

NEVADA

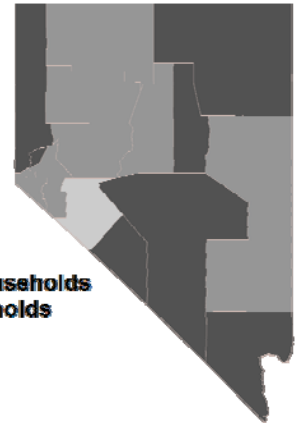
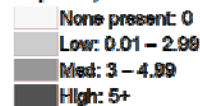
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Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this report provides demographic and economic information about same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in Nevada. We compare same-sex “unmarried partners,” which the Census Bureau defines as an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

In many ways, the more than 6,000 same-sex couples living in Nevada are similar to married couples. According to Census 2000, they live throughout the State, are racially and ethnically diverse, have partners that depend upon one another financially, and actively participate in Nevada’s economy. Census data also show that 26% of same-sex couples in Nevada are raising children. However, same-sex couples, especially those with children, have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than do their married counterparts: they have lower household incomes and lower rates of home ownership.

Same-sex couple households per 1,000 households



SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGBT POPULATION IN NEVADA

- In 2000, there were 4,973 same-sex couples living in Nevada.²
- The number of same-sex couples increased to 6,017 by 2005.³ This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were more than 68,500 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Nevada.⁴

INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE

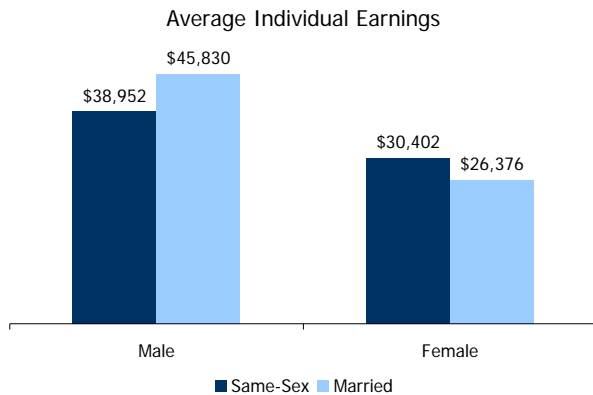
- There are more male same-sex couples (55%) than female same-sex couples (45%) in Nevada.⁵
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 40 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (47 years old) in Nevada.

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Nevada and constitute 1.2% of coupled households and 0.7% of all households in the state. Clark County reported the most same-sex couples with 3,550 couples (0.69% of all households in the county), followed by Washoe County with 915 couples (0.69%), and Nye County with 107 couples (0.80%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Storey County (0.89% of all county households) and Esmeralda County (0.88%).⁶
- Nevada’s same-sex couples are as racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 25% of same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 28% of married couples.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Nevada are more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 77% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 62% of married individuals.

- Contrary to a popular stereotype, the annual earnings of men in same-sex couples are significantly lower than married men. On average, men in same-sex couples in Nevada earn \$38,952 each year, significantly less than \$45,830 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Nevada is \$25,300, or 29% less than that of married men (\$35,500).
- Women in same-sex couples in Nevada earn an average of \$30,402 per year (with a median of \$24,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$26,376 (with a median of \$21,600). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men as well as men in same-sex couples.



- Individuals in same-sex couples in Nevada are more likely to work in the private sector: 82% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 75% of married individuals; 9% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 15% of married individuals; and 9% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 10% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to have a college degree: 23% of individuals in same-sex couples and 20% of married individuals have earned a college degree.
- Despite the military's historic policies of excluding gay men and lesbians from service, individuals in same-sex couples have served in the military at a rate similar to married individuals: more than 15% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 19% of married individuals.

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

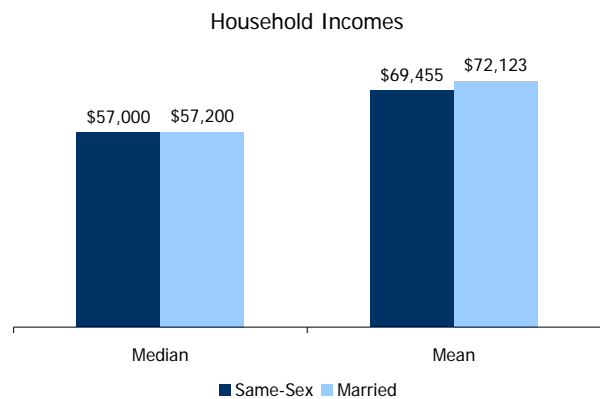
- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. More than one in

four same-sex couples (27%) have only one wage earner; one in three (33%) married couples have a single wage earner.

- A similar percentage of same-sex and married couples in Nevada have at least one partner who is disabled: 30% of same-sex couples, compared to 33% of married couples.
- 6% of same-sex couples have at least one partner over the age of 65, compared to 19% of married couples.

SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN NEVADA HAVE FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES THAN MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Nevada is \$57,000, less than that of married couples (\$57,200). The average household income of same-sex couples is \$69,455, less than \$72,123 for married couples.

