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Census Snapshot: Georgia

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Authors

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

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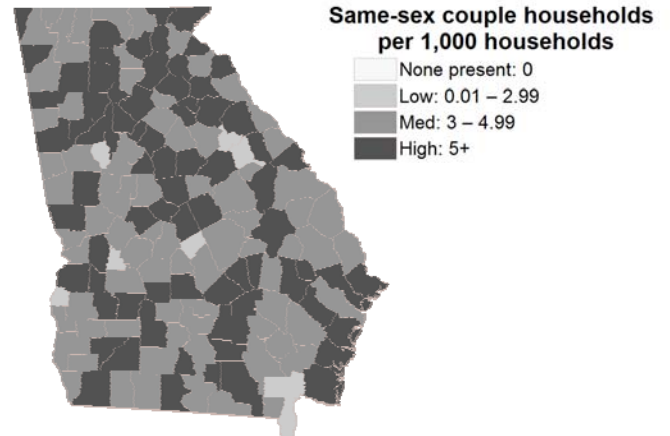
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GEORGIA

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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 Georgia. 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 Georgia.¹



In many ways, the almost 24,500 same-sex couples living in Georgia are similar to married couples. According to Census 2000, they live throughout the State, are racially and ethnically diverse, have partners that depend upon one another financially, and actively participate in Georgia’s economy. Census data also show that 20% of same-sex couples in Georgia 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 GEORGIA

- In 2000, there were 19,288 same-sex couples living in Georgia.²
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 24,424.³ This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 278,943 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Georgia.⁴

INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE

- There are more male same-sex couples (53%) than female same-sex couples (47%) in Georgia.⁵
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 38 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (46 years old) in Georgia.

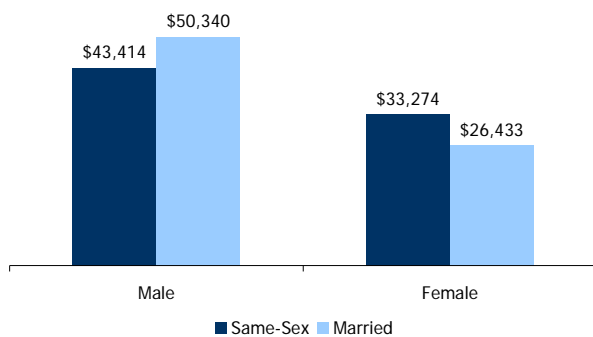
- Same-sex couples live in every county in Georgia and constitute 1.1% of coupled households and 0.6% of all households in the state. Fulton County reported the most same-sex couples with 3,481 couples (1.08% of all households in the county), followed by DeKalb County with 3,431 couples (1.38%), and Cobb County with 1,246 couples (0.55%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are DeKalb County (1.38% of all county households), Fulton County (1.08%), Montgomery County (0.82%), and Atkinson County (0.77%).⁶
- Georgia’s same-sex couples are more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 28% of same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 25% of married couples.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Georgia are significantly more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 81% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 67% 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 Georgia earn \$43,414 each year, significantly less than \$50,340 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Georgia is \$34,000, or 9% less than that of married men (\$37,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in Georgia earn an average of \$33,274 per year (with a median of \$29,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$26,433 (with a median of \$22,000). 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 couples in Georgia are more likely to work in the private sector: 77% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 71% 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 12% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree: 39% of individuals in same-sex couples and 27% 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: 10% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 16% of married individuals.

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

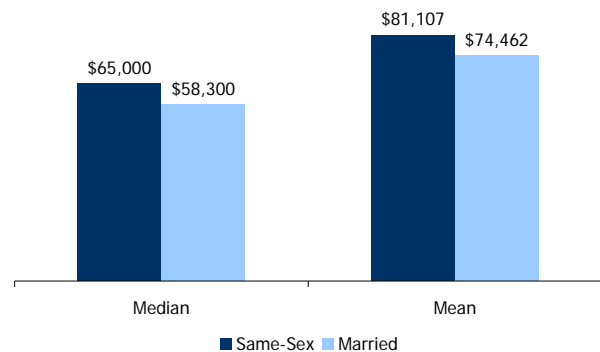
- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. 22% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 33% of married couples.

