

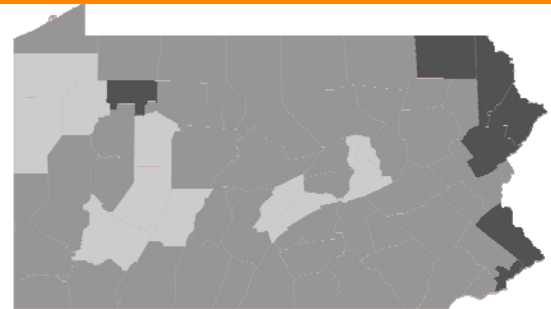
PENNSYLVANIA

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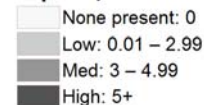
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Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this report provides demographic and economic information about same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in Pennsylvania. We compare same-sex “unmarried partners,” which the Census Bureau defines as an unmarried couple who “shares living quarters and has a close personal relationship,” to different-sex married couples in Pennsylvania.¹

In many ways, the almost 30,000 same-sex couples living in Pennsylvania are similar to married couples. According to Census 2000, they live throughout the State, are racially and ethnically diverse, actively participate in Pennsylvania’s economy, and have partners that depend upon one another financially. Census data also show that 20% of same-sex couples in Pennsylvania are raising children. However, same-sex couples with children have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than do their married counterparts: they have lower household incomes, on average, and lower rates of home ownership.



**Same-sex couple households
per 1,000 households**



SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGBT POPULATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

- In 2000, there were 21,166 same-sex couples living in Pennsylvania.²
- The number of same-sex couples increased to 29,213 by 2005.³ This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were more than 323,000 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Pennsylvania.⁴

INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE

- There are about equal numbers of male and female same-sex couples in Pennsylvania.⁵
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 41 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (49 years old) in Pennsylvania.

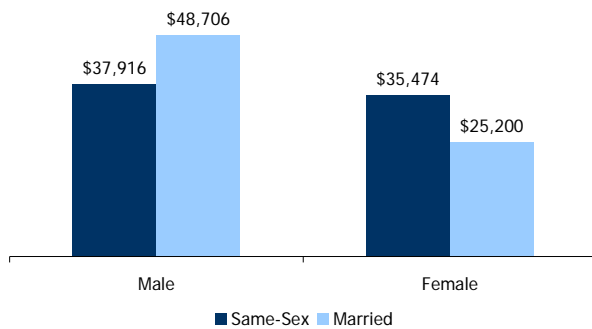
- Same-sex couples live in every county in Pennsylvania and constitute 0.8% of coupled households and 0.44% of all households in the state. Philadelphia County reported the most same-sex couples with 4,308 couples (0.73% of all households in the county), followed by Allegheny County with 2397 couples (0.45%), and Montgomery County with 1294 couples (0.45%). Pike County has the highest proportion of same-sex couples (0.85%).⁶
- Pennsylvania’s same-sex couples are more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 14% of same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 9% of married couples.

PEOPLE IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE STATE ECONOMY

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Pennsylvania are more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 77% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 65% of married individuals.

- Contrary to a popular stereotype, the annual earnings of men in same-sex couples are significantly lower than those of married men. On average, men in same-sex couples in Pennsylvania earn \$37,916 each year, significantly less than \$48,706 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Pennsylvania is \$31,000, or almost 20% less than that of married men (\$38,500).
- Women in same-sex couples in Pennsylvania earn an average of \$35,474 per year (with a median of \$29,000), significantly more than married women, whose earnings average \$25,200 (with a median of \$20,100). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men as well as men in same-sex couples.

Average Individual Earnings



- Individuals in same-sex couples in Pennsylvania are more likely to work in the private sector: 80% of individuals in same-sex partnerships work in the private sector, compared to 77% of married individuals. Approximately 9% of same-sex individuals are self-employed, compared to 11% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to have a college degree: 40% of individuals in same-sex couples and 25% of married individuals have earned a college degree.
- Despite the military's historic policies of excluding gay men and lesbians from service, individuals in same-sex couples have served in the military: 8% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 17% of married individuals.

SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN PENNSYLVANIA DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. Nearly one in five

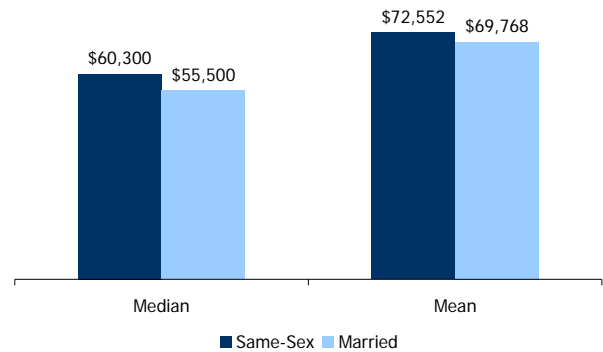
same-sex couples (or 20%) have only one wage earner; a little less than one in three (30%) married couples have a single wage earner.

- A similar percentage of same-sex and married couples in Pennsylvania have at least one partner who is disabled: 28% of same-sex couples, compared to 27% of married couples.
- 10% of same-sex couples have at least one partner over the age of 65, compared to 22% of married couples.

SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN PENNSYLVANIA HAVE APPROXIMATELY THE SAME ECONOMIC RESOURCES AS MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Pennsylvania is \$60,300, which is more than that of married couples (\$55,500). The average household income of same-sex couples is \$72,552, which is not statistically significantly different than \$69,768 for married couples.

Household Incomes

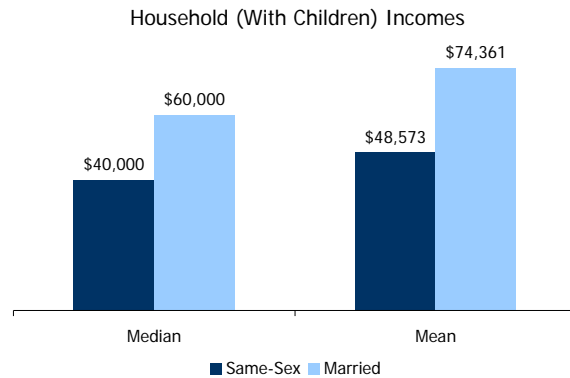


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 63% of same-sex couples in Pennsylvania own their home, compared to 87% of married couples.

SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE RAISING CHILDREN IN PENNSYLVANIA, YET WITH FAR FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES THAN MARRIED PARENTS

- About 20% of same-sex couples in Pennsylvania are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 10,539 of Pennsylvania's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.⁷
- In Pennsylvania, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- Roughly 3.1% of Pennsylvania's adopted children (or 1,950 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.⁸

- Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$40,000, or 33% lower than that of married parents (\$60,000). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$48,573, significantly less than \$74,361 for married parents.
- While 48% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a much larger percentage of married parents (85%) own their home.



CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in Pennsylvania. While in many respects Pennsylvania's same-sex couples look like married couples, those with children have significantly fewer resources to provide for their families and significantly lower rates of home ownership than married parents.

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity ⁹		
White	85.6%	91.4%*
Black	8.2%	4.3%*
Hispanic	4.2%	1.9%*
Asian	.8%	1.7%*
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.1%	<0.1%
Other	1.0%	0.6%
Average age	40.9	49.4*
Percent with a college degree or better	39.8%	25.1%*
Percent Employed	77.4%	64.5%*
Employment		
Private employer	79.7%	76.6% [^]
Public employer	10.9%	12.3%
Self-employed	9.4%	10.8%
Veteran Status	8.2%	17.4%*
Average individual salary		
Men	\$37,916	\$48,706*
Woman	\$35,474	\$25,200*
Median individual salary		
Men	\$31,000	\$38,500
Woman	\$29,000	\$20,100

* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).
[^] Difference significant at the 10% level or better (two-tailed tests).

	Same-Sex	Married
At least one partner over 65	9.8%	21.5%*
Percent disabled	28.3%	26.9%
Average household income	\$72,552	\$69,768
Median household income	\$60,300	\$55,500
Income gap between partners	\$22,423	\$27,998*
Single wage earner	19.6%	30.1%*
Homeownership	63.3%	86.8%*
Percent with children under 18	19.8%	44.4%*

* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).
[^] Difference significant at the 10% level or better (two-tailed tests).

