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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on Judiciary, Corrections and
Privacy...**


COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

Public Interest Law Section

 State Bar of Wisconsin

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Fons Law Office

November 28, 2005

Karyn L. Rotker, Chairperson-Elect
ACLU WI Foundation

Eva L. Shiffrin, Secretary/Treasurer
Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual
Assault Inc

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary Corrections & Privacy, Assembly Committee
on Judiciary

David C. Bender
Garvey McNeil & McGillivray SC

From: Attorney Eva L. Shiffrin, Secretary/Treasurer
Public Interest Law Section, State Bar of Wisconsin

Patricia M. Cavey
Mental Disability Law Center

RE: Assembly Joint Resolution 67

Elizabeth B. Corbett
Corbett Law Office

Thank you for allowing me to testify against the proposed constitutional
amendment. My name is Eva Shiffrin and I am speaking as a board member of
the Public Interest Law Section of the Wisconsin State Bar Association.

Edward R. Garvey
Garvey McNeil & McGillivray SC

Daniel A. Idzikowski
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of
La Crosse

**The Public Interest Law Section of the Wisconsin State Bar Association
(PILS) opposes** the proposed constitutional amendment that defines marriage as
between one man and one woman and denies any legal status identical or
substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals.

Harold A. Menendez
Legal Action of Wisconsin Inc

Mitch
Community Justice Inc

The Public Interest Law Section of the Wisconsin State Bar works to promote the
interests of low income or otherwise unrepresented members of the public in
Wisconsin. Our section is composed of attorneys with expertise in the areas of
public benefits, health care, housing, consumer rights, guardianship, surrogate
decision-making, protective placement, mental health commitments, civil rights,
liberty issues and any other issue that affects the health, safety and well-being of
low-income or otherwise underrepresented members of the public.

Robert A. Peterson
ABC for Health Inc

Victoria S. Selkove
Economic Justice Institute

Christine Lyn Taylor
Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin


Carol J. Wessels
Wessels Law Office LLC

This amendment has the potential to detrimentally affect unmarried Wisconsin
couples in all of these areas. Low income unmarried Wisconsin couples, both
heterosexual and homosexual, will feel the impact of this amendment to the
greatest extent. The PILS echoes many of the concerns of others who oppose the
amendment. PILS believes that this amendment deprives citizens of basic and
fundamental rights and allows discrimination against unmarried individuals, both
gay and straight. The PILS believes the constitution should be used to grant
rights and not remove rights. As lawyers, we believe that this amendment could
deny access to the legal system for redress for wrongs. Important constitutional
rights such as the right to privacy, access to the courts, and more would be denied
to unmarried couples. The PILS believes that this amendment deprives citizens
of constitutional life, liberty, and happiness rights which should be available to
all citizens of Wisconsin. Wisconsin already defines marriage as between a man
and a woman. This amendment goes beyond defining marriage and runs the risk
of creating drastic consequences for unmarried couples that most citizens do not
stand for when properly understood.

State Bar of Wisconsin

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Specifically, the PILS believes that the affects of this amendment will be unduly borne by low income unmarried and gay couples. The amendment would allow discrimination against gay individuals in employment, housing, benefits, and more. The PILS believes that discrimination of any sort on the basis of sexual orientation is wrong and has no place in our state's constitution. It is our firm belief that even many of those who oppose gay marriage believe that gay and unmarried couples should not face this type of discrimination.

While the debate regarding the amendment has been framed as one about gay marriage, many do not realize is that the amendment could have serious consequences for heterosexual people who are unmarried. The second part of the constitutional provision is equally as important as the first and its impact possibly even farther-reaching. This amendment also includes language that denies any status similar to marriage to unmarried individuals. The experiences of other states point to the dangers of such a broadly worded amendment. In two other states that I am aware of, the first legal challenge relying upon the amendment involved unmarried heterosexuals—in these instances, a batterer used an amendment like the one proposed here in Wisconsin to negate legal protections designed to protect the safety of an unmarried battered woman. We don't want to see this happen in Wisconsin.

The use of the amendment by batterers to deny protections for victims is likely only the first use of the amendment to deny rights to unmarried individuals and undo positive and beneficial laws that protect our citizens. More are almost certain to occur. Anytime an unmarried person is gaining a benefit normally accorded to married people, a legal challenge could arise based on the amendment. This could be anything from who can be present during a murder trial of a loved one to who can sign a permission slip for a child to play a sport at school. The citizens of Wisconsin don't want this type of interference. The amendment could potentially erode protections for gay individuals in the workplace, in health insurance, in health-care decision-making, against intimate partner violence, and more. Most individuals believe that same sex partners deserve these protections to the same extent as all citizens.

This amendment could erode the minimal protections used by LGBT and unmarried couples to create stability in their families. For example, surrogate decision-making instruments, contractual agreements, and family court orders could all be subject to challenge. Any time a challenge ensues, those in lower income brackets suffer to a greater extent than any other. Further, any limited ability LGBT and unmarried persons have to seek rights in court could be severely limited. It would be impossible to imagine the variety of ways in which the amendment could be used to impact unmarried individuals and overturn established laws that all agree are beneficial

This amendment has the potential to affect virtually all of the public interest ideals our section stands for including civil rights, benefits, health care, housing, consumer rights, surrogate decision-making, elder rights, and the interests of low income individuals. Its passage will result in the deprivation of rights for LGBT and unmarried individuals and could also result in unintended and disastrous consequences.

For more information, contact Cathleen Dettmann, State Bar of Wisconsin lobbyist, at (608) 250-6045 or cdettmann@wisbar.org

NOTE: The views expressed on this issue have not been approved by the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Wisconsin and are not the views of the State Bar as whole. These views are those of the Section alone.

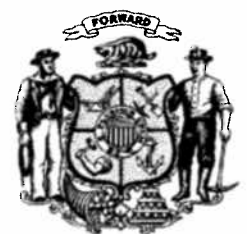
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Wisconsin Coalition for Traditional Marriage, Inc.

Testimony of Camille Solberg, President & Jose Flores, Advisory Council
Senate Joint Resolution 53/Assembly Joint Resolution 67
Wisconsin's Defense of Marriage Constitutional Amendment Proposal
Joint Public Hearing, Senate Judiciary Committee
& Assembly Judiciary Committee - Tuesday, November 29, 2005

Thank you, committee chairmen and committee members, for the opportunity to present testimony before this committee today on this vitally important issue for all Wisconsin citizens. Thank you, Sen. Fitzgerald and Rep. Gundrum, for your tireless leadership on this matter.

As leaders in Wisconsin's Hispanic community and as members of the Wisconsin Coalition for Traditional Marriage, we want to give our whole-hearted support for this amendment. We urge the legislature to vote in favor of the proposed resolution and get this issue to the people of Wisconsin for their say on the definition of marriage in our state.

The Wisconsin Coalition for Traditional Marriage is an unprecedented and diverse group of minority, faith, civic and business leaders allied and unified in our support for preserving traditional marriage in Wisconsin. And we present this testimony today on behalf of the Coalition.

Marriage in Wisconsin has always been and must always continue to be defined exclusively as the union of one man and one woman.

We want to be clear that this is not a battle we sought. We are, like most people in Wisconsin, busy with our families, friends, communities and vocations. We did not need another activity or cause.

However, activist judges and rogue public officials acting against the will of the people have set our nation and our state on a path to redefining one of the most basic of all human institutions: marriage between a man and a woman. We had no choice but to become engaged in this issue and lend our voices to those seeking to preserve traditional marriage in Wisconsin, for the sake of our children and our future.

Many of us here today spend our lives trying to create compassionate environments where children flourish. And what we know is that compassionate communities always come to the aid of motherless and fatherless families. Compassionate and caring communities **never intentionally create** motherless or fatherless families.

Moms and dads simply are not expendable nor interchangeable. No child development theory indicates children need two moms or two dads. Rather, child development theory and thousands of research studies conclusively show children need both their mother and their father.

While we certainly do not speak for all Wisconsin Hispanics, we do believe our presence on this Coalition represents thousands of our people who resoundingly believe traditional marriage in Wisconsin must be given the very best legal protection currently available, an amendment to our state constitution as is being considered here today, and that the legislature should take the appropriate action so that the people can have their say on this matter. What is at stake is our children and our future. We urge you as legislators to support SJR 53 and AJR 67. Thank you.

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Wisconsin Coalition for Traditional Marriage, Inc., is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) (application pending) Wisconsin corporation.

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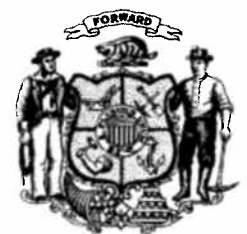
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Executive Director, The Family Research Institute of
Wisconsin, Madison



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

14 W. Mifflin Street, Suite 212, Madison, WI 53703-2568 Phone (608) 263-3422 Fax (608) 265-4070

Testimony on AJR 67 / SJR 53

Joint Public Hearing: Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Privacy & Assembly
Committee on Judiciary

By Brian Tanner

Legislative Affairs Director, United Council of UW Students

November 29, 2005

Chairmans Gundrum and Zien, members of the committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on some disturbing legislation. As the Legislative Affairs Director for the United Council of UW Students, I am here representing over 140,000 students on 24 University of Wisconsin campuses across our state. There are two main points I encourage you to consider as students urge you to vote against AJR 67 and SJR 53 which would amend our State Constitution to ban civil unions, domestic partnerships, and marriage for same-sex couples.

First, this proposed amendment simply hurts the state of Wisconsin. The University of Wisconsin is a major economic engine for our state, contributing \$9.5 billion to the state economy each year. At a time of minimal to non-existent pay increases and escalating healthcare costs for UW faculty and staff, this amendment puts the UW at a competitive economic disadvantage as it limits the incentives offered to recruit and retain world-class employees. The UW is one of two Big Ten institutions not to offer domestic partnership benefits and there are hundreds of other universities that offer equal compensation for their employees.

All members of the campus community, students, faculty, staff and administrators, deserve equal treatment and equal benefits. "Tolerance" and second-class treatment are completely irreconcilable. Proclaiming tolerance of someone while denying them rights granted to others is contradictory to the 14th Amendment of our United States Constitution.

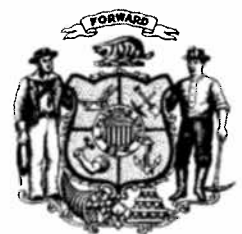
Second, this amendment hurts the recruitment and retention of UW students and graduates, inherently damaging the quality of a University of Wisconsin education. The majority of UW institutions provide some form of domestic partnership benefits for their students. Benefits range from health insurance, child care services, to university housing options. This amendment would invalidate these benefits and force UW students to choose between paying for a college education or health insurance for their partners and family.

All students have a right to equitable services and a quality education. Students, faculty, staff and administrators have a right to the benefits provided by their institution. Do NOT force UW students and alumni to choose between staying in Wisconsin and going to another state where discrimination is not codified in the state constitution. Students urge you to vote against AJR 67 and SJR 53.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Mrs. Joan Tatarsky
5229 No. 107th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53225
414-466-5431

November 29, 2005

Chairman Gundrum
Chairman Zien
Committee Members

Thank you for holding this public hearing on Senate Joint Resolution/ SJR 53 and Assembly Joint Resolution/AJR 67.

I strongly support the Marriage Amendment and urge quick passage of the bill.

I believe every human being should be treated with respect, however I cannot accept homosexual "marriages" that would make a mockery of traditional marriages. No one has a "right" to marry whomever they want.

Granting the privilege of the right to marry to homosexuals is to legitimize this choice of lifestyle and change the definition of marriage. The door would be open to any number of "arrangements". In the wings, the polygamists are waiting their turn to be recognized, approved of, and accepted.. What will we do with those who are now touting polyamorous relationships. Where will it end? In the destruction of marriage.

In the Scandinavian countries where same-sex marriage is acceptable, it has resulted in heterosexual couples not even bothering to marry and have legitimate children. Instead of marriage and stable families they now have many of what we call here, "shack-ups".

When same-sex marriages were legalized in Canada, only 1.4% of homosexual couples bothered to marry. Monogamy is not usually the goal even though some couples have a long-lasting arrangement. Gays can live the lifestyle they choose, legally there is nothing they can be denied, in spite of their claims. They can set up housekeeping, share income and expenses, make out a will to leave their possessions to whomever they please.

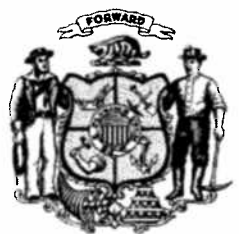
Marriage must not be changed.
Please pass the Marriage Amendment.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Joan Tatarsky
Eagle Forum of Wisconsin



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





AJR 67 / SJR 53
Constitutional Amendment on Marriage
Student Position
Judiciary Committee

Distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Jon Tingley and I am the LGBTQ Issues Director for the University of Wisconsin: Milwaukee Student Association. As a student, voter, and taxpaying citizen of Wisconsin, I am appalled by this amendment. This amendment directly affects students and faculty in the UW system who are currently receiving domestic partnership benefits. If the amendment passes, these students may be forced to find healthcare that was once guaranteed to them on top of paying the high price for tuition, books, and other expenses that they already pay. We will lose valuable staff that will not stand to live and work in a state that identifies them as second class citizens. This amendment also makes the UW system less appealing to LGBTQ students and their allies; who wants to go to school in a state where they are second class citizens? Correct me if I am wrong, but isn't our state motto "forward"? This amendment furthers discrimination that already exists in our state constitution, isn't that moving backward? Personally, as an LGBTQ student, I do not want to live or go to school in a state where I know that I do not have the same rights as my straight friends. I could easily take my money to a state that will support me, and there are many more students in Wisconsin that feel the same way.

