

<b>Asian and Non-Asian Same-Sex Household Incomes</b>						
	<b>New York</b>		<b>San Francisco</b>		<b>Los Angeles</b>	
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Non-Asian</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Non-Asian</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Non-Asian</b>
Less Than \$25,000	17%	16%	10%	7%	17%	16%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	28%	19%	19%	12%	23%	20%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	17%	18%	22%	21%	18%	22%
\$75,000 or more	38%	47%	49%	60%	42%	41%
Median Income	\$55,500	\$69,300	\$73,200	\$87,000	\$61,800	\$65,000

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

### ***New York***

The median household income for Asian same-sex partners in New York was \$55,500 a year – lower than \$69,300 for non-Asian same-sex partners but higher than \$48,600 for Asian opposite-sex couples. The largest proportion (38 percent, or 1,801) of Asian gay and lesbian households and 31 percent of Asian opposite-sex households earned more than \$75,000, while 47 percent of non-Asian same-sex households occupied that income bracket.

<b>Asian and Non-Asian Same-Sex Household Incomes by Gender, New York</b>				
	<b>Asian Partners</b>		<b>Non-Asian Partners</b>	
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Gay</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Gay</b>
Less Than \$25,000	26%	11%	21%	13%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	28%	28%	21%	17%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	20%	15%	18%	18%
\$75,000 or more	26%	46%	40%	52%
Median Income	\$42,000	\$60,000	\$61,000	\$77,000

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

By gender, Asian gay households had a median household income of \$60,000, close to 1½ times that for Asian lesbian households (\$42,000). Asian gays' and lesbians' non-Asian counterparts had higher median household incomes: \$77,000 for male households and \$61,000 for female households.

### ***San Francisco***

Asian same-sex households in San Francisco had a median household income of \$73,200 a year – lower than for both non-Asian same-sex households (\$87,000) and Asian opposite-sex households (\$81,430). The largest portion (49 percent, or 2,636) of Asian gay and lesbian

<sup>13</sup> Household income refers to the income of all occupants of a housing unit.

households and 55 percent of Asian opposite-sex households earned more than \$75,000, while 60 percent of non-Asian same-sex households had incomes in that range.

<b>Asian and Non-Asian Same-Sex Household Incomes by Gender, San Francisco</b>				
	<b>Asian Partners</b>		<b>Non-Asian Partners</b>	
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Gay</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Gay</b>
Less Than \$25,000	9%	11%	8%	6%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	23%	16%	14%	11%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	28%	18%	23%	19%
\$75,000 or more	41%	55%	55%	64%
Median Income	\$63,000	\$84,000	\$82,000	\$92,900

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

In terms of gender, the median household income for Asian gay households was \$84,000 -- one-third more than for Asian lesbian households (\$63,000). Comparable non-Asian median household incomes were \$92,900 for gay households and \$82,000 for lesbian households.

### **Los Angeles**

The median household income for Asian same-sex households was \$61,800 a year – lower than for non-Asian same-sex households (\$65,000) but slightly higher than for Asian opposite-sex households (\$60,810). The largest grouping (42 percent, or 1,681) of Asian same-sex households and 40 percent of Asian opposite-sex households earned more than \$75,000 a year, while 41 percent of non-Asian same-sex households were in that income bracket.

<b>Asian and Non-Asian Same-Sex Household Incomes by Gender, Los Angeles</b>				
	<b>Asian Partners</b>		<b>Non-Asian Partners</b>	
<b>Household Income</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Gay</b>	<b>Lesbian</b>	<b>Gay</b>
Less Than \$25,000	20%	14%	19%	14%
\$25,000 to \$50,000	26%	19%	21%	20%
\$50,000 to \$75,000	23%	12%	24%	21%
\$75,000 or more	31%	54%	36%	45%
Median Income	\$51,900	\$81,000	\$61,400	\$68,800

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

By gender, the median household income for Asian gay households was \$81,000, more than 1½ times the figure for Asian lesbian households (\$51,900). Median incomes for non-Asian same-sex households were \$68,800 for gays and \$61,400 for lesbians.

