

## Demographics of Same-Sex Couple Households with Children

Kristy M. Krivickas

Daphne Lofquist

U.S. Census Bureau

Fertility & Family Statistics Branch

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### **Abstract:**

Limited research has looked at the distribution of multiple categories of children under the age of 18 residing in same-sex unmarried and same-sex spousal households. This paper specifically examines the socio-demographic characteristics of same-sex couple households with children, using the 2009 American Community Survey internal data files. We describe the distribution of type of children (biological, step, adopted, non-related, or a combination of types of children) across four household forms: married opposite-sex; unmarried opposite-sex; same-sex unmarried; and same-sex with a spouse. Then, we discuss the characteristics of the households containing each type of children. Our primary results show that a larger percentage of non-related children live in unmarried same-sex compared with married opposite-sex households. We also find that same-sex couples with only adopted or only step children have significantly higher incomes than both married and unmarried opposite-sex households.

*This report is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed on statistical or methodological issues are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.*

## Demographics of Same-Sex Couple Households with Children

### Introduction

Limited research has examined the distribution of multiple categories of children under the age of 18 residing in same-sex unmarried and same-sex spousal households. This paper specifically examines the socio-demographic characteristics of same-sex couple households with children in comparison to other coupled households. We present information on the distribution of biological, adopted, step, and non-related children, and whether combinations of own children<sup>1</sup> are present within four types of households: married opposite-sex, unmarried opposite-sex, unmarried same-sex, and same-sex spousal.

Our research makes three contributions to the literature. First, we expand and update previous research that examined the distributions of step, biological, and adopted children in married and unmarried households (Moorman & Hernandez 1989, Kreider & Elliott 2009) by comparing opposite-sex and same-sex households. Second, we increase knowledge about children within same-sex relationships. Previous studies have discussed the number of children present in same-sex households (Black, Gates, Sanders, & Taylor 2000), whether children are from previous or current relationships (Henehan, Rothblum, Solomon, & Balsam 2007), and the number of adopted and foster children in same-sex households (Gates, Badgett, Macomber, & Chambers 2007). Our research describes multiple types of children including all forms of own children (biological, step, and adoptive) and any non-related children that are in same-sex

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<sup>1</sup>Census data refer to biological, step, or adopted children as own children. Foster children and other non-related children are not included as own children in our analysis.

households. We are particularly interested in determining if same-sex couple households have more non-related children compared with opposite-sex couples. Third and finally, this will be one of the first studies to use nationally representative data to look at children in households containing a same-sex spouse. Here we seek to address if same-sex spousal households contain more biological children and less non-related children than same-sex unmarried households.

### **Children in Opposite-Sex and Same-Sex Households**

We begin by discussing the past research on children in households. Data from the 2008 American Community Survey show that there are approximately 415,000 reported same-sex unmarried partner households and 150,000 reported same-sex spousal households, representing 27% of all same-sex couple households (O’Connell, Lofquist, Simmons, & Lugaila 2010). A substantial number of these same-sex households contain children. Black and colleagues (2000) used data from the 1990 Census to show that about 22% of partnered lesbians and about 5% of partnered gay men had children in their households. Recent estimates from the 2008 ACS show 13.9 percent of male-male unmarried couple and 26.5 percent of female-female unmarried couple households contain children<sup>2</sup>. A larger percentage of opposite-sex households contain children, as 43 percent of both married opposite-sex couple and unmarried opposite-sex couple households contain children.

Same-sex couples, both male and female, are also significantly more likely to have children from previous relationships and much less likely to have children from their current

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<sup>2</sup> 2008 ACS Tables can be found viewed at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/files/ssex-tables-2008.xls>

relationship compared with opposite-sex couples (Henehan et al. 2007). Specifically, 62 percent of lesbians had children from a previous relationship compared with only 19 percent of heterosexual women, while 78 percent of heterosexual women have children from their current relationship compared with only 37 percent of lesbian women (Henehan et al.). Similar results were found for gay men and heterosexual men. These findings suggest that same-sex couple householders may be more likely than opposite-sex couple householders to have a non-related child (most likely being the child of a partner) in their household.

### **Repartnering and Children's Relatedness to the Householder**

The rapidity at which and the number of times individuals repartner has been increasing in recent times (Cherlin 2009). This increase in repartnering could lead to high numbers of step children and/or combinations of biological children and step children within both married and unmarried households. Boundary ambiguity, the issue of who is in the family versus who is not in the family, can create confusion about how each child is related to the householder.

Cohabiting couples and couples who have been previously married are more likely than married couples and those who have never been previously married to encounter boundary ambiguity (Stewart 2005). The possibility then exists that unmarried couple households may be less likely than married couple households to claim a partner's child as a step child and be more likely to classify that child as a non-related child rather than own child.

Four percent of all adopted children in the U.S. are being raised by gay or lesbian parents (Gates et al. 2007). Same-sex households with an adopted child have significantly higher incomes and are significantly more educated, with 34 percent of same-sex households having a graduate education compared with 13, 2, and 9 percent for opposite-sex married, opposite-sex

unmarried, and unmarried individuals, respectively (Gates et al.). Lugaila and Overturf's (2004) examination of children in households shows that other non-related children are more likely than biological children to live in unmarried couple households. We have two focal hypotheses. First, non-related children will predominate in unmarried households rather than in married households. Second, non-related children are more likely to be found in same-sex households than in opposite-sex households.

### **Data and Methods**

We use the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) to provide a detailed examination of children in a variety of households. The ACS replaces the long-form of the 2010 Decennial Census, and is the largest household survey of the United States, with approximately 3 million sampled housing units, and contains detailed demographic and socioeconomic measures formerly found in the long form<sup>3</sup>. We use the internal data files which contain information not released to the public, as well as a much larger sample. Specifically, we use internal data detailing whether householders reported themselves as having a same-sex spouse. The internal data contain an imputation flag distinguishing householders who reported having a spouse, from those having an unmarried partner in same-sex households. The public ACS data do not include the imputation flag reporting spousal status of same-sex households; rather, the public data categorizes all same-sex households as “unmarried partnered households” (O’Connell &

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<sup>3</sup> For more information on the sample design and limitations of the ACS data, see the *American Community Survey Accuracy of the Data (2009)* on the ACS web page at [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data\\_documentation/Accuracy/ACS\\_Accuracy\\_of\\_Data\\_2009.pdf](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/data_documentation/Accuracy/ACS_Accuracy_of_Data_2009.pdf).

Lofquist 2009). The ACS is an excellent data source to study same-sex couples at the national level compared with other data sets, particularly same-sex spousal couples, because the proportion of all households that are same-sex couple households is very small and may not be stratified evenly across all geographic areas.

### *Analytic Strategy, Sample Selection, and Demographic Measures*

We provide two main sets of analyses. First, we describe the distribution of type of children (biological, step, adopted, non-related, or a combination of types of own children – all of which are mutually exclusive) across four household forms: married opposite-sex, unmarried opposite-sex, same-sex unmarried, and same-sex with a spouse. Second, we discuss the characteristics of the households that contain each type of children. Here we examine if differences in socio-demographic variables, such as age, race/ethnicity, income, and residential stability, occur between the various types of households with children.

Our focal interest lies in households that contain children, therefore to be included in our study, respondents had to report that there was either a biological child, adopted child, or step child who was 18 years of age or younger, unmarried, and currently living in the household that was related to the householder. Additionally, any non-related person who was 18 years or younger was included. The categories of own children in households are: households with biological children only, households with step only or adopted only, and households with a combination of two or more of the three own child types<sup>4</sup>. These categories are all mutually

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<sup>4</sup> Importantly, we do not know whether respondents selected step child or non-related child when there is partner's child in the household, therefore our results regarding non-related children must be interpreted with caution.

exclusive, meaning our sample excludes households that have both own children and non-related children.

Importantly, only couple households are included in our study. We cannot account for couples who do not live together or gay or lesbian individuals with ACS data. We examine edited same-sex unmarried households, which include both reported same-sex unmarried households and reported same-sex spousal households; opposite-sex married households, and opposite-sex unmarried households. Our weighted sample includes 23,453,504 married opposite-sex couple households, 2,493,838 unmarried opposite-sex couple households, and a total of 104,949 same-sex partner households of which 33,010 are male-male partner households, and 71,939 are female-female partner households. Of couples who are of the same-sex, 43,792 reported themselves as spousal households, and 61,157 reported themselves as unmarried partners.

For this paper we look at the demographic characteristic differences within each child household type. The demographic characteristics include age of householder, race of householder, Hispanic or Latino origin of householder, educational attainment, employment status, household income, home tenure, residential stability, and region within the United States.

### **Focal Results**

Table 1 presents the results of the distribution of couple households with children. We make three sets of comparisons within this table. Panel A compares married opposite-sex, unmarried opposite-sex, and same-sex couples. The final two panels compare same-sex couples only: Panel B looks at gender differences in same-sex couples while Panel C compares the reporting status of same-sex couples. Two key points are highlighted in this table. First, regardless of the type of couple household, more householders report having only biological

children in the household, with no additional type of children in the household. Married opposite-sex couples have the largest percentage with 90.5 percent of the households containing only biological children compared with 87.3 percent of unmarried opposite-sex households and 71.2 percent of all same-sex households. Among same-sex couples, male-male couples had a larger percentage of only biological children (75.7 percent) compared with female-female couples (69.0 percent). Additionally, more same-sex spousal households contained only biological children compared with same-sex households who report themselves as unmarried partners (79.5 percent and 64.2 percent, respectively).

Second and consistent with our main hypotheses, we find a larger percentage of non-related children living in same-sex couple households and in unmarried opposite-sex couples than opposite-sex married couple households. Less than one percent (0.4 percent) of married opposite-sex couple households contain only a non-related child versus 9.8 percent of all same-sex couples. The percentage of households with only non-related children is particularly high for female-female couple households (11.7 percent) and for same-sex households who reported themselves as unmarried partners (15.9 percent). Same-sex unmarried partners have more households than same-sex spousal households with only non-related children. Additionally, larger proportions of non-related children are found in unmarried opposite-sex households (13.1 percent) than in married opposite-sex households. Unmarried households are more likely to have non-related children in comparison to married households, regardless of sexual orientation.

We now test for differences in household demographic characteristics among the various types of households with children. Here we only examine married opposite-sex, unmarried opposite-sex, and same-sex couple households as a whole. We do not break down same-sex



couples in these analyses because of their relatively small sample size compared with married and unmarried opposite-sex couples. Table 2 presents the household characteristics of those with only biological children in the household. Additionally, Figures 1A-1C provide a summary of the focal characteristics of households with only biological children. Married opposite-sex couples and same-sex couples (regardless of couple type) tend to be older than unmarried opposite-sex partners. The average age of the householder of married opposite-sex couples is 40.5, 38.3 for same-sex couples, and 33.1 years for unmarried opposite-sex couples.

Married opposite-sex couples and same-sex couples have more education than unmarried opposite-sex couples. Just over 26 percent of married opposite-sex couple households and 20.8 percent of same-sex households have both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree. In comparison, only 3 percent of unmarried opposite-sex couples have both partners who graduated from college. We find large differences in terms of household income across household type. Married opposite-sex couples report the highest average household income (nearly \$100,000), while the same-sex couple household income is around \$86,000, which is higher than the unmarried opposite-sex partners with only an average household income of \$51,275. Overall, unmarried same-sex partners tend to be more similar to married opposite-sex couples than their opposite-sex counterparts among those with only biological children in the household.

Table 3 presents the results for households with either only adopted or only step children. Figures 2A-2C provide a summary of the focal characteristics of households with only step or only adopted children. Remember that these are households that do not contain *both* adopted and step children. We combined these two household types together because of their small sample size individually and because they represent children either brought in from other partners or

from other homes. The first characteristic of these households is that married opposite-sex and all same-sex couple types tend to be older than opposite-sex unmarried partners. Married opposite-sex couples have the highest average age of householder at 45.0 years, while unmarried same-sex couples have an average age of 43.0 years, and unmarried opposite-sex couples have an average age of 37.2 years. Same-sex couples with only adopted or only stepchildren have considerably higher educational attainments than both married and unmarried opposite-sex couples. Same-sex couples had the highest joint educational level with at least a Bachelor's degree (41.6 percent). In comparison, only 18.5 percent of married opposite-sex couples and merely 3.5 percent of unmarried opposite-sex couples with only adopted or only stepchildren have both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree.

Same-sex couples with only adopted or only stepchildren have greater economic status than do opposite-sex couples. Same-sex couples averaged \$120,971 in household income, which was significantly higher than both married opposite-sex and unmarried opposite-sex couples whose average household incomes were \$97,289 and \$65,813, respectively<sup>5</sup>. Similar patterns emerge for employment. Same-sex couples with only adopted or only step children are more likely to be in households where both partners are employed than either married opposite-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples.

Residential status also differs by type of household among those with only adopted or only step children. Married opposite-sex couples are more likely to own their homes (78.3 percent) compared with unmarried opposite-sex couples (44.1 percent). Same-sex couples are also more likely to own their own homes (76.6 percent) than are unmarried opposite-sex

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<sup>5</sup> We also tested the median incomes and the results remain consistent with the mean income.

couples<sup>6</sup>. Additionally, distinct differences emerge in residential stability. Married opposite-sex and same-sex couples are more likely than unmarried opposite-sex couples to have both lived in the same place last year. Overall, married opposite-sex couples and unmarried same-sex couples are more residentially secure, in terms of both ownership and stability, than unmarried opposite-sex couples.

We now turn to our final set of households with children, those that have a combination of type of own children. Table 4 presents the demographic characteristics of households with a combination of own children. Figures 3A-3C provide a summary of the focal characteristics of households with a combination of children. We highlight three key findings for these households. First, same-sex couple households are the most educated of all households that have a combination of different types of own children. Second, in terms of household income, unmarried opposite-sex couple households (\$55,017) earn less than same-sex couple households (\$106,282) and married opposite-sex couple households (\$86,469)<sup>7</sup>. However, married opposite-sex and same-sex couple households do not differ significantly for household income. Third, married opposite-sex couples report the highest amounts of home ownership and residential stability as almost three-quarters of these couples own their homes and 84.6 percent of married opposite-sex couples lived in the same place last year. Of households with a combination of children, both married opposite-sex and same-sex couple households were more likely to own their homes than were unmarried opposite-sex households.

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<sup>6</sup> Note that there is no statistically significant difference in home ownership between married opposite-sex couples and same-sex couples.

<sup>7</sup> We also tested the median incomes and the results remain consistent with the mean income.

Our last key set of analyses compares same-sex couples who were self-reported as either spouses or unmarried partners. Table 5 presents the results from the comparison of same-sex households with any type of own children comparing those that reported as spouse versus reported as unmarried partners. We discuss two key findings from this table. First, spousal same-sex households are more likely to be older than unmarried same-sex households. The average age of householders in spousal same-sex couples is 40.3 years compared with 38.7 years for unmarried same-sex couples. We find similar findings for the age of spouse or partner, with spousal same-sex partners averaging 39.4 years and unmarried same-sex partners averaging 37.8 years. Second, same-sex couples reported as spouses are more likely to own their homes and have more residential stability than same-sex couples reported as unmarried partners. About 69 percent of spousal same-sex couples in households with children report owning their homes compared to 61.8 percent of unmarried same-sex couples. Furthermore, 85.0 percent of same-sex spousal couples lived in the same place last year versus 76.4 percent of same-sex unmarried couple households with children.

## **Conclusions**

In conclusion, we find partial support for our hypothesis that same-sex householders would be more likely to have only non-related children compared with opposite-sex householders. Our results show that a larger percentage of non-related children live in same-sex couple households than in married opposite-sex households, but a larger percentage of unmarried opposite-sex households have unrelated children than do same-sex households.

In addition, we find that non-related children are more frequently found within unmarried opposite-sex couples than married opposite-sex couples and similarly, non-related children are

more frequently reported living with unmarried same-sex couples than with spousal same-sex couples. This result is congruent with the past research on boundary ambiguity among cohabiting couples (Stewart 2005). Our results provide tentative evidence that couples in more legally tenuous households (i.e. unmarried couples) may be less likely to claim a partner's child as their own child, but rather will claim them as a non-related child. Cohabiting relationships are often short-lived and are more likely to dissolve rather than transition into marriage (Lichter, Qian, & Mellot 2006). The fragility of these relationships may partially explain why more non-related children live with unmarried couples rather than married couples. Of course, we can only speak speculatively because the ACS data can only establish the child's relationship to the householder and not to other members of the household.

Critically, our research sparks additional questions about households with children claimed as non-related. First off, who exactly are these children? While, these is a possibility that these children may be a "random" addition to the household (for instance, a child of a friend of the family), we think there is a greater probability that these non-related children belong to the householder's partner. If these children do belong to a partner and are claimed as non-related, what do their future outcomes look like? For instance, if a child is claimed as non-related, are they more likely to experience lower levels of parental support and is the relationship more likely to dissolve compared to households in which partner's children are claimed as the householder's own children? In essence, does the householder feel less committed to both the child and the partner when the child is claimed as non-related?

Turning to same-sex couples, our results are consistent with findings by Gates et al. (2007) that same-sex couples with only adopted or only step children have significantly higher

average household incomes than both married opposite-sex and unmarried opposite-sex households. This result is not surprising considering the financial (and psychological) costs associated with adoption, particularly for same-sex couples. State laws can block same-sex couples from adopting and adoption agencies have been found to discriminate against same-sex couples (see Gates et al. 2007 for review). Additionally, among households with only adopted or only step children, same-sex couples do not differ significantly from married opposite-sex couples in terms of education, employment, home ownership, and residential stability. This suggests that adopted or step children are at no greater disadvantage, socio-economically speaking, when residing in same-sex households than residing in married opposite-sex households and may be at a greater advantage than residing in an unmarried opposite-sex household. Our results are important for future policies that seek to restrict same-sex couples from adopting. We find that same-sex couples present many of the positive qualities that would create a suitable home for children in need of being adopted. Our results coincide with Stacey and Biblarz's (2001) review of past research that finds no notable differences between children in heterosexual parent households and those in lesbian parent households.

Our study was one of the first to examine reported as spousal and reported as unmarried same-sex households with children. We find that, overall, these couples are marked by more similarities than differences, though differences do occur in age and residential stability between these two groups. Although, we do need to interpret these results with caution as data from the 2008 ACS data indicates additional differences. In the 2008 data, a lower percentage of spousal same-sex households contained couples with both partners having Bachelor's degrees and both partners being in the labor force than unmarried same-sex households. The 2008 results suggest that spousal same-sex households may be more likely to specialize their labor than unmarried

same-sex households. This line of thought is consistent with past research showing that unmarried opposite-sex couples are less likely to specialize their labor than married opposite-sex couples (Davis, Greenstein, & Marks 2007).

Our research provides a descriptive, demographic baseline to which future research should be added. Our data only contains demographic, social characteristics. Importantly, future research should include relationship characteristics, such as relationship quality and relationship duration. The inclusion of these extra measures should provide additional insight into same-sex families. An additional line of future research centers on what actually makes up a family. Contemporary research shows that a little more than 50% of Americans think that a same-sex couple with children constitutes a family compared to 100% who consider an opposite-sex couple and child a family (Powell et al. 2010). Future research should also address how couples decide on “claiming” a child as their own, particularly among couples in which one partner brings a child into the relationship.

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Table 1: Couple households with children: ACS 2009

|  | PANEL A                      |           |                                |           |                        |           | PANEL B                     |           |                                 |           | PANEL C         |           |                            |           |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
|  | Married opposite-sex couples |           | Unmarried opposite-sex couples |           | Total same-sex couples |           | Unmarried male-male couples |           | Unmarried female-female couples |           | Same-sex spouse |           | Same-sex unmarried partner |           |
|  | Percent                      | Std Error | Percent                        | Std Error | Percent                | Std Error | Percent                     | Std Error | Percent                         | Std Error | Percent         | Std Error | Percent                    | Std Error |
| <b>Children in the HH (number)</b>       | 23,453,504                   | 26,929    | 2,493,838                      | 10,523    | 104,949                | 1,716     | 33,010                      | 985       | 71,939                          | 1,404     | 43,792          | 1,099     | 61,157                     | 1,317     |
| Non-related children <sup>1</sup>        | 0.4                          | 0.01      | 13.1                           | 0.24 *    | 9.8                    | 0.93 *+   | 5.5                         | 1.28 ~    | 11.7                            | 1.21      | 1.2             | 0.40 †    | 15.9                       | 1.51      |
| Own children <sup>2</sup>                | 99.6                         | 0.01      | 86.9                           | 0.24 *    | 90.2                   | 0.93 *+   | 94.5                        | 1.28 ~    | 88.3                            | 1.21      | 98.8            | 0.40 †    | 84.1                       | 1.51      |
| <b>Own Children</b>                      | 100.0                        |           | 100.0                          |           | 100.0                  |           | 100.0                       |           | 100.0                           |           | 100.0           |           | 100.0                      |           |
| Biological Only                          | 90.5                         | 0.06      | 87.3                           | 0.25 *    | 71.2                   | 1.44 *+   | 75.7                        | 2.68 ~    | 69.0                            | 1.79      | 79.5            | 1.91 †    | 64.2                       | 2.08      |
| Step or Adopted <sup>3</sup>             | 4.5                          | 0.04      | 5.6                            | 0.18 *    | 21.1                   | 1.28 *+   | 17.4                        | 2.06 ~    | 23.0                            | 1.61      | 11.1            | 1.36 †    | 29.5                       | 1.98      |
| Combination of own children <sup>4</sup> | 4.9                          | 0.05      | 7.1                            | 0.19 *    | 7.7                    | 0.88 *    | 7.0                         | 1.46      | 8.1                             | 1.10      | 9.3             | 1.51      | 6.3                        | 9.88      |

Source: Unpublished tabulations from the 2009 American Community Survey.

<sup>1</sup> Households with only non-related children

<sup>2</sup> Households with only own children

<sup>3</sup> Households with either stepchild only or adopted child only.

<sup>4</sup> Combination of two or more of the three own children types.

\* Indicates a significant difference from married opposite-sex couples

+ Indicates a significant difference from unmarried opposite-sex couples

~ Indicates a significant difference from unmarried female-female couples

† Indicates a significant difference from same-sex reported as unmarried partner

Table 2: Only biological children in the household: ACS 2009  
(Percent distribution)

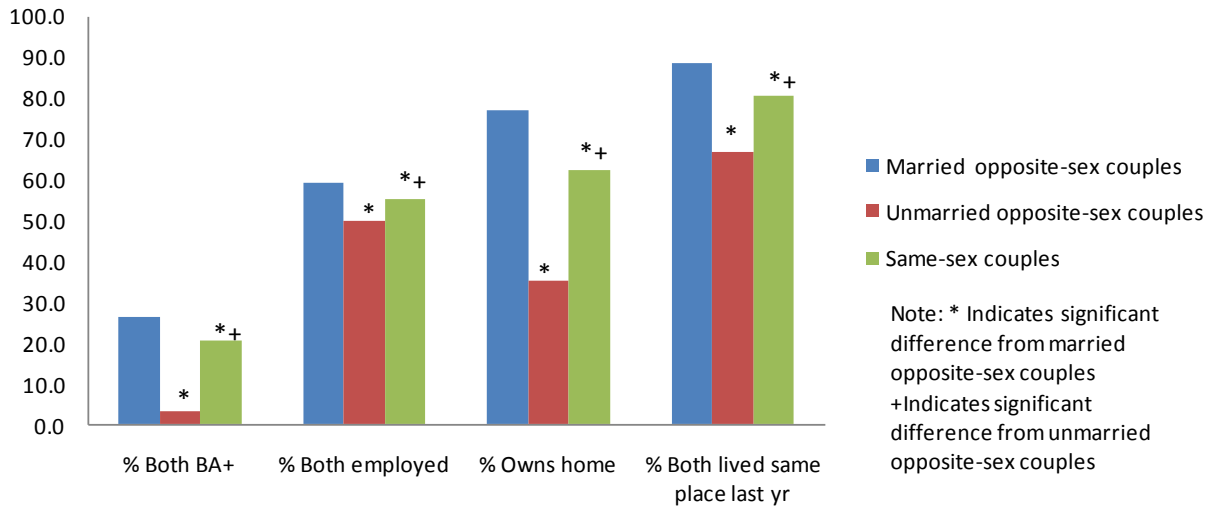
| Household Characteristics                          | Married opposite-sex couples |           | Unmarried opposite-sex couples |           | Same-sex couples |           |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
|  | Percent                      | Std Error | Percent                        | Std Error | Percent          | Std Error |
| <b>All Respondents (number)</b>                    | 21,149,602                   | 28,084    | 1,891,458                      | 10,933 *  | 67,396           | 1,907 *+  |
| <b>Age of Householder</b>                          |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| 15 to 24 years                                     | 2.2                          | 0.04      | 16.4                           | 0.31 *    | 5.2              | 0.89 *+   |
| 25 to 34 years                                     | 24.6                         | 0.10      | 44.6                           | 0.41 *    | 27.5             | 1.77 *+   |
| 35 to 44 years                                     | 42.6                         | 0.11      | 27.9                           | 0.36 *    | 42.1             | 1.88 +    |
| 45 to 54 years                                     | 26.6                         | 0.09      | 9.9                            | 0.23 *    | 22.1             | 1.55 *+   |
| 55 to 64 years                                     | 3.8                          | 0.04      | 1.1                            | 0.08 *    | 2.8              | 0.55 *+   |
| 65 years and over                                  | 0.3                          | 0.01      | 0.1                            | 0.02 *    | 0.3              | 0.20      |
| Average age of householder (years)                 | 40.5                         | 0.02      | 33.1                           | 0.07 *    | 38.3             | 0.34 *+   |
| Average age of spouse/partner (years)              | 39.3                         | 0.02      | 32.9                           | 0.07 *    | 37.6             | 0.37 *+   |
| <b>Race of householder</b>                         |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| White  | 78.8                         | 0.09      | 67.8                           | 0.39 *    | 75.8             | 1.68 *+   |
| Black or African American                          | 6.9                          | 0.06      | 15.0                           | 0.31 *    | 12.5             | 1.37 *+   |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                   | 0.6                          | 0.02      | 1.6                            | 0.10 *    | 0.7              | 0.24 +    |
| Asian  | 6.6                          | 0.05      | 1.8                            | 0.10 *    | 3.4              | 0.65 *+   |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander                | 0.2                          | 0.01      | 0.3                            | 0.05 *    | 0.0              | 0.00 *+   |
| Some Other Race                                    | 5.5                          | 0.05      | 10.8                           | 0.26 *    | 5.7              | 0.90 +    |
| Two or more races                                  | 1.5                          | 0.03      | 2.5                            | 0.13 *    | 1.8              | 0.44      |
| Percent of couples interracial                     | 7.2                          | 0.06      | 13.2                           | 0.38 *    | 9.5              | 1.07 *+   |
| <b>Hispanic Origin of householder</b>              |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)            | 17.0                         | 0.09      | 28.4                           | 0.37 *    | 17.5             | 1.52 +    |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino                | 67.9                         | 0.10      | 51.7                           | 0.41 *    | 65.6             | 1.86 +    |
| <b>Educational Attainment</b>                      |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Householder has at least a Bachelor's degree       | 38.9                         | 0.10      | 9.9                            | 0.23 *    | 32.9             | 1.75 *+   |
| Both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree    | 26.3                         | 0.09      | 3.1                            | 0.13 *    | 20.8             | 1.49 *+   |
| <b>Employment Status<sup>1</sup></b>               |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Householder employed                               | 83.8                         | 0.08      | 74.1                           | 0.36 *    | 78.7             | 1.68 *+   |
| Both partners employed                             | 59.4                         | 0.11      | 49.9                           | 0.41 *    | 55.1             | 1.93 *+   |
| <b>Household income</b>                            |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Less than \$35,000                                 | 15.2                         | 0.08      | 41.6                           | 0.40 *    | 23.2             | 1.76 *+   |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999                               | 11.6                         | 0.07      | 18.8                           | 0.32 *    | 12.3             | 1.27 +    |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999                               | 20.7                         | 0.09      | 20.4                           | 0.32      | 23.3             | 1.58 +    |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999                               | 17.7                         | 0.08      | 9.9                            | 0.23 *    | 13.6             | 1.25 *+   |
| \$100,000 or more                                  | 34.7                         | 0.10      | 9.3                            | 0.22 *    | 27.6             | 1.66 *+   |
| Average Household Income (dollars)                 | \$98,790                     | 200       | \$51,275                       | 342 *     | \$85,921         | 3,025 *+  |
| <b>Home Tenure</b>                                 |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Own  | 76.8                         | 0.10      | 35.1                           | 0.38 *    | 62.5             | 1.91 *+   |
| Rent   | 23.2                         | 0.10      | 64.9                           | 0.38 *    | 37.5             | 1.91 *+   |
| <b>Residential Stability</b>                       |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Householder only lived in the same place last year | 0.6                          | 0.02      | 4.8                            | 0.16 *    | 2.8              | 0.55 *+   |
| Both lived in the same place last year             | 88.7                         | 0.07      | 66.6                           | 0.39 *    | 80.3             | 1.55 *+   |
| Both moved in within last year                     | 10.3                         | 0.07      | 27.0                           | 0.37 *    | 15.3             | 1.45 *+   |
| <b>Region</b>                                      |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Northeast  | 18.3                         | 0.08      | 17.3                           | 0.30 *    | 17.4             | 1.43      |
| Midwest  | 22.3                         | 0.08      | 24.6                           | 0.34 *    | 20.9             | 1.48 +    |
| South  | 35.5                         | 0.10      | 33.9                           | 0.40 *    | 37.7             | 1.90 +    |
| West   | 24.0                         | 0.09      | 24.2                           | 0.35      | 24.1             | 1.62      |

<sup>1</sup>Employed or in the Armed forces.

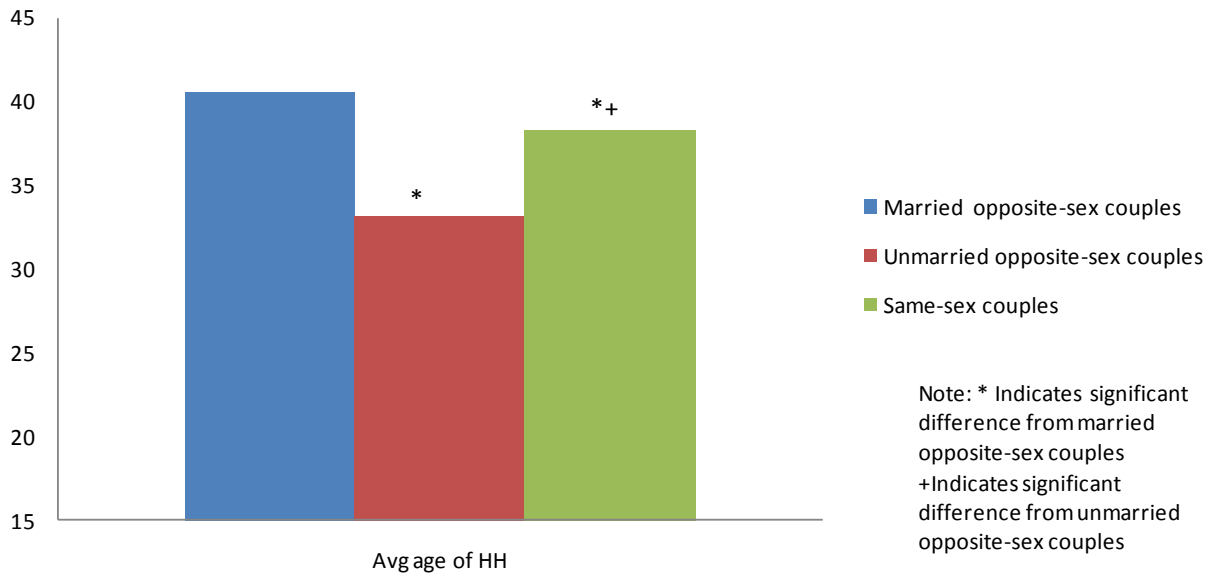
Source: Unpublished tabulations from the American Community Survey. Standard errors were derived using the Taylor Expansion method.

\* Indicates a significant difference from married opposite-sex couples  
+ Indicates a significant difference from unmarried opposite-sex couples

**Figure 1A: Biological Children Only**



**Figure 1B: Biological Children Only**



**Figure 1C: Biological Children Only**

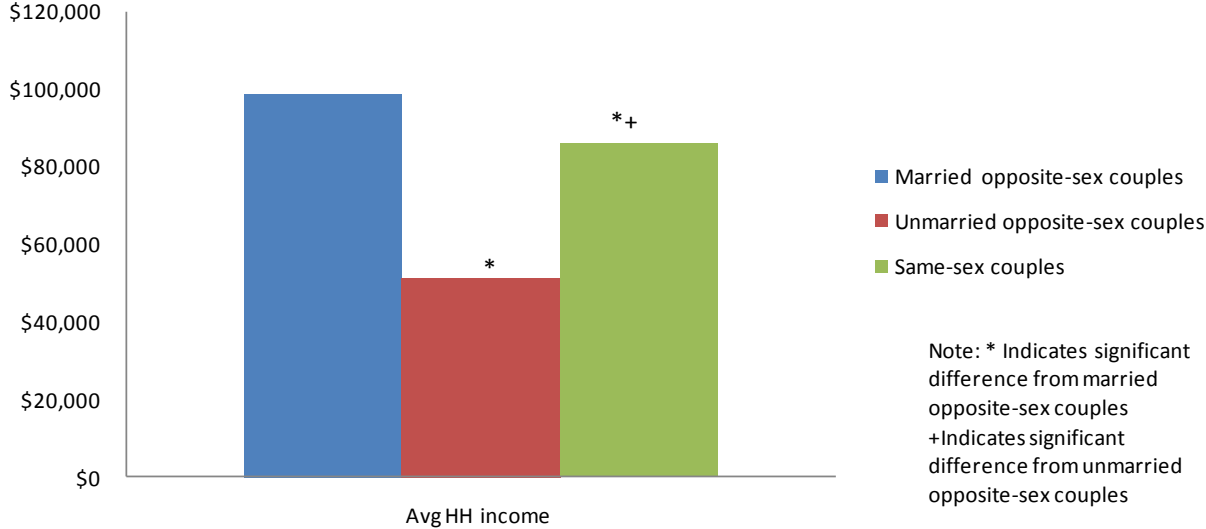


Table 3: Either adopted only or step only children in the household: ACS 2009  
(Percent distribution)

| Household Characteristics                          | Married opposite-sex couples |           | Unmarried opposite-sex couples |           | Same-sex couples |           |       |    |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|-------|----|
|  | Percent                      | Std Error | Percent                        | Std Error | Percent          | Std Error |       |    |
| <b>All Respondents (number)</b>                    | 1,060,895                    | 9,855     | 121,072                        | 3,867     | *                | 20,015    | 1,251 | *+ |
| Age of Householder                                 |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| 15 to 24 years                                     | 1.2                          | 0.11      | 8.6                            | 0.91      | *                | 2.0       | 1.45  | +  |
| 25 to 34 years                                     | 14.8                         | 0.37      | 36.9                           | 1.59      | *                | 14.0      | 2.46  | +  |
| 35 to 44 years                                     | 30.9                         | 0.45      | 29.5                           | 1.47      |                  | 39.9      | 3.34  | *+ |
| 45 to 54 years                                     | 36.5                         | 0.45      | 19.7                           | 1.22      | *                | 33.8      | 3.11  | +  |
| 55 to 64 years                                     | 13.8                         | 0.30      | 4.4                            | 0.67      | *                | 9.4       | 1.83  | *+ |
| 65 years and over                                  | 2.7                          | 0.13      | 0.8                            | 0.29      | *                | 0.8       | 0.47  | *  |
| Average age of householder (years)                 | 45.0                         | 0.10      | 37.2                           | 0.33      | *                | 43.0      | 0.65  | *+ |
| Average age of spouse/partner (years)              | 42.8                         | 0.09      | 35.1                           | 0.27      | *                | 41.5      | 0.61  | *+ |
| Race of householder                                |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| White  | 83.3                         | 0.38      | 70.3                           | 1.55      | *                | 85.3      | 2.88  | +  |
| Black or African American                          | 9.6                          | 0.32      | 16.8                           | 1.29      | *                | 9.0       | 2.38  | +  |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                   | 0.7                          | 0.07      | 1.2                            | 0.32      |                  | 0.3       | 0.23  | +  |
| Asian  | 1.9                          | 0.13      | 0.7                            | 0.23      | *                | 0.3       | 0.29  | *  |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander                | 0.1                          | 0.03      | 0.6                            | 0.53      |                  | 0.0       | 0.00  | *  |
| Some Other Race                                    | 2.9                          | 0.18      | 8.5                            | 0.95      | *                | 3.8       | 1.74  | +  |
| Two or more races                                  | 15.0                         | 0.11      | 1.9                            | 0.39      | *                | 1.2       | 0.71  | *  |
| Percent of couples interracial                     | 9.3                          | 0.28      | 12.1                           | 1.09      | *                | 12.7      | 2.17  |    |
| Hispanic Origin of householder                     |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)            | 9.9                          | 0.31      | 25.2                           | 1.45      | *                | 10.6      | 2.42  | +  |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino                | 76.9                         | 0.43      | 54.8                           | 1.64      | *                | 79.3      | 3.15  | +  |
| Educational Attainment                             |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| Householder has at least a Bachelor's degree       | 32.4                         | 0.42      | 14.7                           | 1.12      | *                | 56.6      | 3.45  | *+ |
| Both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree    | 18.5                         | 0.34      | 3.5                            | 0.54      | *                | 41.6      | 3.26  | *+ |
| Employment Status <sup>1</sup>                     |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| Householder employed                               | 82.8                         | 0.36      | 81.0                           | 1.27      |                  | 85.9      | 2.57  | +  |
| Both partners employed                             | 61.3                         | 0.46      | 58.0                           | 1.60      | *                | 69.8      | 3.15  | *+ |
| Household income                                   |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| Less than \$35,000                                 | 13.0                         | 0.34      | 30.0                           | 1.49      | *                | 10.1      | 2.02  | +  |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999                               | 12.2                         | 0.33      | 18.6                           | 1.30      | *                | 5.7       | 1.78  | *+ |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999                               | 21.8                         | 0.39      | 21.0                           | 1.35      |                  | 16.8      | 2.69  | *  |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999                               | 18.5                         | 0.36      | 15.2                           | 1.14      | *                | 20.7      | 2.84  | +  |
| \$100,000 or more                                  | 34.5                         | 0.44      | 15.2                           | 1.09      | *                | 46.7      | 3.35  | *+ |
| Average Household Income (dollars)                 | \$97,289                     | 867       | \$65,813                       | 2,079     | *                | \$120,971 | 6,719 | *+ |
| Home Tenure  |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| Own  | 78.3                         | 0.43      | 44.1                           | 1.58      | *                | 76.6      | 3.19  | +  |
| Rent   | 21.7                         | 0.43      | 55.9                           | 1.58      | *                | 23.4      | 3.19  | +  |
| Residential Stability                              |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| Householder only lived in the same place last year | 1.7                          | 0.13      | 6.4                            | 0.74      | *                | 2.0       | 1.01  | +  |
| Both lived in the same place last year             | 86.3                         | 0.35      | 62.0                           | 1.62      | *                | 82.5      | 2.85  | +  |
| Both moved in within last year                     | 11.0                         | 0.33      | 29.1                           | 1.58      | *                | 13.8      | 2.69  | +  |
| Region   |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |       |    |
| Northeast  | 14.4                         | 0.32      | 16.9                           | 1.17      | *                | 20.8      | 2.67  | *  |
| Midwest  | 23.2                         | 0.38      | 20.1                           | 1.29      | *                | 18.3      | 2.35  | *  |
| South  | 40.3                         | 0.47      | 38.9                           | 1.60      |                  | 31.4      | 3.24  | *+ |
| West   | 22.2                         | 0.40      | 24.1                           | 1.38      |                  | 29.5      | 3.17  | *  |

