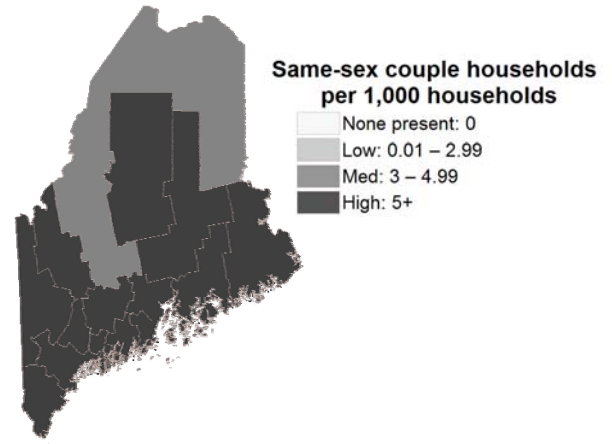


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Using data from the U.S. Census Bureau, this report provides demographic and economic information about same-sex couples and same-sex couples raising children in Maine. We compare same-sex “unmarried partners,” which the Census Bureau defines as an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



In many ways, the more than 4,800 same-sex couples living in Maine 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 Maine’s economy. Census data also show that about 16% of same-sex couples in Maine are raising children. However, same-sex couples with children have fewer economic resources to provide for their families than married parents: they have lower household incomes and lower rates of homeownership.

### SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION IN MAINE

- In 2000, there were 3,394 same-sex couples living in Maine.<sup>2</sup>
- By 2005, the number of same-sex couples increased to 4,847.<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 52,801 gay, lesbian, and bisexual people (single and coupled) living in Maine.<sup>4</sup>

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

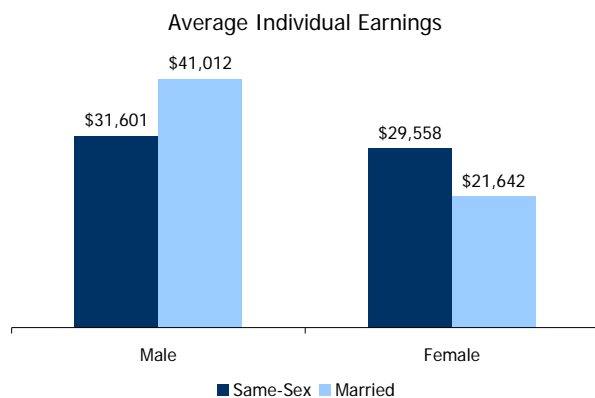
- There are more female same-sex couples (56%) than male same-sex couples (44%) in Maine.<sup>5</sup>
- Individuals in same-sex couples are, on average, 43 years old, and significantly younger than individuals in married couples (49 years old) in Maine.

- Same-sex couples live in every county in Maine and constitute 1.1% of coupled households and 0.7% of all households in the state. Cumberland County reported the most same-sex couples with 944 couples (0.87% of all county households), followed by York County with 547 couples (0.73%), and Penobscot County with 320 couples (0.55%). The counties with the highest percentage of same-sex couples are Cumberland County (0.87% of all county households), York County (0.73%), Washington County (0.72%), and Sagadahoc County (0.69%).<sup>6</sup>
- Maine’s same-sex couples are significantly more racially and ethnically diverse than their married counterparts: 8% of individuals in same-sex couples are nonwhite, compared with 2% of married individuals.

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

- Individuals in same-sex couples in Maine are significantly more likely to be employed than married individuals: 81% of individuals in same-sex couples are employed, compared to 68% 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 Maine earn \$31,601 each year, significantly less than \$41,012 for married men. The median income of men in same-sex couples in Maine is \$24,000, or 26% less than that of married men (\$32,500).
- Women in same-sex couples in Maine earn an average of \$29,558 per year (with a median of \$30,000), more than married women, whose earnings average \$21,642 (with a median of \$18,500). Women in same-sex couples earn less than married men.



- Individuals in same-sex and married couples in Maine are more likely to work in the private sector: 65% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 68% of married individuals; 19% of individuals in same-sex couples work in the private sector, compared to 16% of married individuals; and 16% of individuals in same-sex couples are self-employed, compared to 15% of married individuals.
- Individuals in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree: 48% of individuals in same-sex couples, and 25% 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: 12% of individuals in same-sex couples are veterans, compared to 19% of married individuals.

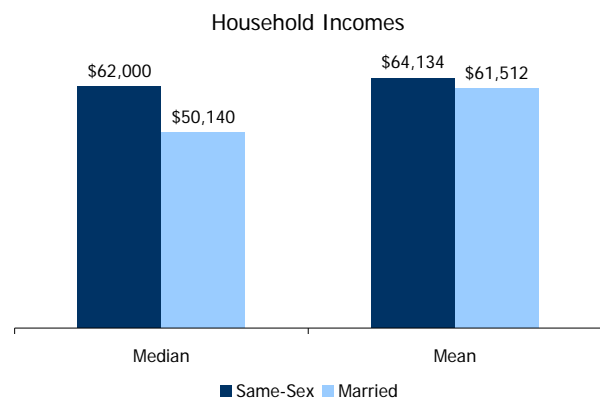
### SAME-SEX PARTNERS IN MAINE DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER IN WAYS THAT ARE SIMILAR TO MARRIED COUPLES

- Couples in which one partner does not work or earns significantly less than the other partner may be financially interdependent. 27% of same-sex and married couples have only one wage earner.

