

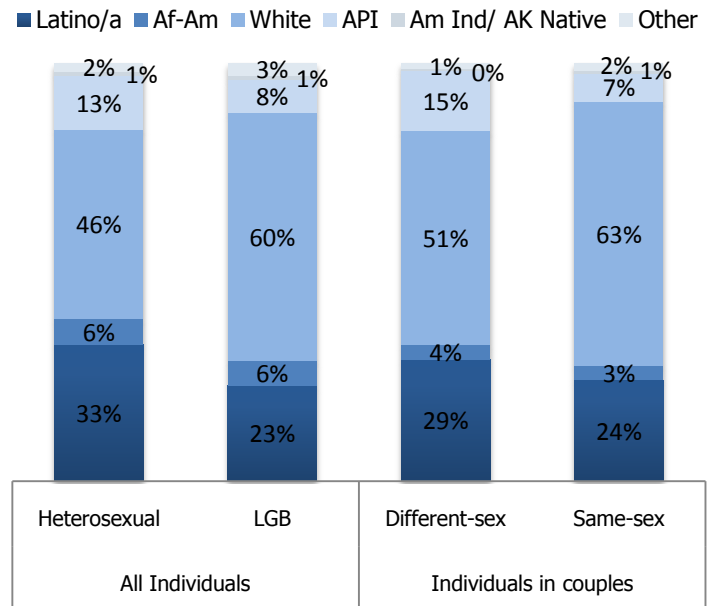
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This report provides a general overview of Latinos/as in same-sex couples as well as the broader Latino/a lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) population in California.¹

We use data from the 2005/2006 American Community Survey (ACS), conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, to compare the characteristics of Latino/as in same-sex couples to their different-sex married counterparts. In all cases, when this report describes characteristics of couples, the data source is the ACS. While the ACS provides an excellent source of information about those in same-sex couples, it cannot provide information about the larger Latino/a LGB population since it includes no explicit question about sexual orientation.

The 2003 and 2005 California Health Interview Surveys (CHIS) ask respondents to disclose their sexual orientation and collect much of the same demographic information included in the ACS. We use data from the CHIS to compare demographic traits between Latino/a LGB and heterosexual men and women (both single and coupled) in order to provide a more well-rounded demographic portrait of California's Latino/a LGB community. In all cases where this report describes characteristics of the LGB community, the data source is the CHIS.²

Race/Ethnicity



Key Findings

- Nearly 1 in 4 individuals in same-sex couples in California, or 52,192 people, are Latino/a.³
- Just over 12% of all Latino/as in same-sex couples in the United States live in California, a greater percentage than any other state.
- Over 81% of Latino/as in same-sex couples in California are of Mexican descent, similar to the percentage of Latino/as in different-sex married couples (82%)
- Almost 50% of Latinas and 43% of Latinos within same-sex couples are raising children. These individuals are raising over 24,948 children in California.⁴
- Latino/a same-sex parents have fewer financial resources to support their children than those in married couples, with an average household income of \$49,385 compared to \$63,017. Both figures fall below the average household income of all different-sex married couples with children in California (\$97,519). Latino/a parents are also less likely than Latino/a different-sex married parents to own their homes (36% vs. 57%).

MORE THAN 200,000 LATINO/A LESBIAN, GAY, AND BISEXUAL ADULTS LIVE IN CALIFORNIA; 52,410 LATINO/AS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES

- There are an estimated 200,000 LGB Latino/as in California, comprising 2.4% of Latino/a adults in California.
- Latinos/as make up 23.4% of the state’s total LGB population versus 32.9% of the total heterosexual population.
- Over a quarter (24%) of men and women in same-sex couples are Latino/a, compared to 29% of those in different-sex married couples.

