

# LGBT Latino/a Individuals and Latino/a Same-sex Couples

**4.3%**

of Latino/a Adults Identify as LGBT

**1,419,200**

Estimated LGBT Latino/a Adults in the U.S.

**146,100**

Latino/a Individuals in Same-sex Couples in the U.S.

**29.1%**

of Latino/a Same-sex Couples Raising Children

## Overview

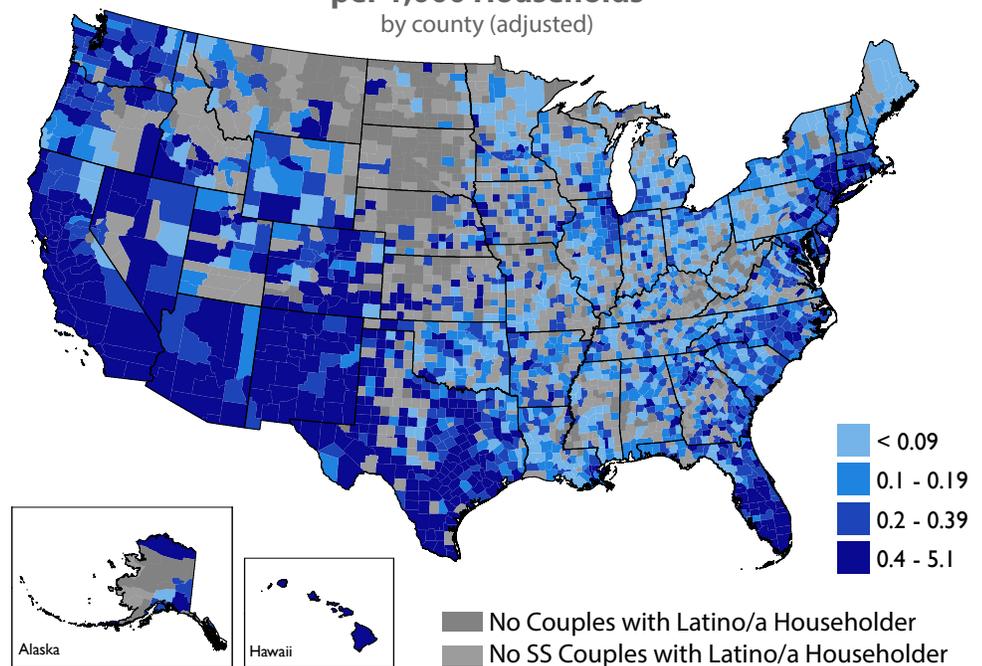
This report uses the best available data to provide a population estimate of LGBT Latino/a individuals and Latino/a same-sex (SS) couples in the United States, along with a general overview of their socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.

## Geographic Distribution

LGBT Latino/a adults tend to live in areas where there are higher proportions of Latinos/as, as opposed to areas with higher proportions of the broader LGBT population. Almost 1/3 of Latino/a same-sex couples live in New Mexico, California, and Texas.

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 a Latino/a Householder per 1,000 Households**  
by county (adjusted)



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

## Key Findings

● Overall, Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples are faring better than their different-sex counterparts. However, specific subpopulations show signs of socioeconomic vulnerability, such as Latina/female same-sex couples, couples raising children, and couples where one or both partners are non-citizens.

● 29.1% of all Latino/a same-sex couples are raising children. These families are living in counties all across the nation.

💰 Latino/male same-sex couples out-earn Latina/female same-sex couples by almost \$15,000.

● In 63% of same-sex couples with a Latino/a partner, the other partner is not Latino/a. This is the case for only 32% of different-sex couples.



LGBT Latino/a adults have higher rates of unemployment than non-LGBT Latino/a adults (14% vs. 11%). However, when only focusing on Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples, the rates are similar to their counterparts in different-sex couples.

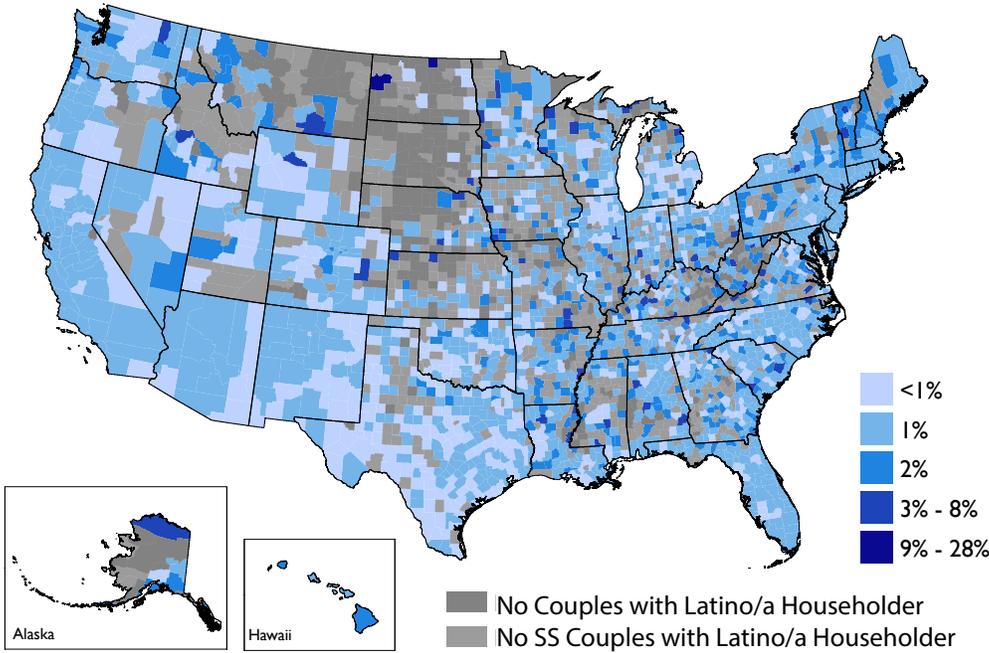


An estimated 15% of both LGBT and non-LGBT Latino/a adults have completed a college degree. 26% of Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples have completed a college degree or more, compared to 14% in different-sex couples.



Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to be a U.S. citizen than their counterparts in different-sex couples (80% vs. 62%). Binational couples make up 1 of every 7 Latino/a same-sex couples. Furthermore, 1 in 5 Latino/a same-sex couples raising children have two non-citizen partners.

### % of All Latino/a Households Headed by Same-sex Couples

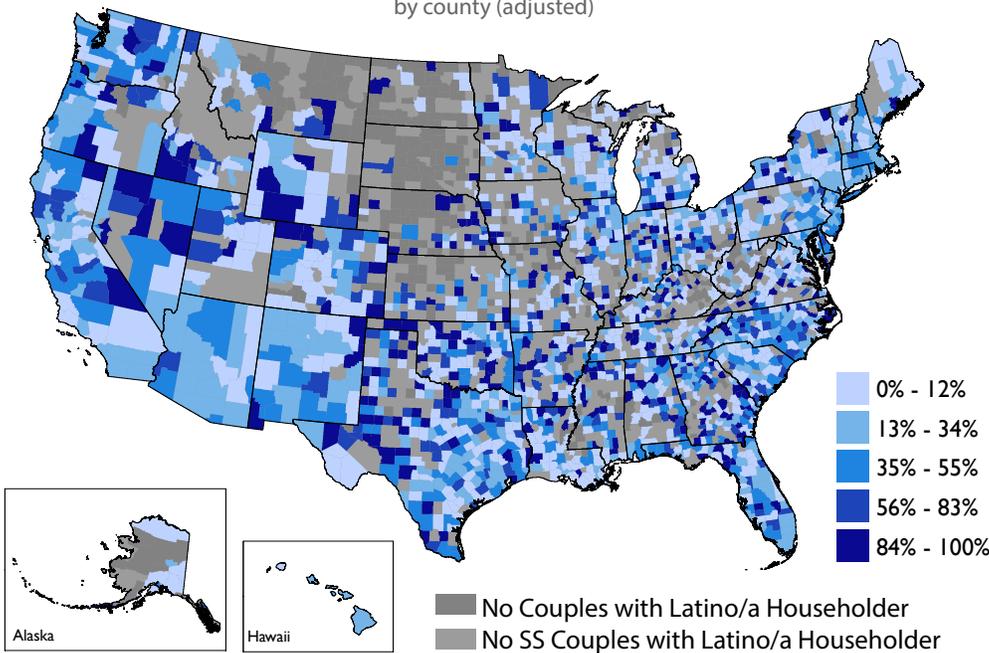


SOURCE: U.S. Census 2010 data(adjusted)

