

- It is difficult to know exactly how many LGBT parents are raising children in the US, primarily because it is difficult – if not impossible – to know the exact population of LGBT people. Usually the estimates range from **1 to 9 million children** being raised by LGBT parents, which is somewhere between **1% to 12% of all children**.
- The most current measurement tool is the **2000 Census** that offered the box “unmarried partners.” The 2000 Census reported **594,391 same-sex households** - of those, 301,026 are male partners and 293,365 are female partners.

Other 2000 Census results:

- ◇ Same-sex families live in 99.3% of all counties in the United States.
 - ◇ One third of female partner households (34.3%) and one fifth of male partner households (22.3%) are raising children.
 - ◇ California has more lesbian and gay couples with children than any other state, and these families live in every county in California.
 - ◇ In both Alameda and San Francisco Counties 69% of same gender couples with children are female and 31% are male.
 - ◇ There are 12,463 children in San Francisco County that live with same-gender parents. There are 1.4 children per household and their average age is 8.4 years old.
 - ◇ There are 10,003 children in Alameda County that live with same-gender parents. There are 1.7 children per household and their average age is 6.2 years old.
 - ◇ More than half of all African American, API and Latina./o same-gender couples between the ages of 25-55 yrs are raising children of their own (43%, 45%, and 62%, respectively). Ethnic minority same-gender couples are much more likely to be raising children than White same-gender couples (18%).
 - ◇ Among California counties, Alameda has the highest rate of black same-gender couples (1.4 per 1,000 households).
 - ◇ Among California counties, San Francisco County has the highest rate of API same-gender couples (2.2 per 1,000 households).
- Families with LGBT parents come in many shapes and family arrangements. They include families of all races, ethnic groups, socioeconomic status, and religions; and families living in all kinds of communities.
 - Many schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for students with LGBT parents. In the California Safe Schools Coalition’s 2003 Preventing School Harassment Survey, 91% of students reported hearing anti-LGBT slurs at school. Thirty-nine percent of students surveyed said their school was unsafe for students with LGBT parents.

- According to a **National Education Association** study, a typical high school student hears anti-LGBT slurs up to **26 times per day**.
- A study published in the **American Sociological Review** by professors **Judith Stacey and Timothy Biblarz** looked at the ways sexual orientation of a parent impacts children. First they looked at pretend play & gender expression. They found that:
 - ◊ The kids of lesbians and gays are more likely to depart from traditional gender roles than the children of heterosexual couples.
 - ✦ **Daughters of Lesbians** - Compared with the daughters of heterosexual mothers, the daughters of lesbians more frequently dress, play and behave in ways that don't conform to sex-typed cultural norms. They show greater interest in activities with both masculine and feminine qualities. They have higher aspirations to occupations that are not traditionally female.
 - ✦ **Sons of Lesbians** - In terms of aggression and play, sons of lesbians behave in less traditionally masculine ways. They are likely to be more nurturing and affectionate than their counterparts in heterosexual families.
 - ◊ When looking at sexuality they found that:
 - ✦ Children with Lesbian parents are more open to same-sex relationships.
 - ✦ **Teenage boys** are more sexually restrained than peers in heterosexual households, while **teenage girls** show the opposite trend, the researchers concluded.
- The **American Academy of Pediatrics** states that, “A growing body of scientific literature demonstrates that children who grow up with 1 or 2 gay and/or lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social and sexual functioning as do children whose parents are heterosexual.”
- The **American Psychological Association** reports “not a single study has found children of gay or lesbian parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents.”
- The **Child Welfare League of America**, the nation’s premier child advocacy organization, states that “in considering gay and lesbian prospective adoptive parents, sexual orientation and the capacity to nurture a child are separate issues and should not be confused.”
- The **American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry** and the **North American Council on Adoptable Children** all support evaluating lesbian and gay applicants for adoption the same as heterosexual applicants.
- The **American Psychoanalytic Association** reports that the best interest of the child – not the sexual orientation- should be the determining factor in parenting decisions regarding conception, child rearing, adoption, visitation and custody disputes. In a policy statement, the association said: “Accumulated evidence suggests the best interest of the child requires attachment to committed, nurturing and competent parents.”