

LGBT African-Americans and African-American Same-sex Couples

3.7%

of African-American Adults Identify as LGBT

1,018,700

Estimated LGBT African-American Adults in the U.S.

84,000

African-American Individuals in Same-sex Couples in the U.S.

33.9%

of African-American Same-sex Couples Raising Children

Overview

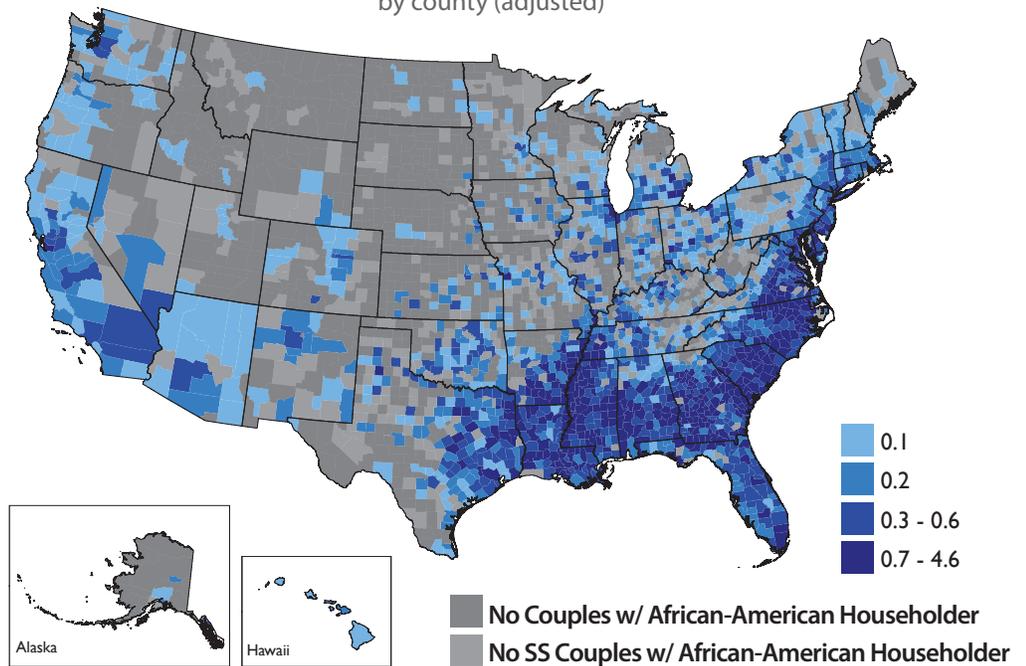
This report uses the best available data to provide a population estimate of LGBT African-Americans and African-American same-sex (SS) couples in the United States, along with a general overview of their socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.

Geographic Distribution

African-American individuals in same-sex couples tend to live in areas where there are higher proportions of African-Americans, as opposed to areas with higher proportions of the broader LGB population. More than 1/4 of African-American same-sex couples live in Georgia, New York, Maryland and North Carolina.

The county-level maps use U.S. Census 2010 data measuring same-sex couples. The Census data describe both different-sex (DS) and same-sex (SS) couples by the race or ethnicity of the "householder," who was Person 1 on the Census form. Person 1 is usually the person in whose name the home is either owned or rented. Appendix A contains a detailed description of who is included in each section of this snapshot report, along with additional information on how to understand the map key.

Same-sex Couples with an African-American Householder per 1,000 Households
by county (adjusted)



SOURCE: U.S. Census 2010 data (adjusted, see Data and Methodology section)

Key Findings

● Overall, how African-American same-sex couples fare compared to their different-sex counterparts varies significantly depending on the gender of the couple and whether the couple is raising children.

● 34% of African-American same-sex couples are raising children. African-American same-sex couples raising children report household median incomes \$15,000 lower than comparable African-American different-sex couples (\$47,300 vs. \$63,020).

\$ African-American female same-sex couples report household median incomes \$20,000 less than African-American male same-sex couples (\$51,000 vs. \$72,000).

👜 LGBT African-Americans have higher rates of unemployment compared to non-LGBT African-Americans (15% vs. 12%).

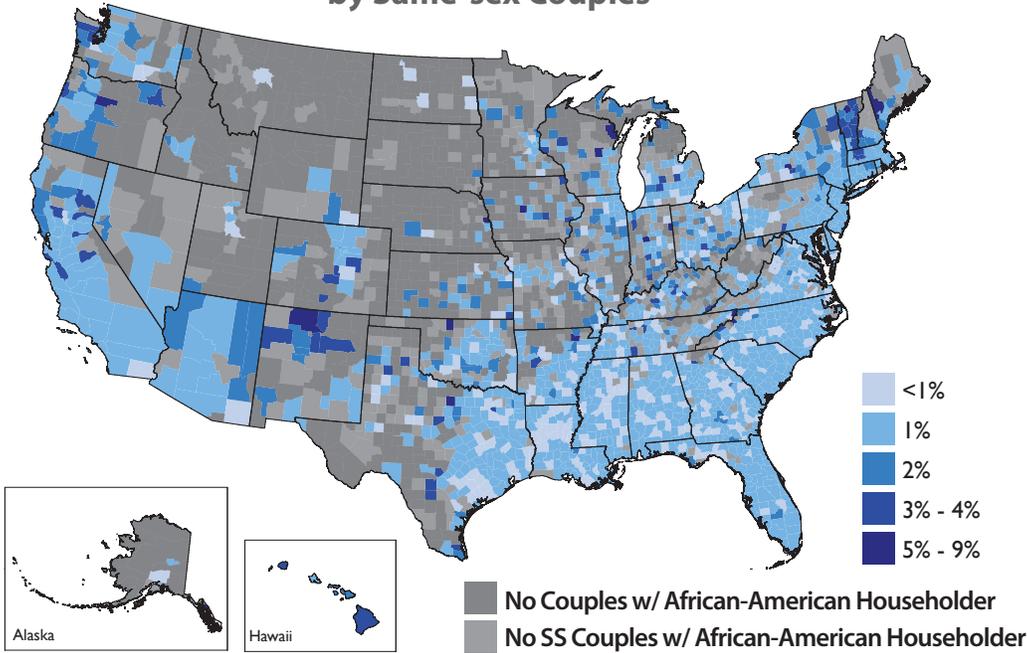
🎓 23% of LGBT African-Americans have completed a college degree or more, compared to 26% of non-LGBT African-Americans.

👤 African-American same-sex couples are less likely than their different-sex counterparts to have health insurance coverage for both partners (63% vs. 79%).

● Notably, 58% of African-American same-sex couples are female.

🎖️ Female African-American individuals in same-sex couples are three times more likely to report veteran status than those in different-sex couples (9% vs. 3%). About 1 in 7 male African-American individuals in same-sex couples have served in the military compared to 1 in 4 male African-American individuals in different-sex couples (13% vs. 25%).