As a leader of LGBTQ students at UW-Milwaukee, I cannot let our voice be unheard. This amendment is a direct contradiction to the forward thinking nature of Wisconsin and the UW system. As students, voters, and taxpayers, we will not let such discrimination go unnoticed.

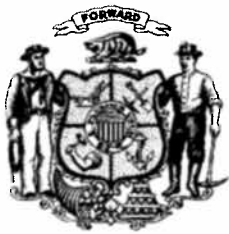
Thank you for your time,

Jon Tingley
LGBTQ Issues Director
UWM Student Association

Jon Tingley
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Legislature Joint Senate/Assembly Judiciary Hearing
Proposed Amendment 13 (Public Comments 11/29/05)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to the proposed amendment.

Richard and I met and fell in love in 1956. For 49 years, we have yearned for a marriage recognized in America.

Granting a Sanctified Church Wedding is up to the leaders of the Religion.

Churches that have raised the bar from tolerance to acceptance & encourage same sex marriage deserve to practice their religion equally & without Government interference. It is for this Legislature to preserve the Separation of Church and State for which our Forefathers and Foremothers fought with such courage.

Furthermore, a Civil Marriage & all of the recognition, dignity, benefits, obligations and responsibilities that go with it should rightfully be ours.

Instead:

- Our taxes have been higher for 49 years, because we cannot file jointly.
- Richard couldn't get medical, dental, long term care or pension option from my last job.
- The survivor of us has no right to the other's Social Security.
- We are beneficiaries of our IRAs, but we cannot own them.
- Our estates will be taxed at higher rates.

Others in our community face attempts to deprive them of their jobs, their homes and even their children, or to prevent them from adoption. In thousands of ways our Dignity is attacked, and our very humanity and right to exist are questioned.

As the old song goes, "They curse us just for being what we are."

Euphemisms, like Partnership or Union set us apart from society. Substitute Terms that categorize & separate us become our Yellow Stars of David. Indeed, our European predecessors were also forced to wear stars, were pushed into gas chambers and shoveled into ovens. Here at home, African Americans learned long ago that "Separate, but Equal" IS NOT EQUAL.

This is not 1956 & Millions of LGBT Youth are just beginning to build their lives as we did. They will not stand for being shunned, disenfranchised & treated as second class citizens. ~~They have options we never had,~~ and Canada is not far away. Neither Wisconsin, nor America can afford that Brain Drain.

We take our inspiration from the Great peaceful Civil Rights Movement - From Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, Medger Evers, Rosa Parks, earlier from Marian Anderson and Eleanor Roosevelt, and during the days of Slavery - Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglas. Civil Rights were won by countless unknown Marchers, Sit In Demonstrators and by thousands who dared to register & vote. Those great Americans blazed the trail. Today, our chains are not visible, but they are real!

The poet was right, sometimes the law is an ass - African Americans were once counted as 3/5 of a person, and some states had antimiscegenous laws - Let us move forward, not backward.

The Advocates of this ~~despicable, divisive, dehumanizing~~ amendment are not our enemy. Our enemy is Ignorance and its allies Suspicion, Fear and Hate. We are asking the Members of the Wisconsin Legislature to remember & take the lead from their proud, progressive heritage - to show the country and the world that we choose Light over Darkness.

Abraham Lincoln urged the Nation to listen to their better angels. As you consider this amendment, please look into your hearts and listen to your better angels.

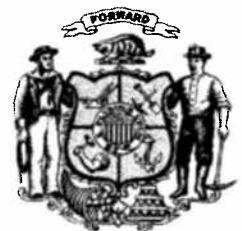
Surely, then you will recognize the justice of our cause & vote to defeat the proposed amendment.

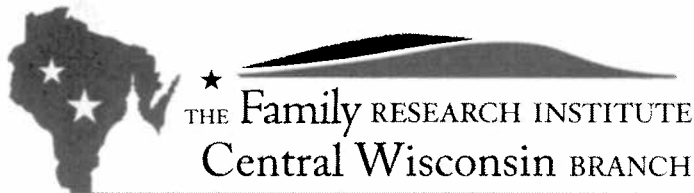
Thank you.

Richard Taylor
+
Raymond Libbey



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





November 29, 2005

To: Members of the Assembly and Senate Judiciary Committees

From: E. Lee Webster, LCSW
Chairman, Family Research Institute-Central Wisconsin Branch
Member of the Wisconsin Coalition for Traditional Marriage

Re: AJR 67 and SJR 53

Wisconsin has the opportunity to join with 19 other states in supporting the most important institution in this and any culture—The Family. First and foremost I come to you having been married for 43 years, the father of three children and a grandparent of ten. I am also a professional psychotherapist with more than 40 years of experience, the founder and director of a State Certified Outpatient Mental Health Center for the past 30 years. I am impressed by the farsightedness and social responsibility represented in the proposed Marriage Amendment. Marriage between a Man and a Woman clearly provides for the best for the couple, their children, and the citizens of our State.

I received my degree in Social work in 1965 and have had the opportunity to professionally observe the worst and best of family situations in adoptive, county child protective service agencies as well as marriage and family oriented mental health agencies, during my career. It is clear that everyone, especially children, fare best in homes with their birth parents. These children do better in every positive measure of success. They are academically superior students, physically healthier (less likely to be physically ill, less likely to be physically or sexually abused, less likely to contract a sexually transmitted disease), they are financially more secure, more socially responsible (less likely to be pregnant out of wedlock, less likely to become involved in delinquent activities). They are emotionally more healthy as evidenced by less drug and alcohol problems or problems with depression and suicide. Not only that but children raised by both birth parents are more likely to have a healthy heterosexual identity and relationships and successful marriages. No reasonable culture would want to create an environment where the opposites were the norm.

The cost to children is enormous but what are the potential costs our State? The costs of health care are already at the limit. Social Services budgets are stretched beyond anyone's imagination. The societal costs of drug and alcohol problems have reached astronomical proportions. Law enforcement and educators are hard pressed to deal with delinquency problems. I was taught that "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Isn't the best alternative the prevention that this legislation provides, positive affirmation for healthy marriages and families? The alternative is the dissolution of the most important stabilizing factor in society, the family. This is evidenced by the breakdown of marriage and family life in some of the Scandinavian Countries that have condoned alternative behaviors and relationships. We do not need that kind of social experimentation in our State.

Ultimately this all comes down to the most important **civil rights** issue of all, the right to a father and mother that are best able to provide for the "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for the most vulnerable citizens of our society—our children. Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

E. Lee Webster, MSW, BCD, LCSW
Chairman, Family Research Institute-Central Wisconsin Branch
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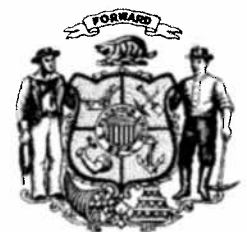
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Testimony Nov 29, 2005

Hello, My name is Dr. Paul Wertsch. I am a Family Practitioner in Madison. I am past president of the Wisconsin Medical Society and I am currently chair of the American Medical Association's advisory committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender issues concerning patients, medical students and physicians, but today I am speaking for myself.

I come before you today to present reasons I oppose the proposed constitutional amendment defining marriage and prohibiting anything "identical or substantially similar" to marriage to those whose sexual orientation is not heterosexual.

My concerns are threefold: 1st, personal, 2nd, based on our current medical communities understanding of homosexuality, and 3rd based on medicine's concern over the health care of our dependant children.

First, I am the father of a gay son. I have witnessed through him the discrimination against those who are gay and lesbian. Like every parent I want my children to be treated equally. Not special rights but equal treatment under the law. My son is a Federal Special Agent, who carries a gun and puts himself in harms way to protect the constitution and citizens of our country. It bothers me greatly that we are considering an amendment to our state's constitution to deny my son and his life partner, because of the sexual orientation that God gave him, anything "identical or similar" to marriage.

My second concern deals with the medical communities understanding of homosexuality. We do not yet understand the exact mechanism that determines sexual orientation. It must involve genetics because there are strong genetic relationships, but at this point there has not been any definite "gay gene" confirmed. There are known biochemical and behavioral data to suggest that sexual orientation is set early in the development of the child and can not be changed. Whether one acts on his or her sexual orientation can be changed but the sexual orientation of the brain remains unchangeable. Because of the unchangeability of sexual orientation the American Medical Association policy stands against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation as it does against discrimination on the basis of gender, race, or any other trait that can not be changed. If being gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender is not any more changeable than being left-handed then why should we deny to our non-heterosexual citizens something "identical or substantially similar" to marriage.

My third concern is for our children. The 2000 US Census¹ revealed that 33% of same sex female households have dependent children living in them. That's 33% have dependant children. 22% of same sex male households have dependent children while only 46% of opposite sex households have dependent children. Why is this important? In a married home all children have the security of having support, health insurance, ability to give permission for surgery, survivor benefits, and the many other things that marriage brings to the children involved. Why are we trying to deprive the children of the tax paying parents of same sex homes these societal benefits. Will we as a society be better off denying these children of same sex parent homes "identical or substantially similar" security and protection of marriage? This constitutional amendment, if it is interpreted to end civil unions would hurt children. No one wants to hurt children. Both the Wisconsin Medical Society and the American Medical Association have policy asking for protection of health benefits and insurance coverage for children in same sex parent family homes. They do not want to see

any more uninsured kids. We do not want more children on Medical Assistance when one of the parent's insurance can cover them.

In summary,

Please do not discriminate against my son because of the way God made him by denying him the responsibilities and benefits of something" identical or similar to" marriage.

Please do not discriminate against our Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual or Transgender citizens because of their sexual orientation which is no more changeable than being left handed.

Please consider the negative implications that this amendment may have on the dependent children in these same sex parent homes. We must not to anything to harm society's future citizens and this amendment will do just that.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Paul Wertsch, MD
608-221-1501 (w)
608-221-1956 (h)

1, Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000
US Census 2000 Special Report issued Feb 2003

Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000

Issued February 2003

Census 2000 Special Reports

CENSR-5

Introduction

Census 2000 enumerated 105.5 million households in the United States,¹ of which the majority (52 percent) were maintained by married couples (54.5 million). A reflection of changing life styles is mirrored in Census 2000's enumeration of 5.5 million couples who were living together but who were not married, up from 3.2 million in 1990.² These unmarried-partner households were self-identified on the census form as being maintained by people who were sharing living quarters and who also had a close personal relationship with each other.³ The majority of these unmarried-partner households had partners of the opposite sex (4.9 million) but about 1 in 9 (594,000) had partners of the same sex.⁴

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Question on Relationship to Householder From Census 2000

2. How is this person related to Person 1? Mark ONE box.

<input type="checkbox"/> Husband/wife	If NOT RELATED to Person 1:
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural-born son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Roomer, boarder
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted son/daughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Housemate, roommate
<input type="checkbox"/> Stepson/stepdaughter	<input type="checkbox"/> Unmarried partner
<input type="checkbox"/> Brother/sister	<input type="checkbox"/> Foster child
<input type="checkbox"/> Father/mother	<input type="checkbox"/> Other nonrelative
<input type="checkbox"/> Grandchild	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parent-in-law	
<input type="checkbox"/> Son-in-law/daughter-in-law	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other relative — Print exact relationship. →	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 questionnaire.

Of these same-sex unmarried-partner households, 301,000 had male partners and 293,000 had female partners.

This report presents information from Census 2000 on the characteristics of the 60 million households maintained by couples (also called coupled households). These coupled households were assigned

¹ Estimating numbers and characteristics of population groups with low probabilities of occurrence may be affected by even small reporting errors or incorrect optical reading of some questionnaires during data processing. The analysis of the number of same-sex couples and their characteristics may be susceptible to these problems if such errors were made in the relationship and sex items. For instance, if an error was made by the household respondent for the item "What is this person's sex?" an opposite-sex married-couple household could have been erroneously processed as a same-sex married-couple household. In this instance, the household would have most likely been reclassified as a same-sex unmarried-partner household. For a further explanation of the editing process, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/samesex.html.

¹ The text of this report discusses data for the United States, including the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Data for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are shown in Tables 2, 4, 5, and 6 and Figure 2.

² Data on unmarried partners from the 1990 census (which were based on data from the sample form) are not comparable with data from Census 2000 because of changes in the editing procedures. See www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/samesex.html for an explanation of these changes.

³ In contrast, people who were sharing the same living quarters but were doing so just to share living expenses were offered the opportunity to identify themselves as roommates or housemates.

By
Tavia Simmons
and
Martin O'Connell

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

United States
**Census
2000**

Table 1.
Married and Unmarried-Partner Households by Metropolitan Residence Status: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Household type and sex of householder	Total	In a metropolitan area						Not in a metropolitan area	
		Total		In central city		Not in central city		Number	Percent of all households
		Number	Percent of all households	Number	Percent of all households	Number	Percent of all households		
Total households ¹	105,480,101	84,304,885	79.9	32,753,918	31.1	51,550,967	48.9	21,175,216	20.1
Total coupled households ²	59,969,000	47,214,481	78.7	15,189,744	25.3	32,024,737	53.4	12,754,519	21.3
Married-couple households	54,493,232	42,757,993	78.5	13,232,903	24.3	29,525,090	54.2	11,735,239	21.5
Male householder	47,449,405	36,968,706	77.9	11,101,326	23.4	25,867,380	54.5	10,480,699	22.1
Female householder	7,043,827	5,789,287	82.2	2,131,577	30.3	3,657,710	51.9	1,254,540	17.8
Unmarried-partner households	5,475,768	4,456,488	81.4	1,956,841	35.7	2,499,647	45.6	1,019,280	18.6
Opposite-sex partners	4,881,377	3,949,743	80.9	1,709,317	35.0	2,240,426	45.9	931,634	19.1
Male householder	2,615,119	2,083,069	79.7	849,082	32.5	1,233,987	47.2	532,050	20.3
Female householder	2,266,258	1,866,674	82.4	860,235	38.0	1,006,439	44.4	399,584	17.6
Same-sex partners	594,391	506,745	85.3	247,524	41.6	259,221	43.6	87,646	14.7
Male householder	301,026	259,807	86.3	135,546	45.0	124,261	41.3	41,219	13.7
Female householder	293,365	246,938	84.2	111,978	38.2	134,960	46.0	46,427	15.8

¹Total includes other types of households including family and nonfamily households which do not contain either spouses or unmarried partners.

²Coupled households represent the total of married-couple and unmarried-partner households.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

to 1 of 4 mutually exclusive groups, depending on the relationship and gender of the householder and the spouse or partner: opposite-sex married couples, opposite-sex unmarried partners, male same-sex unmarried partners, and female same-sex unmarried partners. The numbers in this report do not show a complete count of all married couples and unmarried partners but only of couples and partners where one person was the householder. If the household included more than one couple, the household designation was determined by the status of the householder. For example, if a household was maintained by an unmarried couple but also contained the son of the householder and the son's wife, the household would be tabulated only as an unmarried-partner household in this report.

The information on household type is derived from the item on the

Census 2000 questionnaire (Figure 1) that asked about the relationship of each person in the household to the person on line 1, the householder (the person in whose name the house was owned or rented). The relationship item, which has been asked on the census since 1880, provides information about both individuals and the make-up of families and households. In 1990, the category "unmarried partner" was added to the relationship item to measure the growing complexity of American households and the tendency for couples to live together before getting married.⁵

⁵ For historical estimates of the number of unmarried partners derived from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, see www.census.gov/population/socdemo/hh-fam/tabUC-1.txt. For the results of the most recent survey, see Jason Fields and Lynne M. Casper, *America's Families and Living Arrangements: March 2000*. Current Population Reports, P20-537. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2001.

Unmarried partners are more likely than married couples to live in metropolitan areas.

Of the 105.5 million households in the United States, 84.3 million were located in metropolitan areas—32.8 million were within central cities and 51.6 million were located in the suburbs⁶—while the remaining 21.2 million were outside metropolitan areas (Table 1). Among the 60 million coupled households, 47.2 million were in metropolitan areas—15.2 million were in central cities and 32.0 million were in the suburbs—while the remaining 12.8 million coupled households were outside metropolitan areas.

Of the four different types of households maintained by couples,

⁶ In this report, two terms—suburban areas and suburbs—are used to designate that part of the metropolitan area which is not in the central city.

married-couple households had the lowest rate of metropolitan residence (79 percent), while same-sex unmarried-partner households had the highest rates: 84 percent of female same-sex households and 86 percent of male same-sex households. Opposite-sex unmarried-partner households had an intermediate rate of metropolitan residence (81 percent).

Married-couple households were less likely to be found in central cities (24 percent) than were unmarried-partner households (36 percent). Among unmarried-partner households, opposite-sex partners were less likely to reside in central cities (35 percent) than female same-sex partners (38 percent) or male same-sex partners (45 percent).

Married-couples and opposite-sex unmarried partners with female householders were more likely to be in metropolitan areas (both 82 percent) than were their counterparts with male householders (78 percent and 80 percent, respectively). Gender differences in central city residence were even more apparent: 30 percent and 38 percent for women compared with 23 percent and 33 percent, respectively, for men.⁷

About 9 percent of coupled households are unmarried-partner households.

Nationally, 57 percent of all households in 2000 were coupled households. Table 2 shows that the West and Midwest had the highest proportion (58 percent), while the Northeast had the lowest

⁷ On an historical note, the Census Bureau began listing wives as householders in married-couple families in surveys and the census beginning in 1980. Before that time, husbands were automatically designated as the householder in married-couple families. Beginning in 1990 when unmarried-partner households were first identified, either sex could be listed as the householder.

(55 percent).⁸ Overall, 9 percent of all coupled households were unmarried-partner households: the West had the highest percentage (10 percent), while the South had the lowest (8 percent).

Opposite-sex partners (4.9 million) constituted the vast majority of the 5.5 million unmarried-partner households. Nationwide, 594,000 same-sex unmarried-partner households represented 1 percent of all coupled households. On a comparative basis, the West had the highest percentage (1.2 percent) and the Midwest had the lowest (0.7 percent). Fifty-one percent of same-sex couples in the South and the West had male partners, compared with 50 percent in the Northeast and 49 percent in the Midwest.

The highest proportion of coupled households was in Utah.

Coupled households were most likely to be found in western states such as Utah (67 percent of households in that state), Idaho (64 percent), and Wyoming (60 percent), and in New England states (New Hampshire at 62 percent, and Vermont and Maine at 60 percent). Two other states, Iowa and Alaska, also had 60 percent of their households maintained by couples. New York had the lowest percentage (52 percent).

⁸ There are four regions (Northeast, Midwest, South, and West). The Northeast includes Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The Midwest includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The South includes Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. The West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Other states with proportions under 55 percent were Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Louisiana, and Mississippi (54 percent each). In the District of Columbia, 29 percent of all households were coupled.

Unmarried-partner households are least frequently found in the central United States.

The unmarried-partner category identifies people with a close and personal relationship that goes beyond sharing household expenses. People may live together as an unmarried couple for a variety of reasons. For young men and women, it may be a precursor to an impending marriage, while for others it may represent a transitory or trial relationship. For older couples that have been formerly married, it could represent an alternative lifestyle to the one they previously experienced, especially if child bearing and child rearing activities are not anticipated.

Interesting geographic patterns emerge in the proportion of all coupled households maintained by unmarried partners. Figure 2 shows that counties with above-average proportions of unmarried-partner households were concentrated in several areas. One extends from a number of southwestern states up the Pacific coast and into Alaska. A second large cluster runs from New York through New England. Other areas include the Mississippi Valley and southern Florida. In general, the counties in the Great Plains section of the United States, from west Texas northwards, were characterized by below-average proportions of unmarried-partner households. In a previous report,⁹ this area was

⁹ See Tavia Simmons and Grace O'Neill, *Households and Families: 2000*. Census 2000 Brief, Series C2KBR/01-8. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2001.

Table 2. Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households for the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	Married-couple and unmarried-partner households											
	Total households	Total coupled households ¹		Married-couple households	Total unmarried-partner households		Opposite-sex unmarried partners		Same-sex unmarried partners			
		Number	Percent of all households		Number	Percent of coupled households	Number	Percent of coupled households	Total		Sex of partners	
									Number	Percent of coupled households	Number	Percent of coupled households
United States	105,480,101	59,969,000	56.9	54,493,232	5,475,768	9.1	4,881,377	8.1	594,391	1.0	301,026	293,365
Region												
Northeast	20,285,622	11,205,641	55.2	10,127,653	1,077,988	9.6	958,742	8.6	119,246	1.1	59,328	59,918
Midwest	24,734,532	14,222,533	57.5	12,963,564	1,258,969	8.9	1,153,219	8.1	105,750	0.7	52,142	53,608
South	38,015,214	21,549,582	56.7	19,740,328	1,809,254	8.4	1,599,512	7.4	209,742	1.0	107,636	102,106
West	22,444,733	12,991,244	57.9	11,661,687	1,329,557	10.2	1,169,904	9.0	159,653	1.2	81,920	77,733
State												
Alabama	1,737,080	965,453	55.6	906,916	58,537	6.5	50,428	5.2	8,109	0.8	3,980	4,129
Alaska	221,600	132,886	60.0	116,318	16,568	12.1	15,388	11.6	1,180	0.9	483	697
Arizona	1,901,327	1,104,499	58.1	986,303	118,196	10.7	105,864	9.6	12,332	1.1	6,278	6,054
Arkansas	1,042,696	606,944	58.2	566,401	40,543	6.7	36,120	6.0	4,423	0.7	2,176	2,247
California	11,502,870	6,560,600	57.0	5,877,084	683,516	10.4	591,378	9.0	92,138	1.4	49,614	42,524
Colorado	1,658,238	949,895	57.3	858,671	91,224	9.6	81,179	8.5	10,045	1.1	4,640	5,405
Connecticut	1,301,670	745,340	57.3	676,467	68,873	9.2	61,487	8.2	7,386	1.0	3,559	3,827
Delaware	298,736	171,434	57.4	153,136	18,298	10.7	16,430	9.6	1,868	1.1	979	889
District of Columbia	248,338	71,517	28.8	56,631	14,886	20.8	11,208	15.7	3,678	5.1	2,693	985
Florida	6,337,929	3,561,888	56.2	3,192,266	369,622	10.4	328,574	9.2	41,048	1.2	22,988	18,060
Georgia	3,006,369	1,694,543	56.4	1,548,800	145,743	8.6	126,455	7.5	19,288	1.1	10,251	9,037
Hawaii	403,240	239,593	59.4	216,077	23,516	9.8	21,127	8.8	2,389	1.0	1,234	1,155
Idaho	469,645	299,075	63.7	276,511	22,564	7.5	20,691	6.9	1,873	0.6	902	971
Illinois	4,591,779	2,573,438	56.0	2,353,892	219,546	8.5	196,659	7.6	22,887	0.9	12,155	10,732
Indiana	2,336,306	1,376,309	58.9	1,251,458	124,851	9.1	114,632	8.3	10,219	0.7	5,054	5,165
Iowa	1,149,276	690,076	60.0	633,254	56,822	8.2	53,124	7.7	3,698	0.5	1,789	1,909
Kansas	1,037,891	610,223	58.8	567,924	42,299	6.9	38,326	6.3	3,973	0.7	1,888	2,085
Kentucky	1,590,647	929,210	58.4	857,944	71,266	7.7	64,152	6.9	7,114	0.8	3,310	3,804
Louisiana	1,656,053	893,061	53.9	809,498	83,563	9.4	74,755	8.4	8,808	1.0	4,180	4,628
Maine	518,200	310,033	59.8	272,152	37,881	12.2	34,487	11.1	3,294	1.1	1,493	1,901
Maryland	1,980,859	1,104,884	55.8	994,549	110,335	10.0	99,092	9.0	11,243	1.0	5,230	6,013
Massachusetts	2,443,580	1,328,836	54.4	1,197,917	130,919	9.9	113,820	8.6	17,099	1.3	7,943	9,156
Michigan	3,785,661	2,149,930	56.8	1,947,710	202,220	9.4	186,852	8.7	15,368	0.7	7,293	8,075
Minnesota	1,895,127	1,118,603	59.0	1,018,245	100,358	9.0	91,211	8.2	9,147	0.8	4,290	4,857
Mississippi	1,046,434	567,582	54.2	520,844	46,738	8.2	41,964	7.4	4,774	0.8	2,251	2,523
Missouri	2,194,594	1,251,876	57.0	1,140,866	111,010	8.9	101,582	8.1	9,428	0.8	4,684	4,744
Montana	358,667	210,008	58.6	192,067	17,941	8.5	16,723	8.0	1,218	0.6	554	664
Nebraska	666,184	390,533	58.6	360,996	29,537	7.6	27,205	7.0	2,332	0.6	1,112	1,220
Nevada	751,165	427,103	56.9	373,201	53,902	12.6	48,929	11.5	4,973	1.2	2,739	2,234
New												
Hampshire	474,606	294,998	62.2	262,438	32,560	11.0	29,857	10.1	2,703	0.9	1,156	1,547
New Jersey	3,064,645	1,789,640	58.4	1,638,322	151,318	8.5	134,714	7.5	16,604	0.9	8,257	8,347
New Mexico	677,971	385,360	56.8	341,818	43,542	11.3	39,046	10.1	4,496	1.2	1,901	2,595
New York	7,056,860	3,667,070	52.0	3,289,514	377,556	10.3	331,066	9.0	46,490	1.3	24,494	21,996
North Carolina	3,132,013	1,789,026	57.1	1,645,346	143,680	8.0	127,482	7.1	16,198	0.9	7,849	8,349
North Dakota	257,152	148,812	57.9	137,433	11,379	7.6	10,676	7.2	703	0.5	360	343
Ohio	4,445,773	2,514,887	56.6	2,285,798	229,089	9.1	210,152	8.4	18,937	0.8	9,266	9,671
Oklahoma	1,342,293	770,918	57.4	717,611	53,307	6.9	47,544	6.2	5,763	0.7	2,811	2,952
Oregon	1,333,723	777,166	58.3	692,532	84,634	10.9	75,702	9.7	8,932	1.1	3,846	5,086
Pennsylvania	4,777,003	2,705,295	56.6	2,467,673	237,622	8.8	216,456	8.0	21,166	0.8	10,492	10,674
Rhode Island	408,424	219,937	53.9	196,757	23,180	10.5	20,709	9.4	2,471	1.1	1,172	1,299
South Carolina	1,533,854	853,564	55.6	783,142	70,422	8.3	62,813	7.4	7,609	0.9	3,561	4,048
South Dakota	290,245	171,282	59.0	157,391	13,891	8.1	13,065	7.6	826	0.5	389	437
Tennessee	2,232,905	1,267,908	56.8	1,173,960	93,948	7.4	83,759	6.6	10,189	0.8	5,090	5,099
Texas	7,393,354	4,316,987	58.4	3,989,741	327,246	7.6	284,334	6.6	42,912	1.0	21,740	21,172
Utah	701,281	467,035	66.6	442,931	24,104	5.2	20,734	4.4	3,370	0.7	1,665	1,705
Vermont	240,634	144,492	60.0	126,413	18,079	12.5	16,146	11.2	1,933	1.3	762	1,171
Virginia	2,699,173	1,552,409	57.5	1,426,044	126,365	8.1	112,563	7.3	13,802	0.9	7,053	6,749
Washington	2,271,398	1,321,464	58.2	1,181,995	139,469	10.6	123,569	9.4	15,900	1.2	7,652	8,248
West Virginia	736,481	432,254	58.7	397,499	34,755	8.0	31,839	7.4	2,916	0.7	1,494	1,422
Wisconsin	2,084,544	1,226,564	58.8	1,108,597	117,967	9.6	109,735	8.9	8,232	0.7	3,862	4,370
Wyoming	193,608	116,560	60.2	106,179	10,381	8.9	9,574	8.2	807	0.7	412	395
Puerto Rico	1,261,325	723,042	57.3	682,804	40,238	5.6	33,420	4.6	6,818	0.9	3,122	3,696

¹Coupled households represent total of married-couple and unmarried-partner households.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

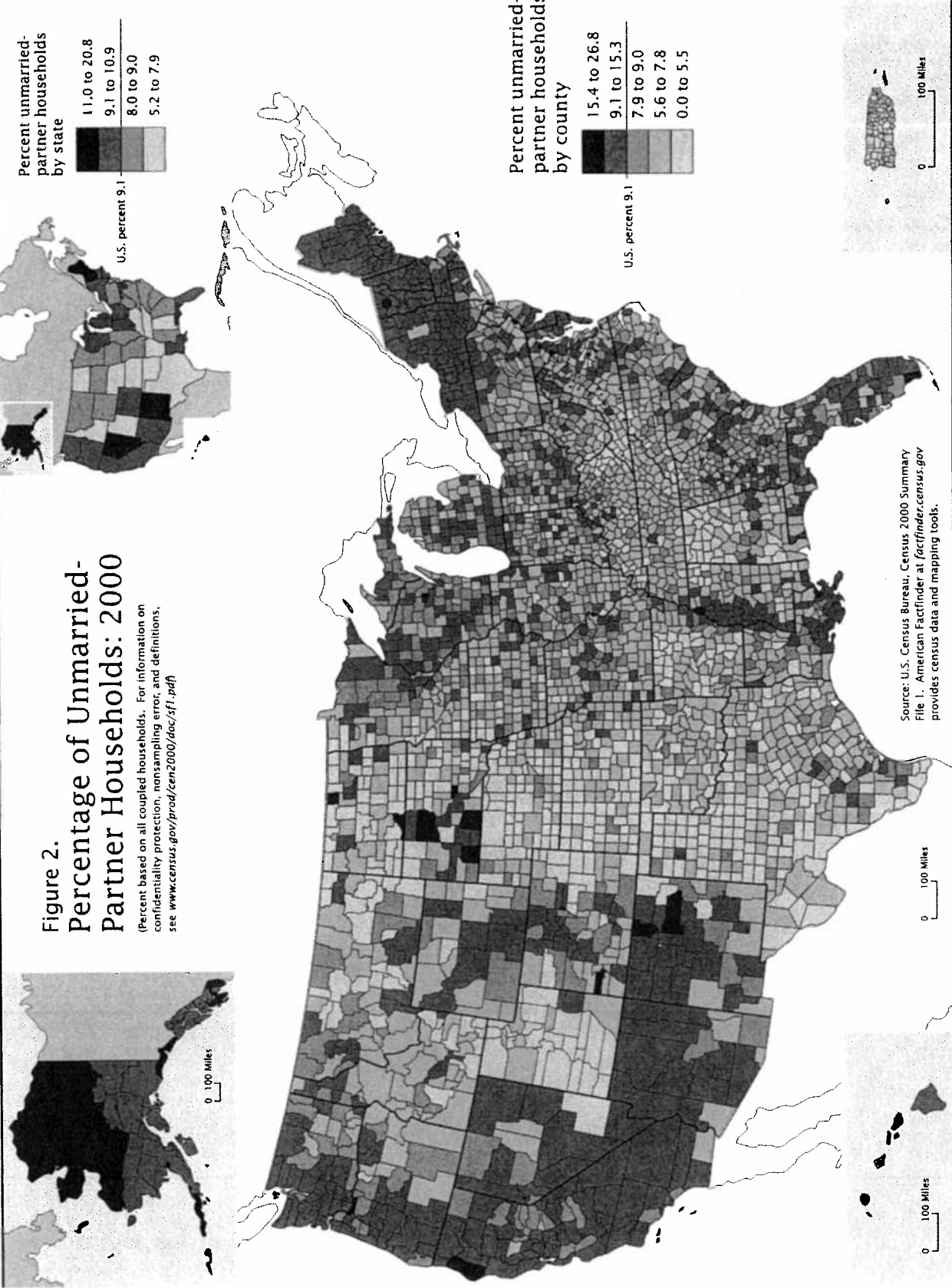


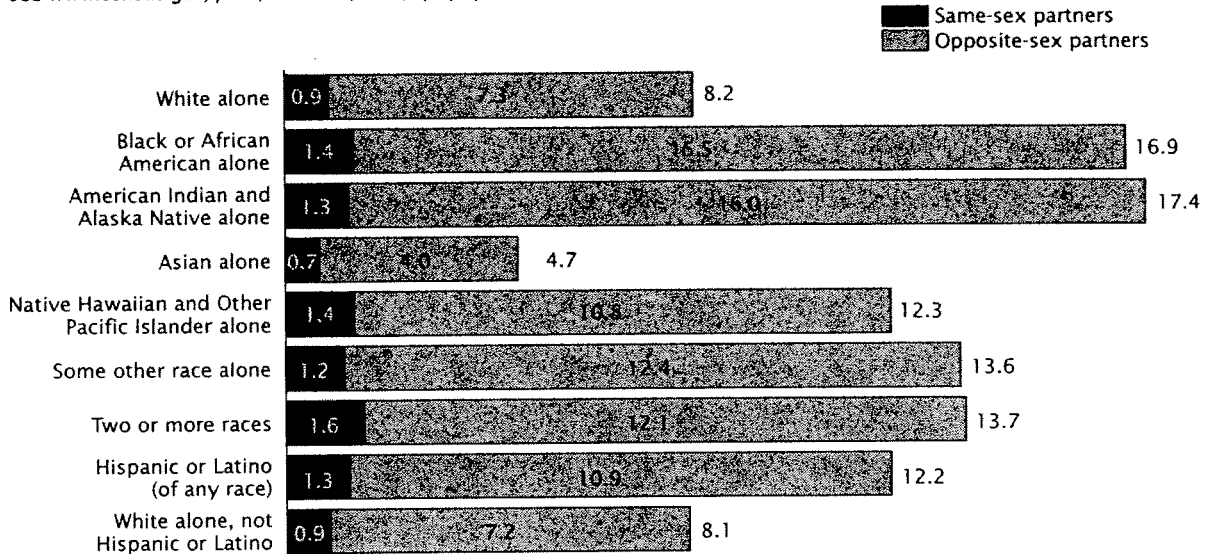
Figure 2.
Percentage of Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000

(Percent based on all coupled households. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. American Factfinder at factfinder.census.gov provides census data and mapping tools.

Figure 3.
Unmarried-Partner Households by Sex of Partners and Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 2000

(Percent of all coupled households. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/docs/sf1.pdf)



Note: Percent same-sex partners and percent opposite-sex partners may not add to total percent unmarried-partner households because of rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 2.

found to have above-average proportions of households consisting of married couples.

Compared with a nationwide ratio of 1 in 11, approximately 1 out of every 8 coupled households in Nevada, Alaska, Vermont, and Maine was an unmarried-partner household. In the District of Columbia, the ratio was 1 out of 5. States with the lowest percentages of unmarried-partner households included Utah (5 percent) and Alabama (6 percent). Puerto Rico also had a low percentage of unmarried-partner households (6 percent).

Since marriage patterns and living arrangements differ by racial and ethnic groups, geographic patterns

of the proportions of unmarried-partner households may emerge if an area has a high proportion of a specific population group. For example, Figure 2 shows that although the majority of counties in the Great Plains had below-average proportions of unmarried-partner households, high proportions were recorded for several counties in South Dakota that are geographically coincidental with American Indian reservations.¹⁰ Similarly, above-average proportions of unmarried couples were found in the

¹⁰ A visual representation of the population by race and ethnicity at the county level can be found in Cynthia A. Brewer and Trudy A. Suchan, *Mapping Census 2000: The Geography of U.S. Diversity*. Census Special Reports, Series CENSR/01-1. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2001.

Mississippi Valley, where above-average proportions of the population reported a single race of Black.¹¹

Figure 3 illustrates the wide range of differences in the proportion of unmarried-partner households to all coupled households by race and

¹¹ Census 2000 allowed respondents to choose more than one race. In this report, the "alone" category refers to people who indicated one race among the six primary categories: White, Black or African American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Some other race. The "alone" category is used for all of the racial groups in this report except for the Two or more race category. The use of the alone population in this section does not imply that it is the preferred method of presenting or analyzing data. In general, either the alone population or the alone or in combination population can be used, depending on the purpose of the analysis. The Census Bureau uses both approaches.

ethnicity.¹² In 2000, about 17 percent of coupled households for those reporting a single race of American Indian and Alaska Native or of Black were unmarried-partner households. The Hispanic¹³ population, which is concentrated in the southwest and California, also recorded above-average proportions of unmarried-partner households (12 percent). However, none of these groups is particularly concentrated in the Pacific Northwest or the New England states, which also have high proportions of unmarried-partner households, suggesting that explanations must be found elsewhere. The lowest proportion shown in Figure 3 was for those reporting a single race of Asian (5 percent).

California contained 1 out of every 8 unmarried-partner households in the country.

California, which had 11 percent of all households, had more unmarried-partner households than any other state: 684,000, or 12 percent of the 5.5 million total. Of these, 591,000 were opposite-sex and 92,000 were same-sex couples, representing 12 percent and 16 percent, respectively, of these types of households in the nation. The majority (54 percent) of the same-sex couples in California had male partners.

¹² Because Hispanics may be of any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap with data for racial groups. Based on Census 2000 100 percent data, the proportion Hispanic was 8.0 percent for the White alone population, 2.0 percent for the Black alone population, 16.4 percent for the American Indian and Alaska Native alone population, 1.2 percent for the Asian alone population, 11.4 percent for the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone population, 97.0 percent for the Some other race alone population, and 32.6 percent for the Two or more races population.

¹³ The terms "Hispanic" and "Latino" may be used interchangeably to reflect the new terminology in the standards issued by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997 that are to be implemented by January 1, 2003.

States which had the highest percentage of opposite-sex unmarried partners of all coupled households were Alaska (12 percent), followed by Maine, Vermont, and Nevada (11 percent each). States, which had the lowest percentage were Utah (4.4 percent) and Alabama (5.2 percent).

Among the states, the highest percentage of same-sex unmarried partners of all coupled households was in California, with 1.4 percent, closely followed by Massachusetts, Vermont, and New York, with 1.3 percent. The lowest proportion was found in Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota (0.5 percent). The District of Columbia recorded relatively high percentages for both types of unmarried-partner households: 16 percent of its coupled households were composed of opposite-sex partners and 5 percent of same-sex partners.

Nationally, 51 percent of the same-sex couples had male partners. States that had the lowest proportions included Vermont (39 percent) and Alaska (41 percent). Other states under the 45-percent level were geographically dispersed from New Hampshire (43 percent) and Maine (44 percent) in New England, to New Mexico (42 percent) in the Southwest and Oregon (43 percent) in the Pacific Northwest. Only two states had higher proportions of male partners than California (54 percent)—Florida (56 percent) and Nevada (55 percent). Seventy-three percent of the same-sex couples in the District of Columbia had male partners.

Married-couple households are often found in rapidly growing suburban communities.

Table 3 shows that, as a percentage of all types of households in

an area, the ten places with the highest percentage of married-couple households were most likely to be found in rapidly growing areas outside of large cities, such as Gilbert, Arizona, which is near Phoenix; Naperville, Illinois, which is outside of Chicago; and Plano, Texas, which is close to Dallas.¹⁴ Five of the ten highest-ranked places were in California. These findings are consistent with overall national statistics that show that the majority of married-couple households were in suburban areas of the United States (Table 1).

The three places with the highest percentage of households with opposite-sex unmarried partners were in the older industrial areas of the Northeast: Paterson, New Jersey; Manchester, New Hampshire; and Rochester, New York. However, two rapidly growing places in Nevada (Sunrise Manor and Spring Valley) also made the list.

