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Census Snapshot: Kentucky

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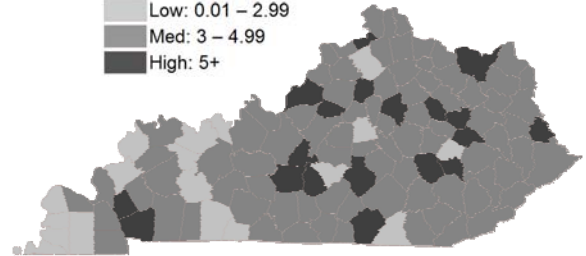
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Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this report provides demographic and economic information about same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in Kentucky. We compare same-sex “unmarried partners,” which the Census Bureau defines as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

In many ways, the more than 9,700 same-sex couples living in Kentucky are similar to married couples. According to Census 2000, they live throughout the State, are racially and ethnically diverse, have partners who depend upon one another financially, and actively participate in Kentucky's economy. Census data also show that 15% of same-sex couples in Kentucky are raising children. However, same-sex couples with children have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than married parents: they have lower household incomes and lower rates of homeownership.

Same-sex couple households
per 1,000 households

None present: 0
Low: 0.01 – 2.99
Med: 3 – 4.99
High: 5+



SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION IN KENTUCKY

- In 2000, there were 7,114 same-sex couples living in Kentucky.²
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 9,710.³ This increase likely reflects same-sex couples' growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 106,094 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Kentucky.⁴

INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE

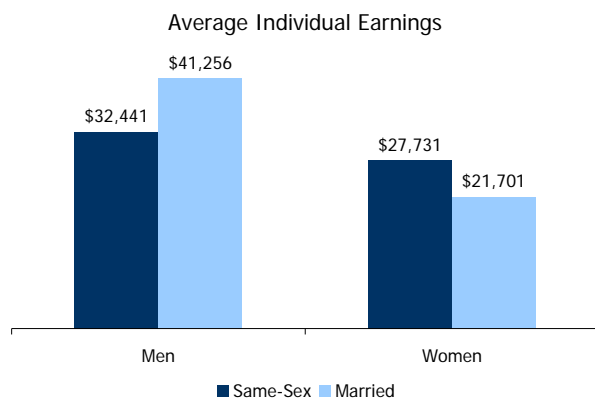
- There are more female same-sex couples (53%) than male same-sex couples (47%) in Kentucky.⁵
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 40 years old, significantly younger than individuals in married couples (47 years old) in Kentucky.

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Kentucky and constitute 0.8% of coupled households and 0.4% of all households in the state. Jefferson County reported the most same-sex couples with 1,514 couples (0.53% of all county households), followed by Fayette County with 757 couples (0.70%), and Kenton County with 292 couples (0.49%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Lyon County (0.97% of all county households), Lewis County (0.81%), and Menifee County (0.75%).⁶
- Kentucky's same-sex couples are more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 8% of individuals in same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 6% of married individuals.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Kentucky are significantly more likely to be employed than married individuals: 72% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 62% 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 Kentucky earn \$32,441 each year, significantly less than \$41,256 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Kentucky is \$31,000, or 6% less than that of married men (\$33,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in Kentucky earn an average of \$27,731 per year (with a median of \$23,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$21,701 (with a median of \$18,000). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men as well as men in same-sex couples.



- Individuals in same-sex and married couples in Kentucky are most likely to work in the private sector: 70% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 72% of married individuals; 20% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 16% of married individuals; and 10% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 12% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree: 37% of individuals in same-sex couples, and 19% 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: 9% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 16% of married individuals.

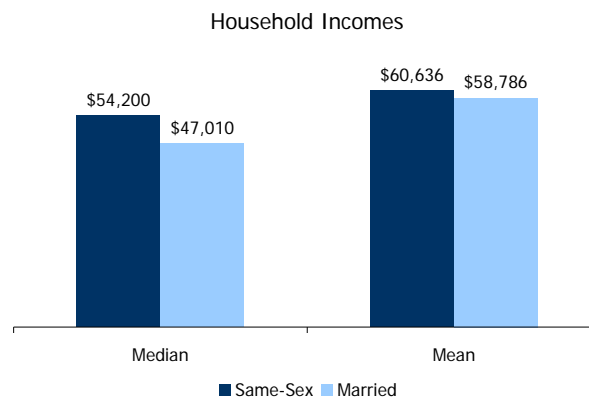
SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN KENTUCKY DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may be financially interdependent. 26% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 32% of married couples.

- The mean income gap between same-sex partners is \$16,475, compared to \$23,220 for married spouses.
- 32% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 36% of married couples.
- 11% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 17% of married couples.

SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN KENTUCKY HAVE SIMILAR ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Kentucky is \$54,200, compared to \$47,010 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$60,636, compared to \$58,786 for married couples.

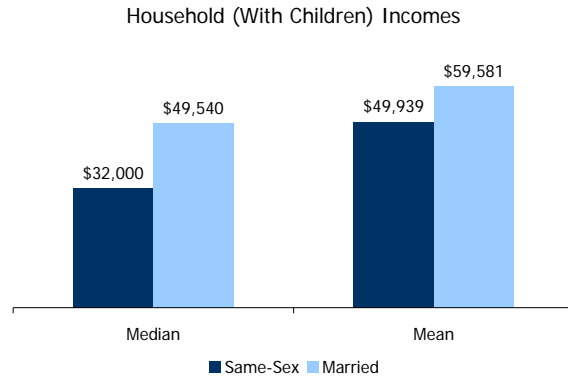


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 58% of same-sex couples in Kentucky own their home, compared to 84% of married couples.