% of All African-American Households Headed by Same-sex Couples

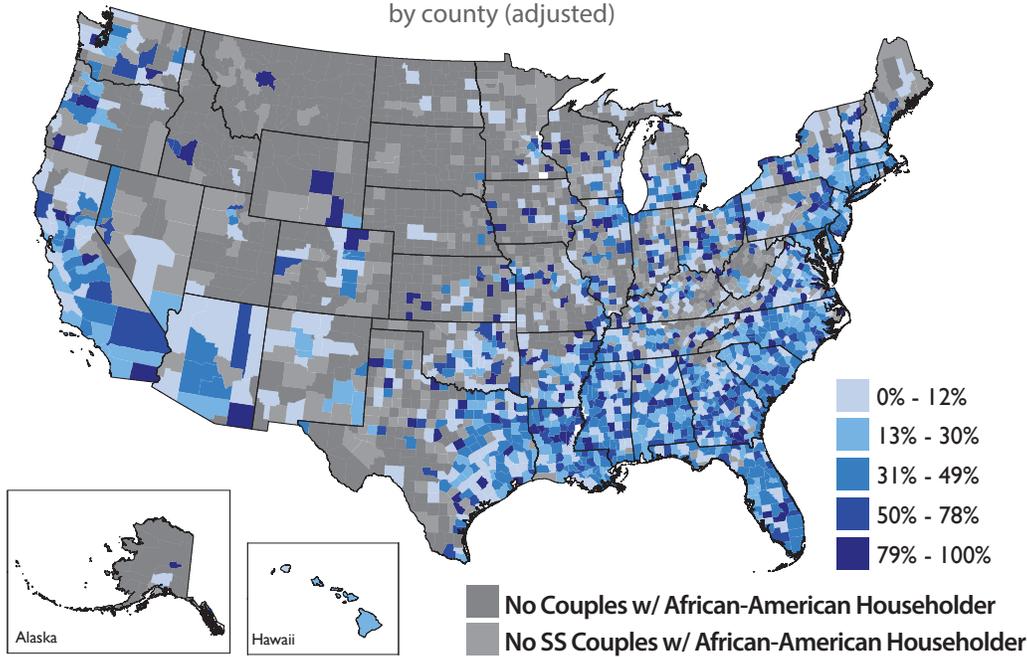


SOURCE: U.S. Census 2010 data(adjusted)

Among African-American Households

Nationally, 1 in 250 African-American households are led by a same-sex couple (0.4%). Counties where there is a higher proportion of African-American same-sex couples than the national average tend to be in areas where there are fewer African-American households overall, meaning the same-sex households make up a large part of the African-American population in those areas. These counties tend to be in the Northeast, Southwest and Midwest regions of the country.

% of Same-sex Couples with African-American Householder Raising "Own" Children* by county (adjusted)

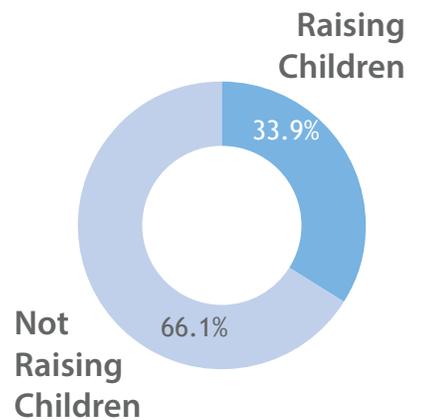


*"Own" children are never-married children under 18 who are sons or daughters of one partner or spouse(Person 1) by birth, marriage(stepchild), or adoption.

SOURCE: U.S. Census 2010 data(adjusted)

Couples Raising Children

Although 33.9% of same-sex couples with an African-American householder are raising children, these couples are not concentrated in major metropolitan areas. The map on the left indicates that same-sex couples raising children are scattered throughout counties across the nation.





Geography

African-Americans in same-sex couples tend to live in areas where there are higher proportions of African-Americans, as opposed to areas with higher proportions of the broader LGB population. This is evident by the inclusion of several Southern states in the top ten list which tend to be areas known for African-American residency, but not LGBT residency. The only exceptions listed are the state of New York and Essex County, New Jersey. In the counties below, the percent of African-American same-sex couples raising children ranges from 6% to 58%.

Top 10 States: % LGBT African-American Individuals (Gallup 2012)

State	Estimated LGBT African-American Adults	% LGBT among African-American Adults	% LGBT African-Americans Among All Adults
District of Columbia	22,800	9.7%	4.48%
Louisiana	37,300	3.7%	1.11%
Georgia	73,800	3.6%	1.09%
North Carolina	66,200	4.5%	0.91%
Mississippi	18,900	2.5%	0.89%
New Jersey	56,000	6.7%	0.84%
Maryland	36,500	2.9%	0.79%
Alabama	29,800	3.3%	0.78%
Michigan	56,200	5.6%	0.71%
New York	106,000	5.1%	0.70%

Top 10 States: Same-sex Couples with African-American Householder

State Rank	State	Same-sex couples with African-American Householder (adjusted)	Same-sex couples with African-American Householder per 1,000 Households (adjusted)
1	District of Columbia	793	2.97
2	Maryland	2913	1.35
3	Georgia	4473	1.25
4	Louisiana	1780	1.03
5	Mississippi	1081	0.97
6	Delaware	301	0.88
7	South Carolina	1445	0.80
8	North Carolina	2680	0.72
9	Alabama	1306	0.69
10	New York	4654	0.64

