

GENDER IMBALANCE IN THE CHINESE AMERICAN POPULATION

YEAR	CHINESE MALES			CHINESE FEMALES		
	Total Males	Resident Aliens	Citizens*	Total Females	Resident Aliens	Citizens*
1860	33,149			1,784		
1870	58,633			4,566		
1880	100,686			4,779		
1890	103,620			3,868		
1900	85,341	78,684	6,657	4,522	2,169	2,353
1910	66,856	54,935	11,921	4,675	1,661	3,014
1920	53,891	40,573	13,318	7,748	2,534	5,214
1930	59,802	39,109	20,693	15,152	4,977	10,175
1940	57,389	25,702	31,687	20,115	5,555	14,560
1950	77,008			40,621		
1960	135,549			101,743		
1970	226,733			204,850		
1980	407,544			398,496		
1990	821,542			827,154		

**Denied the opportunity to become U.S. citizens through naturalization. Chinese were citizens of the United States through birth on U.S. soil or to U.S. citizens no matter where the birth occurred. Breakdown by citizenship indicated when available.

● QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. What was the ratio of males to females in the Chinese community in 1860, 1880, and 1900?

Use the following formula to calculate the ratio:

$$\frac{\text{number of males}}{\text{number of females}} = \text{ratio of males to females}$$

Example: The ratio of males to females in 1980 is

$$\frac{407,544}{398,496} = 1.02 \text{ males for each female}$$

Does this data support the characterization of the early Chinese community as a “bachelor society”?

2. With so few females making up such a small portion of the Chinese American population between 1860 and 1940, how is it possible that by 1940 over half the Chinese American population was categorized as citizens rather than as resident aliens? Do you think they were all born in the United States? Why were so many Chinese able to claim United States citizenship as a birthright?
3. By the 1990’s, there was no longer a significant gender imbalance in the Chinese American population. What factors account for this change? How have immigration patterns and immigration policy changed in ways that no longer promote gender imbalances?