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Research Resources Used/ Recommended for Further Reading



Constable, Nicole. 2003. <u>Romance on a Global Stage: Pen</u> <u>Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and</u> <u>"Mail Order" Marriages.</u> <u>Berkeley: University of</u> California Press.

Crohn, Joel. 1995. Mixed Matches: How to Create

Interracial Dating & Marriage

Jobs

One of the most public manifestations of race is the choice of one's partner or spouse. This very individual and personal aspect can sometimes produce a lot of public discussion. Studies consistently show that Asian Americans have some of the highest "intermarriage" (also known as "outmarriage") rates among racial/ethnic minorities -- marrying someone else outside of their own ethnic group. But as always, there's more to the story than just the headline.

THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SIDES OF ETHNICITY

Whether it's dating or marrying someone of a different race, interracial relationships are not a new phenomenon among Asian Americans. When the first Filipino and Chinese workers came to the U.S. in the 1700 and 1800s, they were almost exclusively men. A few of them eventually married women in the U.S. who were not Asian. However, many people soon saw Asian intermarriage with Whites as a threat to American society. Therefore, **anti-miscegenation** laws were passed that prohibited Asians from marrying Whites.

History shows that these anti-miscegenation laws were very common in the U.S. They were first passed in the 1600s to prevent freed Black slaves from marrying Whites. It was not until 1967, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, that the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that <u>such laws were</u> <u>unconstitutional</u>. At that time, 38 states in the U.S. had formal laws on their books that prohibited non-Whites from marrying Whites. As you can see, it's only been in recent years that interracial marriages are relatively common in American society.

Of course, anti-miscegenation laws were part of a larger anti-Asian movement that eventually led to the Chinese Exclusion Act

All Asian Americans:
Percentages of the Six Largest Asian
Ethnic Groups who are Married to

	Asian Indians	
Husbands	Asian Indians	89.7
(404,104)	Other Asians	1.5
	Whites	6.3
	Blacks	0.6
	Hispanics/Latinos	1.4
Wives	Asian Indians	92.0
(396,434)	Other Asians	1.2
	Whites	4.1
	Blacks	0.7
	Hispanics/Latinos	0.8

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- Change Text Size: Default 1 12				Blacks	0.0
	Change Text Size: <u>Default</u> <u>+1</u> <u>+2</u>	are married immigrants and U.Sborn.		Hispanics/Latinos	0.9
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69.4

2.8

24.3

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Most scholars who study intermarriage, rather than including immigrants who came to the U.S. already married, concentrate only on Asians who are "U.S.-raised": either born in the U.S. or who came to the U.S. at age 13 or younger and were therefore primarily raised and socialized in the U.S. (the "1.5 generation") and who presumably got married in the U.S. (205, 149)

The statistics for this U.S.-raised group are on the <u>next page</u> and you should definitely compare both sets of numbers because they can differ significantly. The numbers in bold **black** represent the group with the highest percentage among their gender, while the group with the bold **red** number has the lowest percentage.

These numbers were updated on **November 3, 2004** -- if you arrived at this page from another link that quoted different statistics, you should note that these are the most

	Blacks	1.7
	Hispanics/Latinos	1.4
	Vietnamese	
Husbands	Vietnamese	92.4
(205,149)	Other Asians	3.7
	Whites	2.7
	Blacks	0.1
	Hispanics/Latinos	1.1
Wives	Vietnamese	86.4
(221,331)	Other Asians	3.3
	Whites	9.0
	Blacks	0.3
	Hispanics/Latinos	1.0

Koreans

Whites

Other Asians

Sample sizes are in parentheses Read about the Methodology used to calculate these statistics

valid and up-to-date numbers available. Also keep in mind that although generally accurate and reliable, Census sample data is not completely perfect and that there will always be some sampling errors.

wives

Similarly, the reason why the percentages in the table do not add up to 100% is because they do not include people who are married to groups that are not listed in the table (i.e., married to an Asian group other than the six listed in the table, to American Indians, to multiracial respondents who claim more than one racial identity, and to those who self-identify as "Other," "None," or just "American.")

PATTERNS OF MARRIAGE AMONG ASIAN AMERICANS

These are certainly a lot of numbers to consider. Basically, what these stats tell us is that among the six major Asian American ethnic groups, among both husbands and wives, the groups that are **most likely to have a White spouse** are Japanese. Although the numbers for intermarriage with Blacks and Hispanics/Latinos are low, Asians who are most likely to intermarry with Blacks are Asian Indian husbands and Filipino wives while Filipino and Japanese husbands and Filipino wives are most likely to intermarry with Hispanics/Latinos. Those who are most likely to marry within their own ethnic group are Korean husbands and Asian Indian wives. Finally, Japanese (husbands and wives) are most likely to marry another Asian American (outside their own ethnic group). See the summary below (and represented by the bold numbers in the table):

Husbands -- Most / Least Likely to Have a(n) __ Spouse:

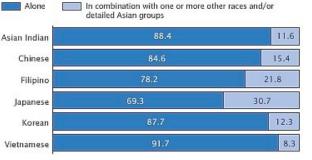
- Endogamous -- Most: Koreans / Least: Japanese
- Other Asian (Pan-Asian) -- Most: Japanese / Least: Asian Indians
- White -- Most: Japanese / Least: Vietnamese
- Black -- Most: Asian Indians / Least: Koreans
- Hispanic/Latino -- Most: Filipinos / Least: Koreans

Wives -- Most / Least Likely to Have a(n) __ Spouse:

- Endogamous -- Most: Asian Indians / Least: Japanese
- Other Asian (Pan-Asian) -- Most: Japanese / Least: Asian Indians
- White -- Most: Japanese / Least: Asian Indians
- Black -- Most: Filipinos / Least: Chinese
- Hispanic/Latino -- Most: Filipinos / Least: Asian Indians

These results can be considered in combination with the Shinagawa and Pang article, which points out that for all Asian ethnic groups and both husbands and wives, the percentage who are intermarrying with Whites has **increased** in recent decades, with the one exception of Japanese American wives. However, their study also finds that all Asian ethnic groups and husbands and wives are also more likely to **marry another Asian** (either within their own ethnic group or some other Asian ethnic group) than before and that despite the increasing popularity of Asian intermarriage with Whites, the data show that these days Asian Americans are much more likely to marry another Asian than to marry a White person.

Nonetheless, intermarriage is making its mark in the Asian American community. The chart from the Census Bureau chart below reports that among the six major Asian American ethnic



groups in 2000, Japanese Americans had the highest proportion of their total population that are in combination with at least one more Asian ethnic group (i.e., Japanese-Chinese) or with at least one other race (i.e., Japanese-White) at over 30%.

Conversely, Vietnamese Americans have the lowest such rates, which makes sense because they are the most recently arrived Asian ethnic group and it is likely to take more time for them to become 'maritally assimilated.' In fact, demographers predict that by the year 2020, almost 20% of all Asian Americans will be multiracial and that figure will climb to 36% by the year 2050.

Now that we have a general picture of what the marriage rates are for all members of each of these six Asian American ethnic groups, on the next page we will take a more specific look at <u>only those Asian Americans who grew up in the U.S.</u> and are therefore most likely to have been socialized within the context of American intergroup relations -- the U.S.-born and those who immigrated to the U.S. as children.

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