Top 10 Counties: Same-sex couples with African-American Householder*

State Rank	US County Rank*	County	Same-sex couples with African-American Householder (adjusted)	Same-sex couples with African-American Householder per 1,000 Households (adjusted)	% Raising "own" children among same-sex couples with African-American Householder (adjusted)
2	1	Baltimore city, Maryland	1037	4.15	38%
7	2	Lee County, South Carolina	25	3.69	6%
7	3	Bamberg County, South Carolina	21	3.51	16%
3	4	Clayton County, Georgia	317	3.50	40%
9	5	Macon County, Alabama	28	3.27	26%
2	6	Prince George's County, Maryland	9538	3.14	29%
3	7	DeKalb County, Georgia	829	3.05	31%
1	8	District of Columbia, D.C.	793	2.97	22%
5	9	Holmes County, Mississippi	20	2.96	58%
3	10	Fulton County, Georgia	9672	2.57	23%

*Including only those counties with 20+ same-sex couples with an African-American householder

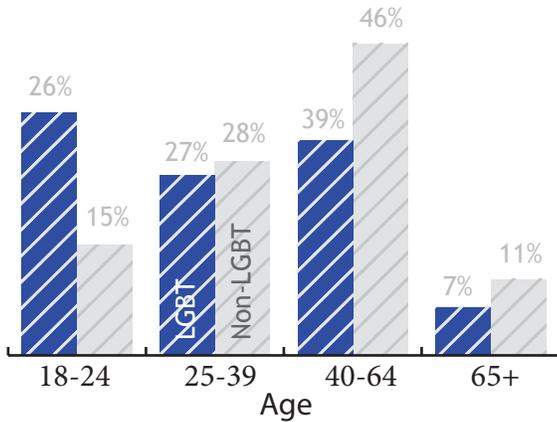
Characteristics of African-American Individuals

The unit of analysis in this section is the individual. We use Gallup Daily tracking survey data to report on characteristics for those that self-identify as LGBT (both single and coupled). We use ACS data to report on characteristics of individuals in couples. We highlight several characteristics in the charts below, with additional information listed in Appendix B.

Age Distribution

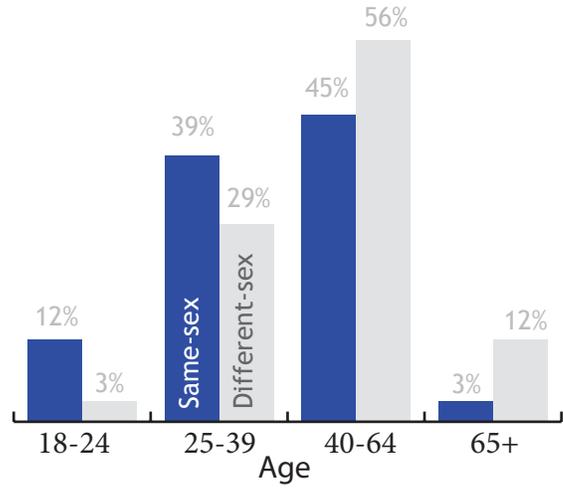
Direct comparisons between individuals in same-sex couples and all LGBT individuals must be made with caution, as the age distribution of LGBT individuals in the Gallup survey differs from that of African-American individuals in same-sex couples identified in the ACS. LGBT African-American individuals are much younger than both the non-LGBT African-American population and African-Americans in same-sex couples. These differences in age could help to explain patterns in other demographic characteristics that can be affected by age like education and employment.

African-American Individuals (single and coupled)
(Gallup 2012)



Average Age: LGBT=38.3 Non-LGBT=43.4 SOURCE: Gallup

African-American Individuals in Couples
(ACS 2010)



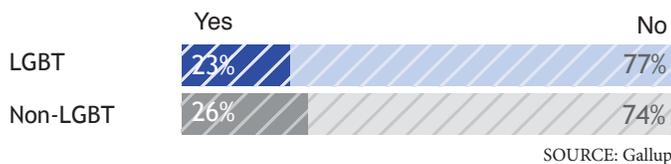
Average Age: SS=39.4 DS=47.3 SOURCE: ACS



Completed a College Degree or More

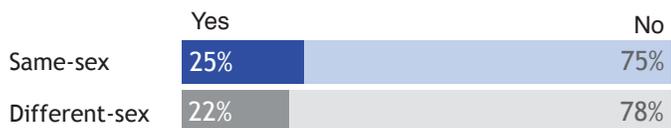
African-American individuals who identify as LGBT in the Gallup survey report lower rates of college completion than non-LGBT adults (23% vs. 26%). African-American individuals in same-sex couples have higher rates of educational attainment than their different-sex counterparts (25% vs. 22%). The different results could be in part because LGBT African-American individuals in the Gallup survey are much younger than their coupled counterparts in the ACS data.

African-American Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

African-American Individuals in Couples



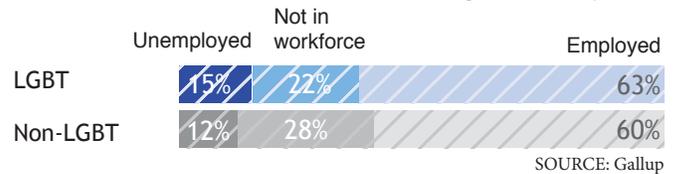
SOURCE: ACS



Employment Status

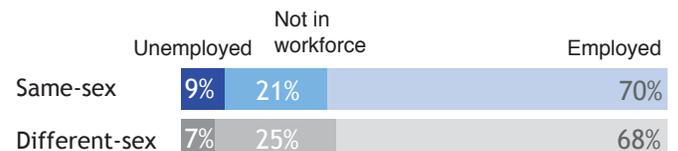
Unemployment rates are higher for African-American individuals who identify as LGBT compared to non-LGBT individuals (15% vs. 12%). African-American LGBT individuals are also more likely to be employed than non-LGBT individuals (63% vs. 60%). The difference lies in the proportion of the respective populations that report as "not in workforce." The patterns are similar for coupled African-Americans in the ACS data.

African-American Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

African-American Individuals in Couples

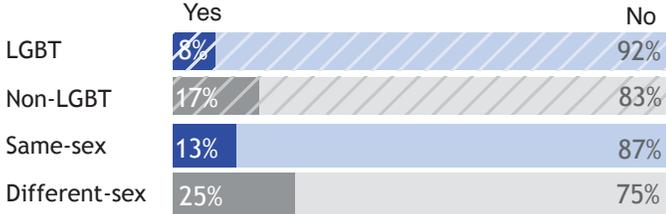


SOURCE: ACS

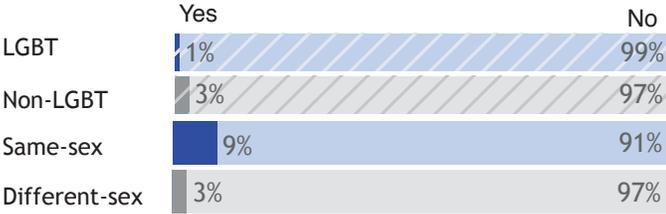
Military Status

In general, men are much more likely than women to serve in the military. While LGBT African-American men, both individuals and those in same-sex couples, are less likely than comparable non-LGBT African-American men to report military service, they still report relatively high rates of inclusion in the military. 13% of African-American men in same-sex couples report military service. Notably, African-American females in same-sex couples are three times more likely to enter the military than their different-sex counterparts (9% vs. 3%).