In contrast, the highest percentage of households with same-sex unmarried partners were found in larger coastal cities such as San Francisco, California; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida; and Seattle, Washington. Four of these top ten places are in California, while only one is located in the Midwest (Minneapolis, Minnesota).

¹⁴ Gilbert, Arizona, was the fastest growing city between 1990 and 2000 of cities with 100,000 or more people in 2000. Two other cities in Table 3 were also ranked among the top ten fastest growing: Plano, Texas (number 8) and Corona, California (number 9). Naperville, Illinois, along with Fontana, California, and Laredo, Texas, were also in the top 20 fastest growing cities. See U.S. Census Bureau, *County and City Data Book: 2000*. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2002, Table C-1, for a list of these cities.

Table 3.

Ten Places of 100,000 or More Population With the Highest Percentage of Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Types of household and area	Total households, all types	Specified type of household	
		Number	Percent of all households
MARRIED-COUPLE HOUSEHOLD			
Gilbert, AZ	35,405	24,613	69.5
Naperville, IL	43,751	30,256	69.2
Plano, TX	80,875	52,029	64.3
Simi Valley, CA	36,421	23,258	63.9
Corona, CA	37,839	24,156	63.8
Livonia, MI	38,089	23,938	62.8
Fremont, CA	68,237	42,757	62.7
Fontana, CA	34,014	21,273	62.5
Thousand Oaks, CA	41,793	26,063	62.4
Laredo, TX	46,852	29,054	62.0
UNMARRIED-PARTNER HOUSEHOLD			
Opposite-sex partners			
Paterson, NJ	44,710	3,602	8.1
Manchester, NH	44,247	3,498	7.9
Rochester, NY	88,999	6,817	7.7
Sunrise Manor, NV*	53,745	4,071	7.6
Allentown, PA	42,032	3,139	7.5
San Bernardino, CA	56,330	4,193	7.4
Spring Valley, NV*	47,965	3,546	7.4
Hartford, CT	44,986	3,320	7.4
Lansing, MI	49,505	3,630	7.3
Green Bay, WI	41,591	3,040	7.3
Same-sex partners			
San Francisco, CA	329,700	8,902	2.7
Fort Lauderdale, FL	68,468	1,418	2.1
Seattle, WA	258,499	4,965	1.9
Oakland, CA	150,790	2,650	1.8
Berkeley, CA	44,955	788	1.8
Atlanta, GA	168,147	2,833	1.7
Minneapolis, MN	162,352	2,622	1.6
Washington, DC	248,338	3,678	1.5
Long Beach, CA	163,088	2,266	1.4
Portland, OR	223,737	3,017	1.3

*Sunrise Manor, NV, and Spring Valley, NV, are census designated places and are not legally incorporated.

Note: Census 2000 shows 245 places in the United States with 100,000 or more population. They include 238 incorporated places (including 4 city-county consolidations) and 7 census designated places (CDPs) that are not legally incorporated. For a list of these places by states, see www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/phc-t6/tab04.pdf.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

Female householders are found most frequently in the Northeast.

Research has shown that opposite-sex unmarried partners tend to share household activities more equally than married couples.¹⁵

¹⁵ For a discussion of the changing roles of spouses and partners in married-couple and unmarried-partner households, see Lynne M. Casper and Suzanne M. Bianchi, *Continuity and Change in the American Family* (Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA, 2002), Chapter 2.

This role-sharing behavior may also be reflected in the decision of whom to designate as the householder—the man or the woman. These differences in householder designation are revealed in Table 4—only 13 percent of married-couple households had a female householder, but nearly half (46 percent) of all opposite-sex unmarried-partner households did. Regionally, the Northeast had the highest and the Midwest had the

lowest percentage of householders who were women for married-couples (15 percent and 11 percent, respectively), while the Northeast had the highest percentage and the West had the lowest for unmarried-partner households (48 percent and 45 percent, respectively).

The highest percentage of married-couple households with female householders was recorded in New

Table 4. Selected Household and Family Characteristics of Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households for the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	Percent of householders female		Percent of households with children under 18 years						
	Married-couple households	Opposite-sex unmarried-partner households	Married-couple households ¹	Unmarried-partner households					
				Opposite-sex partners		Male partners		Female partners	
				Own children ¹	Own and/or unrelated children ²	Own children ¹	Own and/or unrelated children ²	Own children ¹	Own and/or unrelated children ²
United States	12.9	46.4	45.6	38.9	43.1	21.8	22.3	32.7	34.3
Region									
Northeast	15.4	48.4	45.2	37.4	40.9	21.3	21.7	31.2	32.6
Midwest	11.1	45.8	45.1	36.7	43.9	22.3	22.9	32.8	34.7
South	12.6	46.7	44.4	39.7	44.0	22.1	23.9	34.4	36.1
West	13.4	45.0	48.5	39.2	42.7	20.6	21.1	31.5	33.1
State									
Alabama	11.7	48.2	43.1	41.6	46.1	27.8	28.3	36.8	38.1
Alaska	15.0	43.8	54.4	40.6	45.1	36.2	37.1	37.0	38.6
Arizona	12.7	44.6	43.5	40.5	44.3	22.5	23.0	33.1	35.0
Arkansas	9.9	44.4	41.9	41.8	47.6	26.1	26.7	36.2	38.2
California	14.0	45.3	50.9	41.4	44.4	19.6	20.2	32.8	34.3
Colorado	13.8	45.7	47.2	31.3	34.6	19.9	20.5	26.1	27.8
Connecticut	17.2	50.7	45.4	35.6	38.7	21.9	22.2	30.2	31.6
Delaware	14.5	48.6	42.8	39.9	44.1	18.4	18.9	29.4	31.8
District of Columbia	24.9	56.6	36.6	31.8	32.8	4.8	5.0	23.4	24.5
Florida	14.4	46.5	38.1	35.5	39.2	17.4	17.8	29.3	31.0
Georgia	14.1	48.9	47.3	42.2	46.1	21.1	21.6	34.4	36.2
Hawaii	13.9	45.2	44.8	35.8	39.0	20.7	21.3	30.6	32.6
Idaho	10.0	42.3	47.8	37.6	43.0	30.3	30.8	35.7	37.9
Illinois	11.9	46.2	47.3	38.3	42.5	23.5	24.0	35.6	37.0
Indiana	10.3	44.0	44.4	40.5	47.0	22.8	23.5	33.6	36.3
Iowa	10.0	44.6	43.4	37.5	43.0	24.9	25.4	33.8	35.5
Kansas	10.1	44.8	45.9	39.1	44.1	28.3	29.0	36.5	38.1
Kentucky	11.4	46.1	43.7	40.1	46.0	23.5	24.4	33.0	34.9
Louisiana	12.1	47.7	46.2	44.4	48.5	25.9	26.3	38.5	39.8
Maine	15.1	45.2	41.4	35.7	40.9	18.7	19.0	25.2	27.1
Maryland	15.0	49.5	46.4	38.1	42.1	23.3	24.0	31.7	33.3
Massachusetts	16.6	49.8	45.8	32.8	35.9	18.1	18.6	27.7	29.0
Michigan	11.3	46.9	44.8	40.1	45.3	22.8	23.6	33.2	35.3
Minnesota	11.4	45.7	46.9	35.4	40.2	17.2	17.9	26.8	28.5
Mississippi	12.2	48.9	45.0	49.2	53.4	30.7	31.1	42.0	43.8
Missouri	10.3	45.5	43.6	39.9	45.7	20.9	21.5	31.7	33.7
Montana	11.7	44.0	42.9	35.1	39.3	28.7	29.6	34.2	35.5
Nebraska	9.8	44.6	45.9	36.4	41.5	24.7	25.7	32.7	34.4
Nevada	13.9	41.9	44.5	36.1	40.2	24.7	25.3	35.4	37.5
New Hampshire	15.3	43.7	45.9	33.0	38.1	22.3	22.9	27.2	29.0
New Jersey	14.7	48.0	47.4	38.1	40.9	25.4	25.8	33.6	34.7
New Mexico	12.0	44.2	46.1	48.4	51.7	27.4	27.9	31.0	32.2
New York	17.5	50.1	46.4	39.2	42.2	21.3	21.7	33.1	34.3
North Carolina	12.3	46.1	43.0	38.4	42.9	25.2	25.9	33.3	34.7
North Dakota	8.8	43.0	45.1	36.9	41.5	21.4	21.7	34.4	34.7
Ohio	12.4	46.9	43.6	40.2	45.3	20.9	21.6	31.8	34.0
Oklahoma	10.6	45.1	43.4	42.1	47.2	26.7	27.3	35.0	36.9
Oregon	13.7	45.6	42.8	33.9	38.4	18.9	19.5	26.3	28.1
Pennsylvania	11.6	45.6	42.3	38.5	42.8	20.9	21.3	31.5	33.2
Rhode Island	16.6	50.4	43.6	37.1	40.1	20.5	20.6	27.3	28.6
South Carolina	14.2	47.8	42.6	41.9	45.7	26.8	27.2	37.1	38.8
South Dakota	9.9	44.2	45.2	42.1	47.4	33.2	33.9	41.4	42.3
Tennessee	11.3	46.3	42.5	39.1	44.3	23.9	24.7	33.4	35.4
Texas	11.5	45.2	50.2	42.9	46.8	26.7	27.3	39.2	40.9
Utah	8.9	41.9	55.5	42.2	47.2	29.7	30.2	40.6	42.3
Vermont	16.5	46.2	44.2	33.8	38.3	19.9	20.6	26.7	28.9
Virginia	12.6	46.5	45.3	35.0	39.6	19.8	20.3	31.2	32.7
Washington	13.3	45.9	45.8	35.1	39.7	18.1	18.6	26.7	28.2
West Virginia	9.9	43.7	39.5	40.2	45.6	27.6	27.9	34.9	36.4
Wisconsin	10.5	45.4	44.5	34.9	40.5	21.7	22.4	30.6	32.4
Wyoming	10.9	41.2	44.3	36.0	41.8	28.2	29.9	35.7	37.5
Puerto Rico	14.1	54.4	49.4	56.5	58.7	39.2	39.2	42.2	42.5

¹Refers to own sons/daughters of the householder.

²Refers to own sons/daughters of the householder and other children not related to the householder.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1; and Census 2000, special tabulation.

York (18 percent). In all the states in New England, at least 15 percent of married couples had female householders. Only two states, North Dakota and Utah, had less than 9 percent. In the District of Columbia, one-quarter of married couples had female householders.

In Connecticut, 51 percent of opposite-sex unmarried partners had female householders, followed by New York (50 percent). The state with the lowest percentage was Wyoming (41 percent). The District of Columbia (57 percent) and Puerto Rico (54 percent) also had a relatively high percentage.

Almost one-half of married-couple households include children under 18 years.

Nationally, 46 percent of married-couple households had at least one son or daughter living in the household (defined as an "own child" of the householder).¹⁶ The West had the highest percentage with children (49 percent), while the South had the lowest (44 percent). Four states had at least 50 percent: Utah (56 percent), Alaska (54 percent), California (51 percent), and Texas (50 percent). The state with the lowest percentage was Florida (38 percent), likely a reflection of its older age distribution.

Four out of ten opposite-sex unmarried-partner households have children present.

The identification of the partner's own children in an unmarried-partner household is complicated when the child of the partner is not the biological child of the householder, because the Census

¹⁶ In this report, an "own child" of the householder includes any child under the age of 18 who is a biological, adopted, or stepchild of the householder.

2000 questionnaire recorded only each person's relationship to the householder. In circumstances where the child of the partner was not related to the householder, an actual family unit may not be identified in the tabulation. To address this issue, Table 4 includes data that attempt to capture the presence of the partners' children in unmarried-partner households.

Using this expanded child-defined universe, the percentage of children present in opposite-sex unmarried-partner households increases from 39 percent—counting only own children—to 43 percent—including both own and/or unrelated children under 18. Similar but smaller increases of 1 or 2 percentage points are noted for same-sex couples.

The South had the highest percentage of opposite-sex unmarried-partner households with their own children.

Among opposite-sex unmarried-partner households, the South had the highest percentage with their own children (40 percent), while the Northeast had the lowest (37 percent). Among the states, Colorado had the lowest percentage (31 percent), while Mississippi had the highest (49 percent).

Although married-couple households were more likely to contain own children of the householder than were opposite-sex unmarried-partner households, households in three states (Mississippi, New Mexico, and West Virginia) were more likely to contain their own children in unmarried-partner households. In Puerto Rico, 57 percent of all opposite-sex unmarried-partner households contained own children of the householder, 7 percentage points more

than for married-couple households.¹⁷

One-third of female partner households and one-fifth of male partner households contain children.

Nationally, 33 percent of female same-sex householders were living with their sons and daughters under 18 years old.¹⁸ The South had the highest percentage with own children under 18 years of age (34 percent), while the Northeast had the lowest (31 percent). In three states, 40 percent or more of these households had at least one own child living in the household (Mississippi, South Dakota, and Utah).

Overall, 22 percent of male same-sex householders had their own children present in the household. The percentage with own children ranged from 17 percent in Florida and Minnesota to 36 percent in Alaska. Other states where 30 percent or more of male same-sex households had own children present were South Dakota (33 percent), Mississippi (31 percent), and Idaho and Utah (30 percent each).