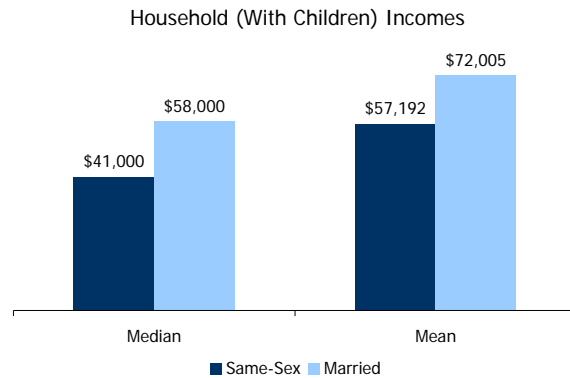


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 59% of same-sex couples in Nevada own their home, compared to 75% of married couples.

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

- About 26% of same-sex couples in Nevada are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 2,917 of Nevada's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.⁷
- In Nevada, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- Roughly 3% of Nevada's adopted children (or 279 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.⁸

- Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$41,000, or 29% lower than that of married parents (\$58,000). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$57,192, significantly less than \$72,005 for married parents.
- While 43% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a much larger percentage of married parents (69%) own their home.



CONCLUSION

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

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity ⁹		
White	75.2%	72.5%
Black	3.7%	4.0%
Hispanic	13.0%	15.6%
Asian	3.8%	5.1%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	1.2%	0.9%
Other	3.0%	1.9%
Average age	39.9	47.1*
Percent with a college degree or better	23.2%	19.5%
Percent Employed	76.5%	62.1%*
Employment		
Private employer	81.6%	74.8%*
Public employer	9.1%	15.1%*
Self-employed	9.4%	9.9%
Veteran Status	15.4%	19.1%
Average individual salary		
Men	\$38,952	\$45,830*
Woman	\$30,402	\$26,376
Median individual salary		
Men	\$25,300	\$35,500
Woman	\$24,000	\$21,600

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

	Same-Sex	Married
At least one partner over 65	5.6%	18.8%*
Percent disabled	30.4%	32.6%
Average household income	\$69,455	\$72,123
Median household income	\$57,000	\$57,200
Income gap between partners	\$24,249	\$27,873
Single wage earner	26.8%	32.7%
Homeownership	59.2%	74.6%*
Percent with children under 18	25.8%	47.1%*

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

	Same-Sex parents	Married parents
Average number of children under 18 in the household	1.9	2.0
Single wage earner (parents)	43.1%	36.5%
Average household income (parents)	\$57,192	\$72,005^
Median household income (parents)	\$41,000	\$58,000
Homeownership	42.8%	69.1%*

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

Appendix A: Counts and percent of same-sex couples by county

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Carson City	84	0.42%
Churchill	34	0.38%
Clark	3550	0.69%
Douglas	60	0.37%
Elko	86	0.55%
Esmeralda	4	0.88%
Eureka	4	0.60%
Humboldt	27	0.47%
Lander	8	0.38%
Lincoln	6	0.39%
Lyon	48	0.37%
Mineral	6	0.27%
Nye	107	0.80%
Pershing	6	0.31%
Storey	13	0.89%
Washoe	915	0.69%
White Pine	15	0.46%

About the Authors

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¹ Unless otherwise noted, we calculate the demographic characteristics from the Census 2000 Public Use Microdata Sample (5% file) available from the U.S. Census Bureau. For a detailed discussion of the Census 2000 methodology used in this report, see *Census Snapshot: Methods Note*, available at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/MethodologicalDetailsForCensusSnapshots.pdf>. In estimating numbers of same-sex couples and children raised by same-sex couples, however, we use the total number of same-sex couples from 2005 and the proportion of couples with children from 2000 in order to provide a more up-to-date estimate.

² Tavia Simmons & Martin O'Connell, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, *Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households*, Census 2000 Special Reports, CENSR-5, p. 4, tab. 2 (Feb. 2003).

³ Gary J. Gates, The Williams Institute, *Same-sex Couples and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Population: New Estimates from the American Community Survey*, p. 11, apx. 1, available at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/SameSexCouplesandGLBpopACS.pdf>. Sample sizes for individual states in 2005 are not sufficiently large for the analyses presented in this report, we therefore use data from Census 2000 where samples are on average five times larger than 2005.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Simmons & O'Connell, *supra* note 2.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, *Unmarried Partner Households by Sex of Partners*, PCT14. Percentages of total households computed by dividing data in PCT14 by data in P15 (total households).

⁷ Computed by multiplying the number of same-sex couples times the percent of same-sex couples with children times the average number of children under 18 in the household.

⁸ Gary J. Gates, M.V. Lee Badgett, Kate Chambers, Jennifer Macomber, The Williams Institute & The Urban Institute, *Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States (2007)*, available at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/Williamsinstitute/publications/Policy-Adoption-index.html>.

⁹ Due to rounding, percent may not add to 100.

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