UCLA School of Law Williams Institute

RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES IN THE UNITED STATES

on the 10th Anniversary of *Obergefell v. Hodges*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2015, the Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges*[1] that the U.S. Constitution guarantees same-sex couples the right to marry throughout the country. At the time of the decision,15 states did not allow same-sex couples to marry,[2] and 16 states had just granted same-sex couples the right to marry in the prior year.[3]

This report relies on the most recent available data from the American Community Survey to provide a portrait of married same-sex couples on the 10th anniversary of the *Obergefell* decision in June 2025.[4] We estimate the number of same-sex couples who have married since *Obergefell* and provide information about their demographic characteristics, economic status, and the children and adults who now rely on their households.

Further, in the context of recent challenges to the *Obergefell* decision by members of the U.S. Supreme Court and a growing number of state legislatures, we estimate the number of married and unmarried same-sex couples who live in states that still have statutory or constitutional bans on marriage equality that could go into effect if *Obergefell* were overturned.

[1] 576 U.S. 644 (2015).

[2] David Johnson, *This Map Shows How Gay Marriage Spread Across the United States,* Time.com (June 26, 2015), https://time.com/3938717/ supreme-court-gay-marriage-map/. *See also* Benjamin R. Karney, et. al., RAND, Twenty Years of Legal Marriage for Same-Sex Couples in the United States: Evidence Review and New Analyses 1, 121-23 (2024) (fifteen states where *Obergefell v. Hodges* is listed as a source for marriage equality), https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA2912-1.html.; Mark Sherman, *Supreme Court declares nationwide right to same-sex marriage*, Assoc. Press (June 26, 2015), https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-courts-marriage-supreme-court-of-the-united-states-united-states-government-9e1933cd1e1a4e969ab45f5952bbb45f ("The states affected by Friday's ruling are Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, most of Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.") In addition, not every judicial district in Kansas recognized same-sex marriage until after the Court's decision in *Obergefell. See infra* note 28.

[3] Karney, et. al., *supra* note 2, at 121-23 (sixteen states that legalized same-sex marriage in 2014 and 2015, except where *Obergefell v. Hodges* is listed as a source for marriage equality and Illinois, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. These latter three states legalized marriage equality in 2014, but earlier than a year before the Obergefell decision. *See* Ill. S.B. 10, 98th Gen. Assem., 2013 (effective June 1, 2014); Geiger v. Kitzhaber, 994 F. Supp. 2d 1128 (D. Or. 2014); Whitewood v. Wolf, 992 F. Supp. 2d 410 (M.D. Pa. 2014).

[4] Throughout this report we follow the Census Bureau's use of the terms "same-sex" couples, spouses, and unmarried partners. However, unlike Census we use the term "different-sex" rather than "opposite-sex" to refer to couples, spouses, and unmarried partners of this type.

KEY FINDINGS

There are an estimated 823,000 married same-sex couples in the U.S. as of June 2025, more than double the number of married same-sex couples in June 2015 when *Obergefell* was decided (390,000). These couples are raising nearly 300,000 children (299,000).

- The percentage of married same-sex couples has increased over the past decade. In 2014,[5] 43% of all cohabiting same-sex couples were married. That percentage has increased to approximately 60% today.
- Regarding regions, *Obergefell* has had the most profound impact on the South. From 2014 to 2023, the percentage of cohabiting same-sex couples who were married grew by 21% in the South (38% to 59%), 16% in the West (46% to 62%), 15% in the Midwest (41% to 55%), and by 11% in the Northeast (50% to 60%).[6]
- The regional differences in growth among married same-sex couples after *Obergefell* reflect, in part, the fact that all 15 states that did not have marriage equality when *Obergefell* was decided were in the South and Midwest.
    - In these 15 states, the percentage of all married same-sex couples increased by 22% (35% to 58%) from 2014 to 2023, compared with 14% in the rest of the U.S. (45% to 60%).[7]
- From 2014 to 2023, the growth in the number of married same-sex couples more than tripled in the following states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia.
- Thirty-one states still have statutes and/or constitutional amendments in place that ban marriage equality. (Iowa also has a ban that state courts have ruled is unconstitutional under Iowa's constitution.) While they cannot be currently enforced because of *Obergefell*, same-sex couples in these states would be among the most vulnerable if *Obergefell* were overturned.
    - Over half of same-sex couples live in these 31 states, including approximately 433,000 married same-sex couples and 305,000 unmarried same-sex couples.
    - The 433,000 married same-sex couples in these states are raising approximately 163,000 children under the age of 18.

Members of married same-sex couples are diverse, geographically and racially.

- Over one-third of married same-sex couples live in the South (35%), 29% live in the West, 19% live in the Northeast, and 17% live in the Midwest.
- Fifty-three percent of married same-sex couples are female couples, and 47% are male couples.

[5] As explained more fully in the Data and Methods section, the most recent available American Community Survey (ACS) data on the number of married and unmarried same-sex couples is for 2023. While we calculate a projection based on ACS data for the number of married same-sex couples nationally who are married as of June 2025, for the rest of our analysis we rely on ACS data from 2014 to 2023 to show trends over time, and ACS 2023 data to describe the current characteristics of married and unmarried same-sex and different-sex couples.

[6] Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

[7] Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

- In one out of five married same-sex couples (22%), at least one spouse was not born in the U.S., and in 8%, both spouses were not born in the U.S.
- Approximately one-third of individuals in married same-sex couples (34%) are people of color, which is similar to married different-sex couples (33%).
- Married same-sex couples are much more likely to be interracial (29%) than married different-sex couples (14%).
- The average age of individuals in married same-sex couples is 48 years, which is younger than the average age of those in married different-sex couples at 53 years.
- In one out of five married same-sex couples (21%), at least one spouse is 65 years of age or older. In one out of 10 (10%), both spouses are 65 or older.
- In approximately 1% of both married same-sex and different-sex couples, at least one spouse is currently serving in the military.
- In one out of 10 married same-sex couples (11%), at least one spouse is a veteran, compared with 15% of married different-sex couples.

The most recent Census Bureau data supports prior research that shows that same-sex couples benefit from the economic advantages that marriage provides.

- The median household income is 18% higher for married same-sex couples than for unmarried same-sex couples.
    - Married male same-sex couples have a higher median household income ($142,000) than married female same-sex couples ($113,000).
- While the householder in almost three-quarters (72%) of married same-sex couples owns their home, that is true for only about half (49%) of unmarried same-sex couples.
- Married same-sex couples (12%) are slightly less likely to have low household incomes (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level) than unmarried same-sex couples (15%).
    - Married (14%) and unmarried (19%) female same-sex couples are more likely to have low incomes than married (8%) and unmarried (10%) male same-sex couples.

The *Obergefell* decision emphasized the importance of marriage for protecting the children raised by same-sex couples. Ten years later, hundreds of thousands of children and adults rely on households headed by married same-sex couples.

- In 2025, an estimated 299,000 children under 18 live in households headed by married same-sex couples.
- About 17% of married same-sex couples are raising the householder's[8] own children—biological, adopted, or step—compared to 10% of unmarried same-sex couples.
    - Married different-sex (38%) couples are more likely to be raising the householder's own children than married same-sex couples.

[8] As defined by the ACS, the "householder" is the person (or one of the people) in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented or, if there is no such person, any adult member in the housing unit, excluding boarders or paid employees. When the ACS asks about relationships in the household (spouse, child, sibling, etc.),it uses the householder as the reference person, asking about others people's relationships in the unit with the householder.

- Married female same-sex couples are approximately three times more likely (24%) to have their own children than married male same-sex couples (8%).
- Married same-sex couples with children are approximately eight times more likely than married different-sex couples with children to have a foster or adopted child. Among households headed by couples who have children,
    - About 3% (2.6%) of married same-sex couples have a foster child compared to 0.3% of married different-sex couples.
    - More than one in five (22%) married same-sex couples have an adopted child, compared to 3% of married different-sex couples.
- Some households headed by married same-sex couples not only include children but also other adults.
    - Three percent of married same-sex couples' households are multigenerational, compared to 5% of married different-sex couples' households.
    - Married same-sex couples have higher rates than married different-sex couples of having relatives or other people live with them, including the householder's parent or in-law (4.3% for married same-sex couples vs. 3.4% for married different-sex couples), sibling or sibling-in-law (3.2% vs. 1.7%), other relative (3.2% vs. 2.0%), roommate or housemate (3.2% vs. 0.6%), or other non-relatives (2.3% vs. 1.2%).

BACKGROUND

On June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court held in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that state-level bans on marriage for same-sex couples violate the U.S. Constitution. The decision extended the right to marry to same-sex couples nationwide. *Obergefell* was the culmination of efforts to extend marriage to same-sex couples that started decades earlier.[9] While 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the *Obergefell* ruling, the decision's reasoning has recently been questioned by Supreme Court justices, and legislators in a growing number of states are calling for the repeal of marriage equality.

Discussion of marriage equality can be traced to the earliest days of the modern LGBTQ rights movement in the U.S.[10] Yet, the first recorded attempts to have marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples occurred in the years after the Stonewall Riots in 1969. In the early 1970s, same-sex couples unsuccessfully sued for the right to marry in Minnesota[11] and sought marriage licenses in other states.[12]

Starting in the late 1990s, some states began to pass laws that provided non-marital forms of legal status to same-sex couples.[13] In 2003, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court held in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health* that the Massachusetts state constitution guaranteed same-sex couples

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[9] For a more thorough history of the legal developments that preceded the *Obergefell* decision, see generally Karney, et. al., *supra* note 2. While this section briefly describes the timeline of the extension of marriage licenses to same-sex couples in the U.S. from the 1970s to the present, it is important to acknowledge that the broader path to marriage access for same-sex couples was much more complex and involved organizing by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer or questioning (LGBTQ) communities and their allies; the work of social movement organizations; and growing support from government institutions, civil society, religious denominations, the business community, and others. Important highlights in that broader discussion include changes in public opinion, leadership by elected officials and others, executive branch policies, and other contributing forces. For a discussion of the fuller history of the decades-long path toward marriage equality, see William N. Eskridge, Jr. & Christopher R. Riano, Marriage Equality: From Outlaws to In-Laws (2020).

[10] The Mattachine Society is widely seen as the first sustained LGBT organization after World War II. See, e.g., Library of Congress, LGBTQ Activism, https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/united-states-history-primary-source-timeline/post-war-united-states-1945-1968/lgbtq-activism/#:~:text=In%20the%20years%20after%20World,for%20gay%20men%20and%20lesbians (last accessed May 29, 2025). One of its initial issues of ONE Magazine in 1953 was temporarily held by the Los Angeles Post Office because it was focused on "homosexual marriage." Mairead Case, *One: The First Gay Magazine in the United States*, JSTOR Daily, July 15, 2020, https://daily.jstor.org/one-the-first-gay-magazine-in-the-united-states/. For further information about *ONE Magazine*, see also the ONE Archives at the USC Libraries, https://one.usc.edu/.

[11] Baker v. Nelson, 191 N.W. 2d 185 (1971).

[12] In 1972, in response to a report from a clerk of court that "an increasing number of persons of the same sex [were] seeking marriage licenses," the Maryland Attorney General issued an opinion stating that only different-sex couples were permitted to marry. Annual Reports & Official Opinions of the Attorney General of Maryland 71 (1972), https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Opinions%20Documents/Volume57_1972.pdf.

[13] For example, in 1997, for example, Hawai'i passed "reciprocal beneficiary" legislation granting same-sex couples a limited set of marital rights and responsibilities. 1997 Haw. Sess. Laws Act 383; H.B. 118, 19th Leg., Reg. Sess. (Haw. 1997). California followed suit in 1999 with a "registered domestic partnership law" that also initially provided a limited set of rights. 1999 Cal. Sess. 4157 (Ch. 588); A.B. 26, 1999 Leg., 1999-2000 Reg. Sess. (Cal. 1999). In 2000, Vermont became the first state to grant same-sex couples nearly all of the protections and obligations of marriage through its "civil union" legislation. 2000 Vt. Acts & Resolves 72 (H.B. 847); An Act Relating to Civil Unions, H.B. 847, 1999 Gen. Assem., Adjourned Sess. (Vt. 1999). California expanded its domestic partnership legislation in a similar way in 2003, and Maine passed a comprehensive domestic partnership law in 2004. 2003 Cal. Stat. 3081 (A.B. 205); 2003 Me. Laws 2126 (Ch. 672); H.P. 1152, 121 Me. Leg., 2nd Spec. Sess. (Me. 2004).

the right to marry.[14] On May 17, 2004, Massachusetts became the first state in the U.S. to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples statewide.[15]

After Massachusetts extended marriage to same-sex couples, other states followed. However, efforts to bar same-sex couples from marrying also intensified across the country. By the end of 2011, more than 40 states had passed statutes prohibiting marriage for same-sex couples,[16] and the majority of states had also enacted constitutional amendments restating those prohibitions.[17] Only six states and Washington, D.C., provided marriage licenses to same-sex couples.[18]

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[14] Goodridge v. Department of Public Health, 798 N.E. 2d 941 (2003).

[15] Pam Belluck, *Massachusetts Arrives at Moment for Same-Sex Marriage*, N.Y. Times (May 17, 2004), https://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/17/us/massachusetts-arrives-at-moment-for-same-sex-marriage.html.

[16] Most of these states had laws that expressly defined marriage as between one man and one woman: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Alabama Marriage Protection Act, 1998 Ala. Laws 1077 (Act No. 98-500); Alaska Sess. Laws Ch. 21; 1996 Arizona Legis. Serv. Ch. 348 (West); 1997 Ark. Act 825 (Act No. 144); 1977 Cal. Stat. 1295 (Ch. 399); 2000 Colo. Legis. Serv. Ch. 233 (West); 2005 Connecticut Legis. Serv. P.A. 05-10, S.S.B. 963 (West); 70 Del. Laws 835 (Act No. 375) (1996); 1977 Fla. Sess. Law Serv. Ch. 77-139 (West); 1996 Ga. Laws 1025; 1996 Haw. Sess. Laws 526 (Act No. 217); 1995 Idaho Sess. Laws 334 (Ch. 104); 1996 Ill. Laws 504 (Public Act 89–0459); 1997 Ind. Acts 2897 (Pub. L. 198-1997); 1998 Iowa Acts 182 (Ch. 1099, § 1); 1998 Ky. Acts 984 (Ch. 258); 1999 La. Acts 2503 (No. 890); 1997 Me. Laws 326 (Ch. 65); 1973 Md. Laws 574 (Ch. 213); 1996 Mich. Pub. Acts 1026, § 1 (No. 324) (codified at Mich. Comp. Laws § 551.1); 1977 Minn. Laws 1206 § 1 (Ch. 441); 1997 Miss. Laws 1 § 2 (Ch. 301); 1996 Mo. Legis. Serv. S.B. 768 (West); 1997 Mont. Laws 2088 (Ch. 424); 1987 N.H. Laws 192 (Ch. 218); 1997 N.D. Laws 755 (Ch. 145); Ohio H.B. 272, 125th Gen. Assem., Reg. Sess., 2004; 1975 Okla. Sess. Laws 57 (Ch. 39); 1996 Pa. Legis. Serv. Act 1996-124 (S.B. 434) (Purdon's); 1996 S.C. Acts 2048 (Act 327); 1996 S.D. Sess. Laws ch. 161, p. 221; Tenn. S.B. 2305, 99th Gen. Assem., 2nd Reg. Sess., 1996; 1997 Tex. Gen. Laws 8 (Ch. 7); Utah S.B. 24, 2004 Gen. Sess., 2004; 1997 Va. Acts 513 (Ch. 354); Wash. S.H.B. 1130, 55th Leg., Reg. Sess., 1998; W. Va. H.B. 2199, 76th Leg., 2001; Wis. Stat. Ann. § 765.001 (as amended 1983); 1977 Wyo. Sess. Laws 228 (Ch. 70). In Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, state statutes did not expressly define marriage to be "between a man and a woman" but often used gendered language, such as "husband" and "wife," and were interpreted by state officials to preclude same-sex couples from marriage. See, for example, Mass. Gen. Laws Ch. 207 § 1 & 2 (2023) (using the gendered language of "husband" and "wife" or "man" and "woman"); Lewis v. Harris, 908 A.2d 196, 208 (N.J. 2006) ("Plaintiffs do not dispute that New Jersey's civil marriage statutes, New Jersey Stat. Ann. §§ 37:1–1 to 37:2–41, which were first enacted in 1912, limit marriage to heterosexual couples. That limitation is clear from the use of gender-specific language in the text of various statutes"); Hernandez v. Robles, 855 N.E.2d 1, 6 (N.Y. 2006); R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-1-1 to 5-2-11 (2003) (using the gendered language of "bride and groom" and "male" and "female"); and Baker v. State, 744 A.2d 864 (Vt. 1999) ("the common understanding that marriage under Vermont law consists of a union between a man and a woman"). Marriage statutes in New Mexico have never been gender specific. N.M. Stat. § 40-1-1 (2003).

[17] These states were Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawai'i (Hawai'i's amendment did not expressly limit marriage to different-sex couples but gave the legislature the exclusive power to determine who could marry, in effect, taking the decision-making power away from the courts), Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin. Ala. Const. art. I § 36.03; Alaska Const. art. I § 25; Ariz. Const. art. XXX, § 1; Ark. Const. Amend. 83; Cal. Const. art. 1 § 7.5 (as amended 2008, repealed and replaced 2024); Colo. Const. art. II § 31 (repealed 2024); Fla. Const. art. I § 2; Ga. Const. art. 1, § IV; Haw. Const. art. I, § 23, (as amended 1998, repealed 2024); Idaho Const. art. III, § 28; Kan. Const. art. 15, § 16; Ky. Const. § 233A; La. Const. art. XII, § 15; Mich. Const. art. 1, § 25; Miss. Const. art. 14, § 263A; Mo. Const. art. 1, § 33; Mont. Const. art. XIII, § 7; Neb. Const. art. I, § 29; Nev. Const. Art. I, § 21 (as amended, repealed and replaced 2000); N.D. Const. art. XI, § 28; Ohio Const. art. XV, § 11; Okla. Const. art. 2, § 35; Or. Const. art. XV, § 5a; S.C. Const. art. XVII, § 15; S. D. Const. art. XXI, § 9; Tenn. Const. art. XI, § 18; Tex. Const. art. 1, § 32; Utah Const. art. 1, § 29; Va. Const. art. 1, § 15-a; Wisc. Const. art. XIII, § 13.

[18] These states were Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. Conn. S.B. 899, Gen. Assem.,

The national election in 2012 marked a turning point for marriage equality. For the first time, voters in three states—Maine, Maryland, and Washington—approved measures to extend marriage to same-sex couples,[19] and voters in Minnesota rejected an attempt to ban marriage for same-sex couples.[20] In the first six months of 2013, five more states—Delaware, Hawai'i, Illinois, Minnesota, and Rhode Island—passed legislation extending marriage to same-sex couples. New Jersey's Supreme Court also lifted restrictions on marriage for same-sex couples.[21] In less than a year, the number of states issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples doubled.

The following year, in June 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). DOMA was passed by Congress in 1996. The statute gave states the right to not recognize marriages of same-sex couples granted in other states and denied federal recognition and benefits to married same-sex couples.[22] In *Windsor v. United States* (2013),[23] the Court invalidated the provisions of DOMA denying federal recognition of marriages by same-sex couples that had been validly recognized by states, ensuring that the more than 1,000 federal laws that regulated marital rights and benefits would apply to the marriages of same-sex and different-sex couples equally. However, *Windsor* did not require states to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples or to recognize the marriages of same-sex couples performed in other states.[24]

After *Windsor*, same-sex couples in many states gained access to marriage as a result of federal circuit and state supreme court decisions striking down state-level bans.[25] One legal scholar tracked 49 lawsuits challenging state marriage bans filed in the year and a half after Windsor was decided.[26] Between the *Windsor* decision and March 2015, same-sex couples were legally able to wed in an

Jan. Sess., 2009; Varnum v. Brien, 763 N.W.2d 862 (Iowa, 2009); Goodridge v. Dep't of Public Health, 440 Mass. 309 (2003); N.H. H.B. 436, Gen. Ct., 161st Sess., 2009; N.Y. A.B. 8354, 234th Leg., Ann. Sess., 2011; Vt. S. 115, 70th Bienn. Sess., 2009.

[19] Me. Question 1 (2012); Md. Question 6 (2012); Wash. Referendum 74 (2012).

[20] Minn. Amend. 1 (2012).

[21] 79 Del. Laws Ch. 19 (2013); 2014 Haw. Session Laws 1 (Act 1 of the 2nd 2013 Spec. Sess); Ill. S.B. 10, 98th Gen. Assem., 2013; Minn. H.B. 1054, 88th Reg. Sess., 2013; R.I. H.B. 5015, 2013-14 Leg. Sess., 2013; Lewis v. Harris, 908 A.2d 196 (N.J. 2006).

[22] Defense of Marriage Act, 110 Stat. 2419 (Pub. L. 104-199) 1996.

[23] 570 U.S. 744 (2013).

[24] Id. at 752, 761.

[25] Examples are Baskin v. Bogan, 766 F.3d 648 (7th Cir. 2014); Bishop v. United States, 962 F. Supp. 2d 1252 (N.D. Okla. 2014); Bostic v. Schaefer, 760 F.3d 352 (4th Cir. 2014); Condon v. Haley, 21 F. Supp. 3d 572 (D. S.C. 2014); Garden State Equality v. Dow, 82 A. 3d 336 (N.J. Super. Ct. Law Div. 2013); Geiger v. Kitzhaber, 994 F. Supp. 2d 1128 (D. Or., 2014); Griego v. Oliver, 316 P. 3d 865 (N.M. 2013); Guzzo v. Mead, No. 14-CV200-SWS, WL 5317797, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 148481 (D. Wyo. 2014); Latta v. Otter, 771 F.3d 456 (9th Cir. 2014); and Whitewood v. Wolf, 992 F. Supp. 2d 410 (M.D. Pa. 2014).

[26] Anthony Michael Kreis, *Stages of Constitutional Grief: Democratic Constitutionalism and the Marriage Revolution*, 20 U. Penn. J. of Const. L. 871 (2018).

additional 18 states,[27] as well as parts of three others,[28] because of judicial decisions.

Some of these cases eventually reached the U.S. Supreme Court and were consolidated into a single case, *Obergefell v. Hodges*.[29] In the *Obergefell* decision, announced on June 26, 2015, the Court held that state-level bans on marriage for same-sex couples violate the U.S. Constitution, thereby extending the right to marry to same-sex couples nationwide. By the time the Court heard the case, legal marriages between same-sex partners had been established by statute, court ruling, or voter initiative in the majority of states and the District of Columbia.[30] Obergefell fully extended marriage equality to same-sex couples in the remaining 15 states.

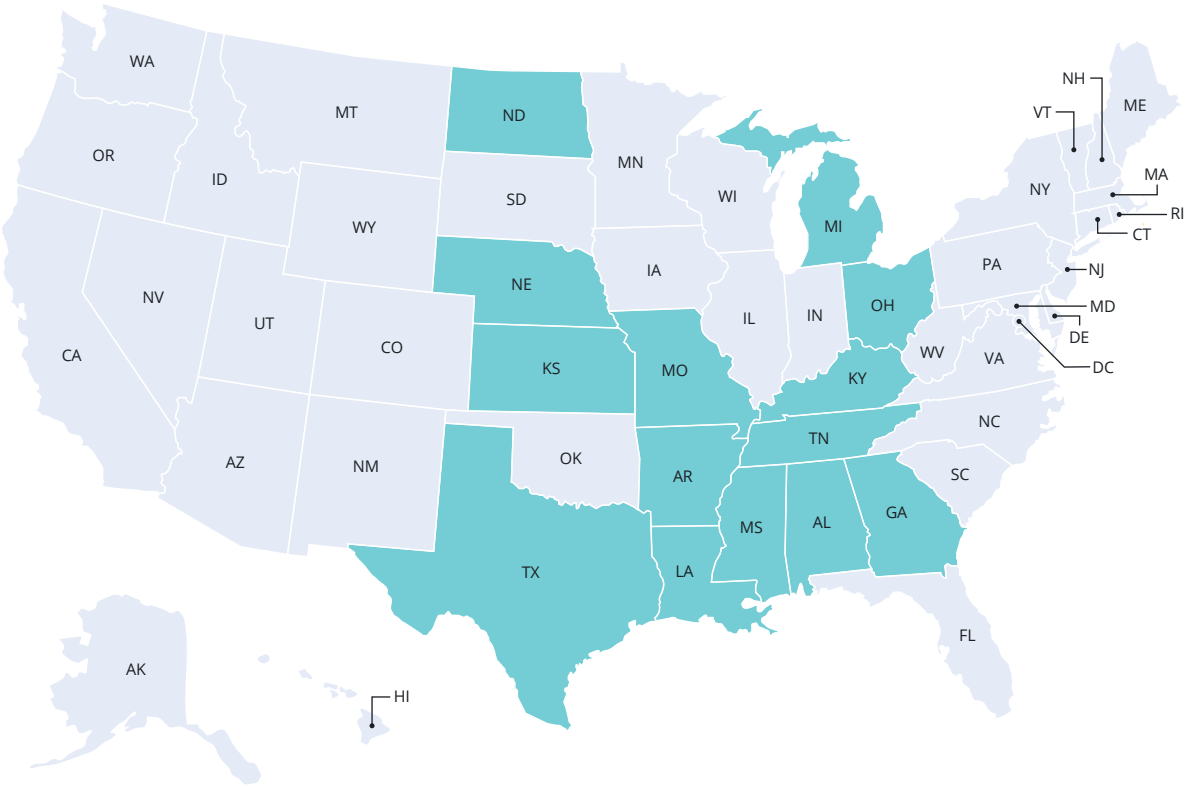
[27] These 18 states are: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Illinois (where the state had already passed same-sex marriage legislatively, a federal judge permitted couples to marry before that law went into effect), Indiana, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Hamby v. Parnell, 56 F. Supp. 3d 1056 (D. Alaska 2014); Connolly v. Jeanes, 73 F. Supp. 3d 1094 (D. Ariz. 2014); Burns v. Hickenlooper, 14–cv–01817–RM–KLM, WL 5312541, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 148123 (D. Colo. Oct. 17, 2014); Brenner v. Scott, 999 F. Supp. 2d 1278 (N.D. Fla., 2014); Latta v. Otter, 19 F. Supp. 3d 1054 (D. Idaho 2014); Latta v. Otter 771 F.3d 496 (9th Cir. 2014); Lee v. Orr, 13–cv–8719, WL 6490577, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 173801 (N.D. Ill. Dec. 10, 2013); Baskin v. Bogan, 766 F.3d 648 (7th Cir. 2014) (affirming lower court decisions in both Indiana and Wisconsin); Rolando v. Fox, 23 F. Supp. 3d 1227 (D. Mont. 2014); Sevcik v. Sandoval, 911 F. Supp. 2d 996 (D. Nev. 2012); Gen. Synod of the United Church of Christ v. Resinger, 12 F. Supp. 3d 790 (W.D. N.C. 2014); Bishop v. U.S. ex rel. Holder, 962 F. Supp. 2d 1252 (N.D. Okla. 2014); Bishop v. Smith, 760 F. 3d 1070 (10th Cir. 2014); Geiger v. Kitzhaber, 994 F. Supp. 2d 1128 (D. Or. 2014); Whitewood v. Wolf, 992 F. Supp. 2d 410 (M.D. Pa. 2014); Condon v. Haley, 21 F. Supp. 3d 572 (D. S.C. 2014); Kitchen v. Herbert, 755 F. 3d 1193 (10th Cir. 2014); Bostic v. Schaefer, 760 F.3d 352 (4th Cir. 2014); Guzzo v. Mead, 14–CV–200–SWS, WL 5317797, U.S. Dist. LEXIS 148481 (D. Wyo. Oct. 17,2014); *see also* John F. Kowal, *The Improbable Victory of Marriage Equality*, Brennan Ctr. for Just. (Sept. 29, 2015), https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/improbable-victory-marriage-equality.

[28] These three states are Alabama, Arkansas, and Kansas. Also discussed further below, see *infra* notes 31 and 32. *See also* Searcy v. Strange, 81 F. Supp. 3d 1285 (S.D. Ala. 2015) (holding that Alabama's ban was unconstitutional); Ex parte Alabama ex rel. Ala. Pol'y Inst., 200 So.3d 495 (Ala. Mar. 3, 2015) (ordering state judges from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples unless bound by the decision in *Searcy*); Strawser v. Strange, 105 F. Supp. 3d 1323 (2015) (again finding for same-sex couples in Alabama, but staying the decision pending the outcome of *Obergefell*); Wright v. State of Arkansas, 60CV-13-2662, (Pulaski Cnty. Cir. Crt., Ark., May 15, 2015) (holding Arkansas' ban unconstitutional); Syllabus of Arkansas Supreme Court, May 22, 2014, CV-14-427, per curium, (proceedings of May 16, 2014), https://opinions.arcourts.gov/ark/supremecourt/en/item/297039/index.do (staying the state court decision); Frazier-Henson v. Walther, No. 60CV-15-569 (Pulaski Cnty. Cir. Crt., Ark., May 29, 2015) (discussing the legal status of the couples who married in the window between the lower court decision and the Arkansas Supreme Court's stay); Jernigan v. Crane, 64 F. Supp. 3d 1260 (federal court decision later holding Arkansas' ban unconstitutional, but staying the decision on appeal); Marie v. Mosher, 65 F. Supp. 3d 1175 (D. Kan. 2014).

[29] Obergefell v. Hodges,576 U.S. 644 (2015).

[30] Lyle Denniston, *Opinion Analysis: Marriage Now Open to Same-Sex Couples,* SCOTUSblog (June 26, 2015), https://www.scotusblog.com/2015/06/opinion-analysis-marriage-now-open-to-same-sex-couples/.

Figure 1. Where *Obergefell v. Hodges* legalized marriage for same-sex couples statewide



These fifteen states were Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas,[31] Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan,

[31] Some consider Kansas to have adopted marriage equality prior to *Obergefell*, but it was not legalized to couples throughout the state until after the Supreme Court's decision. *See* Assoc. Press, *All counties in Kansas allowing same-sex marriage licenses, but state not yet allowing name changes, joint tax returns,* Lawrence-Journal World (June 30, 2015), https://web.archive.org/web/20150703034224/https://www2.ljworld.com/news/2015/jun/30/most-counties-kansas-allowing-same-sex-marriage-li/ ("The first marriage license for a same-sex couple in Kansas was issued in October, after the Supreme Court refused to review lower-court orders striking down five states' bans. District court clerks in 21 of Kansas' 31 judicial districts — covering 61 counties — were issuing such licenses before last week's high court ruling in a case in which a lower court upheld bans in four other states."). The history of marriage equality in Kansas is complicated. Marriage was first extended to same-sex couples in the state following the U.S. Supreme Court's denial of certiorari in the 10th Circuit cases *Kitchen v. Herbert* and *Bishop v. Smith* in 2014. Because Kansas is in the 10th Circuit, the decision had a precedential impact, meaning that the ban on marriage for same-sex couples in Kansas was also presumptively unconstitutional. Marie v. Moser, 65 F. Supp. 3d 1175 (D. Kan. 2014). Consistent with this understanding, a state court and federal court both held in favor of same-sex couples seeking a marriage certificate later in 2014. Id.; *see* State of Kansas ex rel. Schmidt v. Moriarty, No. 112,590 (Kan. Oct. 10, 2014), https://kscourts.gov/KSCourts/media/KsCourts/Opinions/112590.pdf?ext=.pdf. However, the state court decision was stayed by the Kansas Supreme Court shortly after. State of Kansas ex rel. Schmidt v. Moriarty, No. 112,590 (Kan. Oct. 10, 2014). While the Kansas Supreme Court stay was in place, the U.S. Supreme Court denied an application for a stay of the preliminary injunction in the federal case, allowing a federal preliminary injunction to go into effect. Moser v. Marie, 574 U.S. 1006 (2014). However, Kansas officials argued that the federal preliminary injunction only applied to the specific judicial districts that were parties to the lawsuit. Bryan Lowry, *Kansas agencies not recognizing same-sex marriages despite court rulings*, Wichita Eagle (Nov. 20, 2014), https://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article4020337.html ("[Kansas Attorney General] Schmidt has contended that the federal ruling applied to only Sedgwick and Douglas counties."). The state Supreme Court subsequently lifted its stay, allowing additional state judicial

Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.[32]

Since 2015, in light of the judicial rulings in *Windsor*, *Obergefell*, and other lower court cases, some states have repealed their marriage bans.[33] However, 32 states still have statutory or constitutional

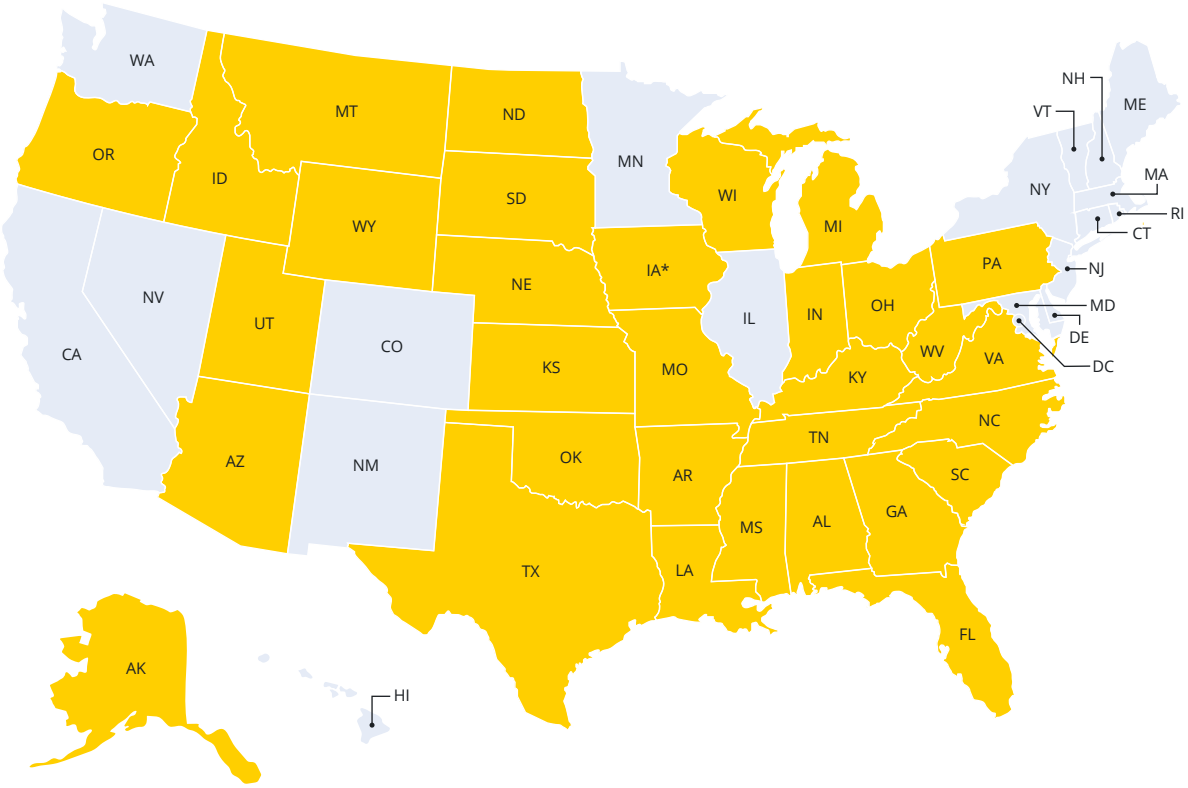
districts to conduct marriages, but saying that it would not rule on the legality of the marriage ban before the federal court has the opportunity to on a permanent basis, and that the decision to grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples would be made by each local judicial district. State of Kansas ex rel. Schmidt v. Moriarty, No. 112,590 (Kan. Nov. 18, 2014), https://www.scribd.com/document/247044630/112-590-Order-Lifting-Johnson-County-Stay ("We emphasize we are not concluding that Chief Judge Moriarty was correct in determining that the Kansas ban is unconstitutional and, therefore, that the same-sex applicants were legally entitled to a marriage license. But making that determination was within his jurisdiction—as it is with all district court judges…. Some of whom have reached a different conclusion…[T]he issue of uniformity resides with the federal court in *Marie* and ultimately perhaps with the United States Supreme Court."). In line with this view, not all local judicial districts were granting marriage licenses to same-sex couples at that time. Though by June 30, 2015, a majority of local judicial districts permitted same-sex couples to marry, marriage licenses were not granted to same-sex couples uniformly, statewide until *Obergefell* was decided. *See* Bryan Lowry, *Same-sex marriage licenses available in all Kansas counties – but other delays persist*, Wichita Eagle (June 30, 2015), https://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article25836232.html; Marie v. Mosier, 122 F. Supp. 3d 1085 (D. Kan. 2015) (granting plaintiff's declaratory relief that Kansas' ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell)*; U.S. Soc. Sec. Admin., PR 02712.019 Kansas, *Name Change Guidance Based on Same-Sex Marriage* (Feb. 13, 2017), https://secure.ssa.gov/poms.nsf/lnx/1502712019 (summarizing sources); Equality Kan., *Update: IT'S DONE. Marriage Equality Comes to All 105 Kansas Counties* (June 29, 2015), https://web.archive.org/web/20150701135443/https://eqks.org/meanwhile-in-kansas-the-struggle-continues/; Marie v. Mosier, 196 F. Supp 3d 1202, 1206 (D. Kan. 2016) ("On September 14 and 15, 2015, defendants provided additional submissions to show their compliance with Obergefell… Defendants/Clerks Hamilton and Lumbreras submitted administrative orders from judges in eight judicial districts directing clerks to issue marriage licenses to qualified same-sex couples.").

[32] Four states, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee, were directly involved with the *Obergefell* case. *Obergefell*, 576 U.S. at 644. Eight additional states had bans in force at the time of the *Obergefell* decision. Some bans had been held unconstitutional by lower courts, but those decisions were stayed pending the eventual outcome in *Obergefell*. These states were: Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Texas. *See* Ga. Dep't of L., *Attorney General Olens' Statement on Supreme Court Marriage Ruling* (June 26, 2015), https://law.georgia.gov/press-releases/2015-06-26/attorney-general-olens-statement-supreme-court-marriage-ruling; Robicheaux v. Caldwell, 791 F.3d 616 (5th Cir., 2015) (recognizing Louisiana's ban as unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell*); Campaign for S. Equality v. Bryant, 791 F.3d 625 (5th Cir., 2015) (recognizing Mississippi's ban as unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell*); Mo. Sec. of State. Gov. Jay Nixon, Exec. Order 15-04 (July 7, 2015), https://www.sos.mo.gov/library/reference/orders/2015/eo4; Waters v. Ricketts, 798 F.3d 682 (8th Cir. 2015) (recognizing Nebraska's ban as unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell*); Jorgensen v. Montplaisir, 3:14-cv-58 (June 29, 2015) (recognizing North Dakota's ban as unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell*), available at Lambda Legal, *Order to Lift Motion Granting Stay, Granting Motion for Summary Judgment, and Denying Motion to Dismiss for Failure to State a Claim* (June 29, 2015), https://legacy.lambdalegal.org/in-court/legal-docs/jorgensen_20150629_order; Rosenbrahn v. Daugaard, 799 F.3d 918 (8th Cir. 2015) (recognizing South Dakota's ban as unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell*); De Leon v. Abbott, 791 F.3d 619 (5th Cir., 2015) (recognizing Texas' ban as unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell*). In Alabama and Arkansas, the situation was more complicated because same-sex couples were briefly allowed to marry statewide before courts stayed the decisions. The availability of marriage equality in these states was definitively settled by *Obergefell*. *See* Searcy v. Strange, 81 F. Supp. 3d 1285, 1286 (S.D. Ala. 2015); Josh Blackman & Howard M. Wasserman, *The Process of Marriage Equality*, 43 Hastings Const. L. Quarterly 243, 273-76 (2016) (discussing the situation in Alabama's in greater detail); Jernigan v. Crane, 796 F.3d 976 (8th Cir. 2015) (recognizing Arkansas' ban as unconstitutional in light of *Obergefell*). *See also* Audrey Ann Faber and Maresa Strano, Ballotpedia, State Executive Responses to Obergefell v. Hodges (last accessed June 3, 2025), https://ballotpedia.org/State_executive_responses_to_Obergefell_v._Hodges.

[33] See, e.g., 2015 Or. Laws 1552 (Ch. 629); 2020 Va. Acts 283 (Ch. 195); Nev. Const. Art. 1 § 21 (amended by Ballot Question 2 (2020), *see* 2019 Nev. Stat. 4604).

marriage bans on the books, though none can be enforced unless *Obergefell* is overturned.[34] In 31 of these states, courts found that the bans violated rights protected by the federal constitution. If *Obergefell* were overturned, it would pave the way for these bans to go back into effect. In one of these states, Iowa, the state supreme court determined that the ban violated the state constitution. Because this decision is not based on rights recognized under the federal constitution, the ban would not be automatically enforceable if *Obergefell* were overturned.[35]

Figure 2. States with statutory or constitutional bans on marriage equality



Note: *Ban determined to violate state constitution.

In the past five years, the *Obergefell* decision has been questioned by Supreme Court justices and legislators in some states. In 2020, Supreme Court Justices Thomas and Alito criticized *Obergefell* for undermining religious freedom as the Court rejected an appeal of a case out of Kentucky in which a county clerk refused to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple.[36] In *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022), the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*,

[34] Movement Advancement Proj., Marriage & Relationship Recognition Laws: Marriage Bans, https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/recognition/marriage_relationship_laws/bans (last accessed June 2, 2025).

[35] Varnum v. Brien, 763 N.W. 2d 862 (Iowa 2009); see also Movement Advancement Proj., Underneath Obergefell: A National Patchwork of Marriage Laws 1, 3 (2022), https://www.lgbtmap.org/file/2022-spotlight-marriage-report.pdf.

[36] Davis v. Ermold, 141 S. Ct. 3 (2020), Thomas, J., dissenting, https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/19-926_5hdk.pdf ("In *Obergefell*…the Court read a right to same-sex marriage into the Fourteenth Amendment, even though that right is found nowhere in the text.")

which protected the federal right to abortion.[37] In his concurring opinion in *Dobbs*, Justice Clarence Thomas explicitly suggested that the Court revisit other previous decisions that rested on the same constitutional foundation as *Roe v. Wade*, mentioning *Obergefell* by name. In 2024, Justice Alito once again criticized *Obergefell* in a statement explaining why the Court rejected a case that involved religious objections to marriage for same-sex couples.[38]

Partially in response to Justice Thomas's concurring opinion, Congress took additional steps to protect marriage equality in 2022 by passing the Respect for Marriage Act.[39] The Respect for Marriage Act formally repealed the Defense of Marriage Act and codified the Supreme Court's mandate that states and the federal government recognize marriages between same-sex partners that were validly performed in any state.[40] Unless repealed by Congress, the Respect for Marriage Act guarantees that same-sex couples will continue to have federal protections and cross-state marriage recognition even if the *Windsor* decision were overruled in the future.

In addition, some states have started to prepare for the possibility of *Obergefell* being overturned. For example, in 2024, voters in California, Colorado, and Hawaii passed ballot measures repealing constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage.[41]

In contrast, in 2025, lawmakers in at least five states have introduced resolutions either condemning *Obergefell* or asking the Supreme Court to overturn it: Idaho, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.[42] Lawmakers in at least four additional states—Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas—have introduced bills that seek to create a category for marriage called "covenant marriage" that would be only for "one man and one woman."[43]

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[37] Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Org, 597 U.S. 215 (2022).

[38] Jonathan Shorman, *Supreme Court justice slams MO court, says it shows 'danger' of same-sex marriage decision*, Kan. Cty. Star (Feb. 21, 2024), https://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article285747461.html ("That holding exemplifies the danger that I anticipated in Obergefell v. Hodges … namely, that Americans who do not hide their adherence to traditional religious beliefs about homosexual conduct will be 'labeled as bigots and treated as such' by the government.").

[39] Respect for Marriage Act, 136 Stat. 2305 (Pub. L. 117-228) (2022).

[40] Id. The law does not, however, require all states to offer marriage to same-sex couples. Thus, the statute would not prohibit states from enacting and enforcing state-level marriage bans if the *Obergefell* decision were to be overruled, but it does require states to recognize marriages performed legally in another state.

[41] Amy Harmon, *Same-Sex Marriage Is the Law of the Land. Some States Are Debating It Anyway*, N.Y. Times (Apr. 21, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/21/us/same-sex-marriage.html.

[42] Khaleda Rahman, *Puish for Supreme Court to Overturn Gay Marriage in Multiple States*, Newsweek (Fed. 27, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/21/us/same-sex-marriage.html.

[43] Jo Yurcaba and Brooke Sopelsa, *Lawmakers in 9 states propose measures to undermine same-sex marriage rights*, NBC News (Feb. 25, 2025), https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/lawmakers-9-states-propose-measures-undermine-sex-marriage-rights-rcna193743.

FINDINGS

The findings presented here come from an original analysis of the annual one-year[44] American Community Survey (ACS) administered by the U.S. Census Bureau.[45] When available, we also use published estimates produced by the Census Bureau based on one-year ACS data.[46] ACS includes detailed information on household composition, including relationships between the survey respondent (the "householder") and other people in the household. One person completes the survey for everyone in the household. The most recent survey year available for ACS data is 2023—the base year for our portrait of same-sex couples in the U.S. See the Data and Methods section below for a detailed description of the ACS and our methods for calculating the findings presented in this report.

THE INCREASE IN MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES SINCE *OBERGEFELL*

Married Same-Sex Couples in 2025

As of June 2025, there are an estimated 823,000 married same-sex couples in the U.S., more than double the number of same-sex couples married in June 2015 when *Obergefell* was decided (390,000).[47] To arrive at this figure, we calculated the average increase in married same-sex couples annually from 2020 through 2023 and projected forward for 2024 and the first six months of 2025. We describe this calculation and the mid-year calculation for June 2015 in more detail in the Data and Methods section.

[44] The Census Bureau releases both a one-year data file and a five-year ACS data file for researchers. All analysis in this report relies on the one-year files released annually.

[45] *See* U.S. Census Bureau, Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What All Data Users Need to Know (2020), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2020/acs/acs_general_handbook_2020.pdf

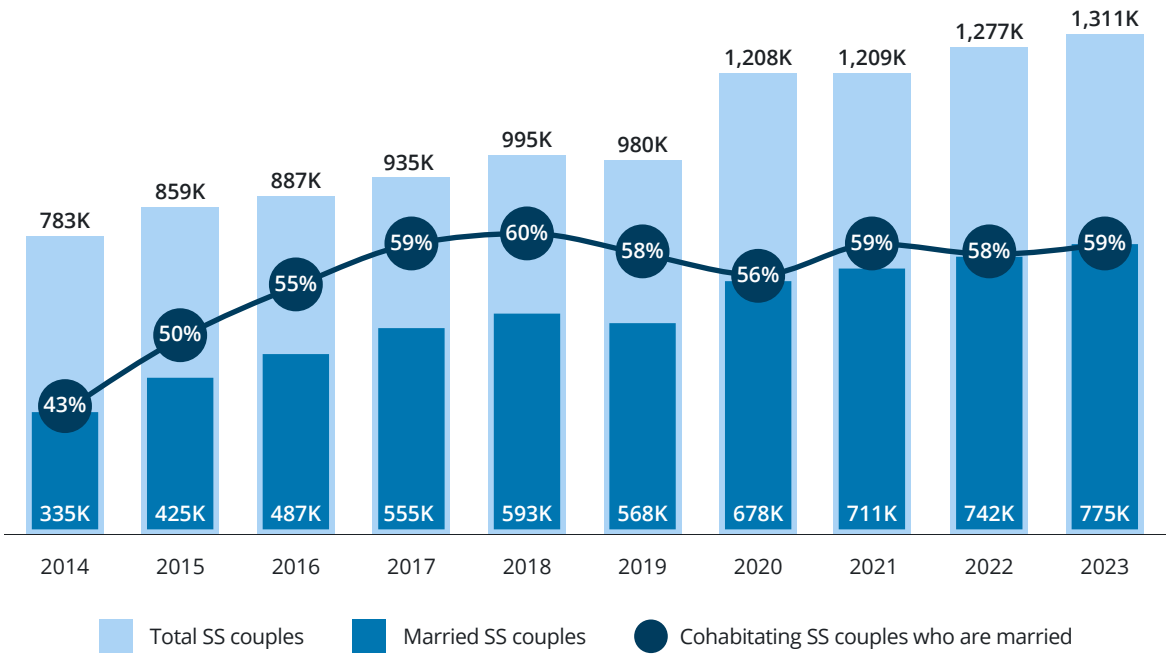
[46] For a recent detailed comparison of same-sex married couples from the Census Bureau, *see* Paul F. Hemez, U.S. Census Bureau, Spouses in Opposite-Sex and Same-Sex Married Couples and Their Households: 2022 (June 2024), https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/acsbr-020.pdf . The Census Bureau also publishes annual snapshots of couples by couple type going back to 2005. See U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (last accessed June 6, 2025).

[47] Estimates of the number of married same-sex couples in June 2015 range from 242,000 to 390,000. *See e.g.*, Christy Mallory & Brad Sears, Williams Inst., The Economic Impact of Marriage Equality Five Years After Obergefell v. Hodges (2020), https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Economic-Impact-SS-Marriage-May-2020.pdf (242,000 couples) and Gary Gates & Frank Newport, Gallup, An Estimated 780,000 Americans in Same-Sex Marriages (2015), https://news.gallup.com/poll/182837/estimated-780-000-americans-sex-marriages.aspx (390,000 couples), and the Data and Methods section for a detailed discussion.

National Increase in Married Same-Sex Couples Since *Obergefell*

To examine the impact of *Obergefell* over time on the number of same-sex couples who have married, we examine the years beginning in 2014—the last full year before *Obergefell.* That year, 43% percent of all cohabiting same-sex couples were married. However, the share of married partners rose significantly following *Obergefell* in 2015 and remained between 58% and 59% from 2021 to 2023, the last year ACS data are available. By comparison, the percentage of all different-sex couples who were married changed very little from 2014 to 2023, ranging from 87% to 89%. In other words, the marriage gap between same-sex and different-sex couples significantly narrowed by approximately 40% between 2014 and 2023, coinciding with the national legalization of same-sex marriage. Today, married couples are the majority of same-sex couples in the U.S.—an inflection point that happened in 2016, the first full year of marriage equality. (See Table A in the appendix.)

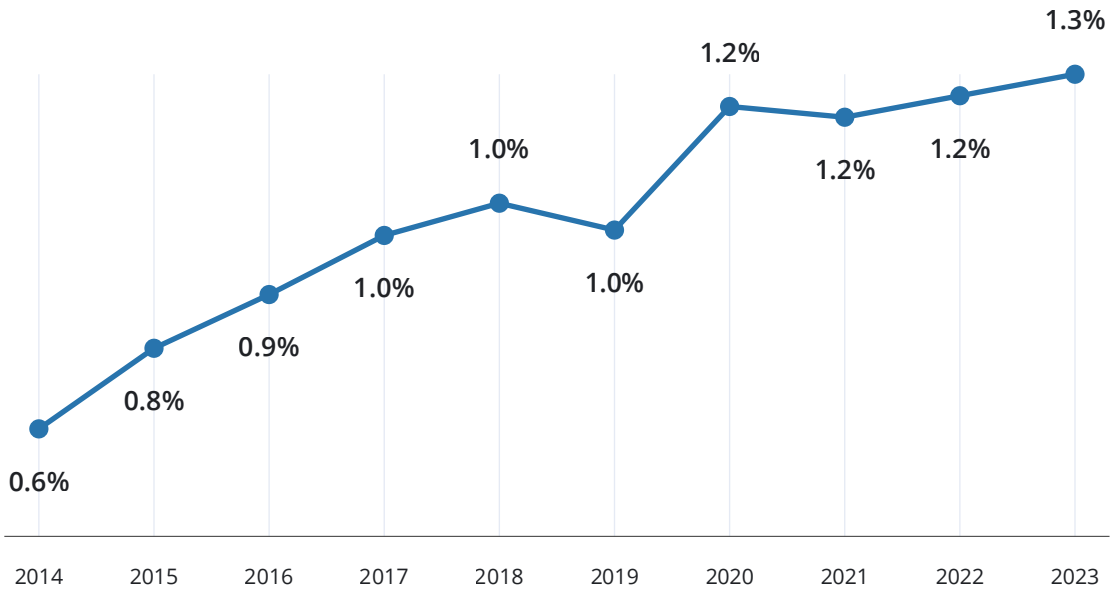
Figure 3. Increase in total and married same-sex couples and percent of cohabiting same-sex couples who are married in the United States, ACS 2014-2023



Note: All numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand. Beginning with the 2019 ACS, the Census Bureau directly asked about 'opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse,' 'same-sex husband/wife/spouse,' 'opposite-sex unmarried partner,' and 'same-sex unmarried partner.' Before that, ACS relied on a combination of partner relationship and sex to identify same-sex couples.

Further, married same-sex couples as a percentage of all married couples—different-sex and same-sex—doubled in the decade after the *Obergefell* decision, from 0.6% of all married couples in 2014 to 1.3% in 2023. (See Table A in the appendix.)

Figure 4. Percent of all married couples who are married same-sex couples by year, ACS 2014-2023



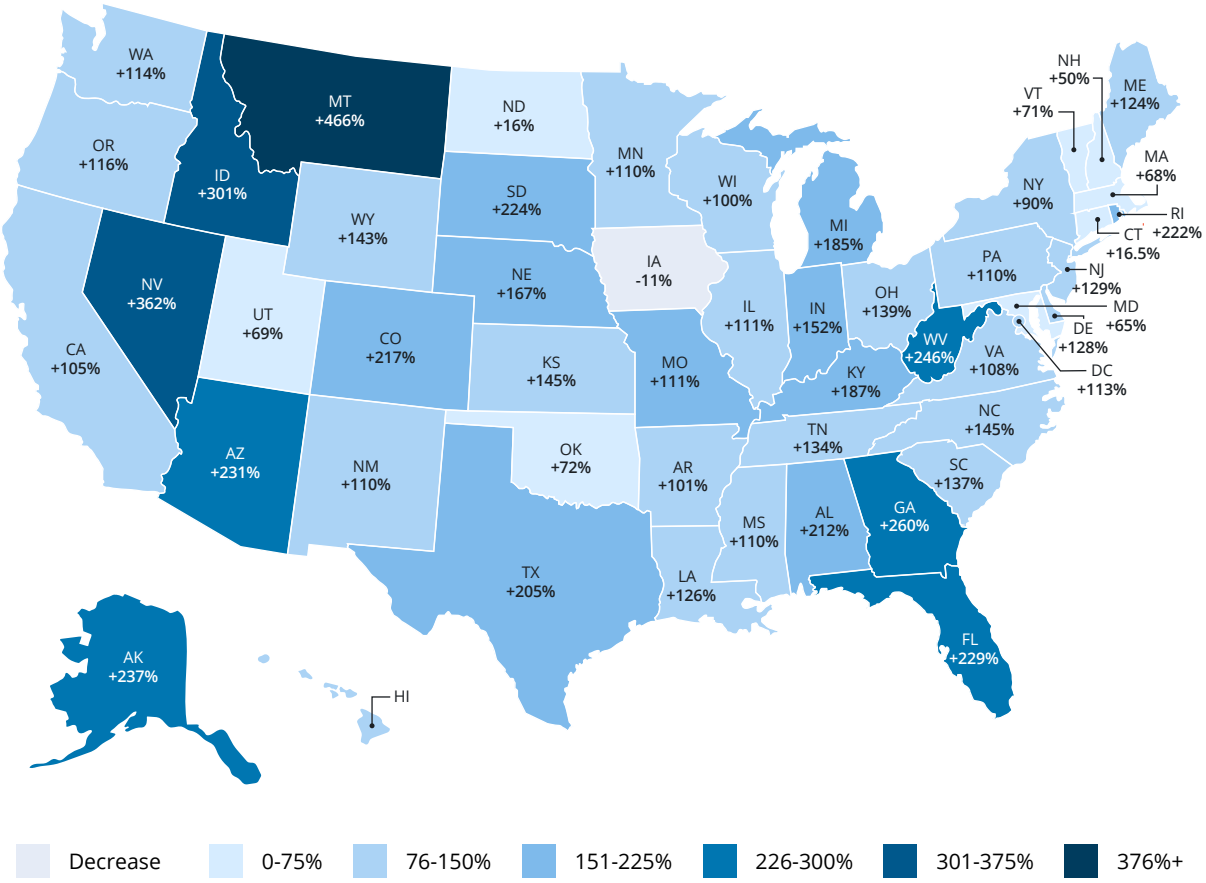
Note: Beginning with the 2019 ACS, the Census Bureau directly asked about 'opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse,' 'same-sex husband/wife/spouse,' 'opposite-sex unmarried partner,' and 'same-sex unmarried partner.'

Geographic Patterns of Increase in Married Same-Sex Couples

The number of married same-sex couples increased in every state except Iowa[48] from 2014 to 2023. The number of same-sex couples who are married tripled in 13 states: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, and West Virginia. (See Table B in the appendix for state-by-state estimates of the number of same-sex couples over time.)

[48] Iowa has experienced a modest decline of 11% in the number of married same-sex couples since 2014. However, Iowa was one of the first states were same-sex couples were allowed to marry in 2009. If the number of married same-sex couples is compared between 2013 and 2023, as opposed to 2014 and 2023, there has been an increase in the number of married same-sex couples in Iowa of 17%.

Figure 5. Increase in married same-sex couples from 2014 to 2023, ACS 2014-2023



While some states with the greatest increases in married same-sex couples are states with smaller populations in the Intermountain West, such as Montana, Idaho, and Nevada, in terms of Census Regions, *Obergefell* had the most profound effect on the South.[49] From 2014 to 2023, the number of married same-sex couples increased by 168% in the South, 130% in the West, 124% in the Midwest, and 90% in the Northeast. The percentage of all same-sex couples who were married grew by 21% in the South (from 38% to 58%), 16% in the West (from 46% to 62%), 15% in the Midwest (from 41% to 55%), and by 11% in the Northeast (50% to 60%).[50] (See Table C in the appendix.)

Table 1. Growth in married same-sex couples from 2014 to 2023 by region, ACS 2023

REGION	GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES	INCREASE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL SAME-SEX COUPLES WHO ARE MARRIED
South	168%	21%
West	130%	16%
Midwest	124%	15%
Northeast	90%	11%

[49] In this report we use the Census Bureau's definition of regions and divisions (subregions).U.S. Census Bureau, Census Regions and Divisions of the United States (last accessed June 6, 2025), https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf.

[50] Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

The regional differences in growth among married same-sex couples after *Obergefell* reflect, in part, that all 15 states that did not have marriage equality when *Obergefell* was decided were in the South and Midwest. In the 15 states that did not have statewide marriage equality until *Obergefell* was decided, the number of married same-sex couples increased by 179% between 2014 and 2023, compared to 118% in the remainder of states and Washington D.C. The percentage of all same-sex couples who were married in those 15 states increased by 22% (from 35% to 58%), compared with 14% in the rest of the country (from 45% to 60%) from 2014 to 2023.[51] (See Table C in the appendix.)

Table 2. Growth in married same-sex couples from 2014 to 2023 by whether marriage equality was extended to same-sex couples before or after *Obergefell*, ACS 2023

	GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES	INCREASE IN THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL SAME-SEX COUPLES WHO ARE MARRIED
15 states that did not have marriage equality until *Obergefell*	179%	22%
35 states and D.C. that had marriage equality before *Obergefell*	118%	14%

As discussed in the Background section, current U.S. Supreme Court justices and legislators in a number of states are calling for *Obergefell* to be overturned. If *Obergefell* were overturned, same-sex couples who live in states that continue to have bans against same-sex marriage in place would be the most vulnerable. Over half of same-sex couples live in these 31 states,[52] including approximately 433,000 married same-sex couples and 305,000 unmarried same-sex couples. The 433,000 married same-sex couples in these states are raising approximately 163,000 children under the age of 18. Even if these marriages were not retroactively voided, if the bans were reinstated, no new same-sex couples could marry, and those in existing marriages would have a negative message about their relationships conveyed by state law. (See Table C in the appendix.)

[51] Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

[52] Although Iowa's statutory ban on marriage equality is still on the books, we do not include Iowa in the group of 31 states that will be most affected if *Obergefell* is overturned. This is because the state's ban was invalidated by the state supreme court based on the state constitution. As such, overturning *Obergefell* would not have the same direct impact in this state as it would in the other states with marriage equality bans.

Table 3. Estimated number of married same-sex couples and their children as of June 2025 by states with a ban on marriage equality, ACS 2023

	NUMBER OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES	NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES
31 states that have a marriage equality ban invalidated by *Obergefell*	433,000	163,000
19 states and D.C. that do not have a ban	391,000	136,000
Total	**823,000**	**299,000**

Note: Estimates rounded to the nearest 1,000. Analysis of the number of children of married same-sex couples is on file with the authors.

CHARACTERISTICS OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES

Along several household and individual measures, married same-sex couples are diverse. See Tables D and E in the appendix for more details.

Geography. Married same-sex couples live in all 50 states. In 2023, over one-third of married same-sex couples lived in the South (35%), 29% in the West, 19% in the Northeast, and 17% in the Midwest. In general, the geographic spread of married same-sex couples is similar to that of married different-sex couples and broader geographic patterns, with the greatest difference being that more married same-sex couples live in the Pacific Division. (See Table D in the appendix.)

Table 4. Married couples by U.S. Census Division and Region and couple type, ACS 2023

CENSUS DIVISION & REGIONS	MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES	MARRIED DIFFERENT-SEX COUPLES
New England	6%	5%
Mid-Atlantic	13%	12%
Northeast	**19%**	**17%**
East North Central	12%	14%
West North Central	6%	7%
Midwest	**17%**	**21%**
South Atlantic	20%	21%
East South Central	4%	6%
West South Central	10%	12%
South	**35%**	**39%**
Mountain	9%	8%
Pacific	20%	15%
West	**29%**	**23%**

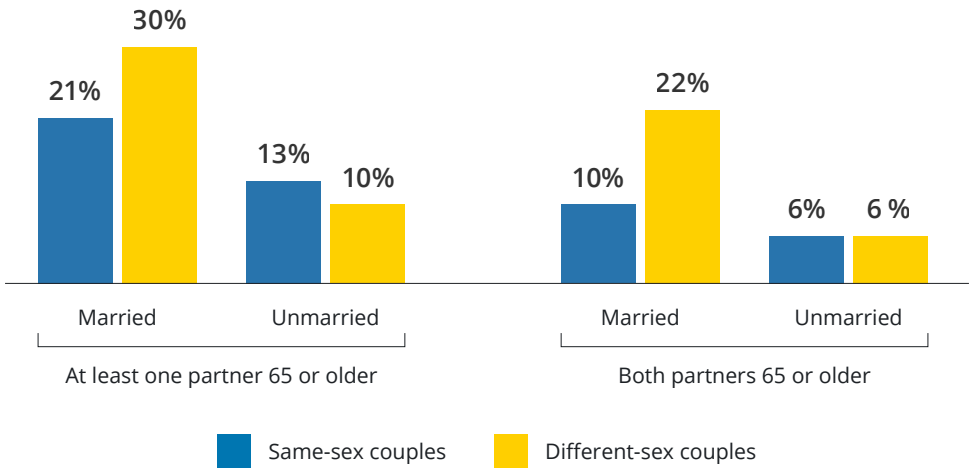
Note: All differences between married same-sex and different-sex couples are statistically significant at a 90% confidence level, except for the percentage of couples living in the South Atlantic.

Gender. Fifty-three percent of married same-sex couples are female same-sex couples, and 47% are male. This gender difference remained fairly stable from 2014 to 2023. (See also Table A in the appendix for the number of couples by couple type and gender over time.)

