

UCLA

Other Recent Work

Title

Legally Married LGB People in the United States

Permalink

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/36g8r4fk>

Authors

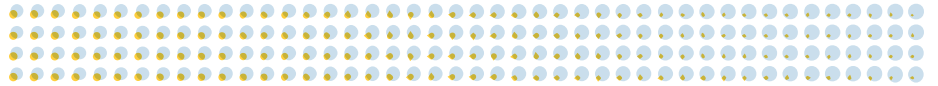
Meyer, Ilan H.
Krueger, Evan A.

Publication Date

2019-06-01

Data Availability

The data associated with this publication are not available for this reason: Licensing Restrictions



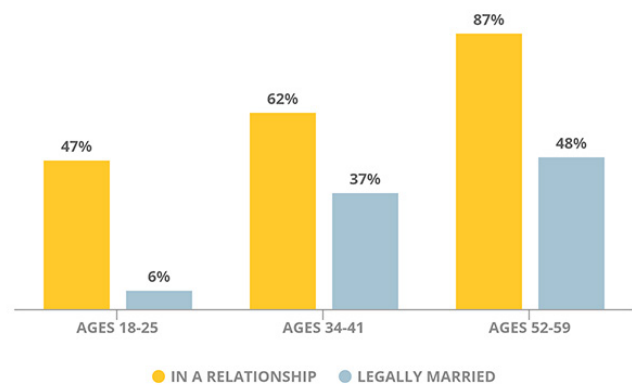
Legally Married LGB People in the United States

AUTHORS:
Ilan H. Meyer
Evan A. Krueger

FACT SHEET / JUNE 2019

New findings from the Generations study, a study of a representative sample of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals (LGB) in the United States, show differences in the proportion of LGB people who are legally married across three cohorts: younger (18-25 years old), middle (34-41 years old) and older (52-59 years old). In 2016-2017, when the data were collected, 59% of the younger cohort, 68% of middle cohort, and 62% of the older cohort were in a relationship with a significant other who was either of the same- or different sex. Of those in a relationship, 47% of younger cohort, 62% of middle cohort, and 87% of older cohort people were in a same-sex relationship. Among people in same-sex relationships only, 6% of younger cohort, 37% of middle cohort, and 48% of older cohort people were legally married. For the entire population, regardless of relationship status, 1.5% of younger cohort, 15% of middle cohort, and 25% of older cohort people were legally married to a same-sex partner.

These findings come from two survey questions about relationships asked of participants in the Generations study, a five-year study of lesbians, gay men, and



bisexuals. The study explores identity, stress, health outcomes, and health care and services utilization among LGBs in three generations (ages 18-25, 34-41, and 52-59 at the time of baseline data collection in 2016-2017). The study investigators targeted these generations to represent U.S. adults who came of age during different historical contexts. The study aims to assess whether younger cohorts of LGBs differ from older cohorts in how they experience stress related to prejudice and everyday forms of discrimination, and whether patterns of resilience differ between different LGB cohorts. Additionally, the study aims to

examine how differences in stress experience affect mental health and well-being, including depressive and anxiety symptoms, substance and alcohol use, and suicide ideation and behavior, and how younger LGBs utilize LGB-oriented social and health services, relative to older cohorts. More about the Generations study can be found [here](#). Information about our sister study of a representative sample of transgender people in the United States can be found [here](#).

Generations is funded by a grant from Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (OD) and Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD grant 1R01HD078526) and through supplemental grants from the National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and the Office of Research on Women's Health. The Generations investigators are Ilan H. Meyer, Ph.D., (PI), David M. Frost, Ph.D., Phillip L. Hammack, Ph.D., Marguerita Lightfoot, Ph.D., Stephen T. Russell, Ph.D. and Bianca D.M. Wilson, Ph.D. (Co-Investigators, listed alphabetically).

ABOUT THE WILLIAMS INSTITUTE

The Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Public Policy at UCLA School of Law advances law and public policy through rigorous, independent research and scholarship, and disseminates its work through a variety of education programs and media to judges, legislators, lawyers, other policymakers and the public. These studies can be accessed at the Williams Institute website.

For more information

The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law
1060 Veteran Ave, Suite 134
Box 951365
Los Angeles, CA 90095
Phone: (310) 267-4382
Email: williamsinstitute@law.ucla.edu
Website: williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu