

HOW MANY OF US ARE THERE?

How many children are growing up with gay or lesbian parents?

As of 1990, 6 million to 14 million children in the United States were living with a gay or lesbian parent.¹

As of 2000, more than 39% of same-sex couples in the United States aged 22-55 reported to the Census that they are raising children. They are raising more than 250,000 children under age 18. And that is just the small fraction counted by the census (which left out all children living with a single lesbian or gay parent, everybody with a bisexual or transgender parent, and the probably huge number who don't feel safe "coming out" to the U.S. Census Bureau!)²

Same-sex couples in Washington State reported to the census that they are raising over 7,400 children. In California, 70,000. In Texas, 80,000. In New York, 26,000.³

Lots of us are families of color.⁴

According to the 2000 US Census:

- Black female same-sex households are raising children at rates comparable with black married opposite-sex households (61% vs. 69%).
- Hispanic/Latina female same-sex households are raising foster or adopted children at rates almost equal to Hispanic/Latino opposite-sex married households (3% vs. 4%).
- Black male same-sex households in the U.S. are parenting at twice the rate reported by White male same-sex households, 36% versus 18% respectively.
- Male same-sex couples in which both partners are Hispanic are raising children at more than three times the rate of white non-Hispanic male same-sex couples (58 percent vs. 19 percent).

¹ *Gay and Lesbian Adoptive Parents: Resources for Professionals and Parents*. Author(s): Child Welfare Information Gateway. Published in 2000: http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/f_gay/f_gay.cfm

² "Same-Sex Couples and Same-Sex Couples Raising Children in The United States: Data from Census 2000" By R. Bradley Sears, Esq., Gary J. Gates, PhD. And Professor William B. Rubenstein. Published September 2005 by the Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at UCLA School of Law: <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/USReport.pdf>

³ "Same-sex Couples and Same-sex Couples Raising Children in Washington: Data from Census 2000" By Bradley Sears and Professor William B. Rubenstein, published January 2005 by the Williams Project on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy at UCLA School of Law: <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/WashingtonStateReport.pdf>. See parallel reports analyzing Census 2000 data from California, Connecticut, Colorado, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Texas: <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/publications/Policy-Census-index.html>

⁴ See <http://thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/2000BlackSameSexHouseholds.pdf> and <http://thetaskforce.org/downloads/reports/reports/HispanicLatinoHouseholdsUS.pdf>