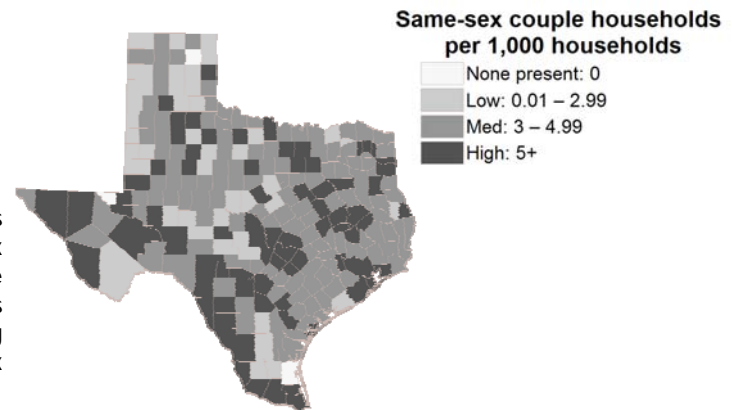


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Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this report provides demographic and economic information about same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in Texas. We compare same-sex “unmarried partners,” which the Census Bureau defines as an unmarried couple who “shares living quarters and has a close personal relationship,” to different-sex married couples in Texas.<sup>1</sup>



In many ways, the almost 50,000 same-sex couples living in Texas 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 Texas’s economy. Census data also show that 20% of same-sex couples in Texas 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 TEXAS

- In 2000, there were 42,912 same-sex couples living in Texas.<sup>2</sup>
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 49,423.<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 579,968 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Texas.<sup>4</sup>

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

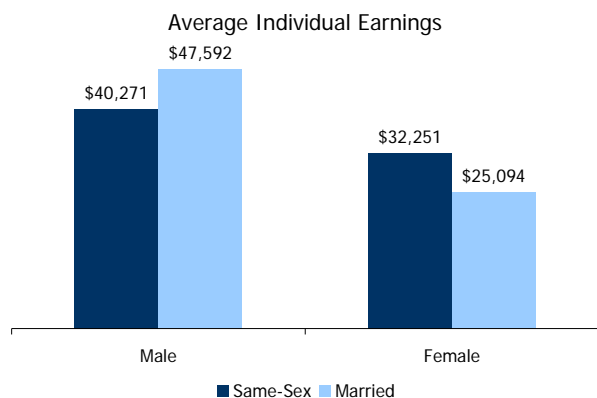
- There are more male same-sex couples (51%) than female same-sex couples (49%) in Texas.<sup>5</sup>
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 39 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (46 years old) in Texas.

- Same-sex couples live in 99% of the counties in Texas and constitute 1.0% of coupled households and 0.6% of all households in the state. Harris County reported the most same-sex couples with 8,612 couples (0.71% of all households in the county), followed by Dallas County with 7,067 couples (0.88%), and Travis County with 2,984 couples (0.93%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Culberson County (1.05% of all county households), Presidio County (1.03%), and Hudspeth County (1.01%).<sup>6</sup>
- Texas’s same-sex couples are racially and ethnically diverse: 35% of same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 38% of married couples.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Texas are significantly more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 79% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 64% 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 Texas earn \$40,271 each year, significantly less than \$47,592 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Texas is \$32,000, or 9% less than that of married men (\$35,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in Texas earn an average of \$32,251 per year (with a median of \$27,500), more than married women, whose earnings average \$25,094 (with a median of \$20,000). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men as well as men in same-sex couples.



- Individuals in same-sex couples in Texas are more likely to work in the private sector: 76% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 71% of married individuals; 13% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 16% 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: 36% 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: 10% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 15% of married individuals.

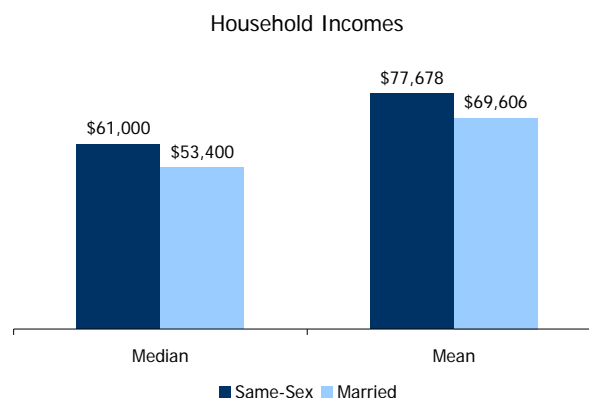
### SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN TEXAS DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- 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 35% of married couples.

- The income gap between same-sex partners is \$23,964, compared to \$29,364 for married couples.
- 28% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 30% of married couples.
- 5% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 16% of married couples.

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

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Texas is \$61,000, compared to \$53,400 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$77,678, compared to \$69,606 for married couples.

