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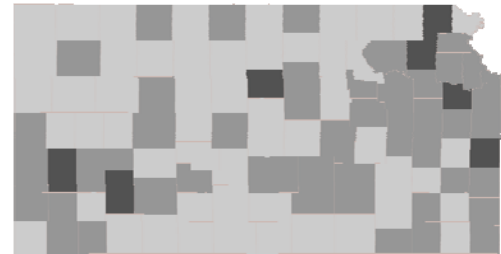
2008

## KANSAS

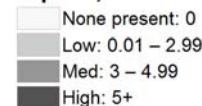
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Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this report provides demographic and economic information about same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in Kansas. We compare same-sex “unmarried partners,” which the Census Bureau defines as an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



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



In many ways, the more than 6,500 same-sex couples living in Kansas 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 Kansas’s economy. Census data also show that 17% of same-sex couples in Kansas are raising children. However, same-sex couples, especially those with children, have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than their married counterparts: they have lower household incomes and lower rates of home ownership.

### **SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION IN KANSAS**

- In 2000, there were 3,973 same-sex couples living in Kansas.<sup>2</sup>
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 6,663.<sup>3</sup> This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 72,557 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Kansas.<sup>4</sup>

### **INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE**

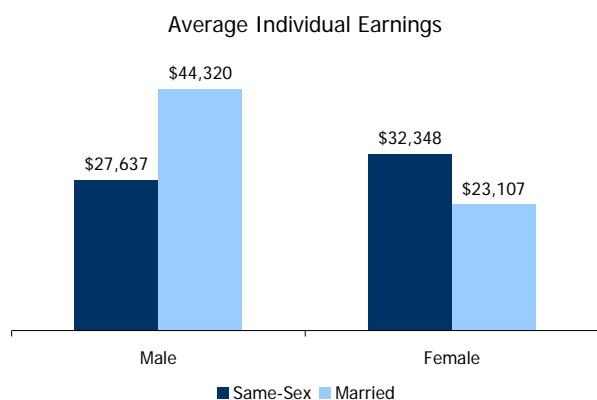
- There are more female same-sex couples (52%) than male same-sex couples (48%) in Kansas.<sup>5</sup>
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 39 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (48 years old) in Kansas.

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Kansas and constitute 0.7% of coupled households and 0.4% of all households in the state. Sedgwick County reported the most same-sex couples with 820 couples (0.46% of all households in the county), followed by Johnson County with 679 couples (0.39%), and Wyandotte County with 298 couples (0.50%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Kearny County (0.71% of all county households), Jackson County (0.68%), and Douglas County (0.62%).<sup>6</sup>
- Kansas’s same-sex couples are as racially and ethnically diverse as their married counterparts: 12% of same-sex and married couples are nonwhite.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Kansas are more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 73% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 69% 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 Kansas earn \$27,637 each year, significantly less than \$44,320 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Kansas is \$24,000, or 31% less than that of married men (\$35,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in Kansas earn an average of \$32,348 per year (with a median of \$25,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$23,107 (with a median of \$20,000). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men but more than men in same-sex couples.



- Individuals in same-sex couples in Kansas are more likely to work in the private sector: 85% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 69% of married individuals; 9% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 17% of married individuals; and 6% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 14% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex and married couples are almost equally likely to have a college degree: 26% of individuals in same-sex couples and 28% 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: 11% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 16% of married individuals.

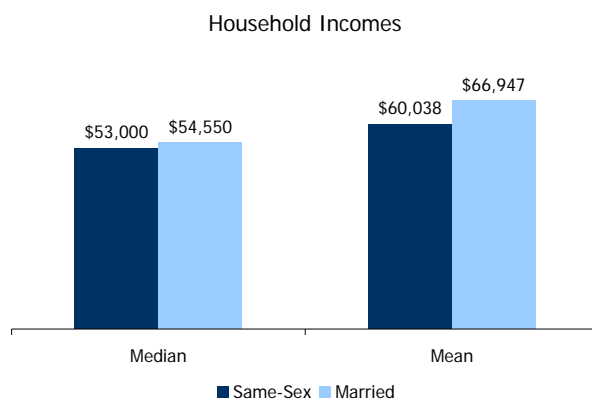
#### **SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN KANSAS DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES**

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. 31% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 28% of married couples.

- The income gap between same-sex partners is \$21,343, compared to \$26,042 for married spouses.
- A significantly larger percentage of same-sex couples in Kansas have at least one partner who is disabled: 41% of same-sex couples, compared to 26% of married couples.
- 11% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 19% of married couples.

#### **SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN KANSAS HAVE FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES THAN MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS**

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Kansas is \$53,000, less than that of married couples (\$54,550). The average household income of same-sex couples is \$60,038, less than \$66,947 for married couples.

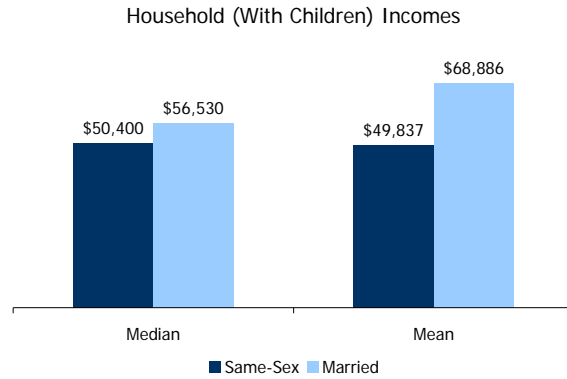


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 63% of same-sex couples in Kansas own their home, compared to 84% of married couples.