Age. The average age of individuals in married same-sex couples, 48 years old, is younger than the average age of members of married different-sex couples, 53. Those in unmarried same-sex and different-sex couples are younger, with average ages of 41 and 40, respectively. The average age of men in married same-sex couples (50) is older than the average age of women in married same-sex couples (47). This is also true of same-sex unmarried couples (42 vs. 39).

In one out of five (21%) married same-sex couples, at least one spouse is aged 65 or older, and in one out of ten couples (10%), both partners are at least 65. By comparison, 30% of married different-sex couples have at least one spouse who is at least 65 years old, and in 22% of couples, both spouses are age 65 or older.

Figure 6. Percent of same-sex and different-sex couples with spouses aged 65 or older, ACS 2023

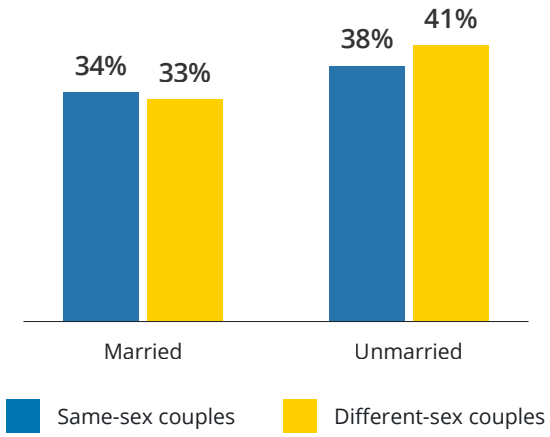


Note: All differences shown are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level, except for the difference between same-sex and different-sex unmarried couples where both partners are 65 or older.

Race/ethnicity. Approximately one-third (34%) of members of married same-sex couples are people of color, similar to the percentage of members of married different-sex couples who are people of color (33%).[53] Members of both unmarried different-sex (41%) and same-sex (38%) couples are more likely to be people of color than their married counterparts. (See Table D in the appendix.)

[53] People of color includes all people identified as Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic or Latino/a, multiracial, or of another racial group not including people identified as white. In contrast to the Census Bureau, we group individuals identified as Hispanic or Latino/a separately as its own category for a combined race/ethnicity measure; a person identified as Hispanic or Latino/a is removed from other racial group counts.

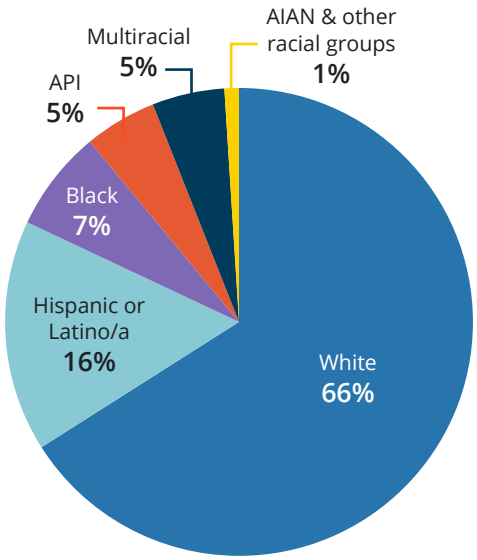
Figure 7. Percent of individuals in same-sex and different-sex couples who are people of color, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: All differences in this table are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level, except for the difference between married same-sex and married different-sex couples, which is not statistically significant.

Sixteen percent of members of married same-sex couples are Hispanic or Latino/a; 7% are Black; 5% are Asian, Pacific-Islander, or Native Hawaiian (API); 5% are multiracial; and 1% are either American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) or are of other racial backgrounds. Men in married same-sex couples are more likely to be people of color than women in married same-sex couples (36% v. 32%). While men in married same-sex couples are more likely to be Hispanic or Latino/a (18% vs. 14%) and API (6% vs. 4%), women in married same-sex couples are more likely to be Black (8% vs. 6%). (See Table D in the appendix.)

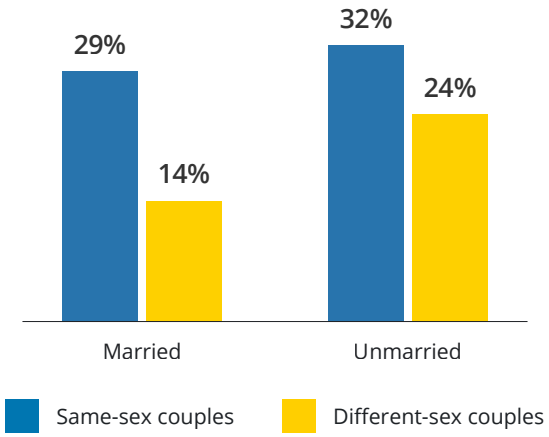
Figure 8. Race/ethnicity of members of married same-sex couples, ACS 2023



Married same-sex spouses are much more likely to be of different racial backgrounds (29%) than different-sex married spouses (14%). This is also true of unmarried same-sex couples, of which

32% are composed of partners from different racial backgrounds compared with 24% of unmarried different-sex couples. (See Table D in the appendix.)

Figure 9. Percent of couples who are interracial, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: All differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Men in married same-sex couples are more likely to be of different racial backgrounds than women in married same-sex couples (34% vs. 24%). This is also true for unmarried same-sex couples (35% vs. 29%).

Disability. In one out of five married same-sex couples (21%), at least one of the spouses is living with a disability, and in 5% of couples, both members are living with a disability. This is similar to married different-sex couples, where 21% of couples have at least one spouse living with a disability, and in 4% of couples, both spouses are living with a disability.

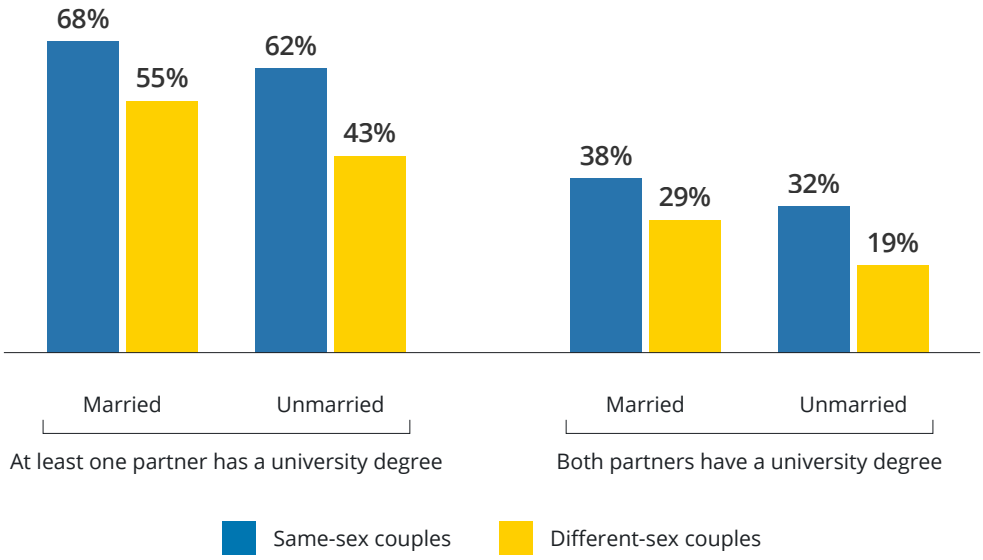
Immigration. Members of married same-sex and different-sex couples are fairly similar in terms of immigration status. In about one out of five married same-sex couples (22%), at least one spouse was not born in the U.S., and in 8% of couples, both spouses were not born in the U.S. In 11% of married different-sex couples, at least one spouse was born in the U.S., and in 5% of couples, both spouses were not born in the U.S.

In about one in 10 married same-sex couples, at least one spouse is not a U.S. citizen (11%), and in 3% both spouses are not U.S. citizens. Similarly, in about one in 10 married different-sex couples, at least one spouse is not a U.S. citizen (11%), and in 5% both spouses are not U.S. citizens.

Education. Members of married same-sex couples are more likely to have a university degree (bachelor's degree or higher) than members of different-sex married couples. In 68% of married same-sex couples, at least one spouse has a university degree, and in 38%, both spouses have at least a university degree. By comparison, only 55% of married different-sex couples have at least one spouse with a university degree, and in only 29% of couples do both spouses have a university degree.

The same pattern is true for members of unmarried couples. In 62% of unmarried same-sex couples, at least one partner has a university degree, and in 32% both partners have a university degree. By comparison, only 43% of unmarried different-sex couples have at least one partner with a university degree, and in only 19% of couples do both partners have a university degree. (See Table D in the appendix.)

Figure 10. Members of couples who have a university degree, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: All differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

Men in married same-sex couples are more likely to have a university degree than women in married same-sex couples. In 72% of married male same-sex couples, at least one spouse has a university degree, compared with only 65% of married female same-sex couples. This is similar to the pattern for unmarried same-sex couples (68% vs. 57%).

Employment. Labor force participation rates are higher for members of married same-sex couples than married different-sex couples.[54] Among members of married couples aged 18 to 64, 85% of those in same-sex couples are in the labor force, compared to 81% of those in different-sex married couples.[55] Men in married same-sex couples have a lower labor force participation rate than men in married different-sex couples (86% vs. 90%). In comparison, women in married same-sex couples have a higher labor force participation rate than women in married different-sex couples (84% vs. 73%).[56]

[54] A person in the labor force is either employed or unemployed—that is, not currently working but actively looking for work or waiting to be recalled from a layoff.

[55] U.S. Census Bureau, *Employment and Labor Force Characteristics for Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex Married Householders and their Spouses: 2023*, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2023/demo/labor-force/same-sex-employment-characteristics.html (Download "Table 1: National Employment and Labor Force Characteristics for Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex Married Householders and their Spouses: 2023") (last accessed June 4, 2025).

[56] Id.

In terms of unemployment rates, among members of married couples aged 18 to 64, those in married same-sex couples have a slightly higher unemployment rate than those in married different-sex couples overall (3.0% vs. 2.2%). When broken down by gender, both men (2.9% vs. 1.8%) and women (3.2% vs. 2.5%) in married same-sex couples have higher unemployment rates than those in married different-sex couples.[57]

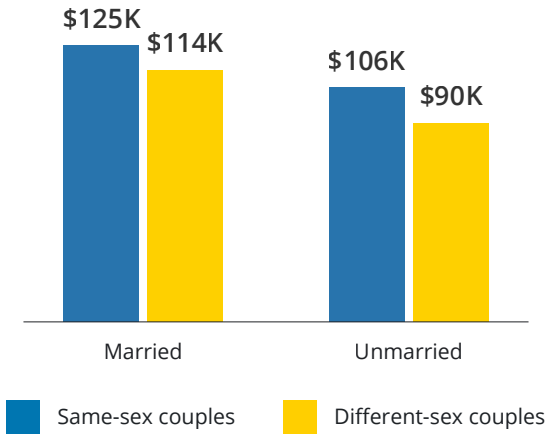
Military Service. Approximately 1% of both married same-sex and different-sex couples have at least one spouse currently serving in the military. In one out of 10 married same-sex married couples (11%), at least one spouse is a veteran, compared with 15% of spouses in different-sex married couples.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF MARRIAGE AND SAME-SEX COUPLES

A number of studies have found that same-sex couples in the U.S. receive the same positive economic benefits of marriage that different-sex couples receive, including higher earnings and higher rates of homeownership.[58] At least one study found that marriage is protective of same-sex couples in terms of poverty.[59] We find similar support for the protective economic effects of marriage in our examination of married same-sex couples in ACS data. However, a more detailed analysis might also take into consideration other important factors that contribute to economic well-being, such as education and age.[60]

Household Income. In 2023, median household income was 18% higher for married same-sex couples ($125,000) than unmarried same-sex couples ($106,000). By comparison, median household income was 27% higher for married different-sex couples ($114,000) than unmarried different-sex couples ($90,000). (See Table D in the appendix.)

Figure 11. Median household income of couples, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: All differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level. Household income has been rounded to the nearest thousandth.

[57] Id.

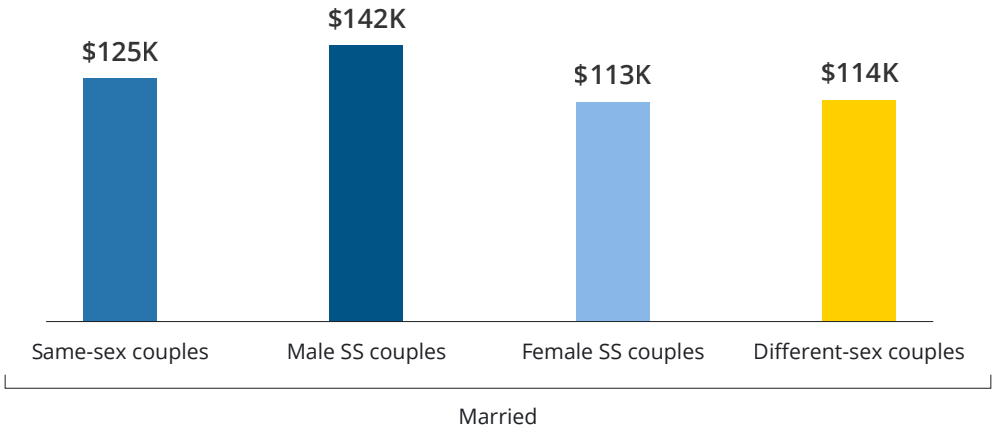
[58] KARNEY, ET. AL., *supra* note 2, at 60.

[59] Id. at 36.

[60] Id.

Overall, median household income is higher for married same-sex couples than married different-sex couples ($125,000 vs. $114,000).[61] However, married male same-sex couples have a higher median household income ($142,000) than married female same-sex couples ($113,000). (See Table D in the appendix.)

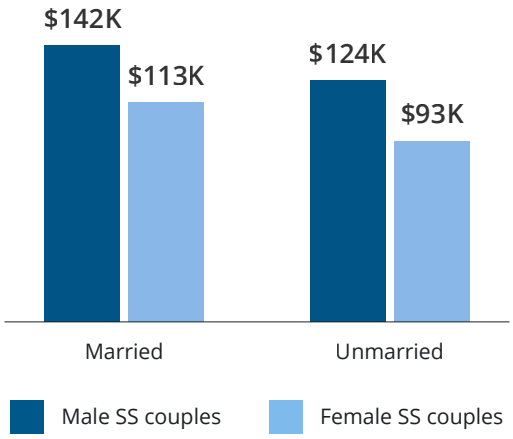
Figure 12. Median household income of married couples, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: Differences between married same-sex and different-sex couples and between married male and female same-sex couples are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level. Household income has been rounded to the nearest thousandth.

The data also suggest that the difference in household income between married and unmarried female same-sex couples is greater than for male couples. Median household income is 15% higher for married male same-sex couples ($142,000) compared to those who were unmarried ($124,000). By comparison, median household income is 21% higher for married female same-sex couples ($113,000) than unmarried female same-sex couples ($93,000). (See Table E in the appendix.)

Figure 13. Median household income of same-sex couples, by couple type, ACS 2023

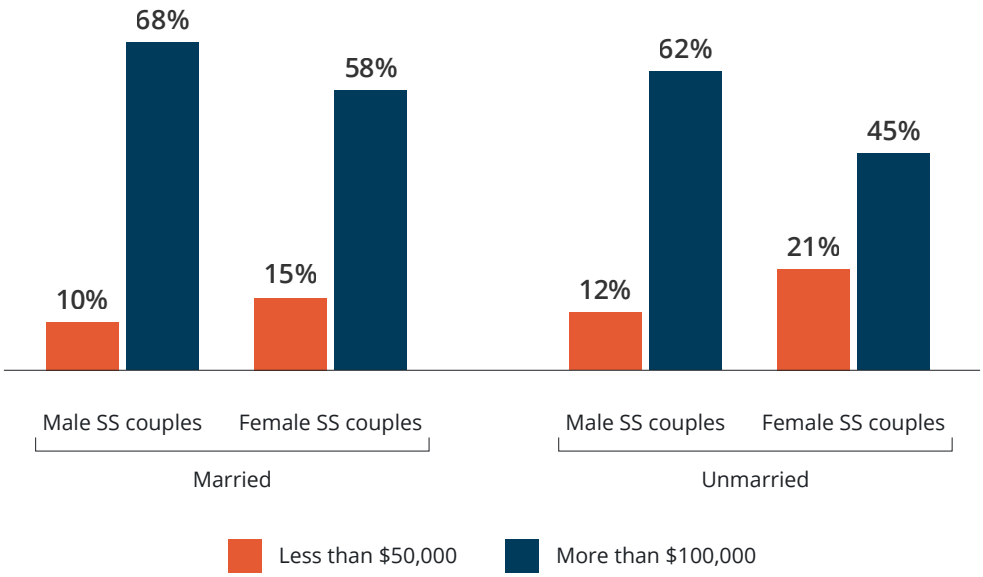


Note: All differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level. Household income has been rounded to the nearest thousandth.

[61] Data from "Detailed Table" for 2023 Am. Comm. Survey, Tab 2. Available at U.S. Census Bureau, *Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present*, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (Download 2023 Detailed Table) (last accessed June 4, 2025).

Further, married female same-sex couples are more likely than unmarried female same-sex couples to have a household income of $100,000 or more (58% vs. 45%) and less likely to earn less than $50,000 a year (15% vs. 21%). By contrast, married and unmarried male same-sex couples have more similar rates of household incomes of $100,000 or more (68% vs. 62%) and household incomes of less than $50,000 (10% vs. 12%).[62] (See Table D in the appendix.)

Figure 14. Percent of same-sex couples with median household income of less than $50,000 or $100,000 or more, by couple type, ACS 2023 [63]



Note: All differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level, except for the difference between married and unmarried male couples with household incomes of less than $50,000 a year.

Homeownership. While the householder in almost three-quarters (72%) of married same-sex couples owns their home, that is true for only about half (49%) of unmarried same-sex couples.[64] By comparison, in 82% of married different-sex couples, the householder owns their home compared to 48% of householders in unmarried different-sex couples.

Householders in married same-sex couples are more likely than those in married different-sex couples to rent (28% vs. 18%).[65] Married male and female same-sex couples do not substantively differ in terms of householders owning their homes (73% vs. 72%)

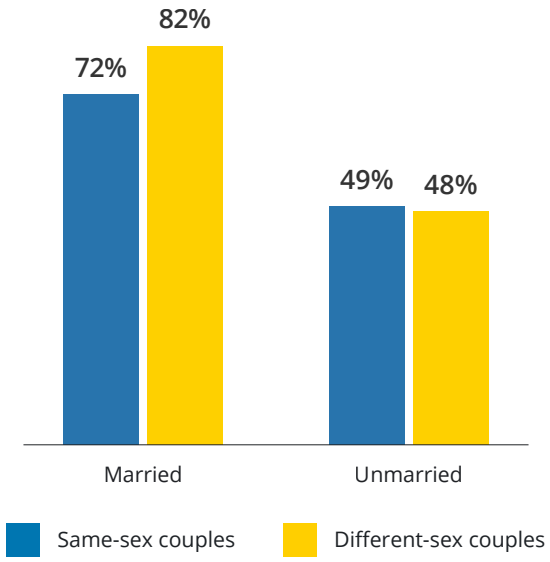
[62] Id.

[63] Id.

[64] Id.

[65] Id.

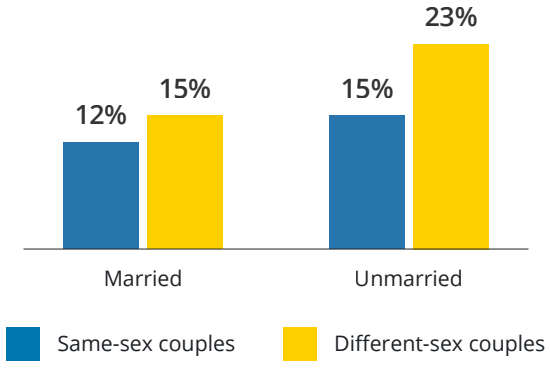
Figure 15. Homeownership among same-sex and different-sex couples, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: All differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level, except for the difference between unmarried same-sex and different-sex couples.

Poverty. Without controlling for other factors, married same-sex couples have lower rates of living with low incomes (at or below 200% of the federal poverty level) than married different-sex couples. Slightly more than one in 10 married same-sex couples (12%) live with low incomes, compared to 15% of unmarried same-sex couples. By comparison, 15% of married different-sex couples live with low incomes, compared to 23% of unmarried different-sex couples. (See Table D in the appendix.)

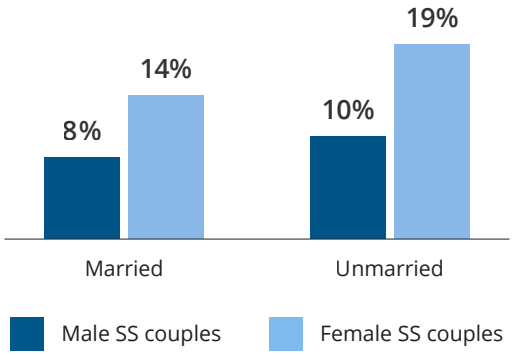
Figure 16. Percent of couples with household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: The difference between each couple type and each of the three other couple types is statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

These overall rates mask the higher rates of living with low incomes among female same-sex couples. Compared to male same-sex couples, married female same-sex couples (8% vs.14%) and those who are unmarried (10% vs. 19%) are more likely to have household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level. Notably, the difference among married and unmarried male same-sex households is not statistically significant. (See Table E in the appendix.)

Figure 17. Percent of same-sex couples living with household incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: The difference between each couple type and each of the three other couple types is statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level, except for the difference between male married and unmarried couples.

CHILDREN AND OTHER ADULTS IN HOUSEHOLDS HEADED BY SAME-SEX COUPLES

The *Obergefell* decision emphasized the importance of marriage for protecting children raised by same-sex couples. Justice Kennedy, relying on Williams Institute research, wrote for the majority, "As all parties agree, many same-sex couples provide loving and nurturing homes to their children, whether biological or adopted. And hundreds of thousands of children are presently being raised by such couples."[66] Ten years later, data show that hundreds of thousands of children, as well as other adults, rely on households headed by married same-sex couples.

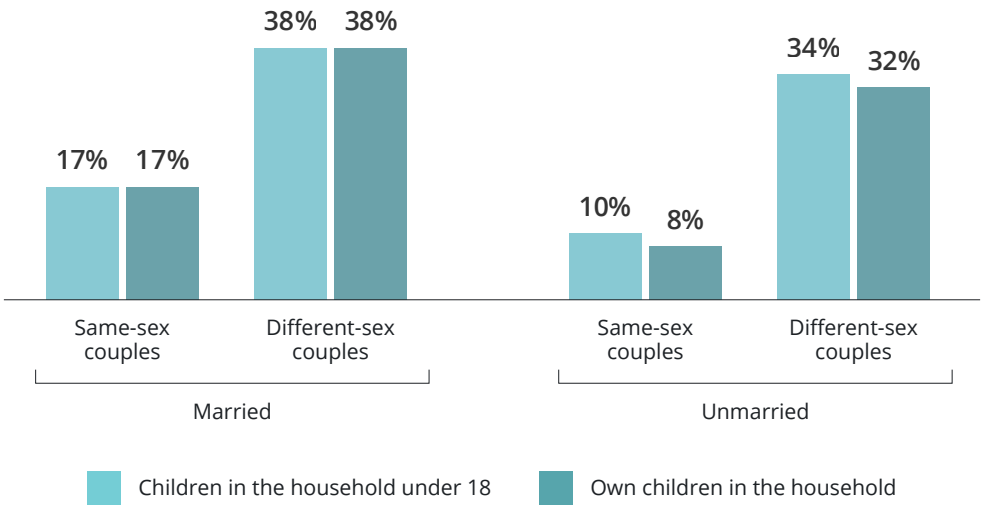
We estimate that, in June 2025, approximately 299,000 children under the age of 18 live in households headed by married same-sex couples. Based on the geographic spread of married same-sex couples in 2023, we estimate that over half (53%) of these children, approximately 163,000 children, live in states that still have formal (though unenforceable) bans on marriage equality in place. The remainder, approximately 136,000 children, live in states without such bans.

About one in six (17%) married same-sex couples have children under the age of 18 in their household, compared to one in 10 (10%) unmarried same-sex couples. Married (38%) and unmarried (34%) different-sex couples are more likely to have children under age 18 in their households than same-sex couples. Using the Census Bureau's term "own children"—which includes biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children—17% of married same-sex couples had the householder's own

[66] Obergefell v. Hodges, 576 U.S. 644, 688 (2015).

children living in their household, compared to only 8% of unmarried same-sex couples. Different-sex married (38%) and unmarried couples (32%) were more likely to have the householder's own children in their households than same-sex couples.

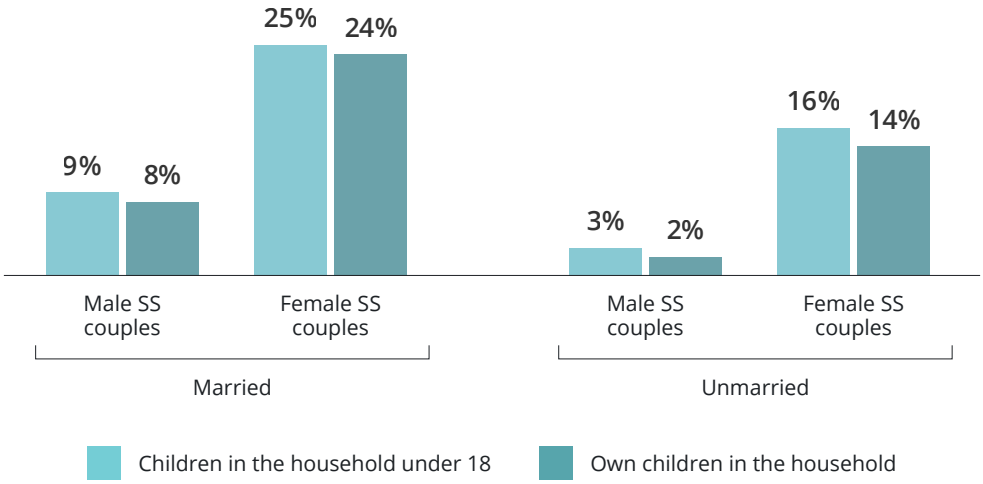
Figure 18. Percent of couples with children under age 18 and own children under age 18 in the household, by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: Any children include biological children, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, and other children who are non-relatives of the householder under age 18. Own children include biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children of the householder under age 18. All differences across the four couple types are statistically significant for each measure at the 90 percent confidence level.

Married female same-sex couple households are approximately three times more likely to include children than married male same-sex couple households. Married (25%) and unmarried (16%) female same-sex couples are more likely to have children under 18 in their households than married (9%) and unmarried (3%) male same-sex couples. Married (24%) and unmarried (14%) female same-sex couples are also more likely to have the householder's own children under age 18 in their households than married (8%) and unmarried (2%) male-male couples.

Figure 19. Percent of same-sex couples with children under age 18 and own children 18 in the household by couple type, ACS 2023



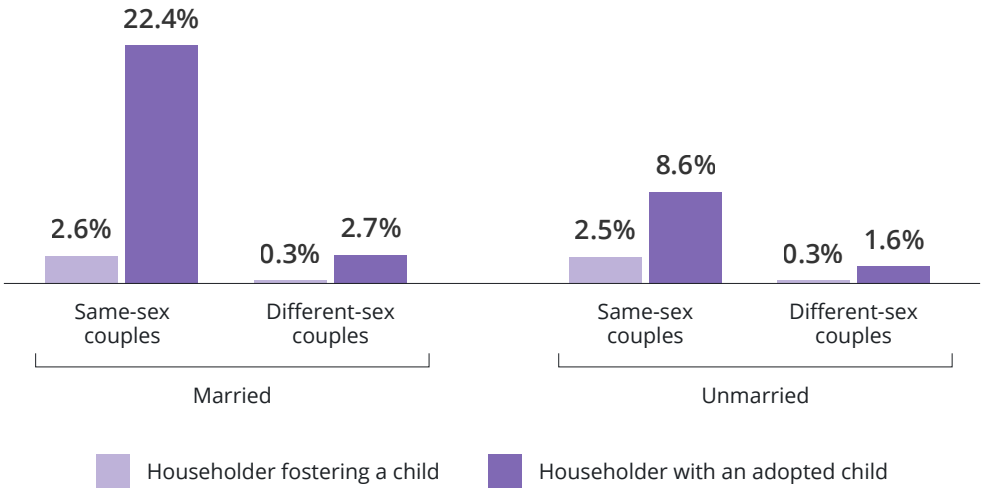
Note: Any children include biological children, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, and other children who are non-relatives of the householder under age 18. Own children include biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children of the householder under age 18. All differences across the four couple types are statistically significant for each measure at the 90 percent confidence level. For each couple type, the differences between any children under 18 and own children are not statistically significant.

Among those couples with children under age 18 in the household, the average number of children in the household hovers just below or at two children across all relationship types: married (1.8) and unmarried (1.7) same-sex couples and married (2.0) and unmarried (1.9) different-sex couples.

Consistent with prior analysis,[67] we find that married same-sex couples with children are approximately eight times more likely than married different-sex couples with children to have a foster or adopted child under 18 in their household. Among households headed by couples that have children, 2.6% of married and 2.5% of unmarried same-sex couples have a foster child, compared to 0.3% of married and 0.3% of unmarried different-sex couples. Among households headed by couples that have children, 22% of married and 9% of unmarried same-sex couples have an adopted child, compared to 3% of married different-sex couples and 2% of unmarried different-sex couples.

[67] Bianca D.M. Wilson & Lauren J.A. Bouton, Williams Inst., LGBTQ Parenting in the US 1 (July 2024), https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBTQ-Parenting-Jul-2024.pdf (finding that 4% of married same-sex couples who are parents are fostering a child compared to 0.4% of married different-sex couples who are parents; and that unmarried same-sex unmarried couples who are parents are also more likely to be fostering a child than unmarried different sex couples who are parents (3% v. 0.3%)). The same analysis shows that 24% of same-sex married couples who are parents have an adopted child compared to 3% of different-sex married couples who are parents. Same-sex unmarried couples are also more likely to have an adopted child than different-sex unmarried couples (12% v. 2%).

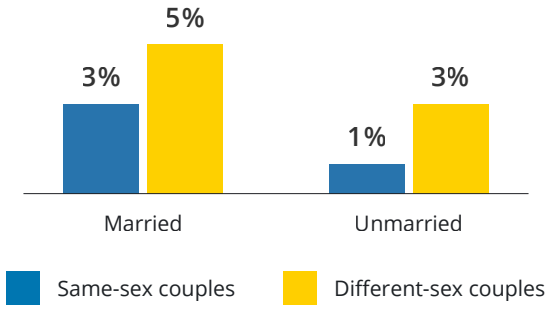
Figure 20. Percent of adopted or foster children under age 18 among coupled households raising children by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: Differences for foster children between married same-sex and different-sex couples and between unmarried same-sex and different-sex couples are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level. Differences for adopted children are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level across all four couple types.

Some households headed by married same-sex couples not only include children but also other adults. On average, married same-sex couple households have 2.6 people in them compared with 3.2 people for married different-sex couple households. Three percent of married same-sex households are multigenerational,[68] compared to 1% of unmarried same-sex couple households. In contrast, 5% of married different-sex couple households are multigenerational, compared to 3% of unmarried different-sex couple households.

Figure 21. Percent of coupled households that are multigenerational by couple type, ACS 2023



Note: Multigenerational households include those with three or more generations living together or households with two generations that are not adjacent. Differences are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level across all four couple types, except the difference between married same-sex couples and unmarried different-sex couples.

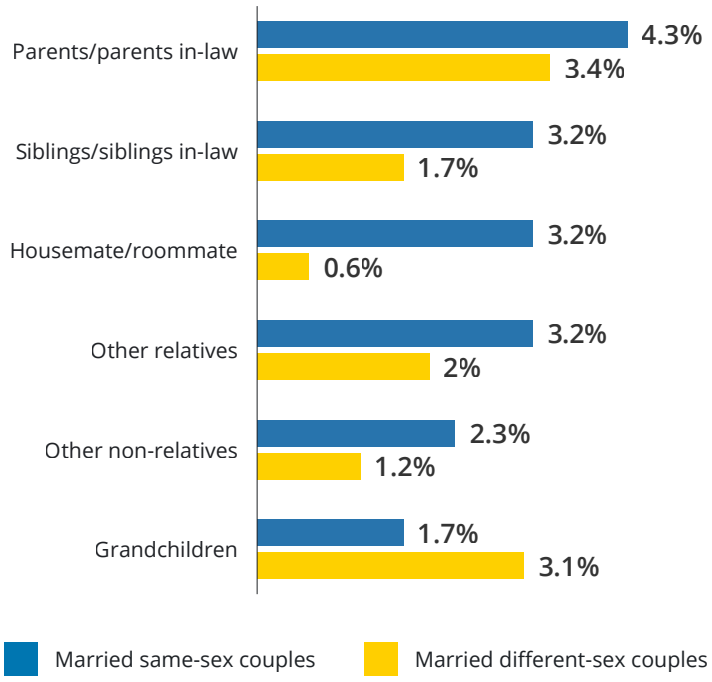
[68] Multigenerational households include those with three or more generations living together and households of two generations that are not adjacent—for example, grandparents and grandchildren.

Married same-sex households are more likely than unmarried same-sex households to include the parent or parent-in-law (4.3% vs. 2.4%), grandchild (1.7% vs. 0.7%), or sibling or sibling-in-law (3.2% vs. 2.4%) of the householder.

Married same-sex households are also more likely than married different-sex households to include the parent or parent-in-law of the householder (4.3% vs. 3.4%), the sibling or sibling-in-law of the householder (3.2% vs.1.7%), another relative of the householder (3.2% vs. 2.0%), the householder's roommate or housemate (3.2% vs. 0.6%), or the householder's other non-relatives (2.3% vs. 1.2%).

In contrast, married different-sex couples are more likely than married same-sex couples to include the householder's grandchild (3.1% vs. 1.7%). This difference may be explained in part by the greater percentage of married different-sex householders who are over the age of 65 (26% vs. 14%).[69]

Figure 22. Percent of married couple households with other household members by relationship and couple type, ACS 2023



Note: All differences between married same-sex and different-sex couples are statistically significant at the 90 percent confidence level.

[69] U.S. Census Bureau, *Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present*, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (Download 2023 Detailed Table) (last accessed June 4, 2025).

CONCLUSION

On the 10th anniversary of *Obergefell*, the data in this report, along with several prior studies,[70] show that many same-sex couples were eager to marry and did so as soon as they were able. While rapid growth in the number of same-sex couples who married directly followed both the *Windsor*[71] and *Obergefell* decisions, the data suggest that the number of same-sex couples who are married continues to increase more rapidly each year than the number of married different-sex couples—closing the gap in marriage rates between different-sex and same-sex couples. The rapid uptake of marriage by same-sex couples is consistent across states and regions despite varying levels of social and legal support for same-sex couples and LGBTQ people more generally.

One critique of the marriage equality movement has been that marriage has become a luxury item for the more privileged[72] because people with lower incomes in the U.S. have lower marriage rates and higher divorce rates.[73] Ten years after *Obergefell,* the data show that the barriers to marriage for different-sex couples should not be applied wholesale to same-sex couples. Consider two examples at the intersection of race, class, and gender: female same-sex couples have lower median household incomes and higher rates of poverty than both married different-sex couples and male same-sex couples. Therefore, we should expect them to have lower marriage rates. Instead, more than half of married same-sex couples are female same-sex couples. Further, despite closely intertwined racial and economic inequities in the U.S., same-sex couples marry across races at a much higher rate than different-sex couples. One-third of married male same-sex couples and one-fourth of married female same-sex couples are interracial, compared to only 14% of married different-sex couples. While it is still true that married same-sex couples have higher household incomes than unmarried same-sex couples, the data on same-sex marriages show that greater nuance is needed to understand how race, income, and gender impact marriage rates and that perceived trends in marriage rates of different-sex couples cannot be simply applied to same-sex couples.[74] In fact, the data from same-sex couples can help to better inform our understanding of marriage and family formation for all couples.

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[70] Badgett, M. V. L., Carpenter, C. S., Lee, M. J., & Sansone, D. (2025). A review of the effects of legal access to same-sex marriage. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 44, 266–294. https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22587 https://news.gallup.com/poll/193055/sex-marriages-one-year-supreme-court-verdict.aspx; ("Taken together, the evidence reviewed above regarding the effects of legal access to same-sex marriage in the U.S. and internationally provides several key takeaways. First, the clearest and most consistent evidence in the literature regards marriage demand: sexual minorities take up legal marriage when it is available. This is true even when the federal legal status of same-sex marriage is absent or uncertain, even when very similar "marriage-like" alternatives are available, and even when same-sex couples have to travel to a different jurisdiction to obtain a same-sex marriage") .

[71] U.S. v. Windsor, 570 US 744 (2013).

[72] For a summary of critiques of the marriage equality movement, including those based on race and class, see Robinson, R. K., & Frost, D. M. (2023). Marriage Equality &Intersectionality. Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy, 23, 219–240.https://doi.org/10.1111/asap.

[73] Thomas E. Trail & Benjamin R. Karney, *What's (Not) Wrong with Low-Income Marriages*, 74 J. OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY 413 (2012), https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2012.00977.x

[74] See, e.g., Robinson, R. K., & Frost, D. M. (2023). Marriage Equality &Intersectionality. Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy, 23, 219–240.https://doi.org/10.1111/asap.

A growing body of research over the last 20 years has also demonstrated that same-sex couples benefit from marriage in similar ways to different-sex couples.[75] Analysis of ACS 2023 data also supports the finding that married same-sex couples have higher household incomes, higher rates of home ownership, and lower rates of poverty than unmarried same-sex couples.

Finally, not only do same-sex spouses benefit from the legal protections that marriage provides, but so do hundreds of thousands of children and other adults who rely upon their households. Many married same-sex couples include one or more spouses who are elderly, disabled, or who have served in the military. Marriage supports caretaking in its many forms—from deployment to disability care to elder care—that these spouses provide for each other.

Almost 300,000 children under the age of 18 rely on married same-sex couples who are their parents and caretakers, including many who are adopted or being fostered. In addition, the data show that many other individuals are part of households headed by married same-sex couples, including parents and parents-in-law, siblings and siblings-in-law, grandchildren, and other relatives and non-relatives. When *Obergefell* extended marriage to same-sex couples, not only did it confer recognition, rights, and responsibilities on LGBTQ people, but for many, it strengthened and supported larger families and networks. If *Obergefell* were to be overturned, it would jeopardize not only the rights and well-being of same-sex couples but also the rights, relationships, economic stability, and social support of hundreds of thousands of other adults and children across the U.S.

[75] Karney, et. al., *supra* note 2, at 17-39.

DATA AND METHODS

DATA SOURCE

American Community Survey

The report relies on data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). ACS is an ongoing, nationally representative survey that collects detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing information from approximately 3.5 million households (about 1% of the U.S. population) annually. Unlike the decennial Census, which provides a population count every 10 years, the ACS offers continuous, up-to-date data on the characteristics of the U.S. population.

ACS is a proxy survey; one adult member of the household who is considered the householder serves as a proxy for everyone in the household. The householder is the survey respondent and answers questions about every member of the household, including the household members' relationships to the householder. ACS also collects information on the household itself, such as access to electricity and water. The survey can be completed in English or Spanish by mail, online, or in person as part of non-response follow-up. Participation is compulsory.

For each member of the household, ACS collects detailed demographic, economic, and housing information from the householder, including age, race/ethnicity, sex, educational attainment, and other socioeconomic information.

Beginning in 2013, survey respondents were able to identify whether a household member was a "husband or wife" or "unmarried partner." This, along with the sex of the household members, was used to infer whether a household was headed by a same- or different-sex married or unmarried couple.[76] Beginning in 2019, respondents were able to affirmatively identify whether a member of the household was the householder's

- "Opposite-sex husband/wife/spouse,"
- "Opposite-sex unmarried partner,"
- "Same-sex husband/wife/spouse," or
- "Same-sex unmarried partner."[77]

The Census Bureau prepares one- and five-year public-use microdata samples (PUMS) that are available from the Census Bureau's website. (The five-year file has greater geographic granularity.) The Census Bureau also prepares summary tables using restricted-use data for public use. Researchers wishing to replicate Census Bureau tables or published reports that rely on ACS data must use a version of the PUMS data; because of slight differences between PUMS and the restricted use data, there are occasional differences between Census published calculations, and those researchers can derive.

[76] U.S. Census Bureau, 2018 American Community Survey Questionnaire, https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2018/quest18.pdf.

[77] U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey Questionnaire, https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/questionnaires/2019/quest19.pdf

For the analysis in this report, we used ACS one-year PUMS data from 2014 through 2023 as packaged and modified by IPUMS.[78] IPUMS USA is a project of the University of Minnesota's Institute for Social Research and Data Innovation (ISRDI) that provides harmonized, user-friendly versions of the U.S. Census Bureau's public-use microdata, including data from the American Community Survey (ACS). It is designed to facilitate research by offering consistently coded and richly documented individual-level data across time.[79] IPUMS ACS contains the original Census ACS variables as well as constructed variables that attempt to standardize and harmonize definitions both over time and across Census micro-use data products.

MEASURES

Sex. We use SEX to identify the sex of individual respondents. The sex variable is a binary choice (male/female). Before 2019, we also use sex to infer whether a householder couple is a same-sex or different-sex couple.

Relationship to householder. We use RELSHIPP to identify the householder's spouse, children, relatives, and other family relationships in the 2023 ACS.[80] This includes different-sex or same-sex spouse and different-sex or same-sex unmarried partner. The variable includes detailed relationship categories between householder and other members of the household. However, ACS does not record other sub-household relationships, such as if a coupled child and their partner are living in the same house as the householder. As a result, ACS always undercounts the number of couple relationships.[81]

Relationship type. From 2019 onward, the Census Bureau provides a recode variable based on the couple type of the householder, CPLT.[82] We use this as the primary method to identify same-sex and different-sex couples in the 2023 ACS. This method produces similar numbers to those published by the Census Bureau each year, but there are minor differences in the counts, usually within one percent. The Census Bureau has also published a report looking at the partners within relationships that uses a slightly different method still.[83] All of these methods consistently produce approximately

[78] Steven Ruggles et al., IPUMS USA: Version 16.0 [dataset], IPUMS USA, https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V16.0 (last accessed June 8, 2025).

[79] Frequently Asked Questions, IPUMS USA, https://usa.ipums.org/usa-action/faq (last accessed June 8, 2025).

[80] The corresponding variable from 2013 to 2018 is RELP. This variable captures whether the respondent is the householder's "husband or wife" or "unmarried partner." Before 2019 same-sex and different-sex couples are inferred using RELP and SEX. From 2019 onward this is directly observable using RELSHIPP. *See* Laquitta Walker, Rose M. Kreider & Danielle Taylor, Implementation of the Revised Relationship to the Householder Item in the American Community Survey (2022), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2022/demo/sehsd-wp2022-20.pdf (working paper).