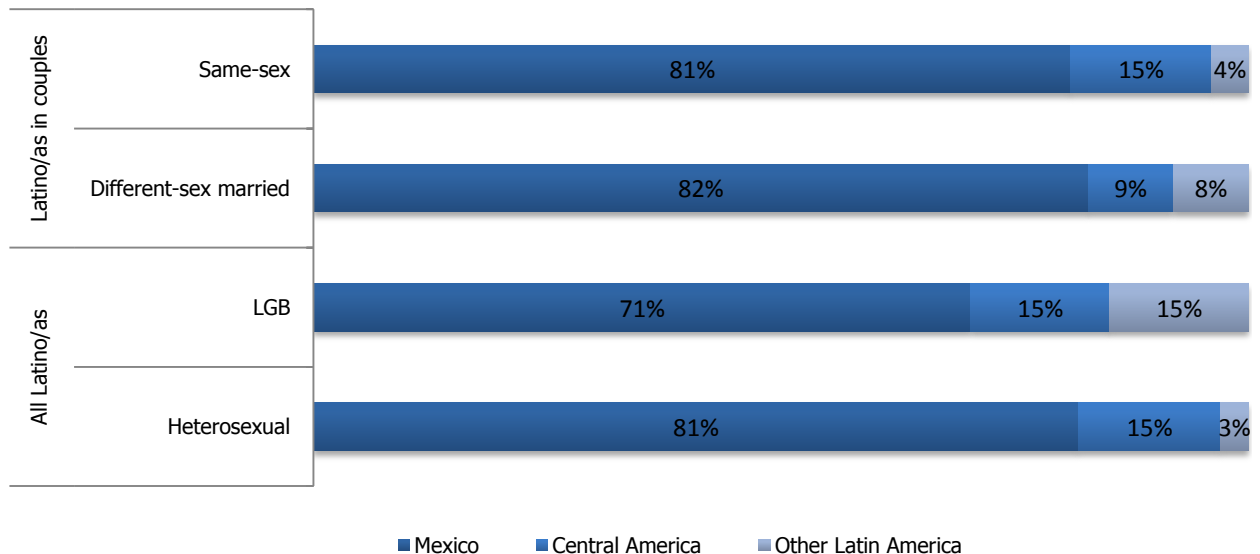
LGB LATINO/AS ARE YOUNGER AND MORE URBAN THAN HETEROSEXUAL LATINO/AS AND THE NON-LATINO/A POPULATION

- Approximately 58% of Latino/as in same-sex couples are aged 18-39 compared to 46% of Latinos/as in different-sex marriages.
- Of LGB Latino/as, 77% are aged 18-39 compared to 64% of Latino/a heterosexuals.
- Almost 90% of LGB Latino/as live in urban areas compared to 78% of heterosexual Latino/as.
- Heterosexual Latino/as are slightly more likely to live in a suburban area (13%) than their LGB (9%) counterparts; 9% of Latino/a heterosexuals live in rural areas compared to 4% of LGB Latino/as.

CITIZENSHIP PATTERNS DIFFER BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND COUPLING STATUS

- Although Latino/as in same-sex couples have similar citizenship rates to their Latino/a counterparts in different-sex marriages, those in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to be citizens by birthright as opposed to naturalization (49% vs. 33%).
- Latino/as in either couple-type are about equally likely to be a foreign citizen: 40% for those in same-sex couples versus 43% for those in different-sex married couples.
- A similar pattern of citizenship is observed when comparing lesbian, gay, and bisexual Latino/as to their heterosexual counterparts. The 51% of LGB Latino/as born in the U.S. compares to only 34% of heterosexuals. LGB (34%) and heterosexual (48%) Latino/as have disparate rates of non-citizenship.
- Latino/as within same-sex couples and different-sex marriages are both largely of Mexican descent, 81% and 82%, respectively; 15% of Latino/as within same-sex couples come from Central America and 4% from other Latin American countries.
- Among all LGB Latino/as, Mexico is the main country of origin (71%); 15% were born in Central America and 15% in South America or the Caribbean.

Country of Origin



LATINO/AS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE IN AN INTER-ETHNIC RELATIONSHIP

- About 87% of Latino/as in married different-sex couples are with another Latino/a, compared to only 72% of Latino/as in same-sex couples.