- The mean income gap between same-sex partners is \$20,390, compared to \$23,168 for married spouses.
- 26% of same-sex couples in Maine have at least one partner who is disabled, compared to 30% of married couples.
- 8% of same-sex couples in Maine have at least one partner who is age 65 or older, compared to 19% of married couples.

### SAME-SEX HOUSEHOLDS IN MAINE HAVE GREATER INCOMES BUT LOWER HOMEOWNERSHIP THAN MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS

- The median income of same-sex coupled households in Maine is \$62,000, compared to \$50,140 for married couples. The average household income of same-sex couples is \$64,134, compared to \$61,512 for married couples.

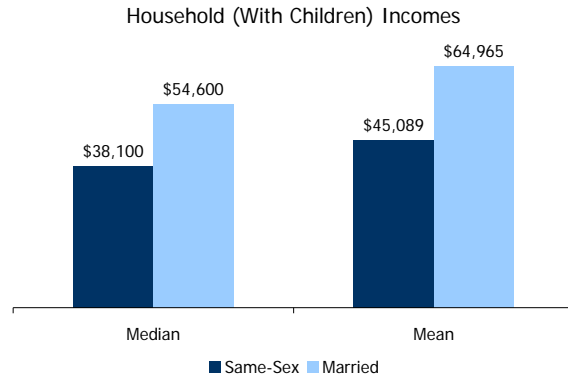


- Same-sex couples are significantly less likely than married couples to own their homes: 63% of same-sex couples in Maine own their home, compared to 87% of married couples.

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

- 16% of same-sex couples in Maine are raising children under the age of 18.
- As of 2005, an estimated 1,228 of Maine's children are living in households headed by same-sex couples.<sup>7</sup>
- In Maine, married and same-sex couples with children under 18 in the home have, on average, two children.
- 5% of Maine's adopted children (or 323 children) live with a lesbian or gay parent.<sup>8</sup>
- 23% of same-sex parents in Maine have only one wage earner, compared to 29% of married parents.

- Same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their families than married parents in Maine. The median household income of same-sex couples with children is \$38,100, or 30% lower than that of married parents (\$54,600). The average household income of same-sex couples with children is \$45,089, significantly less than \$64,965 for married parents.
- While 44% of same-sex couples with children own their home, a significantly larger percentage of married parents (86%) own their home.



## CONCLUSION

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

	Same-Sex	Married
Race/Ethnicity <sup>9</sup>		
White*	92.2%	97.8%
Black	0.8%	0.2%
Hispanic*	2.1%	0.5%
Asian	0.9%	0.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native*	3.7%	0.4%
Other	0.4%	0.5%
Average age*	43.1	48.9
Percent with college degree or better*	48.0%	24.8%
Percent employed*	80.7%	67.7%
Employment <sup>9</sup>		
Private employer	65.2%	68.2%
Public employer	18.7%	16.2%
Self-employed	16.1%	15.3%
Veteran status <sup>^</sup>	11.5%	18.7%
Average individual salary		
Men*	\$31,601	\$41,102
Women*	\$29,558	\$21,642
Median individual salary		
Men	\$24,000	\$32,500
Women	\$30,000	\$18,500

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

	Same-Sex	Married
At least one partner 65 or older*	8.4%	19.4%
Percent disabled	26.1%	29.6%
Average household income	\$64,134	\$61,512
Median household income	\$62,000	\$50,140
Income gap between partners	\$20,390	\$23,168
Single wage earner	27.1%	27.0%
Homeownership*	62.8%	87.0%
Percent with children under 18*	15.8%	43.3%

\* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).  
<sup>^</sup> 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	1.6	1.8
Single wage earner (parents)	23.0%	29.1%
Average household income (parents)*	\$45,089	\$64,965
Median household income (parents)	\$38,100	\$54,600
Homeownership (parents)*	44.3%	85.7%

\* Difference significant at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).  
<sup>^</sup> 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
Androscoggin	237	0.56%
Aroostook	138	0.45%
Cumberland	944	0.87%
Franklin	60	0.51%
Hancock	144	0.66%
Kennebec	270	0.57%
Knox	95	0.57%
Lincoln	76	0.54%
Oxford	117	0.52%
Penobscot	320	0.55%
Piscataquis	57	0.78%
Sagadahoc	97	0.69%
Somerset	92	0.45%
Waldo	99	0.67%
Washington	101	0.72%
York	547	0.73%

## About the Authors

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<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* (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.

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

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

<sup>6</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).

<sup>7</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>8</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>9</sup> Due to rounding, percent may not add to 100.

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