[81] IPUMS has a method for inferring sub-household relationships, and that information is available through IPUMS. New Family Interrelationship Variables in IPUMS USA, IPUMS USA, https://usa.ipums.org/usa/chapter5/NewfamilyinterrelationshipvariablesinIPUMSUSA.shtml) (last accessed June 8, 2025). However, IPUMS does not attempt to code same-sex partners, so these inferred sub-household relationships will undercount same-sex couples relative to different-sex couples.

[82] The standardized version in IPUMS is COUPLETYPE. They are equivalent for households with a householder couple present.

[83] *See* Paul F. Hemez, U.S. Census Bureau, Spouses in Opposite-Sex and Same-Sex Married Couples and Their Households: 2022: American Community Survey Briefs (2024), https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/acsbr-020.pdf. In this report the authors filtered by relationship type and applied person-level weights to get subpopulation characteristics for the

the same result, although Census Bureau numbers are based on the restricted version of ACS rather than the public-use files.

Race/ethnicity. We use the IPUMS race recode variable RACE, along with the IPUMS Hispanic or Latino/a recode variable HISPAN, to construct a combined race/ethnicity variable. People who were identified as having Hispanic or Latino/a ethnicity were assigned their own category. Non-Hispanic or Latino/a individuals identified as white alone, Black alone, API alone (including Chinese and Japanese, other Asian ancestry, Hawaiian, and other Pacific Islander ancestry), American Indian or Alaska Native alone, another racial grouping, or two or more racial groupings were all assigned their own groups. To identify interracial couples, we identified households where the householder and partner were not identified as from the same race/ethnicity group.

Children. If a person in the household was less than 18 years old (AGE), the household was categorized as having children. If the children were identified as being the biological, adopted, or stepchild of the householder (RELSHIPP), they were counted as own children. Foster children were separately identified and counted (RELSHIPP). It is possible the householder is in a caregiving relationship with children in the household, but the legal relationship is not one of the four listed here. We are unable to identify those caring relationships outside of legal relationships in ACS.

Other household members. Other household relationships were identified in relation to the householder (RELSHIPP), including parents, grandparents, and unrelated household members.

Poverty status. The poverty variable was created based on the federal poverty thresholds provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for each respective year of data and the IPUMS standardized household income HHINCOME. HHINCOME takes into account both household size and all income sources and is scaled to percent of the federal poverty threshold for a family of the corresponding size. We used a 200% of federal poverty threshold to identify families with low economic resources.

Region. We used the Census region and division definitions recoded for IPUMS (REGION).

Disability. ACS collects information on several disability types (cognitive, vision, etc.). It also contains a recode variable (DIS) that aggregates all the disability subtypes into a binary variable for the presence of a disability. We use this to identify partners with a disability of any kind.

Immigration. ACS contains nativity variables (where a person was born) and whether the person was born abroad to U.S. citizens. We use the IPUMS records (BPL and NATIVITY) to construct a unified variable that identifies partners who were not born in the U.S. and not born to U.S. parents abroad.

Education. We used the IPUMS education recode (EDUC) to identify partners with at least a bachelor's degree.

Military service. We used the IPUMS recode of ESR (EMPSTATD) to identify partners in the armed forces.

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individuals members of the couple. For most of the analysis here we are interested in the household level and so aggregate using household level weights.

Multigenerational households. IPUMS provides a recode variable for multigenerational households (MULTGEND). We coded households with three or more generations or two non-adjacent generations as multigenerational.

POPULATION ESTIMATES

All population estimates of the number of married and unmarried same-sex and different-sex couples from 2014 to 2023 are taken directly from public reports by the U.S. Census Bureau, with the exception of the 2020 survey year. That year, ACS declined to publish an annual summary table of the number of same-sex and different-sex married and unmarried couples. However, they did release a one-year PUMS file for 2020 so researchers are able to make their own calculations. Nevertheless, the Census Bureau attached strong cautions to using the 2020 one-year ACS.[84]

Table 5 presents the ACS-published population estimates and estimates based on our own calculations using the ACS one-year PUMS files. Before 2019 we used relationship to householder (RELP) and sex to identify couples. From 2019 onward we used CPLT to directly identify households. The two sources agree with each other every year to within a half a percent or less on average, although the deviation can be up to 2.23%. (For different-sex couples the two sources agree every year to within less than 1% of deviation.)

Table 5. Number of married and unmarried same-sex couples in ACS by year and data source

	CENSUS				PUMS			
	SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES		SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES	
	# OF COUPLES	MOE (90% CL)	# OF COUPLES	MOE (90% CL)	# OF COUPLES	MOE (90% CL)	# OF COUPLES	MOE (90% CL)
2014	334,829	8,353	448,271	10,252	330,875	11,113	454,832	12,930
2015	425,357	8,229	433,539	9,420	423,025	11,171	431,476	12,418
2016	486,994	9,923	400,462	9,428	476,131	10,778	397,142	12,212
2017	555,492	8,733	379,737	8,783	556,773	12,053	379,658	9,852
2018	592,561	11,587	402,859	9,289	588,908	15,076	411,268	11,313
2019	568,110	13,533	412,166	10,776	573,178	15,161	408,454	13,297
2020					678,431	3,753	529,478	3,168
2021	711,100	14,030	498,300	10,928	708,496	15,254	496,130	12,830
2022	740,500	15,886	536,700	13,670	730,059	18,394	533,819	16,074
2023	774,600	17,125	536,900	14,905	776,350	18,711	531,310	15,486

[84] Press Release, U.S. Census Bureau, Census Bureau Plans to Release Experimental Estimates Developed from 2020 ACS 1-Year Data (July 29, 2021), https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/changes-2020-acs-1-year.html.

Estimating the Number of Same-Sex Couples in Pre-2019 ACS

A number of researchers and the Census Bureau have noted that counts of same-sex couples in earlier iterations of the ACS might be overstated.[85] The problem is simple: there are many more different-sex couples; if even a small fraction of them are miscoded as same-sex couples, it can profoundly change the estimated number of same-sex couples. As a result, researchers developed methods for adjusting official ACS accounts to reduce the number of same-sex couples. The recommended adjustments include 1) removing couples in which a partner's sex was imputed (filled in or "allocated" by the Census Bureau), 2) removing couples in which a partner's marital status was imputed, 3) removing couples in which the year last married does not align between the two partners, and 4) removing couples in which the year married is listed as before 2004, the first year couples gained access to marriage equality within the U.S.[86]

Beginning in 2013, the Census Bureau made public-facing adjustments to the ACS to address this problem.[87] The Census Bureau also shifted its survey administration procedures, which also improved measurement accuracy.[88] In 2019, the Census Bureau completely revised its relationship question to allow same-sex married and unmarried partners to explicitly declare their relationship status.[89]

We have not adjusted our population counts of married and unmarried same-sex couples derived from the 2023 ACS for several reasons. First, there is no indication that ACS needs to be adjusted after 2019. In 2019, as mentioned above, ACS adopted several changes to address data quality issues related to same-sex couples, including providing additional categories in the relationship to householder item; "an additional data validation step that checks for consistency between the reports of sex and relationship in data collection via electronic instruments; and updates to data processing for households where reported sex values do not align with the reported coupled relationship."[90]

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[85] Peter Brandon & Oleg Ivaschenko, *Counting Households Containing Same-Sex Couples: An Inclusive Approach*, 7 Int. J. Pop. Data Sci. 1, 2-4 (2022); Danielle M. Taylor, U.S. Census Bureau, The Context and Evolution of Data Collection for Same-Sex Married Couple Households, Poster presented at: Population Association of America, Apr. 22-25, Washington, D.C. (2020), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/visualizations/2020/demo/The-Context-and-Evolution-of-Data-Collection-for%20Same-Sex-Married-Couple-Households.pdf; Martin O'Connell & Cretchen Gooding, Editing Unmarried Couples in Census Bureau Data (2007), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2007/demo/twps07.pdf (working paper); Gary J. Gates & Michael D. Steinberger, Williams Inst., Same-Sex Unmarried Partner Couples in the American Community Survey: The Role of Misreporting, Miscoding and Misallocation (2010), http://economics-files.pomona.edu/steinberger/research/gates_steinberger_acs_miscode_may2010.pdf.

[86] Gary J. Gates & Taylor N.T. Brown, Williams Inst., Marriage and Same-Sex Couples after Obergefell (2015), https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Marriage-Post-Obergefell-Nov-2015.pdf.

[87] Daphne Lofquist & Jamie Lewis, Improving Measurement of Same-Sex Couples (2015), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2015/demo/SEHSD-WP2015-13.pdf (working paper).

[88] Walker, Kreider & Taylor, *supra* note 80 ("So, it is clear that a change in the direction of cleaner data had already taken place before the implementation of the revised relationship question and edit in 2019, likely due to the move toward internet response.").

[89] For the history of this question change, *see* Memorandum from David Waddington, Chief, Social, Economic, and Housing Stats., Div., U.S. Census Bureau to Victoria Velkoff, Chief, American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2017 American Community Survey Research and Evaluation Report Memorandum Series # ACS17-RER-01 (Aug, 30, 2017), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2017/acs/2017_Kreider_01.pdf.

[90] Walker, Kreider & Taylor, *supra* note 80.

The effectiveness of these changes was evaluated in 2022 by researchers at the Census Bureau who concluded "that the rate of potential sex mismarks has dropped dramatically, so that it no longer has a significant effect on the estimates. "[91]

Second, ACS began adopting improvements to increase the accuracy of collecting data about same-sex couples in 2008,[92] and the effectiveness of those improvements was aided by the introduction of the internet as a mode of data collection for the ACS in 2013 and the rapid growth in responding to the ACS by the internet in following years.[93]

Third, many estimates of the number of same-sex couples who were married and unmarried in the years just preceding and after *Obergefell* (2013-2017) align with ACS reported numbers.[94]

Fourth, in reporting ACS numbers, there is transparency in the effect of the change to the 2019 ACS household roster questions in the number we present and how they are displayed in figures in this report.

We also do not adjust our estimate of the number of same sex couples in 2014 and June 2015. We do so for comparability across years, noting that these figures may understate growth in married same-sex couples during the decade since *Obergefell*. For example, using the lowest estimate of married same-sex couples, created by two of the authors of this report, the number of married same-sex couples would have tripled rather than doubled between June 2015 and June 2025.[95] This method relies on aggressive pruning of couples that have imputed values or inappropriate marriage years. Nevertheless, the unadjusted ACS estimate of the number of married same-sex couples for June 2015

[91] Id.

[92] Id.

[93] Id.

[94] See, e.g., Gary Gates & Frank Newport, *An Estimated 780,000 Americans in Same-Sex Marriages*, Gallup,com, Apr. 24, 2015, https://www.gallup.com/poll/182837/estimated-780- 000-americans-sex-marriages.aspx (estimating 390,000 same-sex couples married in June 2015); Jeffrey Jones, *Same-Sex Marriages Up One Year after Supreme Court Verdict*, Gallup.com, June 22, 2016, http://www.gallup.com/poll/193055/sex-marriages-oneyear-supreme-court-verdict.aspx?g_source=Social%20Issues&g_medium=newsfeed&g_campaign=tiles (estimating 368,000 same-sex couples married in June 2015); Peter Brandon & Oleg Ivaschenko, *Counting Households Containing Same-Sex Couples: An Inclusive Approach*, 7 Int. J. Pop. Data Sci. 1, 2-4 (2022) (noting that adjusting same-sex couple population counts based on SIPP and ASEC data brings their estimates into alignment with officially reported (unadjusted) ACS counts from 2013 and 2017 as well as estimates based on Gallup data: "Based on the overall counts of households containing a same-sex couple, we make two broad conclusions. First, more recent consistent numbers emerging from the surveys suggest there are more same-sex couples across households in the United States than previously inferred … Our second broad conclusion is that the counts from these surveys have trended towards convergence. Several factors help explain this growing uniformity in survey counts. First, the rising uniformity in counts may reflect new-found confidence within the LGBTQ+ community about reporting their relationships due to the 2015 Supreme Court decision validating same-sex marriage. Second, their reporting occurs within the context of an American society growing acceptance of legalized same-sex unions. And third, questions across these surveys that ask about romantic unions reflect increasing conformity in questionnaire items. The 2017 ASEC, for example, implemented the same relationship categories as the 2018 SIPP. Essentially, both surveys count relationships similarly. The ACS followed suit starting in 2019). *But see*, Christy Mallory & Brad Sears, Williams Inst., The Economic Impact of Marriage Equality Five Years after Obergefell v. Hodges 2 (2020), https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Economic-Impact-SS-Marriage-May-2020.pdf (estimating 242,000 same-sex couples married in June 2015).

[95] Mallory & Sears, *supra* note 94.

closely aligns with a contemporaneous estimate using a different data source (380,000 using ACS versus 390,000 using Gallup), giving us further confidence in the unadjusted ACS estimates for these years.[96]

Population Projections for 2024 and 2025

To calculate the total number of married and unmarried same-sex couples in 2024 and the first half of 2025 (through the 10th *Obergefell* anniversary), we evaluated four simple linear regression models and chose the model with the highest adjusted R-squared: logged number of couples ~ year.[97]

$$\log(C_t) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \cdot t + \varepsilon_t$$

We used a four-year lookback window (2020 through 2023) using our own couple count tabulations reported above and fitted the model separately for married and unmarried couples. We then used the fitted model to project the number of married and unmarried same-sex couples for all of 2024, all of 2025, and through the first half of 2025 (the *Obergefell* anniversary).[98] Table 6 shows the projected values for 2024 and 2025.

Table 6. Projected number of married and unmarried same-sex couples in the United States

	# OF COUPLES	MIN (95% CI)	MAX (95% CI)
Married same-sex couples in 2024	805,348	754,642	859,462
Married same-sex couples in 2025	841,107	777,128	910,354
Half year 2025	823,034	765,989	884,327
Unmarried same-sex couples in 2024	533,484	405,570	701,740
Unmarried same-sex couples in 2025	537,961	385,402	750,910
Half year 2025	535,718	395,763	725,165

Determining Statistical Significance

Throughout this report, we describe point estimates between groups and indicate that some are meaningfully different (e.g., higher, lower). Consistent with Census Bureau practice, we rely on the 90% margin of error around these estimates to assess whether there is evidence to support (or not) claims of difference between the groups.[99] The Census Bureau provides 80 person-level and

[96] Gates & Brown, *supra* note 86.

[97] All computations were performed in R v. 4.5.0 using the base R *lm()* function. The four models were: log(number of couples) ~ log(one year lag number of couples), number of couples ~ one year lag number of couples; log(number of couples) ~ year; number of couples ~ year.

[98] Logging the dependent variable means that the value for end June 2025 is not the arithmetic mean of the estimate for 2024 and for 2025. It is the arithmetic mean of the log of the two values.

[99] Sirius Fuller & Charles Gamble, U.S. Census Bureau, Calculating Margins of Error the ACS Way Using Replicate Methodology to Calculate Uncertainty (2020), https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/acs/news/Events/Calculating%20MOEs%20the%20ACS%20Way.pdf; U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey Design and Methodology: Version 4.0 (Dec. 2024), https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/design_ and_ methodology/2024/acs_design_methodology_report_2024.pdf; U.S. Census Bureau, *American Community Survey 2023 1-Year PUMS User Guide and Overview* (Oct. 17, 2024), https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/pums/2023ACS_PUMS_User_Guide.pdf.

household-level reweight tables that should be used to calculate a standard error (SE) and margin of error (MOE) for every quantity. We followed their guidance and manually calculated MOEs using the Census for every quantity we calculated.[100] When a quantity was taken from published ACS tables, we used the MOE published or converted the SE to an MOE (multiplying by 1.645). We also followed Census guidance in deriving quantities from published tables.[101] The one exception is the projected number of married and unmarried same-sex couples presented in table form in this section, where we followed the convention for the R package used and reported the default 95% confidence intervals.

[100] Am. Comm. Survey Office, U.S. Census Bureau, Am. Comm. Survey 2023 1-Year: PUMS User Guide and Overview (2024), https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/pums/2023ACS_PUMS_User_Guide.pdf; U.S. Dep't of Comm., U.S. Census Bureau, Am. Comm. Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey Design and Methodology: Version 4.0 (2024), https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology/design_and_methodology/2024/acs_design_methodology_report_2024.pdf.

[101] Fuller & Gamble, *supra* note 96.

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APPENDIX

TABLES

National Data by Year[102,103,104,105,106]

Table A1. Estimates of same-sex couple households: 2013 to 2023, ACS 2013-2023

YEAR	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES					
	TOTAL	MOE (90%CL)	MALE-MALE	MOE (90%CL)	FEMALE-FEMALE	MOE (90%CL)
2023	1,311,447	22,724	624,644	16,617	686,803	14,195
2022	1,277,189	20,690	608,033	12,995	669,156	14,968
2021	1,209,462	15,424	577,589	12,110	631,873	11,818
2020	1,207,909	4,928	592,940	3,156	614,969	3,157
2019	980,276	17,072	462,215	11,094	518,061	13,264
2018	995,420	15,825	485,065	10,474	510,355	10,807
2017	935,229	12,756	451,494	8,666	483,735	10,693
2016	887,456	13,522	435,862	9,541	451,594	9,452
2015	858,896	12,814	412,001	9,271	446,895	9,971
2014	783,100	12,124	377,903	8,417	405,197	9,056
2013	726,600	12,147	352,624	9,373	373,976	7,636

[102] For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS), https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/ (last accessed June 6, 2025).

[103] All data in these tables, except for 2020, are from the following sources: Same-sex couple data in this table is from U.S. Census Bureau, Historical Table 1: Estimates of Same-Sex Couple Households in the American Community Survey, by Marital Status: 2005 to 2023 (Feb. 12, 2015) and Historical Table A. Margins of Error (90% Confidence Level) for Same-Sex Couple Households in the American Community Survey, by Marital Status: 2005 to 2023. Both tables are available at U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (Download 2005-2023: Historical Tables) (last accessed June 6, 2025). Different-sex couple data was retrieved by using data.census.gov to access the U.S. Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B110099: Couples Households by Type. This table is available at U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B11009: Coupled Households by Type, https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2023.B11009?q=married+different+sex+couples+by+year (last accessed on June 6, 2025).

[104] The Census Bureau did not release its standard 2020 ACS 1-year estimates because of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, see: U.S. Census Bureau, Changes for 2020 ACS 1-Year Estimates (July 2021), https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/user-notes/2021-02.html>. 2020 data for all same-sex couples and different-sex couples are the author's own calculations based on 2020 ACS 1 year data from IPUMS.

[105] Beginning with the 2019 ACS, products reflect the revised relationship to householder question that explicitly listed 'opposite-sex spouse,' 'same-sex spouse,' 'opposite-sex unmarried partner,' and 'same-sex unmarried partner' in the response categories.

[106] Beginning with 2013 data products, tables reflect edit/processing changes which show same-sex married couples along with all married couples. Tables that have a line for "married couples" will include same-sex married couples, unless otherwise noted, and the marital status for those adults will be shown as "now married" or "married, spouse present."