African-American Males



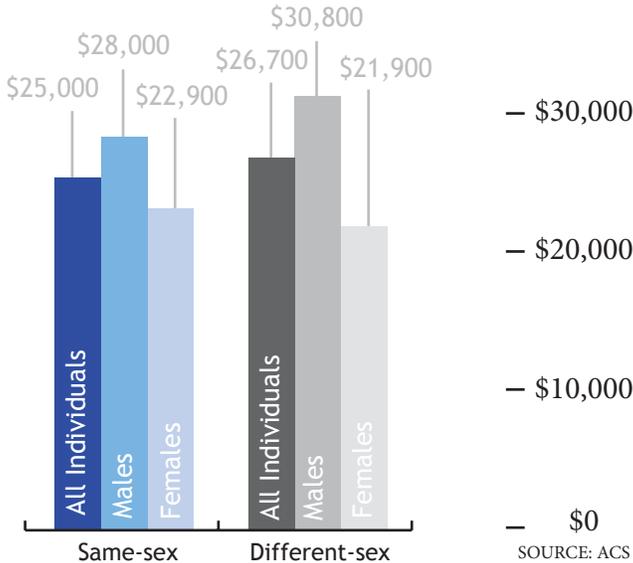
African-American Females



Median Individual Income

African-American individuals in same-sex couples report lower median income than those in different-sex couples (\$25,000 vs. \$26,700). When analyzed by gender, females in same-sex couples report incomes slightly higher than those in different-sex couples, while males in same-sex couples report lower incomes than those in different-sex couples. However, males in both groups report higher incomes than females in their respective group. We cannot provide comparable data from the Gallup survey, as they do not include a question regarding individual income.

African-American Individuals in Couples



Covered by Health Insurance

The Gallup survey indicates about 80% of African-American LGBT and non-LGBT individuals are covered by health insurance. The proportion of African-American individuals covered by health insurance is lower for those in same-sex couples than those in different-sex couples (74% vs. 86%).

Partnership Patterns

In 47% of same-sex couples with an African-American partner, the other partner is not African-American. This is the case for only 19% of different-sex couples. Same-sex couples with two African-American partners report a lower median household income compared to different-sex couples with two African-American partners (\$46,700 vs. \$60,000). Notably, both same-sex and different-sex couples with two African-American partners are less likely to have both partners complete a college degree than their counterparts with one African-American partner.

African-American Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

African-American Individuals in Couples



SOURCE: ACS

	African-American SS Couples	African-American DS Couples
% of Couples with Two African-American Partners	52.9%	80.9%
% of Couples with Only One African-American Partner	47.1%	19.1%

Characteristics of African-American Couples

In this section of the report, the unit of analysis is the couple. Using the couple as the unit of analysis allows us to view the household as a whole. Below, we present information for both same-sex and different sex African-American couples, indicating whether both, one or neither partner has the attribute in question. We also highlight characteristics of those couples that are raising children.

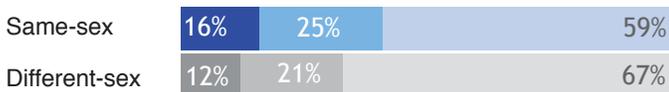


Completed a College Degree or More

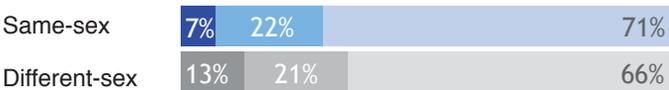
African-American same-sex couples have higher rates of educational attainment by couple than their different-sex counterparts (16% vs. 12%). However, for African-American couples raising children, the percent of same-sex couples that include two college graduates drops to 7%.



African-American Couples



African-American Couples Raising Children



SOURCE: ACS



Covered by Health Insurance

Only 63% of African-American same-sex couples have health insurance coverage for both partners. This proportion is much lower than the rates for different-sex couples (79%). The gap between same-sex and different-sex couples becomes even larger in couples raising children (54% vs. 78%).