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

- 15% of same-sex couples in Kentucky are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 2,469 of Kentucky's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.⁷
- In Kentucky, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, two children.
- More than 1% of Kentucky's adopted children (or 248 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.⁸
- 44% of Kentucky's same-sex parents have only one wage earner, compared to 35% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Kentucky. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$32,000, or 35% lower than that of married parents (\$49,540). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$49,939, less than that of married parents (\$59,581).
- While 54% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (80%) own their home.



CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in Kentucky. While in many respects Kentucky’s same-sex couples look like married couples, same-sex couples with children have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than married parents and lower rates of homeownership.

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity ⁹		
White	92.3%	93.9%
Black	4.2%	3.6%
Hispanic	1.6%	0.9%
Asian	0.7%	0.7%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5%	0.2%
Other	0.7%	0.7%
Average age*	39.8	46.9
Percent with college degree or better*	36.5%	18.5%
Percent employed*	72.2%	62.2%
Employment ⁹		
Private employer	69.7%	71.9%
Public employer	19.8%	16.0%
Self-employed	10.5%	11.7%
Veteran status*	8.6%	15.5%
Average individual salary		
Men*	\$32,441	\$41,256
Women*	\$27,731	\$21,701
Median individual salary		
Men	\$31,000	\$33,000
Women	\$23,000	\$18,000

* 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 65 or over [^]	11.1%	17.2%
Percent disabled	32.0%	35.9%
Average household income	\$60,636	\$58,786
Median household income	\$54,200	\$47,010
Income gap between partners*	\$16,475	\$23,220
Single wage earner	26.3%	32.2%
Homeownership*	57.6%	83.8%
Percent with children under 18*	15.0%	46.3%

* 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	1.7	1.8
Single wage earner (parents)	43.8%	35.2%
Average household income (parents)	\$49,939	\$59,581
Median household income (parents)	\$32,000	\$49,540
Homeownership (parents)*	54.4%	79.8%

* 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
Adair	28	0.41%
Allen	31	0.45%
Anderson	31	0.42%
Ballard	6	0.18%
Barren	62	0.40%
Bath	15	0.34%
Bell	54	0.45%
Boone	135	0.43%
Bourbon	34	0.44%
Boyd	70	0.35%
Boyle	43	0.41%
Bracken	11	0.34%
Breathitt	22	0.36%
Breckinridge	27	0.37%
Bullitt	86	0.39%
Butler	19	0.38%
Caldwell	17	0.31%
Calloway	49	0.35%
Campbell	153	0.44%
Carlisle	5	0.23%
Carroll	18	0.46%
Carter	48	0.46%
Casey	32	0.51%
Christian	97	0.39%
Clark	43	0.33%
Clay	40	0.47%
Clinton	13	0.32%
Crittenden	10	0.26%
Cumberland	9	0.30%
Daviess	108	0.30%
Edmonson	22	0.47%
Elliott	12	0.45%
Estill	20	0.33%
Fayette	757	0.70%
Fleming	26	0.48%
Floyd	70	0.41%
Franklin	101	0.51%
Fulton	7	0.22%
Gallatin	15	0.52%
Garrard	20	0.35%
Grant	35	0.43%
Graves	43	0.29%
Grayson	40	0.42%
Green	27	0.57%
Greenup	53	0.36%
Hancock	7	0.22%
Hardin	131	0.38%
Harlan	62	0.47%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Harrison	24	0.34%
Hart	36	0.53%
Henderson	70	0.39%
Henry	27	0.46%
Hickman	2	0.09%
Hopkins	70	0.37%
Jackson	30	0.57%
Jefferson	1514	0.53%
Jessamine	55	0.40%
Johnson	42	0.46%
Kenton	292	0.49%
Knott	22	0.33%
Knox	54	0.43%
Larue	28	0.53%
Laurel	90	0.44%
Lawrence	21	0.35%
Lee	8	0.27%
Leslie	16	0.33%
Letcher	32	0.32%
Lewis	44	0.81%
Lincoln	34	0.37%
Livingston	15	0.38%
Logan	25	0.24%
Lyon	28	0.97%
McCracken	107	0.39%
McCreary	19	0.29%
McLean	11	0.28%
Madison	98	0.36%
Magoffin	21	0.42%
Marion	25	0.38%
Marshall	60	0.48%
Martin	28	0.59%
Mason	22	0.32%
Meade	44	0.46%
Menifee	19	0.75%
Mercer	25	0.30%
Metcalfe	15	0.37%
Monroe	20	0.42%
Montgomery	59	0.66%
Morgan	21	0.44%
Muhlenberg	37	0.30%
Nelson	51	0.37%
Nicholas	9	0.33%
Ohio	34	0.38%
Oldham	57	0.38%
Owen	9	0.22%
Owsley	10	0.53%
Pendleton	25	0.48%

Appendix A: Counts and percent of same-sex couples by county (continued from previous page)

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Perry	56	0.49%
Pike	107	0.39%
Powell	16	0.32%
Pulaski	73	0.32%
Robertson	3	0.35%
Rockcastle	26	0.40%
Rowan	27	0.34%
Russell	31	0.45%
Scott	54	0.45%
Shelby	58	0.48%
Simpson	18	0.28%
Spencer	22	0.52%
Taylor	25	0.27%
Todd	15	0.33%
Trigg	36	0.69%
Trimble	10	0.32%
Union	17	0.30%
Warren	155	0.44%
Washington	13	0.32%
Wayne	45	0.57%
Webster	26	0.47%
Whitley	56	0.41%
Wolfe	20	0.71%
Woodford	36	0.40%

About the Authors

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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M.V. Lee Badgett is Research Director at The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is also on the faculty of the Department of Economics. Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley. She studies family policy and employment discrimination related to sexual orientation.

Gary J. Gates is Senior Research Fellow at The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. Ph.D. Carnegie Mellon. 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* (2006), 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, percentages may not add to 100.

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