



Hispanic and Latino Same-Sex Households in Florida

A REPORT FROM THE 2000 CENSUS

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Data provided by Lopez & Cheung, Inc.

Foreword

BY HERB SOSA

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Proud, united, tight-knit, religious, hopeful and guarded—the Florida Hispanic/Latino household is all of these. Music, humor, food and faith are what keeps us together and keeps us going. We come in all sizes and colors. We speak dozens of versions of Spanish, and are passionate about *our* fútbol, politics, religion and food. We celebrate our ancestry—Spaniards, Portuguese, Africans, Aztecs and Mayans—while embracing our new homes, contributions and freedoms. Hispanics/Latinos are industrious and involved, and contribute generously to our communities. We are the American dream.

Hispanics/Latinos share a common language, similar heritage, and hopes for the future. But the similarities often stop there. Heritage is the customs and traditions that are handed down from generation to generation through our families. A person with Latino heritage is a descendant of a family from Mexico, Central America, or South America. The term Hispanic refers to persons who come from a country where Spanish is spoken, often associated with the Caribbean.

In Florida, many in our Spanish-speaking communities identify as Hispanic/Latino, white, Catholic and Republican. This in itself is different from many other Hispanic/Latino communities across the U.S. Hispanic/Latino household income and level of education, specifically those of Cuban-Americans, is often higher in Florida than in the rest of the nation. South Florida is second only to Manhattan in number of international banks with offices based there, and it leads the nation in Spanish TV and music production. Central Florida is second only to New York in concentration and population of Puerto Ricans in the mainland U.S.

Many Hispanic and Latino people in the United States simply prefer to be called Americans, no hyphen. Others identify themselves with their cultural or national background. The three largest groups of Latinos in the United States are Mexican-Americans, Cuban-Americans and Puerto Ricans. Members of some groups use more specialized names. For example, some Mexican Americans call themselves Chicanos, and some Puerto Ricans who live in New York or Orlando refer to themselves as *Nuyoricans* or *Boriquas*. Regardless of where we live or how we identify ourselves, Hispanics/Latinos are present in almost every community across the U.S., in every industry, religion, and income bracket.

This study helps to explain why the broader LGBT community must defend immigrants' rights and organize in languages other than English.



As this groundbreaking study from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force shows, Hispanics'/Latinos' sexual orientation, families and households are also very diverse. However, our beliefs are consistent. Hispanic/Latino same-sex households share strong faith, political and family nucleus convictions with other Hispanic/Latino households and families. Issues of discrimination, immigration, healthcare and fair wages top the list of concerns for Florida's same-sex households as much as in other Hispanic/Latino homes.

As this study shows, Florida's Hispanic/Latino same-sex households are similar to Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households. However, these similarities end when considering the thousands of benefits and legal protections of marriage. In 1977 Florida passed the only law in the nation that specifically outlaws adoption by "homosexuals," and twenty years later, the legislature passed one of the nation's first laws against same-sex marriage. As I write this, hundreds of activists and leaders opposed to equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people are out on the streets collecting signatures to place an anti-same-sex marriage state constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2006. Even though the dilemma of immigration for Hispanics/Latinos crosses all boundaries, unlike married opposite sex couples, same-sex couples in which one partner is a citizen are not allowed to sponsor their partners for immigration purposes because they are not able to marry. This, along with other forms of anti-LGBT discrimination, is wrong and must change—in Florida and across the country.

Unlike married opposite sex couples, same-sex Hispanic/Latino couples in which one partner is a citizen cannot sponsor their partners for immigration because they are not able to marry.

The more we discriminate, segregate, take away rights or offer them to a select few, the more we magnify the differences between us and create more barriers, misunderstandings and hate.

I want to learn about other people, who they are, and for them to learn about me. This report from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force helps me do this, and hopefully will help others to reach a greater level of understanding of me, my neighbors, and why all families should be recognized and cherished in all of their wonderful varieties.

I am proud of the person I am, of my differences and similarities, of my heritage, of whom I have successfully raised in my image, and of whom I have chosen to love.

I live the American Dream.



Herb Sosa
Director, Unity Coalition/Coalición Unida of Florida



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Executive Summary

During the 2004 election in Florida, same-sex marriage was a central political issue. Mel Martinez, who would become the first Cuban-American elected to the U.S. Senate, aired a radio ad in support of the Federal Marriage Amendment, stating that he immigrated to the U.S. “to escape a totalitarian dictator who had no respect for the traditional values of family and faith.”¹ By linking the issue of same-sex marriage to the totalitarian dictatorship of Fidel Castro, Martinez’s comments depicted marriage equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people not only as anti-democratic, but also, more subtly, as anti-Hispanic and Latino.

Other anti-LGBT politicians and religious leaders have similarly attempted to cash in on traditional Hispanic/Latino social conservatism in Florida by pitting Hispanics/Latinos against LGBT people. The religious right, for example, frequently attempts to portray civil rights as a limited resource, claiming that equal rights for LGBT people will take away the civil rights of Hispanic and Latino people. This false claim ignores the thousands of LGBT Hispanics/Latinos who are harmed by anti-LGBT laws. This is just one of the reasons why documenting the experiences of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida is vital to informing the debate over equal rights for LGBT people, particularly now that anti-LGBT groups in Florida are sponsoring a state constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage that will most likely be on the ballot in November 2006.

Documenting the experiences of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida is vital, particularly now that anti-LGBT groups in Florida are sponsoring a state constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage.

How do anti-LGBT family policies in Florida, including the proposed state constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage, specifically affect Florida’s Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families?

To answer this question, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute conducted an analysis of data on Hispanic/Latino same-sex households from the 2000 U.S. Census.² This study sheds light on the over 9,000 Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples who live in Florida, including their basic demographics, immigration and citizenship status, residence patterns, parenting rates, educational attainment, employment status, income, housing, and veteran status. To better understand how anti-LGBT family policies specifically impact Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples and their children, information about them from the 2000 Census was also compared to Census data about white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples, as well as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples, and Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples.

1. LaPadula, P. (2004, July 23). Martinez likens gay marriage advocates to Castro. *Express Gay News*. Retrieved February 16, 2005 from <http://www.expressgaynews.com/advertising/etearsheets/pdf/07-23-2004/007.pdf>.

2. The research firm of Lopez & Cheung, Inc. provided the raw data for the analysis.



KEY FINDING

Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families are more likely to be raising biological and nonbiological (foster or adopted) children under the age of 18 than white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families.

- Male same-sex households in Florida in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are raising biological children at over three times the rate reported by white non-Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households (30% vs. 11%).³ They are also raising nonbiological children at over four times the rate reported by white non-Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households (4% vs. 1%).
- Female same-sex couples in Florida in which both partners are Hispanic/Latina are raising biological children (38% vs. 26%) and nonbiological children (4% vs. 2%) at a higher rate than white non-Hispanic/Latina female same-sex couples.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Despite attempts by anti-LGBT political and religious leaders to portray the terms “gay” and “family” as mutually exclusive, according to the 2000 Census, approximately one-third of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida are raising children under the age of 18. In 1977, Florida’s legislature banned adoption by “homosexuals,” and numerous attempts to overturn the ban have failed. This is despite the fact that the vast majority of children’s advocacy organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics⁴ and the American Psychological Association,⁵ recognize that there is no inherent difference in the social functioning and emotional health of children raised by same-sex parents. There is no justification for discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people or same-sex couples in custody, visitation, foster care, and adoption laws.
- Although gay and lesbian people are allowed to act as foster parents in Florida, they are currently denied the opportunity to adopt the children they care for. It is also unclear whether second-parent adoptions, a legal procedure that allows a same-sex parent to co-adopt his or her partner’s biological or adoptive child, are permissible under Florida law. Equitable adoption and parenting laws would benefit these families because if parents have no legal relationship to their children, they cannot include them in their health insurance coverage or make decisions about how they will be cared for if one parent dies or the couple separates. There are over 100,000 Hispanic/Latino children nationwide that are waiting to be adopted,⁶ or are currently in foster care.⁷ Barring lesbians, gay men, and same-sex couples from adopting decreases the number of potential loving homes for children in need.

According to the 2000 Census, approximately one-third of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida are raising children under the age of 18.

3. This difference was statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).

4. Perrin, E.C. and The Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. (2002). Technical report: Co-parent or second-parent adoption by same-sex parents. *Pediatrics*. 109(2), 341-344.

5. Patterson, C.J. (1995). *Lesbian and gay parenting: A resource for psychologists*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Available at <http://www.apa.org/pi/parent.html>

6. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1999). Factsheet: How many children are waiting to be adopted. Retrieved August 10, 2004, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/afcars/rpt0199/ar0199e.htm>

7. Child Welfare League of America (n.d.). Facts and figures. Retrieved March 1, 2004, from <http://www.cwla.org/programs/fostercare/factsheet.htm>



KEY FINDING

Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families are disadvantaged compared to white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families in terms of income, homeownership, and disability.

- Female same-sex households in Florida in which both partners are Hispanic/Latina earn over \$23,000 less in median annual household income than white non-Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households and over \$27,000 less than white non-Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households.⁸
- Male same-sex households in Florida in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino earn \$13,140 less in median annual household income than white non-Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households and \$17,500 less than white non-Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households.
- Seventy-six percent of white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples report owning their own homes, compared to 66% of Hispanic/Latina female same-sex couples, and just 54% of Hispanic/Latino male same-sex couples.
- Same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are twice as likely to report that at least one partner has a disability than white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households (25% vs. 12%).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- The inability to marry hurts same-sex couples in many ways, including their ability to provide for their children, save money, buy a house, or prepare for retirement. In fact, same-sex partners are not eligible for the 1,138 federal protections and benefits of marriage, including filing their taxes jointly, Social Security survivor benefits, Medicaid spend-down protections, and the ability to take time off from work to care for a sick or disabled partner under the Family and Medical leave act. *Over a lifetime, the inability to marry means that same-sex couples often pay more in taxes but are unable to benefit from government policies designed to help maintain strong and healthy families.*
- Because Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida earn significantly less than white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, are also less likely to own their homes, and are significantly more likely to include a partner who is disabled, anti-same-sex marriage laws disproportionately harm them and their children.

The inability to marry hurts same-sex couples in many ways, including their ability to provide for their children, save money, buy a house, or prepare for retirement.

KEY FINDING

Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida are far more likely to include partners who are foreign born and not U.S. citizens than members of white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples.

- Same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are almost 13 times more likely to report at least one partner who was born outside of the United States that is also not a U.S. citizen than white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households (51% vs. 4%).⁹

8. These differences were statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).

9. This difference was statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).



POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Even though U.S. immigration policy is largely based on the principle of “family unification,” which allows U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their spouses for immigration purposes, same-sex partners of U.S. citizens are not considered “spouses,” and cannot be sponsored by their partners for family-based immigration. This places many same-sex, bi-national couples in limbo, forcing them to find ways to stay together illegally and live in fear of deportation. Many bi-national same-sex couples are forced to move to Canada or elsewhere to stay together.
- Because same-sex couples in Florida in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are significantly more likely to include a partner who is foreign-born and not a U.S. citizen than white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, anti-same-sex marriage laws and constitutional amendments disproportionately threaten the integrity of their families.

Many binational same-sex couples are forced to move to Canada or elsewhere to stay together.

KEY FINDING

Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple households in Florida are in many respects similar to other Hispanic/Latino households.

- Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples are nearly as likely as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples to report owning their home (60% vs. 65%).
- Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples are almost as likely as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples to report living in the same residence as five years earlier (38% vs. 46%).
- Hispanic/Latino same-sex households report raising nonbiological children at nearly the same rate as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households (3% vs. 4%).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- As justification for anti-LGBT laws and policies, anti-LGBT political and religious leaders frequently claim that same-sex relationships are short-term, unstable, and are therefore unhealthy environments in which to raise children. However, 2000 Census data show that Hispanic/Latino same-sex households demonstrate family patterns that are similar to Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households. They have stable residential patterns, and many own homes in which they are raising children.

KEY FINDING

Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households in Florida report serving in the military at high rates despite the risk of losing their income and benefits because of the ban on lesbian and gay people serving openly.

- Partnered Hispanic/Latina women in same-sex households report veteran status at nearly six times the rate of Hispanic/Latina women married to a male partner (6% vs. 1%).¹⁰

10. This difference was statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).



- Partnered Hispanic/Latino men in same-sex households report veteran status at approximately one-third the rate of Hispanic/Latino men married to a female partner (5% vs. 14%).

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Since partnered Hispanic/Latina women in same-sex households in Florida serve in the military at disproportionately higher rates than most other women, discriminatory military policies also affect the Hispanic community at a disproportionate rate. “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”—which bans openly lesbian, gay, and bisexual people from serving—has been used to discharge Hispanic/Latina women from the military at a higher rate than other groups. In fact, Hispanic women are discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” at two times the rate that they serve in the military. Although Hispanic women make up just 0.31% of servicemembers, they comprise 0.60% of those discharged under the policy.

CONCLUSION

Many anti-LGBT political and religious leaders claim that gay and lesbian people do not need protection from discrimination because they are all white, wealthy, and privileged. However, data from the 2000 Census identify a large population of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida. These families earn less money than white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, parent at higher rates, are less likely to own a home, and are more likely to include partners who are immigrants. Based on these findings, it is clear that Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples would not only benefit from the protections offered by nondiscrimination laws and family recognition, but also have more at stake when anti-same-sex marriage amendments are on the ballot. Removing existing discriminatory legislation and allowing Florida’s same-sex couples to access benefits available to married people will hurt no one, and will allow more Floridians to better support and protect their families.

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Introduction

“An amendment of this type is divisive, discriminatory and seeks to treat one group of citizens differently than everyone else. As a community that knows discrimination all too well, we oppose any constitutional amendment that is intended to deny rights to anyone.”

National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
Statement against the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment, March 5, 2004¹¹

“Latinos must be cautious about accepting any form of legal discrimination. If it becomes acceptable to write discrimination into our Constitution, who will be the next group selected out for unequal treatment—immigrants? Latinos? We cannot be bystanders in this debate. We must protect those in the minority; by doing so, we are protecting ourselves.”

Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Statement against the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment, May 12, 2004¹²

In 1977, Anita Bryant successfully petitioned the Florida state legislature to pass the nation’s only law specifically prohibiting “homosexuals” from adopting.¹³ Since then, the political climate in Florida has been notably inhospitable to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. Twenty years later, in 1997, the Florida state legislature enacted a statutory ban on same-sex marriage that also prevents the recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.¹⁴ Though this law prevents the possibility of same-sex marriage in Florida, anti-LGBT organizations like the Florida Coalition to Protect Marriage began collecting signatures on February 15, 2004 to push for a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, which is likely to be on the ballot in November 2006.

As the debate over same-sex marriage became a central political issue during the 2004 election, Florida Senator Mel Martinez, the first Cuban-American elected to the U.S. Senate, aired a radio ad in support of the Federal Marriage Amendment, stating that he immigrated to the US “to escape a totalitarian dictator who had no respect for the traditional values of family and faith.”¹⁵ His comments depict equality for LGBT

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11. National Hispanic/Latino Leadership Agenda. (2004, March). National Hispanic/Latino Leadership Agenda opposition to a Constitutional amendment to define marriage. Washington, DC: Author. Available at <http://www.llego.org/PDF/NHLAfinalstatement%20Letterhead.pdf>
 12. Demeo, M. (2004, May). MALDEF condemns proposal to amend the Constitution to discriminate against gay men and lesbians. Washington, DC: Author. Available at <http://www.maldef.org/news/press.cfm?ID=220>
 13. FLA. STAT. ch. 63.042(3)
 14. FLA. STAT. §741.04; FLA. STAT. § 741.212
 15. LaPadula, P. (2004, July 23). Martinez likens gay marriage advocates to Castro. *Express Gay News*. Retrieved February 16, 2005, from <http://www.expressgaynews.com/advertising/etearsheets/pdf/07-23-2004/007.pdf>. Coincidentally, during the same week, two of Martinez’s top campaign advisors, including one who liaised with conservative Christian groups, were exposed as being gay. Dahir, M. (2004, July 23). Anti-gay Martinez has two gay advisors. *Express Gay News*. Retrieved February 16, 2005, from <http://www.expressgaynews.com/advertising/etearsheets/pdf/07-23-2004/001.pdf>



people not only as anti-democratic, but also, more subtly, as anti-Hispanic/Latino. Other anti-LGBT politicians and religious leaders have similarly attempted to cash in on traditional Hispanic/Latino social conservatism in Florida by pitting Hispanics/Latinos against LGBT people. The religious right, for example, frequently attempts to portray civil rights as a limited resource, claiming that equal rights for LGBT people will take away the civil rights of people of color. This false claim ignores the millions of LGBT people of color who are harmed by anti-LGBT laws. This is just one of the reasons why documenting the experiences of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida is vital to informing the debate over equal rights for LGBT people.

Many Hispanic/Latino leaders have recognized that the entire Hispanic/Latino community, including its LGBT members and their children, stand to lose from anti-LGBT policies and legislation. At the 1987 March for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Washington, D.C., Mexican American labor organizer Cesar Chavez said,

Our movement has been supporting lesbian and gay rights for over 20 years. We supported lesbian and gay rights when it was just a crowd of 10 people.¹⁶

Just as Chavez did in the 1970s and 1980s, contemporary Hispanic/Latino leaders recognize that civil rights for people of color and for LGBT people are part of a larger struggle against all forms of discrimination. Last year, when President George W. Bush announced his support for a federal Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, Hispanic/Latino leaders issued strong statements against this discrimination. For example, in March 2004, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a non-partisan organization comprised of 40 major Hispanic national organizations and distinguished Hispanic leaders, said:

The Constitution and its subsequent amendments were designed to protect and expand individual liberties. If an amendment such as the currently proposed [Federal Marriage Amendment], or another like it, makes it through the process necessary to amend the Constitution, this would be the first time in history that the Constitution was amended *to restrict the rights of a whole class of people, in conflict with its guiding principle of equal protection* [original emphasis].¹⁷

Other prominent Hispanic/Latino leaders and organizations opposing the Federal Marriage Amendment include Representatives Charles A. Gonzalez (D-TX), Xavier Becerra (D-CA), and Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), as well as the National Council of La Raza, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement. On this issue, most Hispanic/Latino people agree: A September 2004 study of 800 Latino registered voters nationwide found that a majority (55%) oppose a federal constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.¹⁸

Even though many Hispanic/Latino leaders support full equality for LGBT people, and most Hispanics/Latinos oppose a federal Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, the Hispanic/Latino population at large tends to be more socially conservative than many other demographic groups. In Florida, a recent poll showed that 20% of

16. LLEGÓ. (n.d.). The Federal Marriage Amendment: Why Latinos and Hispanics do not support FMA H.J. Res 56 – S.J. Res 30. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved February 22, 2005, from <http://www.llego.org/PDF/Why%20Latinos%20do%20not%20support%20the%20FMA%20FINAL.pdf>

17. LLEGÓ. (2004, March 5). National Hispanic/Latino Leadership Agenda opposition to a Constitutional amendment to define marriage. Washington, DC: Author. Available at <http://www.llego.org/PDF/NHLAfinalstatement%20Letterhead.pdf>

18. Bendixen, S. (2004, September 22). Latino poll findings on gay issues in 2004 elections. *Bendixen & Associates*, memo to Human Rights Campaign. Retrieved February 23, 2005, from <http://www.hrc.org/pollingmemo>



Hispanics/Latinos in that state support same-sex marriage, compared to 29% of white non-Hispanic/Latino Floridians.¹⁹ Florida in particular stands at a crossroads of political and social cultures, with the conservative panhandle mirroring the Bible belt politics of the state's northern neighbors, and the more urban southern peninsula reflecting more moderate political views and higher concentrations of LGBT people.

To better inform the debate on the impact of existing anti-LGBT legislation and the proposed state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage on Florida's lesbian, gay, and bisexual, and transgender Hispanic/Latino population, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute conducted an analysis of data from the 2000 U.S. Census. The research firm Lopez & Cheung, Inc. provided the raw data for the analysis. This study sheds light on the basic demographics of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida, including immigration and citizenship status, residence patterns, parenting rates, educational attainment, employment status, income, housing, and veteran status. Information about Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples provided by the Census was also compared to information about white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples, as well as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples, and Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples.

Although Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples represent an important constituency in Florida and across the nation, little research has been conducted on their experiences.

The 2000 Census amassed the largest national, representative data set available on same-sex households, including Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families. (See Technical Appendix for more information about the 2000 Census and our study methodology). Over 9,000 Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples (households in which at least one partner identified as Hispanic or Latino) in Florida self-identified in the 2000 Census as “unmarried partners” of the same sex. Although they represent an important constituency in Florida and across the nation, little research has been conducted on the experiences of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples.

Documenting the experiences of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida is vital to informing the debate over same-sex marriage, particularly now that anti-LGBT groups are promoting a state constitutional amendment that not only would ban same-sex marriage, but also any “other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof.”²⁰ This language threatens existing domestic partnership policies in some cities and counties throughout the state that currently offer health and other benefits to the same-sex partners of their public employees, including Broward County, Monroe County, and the cities of Gainesville and Miami Beach.

How do anti-LGBT family policies in Florida, including the proposed state constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage, specifically affect Florida's Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families? To answer this question, we first briefly review social science research on the experience of Hispanic/Latino Americans, gay or straight. We then summarize the results of our analysis of 2000 Census data, with a particular focus on how these data shed light on the potential impact of the proposed amendment, as well as other anti-LGBT family policies, on Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples and their children.

19. Lush, T. (2004, March 8). Floridians oppose gay marriage. *St. Petersburg Times*. Retrieved February 10, 2005, from http://www.sptimes.com/2004/03/08/State/Floridians_oppose_gay.shtml

20. Florida Department of State, Division of Elections. (n.d). Florida Marriage Protection Amendment. Retrieved February 22, 2005, from <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/fulltext/41550-1.htm>



Hispanic/Latino Same-Sex Households in Context

More than one in eight people in the United States, some 37.4 million, are of Hispanic/Latino origin. Among this population, 67% are of Mexican origin, 14% are Central and South American, 9% are Puerto Rican, 4% are Cuban, and the remaining 7% are of other Hispanic/Latino origins.²¹ On average, Hispanics/Latinos are more likely than white non-Hispanics/Latinos to live in large cities and metropolitan areas, to be under age 18, and to live in larger households. In 2002, 40% of the Hispanic/Latino population of the United States was foreign born, with over half (52%) of that group entering the country within the preceding twelve years.²² Given these facts, it is not surprising that Hispanic and Latino voters are less likely than other Americans to support restrictions on immigration.²³

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND INCOME DISPARITIES

According to the U.S. Census, Hispanic/Latino Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression, are significantly disadvantaged in terms of education, wealth and income, and other measures.

Hispanics/Latinos are far less likely than white non-Hispanics/Latinos to obtain higher levels of education. Eighty-nine percent of white non-Hispanics/Latinos have a high school diploma, compared to 71% of Cubans, 67% of Puerto Ricans, and only 51% of Mexicans. Only 11% of all Hispanics/Latinos have obtained a college degree, compared to 29% of white non-Hispanics/Latinos.²⁴

Hispanic and Latino Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation, are significantly disadvantaged in terms of education and wealth.

Hispanics/Latinos are much more likely than white non-Hispanics/Latinos to be unemployed. Some 8% of Mexicans, 10% of Puerto Ricans, 7% of Central and South Americans, and 9% of Cubans in the civilian labor force age 16 or over are unemployed, compared to only 5% of the white non-Hispanic/Latino population. Those Hispanics/Latinos who are employed tend to work at lower paying jobs in less skilled sectors (such as service occupations) than white non-Hispanics/Latinos. Over half (54%) of white non-Hispanics/Latinos earn over \$35,000 per year,

21. Ramirez, R.R. & de la Cruz, G.P. (2003, June). *The Hispanic/Latino population in the United States: March 2002*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau. Retrieved February 22, 2005, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/p20-545.pdf>; These numbers add up to more than 100% due to rounding.

22. Ibid.

23. National Annenberg Election Survey. (2004, December 21). Bush 2004 gains among Hispanics strongest with men, and in south and northeast, Annenberg data show. Author. Retrieved February 22, 2005, from http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/naes/2004_03_hispanic-data-12_21_pr.pdf

24. Ramirez, R.R. & de la Cruz, G.P. (2003, June).



compared to just 26% of Hispanics/Latinos.²⁵ The median annual household income in 2003 for white non-Hispanics/Latinos was \$48,000, compared to just \$33,000 for Hispanic/Latinos.²⁶

Hispanics/Latinos are three times as likely as white non-Hispanics/Latinos to live in poverty. The average Hispanic/Latino person receives \$374 annually in public assistance income, compared to \$105 for the average non-Hispanic/Latino white person. Only 48% of Hispanics/Latinos own their homes, compared to 73% of white non-Hispanics/Latinos, and their homes are worth on average \$85,839 less than homes owned by white non-Hispanics/Latinos.²⁷ The median net worth for Hispanic/Latino people is \$11,149, as opposed to \$117,722 for white non-Hispanics/Latinos, a difference of over \$106,000.

RELIGION AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The political attitudes of the Hispanic/Latino population in the United States are influenced by a variety of religious, cultural, and social factors. Understanding religious faith in Hispanic/Latino communities is vital to understanding their political participation. According to a survey conducted by the Institute for Latino Studies in 2003, approximately 93% of all Latinos self-identify as Christian, with 70% identifying as Catholic and 23% identifying as Protestant. Some 37% of all Latinos consider themselves “born-again,” evangelical, or charismatic.²⁸ Over half of all Latinos believe that religious leaders should try to influence public affairs, and strong majorities support policies like the faith-based initiatives, school vouchers, school prayer, and teaching creationism in public schools.²⁹

These beliefs often translate into social conservatism, particularly on issues like homosexuality. Hispanics/Latinos are less likely to support same-sex marriage than white people. A comprehensive national survey of U.S. Latinos by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Kaiser Family Foundation in 2002 found that 72% of Latinos believe that homosexual sex between adults is “unacceptable,” compared to 59% of white Americans.³⁰

While Hispanics/Latinos may hold conservative social attitudes, they often do not vote for conservative candidates. With the exception of Cuban-Americans, Hispanic/Latino voters have historically cast more ballots for Democratic candidates than for Republicans since the 1930s. This may be due in part to the fact that Hispanic/Latino voters weigh

Hispanics/Latinos are less likely to support same-sex marriage than white people.

25. Ibid

26. DeNavas-Walt, C., Proctor, B.D., & Mills, R.J. (2003). Income, poverty, and health insurance coverage in the United States: 2003. *U.S. Census Bureau, current population reports*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office. Available at <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/p60-226.pdf>

27. Federal Reserve. (2001). *Survey of consumer finances*. Washington, DC: Author. Available at <http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/oss/oss2/2001/scf2001home.html>

28. Espinosa, G., Elizondo, V. & Miranda, J. (2003, March). Latino churches in American public life: summary of findings. *Interim Reports*. Notre Dame, IN: Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame. Available at www.nd.edu/~latino/research/pubs/HisChurchesEnglishWEB.pdf

29. Ibid.

30. Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation. (2002, December). *2002 national survey of Latinos: summary of findings*. Washington, DC and Menlo Park, CA: Author. Available at <http://www.pewhispanic.org/site/docs/pdf/LatinoSurveyReportFinal.pdf>



other concerns more heavily than homosexuality and other contentious social issues. While Hispanic/Latino voters consistently rate education and the economy as their top policy issues, they also rate same-sex marriage as one of the least likely issues to decide their vote.³¹ Even Hispanics/Latinos who identify as born-again/evangelical prioritize the economy and jobs: 37% of white evangelicals in a 2004 national poll said that “moral values” were first among their domestic concerns, compared to only 13% of Hispanic/Latino evangelicals.³²

HISPANIC/LATINO LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE: INTERSECTING IDENTITIES

According to the 2000 Census, 9% of all households in the United States are Hispanic/Latino households. About 12% of all same-sex households in the United States are Hispanic/Latino same-sex households. In Florida, over 13% of all households in the state are Hispanic/Latino, and over 15% of Florida’s same-sex households are Hispanic/Latino.³³ Hispanic/Latino LGBT people in the US constitute a large but under-researched population that often faces additional disadvantages due to the intersection of their status as racial, sexual, and socioeconomic minorities.

A 2001 study of roughly 1,200 Hispanic/Latino gay men found many respondents had experienced verbal and physical abuse, police harassment and decreased economic opportunities on account of their being gay and/or “effeminate.”³⁴ Respondents reported powerful messages—both explicit and covert—in their communities, telling them that their homosexuality made them “not normal” or “not truly men;” that they would grow up alone without children or families; and that ultimately their homosexuality is dirty, sinful, and shameful to their families and loved ones. Many opted for exile and migration in order to live their lives openly and honestly away from their loved ones. Hispanic/Latino LGBT people also reported experiencing racism not only from society at large but also the LGBT community, whether in the form of exclusion from social venues or sexual objectification by white same-sex partners or lovers.

Hispanic/Latino LGBT people often face additional disadvantages due to the intersection of their status as racial, sexual, and socioeconomic minorities.

31. Barreto, M., de la Garza, R.O., Lee, J., Ryu, J. & Pachon, H.P. (2001). *Latino voter mobilization in 2000: a glimpse into Latino policy and voting preferences*. Claremont, CA: The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute. Available at www.hrc.org/pollingmemo

32. Religion & Ethics Newsweekly. (2004, April). Poll: America’s evangelicals more and more mainstream but insecure: diversity, differences mark their views on society, culture, and politics. New York: Thirteen/WNET. Available at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week733/release.html>

33. Source: 2000 U.S. Census Summary File 4

34. Diaz, R.M. & Ayala, G. (2001). *Social discrimination and health: the case of Latino gay men and HIV risk*. Washington, DC: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Available at <http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/DiazEng.pdf>



Census Data on Same-Sex Households

The U.S. Census gathers data on same-sex couples through a series of questions that allow householders to identify who else lives in the house and their relationship to the householder. Householders may select “unmarried partner” to describe another same-sex adult in the same household if they choose to, and thus they are included in a dataset on same-sex headed households. The Census does not ask respondents to report their sexual orientation or their gender identity. Though the Census does not ask about sexual orientation, it is assumed that these same-sex unmarried partners are in amorous relationships of mutual caring and support. Most likely identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or some other term for homosexual. Bisexuals and transgender people are found in both opposite-sex and same-sex couple households.³⁵

While the Census does allow same-sex cohabiting couples to self-identify, it does not allow single people, individuals in same-sex relationships who are not living together, youth living with their parents, seniors living with their children and/or grandchildren who do not have a partner or do not live with their partner, many homeless people, many undocumented immigrants, and, of course, those not comfortable “outing” themselves to a government agency to self-identify as being in a same-sex relationship. Due to these significant limitations, the Census does not reflect the actual number or the full diversity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the United States. The data used in this report are derived from a custom tabulation of the 5% Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS—see Technical Appendix).

Household Definitions

- **Hispanic/Latino same-sex:** Either the householder or the unmarried partner is Hispanic/Latino and are the same sex
 - **Hispanic/Latino-Hispanic/Latino same-sex:** A subset of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, where both the householder and unmarried partner are Hispanic/Latino
 - **Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex:** A subset of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, where one partner is Hispanic/Latino and the other is not
- **White non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex:** The householder and the unmarried partner are white and not of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity
- **Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex:** Either the householder or the husband/wife is Hispanic/Latino and are defined as living with a husband or a wife of the opposite sex
- **Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex:** Either the householder or the opposite-sex partner is Hispanic/Latino and are defined as living with an unmarried partner of the opposite sex

35. Transgender people are those whose identity or behavior falls outside stereotypical gender expectations. Transsexuals, cross-dressers, and other gender non-conforming people are included in this “umbrella” category. For more on definitions of transgender people, see Mottet, L. & Ohle, J. (2004). *Transitioning our shelters: A guide to making homeless shelters safe for transgender people*. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and National Coalition for the Homeless. pp. 7-10. Available at <http://www.thetaskforce.org/reslibrary/list.cfm?pubTypeID=2>

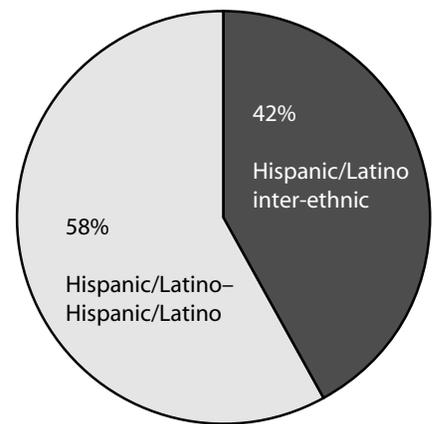


Demographics

According to the 2000 Census, there are over 45,000 same-sex households who self-identified in Florida.³⁶ Almost 1 in 5 of these households or over 9000 are Hispanic/Latino, meaning that at least one of the partners reported his or her ethnicity as Hispanic/Latino. Of the Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in this study, 58% are couples where both parties identify as Hispanic/Latino (Hispanic/Latino–Hispanic/Latino), and 42% are “inter-ethnic” couples in which just one of the members identifies as non-Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 1).

Two percent of all same-sex couples reporting on the 2000 Census in the US live in metropolitan Miami,³⁷ and Miami has the third largest number of Hispanic/Latino same-sex Households in the United States.³⁸ More specifically, just under 1% of all households in Miami are same-sex households, and 32% of all same-sex households in Miami are Hispanic/Latino.³⁹

Figure 1: Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida

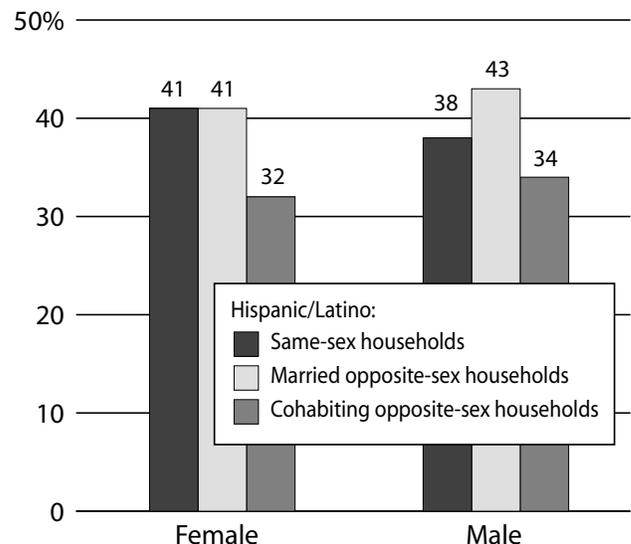


AGE

Because the different kinds of couples are of different ages on average, some of the findings in the following analyses may actually be the result of the life-stage differences people experience as they age. For example, income often increases with age until late in life, as does the likelihood of home ownership.

Figure 2 illustrates the differences in median age by gender of the various types of Hispanic/Latino/

Figure 2: Median age of individuals in Hispanic/Latino couples



36. Data from 2000 Census, PUMS 5%.

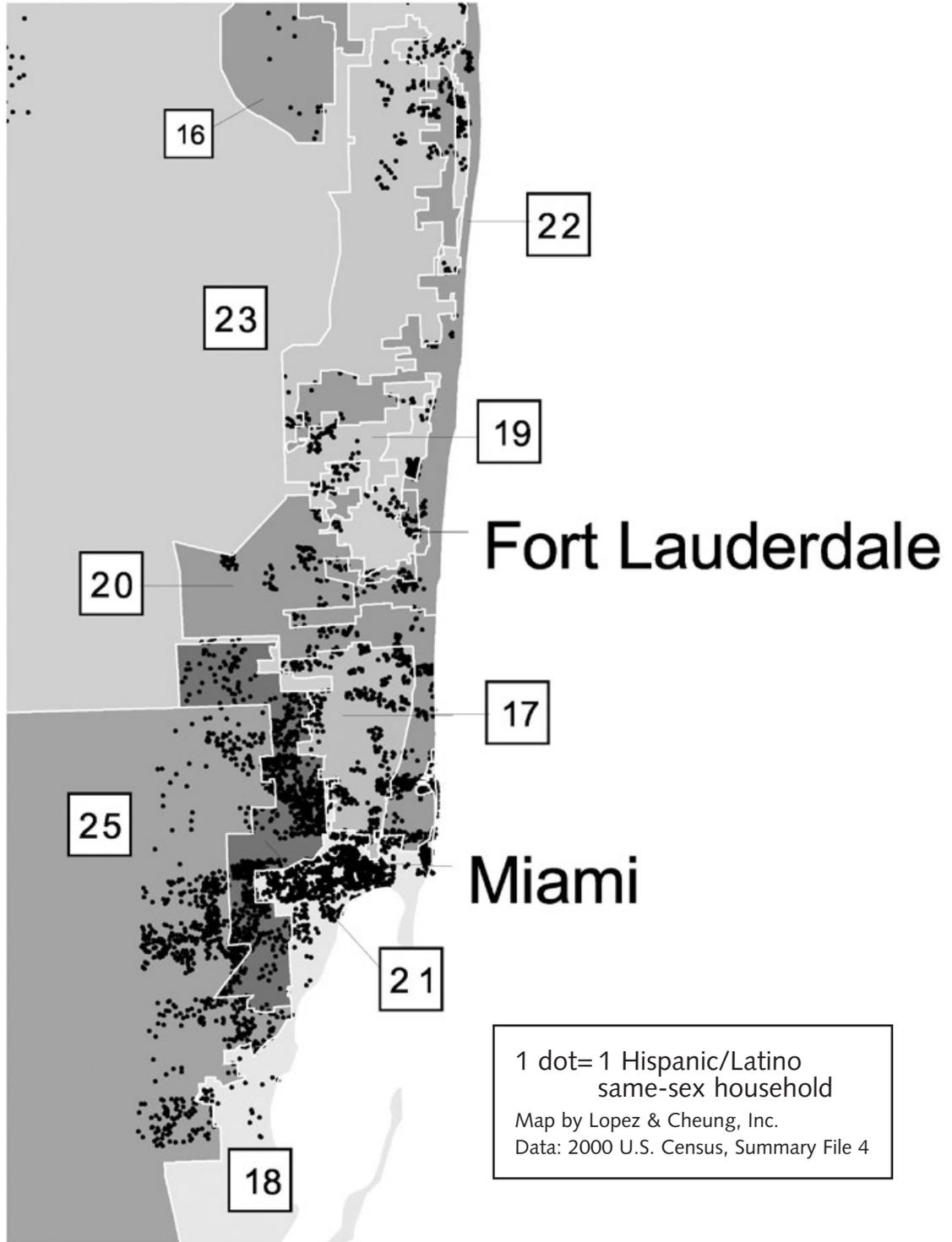
37. Bradford, J., Barrett, K., & Honnold, J. (2002). *The 2000 Census and same-sex households: A user's guide*. New York: Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. p. 5. Available at <http://www.thetaskforce.org/reslibrary/list.cfm?pubTypeID=2>

38. Four of the top five metropolitan areas in terms of total numbers of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households are in Texas: McAllen, Laredo, Brownsville and—trailing just behind Miami—El Paso. Source: 2000 U.S. Census Summary File 4.

39. Source: 2000 U.S. Census Summary File 4.



Concentration of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Miami
(by 108th Congressional district at the 2000 Census tract level)



Latino couples we considered in this analysis. On average, Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples are slightly older than Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples, who are in turn older than Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples. The median age of Hispanic/Latina women in same-sex households and married opposite-sex households is 41, compared to 32 for women in Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex households. The median ages of Hispanic/Latino men are more varied. Married men reported the highest median age (43), followed by men in same-sex households (38) and men in cohabiting opposite-sex households (34).

Figure 3: Age distribution of same-sex couples

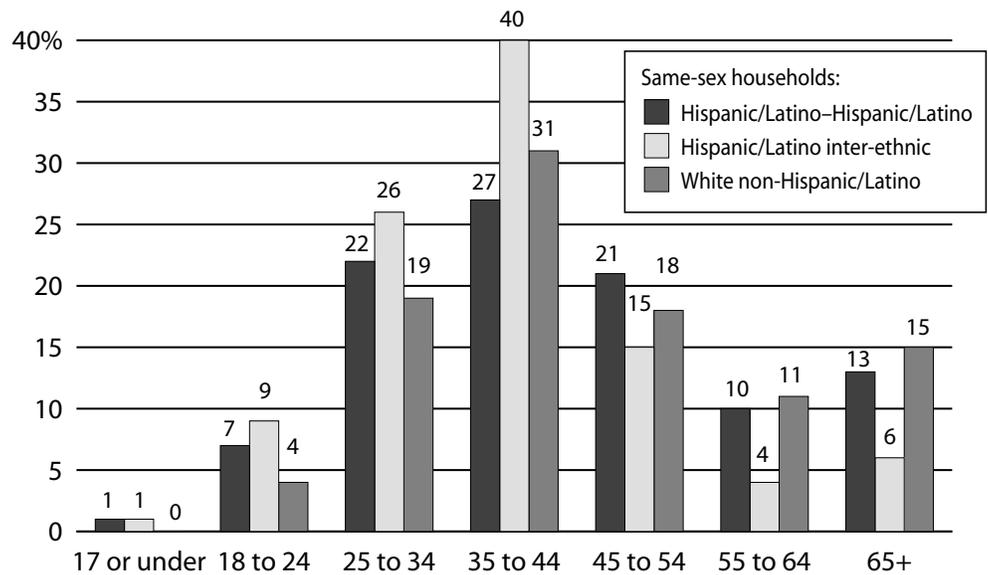


Figure 3 illustrates the age distribution of the same-sex households we analyzed in this study. While the percentage of households reporting within specified age ranges gradually increases until ages 35 to 44, and then gradually decreases until ages 55 to 64, it is important to note the marked increases again for ages 65 and over. White non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households have the highest number of seniors, with 15% reporting age 65 and over. When combined with the age 55 to 64 category, one-quarter of all white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households report including partners age 55 and over. Hispanic/Latino same-sex households reported the second highest frequency of partners age 55 and over (23%), followed by Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households (10%).

The relatively high percentage of same-sex households in Florida reporting members age 55 and over has important policy implications, particularly given Florida’s existing anti-same-sex marriage law and the proposed anti-same-sex marriage state constitutional amendment. Because they are unable to marry, same-sex couples are unable to access a number of state and federal programs designed to help them prepare for and care for each other as they age. For example, same-sex couples are unable to access Social Security survivor benefits, Medicaid spend-down protections, and the ability to take time off from work to care for a sick or disabled partner under state and federal family



and medical leave policies. Additionally, unlike married opposite-sex couples, same-sex couples have to spend thousands of dollars to create legal contracts that protect their relationships in sickness and death.⁴⁰

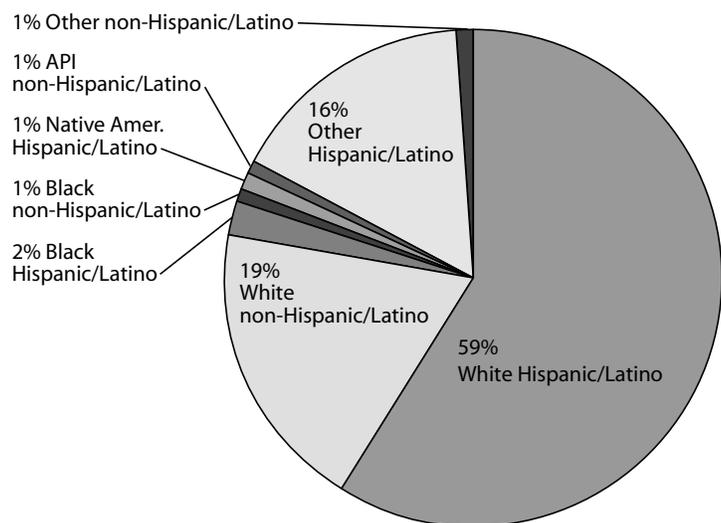
RACE AND ETHNICITY

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “Race and Hispanic origin ([also] known as ethnicity) are considered distinct concepts and therefore require separate questions in censuses and surveys. Hispanics or Latinos may be any race.”⁴¹

The Census asked two consecutive questions to determine race and ethnicity. The first asked which of six basic racial categories a person belonged to—American Indian/Alaskan Native, Asian, black/African-American/Negro, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, white, and “some other race.” The second question determined a person’s ethnicity by asking “Is the person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?” All people who responded “yes” to the second question, regardless of the race they marked, are considered Hispanic/Latino.

Among the Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida, a majority (59%) reported partners who are white Hispanic/Latino, with smaller percentages reporting partners who are black Hispanic/Latino (2%) or Native American Hispanic/Latino (1%) (see Figure 4). Sixteen percent checked the “some other race” category but said they were ethnically Hispanic/Latino. Because our broad definition of Hispanic/Latino same-sex household in this study is where either the households or the unmarried partner is Hispanic/Latino and are the same-sex, some 21% of households reported partners who are non-Hispanic/Latino.⁴²

Figure 4: Race and ethnicity of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households



The majority of people (69%) in Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households identified as white Hispanic/Latino, with 16% identifying as Hispanic/Latino of “some

40. For more information about the particular experience of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender elders, see: Cahill, S., South, K., & Spade, J. (2000). *Outing age: Public policy issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender elders*. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Available at <http://www.thetaskforce.org/pub.html>

41. U.S. Census Bureau. (2005). About the Census Bureau. Washington, DC: Author. Available at http://ask.census.gov/cgi-bin/askcensus.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_sid=LXjqsLyh&p_lva=315&p_faqid=307&p_created=1078244592&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPTEmcF9ncmlkc29ydD0mcF9yb3dfY250PTQ5JnBfc2VhcmNoX3RleHQ9cmFjZSBjYXRlZ29yeSZwX3BhZ2U9MQ**&p_li=

42. The presence of non-Hispanic people in “Hispanic/Latino” same-sex households is due to the Census’s racial/ethnic categorization of households. If the head of the household is Hispanic/Latino, the spouse or partner may be of any other race, and the household will still be categorized as a Hispanic/Latino household.



other race,” and 2% identifying as black Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 5). Because of the broad definition of Hispanic/Latino in this study, where either the householder or the husband/wife is Hispanic/Latino, 12% of Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households include a partner who identifies as non-Hispanic/Latino.

Like Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, the Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex households were considerably more likely to include non-Hispanic/Latino individuals than non-Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households. Some 56% of people in cohabiting households identified as white Hispanic/Latino, 21% as Hispanic/Latino and “some other race,” 3% as black Hispanic/Latino, and 1% as Native American Hispanic/Latino (see Figure 6). Again, because of the broad definition of Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex household in this study, where either the householder or the opposite-sex partner is Hispanic/Latino, one fifth (20%) of these households include a partner who is non-Hispanic/Latino.

Some 97% of all those who checked “some other race” on the 2000 Census also reported that they were Hispanic/Latino,⁴³ a fact that Hispanic/Latino advocates say indicates the population’s desire to see Hispanic/Latino included as a racial category, rather than as a question of ethnic origin. Of all of the respondents who indicated that they were Hispanic/Latino, 48% said they were white Hispanic/Latino while 42% said they were “some other race.”

Responding to considerable pressure from Hispanic/Latino organizations, the Census Bureau abandoned a recent attempt to drop the “some other race” category from the 2010 Census. The Census Bureau had claimed that dropping the “some other race” category would improve the accuracy of the Census’s racial data, and many Hispanic/Latino

Figure 5: Race and ethnicity of Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households

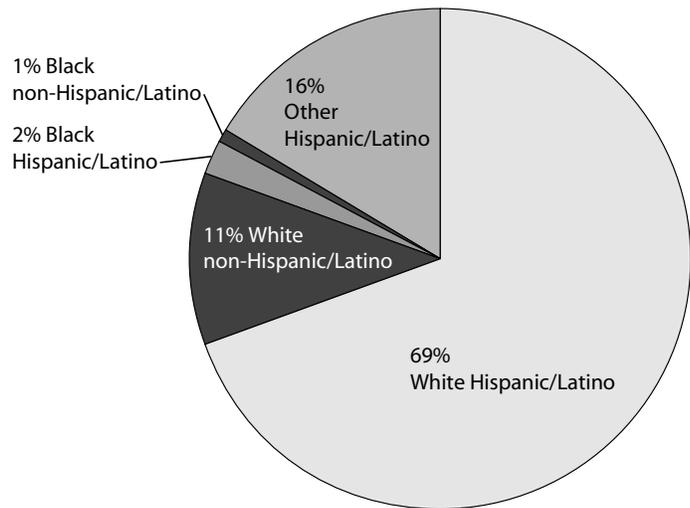
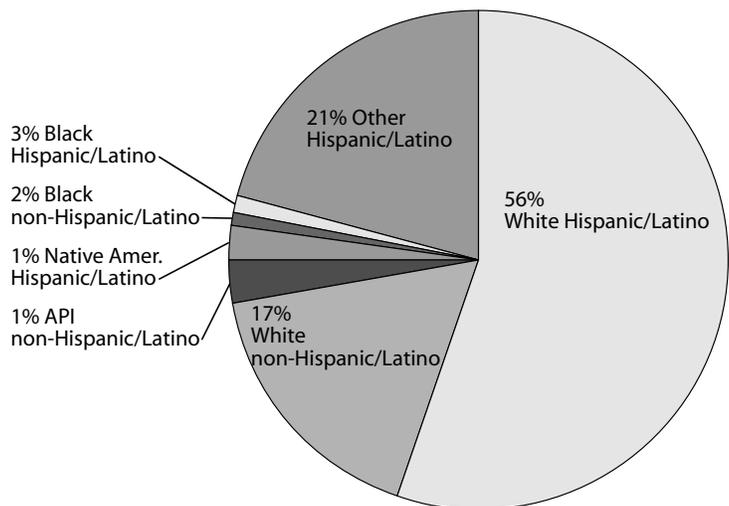


Figure 6: Race and ethnicity of Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex households



43. Lopez, I.H. (2004, December 29). The birth of a “Latino” race. *Los Angeles Times*.



Latino advocates said that eliminating the category would exclude Hispanics/Latinos who do not identify by standard racial classifications. These disputes reflect the Census Bureau’s decades-long difficulty with racial/ethnic categories for Hispanic/Latino people, which began in 1930 with the introduction of “Mexican” as a racial category in an attempt to address the growing Mexican population in the Southwest. Since Census data are used to monitor voting rights and civil rights enforcement and are often cited by researchers and politicians, the question of Hispanic/Latino race and ethnicity is a major concern to Hispanic/Latino advocates and policymakers.

LANGUAGE

As Figure 7 illustrates, Hispanic/Latino same-sex households are just as likely (84%) to report Spanish as their primary household language as both Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households (88%) and Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex households (84%). However, men and women in Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples were more likely to report Spanish as their primary *personal* language (82%) than Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples (70%) and Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples (72%). There is little difference in both household and personal language use by gender.

Differences in reported language use were greater when the same-sex households were analyzed in more detail (see Figure 8). Same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino were far more likely than Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic households to report Spanish as their primary language (98% vs. 64%). Only 5% of the white non-Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households report that they speak Spanish as their primary household language.

Figure 7: Hispanic/Latino households reporting Spanish as their primary household and/or personal language

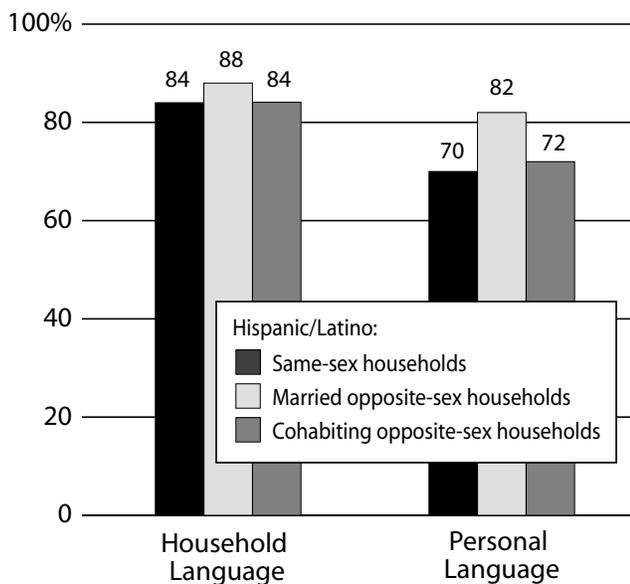
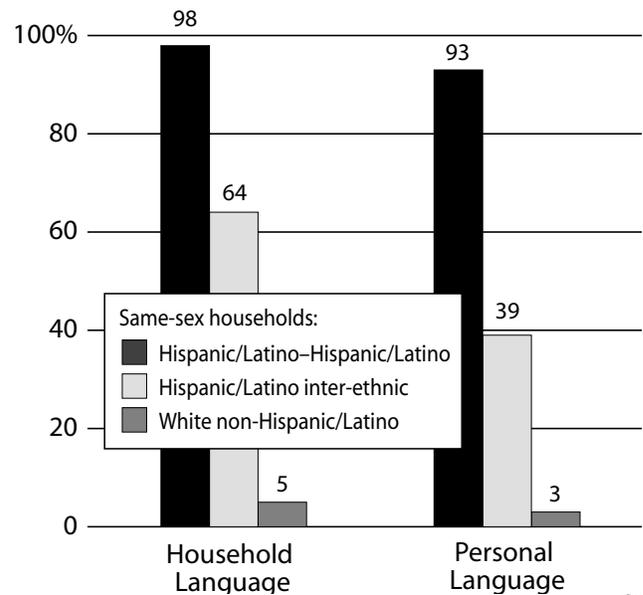


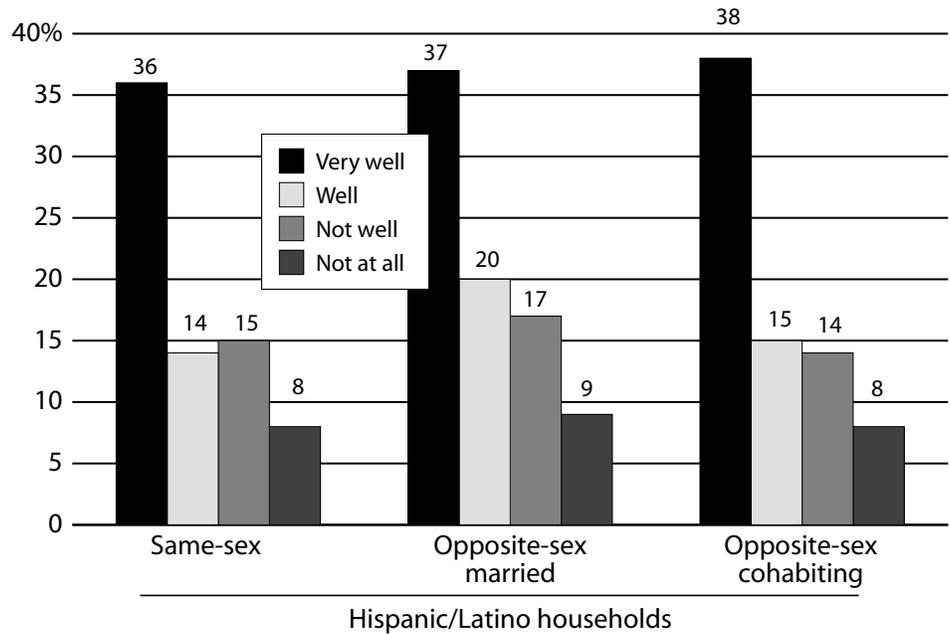
Figure 8: Same-sex households reporting Spanish as their primary household and/or personal language



A slightly lower percentage of men and women in same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino report Spanish as their primary personal language (93%). However, men and women in Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households (39%) and white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households (3%) were far less likely to report Spanish as their primary personal language. Again, there was little difference in both household and personal language use by gender.

When asked to rate their English ability on a four-point scale, non-native English speaking members of the three Hispanic/Latino family types we analyzed report similar responses. Some 36% of men and women in Hispanic/Latino same-sex households said that they spoke English “very well,” compared to 37% of married Hispanic/Latino men and women and 38% of cohabiting Hispanic/Latino men and women (see Figure 9). Analysis of these household types by gender revealed few differences in English language speaking ability.

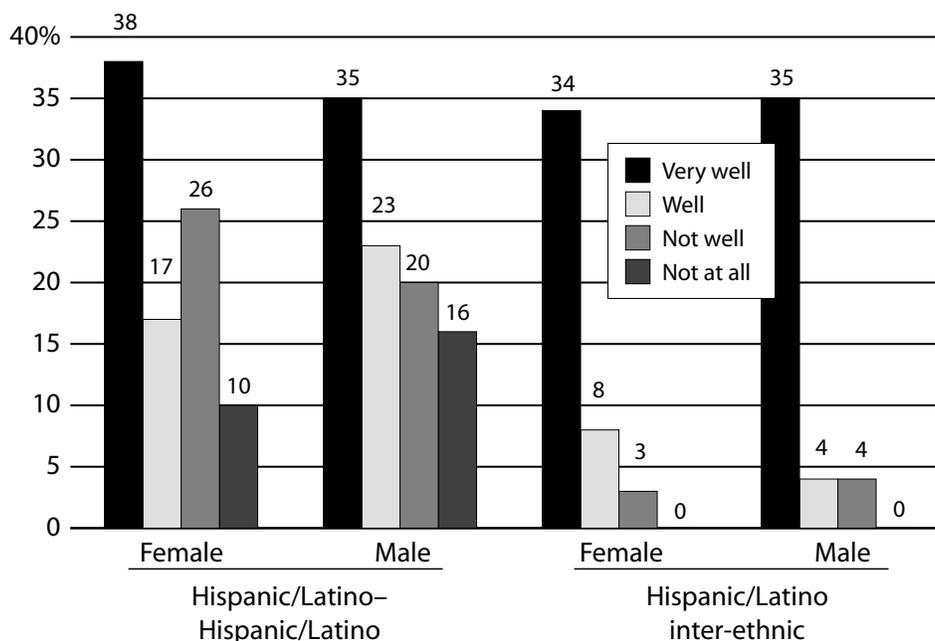
Figure 9: English ability of non-native English speaking Hispanic/Latino couples



More nuanced trends in English language speaking ability are revealed when same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic are compared to Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households. Over a third of non-native English speaking men and women in same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino report their English ability as “not well” or “not at all” (36%). However, men in same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino reported the highest rates of speaking English “not at all” (16%). Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households reported the highest level of English speaking ability among all of the Hispanic/Latino same-sex households. Only three percent of Hispanic/Latina inter-ethnic female and four percent of Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic male same-sex households report that they speak English “not well” or “not at all” (see Figure 10).



Figure 10: English ability of non-native English speaking same-sex couples

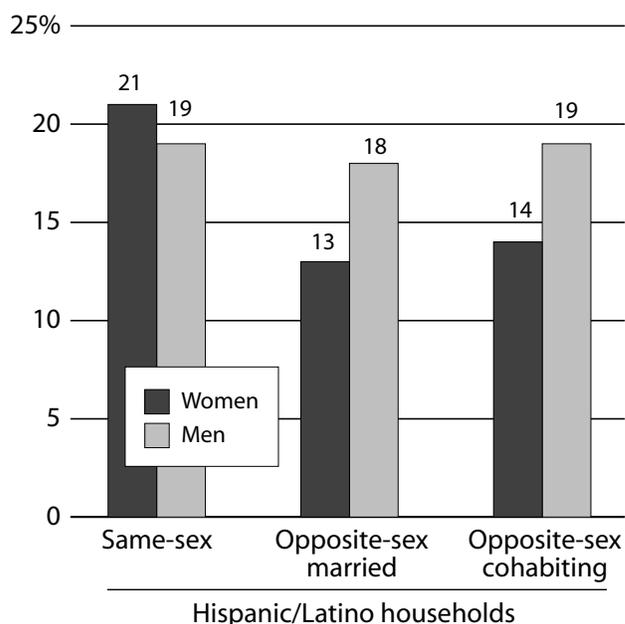


DISABILITY STATUS

Figure 11 illustrates the percentage of women and men in the Hispanic/Latino households we studied reporting a disability. The rate of disability for men was stable across all household types (approximately 19%). However, the rate for women varied, with 21% of the women in Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples reporting a disability, compared to approximately 14% of Hispanic/Latina women in married and cohabiting opposite-sex couples.

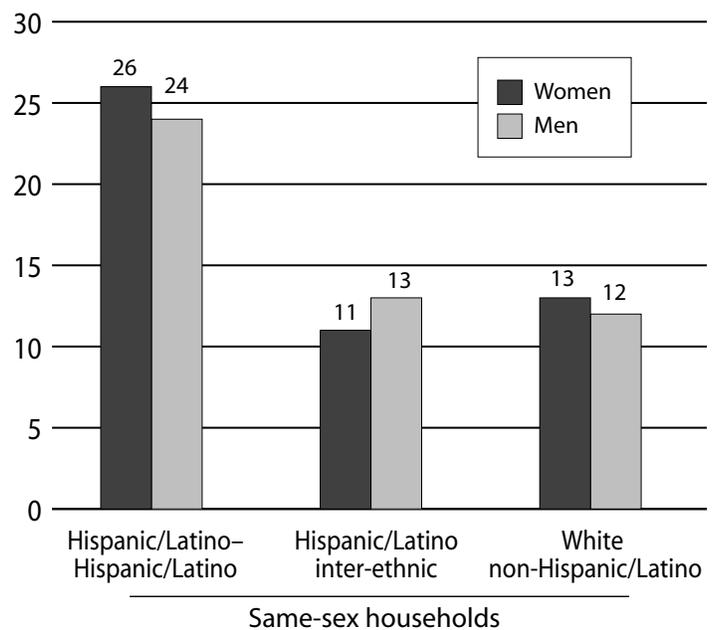
Further analysis of men and women in the same-sex households we analyzed revealed a different picture of the prevalence of disability. In fact, men and women in same-sex households in Florida where both partners are Hispanic/Latino were about twice as likely to report a disability than men and women in Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic and white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households (see Figure 12). Further research is needed to explore why women and men in same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are so much more likely to report having a disability.

Figure 11: Members of Hispanic/Latino family types reporting a disability



While Hispanic/Latino married spouses in Florida can take unpaid leave from work to care for their spouse under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, Hispanic/Latino and white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex partners in Florida are not eligible. Given that men and women in same-sex households in Florida where both partners are Hispanic/Latino are so much more likely to report a disability, the inability to access family and medical leave disproportionately impacts them, and may force them to choose between caring for a sick partner or losing their jobs.

Figure 12: Members of same-sex households reporting a disability



Employment

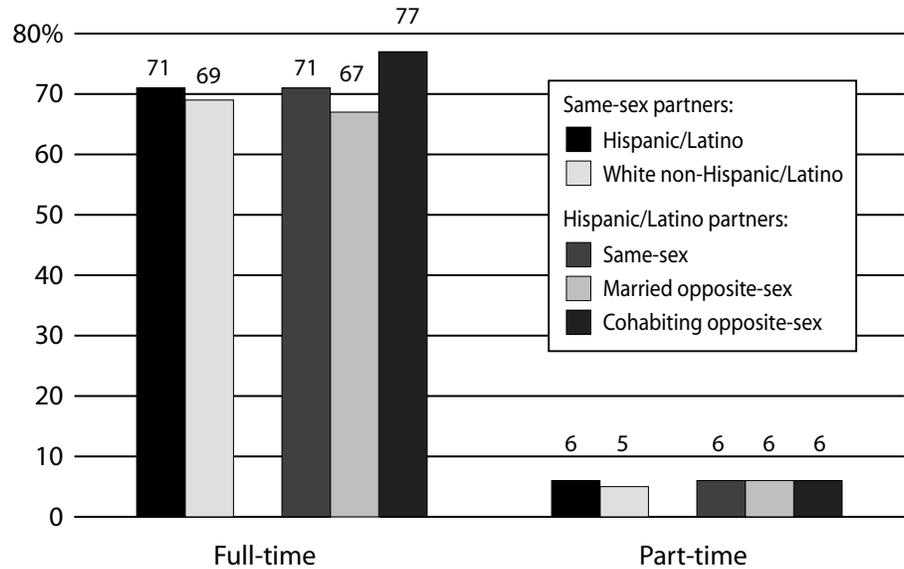
As illustrated in Figure 13, partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households report similar rates of full-time and part-time employment as the other family types we analyzed in this study. Seventy-one percent of partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households report that they are employed full-time, compared to 69% of white non-Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households and 67% of Hispanic/Latino married men and women. Some 77% of Hispanic/Latino men and women in cohabiting opposite-sex households report working full-time in the last year.

As illustrated in Figure 14, partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households (7%) report working in the public sector at rates comparable to married Hispanic/Latino men and women (9%), and at the same rate as Hispanic/Latino men and women in cohabiting opposite-sex households. Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households are also slightly less likely to work in the public sector than white non-Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households.

These findings have important policy implications. First, domestic partner policies that

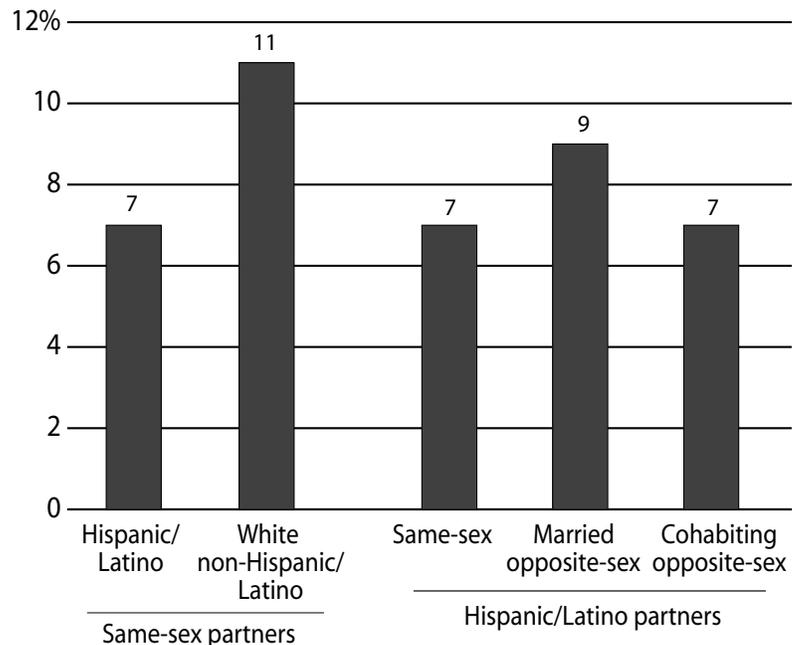


Figure 13: Full-time and part-time employment



cover municipal or state employees could provide health and other benefits to the same-sex partners of many same-sex households. As of February 2005, five cities in Florida offer domestic partner benefits to their public employees: Gainesville, Key West, Miami Beach, Tampa, and West Palm Beach. Broward County and Monroe County also offer domestic partner benefits to their public employees. The proposed anti-same-sex marriage state constitutional amendment in Florida could overturn these policies, causing many same-sex partners and their children to lose their health and other benefits. Even if Florida’s governor were to follow the lead of other governors like Bill Richardson of New Mexico, who issued an executive order in 2004 mandating that domestic partners of all state employees be given the same benefits as married spouses of state employees, the proposed amendment would threaten that as well.⁴⁴

Figure 14: Public sector employment



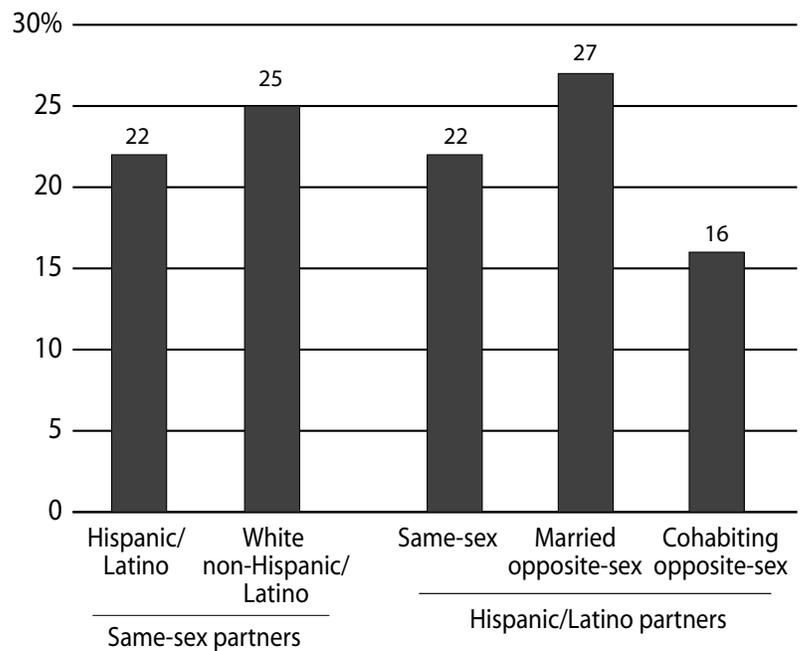
44. New Mexico Attorney General’s Office. (2003). Opinion request – Executive Order No. 2003-010 Extending certain benefits to state employees’ domestic partners. Retrieved August 27, 2004, from <http://www.ago.state.nm.us/divs/civil/opinions/a2003/ExtendingBenefitsToStateEmployeesDomesticPartners.htm>



Second, executive orders banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in public employment, such as those enacted in 2003 by the governors of Pennsylvania and Kentucky could also cover a significant portion of this population. As of February 2005, 10 cities and five counties in Florida have nondiscrimination policies that include sexual orientation. Nondiscrimination policies in the city of Key West, and Monroe County, cover gender identity/expression, protecting transgender public employees as well.

As illustrated in Figure 15, partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households have similar rates of not working as Hispanic/Latino married men and women and white non-Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households. The Census does not track unemployment rates like the Department of Labor. Individuals who report working zero hours in the previous year are categorized as “not working.” Twenty-two percent of partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households report that they did not work in 1999, as did 27% of Hispanic/Latino married men and women, and 25% of white non-Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households. In contrast, 16% of Hispanic/Latino men and women in cohabiting opposite-sex households report not working in 1999.

Figure 15: Did not work in 1999

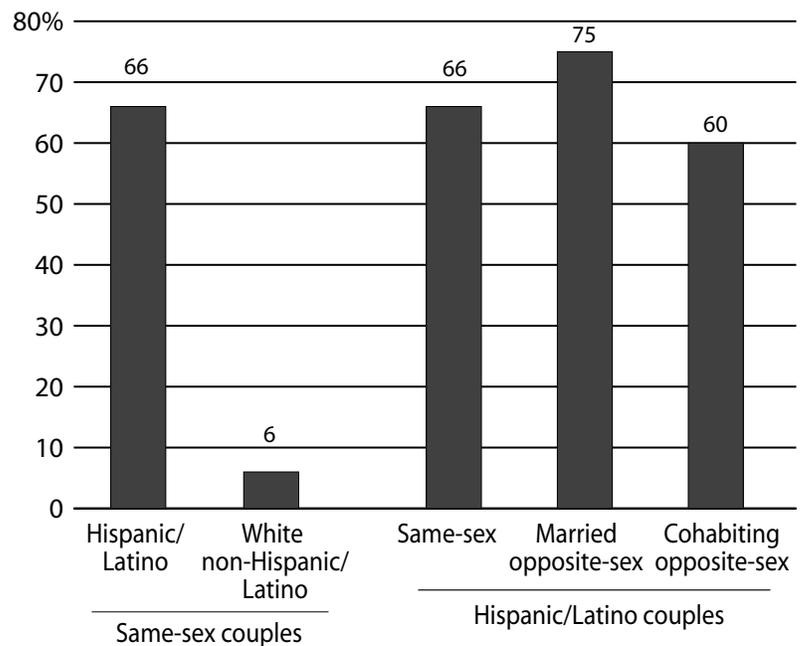


Immigration and Citizenship Status

Immigration policy is consistently cited as a top concern for Hispanic/Latino communities nationwide.⁴⁵ Our analysis of 2000 Census data indicates that immigration issues may often be an important factor in the lives of Hispanic and Latino gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in same-sex households in Florida as well. As Figure 16 illustrates, just 6% of white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households reported that at least one person in the household was born outside of the U.S. (“foreign born”) compared to 66% of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, a significant difference. Additionally, 75% of Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households and 60% of Hispanic/Latino cohabitating opposite-sex households reported having at least one member of the household who was foreign born.

Given their high rates of being born outside of the US, it is not surprising that the Hispanic/Latino couples we analyzed in this study also reported high rates of having at least one partner or spouse who is not a U.S. citizen. As illustrated in Figure 17, only 3% of white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households reported at least one member is not a U.S. citizen, compared to 30% of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households. Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households and Hispanic/Latino cohabitating opposite-sex households report similar rates, 31% and 33% respectively. While it is likely that some of the men and women in these households who are not U.S. citizens have green cards, work

Figure 16: Hispanic/Latino households reporting a partner or spouse who was born outside of the US



45. Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation. (2002, December). 2002 national survey of Latinos: summary of findings. Washington, DC and Menlo Park, CA: Author. Available at <http://www.pewhispanic.org/site/docs/pdf/LatinoSurveyReportFinal.pdf>



permits, or student visas, many do not. As illustrated by data from the Census, Hispanic/Latino households in Florida, regardless of whether the relationship is same-sex or opposite-sex, are affected by citizenship status and resulting immigration issues.

However, unlike Hispanic/Latino opposite-sex couples who can get married, Florida’s existing anti-same-sex marriage law and the federal Defense of Marriage Act prevents same-sex couples in which one partner is a citizen from sponsoring their partner for immigration purposes.

Figure 18 further illustrates how immigration issues disproportionately impact Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida compared to their Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex and white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex counterparts. Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are far more likely to report at least one partner who was born outside of the US and is not a U.S. citizen than members of white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households. In fact, 51% of these Hispanic/Latino-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples report that at least one partner was born outside of the US and also is not a U.S. citizen, compared to only 4% of white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples and 18% of Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex couples. In other words, Hispanic/Latino-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida are almost 13 times more likely than white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples, and almost three times more likely than Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex couples, to be in a relationship with an unmarried partner who is foreign born and is not a U.S. citizen.

Figure 17: Non-citizenship status

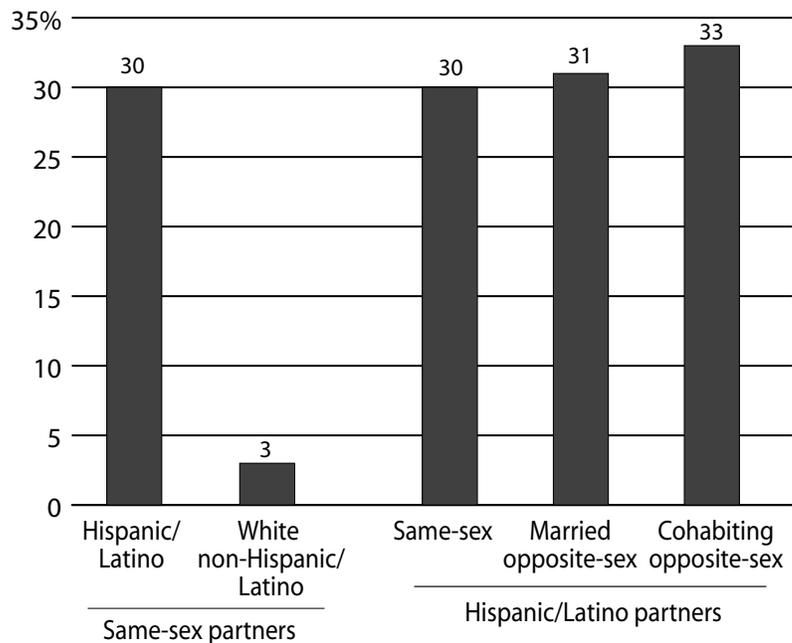
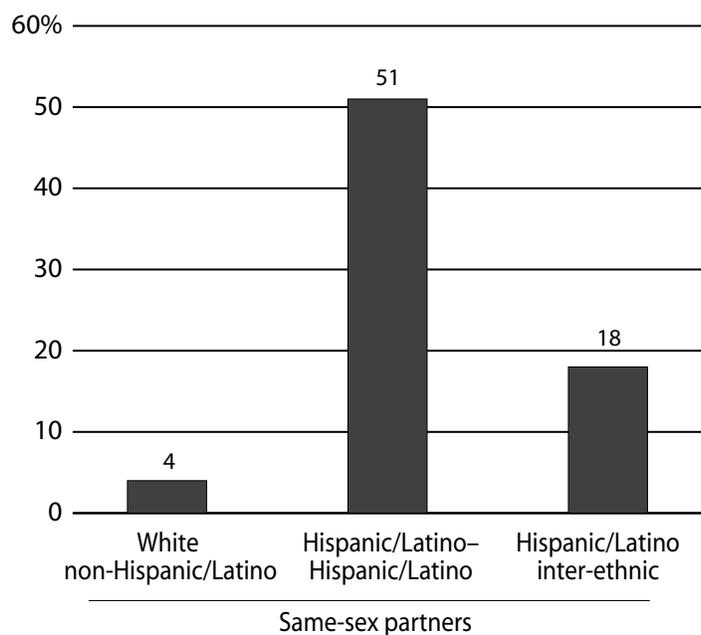


Figure 18: Same-sex couples in which at least one person was born outside of the United States and is not a U.S. citizen



Even though U.S. immigration policy is largely based on the principle of “family unification,” which allows U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their spouses (and other immediate family members) for immigration purposes, same-sex partners of U.S. citizens and permanent residents are not considered “spouses,” and cannot be sponsored by their partners for family-based immigration.⁴⁶ This places many same-sex, bi-national couples in limbo, forcing them to find ways to stay together illegally and live in fear of deportation. Many same-sex couples are forced to move to Canada or elsewhere to stay together.⁴⁷ Access to the institution of marriage recognized by both the federal and state governments would allow immigration rights for bi-national same-sex couples, as well as thousands of other benefits and protections.⁴⁸ If the proposed federal and state anti-same-sex marriage constitutional amendments are passed, they would further enshrine this discrimination in immigration and many other family policies.

Access to marriage would allow immigration rights for bi-national same-sex couples, as well as thousands of other benefits and protections.

Income⁴⁹

Anti-LGBT leaders often argue that gay and lesbian people do not need nondiscrimination laws because they are wealthier than heterosexuals.⁵⁰ To the contrary, an analysis of Census and General Social Survey data in 2001 found that same-sex couples actually earn about the same or less than opposite-sex married couples.⁵¹ This is particularly true for female Hispanic/Latina same-sex households in Florida. Additional analysis also revealed a significant income disparity between white non-Hispanic same-sex households and Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic and/or Latino.

As illustrated in Figure 19, Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households report a median annual household income that is \$4,420 less than Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples. However, Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households report \$15,000 more in median annual household income than Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households, \$10,580 more than Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households,⁵² and \$17,608 more than Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex households. Further analysis revealed an interesting story about these significant income differences,

46. The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force. (n.d.) The Permanent Partners Immigration Act. New York: Author. Retrieved February 22, 2005, from <http://www.lgirtf.org/ppia.html>

47. For more on this issue, see Cahill, S., Ellen, M., & Tobias, S. (2002). *Family policy: Issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families*. New York: Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. p. 54-57. Available at <http://www.thetaskforce.org/reslibrary/list.cfm?pubTypeID=2>

48. The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Task Force. (n.d.) The Permanent Partners Immigration Act. New York: Author. Retrieved February 22, 2005, from <http://www.lgirtf.org/ppia.html>

49. Income data is collected in exact figures before taxes on the long form of the Census.

50. Badgett (2001). Also, of course, relative wealth does not automatically protect one against bias. In fact, alleged differences in wealth are often claimed precisely to mobilize resentment against a minority group.

51. Ibid.

52. This difference was statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).



particularly between male same-sex households where both partners are Hispanic/Latino, and male inter-ethnic same-sex households, where only one partner is Hispanic or Latino.

As Figure 20 illustrates, Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic male same-sex households in Florida report a median annual household income that is higher than any of the other households we analyzed. In fact, male same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino report a striking 37% or \$25,708 less in median annual household income than Hispanic/Latino male inter-ethnic same-sex couples.

This may be attributable to a variety of factors. For example, partnered men in Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households reported accessing some form of post-secondary education (e.g. college and graduate school) at a much higher rate than any of the other households we analyzed (see Education section for more detail). They also were the least likely to report that they were raising children. This fact may also help to explain the high income difference between the male and female inter-ethnic same-sex households, who were three times more likely to be raising children than their male counterparts (see Parenting section for more details). This finding warrants further research that could focus on additional reasons for this disparity, including the gender gap in pay. While our analysis could not determine direct causality for these findings, the combination of higher education and a very low parenting rate may enable men in inter-ethnic same-sex households to secure higher paying jobs in households with dual incomes. Further research is needed to better understand this interesting finding.

Figure 19: Median annual household income of Hispanic/Latino family types

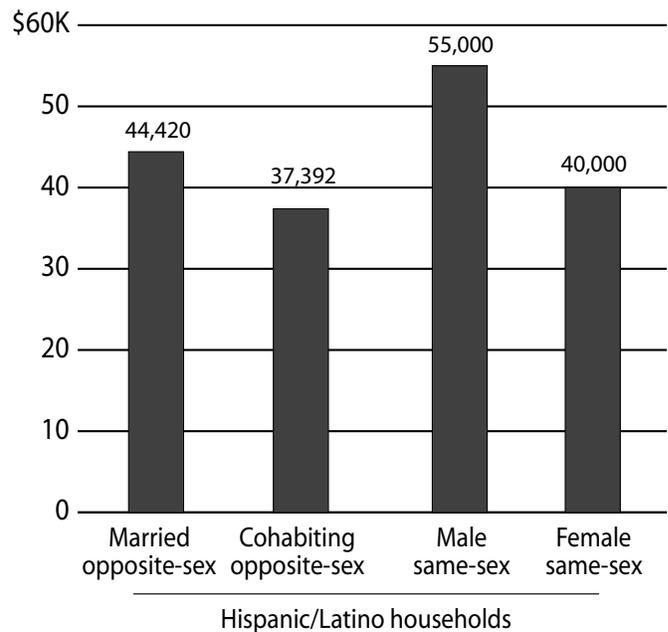
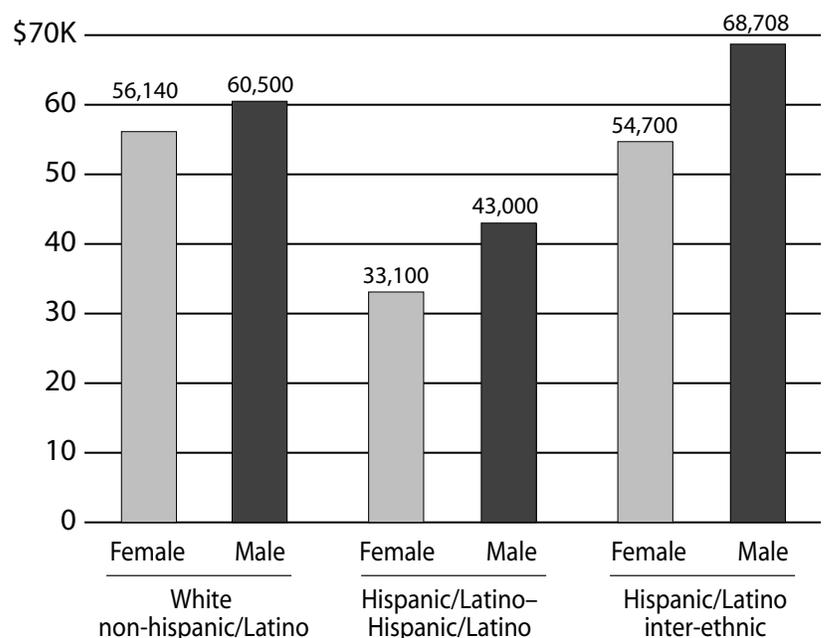


Figure 20: Median annual household income of same-sex household types



With the significantly higher income of Hispanic/Latino male inter-ethnic same-sex couples separated out from the rest of the groups, a far more realistic picture of the income disparity between Hispanic/Latino and white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples is revealed. The male and female same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino earn roughly the same, but far less than their white non-Hispanic/Latino counterparts (see Figure 20). In fact, female same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latina earn \$23,040 less than white non-Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households, and \$27,400 less than white non-Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households.⁵³ Male same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino earn even less, with a difference of \$13,140 between them and their white non-Hispanic/Latina female counterparts, and \$17,500 between them and their white non-Hispanic/Latino male counterparts.⁵⁴

The differences in income between Hispanic/Latino and white same-sex couples in Florida mirror broader socioeconomic patterns reported nationwide. Hispanic/Latino Americans are three times as likely as white Americans to live in poverty.⁵⁵ In 2003, Hispanic/Latino families reported a 3% decline in real income—from \$33,600 in 2002 to \$33,000 in 2003—which was still only 69% of the median income of white families. Hispanic/Latino families also have fewer assets and savings than most Americans.⁵⁶ In 2002, only 48% of Hispanic/Latino households owned the homes they were living in, compared with 72% of white families and 68% of all American families.⁵⁷

2000 Census data on same-sex couples in Florida refute the stereotype that gay and lesbian people are wealthier and more privileged than heterosexuals.⁵⁸ The extent of same-sex couples' economic disadvantage is actually understated, because the Census collects pre-tax data on income. Since same-sex couples often pay more in state and federal taxes than their heterosexual peers because they cannot file jointly, the true income differences between same-sex couples and opposite-sex married couples are not recorded by the Census.⁵⁹ For example, same-sex couples must report domestic partner health insurance as income and pay taxes on it, while married opposite-sex couples are not taxed on spousal health insurance. Furthermore, same-sex partners do not have access to their partner's pensions or Social Security benefits if he or she dies, and they must pay taxes on assets they inherit even if those assets involve a house in which both partners lived and owned jointly for many years. There are 1,138 federal benefits and protections available to married couples that same-sex couples cannot access.⁶⁰ States, municipalities, and private entities also offer many benefits contingent upon marital status.

53. These differences were statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).

54. These differences were statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).

55. Ramirez & de la Cruz, 2003.

56. DeNavas-Walt, Proctor, & Mills, 2003.

57. U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division. (2002). Housing vacancies and home ownership. Washington, DC: Author. Available at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/hvs/annual02/ann02t20.html>

58. "What's wrong with 'gay rights'? You be the judge!" (1992). Colorado For Family Values. Campaign leaflet in favor of Amendment Two, reprinted in: *Constructing homophobia: How the right wing defines lesbians, gay men and bisexuals as a threat to civilization*. (1993). Political Research Associates. Cambridge: Author. For an analysis of the myth of gay affluence, see Badgett, M. (2001). *Money, myths and change: The economic lives of lesbians and gay men*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

59. Dougherty, T. (2004). *Economic benefits of marriage under federal and Oregon law*. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Available at www.TheTaskForce.org; Dougherty, T. (2004). *Economic benefits of marriage under federal and Massachusetts law*. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. Available at www.TheTaskForce.org

60. General Accounting Office. (2004, January 23). Report to Senate Majority Leader William Frist. GAO-04-353R. This represents an increase since 1997, when the GAO issued its first report that listed 1,049 federal laws and benefits that only married couples can access.

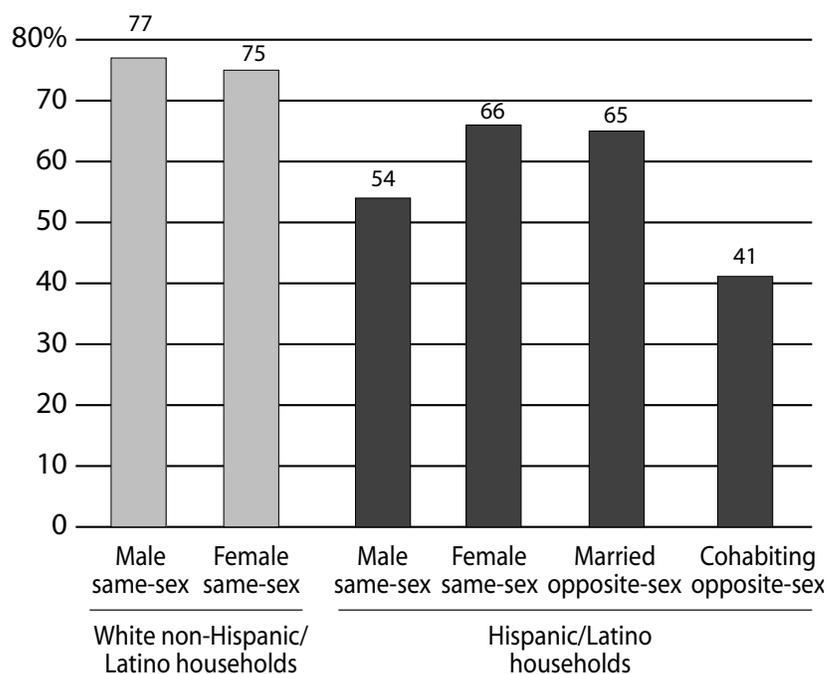


Home Ownership

The United States government measures wealth and poverty in terms of income. While there is a significant racial and ethnic gap in income, the gap is even greater when assets are considered. Key among these assets is home ownership. Despite claims made by anti-LGBT organizations that same-sex relationships are unhealthy, unstable and short-term, Census data on home ownership and time spent at the same residence provide strong evidence of stability and commitment.

As Figure 21 illustrates, Hispanic/Latino male same-sex couples (54%) are similar to Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples (53%) in Florida in that they are the least likely to report owning their own homes. Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households (75%) report homeownership rates that are higher than the rates reported by white non-Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households (66%) and Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households (65%). White non-Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households report the highest home ownership rate (77%), a rate that is 23% higher than reported by their Hispanic/Latino male counterparts. Even when controlling for age, Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples are like Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples in that they are significantly more likely to own homes than Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples.⁶¹

Figure 21: Home ownership rates



61. This was determined by running a logistic regression predicting homeownership from age and type of Hispanic/Latino couple with cohabiting Hispanic/Latino couples as the reference category. Dummy variables were created for Hispanic/Latino same-sex and married couples. Hispanic/Latino male and female same-sex and married opposite-sex couples' t-values were greater than 1.96, significant for a 2-tailed test at the .05 level. This means that they are statistically more likely than cohabiting opposite-sex couples to report that they own their own home.



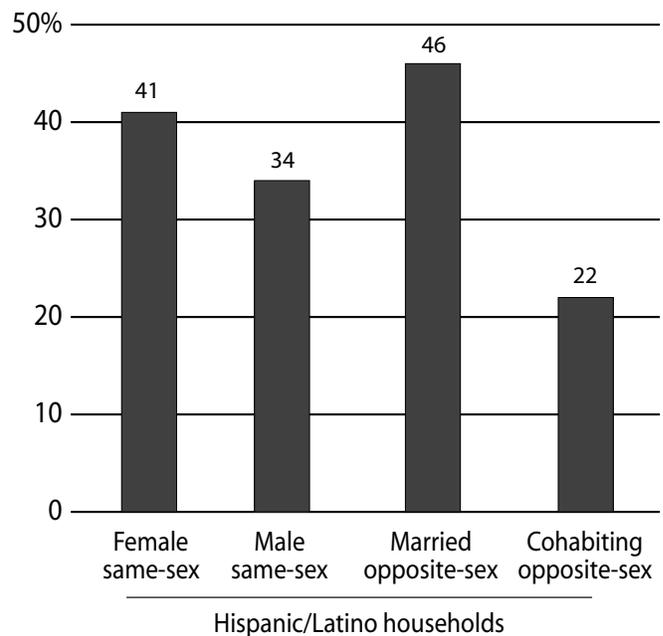
Residential Patterns

The Census asks a number of questions that can be used to analyze the residential patterns of Hispanic and Latino households in Florida, including whether couples live in metropolitan or non-metropolitan area, and the length of time couples have lived in their current home. Overall, the residence patterns of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples are more like those of Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples than those of Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples. For example, Figure 22 illustrates that Hispanic/Latina female same-sex couples report slightly a lower rate of living in the same residence for the previous five years compared to Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples (41% vs. 46%). However, they are nearly two times more likely than Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples to report living in the same residence for the previous five years.

Hispanic/Latino male same-sex couples are 50% more likely than cohabiting opposite sex couples to report living in the same residence for the previous five years (34% vs. 22%).

The fact that Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples, particularly the female couples, are almost as likely as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples to have lived in the same home for the previous five years is a good indication that their relationships are stable and long-term. Even when controlling for age, Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples and Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples are all significantly more likely than Hispanic/Latino cohabiting opposite-sex couples to report living in the same residence as five years earlier.⁶²

Figure 22: Hispanic/Latino families reporting same residence as five years earlier



The fact that Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples are almost as likely as Hispanic/Latino married couples to have lived in the same home for the previous five years is a good indication that their relationships are stable and long-term.

62. This was determined by running a logistic regression predicting residence from age and type of Hispanic/Latino couple with cohabiting Hispanic/Latino couples as the reference category. Dummy variables were created for Hispanic/Latino same-sex and married couples. The same independent variables were used as for homeownership. Hispanic/Latino same-sex and married couples' t-values were greater than 1.96, significant for a 2-tailed test at the .05 level. This means that that they are statistically more likely than cohabiting opposite-sex couples to report living in the same residence as five years earlier.



Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida

(by 108th Congressional district at the 2000 Census tract level)

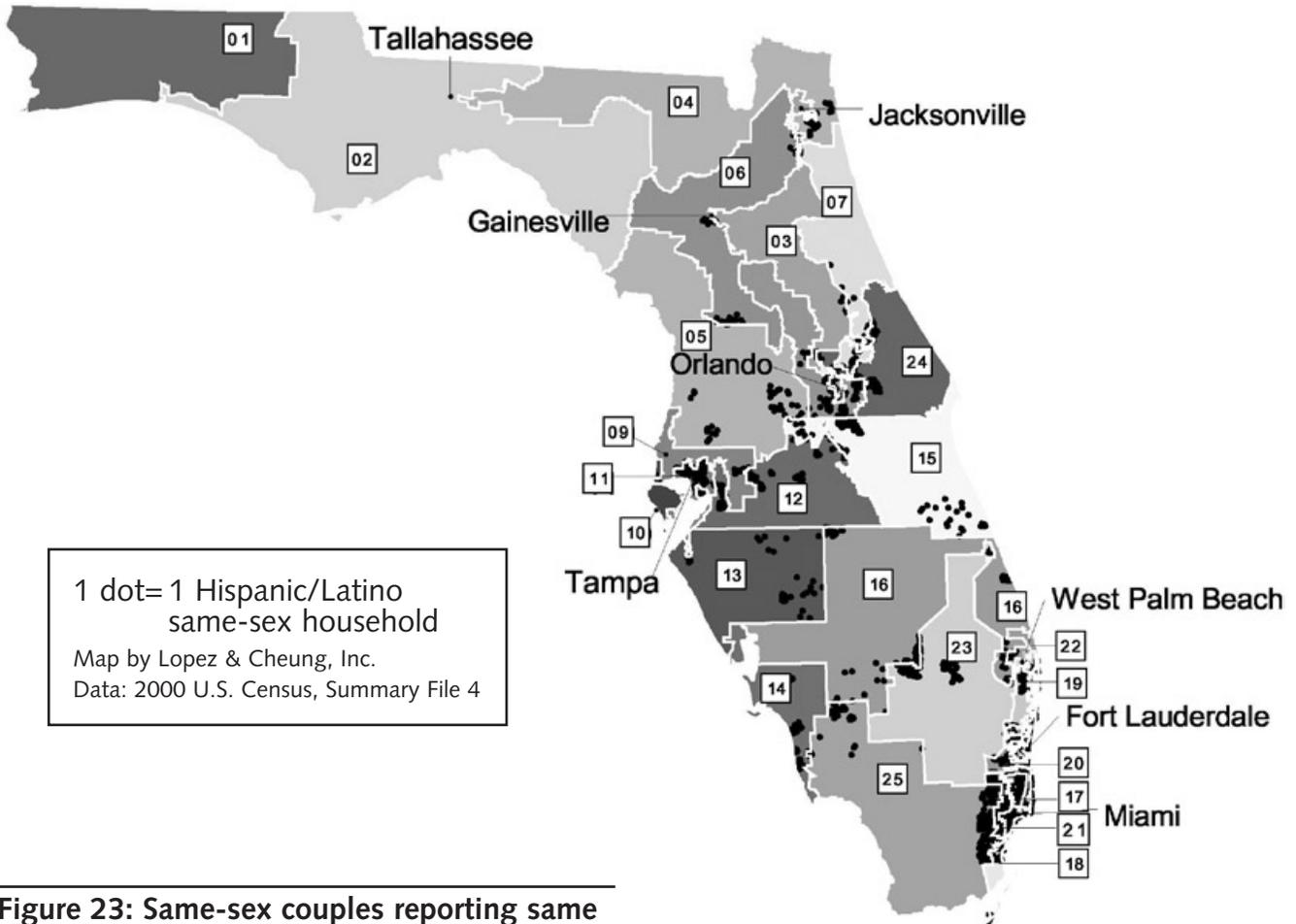
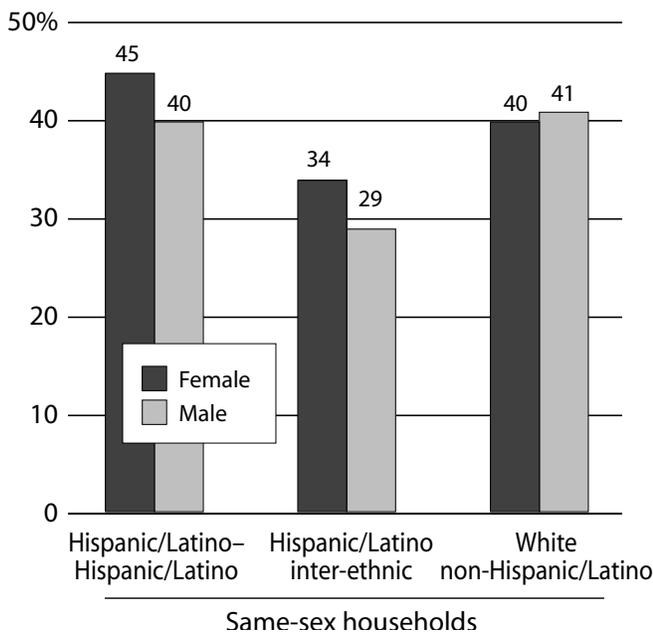


Figure 23: Same-sex couples reporting same residence as five years earlier



When same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are compared to Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic households by gender, the female households report the highest rates of living in the same home for the previous five years (see Figure 23). Overall, the Hispanic inter-ethnic same-sex households were least likely to report living in the same residence for the previous five years. White non-Hispanic same-sex households showed little differences by gender, with approximately 40% of both male and female households reporting that they have lived in the same residence for the previous five years.



Parenting

Anti-LGBT political and religious leaders who oppose same-sex marriage also often argue against allowing gay and lesbian people to adopt children.⁶³ Including Florida, six states now prohibit or restrict foster and/or adoptive parenting by gay and lesbian people or same-sex couples,⁶⁴ and courts around the country also take sexual orientation and gender identity into consideration in awarding child custody.⁶⁵ However, according to the 2000 Census many Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida are raising children under the age of 18, including biological and nonbiological children. The Census defines biological children as children who are the biological offspring of one of the adults in the same-sex unmarried partner household. The Census defines nonbiological children as a) blood relatives of one of the same-sex partners, such as a niece, nephew, or grandchild, or b) a foster child or adopted child who is not a blood relation. As

Figure 24: Children present in Hispanic/Latino households

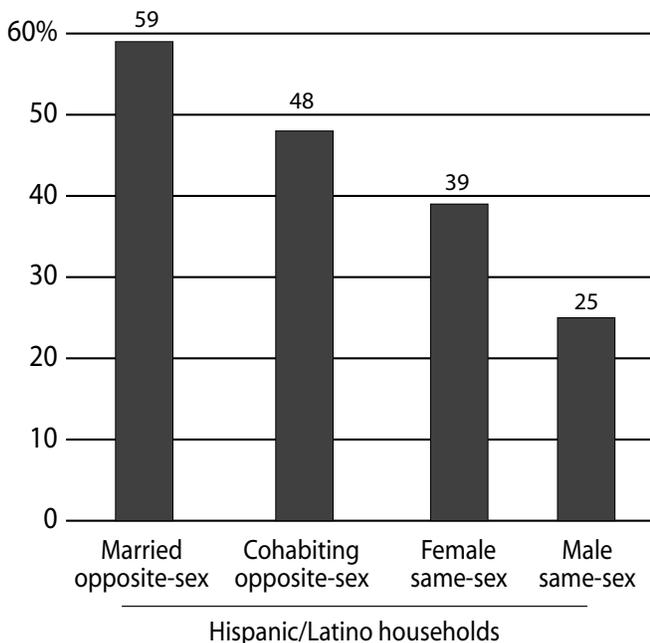
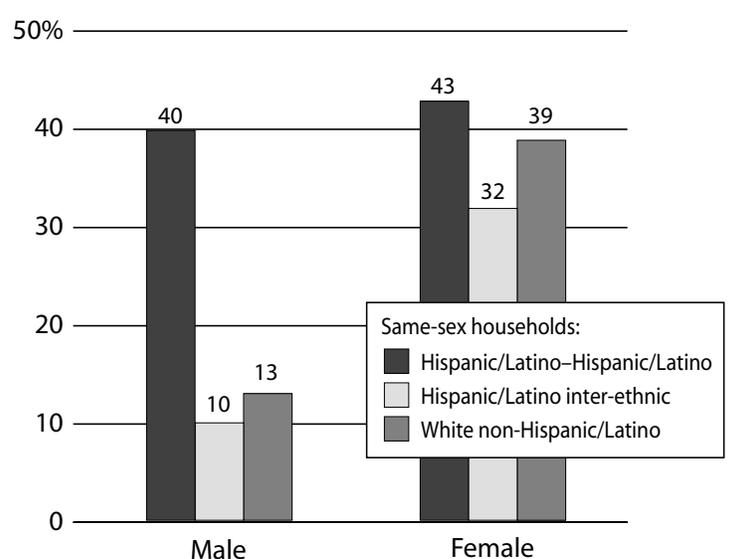


Figure 25: Children present in same-sex households



63. For example, in January 2003 Focus on the Family ran a full-page ad in the *Boston Globe* calling gay and lesbian parenting “a massive, untested social experiment with coming generations of children. Cahill, S. (2004). *Same-sex marriage in the United States: Focus on the facts*. New York: Lexington Books. pp. 31-32.

64. Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, Utah, North Dakota, and Oklahoma. Source: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. *Anti-gay parenting laws in the United States map*. New York: Author. Retrieved February 10, 2005 from <http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/adoptionmap.pdf>

65. Cahill, S., Ellen, M., & Tobias, S. (2002). *Family policy: Issues affecting gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender families*. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. pp. 73-77. Available at <http://www.thetaskforce.org/reslibrary/list.cfm?pubTypeID=2>



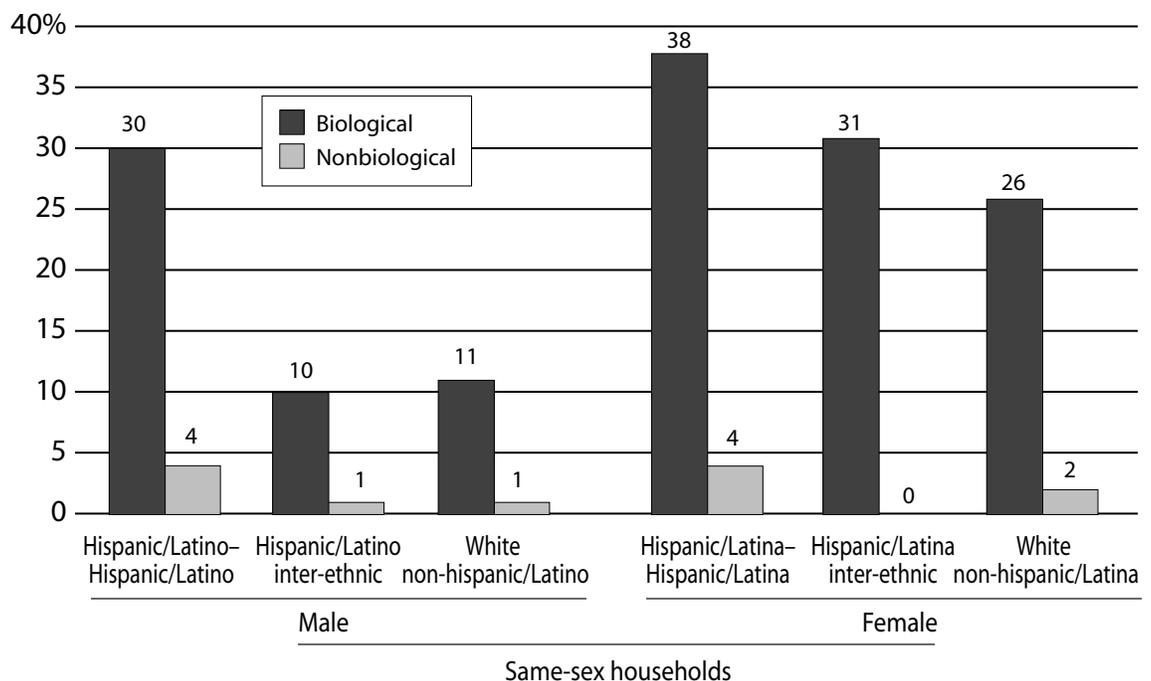
Figure 24 illustrates, Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households in Florida are raising children at a lower rate than Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households: 39% versus 59% respectively. Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households (25%) were least likely to report that they were raising children.

