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Census Snapshot: Connecticut

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Publication Date

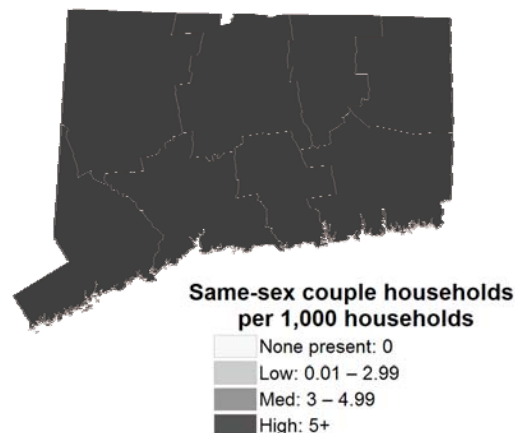
2008-04-01

CONNECTICUT

APRIL 2008

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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 Connecticut. 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 Connecticut.¹



In many ways, the more than 10,000 same-sex couples living in Connecticut 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 Connecticut’s economy. Census data also show that about 19% of same-sex couples in Connecticut 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 home ownership.

SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION IN CONNECTICUT

- In 2000, there were 7,386 same-sex couples living in Connecticut.²
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 10,174.³ This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 115,511 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Connecticut.⁴

INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE

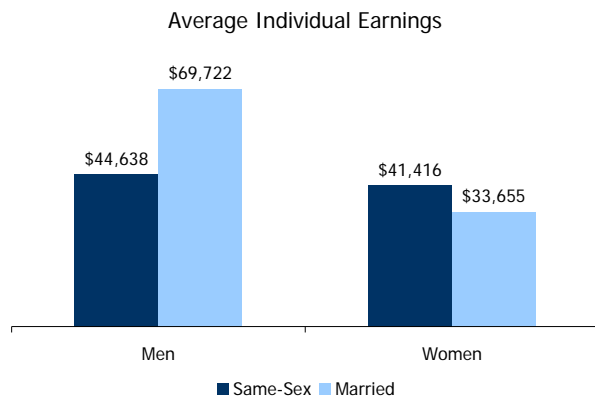
- There are more female same-sex couples (52%) than male same-sex couples (48%) in Connecticut.⁵
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 42 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (49 years old) in Connecticut.

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Connecticut and constitute 1.1% of coupled households and 0.57% of all households in the state. Hartford County reported the most same-sex couples with 1,977 couples (0.59% of all county households), followed by Fairfield County with 1,846 couples (0.57%), and New Haven County with 1,750 couples (0.55%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Litchfield County (0.60% of all county households), Hartford County (0.59%), and Middlesex County (0.57%).⁶
- Connecticut’s same-sex couples are significantly more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 20% of individuals in same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared with 14% of married individuals.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Connecticut are significantly more likely to be employed than married individuals: 78% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 68% 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 Connecticut earn \$44,638 each year, significantly less than \$69,722 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Connecticut is \$36,000, or 26% less than that of married men (\$48,900).
- Women in same-sex couples in Connecticut earn an average of \$41,416 per year (with a median of \$35,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$33,655 (with a median of \$27,000). 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 Connecticut are most likely to work in the private sector: 74% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 73% of married individuals; 16% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 14% 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: 41% of individuals in same-sex couples and 36% 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: 12% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 15% of married individuals.

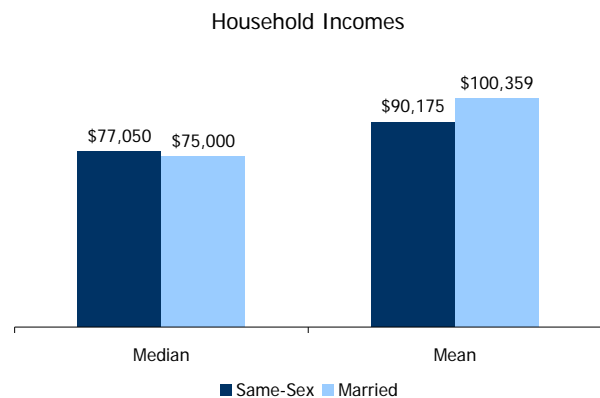
SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN CONNECTICUT DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. 24% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 29% of married couples.

- The average income gap between same-sex partners in Connecticut is \$30,988, compared to \$43,383 for married spouses.
- 22% of same-sex and 24% of married couples in Connecticut have at least one disabled partner.
- 11% of same-sex couples in Connecticut have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 19% of married couples.

SAME-SEX AND MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS IN CONNECTICUT HAVE SIMILAR ECONOMIC RESOURCES

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Connecticut is \$77,050, compared to \$75,000 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$90,175, significantly less than \$100,359 for married couples.

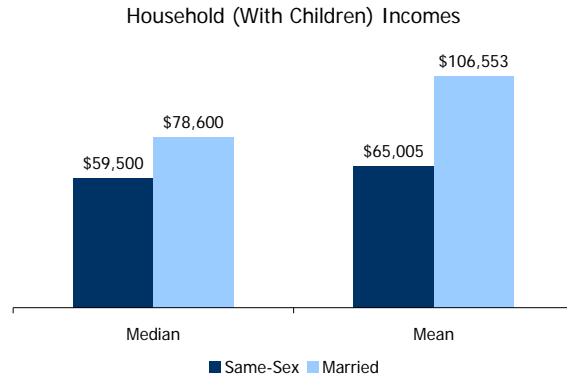


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 63% of same-sex couples in Connecticut own their home, compared to 83% of married couples.

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

- 19% of same-sex couples in Connecticut are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 3,140 of Connecticut's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.⁷
- In Connecticut, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- 5% of Connecticut's adopted children (or 873 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.⁸
- 38% of Connecticut's same-sex parents have one wage earner, compared to 33% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Connecticut. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$59,500, or 24% lower than that of married parents (\$78,600). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$65,005, significantly less than \$106,553 for married parents.
- While 52% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (81%) own their home.



CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in Connecticut. While in many respects Connecticut'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 home ownership.

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity ⁹		
White*	80.2%	85.6%
Black*	7.3%	4.7%
Hispanic*	9.5%	5.7%
Asian [^]	1.3%	2.6%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.4%	0.2%
Other	1.4%	1.2%
Average age*	41.7	48.8
Percent with college degree or better*	41.0%	36.2%
Percent employed*	77.7%	68.5%
Employment ⁹		
Private employer	73.8%	72.9%
Public employer	16.4%	14.4%
Self-employed	9.8%	12.4%
Veteran status*	11.5%	15.3%
Average individual salary		
Men*	\$44,638	\$69,722
Women*	\$41,416	\$33,655
Median individual salary		
Men	\$36,000	\$48,900
Women	\$35,000	\$27,000

* 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 older*	10.6%	19.3%
Percent disabled	22.0%	24.2%
Average household income*	\$90,175	\$100,359
Median household income	\$77,050	\$75,000
Average income gap*	\$30,988	\$43,383
Single wage earner	23.9%	28.9%
Homeownership*	63.5%	83.3%
Percent with children under 18*	18.7%	47.5%

* 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 [^]	1.6	1.9
Single wage earner (parents)	38.4%	32.7%
Average household income (parents)*	\$65,005	\$106,553
Median household income (parents)	\$59,500	\$78,600
Homeownership (parents)*	51.8%	81.4%

* 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
Fairfield	1846	0.57%
Hartford	1977	0.59%
Litchfield	428	0.60%
Middlesex	352	0.57%
New Haven	1750	0.55%
New London	538	0.54%
Tolland	276	0.56%
Windham	219	0.53%

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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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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