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Census Snapshot: New Hampshire

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**Publication Date**

2007-12-01

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

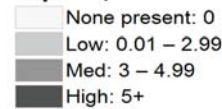
DECEMBER 2007

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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 New Hampshire. 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 New Hampshire.<sup>1</sup>

In many ways, the more than 5,500 same-sex couples living in New Hampshire 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 New Hampshire’s economy. Census data also show that 19% of same-sex couples in New Hampshire are raising children. However, same-sex couples, particularly those with children, have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than do their married counterparts: same-sex couples have, on average, lower household incomes and lower rates of home ownership.

Same-sex couple households  
per 1,000 households



### SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGBT POPULATION IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

- In 2000, there were 2,703 same-sex couples living in New Hampshire.<sup>2</sup>
- The number of same-sex couples increased to 5,578 by 2005.<sup>3</sup> This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were almost 64,000 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in New Hampshire.<sup>4</sup>

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

- There are about equal numbers of male and female same-sex couples in New Hampshire.<sup>5</sup>
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 41 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (48 years old) in New Hampshire.

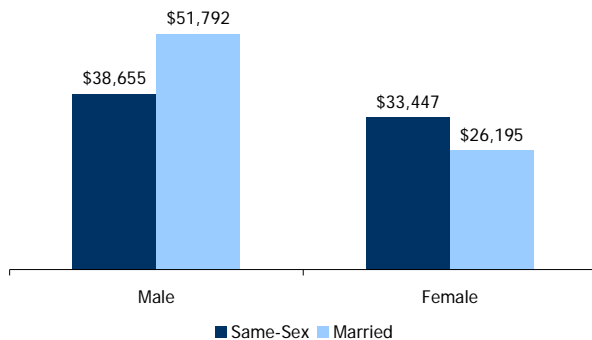
- Same-sex couples live in every county in New Hampshire and constitute 0.9% of coupled households and 0.6% of all households in the State. Hillsborough County reported the most same-sex couples with 803 couples (0.56% of all county households), followed by Rockingham County with 579 couples (0.55%), and Merrimack County with 290 couples (0.56%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Cheshire County (0.63% of all county households) and Belknap County (0.61%).<sup>6</sup>
- New Hampshire’s same-sex couples are more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 6% of same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 4% of married couples.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in New Hampshire are more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 83% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 73% of married individuals.

- Contrary to a popular stereotype, the annual earnings of men in same-sex couples are significantly lower than married men. On average, men in same-sex couples in New Hampshire earn \$38,655 each year, significantly less than \$51,792 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in New Hampshire is \$35,000, or about 13% less than that of married men (\$40,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in New Hampshire earn an average of \$33,447 per year (with a median of \$31,000), significantly more than married women, whose earnings average \$26,195 (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 and married couples in New Hampshire are equally likely to work in the private sector: 72% of individuals in same-sex and married couples work in the private sector. 19% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 15% of married individuals; and 9% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 13% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to have a college degree: 52% of individuals in same-sex couples and 31% 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: 7% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 18% of married individuals.

### SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE 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. 18% of same-sex

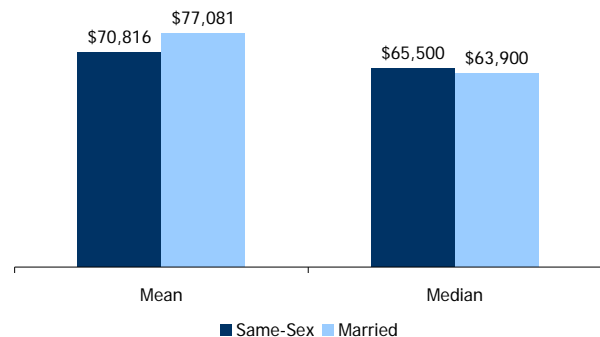
couples in New Hampshire have only one wage earner, compared to 26% of married couples.

- The average income gap for same-sex couples is \$19,417, compared to \$31,328 for married couples.
- 19% of same-sex couples in New Hampshire have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 25% of married couples.
- 2% of same-sex couples in New Hampshire have at least one partner over the age of 65, compared to 17% of married couples.

### SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE HAVE SIMILAR ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The average household income of same-sex couples is \$70,816, less than \$77,081 for married couples. The median income of same-sex coupled households in New Hampshire is \$65,500, more than that of married couples (\$63,900).

Household Incomes

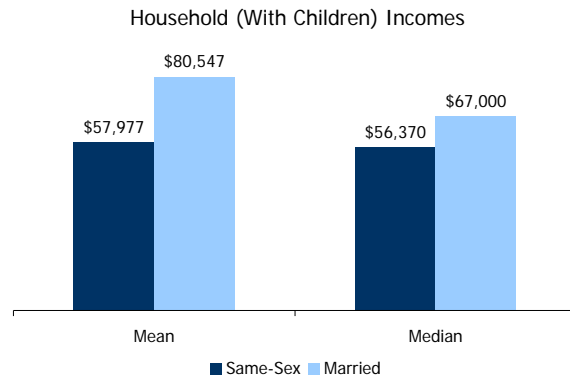


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 65% of same-sex couples in New Hampshire own their home, compared to 85% of married couples.

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

- 19% of same-sex couples in New Hampshire are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 1,614 of New Hampshire's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.<sup>7</sup>
- In New Hampshire, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.

- Same-sex parents have significantly fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents. The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$57,977, significantly less than \$80,547 for married parents. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$56,370, or 16% lower than that of married parents (\$67,000).
- While 78% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a larger percentage of married parents (84%) own their home.



## CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in New Hampshire. While in many respects New Hampshire's same-sex couples look like married couples, those with children have significantly fewer economic resources than married parents to provide for their families.

Table One: Characteristics of individuals in couples

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity <sup>8</sup>		
White	94.3%	96.4%
Black	0.8%	0.4%
Hispanic	4.0%	1.2%*
Asian	0.0%	1.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.0%	0.2%
Other	0.9%	0.7%
Average age	40.9	47.7*
Percent with a college degree or better	52.4%	31.0%*
Percent Employed	82.9%	72.6%*
Employment <sup>8</sup>		
Private employer	72.4%	72.3%
Public employer	19%	14.7%
Self-employed	8.6%	12.7%
Veteran Status	7.2%	18.0%*
Average individual salary		
Men	\$38,655	\$51,792*
Woman	\$33,447	\$26,195*
Median individual salary		
Men	\$35,000	\$40,000
Woman	\$31,000	\$22,000

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

Table Two: Characteristics of couples

	Same-Sex	Married
At least one partner over 65	2.2%	17.1%*
Percent disabled	19.0%	25.2%
Average household income	\$70,816	\$77,081
Median household income	\$65,500	\$63,900
Income gap between partners	\$19,417	\$31,328*
Single wage earner	18.4%	26.1%
Homeownership	64.8%	84.9%*
Percent with children under 18	18.5%	47.6%*

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

Table Three: Characteristics of couples with children

	Same-Sex parents	Married parents
Average number of children under 18 in the household	1.6	1.9
Single wage earner (parents)	5.4%	28.4%*
Average household income (parents)	\$57,977	\$80,547*
Median household income (parents)	\$56,370	\$67,000
Homeownership	77.9%	83.9%

\* 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
Belknap	137	0.61%
Carroll	106	0.58%
Cheshire	178	0.63%
Coos	85	0.61%
Grafton	174	0.55%
Hillsborough	803	0.56%
Merrimack	290	0.56%
Rockingham	579	0.55%
Strafford	252	0.59%
Sullivan	99	0.60%

## About the Authors

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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> Due to rounding, percent may not add to 100.

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