## **POVERTY/LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS**

Due to how the Census Bureau tabulates households and people in poverty, it is not possible to directly compare poverty estimates for same-sex households and opposite-sex households in this PUMS analysis. Therefore, in lieu of poverty assignments, this report uses percentages of households with incomes of less than \$25,000 a year as a measure of low income.

For same-sex populations, percentages of households earning less than \$25,000 in all three cities studied were at least slightly higher for Asians than for non-Asians. Meanwhile, among Asians, same-sex populations had the same portion or a smaller segment of households in this low-income bracket in relation to opposite-sex populations. In addition, incomes of less than \$25,000 were much more common for lesbian households than gay households in New York and Los Angeles, while male households were somewhat more likely than female households to meet this poverty criterion in San Francisco.

### ***New York***

In New York, 17 percent (813) of Asian same-sex households earned less than \$25,000, compared with 16 percent of non-Asian same-sex households and 25 percent of Asian opposite-sex households.

By gender, 26 percent (497) of Asian lesbian households earned less than \$25,000, almost 2½ times the rate of 11 percent (316) for Asian gay households. Among non-Asians, 21 percent of lesbian households and 13 percent of gay households occupied that low-income range.

### ***San Francisco***

About 10 percent (549) of Asian same-sex households earned less than \$25,000, compared with 7 percent of non-Asian same-sex households and 10 percent of Asian opposite-sex households.

In a reversal of the gender pattern for the other two cities, 11 percent (353) of Asian gay households and 9 percent (196) of Asian lesbian households had incomes of less than \$25,000. However, following the general trend, 8 percent of non-Asian female households and 6 percent of non-Asian male households were in this low-income bracket.

### ***Los Angeles***

In Los Angeles, 17 percent (698) of Asian same-sex households earned less than \$25,000, compared with 16 percent of non-Asian same-sex households and 17 percent of Asian opposite-sex households.

By gender, 20 percent (432) of Asian lesbian households earned less than \$25,000, nearly twice the rate of 14 percent (266) of Asian gay households. Among non-Asians, 19 percent of lesbian households and 14 percent of gay households occupied this low-income range.

## **HOUSING PATTERNS**

Housing patterns of Asian same-sex partners, in terms of renting or owning, were largely similar to those of other populations in their respective cities. Therefore, for Asian gay and lesbian households, renting was more common than owning a home in New York, while homeownership prevailed in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

### ***New York***

The majority (59 percent, or 2,794) of Asian same-sex partners in New York rented their homes while 41 percent (1,955) were homeowners. This renter/owner composition compared with 61 percent/39 percent for non-Asian same-sex households and 55 percent/45 percent for Asian opposite-sex couples in the city.

### ***San Francisco***

More than half (57 percent, or 3,059) of Asian same-sex partners in San Francisco owned their homes while 43 percent (2,354) lived in rented quarters. Exactly the same owner/renter distribution held true for non-Asian same-sex households, and Asian opposite-sex couples were split 66 percent/34 percent between owning and renting their homes.

### ***Los Angeles***

The majority (60 percent, or 2,410) of Asian same-sex partners in Los Angeles were homeowners while 40 percent (1,627) rented their homes. Non-Asian same-sex households diverged from this model, with renting edging out owning, 51 percent to 49 percent. However, the owner/renter makeup of Asian opposite-sex couples (61 percent owners and 39 percent renters) mirrored the Asian gay and lesbian pattern.

## CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD

There was a high presence of children in Asian same-sex households. In New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, rates of having a child living in a home were considerably higher for Asian gay and lesbian households than for the non-Asian gay and lesbian population but lower than for Asian opposite-sex households. It should be noted that although the census captured data only on same-sex “unmarried partners,” and not on all gay and lesbian individuals, unmarried partners were more likely to have children living with them. Among Asians, children were present at higher rates in lesbian households than in gay households in New York and San Francisco, but the reverse pattern applied in Los Angeles.