### Among Latino/a Households

Nationally, 1 in 200 Latino/a households are led by a same-sex couple (0.5%). Counties where there is a higher proportion of Latino/a same-sex couples than the national average tend to be in areas where there are fewer Latino/a households overall, meaning the same-sex households make up a large part of the Latino/a population in those areas. With the exception of counties in the state of Florida, these counties tend to be in the South and Midwest regions of the country.

### % of Same-sex Couples with Latino/a Householder Raising "Own" Children\* by county (adjusted)

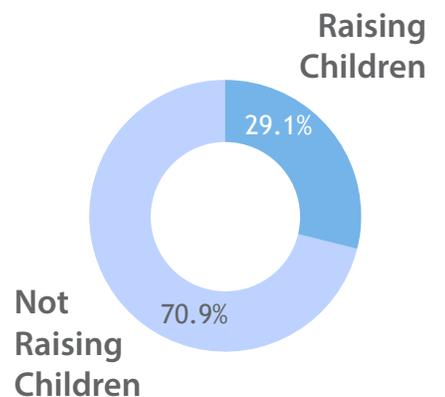


\*"Own" children are never-married children under 18 who are sons or daughters of one partner or spouse (Person 1) by birth, marriage (stepchild), or adoption.

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

### Couples Raising Children

Although 29.1% of same-sex couples with a Latino/a householder are raising children, these couples are not concentrated in major metropolitan areas. The map on the left indicates that Latino/a same-sex couples raising children are scattered throughout counties across the nation.




**Geography**

LGBT Latino/a adults tend to live in areas where there are higher proportions of Latinos/as, as opposed to areas with higher proportions of the broader LGBT population. This is evident by the inclusion of several Southwestern states on our top ten lists which tend to be areas known for Latino/a residency, but not LGBT residency. States on the East Coast such as Florida, New Jersey and New York are also included. Notably, within the counties listed, the percent of Latino/a same-sex couples raising children ranges from 9% to 56%.

**Top 10 States: % LGBT Latino/a Individuals (Gallup 2012)**

State	Estimated LGBT Latino/a Adults	% LGBT among Latino/a Adults	% LGBT Latinos/as Among All Adults
Texas	283,300	4.6%	1.55%
Nevada	30,000	6.6%	1.47%
California	350,100	3.8%	1.25%
Arizona	53,600	4.5%	1.12%
Wyoming	4,600	14.4%	1.07%
Colorado	31,200	4.7%	0.82%
New Jersey	49,900	4.6%	0.74%
Kansas	15,800	8.9%	0.74%
Florida	108,000	3.5%	0.73%
New York	102,900	4.2%	0.68%

**Top 10 States: Same-sex Couples with Latino/a Householder**

State Rank	State	Same-sex couples with Latino/a Householder (adjusted)	Same-sex couples with Latino/a Householder per 1,000 Households (adjusted)
1	New Mexico	1,900	2.40
2	California	18,831	1.50
3	Texas	11,511	1.29
4	District of Columbia	340	1.28
5	Nevada	1,174	1.17
6	Arizona	2,640	1.11
7	Florida	7,286	0.98
8	Colorado	1,755	0.89
9	New York	6,187	0.85
10	New Jersey	2,425	0.75

**Top 10 Counties: Same-sex couples with Latino/a Householder\***

State Rank	US County Rank*	County	Same-sex couples with Latino/a Householder (adjusted)	Same-sex couples with Latino/a Householder per 1,000 (adjusted)	% Raising "own" children among same-sex couples with Latino/a Householder (adjusted)
1	1	Rio Arriba County, New Mexico	81	5.11	32%
3	2	Starr County, Texas	75	4.41	56%
3	3	Jim Wells County, Texas	50	3.59	39%
1	4	Santa Fe County, New Mexico	215	3.46	22%
1	5	Bernalillo County, New Mexico	899	3.38	22%
7	6	Miami-Dade County, Florida	2,766	3.19	15%
3	7	Bexar County, Texas	1,938	3.18	28%
2	8	San Francisco County, California	1,078	3.12	9%
1	9	Socorro County, New Mexico	22	3.08	40%
3	10	Hidalgo County, Texas	666	3.07	44%

\*Including only those counties with 20+ same-sex couples with a Latino/a householder

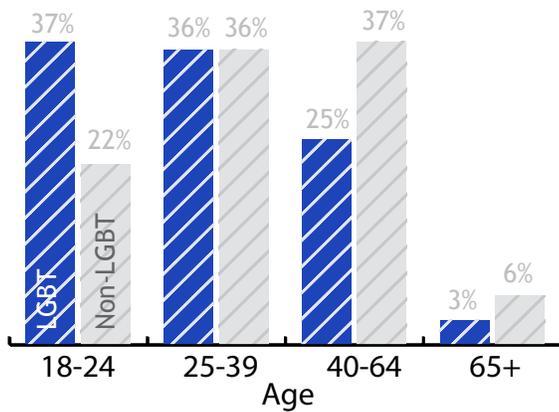
## Characteristics of Latino/a Individuals

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

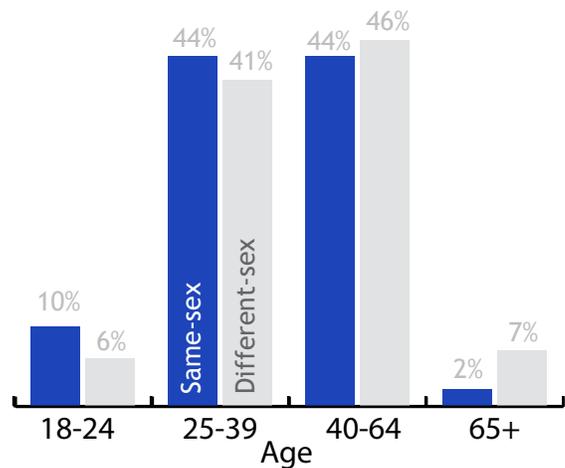
Direct comparisons between individuals in same-sex couples and all LGBT individuals must be made with caution, as the age distribution of LGBT individuals in the Gallup survey differs from that of Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples identified in the ACS. LGBT Latino/a individuals are much younger than both the non-LGBT Latino/a population and Latinos/as 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.

Latino/a Individuals (single and coupled)  
(Gallup 2012)



Average Age: LGBT=32.9 Non-LGBT=38.3 SOURCE: Gallup

Latino/a Individuals in Couples  
(ACS 2010)



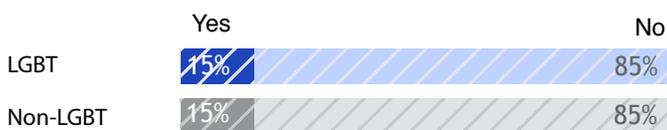
Average Age: SS=38.7 DS=42.5 SOURCE: ACS



### Completed a College Degree or More

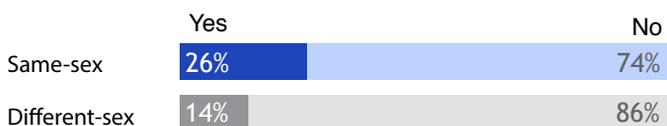
Latino/a individuals who identify as LGBT in the Gallup survey report similar rates of college completion when compared to Latino/a non-LGBT adults (15%). Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples have higher rates of educational attainment than their different-sex counterparts (26% vs. 14%). The different results could be in part because LGBT Latino/a individuals in the Gallup survey are much younger than their coupled counterparts in the ACS data.

Latino/a Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

Latino/a Individuals in Couples



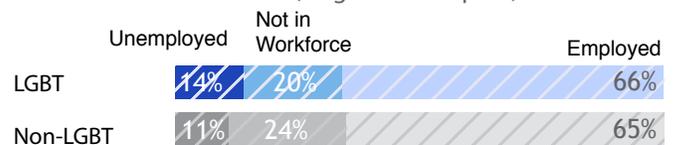
SOURCE: ACS



### Employment Status

Unemployment rates are higher for Latino/a individuals who identify as LGBT compared to non-LGBT individuals (14% vs. 11%). Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to be employed than their counterparts in different-sex couples (79% vs. 68%). LGBT Latinos/as and Latinos/as in same-sex couples are both more likely than their non-LGBT and different-sex counterparts to be in the workforce.

Latino/a Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

Latino/a Individuals in Couples



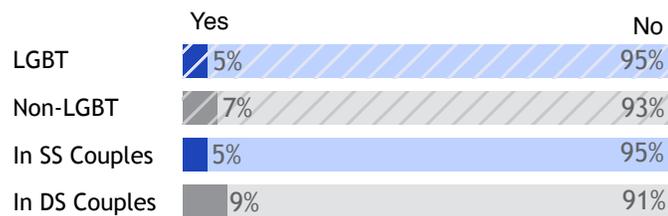
SOURCE: ACS



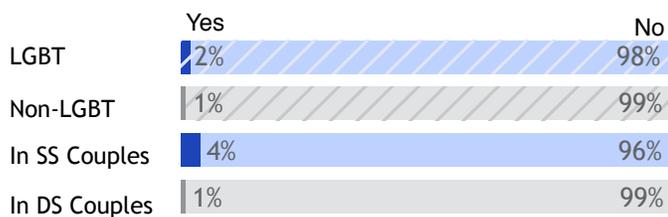
### Military Status

In general, men are much more likely than women to serve in the military. LGBT Latinos/men, both individuals and those in same-sex couples, are less likely than comparable non-LGBT Latinos/men to report military service. LGBT Latinas/women, both individuals and those in same-sex couples, are more likely to report military service than comparable non-LGBT women. Notably, Latinas/women in same-sex couples are four times more likely to enter the military than their different-sex counterparts (4% vs. 1%).

#### Latinos/Males



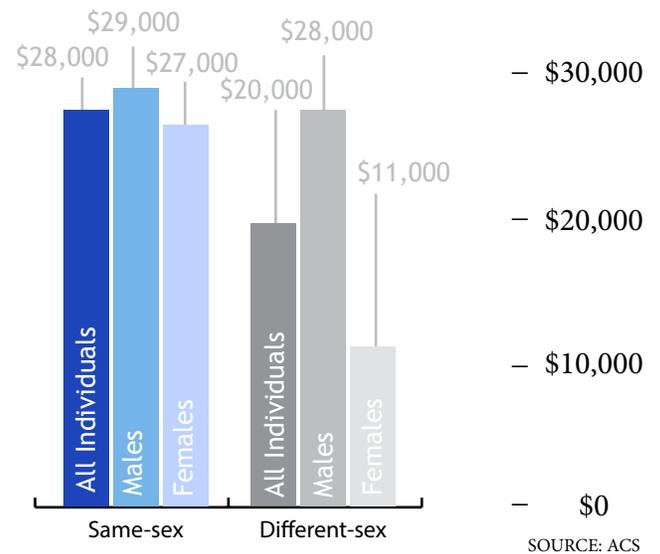
#### Latinas/Females



### Median Individual Income

Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples report higher median annual income than those in different-sex couples (\$28,000 vs. \$20,000). When analyzed by gender, females in same-sex couples report much higher incomes than those in different-sex couples (\$27,000 vs. \$11,000), while males in same-sex couples report only slightly higher incomes than those in different-sex couples. Notably, there is little difference between the reported income of Latino/male and Latina/female individuals in same-sex couples. We cannot provide comparable data from the Gallup survey, as they do not include a question regarding individual income.

#### Latino/a Individuals in Couples



### Covered by Health Insurance

The Gallup survey indicates that 61% of both Latino/a LGBT and non-LGBT individuals are covered by health insurance. The proportion of Latino/a individuals covered by health insurance is higher for those in same-sex couples than those in different-sex couples (71% vs. 66%).