Table A2. Estimates of same-sex married couple households: 2013 to 2023, ACS 2013-2023

YEAR	SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES					
	TOTAL	MOE (90%CL)	MALE-MALE	MOE (90%CL)	FEMALE-FEMALE	MOE (90%CL)
2023	774,553	17,118	360,684	11,349	413,869	10,640
2022	740,523	15,886	348,260	10,003	392,263	11,034
2021	711,129	14,030	336,922	10,414	374,207	9,403
2020	678,431	3,753	331,344	2,586	347,087	2,224
2019	568,110	13,533	264,691	7,746	303,419	10,013
2018	592,561	11,587	284,982	7,550	307,579	8,587
2017	555,492	8,734	262,323	6,121	293,169	7,805
2016	486,994	9,923	235,167	7,616	251,827	6,527
2015	425,357	8,229	201,779	6,498	223,578	5,835
2014	334,829	8,353	163,239	5,693	171,590	6,384
2013	251,695	6,858	117,535	5,099	134,160	4,555

Table A3. Estimates of same-sex unmarried partner couple households: 2013 to 2023, ACS 2013-2023

YEAR	SAME-SEX UNMARRIED PARTNER COUPLES					
	TOTAL	MOE (90%CL)	MALE-MALE	MOE (90%CL)	FEMALE-FEMALE	MOE (90%CL)
2023	536,894	14,905	263,960	11,596	272,934	9,560
2022	536,666	13,669	259,773	9,331	276,893	10,255
2021	498,333	10,928	240,667	7,115	257,666	8,636
2020	529,478	3,168	261,596	2,310	267,882	2,079
2019	412,166	10,776	197,524	7,923	214,642	8,386
2018	402,859	9,289	200,083	6,274	202,776	7,218
2017	379,737	8,783	189,171	6,597	190,566	7,070
2016	400,462	9,427	200,695	5,310	199,767	6,675
2015	433,539	9,420	210,222	6,642	223,317	7,217
2014	448,271	10,252	214,664	7,085	233,607	6,769
2013	474,905	10,163	235,089	7,518	239,816	6,568

Table A4. Estimates of different-sex couple households by marital status: 2013 to 2023, ACS 2013-2023

YEAR	DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED COUPLES		DIFFERENT-SEX UNMARRIED COUPES	
	TOTAL	MOE (90%CL)	TOTAL	MOE (90%CL)
2023	60,650,000	172,067	8,951,000	65,866
2022	60,180,000	167,461	8,985,000	53,430
2021	59,650,000	126,139	8,697,000	53,364
2020	59,740,587	66,184	8,519,292	21,550
2019	57,802,732	156,788	7,644,827	49,340
2018	57,581,900	164,061	7,411,852	51,132
2017	57,292,082	164,110	6,985,538	46,307
2016	56,480,804	149,991	6,821,077	45,488
2015	56,290,438	150,602	6,914,218	44,273
2014	55,779,842	141,419	6,727,206	42,856
2013	55,607,113	146,583	6,571,259	43,917

Table A4. Authors' calculations of same-sex couple household estimates: 2013 to 2023, ACS 2013-2023

YEAR	% OF SAME-SEX COUPLES WHO ARE MARRIED	% OF DIFFERENT-SEX COUPLES WHO ARE MARRIED	% OF SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES WHO ARE FEMALE	% OF ALL MARRIED COUPLES WHO ARE SAME-SEX	INCREASE IN # OF SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES SINCE 2014	INCREASE IN # OF DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED COUPLES SINCE 2014
2023	59.1%	87.1%	53.4%	1.3%	131.3%	8.7%
2022	58.0%	87.0%	53.0%	1.2%	121.2%	7.9%
2021	58.8%	87.3%	52.6%	1.2%	112.4%	12.1%
2020	56.2%	87.5%	51.2%	1.2%	102.6%	7.1%
2019	58.0%	88.3%	53.4%	1.0%	69.7%	3.6%
2018	59.5%	88.6%	51.9%	1.0%	77.0%	3.2%
2017	59.4%	89.1%	52.8%	1.0%	65.9%	2.7%
2016	54.9%	89.2%	51.7%	0.9%	45.4%	1.3%
2015	49.5%	89.1%	52.6%	0.7%	27.0%	0.9%
2014	42.8%	89.2%	51.2%	0.6%	X	X
2013	34.6%	89.4%	53.3%	0.5%	X	X

State data by region/division

Table B1. Estimates of Same-Sex Couple Households by Marital Status: 2014 and 2023, ACS 2014[107] and 2023[108]

STATE	CENSUS REGION[109]	CENSUS DIVISION[110]	STATE DID NOT EXTEND MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES UNTIL *OBERGEFELL* (15 STATES)[111]	MARRIAGE EQUALITY BAN STILL IN PLACE (31 STATES)[112]	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2023	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2023	DIFFERENCE IN SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED FROM 2014 TO 2023	PERCENT SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2014	PERCENT SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023
New Jersey	Northeast	Middle Atlantic			20,061	9,609	33,094	21,974	128.7%	47.9%	66.4%	18.5%
New York	Northeast	Middle Atlantic			59,405	29,227	90,520	55,670	90.5%	49.2%	61.5%	12.3%
Pennsylvania	Northeast	Middle Atlantic		•	28,654	11,662	45,585	24,434	109.5%	40.7%	53.6%	12.9%
		Middle Atlantic	0 out of 3	1 out of 3	108,120	50,499	169,199	102,078	102.1%	46.7%	60.3%	13.6%
Connecticut	Northeast	New England			9,701	5,908	12,178	6,881	16.5%	60.9%	56.5%	-4.4%
Maine	Northeast	New England			5,442	2,476	8,718	5,553	124.3%	45.5%	63.7%	18.2%
Massachusetts	Northeast	New England			24,461	13,820	38,444	23,259	68.3%	56.5%	60.5%	4.0%
New Hampshire	Northeast	New England			4,166	2,537	6,279	3,799	49.7%	60.9%	60.5%	-0.4%
Rhode Island	Northeast	New England			2,917	1,088	6,325	3,498	221.5%	37.3%	55.3%	18.0%
Vermont	Northeast	New England			2,433	1,625	4,619	2,785	71.4%	66.8%	60.3%	-6.5%
		New England	0 out of 6	0 out of 6	49,120	27,455	76,563	45,774	66.7%	55.9%	59.8%	3.9%
NORTHEAST			**0 out of 9**	**1 out of 9**	**157,240**	**77,954**	**245,762**	**147,852**	**89.7%**	**49.6%**	**60.2%**	**10.6%**
Delaware	South	South Atlantic			3,850	2,014	6,085	4,588	127.9%	52.3%	75.4%	23.1%
District of Columbia	South	South Atlantic			5,224	2,387	8,832	5,087	113.1%	45.7%	57.6%	11.9%

[107] U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, Detailed Tables, 2014. Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2014 American Community Survey, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (last accessed June 6, 2025) (Download 2014 Detailed Table and navigate to Tab 3).

[108] U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, Detailed Tables, 2023. Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2023 American Community Survey, Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2023 American Community Survey, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (last accessed June 6, 2025) (Download 2023 Detailed Table and navigate to Tab 3).

[109] U.S. Census Bureau, Census Regions and Divisions of the United States, https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf (last accessed June 6, 2025).

[110] Id.

[111] Analysis on file with authors.

[112] Id.

STATE	CENSUS REGION[109]	CENSUS DIVISION[110]	STATE DID NOT EXTEND MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES UNTIL *OBERGEFELL* (15 STATES)[111]	MARRIAGE EQUALITY BAN STILL IN PLACE (31 STATES)[112]	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2023	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2023	DIFFERENCE IN SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED FROM 2014 TO 2023	PERCENT SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2014	PERCENT SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023
Florida	South	South Atlantic		•	55,372	18,384	100,263	60,459	228.9%	33.2%	60.3%	27.1%
Georgia	South	South Atlantic	•	•	24,707	7,214	43,089	25,940	259.6%	29.2%	60.2%	31.0%
Maryland	South	South Atlantic			14,977	8,522	21,934	14,060	65.0%	56.9%	64.1%	7.2%
North Carolina	South	South Atlantic		•	23,127	8,326	39,572	20,419	145.3%	36.0%	51.6%	15.6%
South Carolina	South	South Atlantic		•	9,908	4,161	17,121	9,845	136.6%	42.0%	57.5%	15.5%
Virginia	South	South Atlantic		•	19,027	7,782	30,949	16,217	108.4%	40.9%	52.4%	11.5%
West Virginia	South	South Atlantic		•	2,353	1,005	5,532	3,474	245.8%	42.7%	62.8%	20.1%
		South Atlantic	1 out of 9	6 out of 13	158,545	59,795	273,377	160,088	167.7%	37.7%	58.6%	20.8%
Alabama	South	East South Central	•	•	6,797	2,936	15,884	9,149	211.6%	43.2%	57.6%	14.4%
Kentucky	South	East South Central	•	•	8,310	2,842	15,165	8,159	187.1%	34.2%	53.8%	19.6%
Mississippi	South	East South Central	•	•	3,628	1,600	5,861	3,358	109.9%	44.1%	57.3%	13.2%
Tennessee	South	East South Central	•	•	13,140	4,862	19,994	11,377	134.0%	37.0%	56.9%	19.9%
		East South Central	4 out of 4	4 out of 4	31,875	12,240	56,904	32,043	161.8%	38.4%	56.3%	17.9%
Arkansas	South	West South Central	•	•	5,399	2,462	7,709	4,941	100.7%	45.6%	64.1%	18.5%
Louisiana	South	West South Central	•	•	8,906	3,188	12,597	7,193	125.6%	35.8%	57.1%	21.3%
Oklahoma	South	West South Central		•	7,283	3,510	12,393	6,035	71.9%	48.2%	48.7%	0.5%
Texas	South	West South Central	•	•	58,654	20,294	104,191	61,994	205.5%	34.6%	59.5%	24.9%
		West South Central	3 out of 4	4 out of 4	80,242	29,455	136,890	80,163	172.2%	36.7%	58.6%	21.9%
SOUTH			**8 out of 17**	**14 out of 17**	**270,662**	**101,490**	**467,171**	**272,295**	**168.3%**	**37.5%**	**58.3%**	**20.8%**
Illinois	Midwest	East North Central			29,115	12,840	50,470	27,102	111.1%	44.1%	53.7%	9.6%
Indiana	Midwest	East North Central		•	15,431	5,694	23,201	14,361	152.2%	36.9%	61.9%	25.0%
Michigan	Midwest	East North Central	•	•	18,742	6,522	33,531	18,610	185.3%	34.8%	55.5%	20.7%
Ohio	Midwest	East North Central	•	•	26,021	8,977	38,538	21,427	138.7%	34.5%	55.6%	21.1%
Wisconsin	Midwest	East North Central		•	12,706	4,638	17,714	9,282	100.1%	36.5%	52.4%	15.9%
		East North Central	2 out of 5	4 out of 5	102,015	38,671	163,454	90,783	134.8%	37.9%	55.5%	17.6%
Iowa	Midwest	West North Central		•	7,080	4,652	7,612	4,126	-11.3%	65.7%	54.2%	-11.5%
Kansas	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	5,674	2,542	11,234	6,224	144.8%	44.8%	55.4%	10.6%

STATE	CENSUS REGION[109]	CENSUS DIVISION[110]	STATE DID NOT EXTEND MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES UNTIL *OBERGEFELL* (15 STATES)[111]	MARRIAGE EQUALITY BAN STILL IN PLACE (31 STATES)[112]	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2023	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2023	DIFFERENCE IN SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED FROM 2014 TO 2023	PERCENT SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2014	PERCENT SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023
Minnesota	Midwest	West North Central			14,539	7,560	28,004	15,906	110.4%	52.0%	56.8%	4.8%
Missouri	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	12,371	4,936	24,648	13,236	168.2%	39.9%	53.7%	13.8%
Nebraska	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	3,349	961	4,622	2,565	166.9%	28.7%	55.5%	26.8%
North Dakota	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	774	349	1,335	405	15.9%	45.1%	30.3%	-14.8%
South Dakota	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	1,094	331	1,711	1,075	224.2%	30.3%	62.8%	32.5%
		West North Central	5 out of 7	6 out of 7	44,881	21,332	79,166	43,536	104.1%	47.5%	55.0%	7.5%
MIDWEST			**7 out of 12**	**10 out of 12**	**146,896**	**60,002**	**242,620**	**134,319**	**123.9%**	**40.8%**	**55.4%**	**14.5%**
Arizona	West	Mountain		•	17,515	5,938	32,052	19,648	230.9%	33.9%	61.3%	27.4%
Colorado	West	Mountain			15,402	5,576	30,398	17,692	217.3%	36.2%	58.2%	22.0%
Idaho	West	Mountain		•	2,599	733	5,137	2,938	300.9%	28.2%	57.2%	29.0%
Montana	West	Mountain			1,235	540	4,962	3,057	466.4%	43.7%	61.6%	17.9%
Nevada	West	Mountain			7,365	2,268	15,605	10,471	361.6%	30.8%	67.1%	36.3%
New Mexico	West	Mountain			6,838	2,414	10,259	5,078	110.4%	35.3%	49.5%	14.2%
Utah	West	Mountain		•	5,099	3,355	9,734	5,665	68.9%	65.8%	58.2%	-7.6%
Wyoming	West	Mountain		•	945	372	1,379	905	143.0%	39.4%	65.6%	26.2%
		Mountain	0 out of 8	4 out of 8	56,998	21,195	109,526	65,453	208.8%	37.2%	59.8%	22.6%
Alaska	West	Pacific		•	1,816	498	2,460	1678	237.2%	27.4%	68.2%	40.8%
California	West	Pacific			109,296	53,336	171,283	109107	104.6%	48.8%	63.7%	14.9%
Hawaii	West	Pacific			3,831	1,770	5,918	3663	107.0%	46.2%	61.9%	15.7%
Oregon	West	Pacific		•	13,380	6,155	23,816	13313	116.3%	46.0%	55.9%	9.9%
Washington	West	Pacific			22,981	12,525	42,891	26764	113.7%	54.5%	62.4%	7.9%
		Pacific	0 out of 5	2 out of 5	151,304	74,283	246,368	154,525	108.0%	49.1%	62.7%	13.6%
WEST			**0 out of 13**	**6 out of 13**	**208,302**	**95,479**	**355,894**	**219,979**	**130.4%**	**45.8%**	**61.8%**	**16.0%**

Table B2. Margins of error (90% confidence level) for same-sex couple households by marital status by state: 2014 and 2023, ACS 2014[113] and 2023[114]

	2014						2023					
	SAME-SEX COUPLES			SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED			SAME-SEX COUPLES			SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED		
	#	SE	MOE (90% CL)	%	SE	MOE (90% CL)	#	SE	MOE (90% CL)	%	SE	MOE (90% CL)
United States	**783,100**	**7,370**	**12,124**	**42.8%**	**0.5%**	**0.8%**	**1,311,447**	**13,814**	**22,724**	**59.1%**	**0.5%**	**0.8%**
Alabama	6,797	712	1,171	43.2%	5.1%	8.4%	15,884	1,469	2,417	57.6%	4.7%	7.7%
Alaska	1,816	357	587	27.4%	8.6%	14.1%	2,460	427	702	68.2%	8.2%	13.5%
Arizona	17,515	1,219	2,005	33.9%	3.3%	5.4%	32,052	2,244	3,691	61.3%	3.3%	5.4%
Arkansas	5,399	646	1,063	45.6%	5.9%	9.7%	7,709	786	1,293	64.1%	4.9%	8.1%
California	109,296	2,483	4,085	48.8%	1.4%	2.3%	171,283	4,390	7,222	63.7%	1.4%	2.3%
Colorado	15,402	1,020	1,678	36.2%	3.0%	4.9%	30,398	1,958	3,221	58.2%	3.2%	5.3%
Connecticut	9,701	765	1,258	60.9%	4.4%	7.2%	12,178	1,027	1,689	56.5%	4.2%	6.9%
Delaware	3,850	592	974	52.3%	7.0%	11.5%	6,085	759	1,249	75.4%	5.4%	8.9%
District of Columbia	5,224	637	1,048	45.7%	6.1%	10.0%	8,832	967	1,591	57.6%	5.5%	9.0%
Florida	55,372	1,849	3,042	33.2%	1.9%	3.1%	100,263	4,038	6,643	60.3%	2.0%	3.3%
Georgia	24,707	1,810	2,977	29.2%	2.9%	4.8%	43,089	2,149	3,535	60.2%	2.9%	4.8%
Hawaii	3,831	497	818	46.2%	7.2%	11.8%	5,918	566	931	61.9%	6.0%	9.9%
Idaho	2,599	451	742	28.2%	6.7%	11.0%	5,137	677	1,114	57.2%	7.2%	11.8%
Illinois	29,115	1,616	2,658	44.1%	2.5%	4.1%	50,470	2,491	4,098	53.7%	2.7%	4.4%
Indiana	15,431	1,150	1,892	36.9%	3.1%	5.1%	23,201	1,528	2,514	61.9%	3.8%	6.3%
Iowa	7,080	781	1,285	65.7%	4.9%	8.1%	7,612	683	1,124	54.2%	5.2%	8.6%
Kansas	5,674	573	943	44.8%	6.0%	9.9%	11,234	1,181	1,943	55.4%	4.2%	6.9%
Kentucky	8,310	751	1,235	34.2%	4.2%	6.9%	15,165	1,175	1,933	53.8%	4.0%	6.6%
Louisiana	8,906	817	1,344	35.8%	4.4%	7.2%	12,597	1,210	1,990	57.1%	5.1%	8.4%

[113] U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present,
Detailed Tables, 2014, Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2014 American Community Survey, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (last accessed June 6, 2025) (Download 2014 Detailed Table and navigate to Tab 3).

[114] U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present,
Detailed Tables, 2023. Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2023 American Community Survey, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (last accessed June 6, 2025) (Download 2023 Detailed Table and navigate to Tab 3).

	2014						2023					
	SAME-SEX COUPLES			SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED			SAME-SEX COUPLES			SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED		
	#	SE	MOE (90% CL)	%	SE	MOE (90% CL)	#	SE	MOE (90% CL)	%	SE	MOE (90% CL)
Maine	5,442	566	931	45.5%	5.6%	9.2%	8,718	992	1,632	63.7%	4.2%	6.9%
Maryland	14,977	1,043	1,716	56.9%	3.3%	5.4%	21,934	1,620	2,665	64.1%	3.4%	5.6%
Massachusetts	24,461	1,337	2,199	56.5%	3.2%	5.3%	38,444	2,168	3,566	60.5%	2.9%	4.8%
Michigan	18,742	966	1,589	34.8%	2.6%	4.3%	33,531	2,164	3,560	55.5%	2.9%	4.8%
Minnesota	14,539	924	1,520	52.0%	3.0%	4.9%	28,004	1,929	3,173	56.8%	3.2%	5.3%
Mississippi	3,628	527	867	44.1%	7.5%	12.3%	5,861	836	1,375	57.3%	7.4%	12.2%
Missouri	12,371	869	1,430	39.9%	3.9%	6.4%	24,648	1,702	2,800	53.7%	3.8%	6.3%
Montana	1,235	254	418	43.7%	11.2%	18.4%	4,962	858	1,411	61.6%	8.1%	13.3%
Nebraska	3,349	511	841	28.7%	7.5%	12.3%	4,622	561	923	55.5%	7.0%	11.5%
Nevada	7,365	735	1,209	30.8%	5.1%	8.4%	15,605	1,265	2,081	67.1%	3.9%	6.4%
New Hampshire	4,166	594	977	60.9%	7.0%	11.5%	6,279	754	1,240	60.5%	6.7%	11.0%
New Jersey	20,061	1,187	1,953	47.9%	2.9%	4.8%	33,094	2,065	3,397	66.4%	3.1%	5.1%
New Mexico	6,838	777	1,278	35.3%	5.5%	9.0%	10,259	1,156	1,902	49.5%	6.0%	9.9%
New York	59,405	2,475	4,071	49.2%	1.8%	3.0%	90,520	3,209	5,279	61.5%	1.8%	3.0%
North Carolina	23,127	1,578	2,596	36.0%	3.1%	5.1%	39,572	2,234	3,675	51.6%	2.8%	4.6%
North Dakota	774	273	449	45.1%	17.4%	28.6%	1,335	317	521	30.3%	10.2%	16.8%
Ohio	26,021	1,178	1,938	34.5%	2.2%	3.6%	38,538	2,056	3,382	55.6%	2.4%	3.9%
Oklahoma	7,283	602	990	48.2%	4.8%	7.9%	12,393	903	1,485	48.7%	4.2%	6.9%
Oregon	13,380	1,047	1,722	46.0%	3.9%	6.4%	23,816	1,725	2,838	55.9%	3.5%	5.8%
Pennsylvania	28,654	1,328	2,185	40.7%	2.6%	4.3%	45,585	2,196	3,612	53.6%	2.4%	3.9%
Rhode Island	2,917	423	696	37.3%	7.4%	12.2%	6,325	980	1,612	55.3%	7.3%	12.0%
South Carolina	9,908	765	1,258	42.0%	5.3%	8.7%	17,121	1,316	2,165	57.5%	5.2%	8.6%
South Dakota	1,094	232	382	30.3%	9.8%	16.1%	1,711	430	707	62.8%	12.9%	21.2%
Tennessee	13,140	1,167	1,920	37.0%	3.3%	5.4%	19,994	1,764	2,902	56.9%	4.2%	6.9%
Texas	58,654	2,324	3,823	34.6%	2.1%	3.5%	104,191	4,081	6,713	59.5%	1.9%	3.1%
Utah	5,099	566	931	65.8%	5.3%	8.7%	9,734	1,028	1,691	58.2%	4.1%	6.7%
Vermont	2,433	401	660	66.8%	8.2%	13.5%	4,619	568	934	60.3%	7.5%	12.3%
Virginia	19,027	1,167	1,920	40.9%	2.8%	4.6%	30,949	1,577	2,594	52.4%	2.9%	4.8%

	2014						2023					
	SAME-SEX COUPLES			SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED			SAME-SEX COUPLES			SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED		
	#	SE	MOE (90% CL)	%	SE	MOE (90% CL)	#	SE	MOE (90% CL)	%	SE	MOE (90% CL)
Washington	22,981	1,166	1,918	54.5%	2.9%	4.8%	42,891	1,999	3,288	62.4%	2.6%	4.3%
West Virginia	2,353	410	674	42.7%	8.6%	14.1%	5,532	657	1,081	62.8%	6.7%	11.0%
Wisconsin	12,706	715	1,176	36.5%	2.9%	4.8%	17,714	1,396	2,296	52.4%	3.6%	5.9%
Wyoming	945	266	438	39.4%	13.4%	22.0%	1,379	343	564	65.6%	13.3%	21.9%

State data by policy

Table C. Estimates of same-sex couple households by marital status and state policy, 2014 and 2023, ACS 2014[115] and 2023[116]

STATE	CENSUS REGION[117]	CENSUS DIVISION[118]	STATE DID NOT EXTEND MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES UNTIL *OBERGEFELL* (15 STATES)[119]	MARRIAGE EQUALITY BAN STILL IN PLACE (31 STATES)[120]	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2023	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2023	PERCENT OF ALL SAME-SEX COUPLES IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES FROM 2014 TO 2023	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2014	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023
Kansas	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	5,674	2,542	11,234	6,224					
Michigan	Midwest	East North Central	•	•	18,742	6,522	33,531	18,610					

[115] *See* Tables B1 and B2. See also U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, Detailed Tables, 2014, Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2014 American Community Survey, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (last accessed June 6, 2025) (Download 2014 Detailed Table and navigate to Tab 3).

[116] *See* Tables B1 and B2. See also U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, Detailed Tables, 2023. Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2023 American Community Survey, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (last accessed June 6, 2025) (Download 2023 Detailed Table and navigate to Tab 3).