MEN COMPRISE A MAJORITY AMONG LATINO/AS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES AND THE LGB POPULATION AT-LARGE

- Among Latino/as in same-sex couples, a significant difference exists, 58% are male and 42% are female.
- Males also make up a larger percentage of the overall Latino/a LGB population, 53% to 47%.

LGB LATINO/AS ARE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY

- The employment rate for Latino/as is 67%, regardless of couple type.
- The percentage of LGB Latino/a individuals who are employed (69%) exceeds that of heterosexual Latino/as (67%).

LGB LATINO/AS HAVE RELATIVELY HIGH LEVELS OF EDUCATION

- Latinos/as in same-sex couples are significantly more likely to have a college degree (20% vs. 10%) than their different-sex married counterparts.
- Similarly, LGB Latino/as are more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to have a college education (25% versus 9%).
- Compared to the 47% of all LGB Californians and the 32% of all heterosexuals whom hold at least a college degree, Latino/as are less likely to have a college degree (regardless of sexual orientation or coupling status).

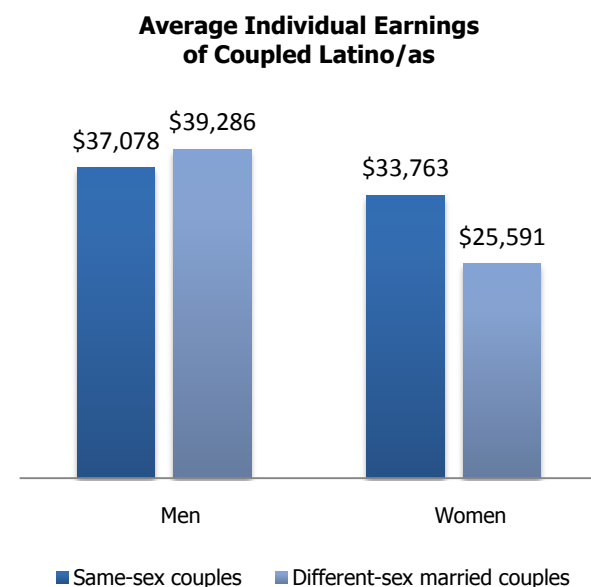
LGB LATINO/AS HAVE ACTIVELY SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

- Despite the military's historic policies of excluding LGB people from service, 6% of Latinos in same-sex couples are veterans; 1.4% of Latinas in same-sex couples have served in the military, a significantly larger percentage than the 0.5% of Latinas in married heterosexual couples.

- Three percent of all LGB Latinos have served in the military compared to 5% of Latino heterosexuals.

LATINO MEN IN SAME-SEX COUPLES EARN LESS THAN MEN IN MARRIED DIFFERENT-SEX COUPLES

- Latinos in same-sex couples have median individual earnings of \$25,100, over 20% less than the median earnings for Latinos in different-sex married couples (\$32,000).
- The figures for Latinas in California mirror previous national findings; females in same-sex couples have higher earnings than married women in different-sex couples.



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOMES FOR LGB LATINO/AS EXCEED THAT OF LATINO/A HETEROSEXUALS YET ARE STILL WELL BELOW THAT OF THE BROADER LGB POPULATION

- Gay/Bisexual Latinos have a median household income of \$35,000 and lesbian/bisexual Latinas have a median household income of \$45,000, compared to the \$25,000 of heterosexual males and females.
- Gay/Bisexual Latinos have a lower median household income than the larger gay/bisexual and heterosexual population, both at \$55,000.

LATINO/AS IN SAME-SEX COUPLES AND WITHIN THE LARGER LGB POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA HAVE LOWER HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES

- Latinos/as in same-sex couples have a homeownership rate of 45% compared to 60% among Latino/as in different-sex married couples.
- The LGB Latino/a homeownership rate stands at 38%, less than the 42% homeownership rate of heterosexual Latino/as.
- Latino/as, regardless of sexual orientation are less likely to own their homes than the total heterosexual population, 57% of whom own their homes.