	Same-Sex parents	Married parents
Average number of children under 18 in the household	1.8	1.9
Single wage earner (parents)	25.2%	34% [^]
Average household income (parents)	\$48,573	\$74,361*
Median household income (parents)	\$40,000	\$60,000
Homeownership	48.2%	85.1%*

* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).
[^] Difference significant at the 10% level or better (two-tailed tests).

Appendix A: Counts and percent of same-sex couples by county

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Adams	133	0.40%
Allegheny	2397	0.45%
Armstrong	94	0.32%
Beaver	223	0.31%
Bedford	65	0.33%
Berks	566	0.40%
Blair	162	0.31%
Bradford	85	0.35%
Bucks	1192	0.54%
Butler	202	0.31%
Cambria	176	0.29%
Cameron	9	0.37%
Carbon	95	0.40%
Centre	239	0.48%
Chester	691	0.44%
Clarion	65	0.40%
Clearfield	105	0.32%
Clinton	52	0.35%
Columbia	86	0.35%
Crawford	92	0.27%
Cumberland	315	0.38%
Dauphin	510	0.50%
Delaware	942	0.46%
Elk	52	0.37%
Erie	357	0.34%
Fayette	219	0.37%
Forest	16	0.80%
Franklin	195	0.39%
Fulton	20	0.35%
Greene	47	0.31%
Huntingdon	52	0.31%
Indiana	102	0.30%
Jefferson	49	0.27%
Juniata	24	0.28%
Lackawanna	327	0.38%
Lancaster	668	0.39%
Lawrence	103	0.28%
Lebanon	146	0.31%
Lehigh	541	0.44%
Luzerne	487	0.37%
Lycoming	181	0.39%
McKean	56	0.31%
Mercer	131	0.28%
Mifflin	55	0.30%
Monroe	362	0.73%
Montgomery	1294	0.45%
Montour	18	0.25%
Northampton	410	0.40%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Northumberland	115	0.30%
Perry	57	0.34%
Philadelphia	4308	0.73%
Pike	149	0.85%
Potter	27	0.39%
Schuylkill	189	0.31%
Snyder	62	0.45%
Somerset	112	0.36%
Sullivan	12	0.45%
Susquehanna	91	0.55%
Tioga	53	0.33%
Union	51	0.39%
Venango	62	0.27%
Warren	57	0.32%
Washington	248	0.31%
Wayne	99	0.54%
Westmoreland	404	0.27%
Wyoming	50	0.46%
York	612	0.41%

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Adam P. Romero is Public Policy Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. J.D. Yale Law School; A.B., *summa cum laude*, Cornell University. His current research examines the significance of family in society and law, especially as relevant to disabled adults without family.

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Gary J. Gates is Senior Research Fellow at The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. He studies the demographic and economic characteristics of the lesbian and gay population.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, we calculate the demographic characteristics from the Census 2000 Public Use Microdata Sample (5% file) available from the U.S. Census Bureau. For a detailed discussion of the Census 2000 methodology used in this report, see *Census Snapshot: Methods Note*, available at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/MethodologicalDetailsForCensusSnapshots.pdf>. In estimating numbers of same-sex couples and children raised by same-sex couples, however, we use the total number of same-sex couples from 2005 and the proportion of couples with children from 2000 in order to provide a more up-to-date estimate.

² Tavia Simmons & Martin O'Connell, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, *Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households*, Census 2000 Special Reports, CENSR-5, p. 4, tab. 2 (Feb. 2003).

³ Gary J. Gates, The Williams Institute, *Same-sex Couples and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Population: New Estimates from the American Community Survey*, p. 11, apx. 1, available at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/SameSexCouplesandGLBpopACS.pdf>. Sample sizes for individual states in 2005 are not sufficiently large for the analyses presented in this report, we therefore use data from Census 2000 where samples are on average five times larger than 2005.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Simmons & O'Connell, *supra* note 2.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, *Unmarried Partner Households by Sex of Partners*, PCT14. Percentages of total households computed by dividing data in PCT14 by data in P15 (total households).

⁷ Computed by multiplying the number of same-sex couples times the percent of same-sex couples with children times the average number of children under 18 in the household.

⁸ Gary J. Gates, M.V. Lee Badgett, Kate Chambers, Jennifer Macomber, The Williams Institute & The Urban Institute, *Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States* (2007), available at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/Williamsinstitute/publications/Policy-Adoption-index.html>.

⁹ Due to rounding, percent may not add to 100.

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