African-American Couples



African-American Couples Raising Children

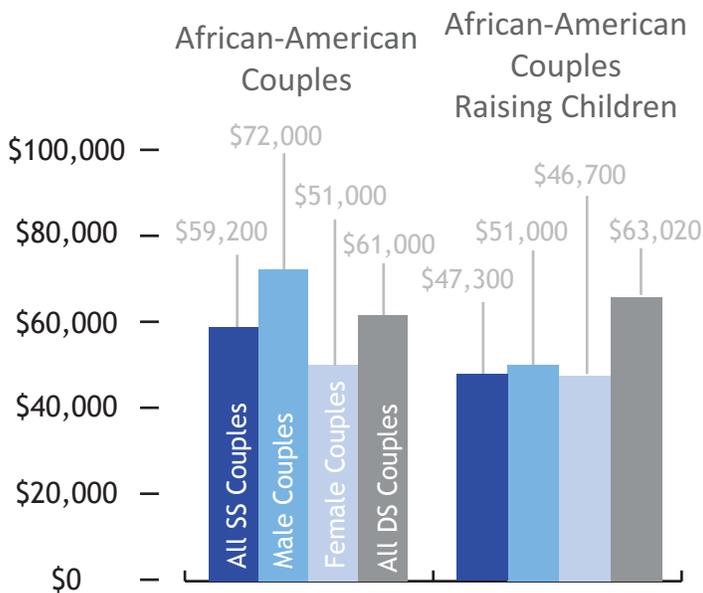


SOURCE: ACS



Median Household Income

African-American same-sex couples report a lower median household income than different-sex couples (\$59,200 vs. \$61,000). Notably, African-American female same-sex couples report a median household income about \$20,000 less than male same-sex couples (\$51,000 vs. \$72,000). The gap in reported income by gender for SS couples shrinks when focusing on couples raising children.



SOURCE: ACS

Conclusion

Overall, how African-American same-sex couples fare compared to their different-sex counterparts varies significantly depending on the gender of the couple and whether the couple is raising children. Female couples and couples raising children are struggling economically, with couples raising children also reporting lower rates of social characteristics that may ultimately affect their families, such as insurance coverage for both partners. While overall higher unemployment rates and lower rates of insurance coverage are cause for concern, there are areas where African-American same-sex couples are faring better than their different-sex counterparts. African-American same-sex couples report higher rates of educational attainment and higher rates of employment.

Appendix A

Population Estimates and Maps: Who is included?

The county-level maps use adjusted U.S. Census 2010 data measuring same-sex couples. The Census data describe both different-sex (DS) and same-sex (SS) couples by the race or ethnicity of the “householder,” who was Person 1 on the Census form and is usually the person in whose name the home is either owned or rented. The dark grey areas of the map indicate counties where there are no couple households with an African-American householder (DS or SS). The light grey areas of the map indicate areas where there are no same-sex couples with an African-American householder. In the first map, the remaining counties are shaded blue according to the number of same-sex couples present with an African-American householder per 1,000 households. The second map is shaded blue according to the percent of African-American same-sex couples of all African-American households by county. In the last map, the counties are shaded blue according to the percentage of African-American same-sex couples raising children by county.

For all maps included in the document, we define an African-American couple as a couple with an African-American person as the householder (outlined in table below). These couples comprise 70.5% of same-sex couples that include an African-American individual. Notably, using this method, we miss same-sex couples where the householder is not African-American and the partner is African-American (shaded in table below). These couples make up 29.4% of same-sex couples that include an African-American individual. We include individuals who identified as solely African-American (non-Hispanic) when asked to describe their race.

Same-sex Couples that Include an African-American Individual

Person 1	Person 2	
	African-American	Not African-American
African-American	52.9%	17.6%
Not African-American	29.4%	

Characteristics of African-American Couples: Who is Included?

In this section of the report, the unit of analysis is the couple. We use 2008/2009/2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data. While the ACS provides an excellent source of information about those in same-sex couples, it cannot provide information about the broader African-American LGBT population since it includes no explicit question about sexual orientation. Here, we define an African-American couple as a couple where one or both of the partners are African-American, thus including all the couples listed in the chart above. We include individuals who identified as solely African-American (non-Hispanic) when asked to describe their race.

Characteristics of African-American Individuals: Who is Included?

Single and Coupled

The unit of analysis in this section is the individual. In order to provide a well-rounded demographic portrait of the African-American LGBT community, we use Gallup Daily tracking survey data to report on characteristics for those that self-identify as LGBT (both single and coupled). Self-identification is based on responses to the question, “Do you, personally, identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender?” included in the Gallup survey. Again, we include individuals who identified as solely African-American (non-Hispanic) when asked to describe their race.

In Couples

We use 2008/2009/2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data to report on characteristics of individuals in couples and include individuals who identified as solely African-American (non-Hispanic) when asked to describe their race.