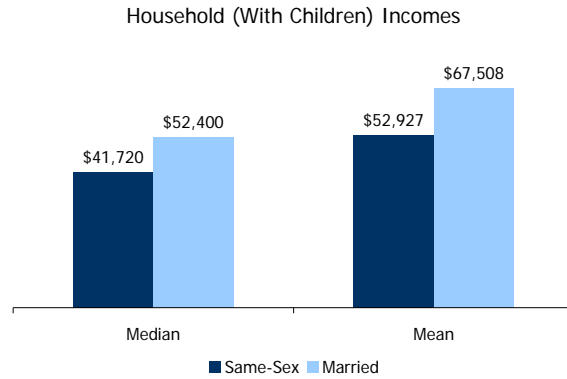


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 58% of same-sex couples in Texas own their home, compared to 78% of married couples.

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

- 20% of same-sex couples in Texas are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 17,444 of Texas's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.<sup>7</sup>
- In Texas, married and same-sex parents have, on average, 2 children.
- More than 3% of Texas's adopted children (or 3,588 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.<sup>8</sup>
- 35% of same-sex couples with children have only one wage earner, compared to 39% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents in Texas have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$41,720, or 20% lower than that of married parents (\$52,400). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$52,927, significantly less than \$67,508 for married parents.
- While 50% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (73%) own their home.



## CONCLUSION

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

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity <sup>9</sup>		
White	65.0%	61.8%*
Black	8.3%	7.1%*
Hispanic	22.5%	26.8%*
Asian	1.5%	3.1%*
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.6%	0.3%*
Other	2.0%	1.0%*
Average age	38.6	45.8*
Percent with a college degree or better	36.2%	25.4%*
Percent Employed	79.0%	64.0%*
Employment <sup>9</sup>		
Private employer	75.8%	71.2%*
Public employer	12.9%	16.1%*
Self-employed	10.9%	12.4%
Veteran Status	10.5%	14.7%*
Average individual salary		
Men	\$40,271	\$47,592*
Woman	\$32,251	\$25,094*
Median individual salary		
Men	\$32,000	\$35,000
Woman	\$27,500	\$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	5.5%	15.7%*
Percent disabled	27.6%	30.1%
Average household income	\$77,678	\$69,606*
Median household income	\$61,000	\$53,400
Income gap between partners	\$23,964	\$29,364*
Single wage earner	23.5%	34.9%*
Homeownership	58.4%	77.6%*
Percent with children under 18	20.2%	53.6%*

\* 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	2.0*
Single wage earner (parents)	34.7%	39.0%
Average household income (parents)	\$52,927	\$67,508*
Median household income (parents)	\$41,720	\$52,400
Homeownership	50.0%	73.0%*

\* 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
Anderson	70	0.45%
Andrews	24	0.52%
Angelina	96	0.33%
Aransas	64	0.70%
Archer	10	0.30%
Armstrong	2	0.25%
Atascosa	79	0.62%
Austin	37	0.42%
Bailey	4	0.17%
Bandera	57	0.81%
Bastrop	169	0.84%
Baylor	9	0.50%
Bee	49	0.54%
Bell	347	0.41%
Bexar	2706	0.55%
Blanco	21	0.64%
Borden	1	0.34%
Bosque	28	0.42%
Bowie	132	0.40%
Brazoria	432	0.53%
Brazos	215	0.39%
Brewster	11	0.30%
Briscoe	2	0.28%
Brooks	4	0.15%
Brown	37	0.26%
Burleson	26	0.41%
Burnet	69	0.53%
Caldwell	67	0.62%
Calhoun	32	0.43%
Callahan	20	0.40%
Cameron	558	0.57%
Camp	17	0.39%
Carson	4	0.16%
Cass	41	0.34%
Castro	9	0.33%
Chambers	47	0.51%
Cherokee	69	0.41%
Childress	10	0.40%
Clay	22	0.51%
Cochran	1	0.08%
Coke	5	0.32%
Coleman	11	0.28%
Collin	796	0.44%
Collingsworth	4	0.31%
Colorado	30	0.39%
Comal	130	0.45%
Comanche	39	0.71%
Concho	2	0.19%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Cooke	44	0.32%
Coryell	65	0.33%
Cottle	3	0.37%
Crane	5	0.37%
Crockett	10	0.66%
Crosby	15	0.60%
Culberson	11	1.05%
Dallam	6	0.26%
Dallas	7067	0.88%
Dawson	27	0.57%
Deaf Smith	18	0.29%
Delta	6	0.29%
Denton	867	0.55%
DeWitt	22	0.31%
Dickens	1	0.10%
Dimmit	22	0.67%
Donley	4	0.25%
Duval	13	0.30%
Eastland	30	0.41%
Ector	176	0.40%
Edwards	7	0.87%
Ellis	151	0.41%
El Paso	987	0.47%
Erath	27	0.21%
Falls	26	0.40%
Fannin	32	0.29%
Fayette	34	0.39%
Fisher	5	0.28%
Floyd	16	0.59%
Foard	2	0.30%
Fort Bend	497	0.45%
Franklin	21	0.56%
Freestone	31	0.47%
Frio	15	0.32%
Gaines	12	0.26%
Galveston	562	0.59%
Garza	8	0.48%
Gillespie	25	0.29%
Glasscock	2	0.41%
Goliad	10	0.38%
Gonzales	26	0.38%
Gray	23	0.26%
Grayson	194	0.45%
Gregg	174	0.41%
Grimes	35	0.45%
Guadalupe	132	0.43%
Hale	46	0.38%
Hall	3	0.19%