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

- About 17% of same-sex couples in Kansas are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 1,797 of Kansas's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.<sup>7</sup>
- In Kansas, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- More than 2% of Kansas's adopted children (or 462 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.<sup>8</sup>
- 26% of same-sex parents have only one wage earner, compared to 30% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents have far fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Kansas. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$50,400, or 11% lower than that of married parents (\$56,530). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$49,837, significantly less than \$68,886 for married parents.
- While 57% 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 Kansas. While in many respects Kansas's same-sex couples look like married couples, same-sex couples—especially those with children—have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than their married counterparts and lower rates of homeownership.

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity <sup>9</sup>		
White	88.4%	88.4%
Black	6.8%	3.1%*
Hispanic	3.9%	5.1%
Asian	0.0%	1.6%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.9%	0.6%
Other	0.0%	1.1%
Average age	39.3	47.6*
Percent with a college degree or better	25.6%	28.2%
Percent Employed	72.6%	69.4%
Employment <sup>9</sup>		
Private employer	85.1%	69.0%*
Public employer	9.0%	17.0%*
Self-employed	5.8%	13.7%*
Veteran Status	10.7%	16.3% <sup>^</sup>
Average individual salary		
Men	\$27,637	\$44,320*
Women	\$32,348	\$23,107 <sup>^</sup>
Median individual salary		
Men	\$24,000	\$35,000
Women	\$25,000	\$20,000

\* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).  
<sup>^</sup> Difference significant at the 10% level or better (two-tailed tests).

	Same-Sex	Married
At least one partner 65 or older	11.0%	18.7%
Percent disabled	40.6%	26.3%*
Average household income	\$60,038	\$66,947
Median household income	\$53,000	\$54,550
Income gap between partners	\$21,343	\$26,042
Single wage earner	30.7%	28.2%
Homeownership	63.2%	83.7%*
Percent with children under 18	16.6%	47.7%*

\* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).  
<sup>^</sup> 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	1.6	2.0*
Single wage earner (parents)	25.8%	30.1%
Average household income (parents)	\$49,837	\$68,886*
Median household income (parents)	\$50,400	\$56,530
Homeownership	56.6%	79.7%*

\* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).  
<sup>^</sup> 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
Allen	20	0.35%
Anderson	6	0.19%
Atchison	19	0.30%
Barber	1	0.04%
Barton	36	0.32%
Bourbon	22	0.36%
Brown	25	0.58%
Butler	71	0.33%
Chase	3	0.24%
Chautauqua	7	0.39%
Cherokee	29	0.33%
Cheyenne	3	0.22%
Clark	2	0.20%
Clay	9	0.25%
Cloud	9	0.22%
Coffey	11	0.32%
Comanche	1	0.11%
Cowley	34	0.24%
Crawford	55	0.35%
Decatur	3	0.20%
Dickinson	20	0.25%
Doniphan	7	0.22%
Douglas	239	0.62%
Edwards	5	0.34%
Elk	1	0.07%
Ellis	23	0.21%
Ellsworth	2	0.08%
Finney	50	0.39%
Ford	48	0.44%
Franklin	39	0.41%
Geary	44	0.42%
Gove	3	0.24%
Graham	1	0.08%
Grant	13	0.47%
Gray	11	0.54%
Greeley	3	0.50%
Greenwood	6	0.19%
Hamilton	4	0.38%
Harper	5	0.18%
Harvey	40	0.32%
Haskell	3	0.20%
Hodgeman	1	0.13%
Jackson	32	0.68%
Jefferson	28	0.41%
Jewell	3	0.18%
Johnson	679	0.39%
Kearny	11	0.71%
Kingman	10	0.30%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Kiowa	2	0.15%
Labette	22	0.24%
Lane	2	0.22%
Leavenworth	72	0.31%
Lincoln	9	0.59%
Linn	20	0.53%
Logan	2	0.16%
Lyon	42	0.31%
Marion	23	0.45%
Marshall	10	0.22%
McPherson	29	0.26%
Meade	3	0.17%
Miami	34	0.33%
Mitchell	7	0.25%
Montgomery	54	0.36%
Morris	9	0.35%
Morton	1	0.08%
Nemaha	8	0.20%
Neosho	16	0.24%
Ness	5	0.33%
Norton	8	0.35%
Osage	27	0.42%
Osborne	5	0.26%
Ottawa	8	0.33%
Pawnee	5	0.18%
Phillips	5	0.20%
Pottawatomie	21	0.31%
Pratt	8	0.20%
Rawlins	2	0.16%
Reno	77	0.30%
Republic	9	0.35%
Rice	11	0.27%
Riley	61	0.28%
Rooks	7	0.30%
Rush	4	0.26%
Russell	9	0.28%
Saline	81	0.38%
Scott	4	0.20%
Sedgwick	820	0.46%
Seward	34	0.46%
Shawnee	291	0.42%
Sheridan	2	0.18%
Sherman	7	0.25%
Smith	7	0.36%
Stafford	3	0.15%
Stanton	3	0.35%
Stevens	9	0.45%
Sumner	28	0.28%

**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
Thomas	12	0.37%
Trego	5	0.35%
Wabaunsee	9	0.34%
Wallace	2	0.30%
Washington	7	0.26%
Wichita	1	0.10%
Wilson	13	0.31%
Woodson	3	0.18%
Wyandotte	298	0.50%

## 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.

**Clifford J. Rosky** is Research Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. J.D. Yale Law School; B.A., *summa cum laude*, Amherst College. His current research examines the significance of gender in family law cases involving lesbian and gay parents.

**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. 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. He studies the demographic and economic characteristics of the lesbian and gay population.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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).

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Simmons & O'Connell, *supra* note 2.

<sup>6</sup> 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).

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> 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>.

<sup>9</sup> Due to rounding, percent may not add to 100.

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