Presence of Children in Asian and Non-Asian Households (Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex)												
	New York				San Francisco				Los Angeles			
	Same-Sex Partners		Opposite-Sex Partners		Same-Sex Partners		Opposite-Sex Partners		Same-Sex Partners		Opposite-Sex Partners	
Child in Household	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian
Yes	43%	27%	55%	47%	26%	18%	55%	45%	44%	32%	53%	55%
No	57%	73%	45%	53%	74%	82%	45%	55%	56%	68%	47%	45%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

### ***New York***

In New York, 43 percent (2,035) of Asian same-sex partners reported they had a child in their household, compared with 27 percent of non-Asian same-sex partners and 55 percent of Asian opposite-sex partners. Representing a wide gender divide, children lived in 62 percent (1,163) of Asian lesbian homes – more than twice the 30 percent frequency of children in Asian gay households (872 of which had children).

### ***San Francisco***

In San Francisco, children lived with 26 percent (1,434) of Asian same-sex partners, compared with 18 percent of non-Asian same-sex partners and 55 percent of Asian opposite-sex partners. Children were present in 30 percent (696) of Asian lesbian homes and 24 percent (738) of Asian gay households.

### ***Los Angeles***

In Los Angeles, 44 percent (1,762) of Asian same-sex partners had a child living with them, compared with 32 percent of non-Asian same-sex partners and 53 percent of Asian opposite-sex partners. In a gender pattern contrary to that in New York and San Francisco, 45 percent (840) of Asian gay homes and 42 percent (922) of Asian lesbian households had children.

## DISABILITY STATUS

In all three cities analyzed, Asian same-sex partners reported having some type of disability at rates that were substantial but similar to those for the non-Asian gay and lesbian population, as well as for Asian and non-Asian opposite-sex partners.<sup>14</sup>

<b>Disability Status by Asian and Non-Asian Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex Households</b>												
	<b>New York</b>				<b>San Francisco</b>				<b>Los Angeles</b>			
	<b>Same-Sex Partners</b>		<b>Opposite-Sex Partners</b>		<b>Same-Sex Partners</b>		<b>Opposite-Sex Partners</b>		<b>Same-Sex Partners</b>		<b>Opposite-Sex Partners</b>	
<b>Disability Status</b>	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian	Asian	Non-Asian
With Disability	21%	21%	24%	23%	19%	17%	17%	17%	25%	22%	19%	23%
Without Disability	79%	79%	76%	77%	81%	83%	83%	83%	75%	78%	81%	77%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census 5 percent Public Use Microdata Sample

### ***New York***

In New York, 21 percent (985) of Asian same-sex partners faced a disability – compared with 21 percent of non-Asian same-sex partners and 24 percent of Asian opposite-sex partners, and 23 percent of non-Asian opposite-sex partners.

### ***San Francisco***

In San Francisco, the disability rate for Asian same-sex partners was 19 percent (1,011) – compared with 17 percent for each of these other groups: non-Asian same-sex partners, Asian opposite-sex partners, and non-Asian opposite-sex partners.

### ***Los Angeles***

In Los Angeles, 25 percent (1,022) of Asian same-sex partners had a disability – compared with 22 percent of non-Asian same-sex partners, 19 percent Asian opposite-sex partners, and 23 percent of non-Asian opposite-sex partners.

<sup>14</sup> To be considered as having a disability, an individual had to have a physical, mental, or emotional condition lasting six months or more that made it difficult to perform certain activities, such as learning, remembering, or concentrating (mental disability); dressing, bathing, or getting around inside the home (self-care disability); going outside the home alone to shop or visit a doctor's office (going outside the home disability); and working at a job or business (employment disability).

# TECHNICAL NOTES

## GENERAL INFORMATION

This report is based on the 2000 census data available on Asian Pacific American same-sex households. However, it cannot provide a complete profile or count of the Asian lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender population due to various data limitations.

Census 2000 did not directly gather data on sexual orientation. Instead, census information on gays and lesbians is derived from respondents' identification of themselves as living with an unmarried partner of the same sex. Thus, statistics in this report do not necessarily include gay and lesbian individuals not living with a partner or bisexual or transgender individuals.

Moreover, each of the two data sets used for this report bears its own limitations, and in all likelihood, Census 2000 undercounted all same-sex unmarried partnerships – Asian and otherwise.<sup>15</sup>

While the 1990 census did count same-sex households, major changes in how the Census Bureau tabulated same-sex households does not allow for 1990 same-sex household data to be directly compared with 2000 data.<sup>16</sup>

Therefore, this report provides a partial demographic profile, or snapshot, based on information from Asians and NHOPIs who reported that they were living in a same-sex household in 2000.

## SUMMARY FILE TWO DATA

Summary File Two (SF Two), the data source for Section I, contains information collected from a 100 percent population survey of households. SF Two is a publicly-accessible census source on same-sex households.

Counts cited in this report come from responses of unmarried householders who said their household included a “male householder and male partner” or a “female householder and female partner.”

However, it is important to note that the household racial categorization for SF Two is solely based upon the race of the head of the household. For example, to be counted as an Asian same-sex household, the head of household had to be Asian. His or her partner may not necessarily have been Asian.

Conversely, SF Two data does not reflect the racial background of a householder's partner. For example, a White same-sex householder may have had an Asian partner, but, under SF Two

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<sup>15</sup> For a discussion on the extent of the gay and lesbian undercount, see Smith, D.M., and Gates, G.L.. (2001). “Gay and Lesbian Families in the United States: Same-Sex Unmarried Partner Households: A Preliminary Analysis of 2000 United States Census Data”. <http://www.hrc.org/Content/ContentGroups/FamilyNet/Documents/census.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> See U.S. Census Bureau (2001). Technical Note on Same-Sex Unmarried Partner Data from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses. <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/samesex.html>

methodologies, this household would have been categorized as being White. With this limitation with SF Two, PUMS data was used to provide an estimate of Asian gays and lesbians in all same-sex households.

## **PUMS DATA AND METHODOLOGY**

Socioeconomic information in Section II, was compiled through a custom tabulation of the Census Bureau's 5 percent Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS). This data set contains 5 percent of all responses in Census 2000 with any possible identifying information removed to preserve confidentiality. Responses are weighted so estimates can be produced and results of queries can be extrapolated for the general population and a representative sample.

PUMS information differs from SF Two data in two major respects. On the one hand, PUMS provides a more inclusive picture of the Asian same-sex household population, in that it identifies both householders and their partners. Unlike SF Two data, the PUMS information for Census 2000 identified any Asian partner living in a same-sex household, whether he or she was the householder or the householder's partner, making it possible to more thoroughly estimate numbers of Asian gays and lesbians living with same-sex partners. (Please see Terminology note for definitions of population groups on which data were obtained, as well as other information on terms used in this report.)

To ensure adequate samples, this report is based on data for the Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas (PMSAs) for New York and Los Angeles, and for the Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) including San Francisco. The CMSA was used for San Francisco because the PMSA for San Francisco did not provide a sufficient number of cases.

The New York PMSA contains Bronx, Kings (Brooklyn), New York (Manhattan), Queens, Richmond (Staten Island), Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties. The Los Angeles PMSA consists of Los Angeles County. The San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CMSA is comprised of San Francisco, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties. The sample frames of Asian same-sex households were as follows: 195 cases in New York, 277 in San Francisco and 197 in Los Angeles. It should be noted that socioeconomic statistics from such sources as SF One, Two, Three and Four will not necessarily directly correspond with PUMS data used in this report due to different sampling and weighting methods for each data set.

