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Census Snapshot: Arizona

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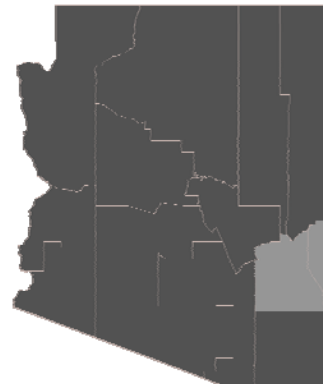
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ARIZONA

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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 Arizona. 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 Arizona.¹



Same-sex couple households
per 1,000 households

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

In many ways, the almost 17,000 same-sex couples living in Arizona 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 Arizona’s economy. Census data also show that 18% of same-sex couples in Arizona 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 COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION IN ARIZONA

- In 2000, there were 12,332 same-sex couples living in Arizona.²
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 16,931.³ This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 191,663 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Arizona.⁴

INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE

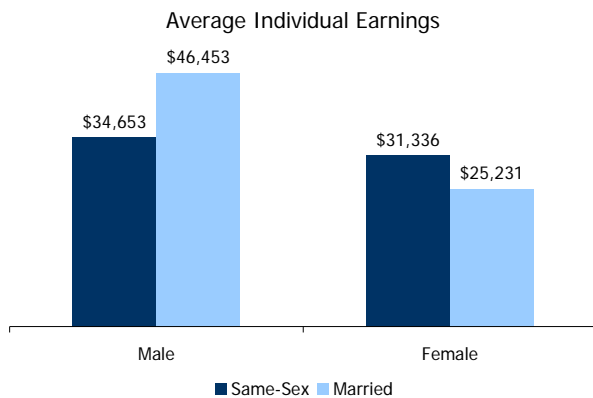
- There are more male same-sex couples (51%) than female same-sex couples (49%) in Arizona.⁵
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 40 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (48 years old) in Arizona.

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Arizona and constitute 1.1% of coupled households and 0.6% of all households in the state. Maricopa County reported the most same-sex couples with 7,627 couples (0.67% of all county households), followed by Pima County with 2,244 couples (0.68%), and Pinal County with 398 couples (0.65%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are La Paz County (0.78% of all county households), Apache County (0.71%), and Pima County (0.68%).⁶
- Arizona’s same-sex couples are as racially and ethnically diverse as their married counterparts: 26% 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 Arizona are significantly more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 78% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 59% 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 Arizona earn \$34,653 each year, significantly less than \$46,453 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Arizona is \$26,000, or 26% less than that of married men (\$35,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in Arizona earn an average of \$31,336 per year (with a median of \$26,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$25,231 (with a median of \$20,400). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men as well as men in same-sex couples.



- Individuals in same-sex couples in Arizona are more likely to work in the private sector: 78% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 70% of married individuals; 11% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 17% of married individuals; and 11% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 13% 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 25% 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: 14% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 19% of married individuals.

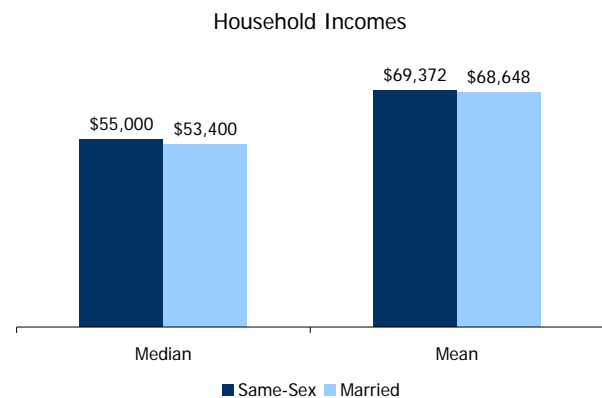
SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN ARIZONA DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may be financially interdependent. 24% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 32% of married couples.

- The income gap between same-sex partners is \$23,826, compared to \$26,585 for married spouses.
- 26% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 31% of married couples.
- 6% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 23% of married couples.

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

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Arizona is \$55,000, compared to \$53,400 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$69,372, compared to \$68,648 for married couples.

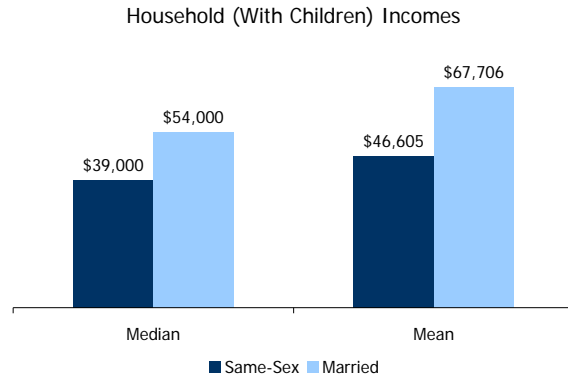


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 63% of same-sex couples in Arizona own their home, compared to 81% of married couples.

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

- About 18% of same-sex couples in Arizona are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 5,321 of Arizona's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.⁷
- In Arizona, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- Roughly 2% of Arizona's adopted children (or 543 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.⁸

- Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Arizona. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$39,000, or 28% lower than that of married parents (\$54,000). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$46,605, significantly less than \$67,706 for married parents.
- While 46% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a much larger percentage of married parents (75%) own their home.



CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in Arizona. While in many respects Arizona'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	73.7%	73.5%
Black	2.5%	1.7%
Hispanic	16.2%	18.9% [^]
Asian	1.2%	2.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3.8%	2.6% [^]
Other	2.6%	1.2% [*]
Average age	39.7	48.4 [*]
Percent with a college degree or better	34.5%	25.3% [*]
Percent Employed	78.4%	58.6% [*]
Employment ⁹		
Private employer	77.9%	69.6% [*]
Public employer	11.4%	17.3% [*]
Self-employed	10.6%	12.8%
Veteran Status	13.6%	18.8% [*]
Average individual salary		
Men	\$34,653	\$46,453 [*]
Woman	\$31,336	\$25,231 [*]
Median individual salary		
Men	\$26,000	\$35,000
Woman	\$26,000	\$20,400

* 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	5.5%	22.7% [*]
Percent disabled	25.8%	30.6% [^]
Average household income	\$69,372	\$68,648
Median household income	\$55,000	\$53,400
Income gap between partners	\$23,826	\$26,585
Single wage earner	23.9%	31.5% [*]
Homeownership	63.1%	80.9% [*]
Percent with children under 18	17.5%	46.5% [*]

* 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	1.8	2.1 [*]
Single wage earner (parents)	45.1%	39.0%
Average household income (parents)	\$46,605	\$67,706 [*]
Median household income (parents)	\$39,000	\$54,000
Homeownership	46.4%	74.8% [*]

* 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
Apache	142	0.71%
Cochise	221	0.50%
Coconino	256	0.63%
Gila	104	0.52%
Graham	35	0.35%
Greenlee	15	0.48%
La Paz	65	0.78%
Maricopa	7627	0.67%
Mohave	346	0.55%
Navajo	168	0.56%
Pima	2244	0.68%
Pinal	398	0.65%
Santa Cruz	68	0.58%
Yavapai	371	0.53%
Yuma	272	0.51%

About the Authors

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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.

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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