**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
Hamilton	10	0.30%
Hansford	4	0.20%
Hardeman	6	0.31%
Hardin	59	0.33%
Harris	8612	0.71%
Harrison	133	0.58%
Hartley	6	0.37%
Haskell	8	0.31%
Hays	212	0.63%
Hemphill	2	0.16%
Henderson	157	0.55%
Hidalgo	959	0.61%
Hill	67	0.55%
Hockley	33	0.41%
Hood	79	0.49%
Hopkins	58	0.47%
Houston	48	0.58%
Howard	46	0.40%
Hudspeth	11	1.01%
Hunt	121	0.42%
Hutchinson	30	0.32%
Irion	2	0.29%
Jack	13	0.43%
Jackson	22	0.41%
Jasper	54	0.40%
Jeff Davis	3	0.33%
Jefferson	406	0.44%
Jim Hogg	4	0.22%
Jim Wells	54	0.42%
Johnson	189	0.43%
Jones	27	0.44%
Karnes	23	0.52%
Kaufman	113	0.46%
Kendall	38	0.44%
Kenedy	0	0.00%
Kent	2	0.57%
Kerr	58	0.33%
Kimble	4	0.21%
King	1	0.93%
Kinney	7	0.53%
Kleberg	34	0.31%
Knox	7	0.41%
Lamar	73	0.38%
Lamb	20	0.37%
Lampasas	23	0.35%
La Salle	8	0.44%
Lavaca	36	0.47%
Lee	25	0.44%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Leon	37	0.60%
Liberty	87	0.37%
Limestone	43	0.54%
Lipscomb	2	0.17%
Live Oak	17	0.40%
Llano	41	0.52%
Loving	0	0.00%
Lubbock	396	0.43%
Lynn	9	0.38%
McCulloch	13	0.40%
McLennan	347	0.44%
McMullen	1	0.28%
Madison	20	0.51%
Marion	31	0.67%
Martin	5	0.31%
Mason	4	0.25%
Matagorda	38	0.27%
Maverick	76	0.58%
Medina	66	0.51%
Menard	5	0.51%
Midland	157	0.37%
Milam	39	0.42%
Mills	9	0.45%
Mitchell	14	0.49%
Montague	25	0.32%
Montgomery	486	0.47%
Moore	26	0.38%
Morris	29	0.56%
Motley	5	0.83%
Nacogdoches	74	0.34%
Navarro	93	0.56%
Newton	24	0.43%
Nolan	30	0.49%
Nueces	544	0.49%
Ochiltree	13	0.40%
Oldham	2	0.27%
Orange	144	0.46%
Palo Pinto	44	0.42%
Panola	40	0.45%
Parker	118	0.38%
Parmer	9	0.27%
Pecos	32	0.62%
Polk	74	0.49%
Potter	196	0.48%
Presidio	26	1.03%
Rains	11	0.30%
Randall	141	0.34%
Reagan	1	0.09%

**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
Real	9	0.72%
Red River	22	0.38%
Reeves	14	0.34%
Refugio	11	0.37%
Roberts	0	0.00%
Robertson	37	0.60%
Rockwall	70	0.48%
Runnels	19	0.43%
Rusk	92	0.53%
Sabine	28	0.62%
San Augustine	8	0.22%
San Jacinto	40	0.46%
San Patricio	100	0.45%
San Saba	15	0.66%
Schleicher	3	0.27%
Scurry	31	0.54%
Shackelford	4	0.31%
Shelby	43	0.45%
Sherman	4	0.36%
Smith	288	0.44%
Somervell	11	0.45%
Starr	80	0.56%
Stephens	22	0.60%
Sterling	2	0.39%
Stonewall	2	0.28%
Sutton	6	0.40%
Swisher	17	0.58%
Tarrant	2908	0.54%
Taylor	181	0.38%
Terrell	2	0.45%
Terry	11	0.26%
Throckmorton	1	0.13%
Titus	66	0.69%
Tom Green	157	0.40%
Travis	2984	0.93%
Trinity	30	0.52%
Tyler	27	0.35%
Upshur	55	0.41%
Upton	9	0.72%
Uvalde	35	0.41%
Val Verde	59	0.42%
Van Zandt	87	0.48%
Victoria	109	0.36%
Walker	100	0.55%
Waller	55	0.52%
Ward	20	0.50%
Washington	49	0.43%
Webb	279	0.55%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Wharton	52	0.35%
Wheeler	14	0.65%
Wichita	171	0.35%
Wilbarger	21	0.38%
Willacy	28	0.50%
Williamson	470	0.54%
Wilson	37	0.34%
Winkler	13	0.50%
Wise	88	0.51%
Wood	58	0.40%
Yoakum	7	0.28%
Young	29	0.40%
Zapata	20	0.51%
Zavala	21	0.61%

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**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.

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