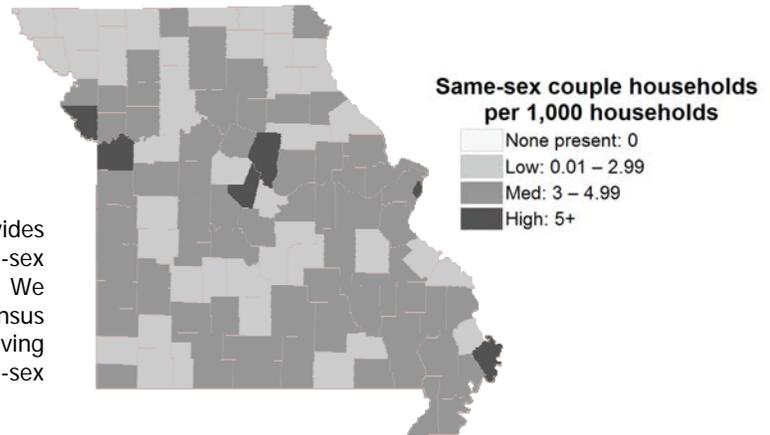


## MISSOURI

JANUARY 2008

**Adam P. Romero, *Public Policy Fellow***  
**Clifford J. Rosky, *Research Fellow***  
**M.V. Lee Badgett, *Research Director***  
**Gary J. Gates, *Senior Research Fellow***

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 Missouri. 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 Missouri.<sup>1</sup>



In many ways, the almost 15,000 same-sex couples living in Missouri are similar to married couples. According to Census 2000, they live throughout the State, are racially and ethnically diverse, have partners who depend upon one another financially, and actively participate in Missouri’s economy. Census data also show that 20% of same-sex couples in Missouri are raising children. However, same-sex couples, especially those with children, have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than their married counterparts: they have lower household incomes and lower rates of homeownership.

### **SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION IN MISSOURI**

- In 2000, there were 9,428 same-sex couples living in Missouri.<sup>2</sup>
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 14,722.<sup>3</sup> This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 160,912 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Missouri.<sup>4</sup>

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

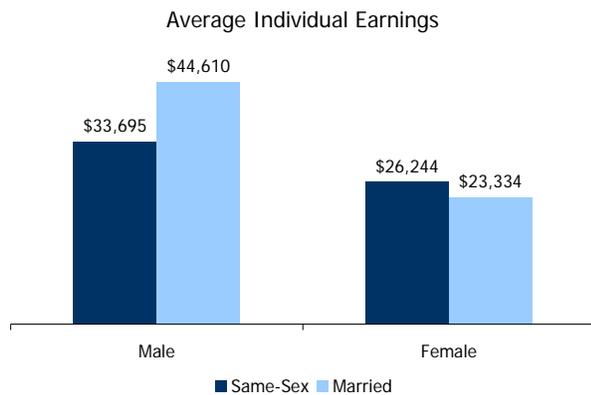
- There are slightly more female same-sex couples (50.3%) than male same-sex couples (49.7%) in Missouri.<sup>5</sup>
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 39 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (48 years old) in Missouri.

- Same-sex couples live in every county and independent city in Missouri and constitute 0.8% of coupled households and 0.4% of all households in the state.<sup>6</sup> Jackson County reported the most same-sex couples with 1,723 couples (0.65% of all households in the county), followed by St. Louis County with 1,463 couples (0.36%), and St. Louis City with 1,297 couples (0.88%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are St. Louis City (0.88% of all county households), Jackson County (0.65%), Boone County (0.55%), and Moniteau County (0.53%).<sup>7</sup>
- Missouri’s same-sex couples are more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 15% of same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 9% of married couples.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Missouri are significantly more likely to be employed than are married individuals: 80% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 67% of married individuals.

- Contrary to a popular stereotype, the annual earnings of men in same-sex couples are significantly lower than those of married men. On average, men in same-sex couples in Missouri earn \$33,695 each year, significantly less than \$44,610 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Missouri is \$27,000, or 23% less than that of married men (\$35,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in Missouri earn an average of \$26,244 per year (with a median of \$25,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$23,334 (with a median of \$20,000). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men as well as men in same-sex couples.



- Individuals in same-sex couples in Missouri are more likely to work in the private sector: 78% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 73% of married individuals; 13% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 14% of married individuals; and 8% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 12% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree: 31% of individuals in same-sex couples, and 24% 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: 8% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 18% of married individuals.

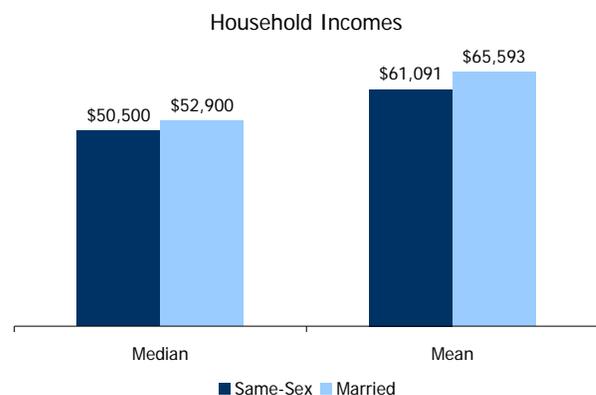
### SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN MISSOURI DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. 21% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 29% of married couples.

- The income gap between same-sex partners is \$18,014, compared to \$25,433 for married spouses.
- 28% of same-sex and married couples have at least one partner who is disabled.
- 7% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 20% of married couples.

### SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN MISSOURI HAVE FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES THAN MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Missouri is \$50,500, less than that of married couples (\$52,900). The average household income of same-sex couples is \$61,091, less than \$65,593 for married couples.

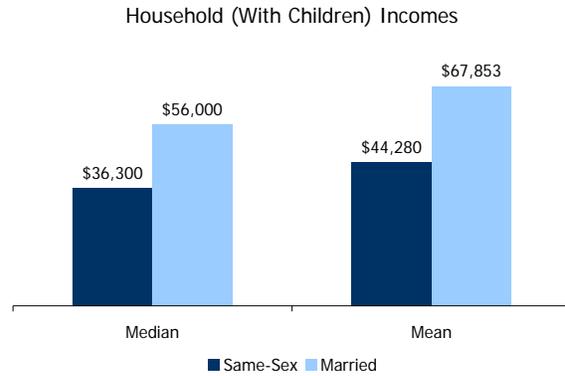


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 59% of same-sex couples in Missouri own their home, compared to 86% of married couples.

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

- 20% of same-sex couples in Missouri are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 5,472 of Missouri's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.<sup>8</sup>
- In Missouri, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- Roughly 1% of Missouri's adopted children (or 161 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.<sup>9</sup>
- 28% of same-sex couples with children in Missouri have only one wage earner, compared to 31% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents have far fewer financial resources to support their children than married parents in Missouri. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$36,300, or 35% lower than that of married parents (\$56,000). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$44,280, significantly less than \$67,853 for married parents.
- While 44% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (82%) own their home.



## CONCLUSION

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

Table One: Characteristics of individuals in couples

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity <sup>10</sup>		
White	84.7%	90.6%*
Black	10.0%	5.3%*
Hispanic	2.4%	1.6%
Asian	0.9%	1.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.3%	0.4%
Other	1.7%	1.0%
Average age	38.6	48.1*
Percent with a college degree or better	31.3%	24.1%*
Percent Employed	80.1%	66.7%*
Employment <sup>10</sup>		
Private employer	78.4%	73.1%*
Public employer	13.3%	14.0%
Self-employed	7.7%	12.4%*
Veteran Status	7.9%	17.9%*
Average individual salary		
Men	\$33,695	\$44,610*
Woman	\$26,244	\$23,334*
Median individual salary		
Men	\$27,000	\$35,000
Woman	\$25,000	\$20,000

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

Table Two: Characteristics of couples

	Same-Sex	Married
At least one partner 65 or older	6.5%	19.7%*
Percent disabled	27.9%	27.8%
Average household income	\$61,091	\$65,593
Median household income	\$50,500	\$52,900
Income gap between partners	\$18,014	\$25,433*
Single wage earner	21.4%	28.9%*
Homeownership	59.4%	85.5%*
Percent with children under 18	20.2%	45.9%*

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

Table Three: Characteristics of couples with children

	Same-Sex parents	Married parents
Average number of children under 18 in the household	1.8	1.9
Single wage earner (parents)	27.7%	31.2%
Average household income (parents)	\$44,280	\$67,853*
Median household income (parents)	\$36,300	\$56,000
Homeownership	44.1%	82.2%*

\* 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/independent city<sup>11</sup>**

County/City	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Adair	25	0.26%
Andrew	18	0.29%
Atchison	5	0.18%
Audrain	26	0.26%
Barry	35	0.26%
Barton	17	0.35%
Bates	20	0.31%
Benton	26	0.35%
Bollinger	22	0.48%
Boone	294	0.55%
Buchanan	135	0.40%
Butler	78	0.47%
Caldwell	12	0.34%
Callaway	49	0.34%
Camden	64	0.41%
Cape Girardeau	101	0.37%
Carroll	10	0.24%
Carter	5	0.21%
Cass	103	0.34%
Cedar	23	0.40%
Chariton	16	0.46%
Christian	64	0.31%
Clark	13	0.44%
Clay	309	0.43%
Clinton	22	0.31%
Cole	75	0.28%
Cooper	14	0.24%
Crawford	40	0.45%
Dade	12	0.37%
Dallas	17	0.28%
Daviess	11	0.35%
DeKalb	5	0.14%
Dent	23	0.38%
Douglas	19	0.37%
Dunklin	55	0.41%
Franklin	120	0.34%
Gasconade	20	0.32%
Gentry	2	0.07%
Greene	444	0.45%
Grundy	12	0.27%
Harrison	6	0.16%
Henry	24	0.26%
Hickory	16	0.41%
Holt	6	0.27%
Howard	16	0.42%
Howell	57	0.39%
Iron	20	0.48%
Jackson	1723	0.65%