[117] U.S. Census Bureau, Census Regions and Divisions of the United States, https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/maps-data/maps/reference/us_regdiv.pdf (last accessed June 6, 2025).

[118] Id.

[119] Analysis on file with authors.

[120] Id.

STATE	CENSUS REGION[117]	CENSUS DIVISION[118]	STATE DID NOT EXTEND MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES UNTIL *OBERGEFELL* (15 STATES)[119]	MARRIAGE EQUALITY BAN STILL IN PLACE (31 STATES)[120]	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2023	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2023	PERCENT OF ALL SAME-SEX COUPLES IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES FROM 2014 TO 2023	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2014	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023
Missouri	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	12,371	4,936	24648	13,236					
Nebraska	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	3,349	961	4622	2,565					
North Dakota	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	774	349	1,335	405					
Ohio	Midwest	East North Central	•	•	26,021	8,977	38,538	21,427					
South Dakota	Midwest	West North Central	•	•	1,094	331	1,711	1,075					
Alabama	South	East South Central	•	•	6,797	2,936	15,884	9,149					
Arkansas	South	West South Central	•	•	5,399	2,462	7,709	4,941					
Georgia	South	South Atlantic	•	•	24,707	7,214	43,089	25,940					
Kentucky	South	East South Central	•	•	8,310	2,842	15,165	8,159					
Louisiana	South	West South Central	•	•	8,906	3,188	12,597	7,193					
Mississippi	South	East South Central	•	•	3,628	1,600	5,861	3,358					
Tennessee	South	East South Central	•	•	13,140	4,862	19,994	11,377					
Texas	South	West South Central	•	•	58,654	20,294	104,191	61,994					
15 Obergefell States					**197,566**	**70,018**	**340,109**	**195,651**	**25.3%**	**179.4%**	**35.4%**	**57.5%**	**22.1%**
Indiana	Midwest	East North Central		•	15,431	5,694	23,201	14,361					

STATE	CENSUS REGION[117]	CENSUS DIVISION[118]	STATE DID NOT EXTEND MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES UNTIL *OBERGEFELL* (15 STATES)[119]	MARRIAGE EQUALITY BAN STILL IN PLACE (31 STATES)[120]	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2023	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2023	PERCENT OF ALL SAME-SEX COUPLES IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES FROM 2014 TO 2023	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2014	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023
Iowa	Midwest	West North Central		•	7,080	4,652	7,612	4,126					
Wisconsin	Midwest	East North Central		•	12,706	4,638	17,714	9,282					
Pennsylvania	Northeast	Middle Atlantic		•	28,654	11,662	45,585	24,434					
Florida	South	South Atlantic		•	55,372	18,384	100,263	60,459					
North Carolina	South	South Atlantic		•	23,127	8,326	39,572	20,419					
Oklahoma	South	West South Central		•	7,283	3,510	12,393	6,035					
South Carolina	South	South Atlantic		•	9,908	4,161	17,121	9,845					
Virginia	South	South Atlantic		•	19,027	7,782	30,949	16,217					
West Virginia	South	South Atlantic		•	2,353	1,005	5,532	3,474					
Alaska	West	Pacific		•	1,816	498	2,460	1,678					
Arizona	West	Mountain		•	17,515	5,938	32,052	19,648					
Idaho	West	Mountain		•	2,599	733	5,137	2,938					
Oregon	West	Pacific		•	13,380	6,155	23,816	13,313					
Utah	West	Mountain		•	5,099	3,355	9,734	5,665					
Wyoming	West	Mountain		•	945	372	1,379	905					
31 states with bans+DC					**419,861**	**156,882**	**714,629**	**408,450**	**52.7%**	**160.4%**	**37.4%**	**57.2%**	**19.8%**
Illinois	Midwest	East North Central			29,115	12,840	50,470	27,102					
Minnesota	Midwest	West North Central			14,539	7,560	28,004	15,906					
Connecticut	Northeast	New England			9,701	5,908	12,178	6,881					
Maine	Northeast	New England			5,442	2,476	8,718	5,553					
Massachusetts	Northeast	New England			24,461	13,820	38,444	23,259					

STATE	CENSUS REGION[117]	CENSUS DIVISION[118]	STATE DID NOT EXTEND MARRIAGE TO SAME-SEX COUPLES UNTIL *OBERGEFELL* (15 STATES)[119]	MARRIAGE EQUALITY BAN STILL IN PLACE (31 STATES)[120]	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2014	TOTAL SAME-SEX COUPLES, ACS 2023	TOTAL SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES, ACS 2023	PERCENT OF ALL SAME-SEX COUPLES IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN NUMBER OF MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES FROM 2014 TO 2023	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2014	PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED IN 2023	DIFFERENCE IN PERCENT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES MARRIED BETWEEN 2014 AND 2023
New Hampshire	Northeast	New England			4,166	2,537	6,279	3,799					
New Jersey	Northeast	Middle Atlantic			20,061	9,609	33,094	21,974					
New York	Northeast	Middle Atlantic			59,405	29,227	90,520	55,670					
Rhode Island	Northeast	New England			2,917	1,088	6,325	3,498					
Vermont	Northeast	New England			2,433	1,625	4,619	2,785					
Delaware	South	South Atlantic			3,850	2,014	6,085	4,588					
District of Columbia	South	South Atlantic			5,224	2,387	8,832	5,087					
Maryland	South	South Atlantic			14,977	8,522	21,934	14,060					
California	West	Pacific			109,296	53,336	171,283	109,107					
Colorado	West	Mountain			15,402	5,576	30,398	17,692					
Hawaii	West	Pacific			3,831	1,770	5,918	3,663					
Montana+	West	Mountain			1,235	540	4,962	3,057					
Nevada	West	Mountain			7,365	2,268	15,605	10,471					
New Mexico	West	Mountain			6,838	2,414	10,259	5,078					
Washington	West	Pacific			22,981	12,525	42,891	26,764					
19 non-ban states & D.C.					**363,239**	**178,043**	**596,818**	**365,994**	**47.3%**	**105.6%**	**49.0%**	**61.3%**	**12.3%**
35 non-Obergefell states & D.C.					**585,534**	**264,906**	**971,338**	**578,793**	**74.7%**	**118.5%**	**45.2%**	**59.6%**	**14.3%**

Characteristics of Couples

Table D. Select characteristics of couples by couple type, ACS 2023

MEASURE	AGGREGATION LEVEL	DATA ANALYSIS BY	SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (SSMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (DSMC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (SSUMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (DSUMC)		DIFFERENCE SIGNFICANT AT 90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL			
			VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	SSMCS VS. DSMCS	SSMCS VS. SSUMCS	SSUMCS VS. DSUMCS	DSMCS VS. DSUMCS
AGE														
Average age of partners (years)	Person	Authors; Census Bureau[121]	48.5	0.5	52.9	0.0	40.5	0.47	39.8	0.0	•	•	•	•
At least one partner 65 years or older (%)	Household	Authors	20.7%	0.8%	29.6%	0.1%	12.9%	0.9%	10.2%	0.2%	•	•	•	•
Both partners 65 years or older (%)	Household	Authors	10.4%	0.5%	21.6%	0.1%	5.7%	0.6%	5.6%	0.1%	•	•		•
DISABILITY (%)														
At least one partner living with a disability	Household	Authors	21.3%	0.8%	21.1%	0.1%	22.5%	1.1%	19.4%	0.3%			•	•
both partners disabled	Household	Authors	5.0%	0.4%	4.4%	0.1%	6.3%	0.7%	3.7%	0.1%	•	•	•	•
RACE AND ETHNCITIY (%)														
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander alone	Person	Authors	4.9%	0.4%	7.1%	0.0%	3.3%	0.4%	3.4%	0.1%	•	•		•
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	Person	Authors	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	0.1%	0.7%	0.0%			•	•
Black or African American alone	Person	Authors	7.2%	0.6%	7.0%	0.1%	9.9%	1.0%	10.5%	0.2%		•		•
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	Person	Authors	15.9%	0.6%	14.9%	0.1%	18.6%	1.0%	21.8%	0.3%	•	•	•	•
Multiracial (two or more races)	Person	Authors	4.6%	0.3%	3.0%	0.0%	5.3%	0.5%	4.5%	0.1%	•		•	•
Some other racial group	Person	Authors	0.7%	0.2%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.1%	0.4%	0.0%	•	•		•
White alone	Person	Authors	66.3%	0.8%	67.1%	0.1%	62.2%	1.3%	58.7%	0.3%		•	•	•
Percent of couples interracial	Household	Authors	28.5%	1.2%	13.8%	0.1%	31.8%	1.6%	23.8%	0.4%	•	•	•	•

[121] 6. U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, Detailed Tables, 2023, Table 1. Household Characteristics of Opposite-Sex and Same-Sex Couple Households: 2023 ACS, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html (Download 2023 Detailed Table) (last accessed June 6, 2025).

MEASURE	AGGREGATION LEVEL	DATA ANALYSIS BY	SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (SSMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (DSMC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (SSUMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (DSUMC)		DIFFERENCE SIGNFICANT AT 90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL			
			VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	SSMCS VS. DSMCS	SSMCS VS. SSUMCS	SSUMCS VS. DSUMCS	DSMCS VS. DSUMCS
NATIVITY[122] AND U.S. CITIZENSHIP (%)														
At least one partner is foreign born	Household	Authors	22.4%	1.0%	24.2%	0.1%	14.3%	0.9%	18.4%	0.3%	•	•	•	•
Both partners are foreign born	Household	Authors	7.9%	0.7%	15.0%	0.1%	4.0%	0.6%	9.5%	0.2%	•	•	•	•
% At least one partner is not a U.S. citizen	Household	Authors	11.5%	0.8%	11.1%	0.1%	6.4%	0.8%	11.4%	0.2%		•	•	
% Both partners are not U.S. citizens	Household	Authors	2.5%	0.4%	5.1%	0.1%	1.7%	0.4%	5.8%	0.2%	•	•	•	•
EDUCATIONAL ATTATINMENT (%)														
At least one partner has at least a bachelor's degree	Household	Authors	68.0%	1.1%	54.7%	0.2%	62.2%	1.4%	42.6%	0.4%	•	•	•	•
Both partners have at least a bachelor's degree	Household	Authors	38.2%	1.1%	29.1%	0.1%	31.8%	1.2%	18.9%	0.3%	•	•	•	•
EMPLOYMENT & MILITARY SERVICE (%)														
Civilian labor force participation rate (partners aged 18-64)	Person	Census Bureau[123]	84.8%	0.5%	81.4%	0.0%	Data only analyzed for married couples.				•	Data only anlyzed for married couples.		
Unemployment rate (partners aged 18-64)	Person	Census Bureau[124]	3.0%	0.3%	2.2%	0.0%					•			
At least one partner in the military	Household	Authors	1.2%	0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.1%	•	•		•
At least one partner is a veteran	Household	Authors	10.8%	0.7%	14.7%	0.1%	7.1%	0.7%	8.3%	0.2%	•	•	•	•
HOUSEHOLD INCOME														
Median household income (dollars)	Household	Census Bureau[125]	124,900	2,750	114,300	240	105,500	2,031	89,660	520	•	•	•	•
Percent at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Household	Authors	11.5%	0.7%	14.9%	0.1%	14.6%	1.0%	22.6%	0.3%	•	•	•	•

[122] Foreign born does not inlcude those born in U.S. territories and/born outside the U.S. to parents who are U.S. citizens.

[123] U.S. Census Bureau, Employment and Labor Force Characteristics for Same-Sex and Opposite-Sex Married Householders and their Spouses: 2023 (May 2, 2025), https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2023/demo/labor-force/same-sex-employment-characteristics.html.

[124] Id.

[125] *supra* note 121

MEASURE	AGGREGATION LEVEL	DATA ANALYSIS BY	SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (SSMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (DSMC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (SSUMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (DSUMC)		DIFFERENCE SIGNFICANT AT 90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL			
			VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	SSMCS VS. DSMCS	SSMCS VS. SSUMCS	SSUMCS VS. DSUMCS	DSMCS VS. DSUMCS
HOME TENURE (%)														
Own	Household	Census Bureau[126]	72.1%	1.0%	82.0%	0.2%	48.8%	1.3%	48.3%	0.3%	•	•		•
Rent	Household	Census Bureau[127]	27.9%	1.0%	18.0%	0.2%	51.2%	1.3%	51.7%	0.3%	•	•		•
PRESENCE OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 (%)														
Children in the household[128]	Household	Census Bureau[129]	17.3%	0.8%	37.6%	0.2%	9.5%	0.7%	33.8%	0.3%	•	•	•	•
Own children in the household[130]	Household	Census Bureau[131]	16.8%	0.8%	37.5%	0.2%	8.2%	0.7%	32.4%	0.3%	•	•	•	•
Foster child in the household among households with any children present	Household	Authors	2.6%	0.9%	0.3%	0.0%	2.5%	1.2%	0.3%	0.1%	•		•	
Adopted child in the household among households with any children present	Household	Authors	22.4%	2.1%	2.7%	0.1%	8.6%	2.7%	1.6%	0.2%	•	•	•	•
Average number of children in the household among households with any children present	Household	Authors	1.8	0.1	2.0	0.0	1.7	0.1	1.9	0.0	•		•	•
PRESENCE OF HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS[132](%)														
Average number of people in household (number)	Household	Authors	2.6	0.0	3.2	0.0	2.4	0.0	2.9	3.4	•	•	•	•
Multigenerational household	Household	Authors	2.9%	0.4%	5.4%	0.1%	1.1%	0.3%	3.0%	0.1%	•	•	•	•
Sibling/sibling-in-law	Household	Authors	3.2%	0.4%	1.7%	0.0%	2.4%	0.5%	2.1%	0.1%	•			•
Parent/parent-in-law	Household	Authors	4.3%	0.5%	3.4%	0.0%	2.4%	0.4%	2.7%	0.1%	•	•		•
Grandchild	Household	Authors	1.7%	0.3%	3.1%	0.0%	0.7%	0.2%	1.4%	0.1%	•	•	•	•

[126] *supra* note 121

[127] Id.

[128] Includes biological children, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, and nonrelatives of the householder under 18 years.

[129] *supra* note 121

[130] Includes biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children of the householder under 18 years.

[131] *supra* note 121

[132] Relationship to reference person (householder).

MEASURE	AGGREGATION LEVEL	DATA ANALYSIS BY	SAME-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (SSMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED COUPLES (DSMC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (SSUMC)		DIFFERENT-SEX UNMARRIED COUPLES (DSUMC)		DIFFERENCE SIGNFICANT AT 90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL			
			VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	SSMCS VS. DSMCS	SSMCS VS. SSUMCS	SSUMCS VS. DSUMCS	DSMCS VS. DSUMCS
Other relatives	Household	Authors	3.2%	0.4%	2.0%	0.0%	2.5%	0.5%	2.5%	0.1%	•			•
Roommate/housemate	Household	Authors	3.2%	0.4%	0.6%	0.0%	6.5%	0.7%	2.8%	0.1%	•	•	•	•
Other nonrelatives	Household	Authors	2.3%	0.4%	1.2%	0.0%	3.8%	0.5%	4.5%	0.2%	•	•		•
CENSUS REGION AND DIVISION (%)														
Northeast														
New England	Household	Authors	5.9%	0.5%	4.6%	0.0%	5.6%	0.6%	5.2%	0.2%	•	•		•
Mid Atlantic	Household	Authors	13.2%	0.8%	12.2%	0.1%	12.8%	1.0%	12.8%	0.3%	•	•		•
Midwest														
East North Central	Household	Authors	11.9%	0.7%	14.4%	0.1%	13.4%	1.1%	15.4%	0.3%	•	•	•	•
West North Central	Household	Authors	5.5%	0.6%	7.0%	0.0%	6.4%	0.8%	7.2%	0.2%	•	•		
South														
South Atlantic	Household	Authors	20.5%	0.9%	20.6%	0.1%	21.0%	1.1%	19.1%	0.3%		•	•	•
East South Central	Household	Authors	4.0%	0.4%	6.0%	0.0%	4.8%	0.7%	5.1%	0.2%	•	•		•
West South Central	Household	Authors	10.4%	0.7%	12.3%	0.1%	10.6%	1.0%	10.7%	0.2%	•	•		•
West														
Mountain	Household	Authors	8.5%	0.6%	7.9%	0.0%	8.0%	0.9%	8.3%	0.2%	•	•		•
Pacific	Household	Authors	20.1%	0.9%	15.0%	0.1%	17.4%	1.1%	16.2%	0.3%	•	•		•

Table E. Selected charcateristics of same-sex couples by couple type, ACS 2023

MEASURE	AGGREGATION LEVEL	DATA ANALYSIS BY	SAME-SEX MARRIED MALE COUPLES (SSMMC)		SAME-SEX MARRIED FEMALE COUPLES (SSMFC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED MALE COUPLES (SSUMMC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED FEMALE COUPLES (SSUMFC)		DIFFERENCE SIGNFICANT AT 90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL			
			VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	SSMMCS VS. SSMFCS	SSMMCS VS. SSUMMCS	SSMFCS VS. SSUMFCS	SSUMCS VS. SSUMFCS
Total number of couples	**Household**	**Census Bureau3**	**360,700**	**11,349**	**413,900**	**10,640**	**264,000**	**11,596**	**272,900**	**9,460**	•	•	•	
AGE														
Average age of partners (age)_	Person	Authors; Census Bureau[133]	49.9	0.1	47.2	0.1	42.0	0.2	39.1	0.2	•	•	•	•
At least one partner 65 years or older (%)	Household	Authors	22.9%	1.3%	18.8%	1.1%	13.6%	1.2%	12.2%	1.3%	•	•	•	
Both partners 65 years or older (%)	Household	Authors	10.4%	0.8%	10.3%	0.9%	4.8%	0.8%	6.5%	0.9%		•	•	
RACE AND ETHNCITIY (%)														
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander alone	Person	Authors	6.3%	0.6%	3.7%	0.4%	3.3%	0.5%	3.3%	0.6%	•	•		
American Indian or Alaska Native alone	Person	Authors	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.5%	0.2%	•			
Black or African American alone	Person	Authors	5.8%	0.7%	8.4%	0.9%	8.8%	1.4%	11.1%	1.4%	•		•	
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	Person	Authors	18.4%	1.1%	13.7%	0.7%	19.3%	1.4%	17.9%	1.6%	•		•	
Multiracial (two or more races)	Person	Authors	4.0%	0.4%	5.1%	0.5%	4.1%	0.6%	6.4%	0.9%	•		•	•
Some other racial group	Person	Authors	0.8%	0.2%	0.6%	0.2%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%		•	•	
White alone	Person	Authors	64.4%	1.3%	67.9%	1.2%	63.8%	1.6%	60.7%	2.0%	•		•	
Percent of couples interracial	Household	Authors	34.0%	1.6%	23.7%	1.4%	35.2%	2.1%	28.5%	2.0%	•		•	•
EDUCATIONAL ATTATINMENT (%)														
At least one partner has at least a bachelor's degree	Household	Authors	71.6%	1.6%	64.9%	1.4%	68.0%	1.9%	56.5%	2.4%	•	•	•	•
Both partners with at least a bachelor's degree	Household	Authors	39.0%	1.6%	37.5%	1.4%	33.2%	1.6%	30.3%	1.9%		•	•	
HOUSEHOLD INCOME														
Median household income (dollars)	Household	Census Bureau[134]	141,900	3,733	113,000	2,604	123,500	3,203	93,160	2,405	•	•	•	•

[133] U.S. Census Bureau, Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households: 2005 to Present, Detailed Tables, 2023. Table 2. Household Characteristics of Same-Sex Couple Households by Relationship Type, 2023 ACS, https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html ((last accessed June 6, 2025) (Download 2023 Detailed Table and navigate to Tab 2).

[134] Id.

MEASURE	AGGREGATION LEVEL	DATA ANALYSIS BY	SAME-SEX MARRIED MALE COUPLES (SSMMC)		SAME-SEX MARRIED FEMALE COUPLES (SSMFC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED MALE COUPLES (SSUMMC)		SAME-SEX UNMARRIED FEMALE COUPLES (SSUMFC)		DIFFERENCE SIGNFICANT AT 90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL			
			VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	VALUE	MOE (90% CL)	SSMMCS VS. SSMFCS	SSMMCS VS. SSUMMCS	SSMFCS VS. SSUMFCS	SSUMCS VS. SSUMFCS
Percent at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	Household	Authors	8.4%	0.8%	14.3%	1.0%	9.6%	1.3%	19.4%	1.6%	•		•	•
HOME TENURE (%)														
Own	Householder	Census Bureau[135]	72.6%	1.3%	71.6%	1.3%	53.4%	2.0%	44.4%	1.6%		•	•	•
Rent	Householder	Census Bureau[136]	27.4%	1.3%	28.4%	1.3%	46.6%	2.0%	55.6%	1.6%			•	•
PRESENCE OF CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18 (%)														
Children in the housheold[137]	Household	Census Bureau[138]	8.8%	0.8%	24.8%	1.2%	2.7%	0.7%	16.1%	1.3%	•	•	•	•
Own children in the household[139]	Householder	Census Bureau[140]	8.4%	0.8%	24.2%	1.2%	2.4%	0.5%	13.9%	1.3%	•	•	•	•

[135] Id.

[136] Id.

[137] Includes biological children, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, and nonrelatives of the householder under 18 years.

[138] *supra* note 133

[139] Includes biological children, stepchildren, and adopted children of the householder under 18 years.

[140] *supra* note 133