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Census Snapshot: Ohio

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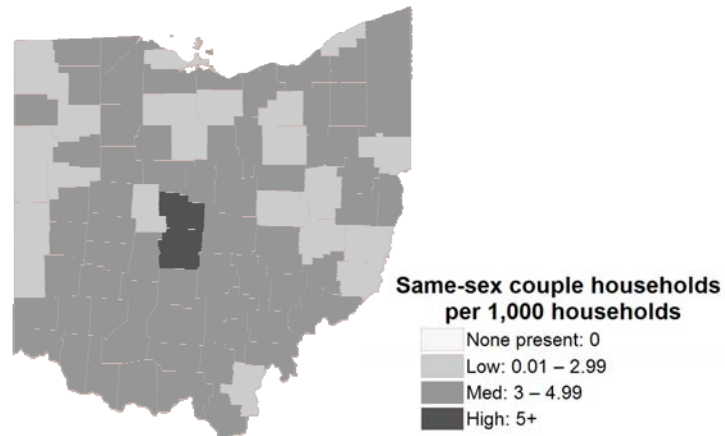
Romero, Adam P  
Rosky, Clifford J  
Badgett, M.V. Lee  
et al.

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**Adam P. Romero, *Public Policy Fellow***  
**Clifford J. Rosky, *Research Fellow***  
**M.V. Lee Badgett, *Research Director***  
**Gary J. Gates, *Senior Research Fellow***

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 Ohio. 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 Ohio.<sup>1</sup>



In many ways, the almost 31,000 same-sex couples living in Ohio 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 Ohio's economy. Census data also show that 22% of same-sex couples in Ohio 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 homeownership.

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

- In 2000, there were 18,937 same-sex couples living in Ohio.<sup>2</sup>
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 30,669.<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 335,110 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Ohio.<sup>4</sup>

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

- There are more female same-sex couples (51%) than male same-sex couples (49%) in Ohio.<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 Ohio.

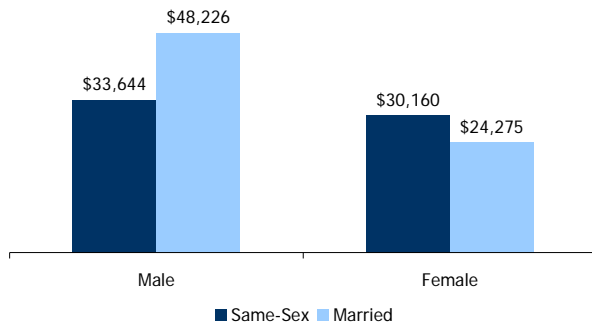
- Same-sex couples live in every county in Ohio and constitute 0.8% of coupled households and 0.4% of all households in the state. Franklin County reported the most same-sex couples with 3,241 couples (0.74% of all county households), followed by Cuyahoga County with 2,694 couples (0.47%), and Hamilton County with 1,620 couples (0.47%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Franklin County (0.74% of all county households), Delaware County (0.55%), and Mergers County (0.49%).<sup>6</sup>
- Ohio'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 Ohio are significantly more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 79% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 66% 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 Ohio earn \$33,644 each year, significantly less than \$48,226 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Ohio is \$30,000, or 24% less than that of married men (\$39,600).
- Women in same-sex couples in Ohio earn an average of \$30,160 per year (with a median of \$24,600), more than married women, whose earnings average \$24,275 (with a median of \$20,000). 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 and married couples in Ohio are most likely to work in the private sector: 76% of individuals in same-sex and married couples work in the private sector; 15% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 13% of married individuals; and 9% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 10% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree: 34% of individuals in same-sex couples and 23% 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 17% of married individuals.

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

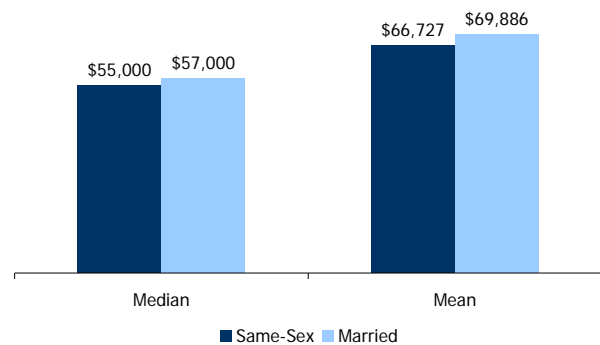
- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. 20% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 30% of married couples.

- The income gap between same-sex partners is \$19,784, compared to \$28,428 for married spouses.
- A larger percentage of same-sex couples in Ohio have at least one partner who is disabled: 29% of same-sex couples, compared to 27% of married couples.
- 7% 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 OHIO HAVE FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES THAN MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Ohio is \$55,000, less than that of married couples (\$57,000). The average household income of same-sex couples is \$66,727, less than \$69,886 for married couples.