¹⁷ In 2000, both Mississippi and New Mexico had the highest percentage of children born out of wedlock of all states (46 percent, compared with the national average of 33 percent), while the corresponding percentage for Puerto Rico was 50 percent. This could possibly account for the relatively high proportions of unmarried-partner households with children in these states. See Joyce A. Martin, et al., *Births: Final Data for 2000. National Vital Statistics Reports*, Vol. 50, No. 5. National Center for Health Statistics, Hyattsville, MD, 2002, Table 19.

¹⁸ The proportions of same-sex unmarried-partner households with children shown in this report may be too high because of the possible inclusion of opposite-sex couples who had erred in marking their sex on the questionnaire or by incorrect optical reading of some questionnaires during data processing. However, research has indicated that sex was reported with extremely high consistency levels when subsequent reinterviews were made.

What circumstances may influence inter-state variations in the presence of children in same-sex unmarried-partner households? Factors could include not only geographical differences in fertility patterns of previously married partners before they entered a same-sex relationship, but also state laws related to child custody placements in cases of marital dissolution—which determine who retains custody of the child—and to adoption by same-sex couples.

Data from Census 2000 illustrate the variety of living arrangements of households with children: while the vast majority of households containing own children were married-couple households (24.8 million), over 2 million households included own children whose parents were living in nontraditional arrangements (1.9 million opposite-sex unmarried partners, 96,000 female partners, and 66,000 male partners).

Interracial couples are most prevalent in the West.

Nationally, in 6 percent of married-couple households, the household-er and the spouse were of different races (Table 5).¹⁹ Three to five percent of married couples in the Midwest, the Northeast, and the South had spouses of different races, compared with 11 percent in the West. The highest proportion was found in Hawaii (35 percent), followed by Alaska and Oklahoma (about 15 percent). Because these

states have high proportions of native populations (for example, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders, and American Indian and Alaska Natives, respectively), these states may have a greater potential for the likelihood of inter-marriage.

Unmarried-partner households consistently had higher percentages of partners of different races at the national and regional levels, and in individual states than did married-couple households.²⁰ Nationally, these percentages ranged from 10 percent for female unmarried partners to 12 percent for opposite-sex unmarried partners.

For opposite-sex unmarried-partner households, the West recorded the highest percentage of mixed-race partnerships (19 percent), and the Midwest the lowest (9 percent). Over one-half (56 percent) of these households in Hawaii had partners of different races, followed by Alaska (26 percent) and Oklahoma (25 percent).

The New England states of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, which have very high proportions of people who reported the single race of White, had the lowest proportions of different race partnerships for all four household types (around 5 percent or less). Two other states (Mississippi and West Virginia) also had comparatively low percentages for all four household types.

Three percent of married-couple households have one Hispanic and one non-Hispanic partner.

Nationally, 3 percent of married couples had only one Hispanic partner and the other partner not of Hispanic origin, compared with about 6 percent of unmarried partners (Table 5). Similar to the geographic pattern noted for interracial partners, the highest percentages of Hispanic/non-Hispanic partner households for all four types of households were found in the West. The West also had the highest portion of Hispanics (24 percent) in its total population.²¹ New Mexico had the highest percentage of households having only one Hispanic partner, more than 10 percent for each household type. West Virginia had the lowest proportions, with 1 percent or less for each household type.

The last four columns of Table 5 present the data for the 14 possible race/Hispanic-origin combinations, which generate 196 possible combinations per couple.²² Overall, 7 percent of married couples had spouses of a different race or origin. Percentages for opposite-sex and male same-sex households were about 15 percent, compared with 13 percent for female same-sex households. Couples in Hawaii experienced the greatest diversity: the percentages of partners of a different race or origin for all four household types in Hawaii were more than 3 times the national average, ranging from

¹⁹ The seven race groups used in this report were White alone; Black or African American alone; American Indian and Alaska Native alone; Asian alone; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone; Some other race alone; and Two or more races. If either spouse or partner was not in the same single race as the other spouse or partner, or if at least one spouse or partner was in a multiple-race group, then the couple was classified as an interracial couple (see Census 2000, PHC-T-19, *Hispanic Origin and Race of Coupled Households: 2000*, for detailed tabulations).

²⁰ Research has indicated that since unmarried-partner relationships often tend to be short-term or trial relationships, the partners may be less likely to choose partners with the same characteristics, such as race or ethnicity, than married couples. The higher proportions of mixed-race couples found among unmarried partners in Census 2000 than among married couples is consistent with this research. See Robert Schoen and Robin M. Weinick, "Partner Choice in Marriages and Cohabitations." *Journal of Marriage and Family*, Vol. 55, No. 2 (1993), pp. 408-414.

²¹ For Census 2000 distributions of the population by Hispanic or Latino origin, see Betsy Guzman, *The Hispanic Population: 2000*. Census 2000 Brief, Series C2KBR/01-3. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2001.

²² Since the race and Hispanic origin groups overlap, the combined percentages are always less than the sum of the individual percentages for each household type shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Selected Race and Hispanic Origin Characteristics of Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households for the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000

(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	Percent of households with partners of different races				Percent of households with only one partner of Hispanic origin				Percent of households with partners of different races or origins			
	Married-couple households	Unmarried-partner households			Married-couple households	Unmarried-partner households			Married-couple households	Unmarried-partner households		
		Opposite-sex partners	Same-sex partners			Opposite-sex partners	Same-sex partners			Opposite-sex partners	Same-sex partners	
		Male partners	Female partners		Male partners	Female partners		Male partners	Female partners		Male partners	Female partners
United States	5.7	12.2	11.5	10.0	3.1	6.4	6.9	5.4	7.4	15.0	15.3	12.6
Region												
Northwest	4.3	10.3	10.7	8.5	2.1	5.2	5.9	4.3	5.7	12.8	14.2	10.8
Midwest	3.5	9.4	8.2	7.4	1.7	4.0	3.8	3.0	4.5	11.2	10.3	8.9
South	4.9	10.3	8.7	8.0	2.7	5.2	5.8	4.3	6.5	12.8	12.4	10.3
West	10.6	19.3	17.7	15.7	6.1	11.2	11.1	9.2	13.7	23.7	23.2	19.7
State												
Alabama	2.8	6.7	4.5	4.6	0.9	1.9	1.5	1.2	3.3	7.5	5.4	5.3
Alaska	15.4	26.0	17.4	19.4	3.6	4.9	5.4	6.0	17.1	27.7	19.3	22.1
Arizona	8.0	15.7	12.2	13.0	6.6	12.3	10.7	10.3	11.5	20.9	17.7	17.6
Arkansas	3.6	8.4	6.1	6.5	1.2	2.7	2.1	1.8	4.2	9.6	7.0	7.4
California	12.0	21.0	19.8	17.3	7.2	12.7	12.8	10.5	15.6	26.0	26.2	21.8
Colorado	7.8	15.0	13.6	11.6	6.2	11.5	11.5	9.1	11.2	20.1	19.5	15.6
Connecticut	4.2	11.8	8.4	8.1	2.3	6.6	5.2	3.9	5.7	14.6	11.6	10.2
Delaware	4.1	10.5	9.8	7.1	1.7	3.9	4.0	3.5	5.1	12.2	12.5	9.0
District of Columbia	7.8	10.4	16.0	13.3	2.9	3.9	9.4	4.1	9.6	12.6	22.5	15.0
Florida	5.2	10.4	8.6	8.4	4.1	7.3	8.5	6.7	8.3	14.9	15.0	12.8
Georgia	3.7	8.2	7.6	6.4	1.6	3.1	3.8	2.6	4.6	9.5	10.0	7.8
Hawaii	34.7	55.6	43.8	40.9	6.2	12.6	7.9	8.9	36.1	57.6	46.1	42.3
Idaho	5.3	11.0	8.0	8.1	3.0	6.7	4.9	5.4	6.8	13.8	10.4	10.2
Illinois	4.3	10.0	11.0	8.6	2.6	5.7	6.7	4.3	5.8	12.6	14.7	10.8
Indiana	2.9	8.2	5.8	6.0	1.5	3.4	2.5	2.3	3.8	9.7	7.4	7.1
Iowa	2.3	7.7	5.5	6.4	1.2	3.6	2.2	2.7	3.0	9.2	6.8	8.0
Kansas	5.4	14.5	8.4	9.2	2.8	6.9	3.7	4.2	6.8	17.1	10.2	11.1
Kentucky	2.3	7.3	4.6	5.6	0.8	1.8	1.6	1.6	2.8	8.1	5.7	6.4
Louisiana	3.3	7.2	6.5	5.2	1.8	2.9	3.7	2.9	4.5	8.8	8.8	6.9
Maine	2.3	4.9	4.2	4.0	0.7	1.1	1.5	1.5	2.8	5.6	5.4	4.9
Maryland	5.1	9.6	9.7	8.6	1.9	2.9	3.5	3.2	6.3	11.0	11.9	10.6
Massachusetts	4.1	10.3	9.9	8.1	1.5	4.4	4.6	3.5	5.1	12.3	12.7	9.9
Michigan	4.1	9.7	8.5	7.4	1.8	4.2	3.5	2.8	5.2	11.7	10.4	8.7
Minnesota	3.4	10.6	9.1	8.0	1.2	3.3	3.4	2.6	4.1	12.0	10.8	8.9
Mississippi	2.1	5.1	3.7	3.2	0.8	1.5	1.7	1.1	2.6	5.8	4.8	3.8
Missouri	3.5	8.8	7.3	7.5	1.4	2.7	2.7	2.9	4.3	10.0	8.9	9.1
Montana	5.3	11.2	8.8	8.4	1.9	4.3	4.0	3.3	6.4	13.3	11.6	10.5
Nebraska	3.4	11.2	5.7	8.3	2.0	5.9	3.1	4.4	4.4	13.5	7.3	10.5
Nevada	10.9	18.9	14.9	15.2	6.2	10.7	9.1	8.3	14.3	23.7	19.5	19.2
New Hampshire	2.6	5.2	5.3	4.2	1.0	2.0	2.1	2.3	3.3	6.3	6.7	5.4
New Jersey	5.1	12.0	11.2	8.8	3.1	7.5	6.6	5.2	7.2	15.8	14.9	11.7
New Mexico	10.8	18.6	15.8	16.4	11.2	18.4	17.6	14.7	16.9	26.3	25.4	23.2
New York	5.7	12.3	13.7	10.9	3.0	6.7	8.0	6.0	7.6	15.6	18.4	14.1
North Carolina	3.6	9.6	6.9	6.5	1.4	3.0	2.1	2.2	4.3	10.7	8.0	7.5
North Dakota	3.1	9.3	4.4	6.4	0.8	2.3	0.6	1.7	3.6	10.4	4.7	7.6
Ohio	2.9	8.5	6.9	6.7	1.2	2.9	2.4	2.0	3.6	9.8	8.4	7.7
Oklahoma	14.8	24.6	17.6	18.2	2.6	5.8	3.3	4.5	16.0	26.5	18.8	19.9
Oregon	7.4	14.1	12.4	11.7	3.0	6.4	5.6	4.6	8.9	16.7	15.0	13.5
Pennsylvania	2.4	7.5	7.1	5.6	1.1	3.2	3.1	2.2	3.1	8.9	8.8	6.8
Rhode Island	4.4	11.1	9.0	8.0	1.5	4.3	3.9	2.8	5.2	13.0	10.6	9.6
South Carolina	2.9	7.3	5.4	4.8	1.1	2.3	1.4	1.7	3.5	8.3	6.2	5.7
South Dakota	3.6	10.9	5.7	7.3	1.0	2.8	1.8	0.9	4.1	12.1	6.7	7.6
Tennessee	2.7	7.4	5.2	5.7	1.0	2.2	1.8	1.8	3.3	8.4	6.3	6.6
Texas	6.8	14.1	11.5	10.7	5.4	11.2	10.7	8.0	9.8	19.0	17.4	14.6
Utah	5.4	14.6	9.2	9.6	3.8	10.0	6.4	6.5	7.3	18.8	12.5	12.8
Vermont	2.6	4.7	4.7	4.5	0.9	1.4	1.7	0.9	3.2	5.5	5.9	5.2
Virginia	5.3	11.3	10.4	8.3	2.1	3.6	4.2	3.5	6.5	12.9	12.8	10.1
Washington	9.2	17.3	14.8	13.6	3.2	6.6	5.9	5.4	10.8	19.8	17.6	16.1
West Virginia	1.8	5.6	3.6	3.2	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.9	2.2	6.1	4.4	3.8
Wisconsin	2.9	8.7	7.2	6.8	1.4	3.9	3.3	3.0	3.7	10.4	8.9	8.2
Wyoming	5.3	10.8	7.5	7.6	4.0	8.7	5.6	5.8	7.4	14.9	10.7	10.9
Puerto Rico	12.5	18.5	13.7	13.8	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7	13.5	19.7	14.7	15.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, special tabulation from Summary File 1.

36 percent for married-couple households to 58 percent for opposite-sex partner households.

Overall, the western region of the United States exhibited the greatest diversity in couples' living arrangements. It had both the highest percentage of its coupled households composed of unmarried partners (Table 2) and also the highest percentage of either married-couple or unmarried-partner households with partners not of the same race or origin.

Partners in opposite-sex unmarried-partner households are 12 years younger, on average, than partners in married-couple households.