Appendix B

U.S. Census Data				
# of African-American Same-sex Couples	54,723			
Female Same-sex Couples	31,739			
Male Same-sex Couples	22,984			
% Same-sex Couples Raising Children	33.9%			

	American Community Survey(ACS)		Gallup Poll	
	Same-sex	Different-sex	LGBT	Non-LGBT
LGBT or Non-LGBT	-	-	3.7%	96.3%
Couple Type				
Male	42%	-	43%	45%
Female	58%	-	57%	55%
Characteristics of individuals in couples				
Age				
<18	<1%	<1%		
18-24	12%	3%	26%	15%
25-39	39%	29%	28%	28%
40-64	45%	56%	39%	46%
65+	3%	12%	7%	11%
Average age	39.4	47.3	38.3	43.4
Percent Employed	71% [^]	68% [^]	63%	60%
Not in work force	21%	25%	22%	28%
Unemployed	9% [^]	7% [^]	15%	12%
% Insured	74%	86%	79%	80%
% with a Disability	13%	13%		
% with a college degree or higher	25% [^]	22% [^]	23%	26%
Median individual income	\$25,000	\$26,700		
Men	\$28,000	\$30,800		
Women	\$22,900	\$21,900		
Average individual income	\$32,430 ^{^^}	\$34,336 ^{^^}		
Men	\$35,530 [^]	\$39,313 [^]		
Women	\$30,381 ^{^^}	\$28,601 ^{^^}		
Veteran Status	10%	14%		
Men	13%	25%	8%	17%
Women	9%	3%	1%	3%
% that speak language other than English in the home	5%	9%		
Citizenship status				
Citizen by birth	94%	87%		
Naturalized citizen	4%	8%		
Non-citizen	3%	5%		

	American Community Survey(ACS)		Gallup Poll	
	Same-sex	Different-sex	LGBT	Non-LGBT
Characteristics of couples				
% with a college degree or higher				
Neither partner	59%	67%		
One partner	25%	21%		
Both partners	16%	12%		
% Insured				
Neither partner	11%	8%		
One partner	26%	12%		
Both partners	63%	79%		
Median household income				
Men	\$59,200	\$61,000		
Women	\$72,000	-		
Average household income				
Men	\$51,000	-		
Women	\$78,227	\$73,434		
Characteristics of couples raising kids				
% Insured				
Neither partner	15%	9%		
One partner	31%	13%		
Both partners	54%	78%		
Median household income				
Men	\$47,000	\$63,020		
Women	\$51,000	-		
Average household income				
Men	\$46,700	-		
Women	\$63,245	\$75,235		
% with a college degree or higher				
Neither partner	\$61,744	-		
One partner	\$63,913	-		
Both partners	71%	66%		
% with a Disability				
Neither partner	22%	21%		
One partner	7%	13%		
Both partners	81%	86%		
Neither partner	16%	11%		
One partner	3%	2%		
Both partners				

Note: All comparisons mentioned in this report are statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ unless values are marked with ^ or ^^ . Values marked ^ are statistically significant at $p < 0.05$. Values marked with ^^ are not statistically significant.

Data and Methodology

Gallup Daily tracking survey: Results are based on telephone interviews conducted Jun. 1-Dec. 1, 2012 with a random sample of 206,186 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. For more details on Gallup's polling methodology, visit www.gallup.com.

2008-2010 American Community Survey (ACS): The analyses use the 3-year Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) from the American Community Survey, 2008-2010.

Adjustments to Census 2010 same-sex couple data: Data are compiled using the US Census 2010 preferred estimates for same-sex couples by race and ethnicity and the presence of children. Same-sex couples are identified in households where Person 1 describes his or her relationship with another adult of the same sex as either a "husband/wife" or "unmarried partner." The Census Bureau preferred estimates adjust original same-sex couple tabulations reported in the Census 2010 SF-2 data (PCT19) to account for the likelihood that a small portion of different-sex couples miscode the sex of a spouse or partner and are incorrectly counted as a same-sex couple. Different-sex couple data presented in the report are all derived from the SF-2, PCT19 table.

The Census Bureau only released preferred estimates for same-sex couples by race and ethnicity at the national level. State and county data used in this report are adjusted by the authors and do not represent official Census Bureau tabulations. Like the Census Bureau preferred estimates, the adjustment procedure accounts for the likelihood that a small portion of different-sex couples miscode the sex of a spouse or partner and are incorrectly counted as a same-sex couple. Note that the adjusted figures do not take into account the possibility that some same-sex couples may not be counted in Census tabulations due to concerns about confidentiality or because neither partner was Person 1 in the household.

About the authors

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