#### Latino/a Individuals (single and coupled)



SOURCE: Gallup

#### Latino/a Individuals in Couples



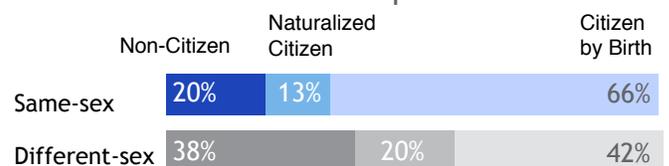
SOURCE: ACS



### Citizenship Status

Overall, Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples are more likely to be citizens by birth than those in different-sex couples (66% vs. 42%). A difference in reported citizenship status between individuals in same-sex couples and different-sex couples can affect proportions of characteristics that may largely depend on citizenship, such as health insurance coverage and income. We cannot provide comparable data for LGBT individuals from the Gallup survey, as they do not include a question regarding citizenship status.

#### Latino/a Individuals in Couples



SOURCE: ACS

## Characteristics of Latino/a 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 Latino/a 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

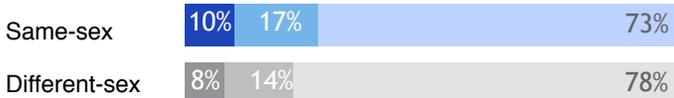
Almost half of all Latino/a same-sex couples (48%) include at least one partner with a college degree or more, compared to 24% of different-sex couples. However, the percent of same-sex couples that include two college graduates drops from 19% to 10% when focusing on couples raising children.



#### All Latino/a Couples



#### Latino/a Couples Raising Children



SOURCE: ACS



### Covered by Health Insurance

Latino/a same-sex couples are more likely to have health insurance coverage for one or both partners than different-sex couples (85% vs. 76%). However, the gap between same-sex and different-sex couples shrinks when looking only at couples raising children (73% vs. 71%).



#### All Latino/a Couples



#### Latino/a Couples Raising Children

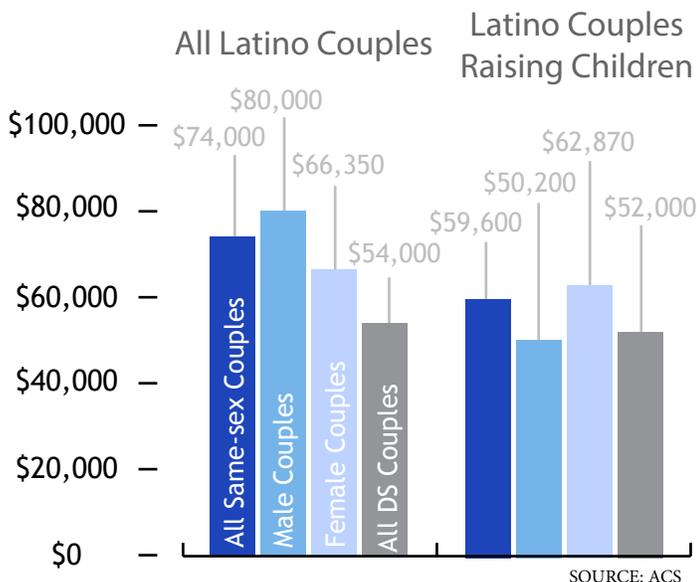


SOURCE: ACS



### Median Household Income

Latino/a same-sex couples report a higher average household income than different-sex couples (\$74,000 vs. \$54,000). However, gender matters. Female same-sex couples report a median household income almost \$15,000 less than male same-sex couples (\$66,350 vs. \$80,000). Notably, the gap in reported income by couple-type shrinks when focusing on couples raising children, while the gap by gender seems to reverse.



SOURCE: ACS



### Citizenship Status

Overall, Latino/a same-sex couples are more likely than Latino/a different-sex couples to have at least one partner with U.S. citizenship status, whether by birth or naturalization (92% vs. 76%). About 1 in 5 Latino/a same-sex couples have at least one partner who reported non-citizen status. For Latino/a same-sex couples raising children, 1 in 3 couples include at least one non-citizen partner.



#### All Latino/a Couples



#### Latino/a Couples Raising Children



SOURCE: ACS

### Partnership Patterns

In 63% of same-sex couples with a Latino/a partner, the other partner is not Latino/a. This is the case for only 32% of different-sex couples. Same-sex couples with only one Latino/a partner report a higher median household income compared to different-sex couples with one Latino/a partner (\$85,000 vs. \$75,000). This pattern is also true for same-sex couples with two Latino/a partners, however the reported median household incomes are lower overall (\$55,000 vs. \$46,300). Notably, both same-sex and different-sex couples with two Latino/a partners are less likely to have both partners complete a college degree than their counterparts with one Latino/a partner.

	Latino/a Same-sex Couples	Latino/a Different-sex Couples
% of Couples with Two Latino/a Partners	36.8%	68.2%
% of Couples with Only One Latino/a Partner	63.2%	31.8%

SOURCE: ACS

### Country of Birth

Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples are much more likely to be born in the United States than Latino/a individuals in different-sex couples (59% vs. 36%). Within those born outside of the U.S., the highest proportion of Latinos/as in same-sex couples are born in Mexico. Notably, Latinos/as in different-sex couples are about twice as likely to report being born in Mexico than Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples. Puerto Rico, Cuba and El Salvador round out the top five list of countries of origin.

#### Top 5 Countries of Birth: Latino/a Individuals in Couples

	In Same-sex Couples	In Different-sex Couples
United States	59.4%	36.6%
Mexico	17.7%	38.4%
Puerto Rico	5.5%	4.1%
Cuba	4.2%	3.3%
El Salvador	1.9%	3.5%

SOURCE: ACS



### Completed a College Degree or More

College completion rates are often used as a measure of economic well-being. In order to highlight differences in socioeconomic characteristics among subpopulations within the Latino/a community, we include college completion rates by ancestry for individuals in same-sex couples and individuals in different-sex couples. We only include data for Latino/a subpopulations where the number of respondents in same-sex couples was high enough to provide accurate data.

Regardless of ancestry, Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples tend to complete a college degree at higher rates than comparable individuals in different-sex couples. However, rates of college completion vary depending on individual ancestry. Individuals of Spanish or Cuban ancestry report high levels of educational attainment, while Mexican, Salvadoran, and Puerto Rican individuals report lower rates of college completion.

#### Completed a College Degree (by ancestry)

	Individuals in Same-sex Couples	Individuals in Different-sex Couples
Mexican	20.9%	8.3%
Puerto Rican	24.3%	17.8%
Cuban	51.4%	27.1%
Spaniard	52.1%	29.3%
Salvadoran	20.7%	6.4%
Dominican	26.2%	17.5%
Colombian	28.3%	33.4%

SOURCE: ACS

### Conclusion

Overall, Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples are faring better than their different-sex counterparts. They are more likely to be employed, more likely to have health insurance and more likely to have completed a college degree. The gender of the couple and whether a couple is raising children makes a difference. For example, Latino/a same-sex couples raising children fare closer to comparable different-sex couples in educational attainment, annual income, and health insurance coverage. Notably, while Latino/a individuals in same-sex couples overall are more likely to be born in the U.S., Latino/a same-sex couples raising children are more likely to have two non-citizen partners compared to Latino/a same-sex couples without children. This may have an affect on characteristics such as annual income and health insurance coverage.

## 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 a Latino/a householder (DS or SS). The light grey areas of the map indicate areas where there are no same-sex couples with a Latino/a householder. In the first map, the remaining counties are shaded blue according to the number of same-sex couples present with a Latino/a householder per 1,000 households. The second map is shaded blue according to the percent of Latino/a same-sex couples of all Latino/a households by county. In the last map, the counties are shaded blue according to the percentage of Latino/a same-sex couples raising children by county.

For all maps included in the document, we define a Latino/a couple as a couple with a Latino/a person as the householder (outlined in table below). These couples comprise 62.9% of same-sex couples that include a Latino/a individual. Notably, using this method, we miss same-sex couples where the householder is not Latino/a and the partner is Latino/a (shaded in table below). These couples make up 37.2% of same-sex couples that include a Latino/a individual. We include individuals of any race who identified as Latino/a or Hispanic when asked to describe their ethnicity.

#### Same-sex Couples that Include a Latino/a Individual

Person 1	Person 2	
	Latino/a	Not Latino/a
Latino/a	36.8%	26.1%
Not Latino/a	37.2%	

### Characteristics of Latino/a 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 Latino/a LGBT population since it includes no explicit question about sexual orientation. Here, we define a Latino/a couple as a couple where one or both of the partners are Latino/a, thus including all the couples listed in the chart above. We include individuals of any race who identified as Latino/a or Hispanic when asked to describe their ethnicity.

### Characteristics of Latino/a 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 Latino/a 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 of any race who identified as Latino/a or Hispanic when asked to describe their ethnicity.

#### *In Couples*

We use 2008/2009/2010 American Community Survey (ACS) data to report on characteristics of individuals in couples and include individuals of any race who identified as Latino/a or Hispanic when asked to describe their ethnicity.

## Appendix B

U.S. Census Data				
# of Latino/a Same-sex Couples	109,447			
Female Same-sex Couples	51,842			
Male Same-sex Couples	57,605			
% Same-sex Couples Raising Children	29.1%			

	American Community Survey(ACS)		Gallup Poll	
	Same-sex	Different-sex	LGBT	Non-LGBT
LGBT or Non-LGBT	-	-	4.3%	95.7%
Couple Type				
Male	53%	-	54%	50%
Female	47%	-	46%	50%
<b>Characteristics of individuals in couples</b>				
Age				
<18	<1%	<1%		
18-24	10%	6%	37%	22%
25-39	44%	41%	36%	36%
40-64	44%	46%	25%	37%
65+	2%	7%	3%	6%
Average age	38.7	42.5	32.9	38.3
Percent Employed	79%	68%	66%	65%
Not in work force	14%	26%	20%	24%
Unemployed	7%^	6%^	14%	11%
% Insured	71%	66%	61%	61%
% with a Disability	9%	9%		
% with a college degree or higher	26%	14%	15%	15%
Median individual income	\$28,000	\$20,000		
Men	\$29,000	\$28,000		
Women	\$27,000	\$11,000		
Average individual income	\$38,401	\$28,114		
Men	\$40,788	\$37,901		
Women	\$35,856	\$18,295		
Veteran Status	5%	5%		
Men	5%	9%	5%	7%
Women	4%	1%	2%	1%
% that speak language other than English in the home	62%	81%		
Citizenship status				
Citizen by birth	66%	42%		
Naturalized citizen	13%	20%		
Non-citizen	20%	38%		

	American Community Survey(ACS)		Gallup Poll	
	Same-sex	Different-sex	LGBT	Non-LGBT
<b>Characteristics of couples</b>				
% with a college degree or higher				
Neither partner	52%	76%		
One partner	29%	15%		
Both partners	19%	9%		
Citizenship by Birth or Naturalization				
Neither partner	8%	24%		
One partner	13%	18%		
Both partners	79%	58%		
% Insured				
Neither partner	15%	24%		
One partner	20%	14%		
Both partners	65%	62%		
Median household income				
Men	\$80,000	-		
Women	\$66,350	-		
Average household income				
Men	\$94,063	\$69,070		
Women	\$104,293	-		
Women	\$82,696	-		
<b>Characteristics of couples raising kids</b>				
% Insured				
Neither partner	27%^	29%^		
One partner	20%	14%		
Both partners	53%^	57%^		
Citizenship by Birth or Naturalization				
Neither partner	19%	30%		
One partner	15%	20%		
Both partners	66%	50%		
Median household income				
Men	\$59,600	\$52,000		
Women	\$50,200	-		
Women	\$62,870	-		
Average household income				
Men	\$71,244^	\$66,476^		
Men	\$74,413	-		
Women	\$65,200	-		
% with a college degree or higher				
Neither partner	73%	78%		
One partner	17%^	14%^		
Both partners	10%^	8%^		

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](http://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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