NEARLY HALF OF LATINO/AS WITHIN SAME-SEX COUPLES ARE RAISING CHILDREN

- Approximately 43% of Latinos within same-sex couples and 50% of Latinas within same-sex couples are raising children under the age of 18, compared to 72% of married different-sex Latino/a couples.

- Among all Latino/a LGB individuals, both single and coupled, 12% of men and 35% of women are raising children, rates much higher than the overall LGB population in which 6% of men and 25% of women are raising children.

LATINO/A SAME-SEX PARENTS ARE RAISING CHILDREN WITH FEWER ECONOMIC RESOURCES THAN DIFFERENT-SEX MARRIED PARENTS

- Latino/a same-sex parents have limited financial resources to support their children with an average household income of \$49,385 compared to \$63,017 for Latino/a married couples. Both figures fall below the average household income of all same-sex couples with children (\$81,673) and different-sex married couples with children (\$97,519).
- Latino/a parents in same-sex couples are also less likely than Latino/a different-sex married parents to own their homes (36% vs. 57%).

Household income: Latino/as in couples raising children

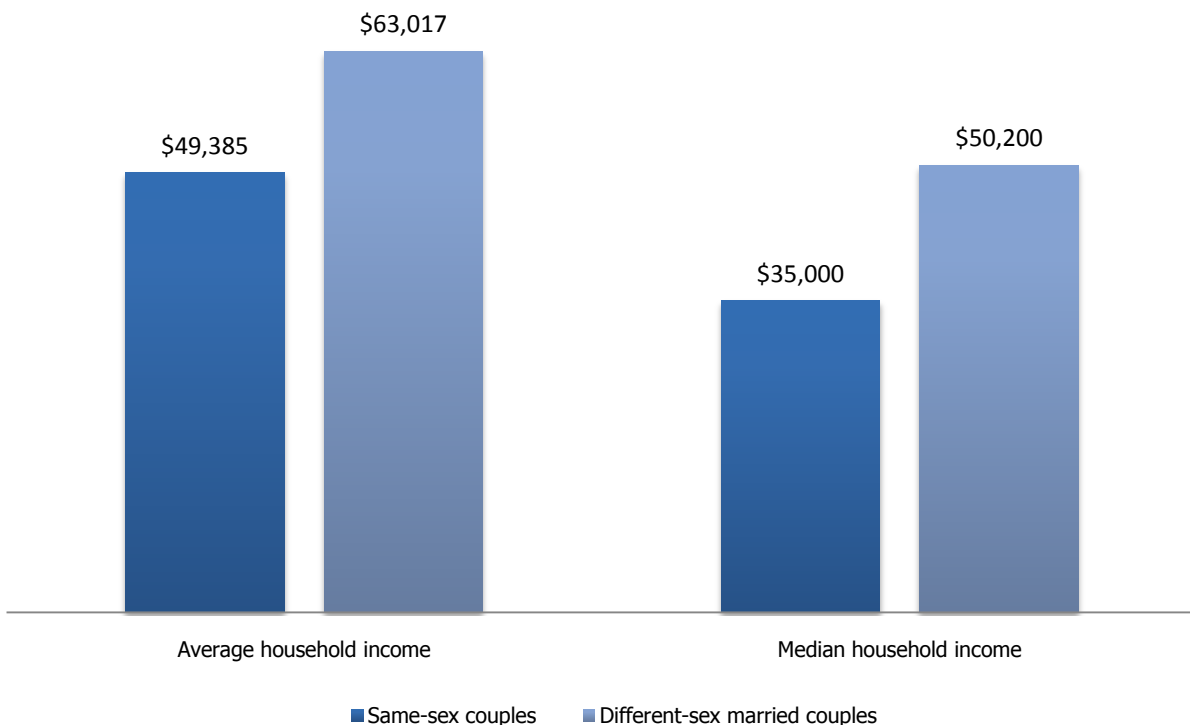


Table One: Characteristics of Latino/as in California

	California Health Interview Survey 2003/2005, Age 18-70		American Community Survey	
	LGB	Heterosexual	In a same-sex couple	In a different-sex married couple
Sex				
Male	53.4%*	51.5%	58%^	51%
Female	46.6%	48.5%	42%^	49%
Average age				
18-24	30.5%*	20.5%	12.7%^	3.8%
25-39	46.8%	43.7%	44.8%	42.0%
40-64	22.1%*	33.3%	39.3%^	47.6%
65+	0.6%*	2.5%	3.3%^	6.9%
Latino origin				
Mexico	70.7%*	81.3%	81.3%	82.4%
Central America	14.6%	15.4%	15.02%^	9.5%
Other Latin America	14.6%	3.1%	3.7%^	8.1%
Europe	0.0%	.1%		
Citizenship status				
Citizen by birthright	50.8%*	33.8%	48.6%^	33.3%
Naturalized citizen	15.0%	18.5%	11.0%^	24.2%
Non-citizen	34.2%*	47.7%	40.4%	42.6%
Place of Residence				
Urban	87.0%*	78.4%		
Suburban	9.4%	12.5%		
Rural	3.6%*	9.0%		
Percent with a college degree or better	25.4%*	9.2%	19.8%^	9.8%
Percent Employed	68.8%	66.5%	67.2%	66.8%
Median Household Income				
Men	\$35,000	\$25,000		
Women	\$45,000	\$25,000		
Average individual salary				
Men			\$37,078	\$39,286
Women			\$33,763^	\$25,591
Median individual salary				
Men			\$25,100	\$32,000
Women			\$28,000	\$20,000
Veteran Status			3.9%	4.1%
Men	3.4%	5.4%	5.7%	7.7%
Women	0.0%	0.3%	1.4%^	.5%
Homeownership	38.1%	42.4%	45.3%^	59.9%
Percent with children under 18				
Men	12.2%*	49.8%	42.5%^	72.2%
Women	35.0%*	62.0%	49.8%^	72.2%

* Difference significant from heterosexuals at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).

^ Difference significant from different-sex married couples at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).

Table Two: Characteristics of Latino/as in couples with children, ACS only

	In a same-sex couple	In a different-sex couple
Average household income (parents)	\$49,385 [^]	\$63,017
Median household income (parents)	\$35,000	\$50,200
Homeownership	35.5% [^]	57.1%

* Difference significant from heterosexuals at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).
^ Difference significant from different-sex married couples at the 5% level or better (two-tailed tests).

¹ Throughout this report we will use the terms “Latino/a” and “Latino/as” when referring to the population as a whole, “Latino” or “Latinos” when referring to just males, and “Latina” or “Latinas” when referring to just females.

² Characteristics of California’s gay/lesbian, bisexual, and heterosexual population are derived from the 2003 and 2005 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS). The CHIS is conducted by the UCLA Center for Health Policy Research in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health, the Department of Health Care Services and the Public Health Institute. It is funded by public agencies and private organizations. It is considered a representative sample of the California population. Adults aged 18-70 are asked their sexual orientation along with a variety of questions about their demographic, economic, and health characteristics. In most cases, we combine samples from 2003 and 2005 to increase sample sizes and accuracy for the lesbian, gay, and bisexual respondents. CHIS surveyed over 40,000 California households in each of those years. Estimates of demographic characteristics for individuals in couples are made using an average of the 2005 and 2006 data of the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS). The American Community Survey contains detailed information about all members of the household, including citizenship, country of origin, and a variety of demographic and economic characteristics.

³ Latino/a includes (1) all persons who did not identify themselves as “White” when completing their census forms, and (2) all persons who identified themselves as “White,” but also as “Spanish/Hispanic/Latino.” For a more holistic discussion of the various personal, instrumental, and external factors functioning around the construction of race and ethnicity with specific focus on Latinos/as see: Rodriguez, Clara E. 2000. Changing Race: Latinos, the Census, and the History of Ethnicity in the United States.

⁴ Computed by multiplying the number of same-sex couples times the percent of same-sex couples with children times the average number of children under 18 in the household.

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