- The income gap between same-sex partners is \$26,696, compared to \$31,033 for married spouses.
- 28% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 29% of married couples.
- 4% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 15% of married couples.

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

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Georgia is \$65,000, compared to \$58,300 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$81,107, compared to \$74,462 for married couples.

Household Incomes

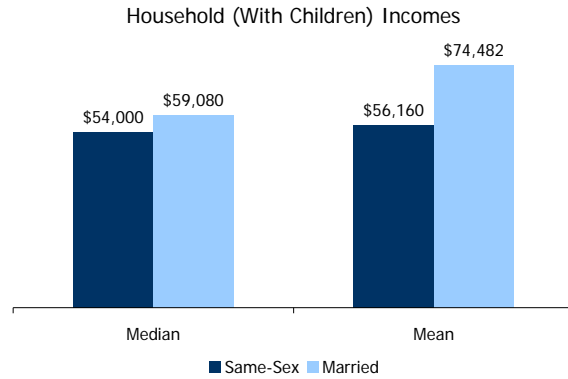


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 61% of same-sex couples in Georgia own their home, compared to 82% of married couples.

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

- 20% of same-sex couples in Georgia are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 8,852 of Georgia's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.⁷
- In Georgia, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- Roughly 5% of Georgia's adopted children (or 2,377 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.⁸

- Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Georgia. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$54,000, or 9% lower than that of married parents (\$59,080). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$56,160, significantly less than \$74,482 for married parents.
- While 50% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (79%) own their home.



CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in Georgia. While in many respects Georgia'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	72.3%	75.5%*
Black	18.8%	17.2%
Hispanic	5.2%	3.9% ^
Asian	1.9%	2.4%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.5%	0.2% ^
Other	1.3%	0.9%
Average age	38.3	45.8*
Percent with a college degree or better	38.9%	27.1%*
Percent Employed	80.5%	67.5%*
Employment ⁹		
Private employer	77.2%	70.7%*
Public employer	11.5%	16.9%*
Self-employed	11.2%	12.2%
Veteran Status	10.1%	16.5%*
Average individual salary		
Men	\$43,414	\$50,340*
Woman	\$33,274	\$26,433*
Median individual salary		
Men	\$34,000	\$37,000
Woman	\$29,000	\$22,000

* 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 over 65	3.7%	14.5%*
Percent disabled	27.8%	29.2%
Average household income	\$81,107	\$74,462*
Median household income	\$65,000	\$58,300
Income gap between partners	\$26,696	\$31,033*
Single wage earner	21.9%	32.6%*
Homeownership	60.9%	82.4%*
Percent with children under 18	20.1%	50.5%*

* 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	1.9
Single wage earner (parents)	35.5%	35.8%
Average household income (parents)	\$56,160	\$74,482*
Median household income (parents)	\$54,000	\$59,080
Homeownership	50.5%	78.7%*