A more accurate picture of parenting in Hispanic/Latino same-sex households is revealed when inter-ethnic households are compared to households where both partners are Hispanic/Latino. Figure 25 illustrates that male same-sex households in Florida in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are raising children at three times the rate reported by white male same-sex households, 40% versus 13% respectively. Hispanic/Latino-interethnic male same-sex households report the lowest rates of raising children among all household types (10%). Forty-three percent of female same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are raising children, compared to 32% of Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic female same-sex households and 39% of white non-Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households.

Some 39% of Hispanic/Latina female same-sex couples in Florida are raising children, compared to 59% of Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex couples.

Figure 26 illustrates parenting rates by type of child, biological or nonbiological. We see similarities by gender, with 38% of female same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino raising a biological child of one of the partners in their household, followed by Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic female households (31%) and white non-Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households (26%). In contrast, male same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino (30%) were three times more likely to report raising a biological child than Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic male (10%) and white non-Hispanic/Latina male same-sex households (11%).⁶⁶

Figure 26: Children present in Hispanic/Latino households



66. This difference was statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).



Since many of the individuals in same-sex households have been married previously to a person of the opposite sex, many of the biological children reported in those households likely come from these previous marriages (see Figure 27). Partnered white non-Hispanic/Latino men in same-sex households in Florida are equally as likely to have been previously married as partnered Hispanic/Latino men in same-sex households (44%). Partnered white non-Hispanic/Latina women in same-sex households in Florida are less likely to have been previously married to a man than partnered Hispanic/Latina women in same-sex households (53% vs. 63%).

As Figure 26 also illustrates, female same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latina report the highest rate of parenting nonbiological children (4%). In comparison, 2% of white non-Hispanic/Latina women and 0% of Hispanic/Latina inter-ethnic women report raising nonbiological children. Male same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino are four times more likely to report raising a nonbiological child than Hispanic/Latino male inter-ethnic and white non-Hispanic male same-sex households. Nonbiological children can include adopted children, foster children, grandchildren, nephews, and nieces (who are biologically related to the adult who is their grandparent, aunt or uncle but are not technically biological children of that individual).

As illustrated in Figure 28, Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida report raising nonbiological children at almost the same rate as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households. This is despite the fact that Florida’s legislature abruptly banned adoption by “homosexuals” in 1977 in the wake of Anita Bryant’s “Save our Children” campaign, which was aimed at repealing a gay rights ordinance in Miami-Dade County.⁶⁷ It is unclear whether

Figure 27: Partnered men and women in same-sex households who were previously married

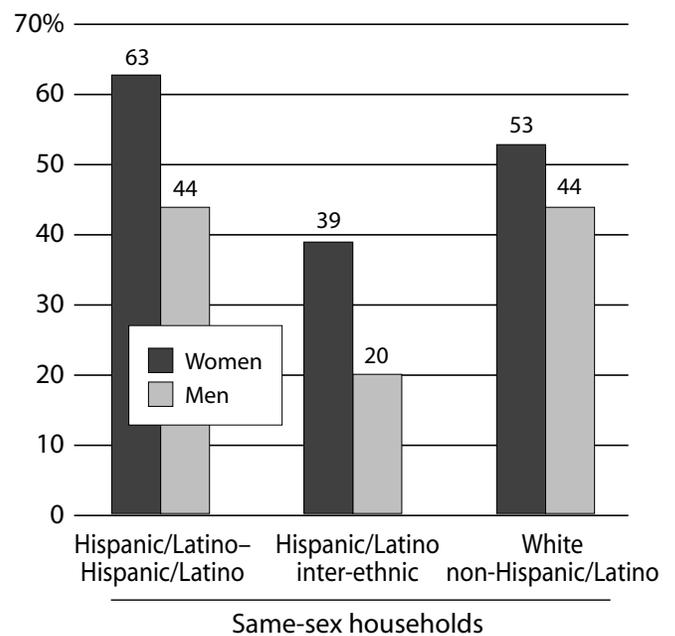
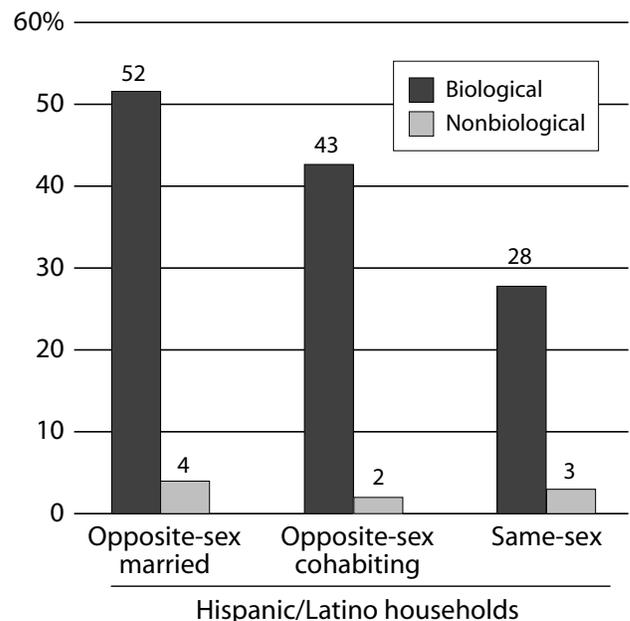


Figure 28: Types of children present in Hispanic/Latino households



67. Leonard, A.S. (2005, January 29-February 4). Florida adoption ban upheld. *Gay City News*. Retrieved February 16, 2005, from http://gaycitynews.com/gcn_305/floridaadoption.html



second-parent adoptions, a legal procedure that allows a same-sex parent to adopt his or her partner's biological or adoptive child without terminating the legal rights of the first parent, are permissible under Florida law. Since 1977, there have been numerous attempts to overturn the adoption ban via legislation and the courts. The latest was denied by a federal appeals court in February 2005.⁶⁸

Although gay and lesbian families are allowed to act as foster parents in Florida, they are currently denied the opportunity to adopt the children they care for. However, in February 2005 Florida state Senator Nan Rich introduced SB1534, a bill that provides for an exception to the adoption ban for foster children being raised by gay or lesbian parents, if a court finds that it would be more "important to the adoptee's developmental and psychological needs" to remain in his or her current home than to be sent to another temporary placement.⁶⁹

Equitable adoption and parenting laws would benefit these families because if parents have no legal relationship to their children, they cannot include them in their health insurance coverage or make decisions about how they will be cared for if one parent dies or the couple separates.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are over 100,000 children waiting to be adopted nationwide, and over 10,000 of them are Hispanic/Latino.⁷⁰ Approximately 588,000 children are currently in foster care.⁷¹ Seventeen percent of children in foster care are Hispanic/Latino, equaling their proportion of all children in the US.⁷² Sadly, many children age into adulthood while in foster care. Children who remain in foster care for much of their childhood are more likely to have emotional problems, delinquency, substance abuse, and academic problems. This is not surprising given that some children in foster care live in 20 or more homes by the time they are 18 years old.⁷³ Barring lesbians, gay men, and same-sex couples from adopting decreases the number of potential suitable homes for children in need.

The vast majority of children's advocacy organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics,⁷⁴ the National Association of Social Workers,⁷⁵ and the

Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida report raising nonbiological children at almost the same rate as Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex households.

If parents have no legal relationship to their children, they cannot include them in health insurance coverage or make decisions about how they will be cared for if one parent dies or the couple separates.

68. Lane, C. (2005, January 11). Gay-adoption ban in Florida to stand. *Washington Post*. Retrieved February 16, 2005, from <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A62672-2005Jan10.html>

69. Curtis, C. (2005, February 18). Amendment to Fla. Gay adoption ban filed. *PlanetOut Network*. Retrieved February 21, 2005, from <http://www.planetout.com/news/article.html?2005/02/18/3>

70. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (1999). Factsheet: How many children are waiting to be adopted. Retrieved August 10, 2004, from <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/publications/afcars/rpt0199/ar0199e.htm>

71. Child Welfare League of America (n.d.). Facts and figures. Retrieved March 1, 2004, from <http://www.cwla.org/programs/fostercare/factsheet.htm>

72. National Clearinghouse on Child Abuse and Neglect Information (HHS). (2003). *Foster care national statistics*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved February 16, 2005, from <http://nccanch.acf.hhs.gov/pubs/factsheets/foster.cfm#notesix>; Lugaila, T. & Overturf, J., U.S. Census Bureau (2004). *Children and the households they live in: 2000*. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved February 16, 2005, from <http://www.census.gov/prod/2004pubs/censr-14.pdf>

73. Eagle, R. (1994). The separation experience of children in long-term care: Theory, resources, and implications for practice. *The American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*.

74. Perrin, E.C. and The Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. (2002). Technical report: Co-parent or second-parent adoption by same-sex parents. *Pediatrics*. 109(2): 341-344.

75. Ferrero, E., Freker, J., and Foster, T. (2002). Too high a price: The case against restricting gay parenting. New York: ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. Available at <http://www.lethimstay.com/pdfs/gayadoptionbook.pdf>



American Psychological Association (APA),⁷⁶ recognize that there is no inherent difference in the social functioning and emotional health of children raised by same-sex parents. According to the APA, “not a single study has found children of gay or lesbian parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents.”⁷⁷ Other peer reviewed social science research has also found that children being raised by lesbian and gay parents are not disadvantaged relative to children being raised by heterosexual parents.⁷⁸ Bisexual parents are included in both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. There is no justification for discrimination against lesbian, gay, and bisexual people or same-sex couples in custody, visitation, foster care, and adoption laws.

Despite attempts by anti-LGBT conservatives and politicians to portray the terms “gay” and “family” as mutually exclusive, our analysis of 2000 Census data irrefutably shows that Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida are forming stable families, and one-third of them are raising children under the age of 18. Simply documenting the existence of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couple families with children is important in and of itself. These findings can also be used to advocate for same-sex marriage and the repeal of Florida’s adoption ban. The state has a legitimate interest in public policy that promotes stable families and enables children to be raised in loving and supportive homes. Data from the 2000 Census shows that many of Florida’s Hispanic/Latino families are providing such an environment, despite anti-LGBT laws that restrict access to the benefits of civil marriage and equitable adoption laws.

Despite attempts by anti-LGBT forces to portray the terms “gay” and “family” as mutually exclusive, 2000 Census data irrefutably shows that Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples in Florida are forming stable families, and one-third of them are raising children under the age of 18.

76. Patterson, C.J. (1995). *Lesbian and gay parenting: A resource for psychologists*. [Electronic Version] Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Available at <http://www.apa.org/pi/parent.html>

77. Ibid. These conclusions are likely to be true of bisexual parents as well. Although there is a lack of research focusing specifically on bisexual parents, clearly there are bisexuals in the same-sex couples included in the samples of many of these studies as well as in many opposite-sex couples. Since many of these studies do not ask people to self-identify by sexual orientation, there are no conclusive findings on bisexual parents.

78. Stacey, J., & Biblarz, T. (2001). (How) does the sexual orientation of the parent matter? *American Sociological Review*. 66(2):159-183.



Military Service

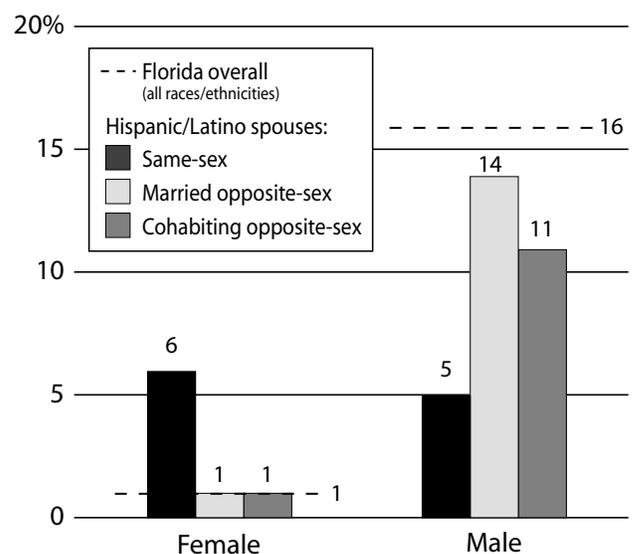
According to the U.S. Department of Defense, 9.9% of all active-duty enlisted and 4.7% of active-duty officers are Hispanic/Latino. Additionally, Hispanics/Latinos make up 9.1% of enlisted and 4.3% of officers in the reserves.⁷⁹ Florida's Hispanic/Latino same-sex households include many reported veterans, and they are among the many lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals in the military that risk their lives to fight for a country in which they do not have equal rights and protections.

As illustrated in Figure 29, partnered Hispanic/Latino and white non-Hispanic/Latina women in same-sex households in Florida serve at six times the rate of Hispanic/Latina women living with a husband or cohabiting with a male partner.⁸⁰ Partnered Hispanic/Latino men in same-sex households in Florida serve at about one-third the rate of Hispanic/Latino men married to a woman (5% vs. 14%) and at about half the rate of Hispanic/Latino men cohabiting with a woman (11%). Overall, according to the 2000 Census, one percent of women and 16% of men in Florida are veterans.⁸¹

Even though partnered women in Hispanic/Latina same-sex households in Florida report that they are veterans at a much higher rate than other Hispanic/Latina women, Figure 30 illustrates that they serve at half the rate of partnered white non-Hispanic/Latina women with same-sex partners in Florida (6% vs. 12%). Hispanic/Latino men with same-sex partners in Florida are also less likely to have served than partnered white non-Hispanic/Latino men with same-sex partners in Florida (5% vs. 24%).

Since partnered Hispanic/Latina women in same-sex households in Florida serve in the military at disproportionately higher rates than most other women, discriminatory military policies also affect the Hispanic/

Figure 29: Hispanic/Latino Floridians reporting veteran status



79. Miles, D. (2004, October 12). DoD aims to attract more Hispanic/Latinos to its work force. *American Forces Press Service*. Retrieved February 14, 2005, from http://www.defenselink.mil/cgi-bin/dlprint.cgi?http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Oct2004/n10122004_2004101208.html

80. Six percent of partnered Hispanic/Latino women in same-sex households in Florida report that they are veterans compared to just 1% of Hispanic/Latino married women. This difference was statistically significant at the .01 level (for a definition of statistical significance see Technical Appendix).

81. Data for this analysis was taken from analyses available at www.va.gov, which use 2000 census data. Bureau of Veterans Affairs. (2000). Sex by age by armed forces status by veteran status for the population 18 years and over. Author. Retrieved February 14, 2005, from <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/Census2000/CenData/agesexdata.pdf>

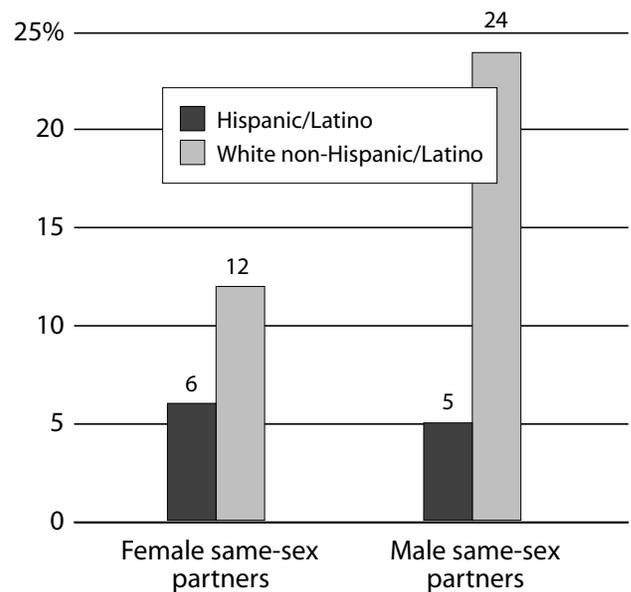


Latino community at a disproportionate rate. For example, “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”—which bans openly lesbian, gay, and bisexual people from serving—has been used to discharge Hispanic/Latina women from the military at a higher rate than other groups. In fact, Hispanic/Latina women are discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” at two times the rate that they serve in the military. Although Hispanic/Latina women make up just 0.31% of servicemembers, they comprise 0.60% of those discharged under the policy.⁸²

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual military personnel and veterans suffer from discriminatory military policies, especially when military discharges lead to loss of employment, pay and benefits. During the first 10 years of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” more than 10,000 service members have been discharged at an estimated cost of \$1.2 billion in taxpayer dollars.⁸³ Even when lesbian, gay, and bisexual servicemembers are able to hide their sexual orientation and avoid being discharged, discriminatory military policy still prevents their same-sex partners from accessing a myriad of veterans’ benefits because they are not legally married. Discrimination against gay veterans continues throughout their lives.

In the face of documented, widespread anti-gay harassment and violence, as well as the challenges presented by “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” data from the 2000 Census indicate that Hispanic/Latino same-sex partners, particularly women, have chosen to serve their country in the military at high rates. Revoking “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” would allow them and their families to enjoy the benefits they deserve as servicemembers and veterans.

Figure 30: Partnered men and women in same-sex households reporting veteran status



82. Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. (2002). *Conduct unbecoming: The ninth annual report on “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Don’t Pursue, Don’t Harass.”* Washington, DC: Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. Discharge data are for fiscal year 2001. People can be discharged under “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” even if they are not gay or lesbian. This report suggests that women are disproportionately affected by the policy because men accuse women who refuse unwanted sexual advances of being lesbians, or because the women are successful and some men do not want to serve under them.

83. Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund. (2004). *Ten years of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.” A disservice to the nation.* Washington, DC: Author.