## **RACIAL CATEGORIES**

To be as inclusive as possible, this report uses "Asian Alone or in Any Combination" numbers, whereby if a head of a same-sex household responded that he or she was either entirely or partially of Asian background, the respondent was considered to be living in an Asian same-sex household. The 2000 census was the first decennial census in which people were allowed to mark more than one race. As a consequence, Census 2000 race information is far more complicated than such data from previous censuses. For example, 2000 data include results for single-race as well as multiple-race responses. "Asian Alone" corresponds to the respondents who reported an Asian group and no other race category. "Alone" should be considered the minimum population size in any analysis that uses Census 2000 data.

“Alone or in Any Combination” corresponds to the responses (not respondents) that include the selected Asian group, either alone or in any combination with other race categories. If a respondent selected an Asian group and other racial group (*e.g.*, Korean and Black), that individual, while excluded from the “Asian Alone” count, was tallied in the “Alone or in Any Combination” count total for each. Hence, some overlap in the “In Combination” numbers occurred. “Alone or in Any Combination” should be considered the maximum population size in any analysis that uses Census 2000 data.

## TERMINOLOGY

This report includes information on the following kinds of partners:

- ***Same-sex partner:*** A person living with an unmarried partner of the same sex (could be a householder or the unmarried partner of a householder).
- ***Asian same-sex partner:*** A person of an Asian ethnicity (single race or in combination with one or more other races) living with an unmarried partner (could be a householder or a householder’s unmarried partner).
- ***Non-Asian same-sex partner:*** A person not of an Asian ethnicity living with an unmarried partner (could be a householder or a householder’s unmarried partner).
- ***Opposite-sex partner:*** A person living with a married or unmarried partner of the opposite sex (could be a householder, or a spouse or unmarried partner of a householder).

Additional notes on recurring terms and references in this analysis:

- ***Household:*** A household includes all people living in a housing unit. One person in each household is designated the householder and completes a census form for the household. Generally, the householder is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought or rented.
- ***Same-sex household population:*** A population encompassing people living with same-sex partners.
- ***Gay:*** A man in a relationship between a male householder and his unmarried male partner. (Word also used as an adjective.)
- ***Lesbian:*** A woman in a relationship between a female householder and her unmarried female partner. (Word also used as an adjective.)
- ***Gay and lesbian population:*** Used at times in this report synonymously with same-sex household population, although a same-sex household population for the purpose of this report actually represents only an estimate of gays and lesbians who live with same-sex partners.
- ***Asian:*** Used in place of Asian American in many instances to conserve words.

- ***New York, San Francisco or Los Angeles by name, or city or cities, referring to them:*** The Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) for the identified city or cities, analyzed for this report. (See Technical Note on PUMS Data and Methodology for specifics on these MSAs.)
- Statements in this report refer to 2000 census data unless otherwise specified.

## **ABOUT THE ASIAN AMERICAN FEDERATION OF NEW YORK AND ITS CENSUS INFORMATION CENTER**

The Asian American Federation of New York is a nonprofit leadership organization that works collaboratively to meet the critical needs of Asian Americans in the New York metropolitan area. The Federation strengthens community-based health and social services capacity by supporting its 35 member agencies and other grassroots organizations; amplifies the Asian American civic voice by defining, analyzing, and advocating for policies to address key community issues; and encourages strategic, high-impact philanthropy within the Asian American community by increasing opportunities for connecting time, talent and financial resources with pressing community needs. For more information on the Federation, visit [www.aafny.org](http://www.aafny.org).

The U.S. Census Bureau selected the Federation to operate the only Census Information Center (CIC) in the New York area focused on serving the Asian American community. Established in 2000, the center provides census information, conducts data and policy analysis, and encourages census participation. For more information on the CIC, visit [www.aafny.org/cic/](http://www.aafny.org/cic/).

Data citations from this report should include the following acknowledgment: “Data derived from an analysis by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center.”



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