County/City	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Jasper	138	0.33%
Jefferson	242	0.34%
Johnson	64	0.37%
Knox	4	0.22%
Laclede	36	0.28%
Lafayette	37	0.29%
Lawrence	28	0.21%
Lewis	10	0.25%
Lincoln	59	0.43%
Linn	21	0.37%
Livingston	17	0.30%
Macon	24	0.37%
Madison	17	0.36%
Maries	6	0.17%
Marion	26	0.23%
McDonald	32	0.39%
Mercer	5	0.31%
Miller	33	0.36%
Mississippi	28	0.52%
Moniteau	28	0.53%
Monroe	11	0.30%
Montgomery	16	0.34%
Morgan	33	0.42%
New Madrid	29	0.37%
Newton	55	0.27%
Nodaway	16	0.20%
Oregon	12	0.28%
Osage	23	0.47%
Ozark	18	0.46%
Pemiscot	35	0.45%
Perry	12	0.17%
Pettis	57	0.37%
Phelps	46	0.29%
Pike	18	0.28%
Platte	150	0.51%
Polk	29	0.29%
Pulaski	36	0.27%
Putnam	3	0.13%
Ralls	13	0.35%
Randolph	42	0.46%
Ray	28	0.32%
Reynolds	11	0.40%
Ripley	18	0.33%
Saline	35	0.39%
Schuyler	1	0.06%
Scotland	3	0.16%
Scott	43	0.28%
Shannon	11	0.33%

**Appendix A: Counts and percent of same-sex couples by county (continued from previous page)<sup>11</sup>**

County/City	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Shelby	3	0.11%
St. Charles	325	0.32%
St. Clair	10	0.25%
St. Francois	85	0.41%
St. Louis County	1463	0.36%
St. Louis City	1297	0.88%
Ste. Genevieve	17	0.26%
Stoddard	37	0.31%
Stone	31	0.26%
Sullivan	9	0.31%
Taney	74	0.46%
Texas	34	0.36%
Vernon	25	0.31%
Warren	34	0.37%
Washington	19	0.23%
Wayne	22	0.40%
Webster	35	0.32%
Worth	1	0.10%
Wright	19	0.27%

## About the Authors

**Adam P. Romero** is Public Policy Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. J.D. Yale Law School; A.B., *summa cum laude*, Cornell University. His current research examines the significance of family in society and law, especially as relevant to disabled adults without family.

**Clifford J. Rosky** is Research Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. J.D. Yale Law School; B.A., *summa cum laude*, Amherst College. His current research examines the significance of gender in family law cases involving lesbian and gay parents.

**M.V. Lee Badgett** is Research Director at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, and Director of the Center for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she is also on the faculty of the Department of Economics. She studies family policy and employment discrimination related to sexual orientation.

**Gary J. Gates** is Senior Research Fellow at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. He studies the demographic and economic characteristics of the lesbian and gay population.

---

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Simmons & O'Connell, *supra* note 2.

<sup>6</sup> In Missouri, St. Louis City is an incorporated place that is independent of St. Louis County and all other county organizations, and thus constitutes a primary division of the state. St. Louis City is known as an "independent city" and is treated as equivalent to counties for census purposes. See U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 County & County Equivalent Areas, available at [http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/co\\_metadata.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/co_metadata.html).

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, *Unmarried Partner Households by Sex of Partners*, PCT14. Percentages of total households computed by dividing data in PCT14 by data in P15 (total households). (The distinction between St. Louis County and St. Louis City is explained in footnote 10.)

<sup>8</sup> Computed by multiplying the number of same-sex couples times the percent of same-sex couples with children times the average number of children under 18 in the household.

<sup>9</sup> Gary J. Gates, M.V. Lee Badgett, Kate Chambers, Jennifer Macomber, The Williams Institute & The Urban Institute, *Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States* (2007), available at <http://www.law.ucla.edu/Williamsinstitute/publications/Policy-Adoption-index.html>.

<sup>10</sup> Due to rounding, percent may not add to 100.

<sup>11</sup> See *supra* note 6.

For more information, contact:

**The Williams Institute**

UCLA School of Law

Box 951476

Los Angeles, CA 90095-1476

T (310)267-4382

F (310)825-7270