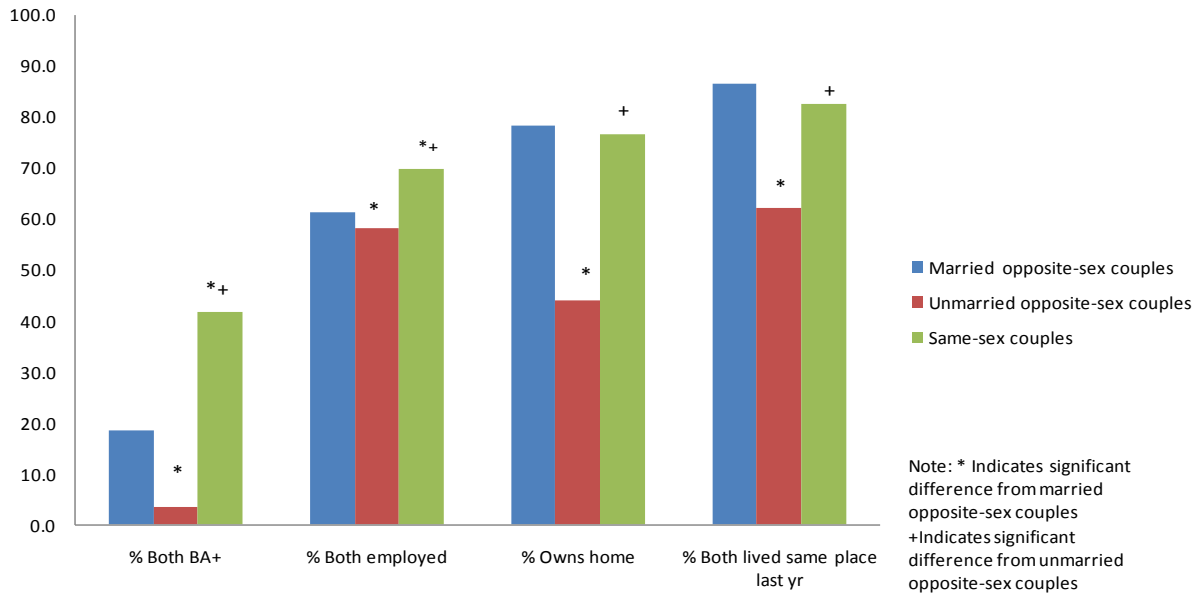
<sup>1</sup>Employed or in the Armed forces.

Source: Unpublished tabulations from the American Community Survey.  
Standard errors were derived using the Taylor Expansion method.

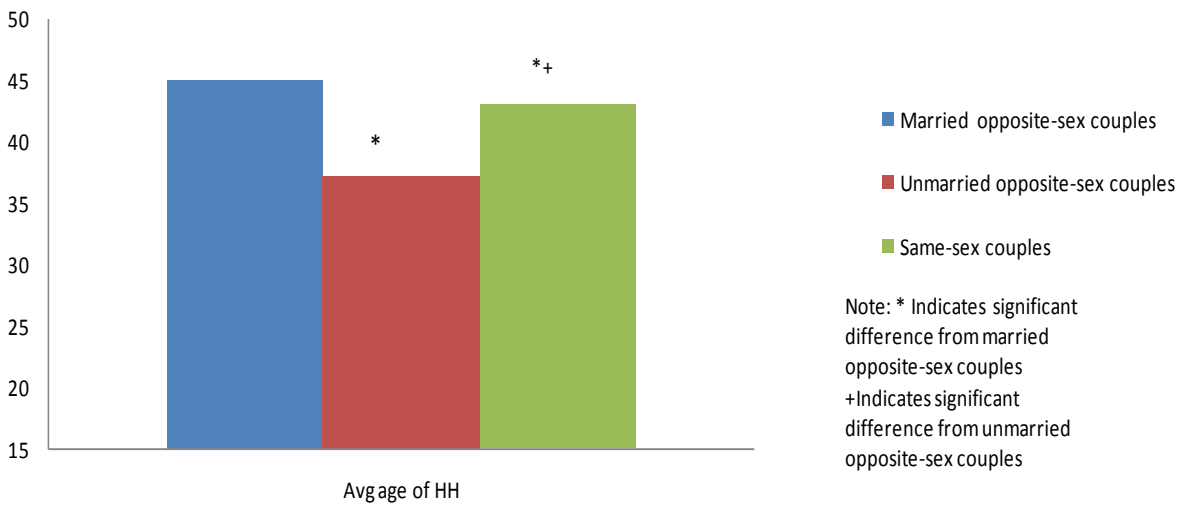
\* Indicates a significant difference from married opposite-sex couples

+ Indicates a significant difference from unmarried opposite-sex couples

**Figure 2A: Either adopted or step only children**



**Figure 2B: Either adopted or step only children**



**Figure 2C: Either adopted or step only children**

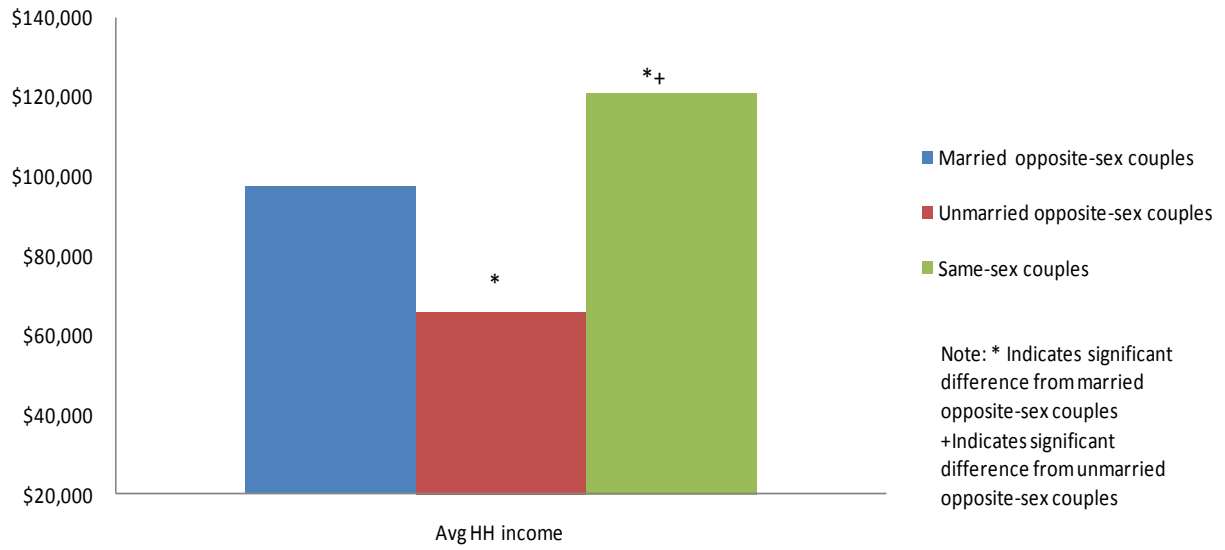




Table 4: Combination of own children in the household: ACS 2009  
(Percent distribution)

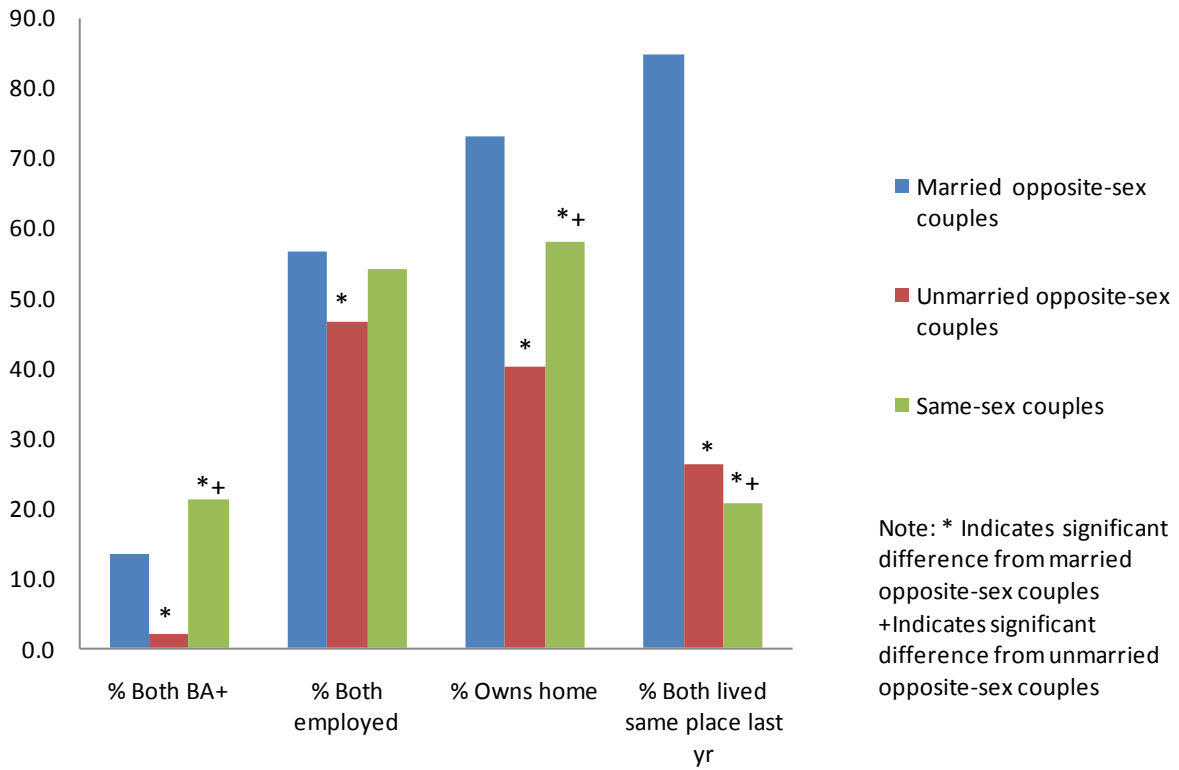
| Household Characteristics                          | Married opposite-sex couples |           | Unmarried opposite-sex couples |           | Same-sex couples |           |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
|  | Percent                      | Std Error | Percent                        | Std Error | Percent          | Std Error |
| <b>All Respondents (number)</b>                    | 1,151,857                    | 10,644    | 153,778                        | 4,285 *   | 7,291            | 846 *+    |
| Age of Householder                                 |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| 15 to 24 years                                     | 1.9                          | 0.14      | 8.8                            | 0.84 *    | 4.7              | 2.36      |
| 25 to 34 years                                     | 31.3                         | 0.45      | 49.1                           | 1.42 *    | 25.9             | 5.52 +    |
| 35 to 44 years                                     | 47.2                         | 0.47      | 33.0                           | 1.32 *    | 39.7             | 5.82      |
| 45 to 54 years                                     | 17.7                         | 0.34      | 8.0                            | 0.68 *    | 28.7             | 5.29 *+   |
| 55 to 64 years                                     | 1.8                          | 0.11      | 1.1                            | 0.25 *    | 0.9              | 0.71      |
| 65 years and over                                  | 0.2                          | 0.03      | 0.0                            | 0.02 *    | 0.0              | 0.00 *    |
| Average age of householder (years)                 | 38.1                         | 0.07      | 33.8                           | 0.21 *    | 39.1             | 0.91 +    |
| Average age of spouse/partner (years)              | 36.6                         | 0.06      | 32.3                           | 0.18 *    | 38.2             | 0.99 +    |
| Race of householder                                |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| White  | 80.5                         | 0.40      | 65.8                           | 1.38 *    | 84.5             | 3.93 +    |
| Black or African American                          | 9.8                          | 0.31      | 15.4                           | 1.12 *    | 10.3             | 3.48      |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                   | 0.9                          | 0.09      | 2.0                            | 0.37 *    | 0.2              | 0.18 *+   |
| Asian  | 2.2                          | 0.14      | 1.2                            | 0.29 *    | 2.6              | 1.49      |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander                | 0.1                          | 0.04      | 0.4                            | 0.20      | 0.0              | 0.00 *+   |
| Some Other Race                                    | 4.5                          | 0.21      | 12.1                           | 0.93 *    | 0.7              | 0.62 *+   |
| Two or more races                                  | 2.0                          | 0.13      | 3.0                            | 0.48 *    | 1.6              | 1.20      |
| Percent of couples interracial                     | 10.2                         | 0.29      | 14.0                           | 1.00 *    | 9.8              | 3.93      |
| Hispanic Origin of householder                     |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)            | 15.0                         | 0.36      | 30.4                           | 1.32 *    | 12.3             | 3.88 +    |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino                | 70.8                         | 0.45      | 49.2                           | 1.42 *    | 74.0             | 5.05 +    |
| Educational Attainment                             |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Householder has at least a Bachelor's degree       | 26.6                         | 0.39      | 7.7                            | 0.73 *    | 33.8             | 5.05 +    |
| Both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree    | 13.4                         | 0.30      | 2.0                            | 0.37 *    | 21.2             | 4.03 *+   |
| Employment Status <sup>1</sup>                     |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Householder employed                               | 84.6                         | 0.36      | 75.8                           | 1.23 *    | 77.2             | 5.22      |
| Both partners employed                             | 56.7                         | 0.47      | 46.5                           | 1.42 *    | 54.2             | 5.99      |
| Household income                                   |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Less than \$35,000                                 | 16.8                         | 0.37      | 38.4                           | 1.40 *    | 26.1             | 5.58 *+   |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999                               | 13.5                         | 0.33      | 20.7                           | 1.15 *    | 9.1              | 3.84 +    |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999                               | 24.3                         | 0.40      | 21.1                           | 1.16 *    | 11.7             | 3.71 *+   |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999                               | 18.3                         | 0.36      | 10.1                           | 0.82 *    | 15.6             | 4.00      |
| \$100,000 or more                                  | 27.1                         | 0.40      | 9.7                            | 0.81 *    | 37.5             | 5.66 *+   |
| Average Household Income (dollars)                 | \$86,469                     | 740       | \$55,017                       | 2,128 *   | \$106,282        | 12,717 +  |
| Home Tenure  |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Own  | 72.9                         | 0.44      | 40.2                           | 1.36 *    | 58.0             | 6.08 *+   |
| Rent   | 27.1                         | 0.44      | 59.8                           | 1.36 *    | 42.0             | 6.08 *+   |
| Residential Stability                              |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Householder only lived in the same place last year | 1.1                          | 0.10      | 3.8                            | 0.53 *    | 2.9              | 1.45      |
| Both lived in the same place last year             | 84.6                         | 0.36      | 68.4                           | 1.35 *    | 74.0             | 5.67 *    |
| Both moved in within last year                     | 13.6                         | 0.35      | 26.1                           | 1.30 *    | 20.6             | 5.44      |
| Region   |                              |           |                                |           |                  |           |
| Northeast  | 12.8                         | 0.30      | 14.0                           | 0.92      | 21.5             | 5.02 *    |
| Midwest  | 24.8                         | 0.39      | 20.6                           | 1.10 *    | 24.5             | 5.47      |
| South  | 39.5                         | 0.47      | 36.2                           | 1.40 *    | 28.1             | 5.28 *    |
| West   | 22.9                         | 0.40      | 29.2                           | 1.30 *    | 25.9             | 4.92      |

<sup>1</sup>Employed or in the Armed forces.

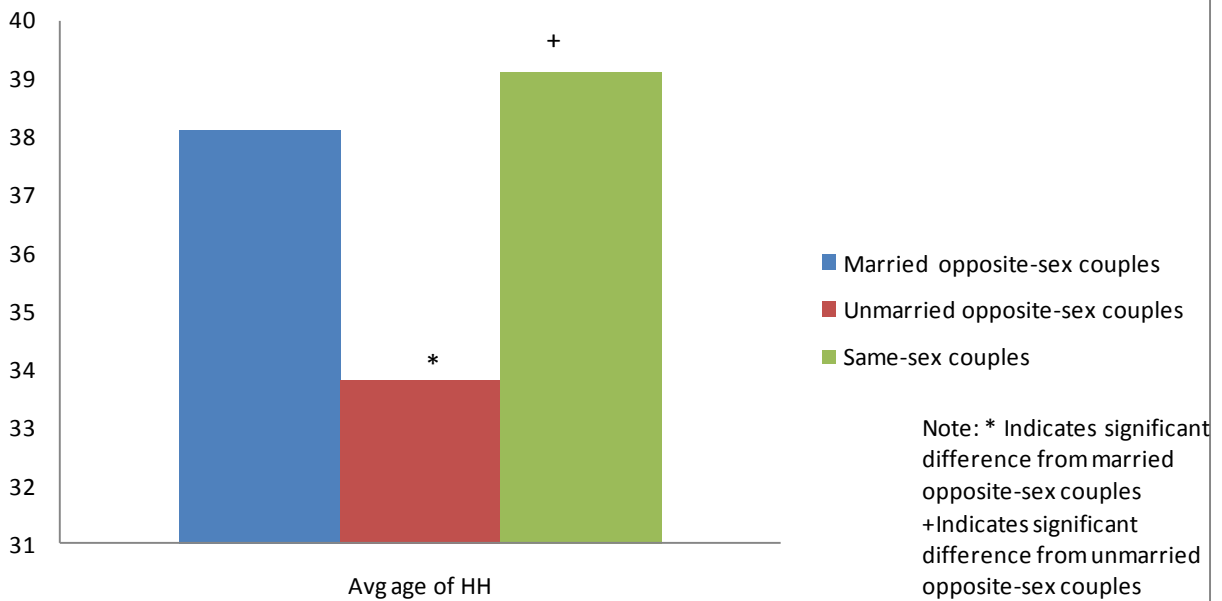
\* Indicates a significant difference from married opposite-sex couples

Source: Unpublished tabulations from the American Community Survey. + Indicates a significant difference from unmarried opposite-sex couples  
Standard errors were derived using the Taylor Expansion method.

### Figure 3A: Combination of Children



### Figure 3B: Combination of Children



### Figure 3C: Combination of Children

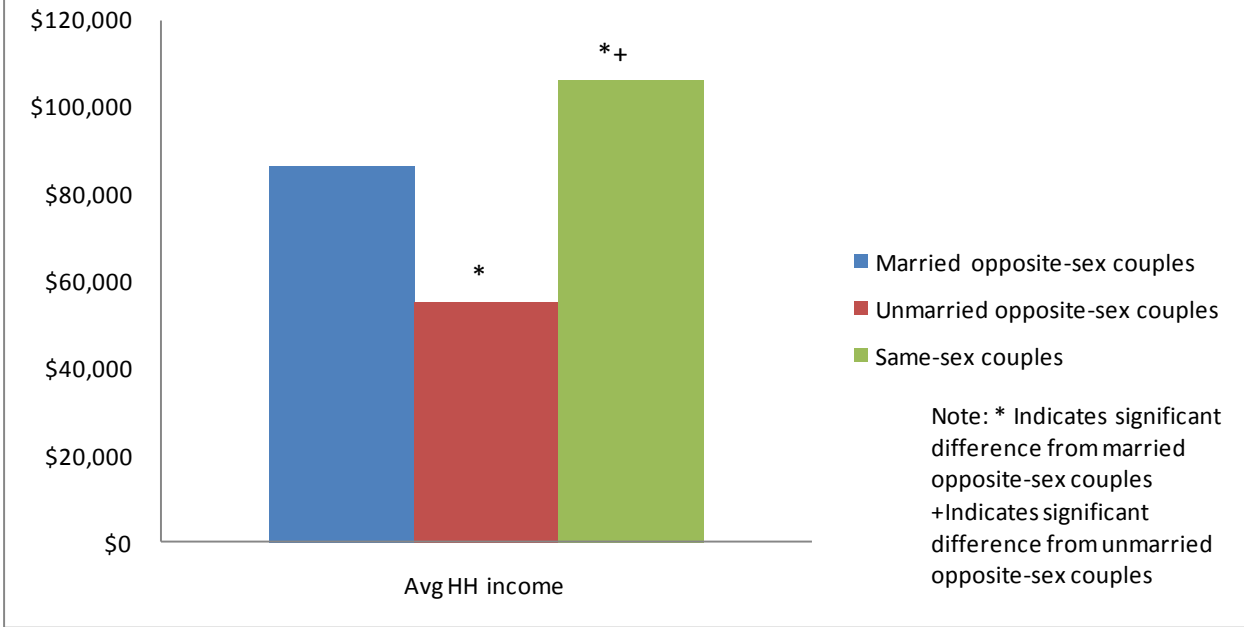


Table 5: Own children in same-sex households: ACS 2009  
(Percent distribution)

| Household Characteristics                          | Same-sex<br>Reported as<br>Spouse |           | Same-sex<br>Reported as<br>Unmarried Partner |           |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|
|  | Percent                           | Std Error | Percent                                      | Std Error |
| <b>All Respondents (number)</b>                    | 43,248                            | 1,119 *   | 51,454                                       | 1,411     |
| Age of Householder                                 |                                   |           |  |           |
| 15 to 24 years                                     | 2.6                               | 0.83 *    | 5.9  | 1.14      |
| 25 to 34 years                                     | 23.3                              | 2.09      | 25.6   | 1.99      |
| 35 to 44 years                                     | 42.7                              | 2.33      | 40.4   | 2.14      |
| 45 to 54 years                                     | 25.9                              | 2.02      | 24.5   | 1.83      |
| 55 to 64 years                                     | 4.8                               | 0.91      | 3.5  | 0.69      |
| 65 years and over                                  | 0.7                               | 0.35      | 0.1  | 0.11      |
| Average age of householder (years)                 | 40.3                              | 0.41 *    | 38.7   | 0.40      |
| Average age of spouse/partner (years)              | 39.4                              | 0.42 *    | 37.8   | 0.44      |
| Race of householder                                |                                   |           |  |           |
| White  | 75.4                              | 2.11 *    | 81.1   | 1.79      |
| Black or African American                          | 12.4                              | 1.72      | 11.0   | 1.49      |
| American Indian or Alaska Native                   | 0.8                               | 0.33      | 0.4  | 0.17      |
| Asian  | 3.9                               | 0.92 *    | 1.7  | 0.44      |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander                | 0.0                               | 0.00      | 0.0  | 0.00      |
| Some Other Race                                    | 6.2                               | 1.17      | 3.9  | 0.95      |
| Two or more races                                  | 1.4                               | 0.40      | 1.9  | 0.57      |
| Percent of couples interracial                     | 9.3                               | 1.34      | 10.9   | 1.31      |
| Hispanic Origin of householder                     |                                   |           |  |           |
| Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)            | 18.0                              | 1.91 *    | 13.7   | 1.61      |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino                | 65.6                              | 2.31 *    | 72.1   | 2.05      |
| Educational Attainment                             |                                   |           |  |           |
| Householder has at least a Bachelor's degree       | 36.0                              | 2.19      | 39.6   | 2.09      |
| Both partners with at least a Bachelor's degree    | 24.3                              | 1.90      | 26.0   | 1.83      |
| Employment Status <sup>1</sup>                     |                                   |           |  |           |
| Householder employed                               | 78.5                              | 2.11      | 81.5   | 1.81      |
| Both partners employed                             | 56.4                              | 2.37      | 59.5   | 2.21      |
| Household income                                   |                                   |           |  |           |
| Less than \$35,000                                 | 18.6                              | 2.02      | 22.3   | 1.96      |
| \$35,000 to \$49,999                               | 11.6                              | 1.62      | 9.9  | 1.30      |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999                               | 21.9                              | 1.87      | 20.3   | 1.79      |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999                               | 15.8                              | 1.67      | 14.8   | 1.52      |
| \$100,000 or more                                  | 32.1                              | 2.15      | 32.6   | 1.98      |
| Average Household Income (dollars)                 | \$94,567                          | 3,923     | \$95,174                                     | 3,951     |
| Home Tenure  |                                   |           |  |           |
| Own  | 69.1                              | 2.30 *    | 61.8   | 2.20      |
| Rent   | 30.9                              | 2.30 *    | 38.2   | 2.20      |
| Residential Stability                              |                                   |           |  |           |
| Householder only lived in the same place last year | 10.5                              | 0.47 *    | 4.1  | 0.75      |
| Both lived in the same place last year             | 85.0                              | 1.84 *    | 76.4   | 1.90      |
| Both moved in within last year                     | 12.9                              | 1.78 *    | 17.5   | 1.76      |

<sup>1</sup>Employed or in the Armed forces.

Source: Unpublished tabulations from the American Community Survey.

Standard errors were derived using the Taylor Expansion method.

\* Indicates a significant difference between reported as spouse and reported as unmarried partner