Household Incomes

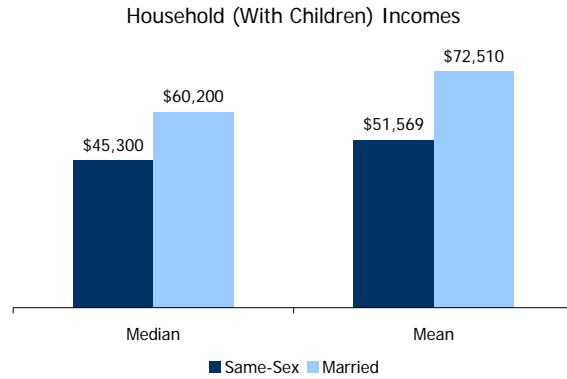


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 58% of same-sex couples in Ohio own their home, compared to 86% of married couples.

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

- About 22% of same-sex couples in Ohio are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 11,950 of Ohio's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.<sup>7</sup>
- In Ohio, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- More than 2% of Ohio's adopted children (or 1,335 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.<sup>8</sup>
- 25% of same-sex parents have only one wage earner, compared to 33% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents have far fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Ohio. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$45,300, or 25% lower than that of married parents (\$60,200). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$51,569, significantly less than \$72,510 for married parents.
- While 54% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (83%) own their home.



## CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in Ohio. While in many respects Ohio'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	86.1%	90.7%*
Black	9.1%	5.7%*
Hispanic	2.0%	1.3%^
Asian	0.9%	1.3%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.1%	0.2%
Other	1.7%	0.8%*
Average age	39.3	48.2*
Percent with a college degree or better	34.4%	23.5%*
Percent Employed	79.1%	66.2%*
Employment <sup>9</sup>		
Private employer	76.0%	76.1%
Public employer	15.1%	13.4%
Self-employed	8.8%	10.3%
Veteran Status	8.7%	17.0%*
Average individual salary		
Men	\$33,644	\$48,226*
Woman	\$30,160	\$24,275*
Median individual salary		
Men	\$30,000	\$39,600
Woman	\$24,600	\$20,000

\* 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	7.0%	19.1%*
Percent disabled	29.5%	26.9%
Average household income	\$66,727	\$69,886
Median household income	\$55,000	\$57,000
Income gap between partners	\$19,784	\$28,428*
Single wage earner	20.3%	29.9%*
Homeownership	57.8%	85.6%*
Percent with children under 18	22.4%	46.0%*

\* 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	1.9^
Single wage earner (parents)	24.8%	32.8%^
Average household income (parents)	\$51,569	\$72,510*
Median household income (parents)	\$45,300	\$60,200
Homeownership	54.3%	82.6%*

\* 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	35	0.33%
Allen	128	0.31%
Ashland	76	0.39%
Ashtabula	163	0.41%
Athens	98	0.44%
Auglaize	31	0.18%
Belmont	79	0.28%
Brown	61	0.39%
Butler	456	0.37%
Carroll	37	0.33%
Champaign	45	0.30%
Clark	206	0.36%
Clermont	275	0.42%
Clinton	54	0.35%
Columbiana	124	0.29%
Coshocton	40	0.28%
Crawford	53	0.28%
Cuyahoga	2694	0.47%
Darke	49	0.24%
Defiance	35	0.23%
Delaware	219	0.55%
Erie	103	0.32%
Fairfield	171	0.38%
Fayette	50	0.45%
Franklin	3241	0.74%
Fulton	52	0.34%
Gallia	36	0.30%
Geauga	102	0.32%
Greene	215	0.39%
Guernsey	34	0.21%
Hamilton	1620	0.47%
Hancock	126	0.45%
Hardin	37	0.31%
Harrison	23	0.36%
Henry	36	0.33%
Highland	51	0.33%
Hocking	41	0.38%
Holmes	54	0.48%
Huron	51	0.23%
Jackson	50	0.40%
Jefferson	104	0.34%
Knox	91	0.46%
Lake	267	0.30%
Lawrence	117	0.47%
Licking	234	0.42%
Logan	65	0.36%
Lorain	382	0.36%
Lucas	881	0.48%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Madison	53	0.39%
Mahoning	313	0.31%
Marion	80	0.33%
Medina	163	0.30%
Meigs	45	0.49%
Mercer	33	0.22%
Miami	125	0.33%
Monroe	18	0.30%
Montgomery	1078	0.47%
Morgan	21	0.36%
Morrow	42	0.37%
Muskingum	112	0.34%
Noble	15	0.33%
Ottawa	45	0.27%
Paulding	27	0.35%
Perry	53	0.42%
Pickaway	69	0.39%
Pike	40	0.38%
Portage	196	0.35%
Preble	48	0.30%
Putnam	26	0.21%
Richland	174	0.35%
Ross	115	0.42%
Sandusky	80	0.34%
Scioto	108	0.35%
Seneca	64	0.29%
Shelby	69	0.39%
Stark	495	0.33%
Summit	955	0.44%
Trumbull	273	0.31%
Tuscarawas	104	0.29%
Union	40	0.28%
Van Wert	31	0.27%
Vinton	18	0.37%
Warren	189	0.34%
Washington	82	0.33%
Wayne	112	0.28%
Williams	36	0.24%
Wood	167	0.37%
Wyandot	31	0.35%

## 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.

For more information, contact:  
**The Williams Institute**  
UCLA School of Law  
Box 951476  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476  
T (310)267-4382  
F (310)825-7270  
[williamsinstitute@law.ucla.edu](mailto:williamsinstitute@law.ucla.edu)  
[www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute](http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute)