

## 1.1 Million LGBT Adults Are Married to Someone of the Same Sex at the Two-Year Anniversary of *Obergefell v. Hodges*

Adam P. Romero  
June 23, 2017

Two years ago, on June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that the Constitution guarantees same-sex couples the right to marry and to have their marriages recognized by the states.<sup>1</sup> And four years ago, on June 26, 2013, the Court ruled in *United States v. Windsor* that the federal government must recognize marriages between same-sex couples.<sup>2</sup> This research brief shows:

- As of June 2017, nearly 1.1 million LGBT people in the United States are married to someone of the same sex, implying that more than 547,000 same-sex couples are married nationwide.
- Since *Obergefell*, at least 157,000 same-sex couples married.
- Since *Windsor*, at least 317,000 same-sex couples married.

New data from the Gallup Daily Tracking Survey—a nationally-representative survey that includes a measure of LGBT identity—indicate that 4.3% of adults in the United States identify as LGBT.<sup>3</sup> Data from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that there are more than 249 million U.S. adults.<sup>4</sup> Applying the LGBT percentage from Gallup to the Census population data indicates that more than 10.7

million adults in the United States identify as LGBT. The Gallup data indicate that 10.2% of LGBT adults are married to someone of the same sex,<sup>5</sup> implying that currently nearly 1.1 million LGBT adults are members of more than 547,000 same-sex marriages.

Gates and Newport (2015) estimated that there were 390,000 married same-sex couples in the United States just prior to the Supreme Court's decision in *Obergefell*.<sup>6</sup> Thus, since June 2015, at least 157,000 same-sex couples married in the United States.<sup>7</sup>

In 2013, the year that the Supreme Court decided *Windsor*, an estimated 230,000 same-sex couples were married.<sup>8</sup> Thus, since 2013, at least 317,000 same-sex couples married in the United States.

---

<sup>1</sup> 576 U.S. \_\_ (2015).

<sup>2</sup> 570 US \_\_ (2013).

<sup>3</sup> Jeffrey M. Jones, Gallup, *In US, 10.2% of LGBT Adults Now Married to Same-Sex Spouse* (2017), [http://www.gallup.com/poll/212702/lgbt-adults-married-sex-spouse.aspx?g\\_source=Social+Issues&g\\_medium=newsf&g\\_campaign=tiles](http://www.gallup.com/poll/212702/lgbt-adults-married-sex-spouse.aspx?g_source=Social+Issues&g_medium=newsf&g_campaign=tiles).

<sup>4</sup> Based on estimates for 2016 of the number of individuals 18 years old and older from the 2010 decennial Census.

---

<sup>5</sup> Jones, *supra* note 3.

<sup>6</sup> Gary J. Gates & Frank Newport, Gallup, *An Estimated 780,000 Americans in Same-Sex Marriages* (2015), <http://www.gallup.com/poll/182837/estimated-780-000-americans-sex-marriages.aspx>.

<sup>7</sup> Some number of same-sex couples divorced or otherwise dissolved their marriages (e.g., death of spouse) in the time period analyzed in this brief. The estimates in this brief of the number of same-sex couples who have married since *Obergefell* and since *Windsor*, however, do not account for these divorces/dissolutions or the corresponding number of new marriages that offset these divorces/dissolutions in the sample.

<sup>8</sup> Gary J. Gates and Taylor N.T. Brown, Williams Institute, *Marriage and Same-sex Couples after Obergefell* (2015), <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Marriage-and-Same-sex-Couples-after-Obergefell-November-2015.pdf>.