Living together is often a precursor to marriage among young couples in contemporary America.²³ Table 6 shows that the average ages of the partners in opposite-sex unmarried-partner households, many of whom will ultimately marry each other, were about 12 years younger than that of their married-couple counterparts.²⁴ Nationally, the average age of husbands was 49 years old, 2.4 years older than their wives. Opposite-sex partners, while younger, were

²³ For a discussion of the transition from cohabitation to marriage, see Wendy D. Manning and Pamela J. Smock, "Why Marry? Race and the Transition to Marriage Among Cohabitors," *Demography*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (November 1995), pp. 509-520; and Larry L. Bumpass and Hsien-Hen Lu, "Trends in Cohabitation and Implications for Children's Family Contexts in the United States," *Population Studies*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (March 2000), pp. 29-41.

²⁴ These averages refer only to those couples who are the householder and spouse or partner, and do not include those couples who may be in subfamilies or other living arrangements within the household.

only slightly closer in age—on average, male partners were 36.8 years old, 2.1 years older than their female partners.

Overall, married couples who lived in the Northeast were the oldest while those in the West were the youngest. Among the individual states, the oldest husbands and wives were in Florida (53 years and 50 years, respectively), while the youngest lived in Alaska and Utah (about 46 years and 43 years, respectively).

On average, the youngest opposite-sex partners lived in the Midwest. The Great Plains states of Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota, on average, tended to have both partners below 35 years of age. While the lowest average ages for both partners were in Utah (34 years for men and 32 years for women), Florida had the oldest opposite-sex partners (39 years and 37 years).²⁵

The average age of same-sex partners was in their early forties, intermediate between that of married-couples and opposite-sex partners. In male unmarried-partner households, the householder was about 2 years older, while in female unmarried-partner households, the householder was slightly more than 1 year older. The average age of same-sex partners was lowest in the West and highest

²⁵ The ages of spouses and partners reflect the overall age composition of the population in each state. Utah had the youngest population in the United States in 2000, while Florida had the second oldest population. See Julie Meyer, *Age: 2000*. Census 2000 Brief, Series C2KBR/01-12. U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 2001.

in the Northeast for both types of households.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Data on households and families from the Census 2000 Summary File 1 were released in 2001 and are available on the Internet via factfinder.census.gov and for purchase on DVD. One can also investigate household and family data from other Census Bureau surveys like the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation, and access recently released reports related to the topic, by going to www.census.gov.

For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf or contact our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636).

Information on other population and housing topics is presented in the Census 2000 Brief Series, located on the U.S. Census Bureau's Web site at www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/briefs.html. This series presents information about race, Hispanic origin, age, sex, household type, housing tenure, and other social, economic, and housing characteristics.

For more information about Census 2000, including data products, call our Customer Services Center at 301-763-INFO (4636) or e-mail webmaster@census.gov.

Table 6.
Average Age in Years of Householder and Partner in Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households for the United States, Regions, States, and for Puerto Rico: 2000

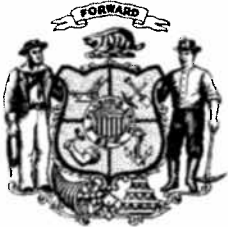
(For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf)

Area	Married-couple households		Unmarried-partner households					
			Opposite-sex partners		Male partners		Female partners	
	Age of husband	Age of wife	Age of male partner	Age of female partner	Age of householder	Age of partner	Age of householder	Age of partner
United States ...	49.0	46.6	36.8	34.7	44.5	42.4	43.4	42.2
Region								
Northeast	50.0	47.5	37.8	35.5	45.2	43.3	44.3	43.2
Midwest	49.2	46.8	35.8	33.7	44.8	42.8	43.1	42.0
South	48.8	46.3	36.8	34.7	44.5	42.5	43.4	42.1
West	48.4	45.9	37.1	35.2	43.9	41.5	42.7	41.6
State								
Alabama	48.8	46.2	36.5	34.3	46.8	44.6	45.0	43.6
Alaska	45.5	43.0	36.9	34.6	43.9	41.7	40.8	39.9
Arizona	49.8	47.3	37.0	35.1	43.5	41.3	42.7	41.5
Arkansas	49.3	46.6	36.3	34.0	46.2	44.5	44.8	43.3
California	48.2	45.6	37.6	35.6	44.0	41.5	42.9	41.7
Colorado	47.4	45.2	35.5	33.7	41.9	39.9	41.3	40.2
Connecticut	50.1	47.7	37.6	35.5	45.7	44.0	44.4	43.5
Delaware	49.7	47.4	37.2	35.1	45.4	43.1	43.7	42.7
District of Columbia	50.8	48.0	38.6	36.2	42.4	39.8	42.4	41.3
Florida	52.5	49.6	39.2	36.9	46.1	44.0	45.1	43.8
Georgia	47.1	44.7	35.8	33.8	41.8	40.1	41.7	40.4
Hawaii	50.6	47.8	38.5	36.2	47.9	45.0	46.6	44.8
Idaho	48.1	45.6	36.1	34.0	46.4	43.9	43.5	42.4
Illinois	48.7	46.3	36.5	34.4	43.8	41.6	42.9	41.8
Indiana	48.7	46.4	35.5	33.4	44.5	42.4	42.4	41.3
Iowa	50.0	47.8	34.8	32.8	46.7	44.7	43.6	42.5
Iowa	50.0	47.8	34.8	32.8	46.7	44.7	43.6	42.5
Kansas	48.8	46.6	34.5	32.5	44.4	42.4	42.8	41.6
Kansas	48.8	46.6	34.5	32.5	44.4	42.4	42.8	41.6
Kentucky	48.1	45.6	35.9	33.6	45.7	43.6	43.8	42.3
Louisiana	48.5	45.9	36.7	34.2	45.5	43.1	44.2	42.5
Louisiana	48.5	45.9	36.7	34.2	45.5	43.1	44.2	42.5
Maine	50.2	47.8	37.2	34.8	46.4	44.9	43.5	42.7
Maryland	49.0	46.6	37.8	35.6	44.6	42.7	42.8	41.6
Massachusetts	49.7	47.4	37.3	35.2	44.4	42.7	43.4	42.6
Michigan	49.3	46.9	36.2	34.0	45.5	43.5	43.9	42.6
Minnesota	48.9	46.6	35.5	33.5	44.0	42.0	42.7	41.5
Mississippi	48.5	45.9	36.6	34.2	46.8	44.6	44.7	43.3
Mississippi	48.5	45.9	36.6	34.2	46.8	44.6	44.7	43.3
Missouri	49.4	47.0	36.1	33.9	45.2	43.3	42.6	41.5
Missouri	49.4	47.0	36.1	33.9	45.2	43.3	42.6	41.5
Montana	50.2	47.5	36.4	34.1	46.2	44.1	45.2	44.1
Montana	50.2	47.5	36.4	34.1	46.2	44.1	45.2	44.1
Nebraska	49.2	47.0	34.6	32.6	45.7	43.5	44.1	43.0
Nebraska	49.2	47.0	34.6	32.6	45.7	43.5	44.1	43.0
Nevada	48.5	45.7	38.2	36.1	42.9	40.8	42.2	40.6
Nevada	48.5	45.7	38.2	36.1	42.9	40.8	42.2	40.6
New Hampshire	49.0	46.7	37.3	35.1	45.2	43.8	43.7	42.6
New Jersey	49.6	47.1	38.7	36.4	45.3	43.5	44.5	43.3
New Mexico	49.2	46.7	36.3	34.4	45.2	42.9	43.8	42.8
New Mexico	49.2	46.7	36.3	34.4	45.2	42.9	43.8	42.8
New York	49.9	47.2	38.3	35.9	44.7	42.6	44.4	43.1
North Carolina	48.2	45.9	35.6	33.6	43.9	42.2	43.2	42.0
North Dakota	50.0	47.5	33.9	31.7	52.3	50.5	47.2	46.4
Ohio	49.4	47.1	35.8	33.7	45.2	43.3	43.5	42.3
Ohio	49.4	47.1	35.8	33.7	45.2	43.3	43.5	42.3
Oklahoma	48.9	46.4	35.5	33.4	45.2	43.1	43.2	41.8
Oklahoma	48.9	46.4	35.5	33.4	45.2	43.1	43.2	41.8
Oregon	49.6	47.1	36.9	34.9	44.9	42.5	42.5	41.7
Oregon	49.6	47.1	36.9	34.9	44.9	42.5	42.5	41.7
Pennsylvania	50.6	48.3	37.3	35.0	46.8	44.9	45.2	44.0
Pennsylvania	50.6	48.3	37.3	35.0	46.8	44.9	45.2	44.0
Rhode Island	50.2	47.8	36.8	34.6	44.9	43.2	43.5	42.6
South Carolina	48.9	46.5	36.2	34.1	45.7	43.7	44.2	42.9
South Carolina	48.9	46.5	36.2	34.1	45.7	43.7	44.2	42.9
South Dakota	49.9	47.5	35.0	32.6	46.7	45.1	44.4	42.6
Tennessee	48.4	45.9	36.4	34.2	44.8	42.7	43.1	41.8
Tennessee	48.4	45.9	36.4	34.2	44.8	42.7	43.1	41.8
Texas	47.1	44.6	35.6	33.6	42.9	40.6	42.1	40.6
Texas	47.1	44.6	35.6	33.6	42.9	40.6	42.1	40.6
Utah	45.5	43.2	34.2	32.1	41.7	39.6	41.5	40.0
Vermont	49.9	47.4	37.4	35.0	45.7	43.9	43.8	43.1
Virginia	48.4	46.0	36.5	34.5	44.5	42.5	43.3	42.0
Virginia	48.4	46.0	36.5	34.5	44.5	42.5	43.3	42.0
Washington	48.6	46.2	36.6	34.7	43.3	41.2	42.3	41.3
Washington	48.6	46.2	36.6	34.7	43.3	41.2	42.3	41.3
West Virginia	50.0	47.2	36.9	34.4	47.8	45.5	46.0	44.3
Wisconsin	49.5	47.2	35.6	33.5	44.7	43.0	42.8	42.0
Wisconsin	49.5	47.2	35.6	33.5	44.7	43.0	42.8	42.0
Wyoming	49.0	46.5	36.4	34.1	48.2	45.6	44.1	42.9
Puerto Rico	48.2	45.1	40.9	38.5	47.4	45.4	47.4	45.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, special tabulation from Summary File 1.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





United Council

of University of Wisconsin Students, Inc.

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Testimony on AJR 67 / SJR 53

Joint Public Hearing: Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, and Privacy &
Assembly Committee on Judiciary

By Lilia J. Williams

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning Issues Director

United Council of UW Students

November 29, 2005

Chairmans Gundrum and Zien, members of the committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you today on the threatening legislation before you today.

As the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning Director I am here representing over 140,000 students throughout the University of Wisconsin system. Gay students, straight students, white students, Native American students, Black students, Hmong students, students from Madison, students from River Falls, students from Marshfield, and students from Green Bay. I am here representing over 140,000 students, many of whom believe that all students deserve equal access, benefits, and quality of education.

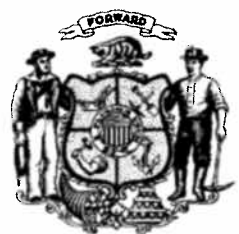
This is not a moral issue, this is a safety concern. Students urge you to vote against SJR 53/AJR 67 to protect our campuses from a hostile climate. Supporters of the amendment help to validate anti-gay rhetoric and actions on our campuses that effect not only Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender students but also those who are perceived to be Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators continue to work extremely hard to improve campus climate. A climate of homophobia produces not only an environment of fear and gross bigotry, but also greatly affects a student's academic achievement.

Students from across this state bear witness to the reality of hatred on their campuses. They bear witness to the reality of homophobia on their campuses. They do not deserve to see an increase in hate crimes and visits from far-right wing hate mongers. They want to be able to go class, hang out with friends, and do the things that college students do without the constant barrage of messages of hate and discrimination that we all know will come within the next year.

Students urge you to vote no. I urge you to vote no. This is not a moral issue, this is a safety concern. University of Wisconsin students deserve to be able to access higher education in a safe and equitable learning environment.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



WISCONSIN CITIZEN ACTION



The State's Largest Public Interest Organization

Wisconsin Citizen Action Statement for the Assembly Judiciary Committee

In Opposition to AJR 67

November 29, 2005

Wisconsin Citizen Action opposes AJR 67 because we believe in full civil marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples as well as any incremental extension of the protections of the law to these couples (such as domestic partnerships or civil unions). While Wisconsin Citizen Action supports equal access to the legal protections of the marriage contract, WCA similarly supports the right of all faiths to choose which relationships to sanctify. "Sanctifying" marriage is a religious concept, however, and the state benefits of the legal contract of civil marriage should not be based on religious doctrine or denied to a couple based solely on the gender of the partners.

There are more than 1,000 state and federal rights and responsibilities conferred by a civil marriage license. These include benefits as basic as:

- The right to visit one's partner in the hospital or make medical decisions for an incapacitated partner.
- The right to inherit the family home or other property without a will and without assets going to probate or being subject to inheritance tax.
- Access to a partner's employer-based health, retirement, and family leave policies.
- Social Security survivor benefits.
- The right for both partners to be recognized as legal parents of children.
- Divorce procedures that give legal rights in child custody and property/income disputes.
- File joint tax returns.
- The right to sue for wrongful death of a partner.

Today, Wisconsin law treats gay and lesbian couples who have been together for 10, 20, or 30 years or more as strangers. Same-sex couples can't jointly adopt children, can't receive access to family discounts or most employer-based health and retirement plans, or receive the hundreds of other benefits of married heterosexuals. While gay couples can seek limited protections through wills and power-of-attorney documents, such documents can be challenged and can cost thousands of dollars to draw up. Marriage discrimination is so entrenched and so taken for granted that it is invisible to many.

Therefore, based on its commitment to social and economic justice for all, Wisconsin Citizen Action opposes AJR 67.

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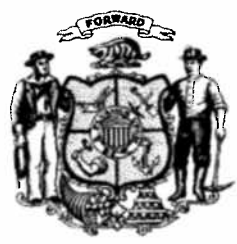
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WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



no date

Statement in opposition to the proposed Constitutional Amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions.

I am here today representing over 250,000 people of faith from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who in three Wisconsin synods passed legislation opposing this amendment. I am here representing over 20,000 people of faith and 50 faith leaders from Milwaukee who also work daily in opposition to this amendment. I am here as a pastor of a Lutheran Christian congregation. Filled with gay people and straight people, married, unmarried, even democrats and republicans.

All of these people are devout Christians who love the Holy Scriptures. As a devout Christian, myself, I can't imagine how the scriptures are being used to justify such a hurtful amendment.

Marriage from the beginning of the bible to the end has always been God's deep awareness that we human beings, messed up people that we are - needed each other. It was not good to be alone. Marriage, biblically, was always about union not division, love not hatred, reconciliation not condemnation.

It's a cruel irony, isn't it, that an institution given by God to cultivate deep love and care, an institution founded to bring humanity together is today being used to divide and separate people from people.

What we have here today is a theological debate brought to the state of Wisconsin. Perhaps the capital building is not the place for such a debate. But, it has been brought to us all by the sponsors of this amendment. And the theological question is this; what are the absolutes in the bible?

I and the many I represent are not moral relativists. We believe in biblical absolutes. The absolute in the bible is this; Love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself. Marriage is about preserving this love, not destroying it. Marriage is about protecting this love, not banning it. It's so simple, so simple. It almost gets lost in all this political maneuvering.

You political leaders are not pastors, you are not engaged in the messy, backbiting business of interpreting scripture. You have a much more noble calling of making laws to protect God's people, to protect all of God's people.

A lawyer, like you all, once asked Jesus a question; who is my neighbor, he asked? Jesus pointed at a Samaritan - a man who many believed in that time to be morally unclean - and said, "that one. . . the one who showed mercy." The one who showed love.

**The Rev. David Dragseth
Lake Park Lutheran Church
2647 N. Stowell Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211**

SA05.05.13 Synod opposition to possible state constitution change

**Adopted by the South Central Synod of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
May 2005**

VOTED

Whereas, the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopted on April 9, 1996, the position that the ELCA will "respect the integrity and dignity of all persons, whatever their age, gender, sexual orientation, or marital status,:" and

Whereas, the first sentence of the proposed amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution is not necessary to define marriage as a union of one man and one woman, as this is already established by law in Wisconsin; and

Whereas, the second sentence of the proposed amendment would legally undermine certain human and civil rights of homosexuals and become the first amendment to the Wisconsin constitution to limit rather than expand or protect human rights and freedoms; and

Whereas, the bill directly impacts the welfare of members of our congregations as well as the general public; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA oppose the adoption of Assembly Joint resolution 66, and be it further

Resolved, that the bishop of the South-Central Synod communicate this resolution to Governor Doyle, to the leadership of both Houses of the Legislature and to all legislators serving the counties that are part of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, and be it further

Resolved, that the assembly urge congregations to study and discuss the issues raised by this amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution.

ADOPTED

**Resolution 1:
Concerning the 2003 State of Wisconsin Joint Resolution 66
Passed by the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA
June 2005**

Sponsors: Lake Park, Village and All Peoples Lutheran Churches

WHEREAS the Greater Milwaukee Synod is a "Reconciling in Christ" synod that welcomes and affirms gay and lesbian people as stated in Resolution #2 of the Greater Milwaukee Synod Assembly 1991;

WHEREAS our interpretation of scripture, our theology, and our understanding of justice lead us to champion civil rights for all people, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender, nationality, physical or mental ability;

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of state government and constitutions to uphold the human rights of citizens and to provide equality under the law for all;

WHEREAS the proposed constitutional amendment which is currently before the state legislature defining marriage actually goes beyond defining marriage, and because of the language of its second sentence, may actually take away current civil rights of gay and lesbian people by prohibiting civil unions, domestic partnership registries (like those currently found in Madison and Milwaukee) and other present legal rights (right of visitation, for example) for gay and lesbian partners in Wisconsin;

WHEREAS the marriage amendment would diminish the legally guaranteed human rights of gay and lesbian partners who are members of many of our congregations and other couples who are registered as domestic partnerships in Madison and Milwaukee; therefore be it

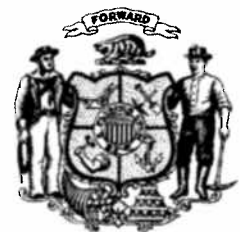
RESOLVED, that the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America oppose the adoption of Assembly Joint Resolution #66; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America communicate this resolution to Governor Doyle, to the leadership of both houses of the legislature and to all legislators serving the counties that are part of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the assembly urge all congregations to study and discuss the issues raised by this amendment to the Wisconsin constitution.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Rev. J. Brian Harris, Ph.D., P.E.
Affirmational Faith Ministry
(non-sectarian pastoral counseling)
3635 Zirbel Rd, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235
(920) 746-8893
drjbrianharris@doorpi.net

no date

Life Member, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
Member, American Psychological Society
Member, Sturgeon Bay Ministerial Association
Wisconsin Professional Engineer No. 34106-006
B.S. in Bioengineering, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1970
Ph.D. in Bioengineering, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1998

I come before the Joint Judiciary Committee with grave concerns. By way of introduction, I am a member of the ordained clergy with a pastoral counseling ministry and am a Wisconsin Professional Engineer with a doctorate in bioengineering. I have been married for more than 30 years, in my first and only marriage, and my wife and I have a daughter now in graduate school. I am about as heterosexual as I think is possible.

The first concern I have regarding the proposed Wisconsin constitutional amendment is a public safety issue. Professional engineers are licensed in the interest of public safety and my concern is centered around scientific issues within my professional competence. As I understand the law, this means that the testimony I am giving as a professional engineer has the status of expert testimony.

The second concern is about the constitutional mandate for the separation of church and state. As a member of the ordained clergy and as a scientist, I see the proposed amendment as a clear imposition of a particular fraction of the church imposing its beliefs, doctrines and dogmas on other churches whose beliefs, doctrines and dogmas, no less scripturally grounded, differ from those proposed to imposed.

For many people the issue of who is a woman and who is a man is trivially obvious. For some people, there is no way from a scientific perspective, to make such a determination. A woman has two X chromosomes and a man has one X chromosome and one Y chromosome. But there are people with two X chromosomes and one Y chromosome. There are also people who are chimeric, with some cells having two X chromosomes and some cells having one X chromosome and one Y chromosome. There are people who are intersexed, who have neither the certain organs essential for being a woman nor the organs essential for being a man. To have a constitutional amendment that denies full humanity to people who are biologically comparatively uncommon seems to me to be a travesty.

I have provided the above easily verified facts to demonstrate that the viewpoint that there are only men and women is at best a religious viewpoint held by some churches but not by others; for there is absolutely no scientific basis for deciding that a person is either a man or a woman and not both and not neither.

To deny civil unions and domestic partnerships and the safety of family based health care to people who biologically are neither men nor women or to people who are biologically both men and women is to compound their difficulties in ways that may be profoundly tragic. To deny necessary access to health care endangers the public safety.

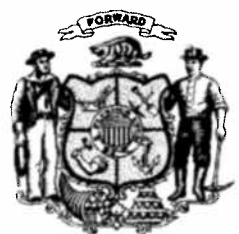
I find that, for some people, the proposed amendment would impose terrible cruelty, and would deny essential and God-given validity to some people, and would be a sadly tragic decision for the people of Wisconsin.

I do not question the sincerity of the people who seek this amendment. Alas, sincerity is not truthfulness. Also, consensus is not reality, hearsay is not evidence, and belief is not knowledge. There may be enough people who are insufficiently learned to understand the beauty of human diversity to impose this amendment in ways that hurt other people. Sad to say, however, domination is not strength.

I find the proposed constitutional amendment to be fundamentally dishonest from both scientific and religious viewpoints. I think the people of Wisconsin deserve better than to be saddled with a divisive, hurtful, and fundamentally dishonest constitutional amendment.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Joanne Kanter
2136 E Main St
Madison 53704

I am a mother, a daughter, a sister, a granddaughter, a niece, an aunt, a friend,
a coworker, a life partner.

Much like yourself. Why do you fear me?

I am a taxpayer, a homeowner, a charitable donor, a concerned citizen, a voter.

Much like yourself. Why do you fear me?

I maintain statewide computer systems; I volunteer read to preschoolers; I look
after my mother's finances; I shovel my sidewalk; I raised a daughter who brings
positive notice to Wisconsin.

Much like yourself. Why do you fear me?

I will continue these roles even in the face of this hateful amendment.

Because I value tolerance and respect.

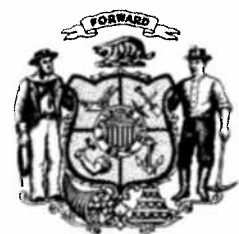
Because I value citizenship and its responsibilities.

Because I value caring in all of its manifestations.

Much like yourself. Why do you fear me?



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





no date

AJR-67 / SJR-53
Constitutional Amendment on Marriage
Student Position
Judiciary Committee

Distinguished members of the Committee:

My name is Neal Michals and I am a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as well as the Governmental Affairs Analyst for the Student Association (SA). The Student Association is the official organization that represents 28,000 students of UWM, to which we are here to speak for today. It is part of my job with the Student Association to look at proposed policy initiatives and see how they may impact the students of UWM.

I am here today to testify against the passage of AJR-67 / SJR-53. One may wonder why the UWM Student Association is in opposition to this particular amendment. On the surface it would not appear that marriage has much to do with higher education, and traditionally the Student Association does not involve itself with social issues, however this one cannot be avoided.

Since the first introduction of the Defense of Marriage Act during the 2003 Legislative Session, through to the first introduction of the Constitutional Amendment that is before you today for a second consideration the Student Association has stood in opposition to all efforts to legislate discrimination, and this time is no different. Each time SA has taken a position it has not been without all due consideration and debate. As a deliberative body of the students of UWM, we take our role seriously, and the message within this proposed amendment is not one the students will not stand for.

What is of the utmost concern for the students is the quality of their education they receive while attending UWM, and how that degree will best serve them upon graduation. Wisconsin has had a proud progressive tradition that has attracted the highest caliber of professors with great academic merit. It has been demonstrated in other prestigious universities and university systems that the ability to offer domestic partnership benefits contributes greatly to attracting and retaining those same professors of quality. Institutions that offer such benefits sends a clear message that it is a welcoming and open environment and will not stand for any form of discrimination. If the UW system wishes to remain in preeminent circles, these benefits must be considered for the future. The amendment proposed would seek to threaten that ability, thus threatening public higher education as a whole. Furthermore, when our valued professors see other systems offering such benefit packages, it is far more likely that they will consider leaving the state for other systems that are more inclusive.

In addition there are a number of legal arguments and past legal precedents that have set that are in opposition to the amendment. As mentioned earlier, Wisconsin has a great progressive tradition; this is evident by the fact that Wisconsin was the first state to outlaw discrimination based on sexual orientation. This was done back in 1982, before several of my constituents were even born. All their life they have know a state that values a progressive nature. Why now turn away from that great tradition?

Throughout the years there have been several examples of case law relating to marriage. In the Supreme Court case of *Loving v. Virginia* it was asserted that marriage is a fundamental right of all United States citizens. Is it the view that same sex couples are not citizens? Furthermore, another court case, that of *Romer v. Evans*, asserted that states may not pass amendments to their constitutions that call for discriminatory practices in regards to homosexuality. It is hard to argue that it is not a goal of this amendment to openly discriminate against homosexual couples. Perhaps the best case is in the United States Constitution itself, the 14th amendment states that:

"No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property,

without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

All along in this process of pushing either legislation defining marriage, to now the constitutional amendment, the question has come up on why this is an issue in the first place. Certainly with all the pressing issues facing our great state, passing discriminatory amendments should not top the agenda. With rising costs of healthcare, energy, and overall spending, in face of declining state support for public education, one has to wonder why this is even up for a vote. Certainly there are better things to be spending time on then addressing an issue that is already in state law.

It is the sentiment of the Student Association that this is frivolous and divisive legislation that is specifically targeted at an already marginalized population. The Student Association has not taken many stances on social issues; however this one could not be ignored. As constituents the students of UWM urge the legislature to stand true to Wisconsin progressive history and vote no on AJR-67 / SJR-53.

The students of UWM take great pride in the open and accepting environment within the university, the UW System, and the State of Wisconsin as a whole. That pride is further reflected in the stances we have taken and our testimony today. The Constitutional Amendment proposed in AJR-67 / SJR-53 seeks to undermine the aura of acceptance and begin to turn back the long history the State of Wisconsin has of anti-discrimination laws. By voting no on AJR-67 / SJR-53, you will show a continued commitment to inclusiveness and the progressive nature of Wisconsin.

Thank you for your time and I welcome any questions you may have that I can address.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neal A. Michals
Governmental Affairs Analyst
UWM Student Association

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