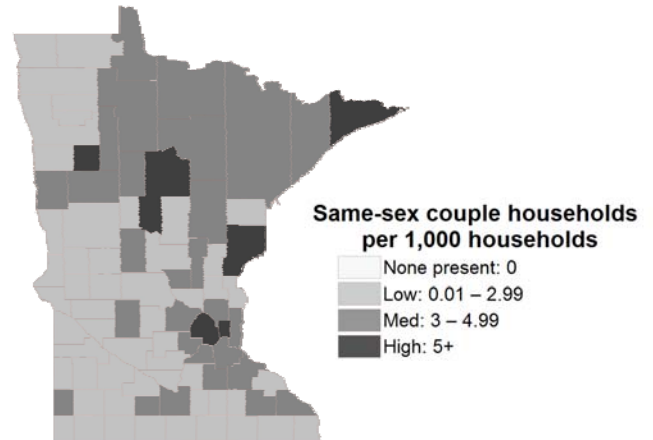


MINNESOTA

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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 Minnesota. 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 Minnesota.¹



In many ways, the more than 16,000 same-sex couples living in Minnesota 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 Minnesota’s economy. Census data also show that 20% of same-sex couples in Minnesota are raising children, and they have economic resources similar to those of married couples.

SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION IN MINNESOTA

- In 2000, there were 9,147 same-sex couples living in Minnesota.²
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 16,081.³ This increase likely reflects same-sex couples’ growing willingness to disclose their partnerships on government surveys.
- In 2005, there were an estimated 175,611 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Minnesota.⁴

INDIVIDUALS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE DEMOGRAPHICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DIVERSE

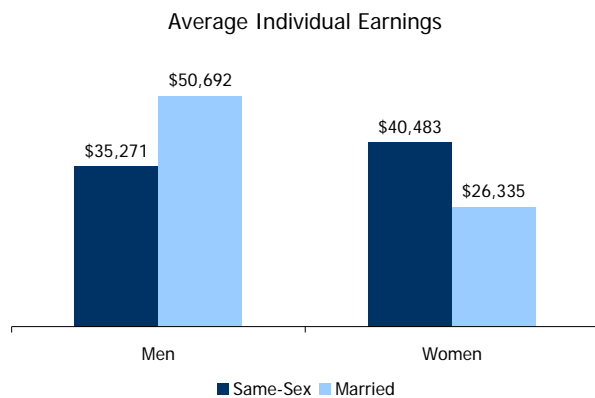
- There are more female same-sex couples (53%) than male same-sex couples (47%) in Minnesota.⁵
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 39 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (48 years old) in Minnesota.

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Minnesota and constitute 0.8% of coupled households and 0.5% of all households in the state. Hennepin County reported the most same-sex couples with 3,987 couples (0.87% of all households in the county), followed by Ramsey County with 1,285 couples (0.64%), and Dakota County with 448 couples (0.34%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Hennepin County (0.87% of all county households), Cook County (0.72%), and Mahnommen County (0.66%).⁶
- Minnesota’s same-sex couples are more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 8% of individuals in same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared to 7% of married individuals.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Minnesota are significantly more likely to be employed than married individuals: 86% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 73% 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 Minnesota earn \$35,271 each year, significantly less than married men (\$50,692). The median income of men in same-sex couples in Minnesota is \$32,200, or 20% less than that of married men (\$40,000).
- Women in same-sex couples in Minnesota earn an average of \$40,483 per year (with a median of \$33,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$26,335 (with a median of \$22,000). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men.



- Individuals in same-sex couples in Minnesota 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; 16% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the public sector, compared to 14% of married individuals; and 6% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 13% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree: 52% of individuals in same-sex couples, and 30% 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: 6% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 16% of married individuals.

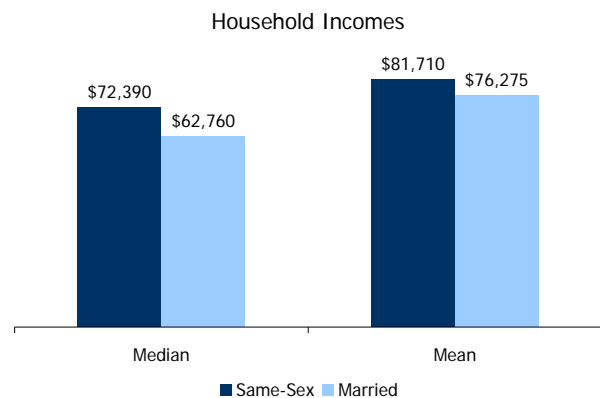
SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN MINNESOTA DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may indicate financial interdependence. 18% of same-sex couples have only one wage earner, compared to 23% of married couples.

- The mean income gap between same-sex partners is \$23,831, compared to \$29,653 for married spouses.
- 20% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 21% of married couples.
- 3% of same-sex couples have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 17% of married couples.

SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN MINNESOTA HAVE SIMILAR ECONOMIC RESOURCES AS MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Minnesota is \$72,390, compared to \$62,760 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$81,710, compared to \$76,275 for married couples.

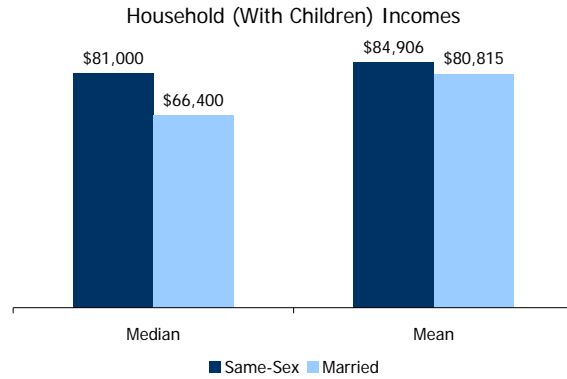


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 79% of same-sex couples in Minnesota own their home, compared to 90% of married couples.

SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE RAISING CHILDREN IN MINNESOTA WITH SIMILAR ECONOMIC RESOURCES TO MARRIED PARENTS

- 20% of same-sex couples in Minnesota are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 5,550 of Minnesota's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.⁷
- In Minnesota, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, 2 children.
- More than 4% of Minnesota's adopted children (or 1,328 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.⁸
- 19% of Minnesota's same-sex parents have only one wage earner, compared to 24% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents and married parents in Minnesota have similar financial resources to support their children. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$81,000, compared to \$66,400 for married parents. The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$84,906, compared to \$80,815 for married parents.
- While 76% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (90%) own their home.



CONCLUSION

Census data provide valuable information about gay and lesbian couples in Minnesota. In many respects, Minnesota's same-sex couples are similar to married couples. Many same-sex couples in Minnesota are raising children, and they have economic resources similar to those of married couples.

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity ⁹		
White	92.2%	93.5%
Black*	4.1%	1.4%
Hispanic	0.9%	1.7%
Asian ^	0.8%	2.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native*	1.3%	0.5%
Other	0.7%	0.7%
Average age*	39.1	47.7
Percent with college degree or better*	51.6%	29.8%
Percent employed*	85.6%	72.6%
Employment ⁹		
Private employer*	78.1%	72.5%
Public employer	15.6%	13.9%
Self-employed*	6.2%	13.3%
Veteran status*	6.3%	15.7%
Average individual salary		
Men*	\$35,271	\$50,692
Women*	\$40,483	\$26,335
Median individual salary		
Men	\$32,200	\$40,000
Women	\$33,000	\$22,000

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

	Same-Sex	Married
At least one partner 65 or older*	3.5%	17.5%
Percent disabled	20.5%	21.4%
Average household income	\$81,710	\$76,275
Median household income	\$72,390	\$62,760
Income gap between partners*	\$23,831	\$29,653
Single wage earner ^	18.1%	23.2%
Homeownership*	78.7%	90.3%
Percent with children under 18*	20.1%	48.1%

* 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*	1.7	2.0
Single wage earner (parents)	19.0%	23.8%
Average household income (parents)	\$84,906	\$80,815
Median household income (parents)	\$81,000	\$66,400
Homeownership (parents)*	76.5%	90.2%

* 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

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Aitkin	22	0.33%
Anoka	337	0.32%
Becker	43	0.36%
Beltrami	52	0.36%
Benton	47	0.36%
Big Stone	5	0.21%
Blue Earth	71	0.34%
Brown	17	0.16%
Carlton	34	0.28%
Carver	80	0.33%
Cass	59	0.54%
Chippewa	8	0.15%
Chisago	43	0.30%
Clay	64	0.34%
Clearwater	11	0.33%
Cook	17	0.72%
Cottonwood	12	0.24%
Crow Wing	64	0.29%
Dakota	448	0.34%
Dodge	15	0.23%
Douglas	24	0.18%
Faribault	9	0.14%
Fillmore	24	0.29%
Freeborn	34	0.25%
Goodhue	52	0.31%
Grant	6	0.24%
Hennepin	3987	0.87%
Houston	21	0.28%
Hubbard	34	0.46%
Isanti	28	0.25%
Itasca	61	0.34%
Jackson	13	0.29%
Kanabec	16	0.28%
Kandiyohi	49	0.31%
Kittson	1	0.05%
Koochiching	23	0.38%
Lac qui Parle	9	0.27%
Lake	21	0.45%
Lake of the Woods	7	0.37%
Le Sueur	20	0.21%
Lincoln	2	0.08%
Lyon	27	0.28%
McLeod	38	0.28%
Mahnomen	13	0.66%
Marshall	8	0.20%
Martin	17	0.19%
Meeker	24	0.28%
Mille Lacs	26	0.30%

County	Number of same-sex couples	Percent of same-sex couples out of all households
Morrison	30	0.25%
Mower	41	0.26%
Murray	11	0.30%
Nicollet	31	0.29%
Nobles	18	0.23%
Norman	8	0.27%
Olmsted	163	0.34%
Otter Tail	64	0.28%
Pennington	4	0.07%
Pine	51	0.51%
Pipestone	13	0.32%
Polk	33	0.27%
Pope	10	0.22%
Ramsey	1285	0.64%
Red Lake	3	0.17%
Redwood	13	0.19%
Renville	19	0.28%
Rice	78	0.41%
Rock	6	0.16%
Roseau	16	0.26%
St. Louis	262	0.32%
Scott	111	0.36%
Sherburne	60	0.28%
Sibley	15	0.26%
Stearns	138	0.29%
Steele	34	0.26%
Stevens	4	0.11%
Swift	9	0.21%
Todd	33	0.35%
Traverse	3	0.17%
Wabasha	18	0.22%
Wadena	16	0.29%
Waseca	13	0.18%
Washington	277	0.39%
Watsonwan	18	0.39%
Wilkin	8	0.29%
Winona	67	0.36%
Wright	111	0.35%
Yellow Medicine	10	0.23%

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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* (2006), 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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