Educational Attainment

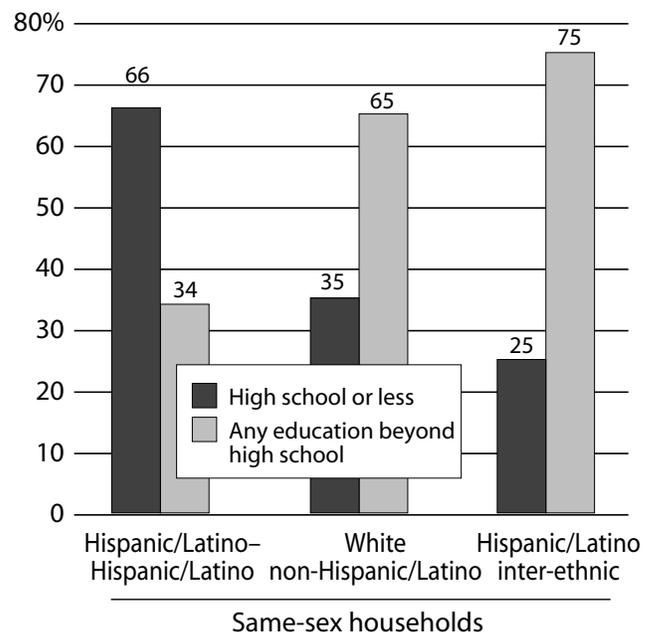
Overall, partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households in Florida report lower educational attainment than partnered white non-Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households in Florida. However, partnered men and women in Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex relationships report very high levels of post-secondary educational attainment.⁸⁴

Figure 31 illustrates that two-thirds of partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households in Florida report that they did not access post-secondary education at all. In contrast, only about one-third of partnered white men and women in same-sex households in Florida and one-quarter of men and women in Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex couples in Florida report that they did not access higher education.

Partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households report significantly lower levels of postsecondary education than both their white non-Hispanic/Latino counterparts and individuals in Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households. Only 34% of Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households in Florida report completing some level of postsecondary education. In comparison, 65% of Floridians in white non-Hispanic/Latino and 75% of Floridians in Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households report that they completed some college (see figure 31).

Figure 32 illustrates that Hispanic/Latino Floridians in same-sex households are more likely to access post-secondary education than Hispanic/Latino married people. However, Hispanic/Latino Floridians cohabiting with an opposite-sex partner were least likely to access any education beyond high school. Overall, Hispanic/Latina women are slightly less educated than Hispanic/Latino men, and partnered

Figure 31: Educational attainment of individuals in same-sex couples



84. Educational attainment was averaged for both partners in the same-sex couple, regardless of their race. 2000 Census data do not indicate which individual in the same-sex inter-ethnic couple is Hispanic/Latino and which is not.

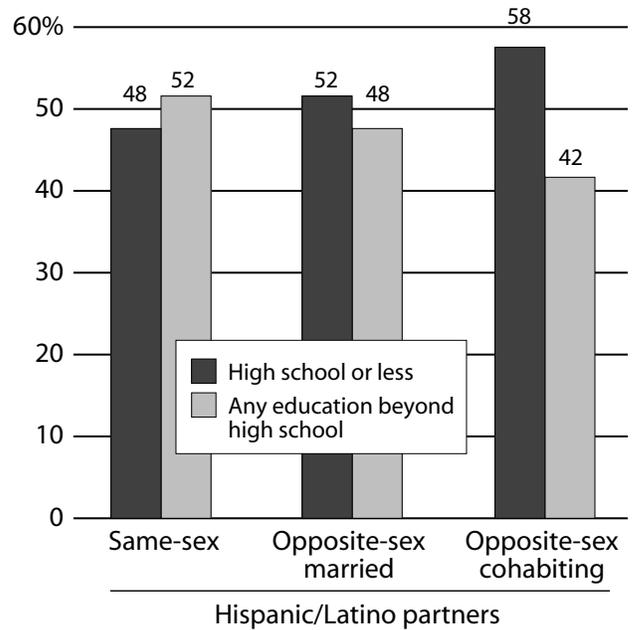


Hispanic/Latino men in same-sex households have lower rates of completing high school than Hispanic/Latino married men.

Educational attainment is influenced, in part, by the income and wealth of one's parents, and poorly funded school systems may have higher drop-out rates overall. Educational attainment can also influence one's earning potential over one's lifetime. The fact that partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women report less education than both Hispanic/Latino married people and individuals in white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households warrants further research as to its impact on the job options and life experiences of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples.

The lower educational attainment among partnered Hispanic/Latino men and women in same-sex households in Florida may, in part, reflect the impact of anti-LGBT harassment and bias on the school experience. A wide body of research has documented a high prevalence of anti-LGBT harassment and violence in the nation's schools. Children targeted by anti-LGBT harassment and violence are more likely to skip school or drop out altogether, have trouble paying attention in class or completing homework, and earn lower grades.⁸⁵

Figure 32: Educational attainment of individuals in Hispanic/Latino families



85. Cianciotto, J. & Cahill, S. (2003). *Education policy: Issues affecting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth*. New York: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. pp. 29-40. Available at <http://www.thetaskforce.org>



Conclusion

After George W. Bush's re-election in November 2004, pundits, political commentators, and journalists argued incessantly about whether "gay marriage" cost John Kerry the election. Given the success of anti-same-sex marriage ballot measures in 11 states on election night, it was certainly easy for anti-LGBT political and religious leaders to revel in their "victory," and claim that supporters of "traditional marriage" seized the day for Bush. However, their intensely focused rhetoric about preserving "traditional marriage" reveals what they were perhaps most successful at doing, which was hiding the faces of LGBT people from the public eye, and distracting Americans from the true impact of anti-LGBT family policies. Perhaps the most important finding of this study is simply that it uses reliable data from the American government to prove that thousands of Hispanic and Latino same-sex couples in Florida exist. According to the 2000 Census, over 9,000 Hispanic/Latino same-sex families live in communities throughout Florida. They own homes, work in the public and private sector, and many are choosing to serve their country in the military despite the risk that they could be discharged under "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Shortly after the 2004 election, anti-LGBT organizations in Florida announced their plan to place an anti-same-sex marriage state constitutional amendment on the ballot in 2006. In a continuation of the strategy to distract Floridians from the true impact of such an amendment, these groups use names like "The Florida Coalition to Protect Marriage." Yet, they continually fail to provide a shred of credible evidence that equal access to civil marriage for same-sex couples somehow threatens the institution. This is why this study, where possible, also takes the next step in applying these data to analyze and assess the impact of state and federal anti-LGBT laws and policies. For example, now that we know that one-third of Hispanic/Latino same-sex couples are raising children, social, political, and religious leaders who support equality can focus on how excluding these families from policies designed to promote family stability negatively impacts their children.

Allowing all same-sex couples in Florida, especially those that are Hispanic/Latino, to legally formalize their relationships and commitments to care for each other and their children will allow them greater economic security, legal protection, and peace of mind. This is especially important as couples age or during times of crisis, such as a partner's illness or death. For many reasons, including higher rates of parenting, lower relative income, lower home ownership rates, and greater prevalence of having partners who are not U.S. citizens, Hispanic/Latino same-sex households in Florida are disproportionately impacted by anti-LGBT family legislation, and will be further harmed if the proposed anti-same-sex marriage state constitutional amendment becomes law.

Perhaps the most important finding of this study is simply that it uses reliable data from the American government to prove that thousands of Hispanic and Latino same-sex couples in Florida exist.



Technical Appendix

GENERAL INFORMATION

This report is based on data from the 2000 U.S. Census. In 1990 and 2000 cohabiting same-sex couples were able to self-identify as “unmarried partners.” In this study we compare Hispanic/Latino same-sex households to white non-Hispanic/Latino same-sex households. We also compare Hispanic/Latino same-sex households to Hispanic/Latino opposite-sex married couple households, and to Hispanic/Latino opposite-sex cohabiting households. While the census does not gather information about individuals’ sexual orientation or gender identity, it is likely that most of the individuals in same-sex couples would identify as “gay,” “lesbian,” “homosexual,” or some other similar designation. Some would likely identify as bisexual or transgender, as do some individuals in cohabiting or married opposite-sex couples.

PUMS DATA AND STUDY METHODOLOGY

Socioeconomic information was compiled through a custom tabulation of the Census Bureau’s 5% Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS). We chose to use the 5% PUMS data because the sample of the 2000 Census long form provides a more comprehensive picture of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households, including, for example, information about military veteran status and educational attainment. These variables are not available in other datasets made publicly available by the Census, such as Summary File One and Two data, which are based on 100% of the questions on the 2000 Census short form. PUMS data also make it possible to estimate Hispanic/Latino partners living in same-sex households, and to examine the individual records of all persons residing in those households, including children.

In the construction of same-sex households, we used the householder and the person residing in the same unit defined as an “unmarried partner” of the same-sex, as well as any children residing in the same unit. We selected the records of either householders or unmarried partners that were of “Hispanic or Latino origin” regardless of race. Only one Hispanic/Latino person was needed to construct a Hispanic/Latino household. This made it possible to estimate numbers of Hispanic/Latino same-sex households. Cohabiting households were constructed similarly, except the partners were of the opposite-sex. In married opposite-sex households, “husband/wife” was used instead of “unmarried partner.”

2000 Census Summary File 4 data are based on results from the long form data or sampled questions. These data are used for mapping purposes since they are available by Census tract, while PUMS data are not.

PUMS data were processed by Lopez & Cheung, Inc. using the weights provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.



Particular care should be taken in interpreting results involving same-sex households in which both partners are Hispanic/Latino (Hispanic/Latino-Hispanic/Latino) and Hispanic/Latino inter-ethnic same-sex households, as the raw data for this category represent smaller numbers of respondents compared to the other households we analyzed.

MARGIN OF ERROR

In this study, plus or minus the margin of error produces a 95% confidence interval. For example, the percentage of male householders in a Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex household in Florida with some form of post-secondary education is 33%. The margin of error for Hispanic/Latino married opposite-sex male householders was determined to be 0.6%, so a 95% confidence interval for this value would mean a range of 32% to 34%. This is computed as a 95% confidence interval for a binomial proportion parameter (computed at $p=.5$ and $N= N$ raw), and is often referred to as “significant at the .05 level.” The margin of error only applies to percentage values (i.e. not median values such as “median household income”).

STATISTICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Statistical tests of significance were performed on select findings in order to determine whether or not the relationship between certain variables happened by chance. In other words, we wanted to know whether the statistical result was a “fluke.” Specifically, the T-test of statistical significance was used to indicate whether key differences between household types (i.e. Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households vs. white non-Hispanic/Latino male same-sex households) simply occurred by chance. To report the extent of any statistically significant differences, statistical procedures and “cut-off” points widely accepted in social science research were used. If the difference was likely to happen by chance by at least less than one time out of 100, it was noted in a footnote to be “significant at the .01 level.”



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Damon Romine
Gene Rogolsky & Joe Boutell
Howard Rosner &
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Lee Rubin & Jim Walker
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Wayne M. Ryerson &
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Curtis F. Shepard &
Alan Hergott
Eric Shore & Fred Paul
Sabrina Shulman &
Rosemary E. Coluccio
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Rafael Rodriguez
Mark D. Smith &
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Richard J. Stanley
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Marla & Phyllis Stevens
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Harvey Zuckman &
Philip Oxman

Legacy's Circle

Estate Giving Program

The following bequests have been received since January 1, 2001:

(\$1 million and up)

Estate of Clarence E. Anderson

(\$25,000 to \$999,999)

Estate of Robert L. Kehoe

Estate of Craig Lindhurst

(\$5,000 to \$24,999)

Estate of Stephen Clover

Estate of Harry Seigel

Estate of Jaroslav Zivney

Estate Planning

The following individuals have named the Task Force in their estate plans:

David Abramson

Dixie Binning

Luke Farrell

Stephen Glassman, AIA

John A. Hubschmitt

Charles Robbins, CFRE



National Gay and Lesbian Task Force



policy institute bestsellers

Black Same-Sex Households in the United States

A REPORT FROM THE 2000 CENSUS

by Alain Dang and Somjen Frazer

Political and religious leaders often claim that LGBT people do not need protection from discrimination because they are white, wealthy, and privileged.

This study breaks that myth through an analysis of the almost 85,000 black same-sex households that self-identified in the 2000 U.S. Census. This study shows that black same-sex couples and their children are disproportionately impacted by anti-LGBT policies and have more to lose when anti-same-sex marriage amendments are on the ballot.

(October 2004; 46 pp.; \$10.00; www.thetaskforce.org/library/)

Caregiving

AMONG LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER
ELDERS IN NEW YORK

by Marjorie H. Cantor, Mark Brennan,
and R. Andrew Shippy

The largest-ever study of caregiving among LGBT people 50 and older documents how central older gay people are to caregiving, both for family of origin members as well as for same-sex partners and close friends. It also examines unequal treatment under key policies such as the Family and

Medical Leave Act.

(June 2004; 108 pp.; \$10.00;
www.thetaskforce.org/library/)

Transitioning our Shelters

A GUIDE FOR MAKING
HOMELESS SHELTERS SAFE
FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE

by Lisa Mottet and John M. Ohle

The problem of unsafe shelters for transgender people is pervasive. *Transitioning our Shelters* is a guide designed for shelters that want to provide safe shelter for transgender people but are not sure how to do so. A joint publication of the Task Force and the National Coalition for the Homeless, the Guide provides many answers to concerns about safety and privacy for transgender residents based on successes at real shelters across the country, the bulk of which are addressed without monetary expenditures.

(January 2004; 56 pp.;
\$10.00; www.thetaskforce.org/library/)

Education Policy

ISSUES AFFECTING
LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
AND TRANSGENDER YOUTH

by Jason Cianciotto and Sean Cahill

Education Policy provides a comprehensive overview of social science research on the extent and impact of harassment and violence against LGBT students, as well as the public policy interventions that support LGBT students and make schools safer. It includes the first in-depth analysis of how President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act affects LGBT students, profiles eight students who stood up to anti-LGBT abuse, and articulates an agenda for future research and policy analysis. (November 2003; 168 pp.; \$20.00; www.thetaskforce.org/library/)

Family Policy

ISSUES AFFECTING GAY,
LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND
TRANSGENDER ELDERS

by Sean Cahill, Mitra Ellen, and Sarah Tobias

Groundbreaking in its breadth and depth, this report examines family policy as it relates to LGBT people and their loved ones. It provides information useful to those advancing supportive legislation and policy, particularly at the state and local levels. Covers partner recognition; antigay adoption and foster policies; youth and elder issues; health care and end-of-life concerns; and the impact of welfare reform and the faith-based initiative. (December 2002; 216 pp.; \$20.00; www.ngltf.org/library/)

Say it Loud and I'm I'm Black Proud

BLACK PRIDE SURVEY 2000

by Juan Battle, Cathy J. Cohen,
Dorian Warren, Gerard Ferguson,
and Suzette Audam

This largest-ever study of Black LGBT people is the result of a two-year collaboration between nine Black LGBT Pride organizations, the Task Force Policy Institute, and five African-American researchers. The survey of nearly 2,700 respondents documents significant and often surprising demographics, experiences, and policy priorities of Black LGBT people. (March 2002; 86 pp.; \$10.00; www.ngltf.org/library/)

Other Task Force Publications

Transgender Equality

A HANDBOOK FOR ACTIVISTS AND POLICYMAKERS

A handbook providing activists and policymakers with the tools they need to pass transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination and anti-violence legislation. This handbook is an invaluable resource guide providing model legislative language, talking points, responses to frequently asked questions, and a comprehensive resource listing. (June 2000; 96 pp.; \$10.00; www.nglhf.org/library/)

Campus Climate

FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE: A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Based on a survey of nearly 1700 students, faculty, and staff at 14 colleges and universities across the country, this report, by Susan R. Rankin, documents anti-LGBT bias and harassment, along with levels of institutional support for LGBT people. It highlights differences in experiences between various identity groups and concludes with recommendations for creating an inclusive and supportive environment for LGBT people. (May 2003; 70 pp.; \$10.00; www.nglhf.org/library/)

The 2000 Census and Same-Sex Households

In 2000, the U.S. Census allowed same-sex couples living together to identify themselves as "unmarried partners." This national data set offers a rich trove of information on members of our community, easily accessible on-line. Maps show concentrations of same-sex households in all 50 states and a dozen major cities. (October 2002; 162 pp.; \$20.00; www.nglhf.org/library/)

Leaving Our Children Behind

WELFARE REFORM AND THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

This report, by Sean Cahill and Kenneth T. Jones, describes the reactionary agenda of senior policymakers in the Bush administration to change social service provision in the United States. It examines welfare reform and the impact of marriage and fatherhood initiatives, abstinence-only-until-marriage education, and the faith-based initiative on the LGBT community. (December 2001; 112 pp.; \$10.00 www.nglhf.org/library/)

Social Discrimination and Health

THE CASE OF LATINO GAY MEN AND HIV RISK

This report, by renowned AIDS researchers Rafael Diaz and George Ayala, documents the correlations among homophobia, racism, poverty, and HIV risk, and has significant implications for prevention strategies. Although Latinos were the subject of this case study, the findings are relevant to other communities of color and marginalized groups. Available in English and Spanish. (July 2001; SOLD OUT; download at www.nglhf.org/library/)

Outing Age

PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES AFFECTING GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER ELDERS

This groundbreaking report reviews social science literature and explains what we do and do not know about the demographics of LGBT elders. *Outing Age* outlines major public policy issues facing LGBT seniors—including federal aging programs, disability, long-term care and caregiving, nursing homes, and Social Security—and presents recommendations for advocacy to move public policy toward equal treatment of this population. (Nov. 2000; SOLD OUT; download at www.nglhf.org/library/)

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The **National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute** is a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis and strategy development to advance greater understanding and equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.