* 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
Appling	30	0.45%
Atkinson	21	0.77%
Bacon	12	0.31%
Baker	8	0.53%
Baldwin	56	0.38%
Banks	33	0.62%
Barrow	77	0.47%
Bartow	156	0.57%
Ben Hill	24	0.36%
Berrien	22	0.35%
Bibb	299	0.50%
Bleckley	10	0.23%
Brantley	23	0.42%
Brooks	37	0.60%
Bryan	45	0.56%
Bulloch	83	0.40%
Burke	34	0.43%
Butts	35	0.54%
Calhoun	8	0.41%
Camden	87	0.59%
Candler	12	0.36%
Carroll	163	0.52%
Catoosa	98	0.48%
Charlton	10	0.30%
Chatham	588	0.65%
Chattahoochee	11	0.38%
Chattooga	49	0.51%
Cherokee	253	0.51%
Clarke	254	0.64%
Clay	6	0.45%
Clayton	436	0.53%
Clinch	13	0.52%
Cobb	1246	0.55%
Coffee	81	0.61%
Colquitt	59	0.38%
Columbia	153	0.49%
Cook	32	0.54%
Coweta	135	0.43%
Crawford	30	0.67%
Crisp	42	0.50%
Dade	35	0.62%
Dawson	25	0.41%
Decatur	56	0.54%
DeKalb	3431	1.38%
Dodge	22	0.31%
Dooly	15	0.38%
Dougherty	158	0.44%
Douglas	193	0.59%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Early	23	0.49%
Echols	5	0.40%
Effingham	63	0.48%
Elbert	34	0.42%
Emanuel	53	0.66%
Evans	19	0.50%
Fannin	30	0.36%
Fayette	92	0.29%
Floyd	167	0.49%
Forsyth	138	0.40%
Franklin	34	0.43%
Fulton	3481	1.08%
Gilmer	57	0.63%
Glascocock	5	0.50%
Glynn	140	0.51%
Gordon	79	0.49%
Grady	39	0.44%
Greene	18	0.33%
Gwinnett	1243	0.61%
Habersham	59	0.44%
Hall	284	0.60%
Hancock	19	0.59%
Haralson	43	0.44%
Harris	51	0.58%
Hart	46	0.51%
Heard	19	0.47%
Henry	190	0.46%
Houston	138	0.34%
Irwin	14	0.38%
Jackson	105	0.70%
Jasper	23	0.55%
Jeff Davis	28	0.58%
Jefferson	33	0.52%
Jenkins	13	0.40%
Johnson	13	0.42%
Jones	45	0.52%
Lamar	25	0.44%
Lanier	13	0.50%
Laurens	81	0.47%
Lee	43	0.52%
Liberty	79	0.41%
Lincoln	12	0.37%
Long	19	0.53%
Lowndes	161	0.49%
Lumpkin	56	0.74%
Macon	23	0.48%
Madison	50	0.51%
Marion	17	0.64%

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
McDuffie	41	0.51%
McIntosh	29	0.69%
Meriwether	49	0.59%
Miller	10	0.40%
Mitchell	45	0.56%
Monroe	34	0.44%
Montgomery	24	0.82%
Morgan	23	0.41%
Murray	61	0.46%
Muscogee	292	0.42%
Newton	124	0.56%
Oconee	51	0.56%
Oglethorpe	34	0.70%
Paulding	137	0.49%
Peach	37	0.44%
Pickens	49	0.55%
Pierce	28	0.47%
Pike	18	0.38%
Polk	76	0.54%
Pulaski	12	0.35%
Putnam	47	0.63%
Quitman	1	0.10%
Rabun	33	0.53%
Randolph	13	0.45%
Richmond	374	0.51%
Rockdale	122	0.51%
Schley	4	0.28%
Screven	18	0.31%
Seminole	17	0.48%
Spalding	101	0.47%
Stephens	52	0.52%
Stewart	15	0.75%
Sumter	50	0.42%
Talbot	8	0.32%
Taliaferro	2	0.23%
Tattnall	40	0.57%
Taylor	14	0.43%
Telfair	25	0.60%
Terrell	21	0.52%
Thomas	64	0.39%
Tift	60	0.43%
Toombs	49	0.50%
Towns	21	0.53%
Treutlen	11	0.43%
Troup	67	0.31%
Turner	13	0.38%
Twiggs	24	0.63%
Union	26	0.36%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Upson	40	0.37%
Walker	111	0.47%
Walton	104	0.49%
Ware	55	0.41%
Warren	7	0.29%
Washington	23	0.31%
Wayne	43	0.46%
Webster	6	0.66%
Wheeler	15	0.75%
White	39	0.50%
Whitfield	139	0.47%
Wilcox	21	0.75%
Wilkes	27	0.63%
Wilkinson	23	0.60%
Worth	41	0.51%

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.

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.

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
www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute