RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

LGBTQ PARENTING IN THE US

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Parents represent an important demographic and social experience within the U.S. across subpopulations, including among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ (LGBTQ) people. Yet, most research on parenting benefits and challenges, as well as demographic characteristics of parents, remains focused on cisgender heterosexual individuals. This report analyzes multiple data sources to provide a current sociodemographic portrait of LGBTQ parents in the United States. Throughout this summary and report, we use the term parent to describe adults who identify as the biological, adoptive, step, or foster parent of a child under the age of 18 who is living in the same household. We also use LGBTQ as an umbrella term that is inclusive of the respondents in multiple data sources, including LGBT-identified people responding to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and General Social Survey (GSS), respondents who reported being in same-sex couples in the American Community Survey (ACS), and the LGBTQ+ respondents who participated in the NIH-funded Generations and TransPop studies.

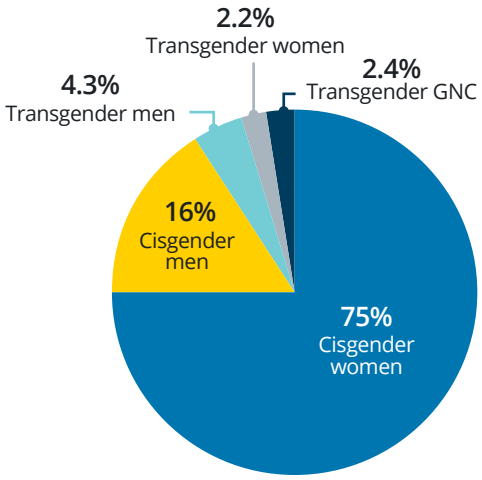
MAIN FINDINGS

- 18% (2.57 million) of LGBTQ adults are parenting children.
    - 26% of cisgender women and 20% of transgender men, compared with 8% of cisgender men and 12% of transgender women, report being parents.
    - 35% (1.24 million) of married LGBTQ adults are parenting children.
        - 14% (167,000) of same-sex couples are parenting children.
        - 18% (119,000) of married same-sex couples are parenting children.
- Approximately 5 million children are being raised by an LGBTQ parent.
    - Two million children live in an LGBTQ single-parent household.
    - Almost 300,000 children are being raised by parents in same-sex couples.
- In terms of being a parent at some point in their lifetime (e.g., children may currently live elsewhere or may now be adults), 32% of LGB and 19% of transgender adults report ever having a child.

Demographic Characteristics of LGBTQ Parents

- Among LGBTQ parents, cisgender bisexual women, lesbian women, and bisexual men comprise the largest subgroups of parents, followed by cisgender gay men and transgender men.
    - Cisgender women: 75%
        - Bisexual women: 61%
        - Lesbian women: 14%
    - Cisgender men: 16%
        - Bisexual men: 11%
        - Gay men: 5%

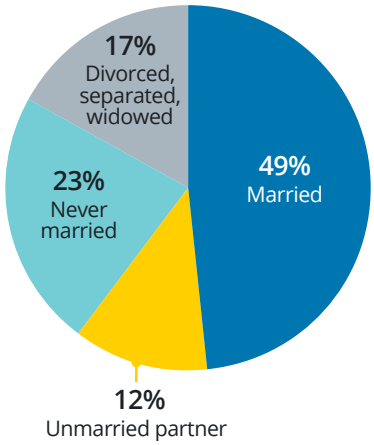
- Transgender people: 9%
  - Transgender men: 4.3%
  - Transgender women: 2.2%
  - Transgender GNC: 2.4%



- Regardless of age, LGBTQ people are less likely to be parenting children in their household than non-LGBTQ people (18% vs. 28%).
- However, cisgender bisexual women are parenting at similar rates to straight cisgender women (approximately 30%).
- A higher percentage of Black LGBTQ adults are parents (23%) than White LGBTQ adults (17%).

Marriage and Relationship Status Among LGBTQ Parents

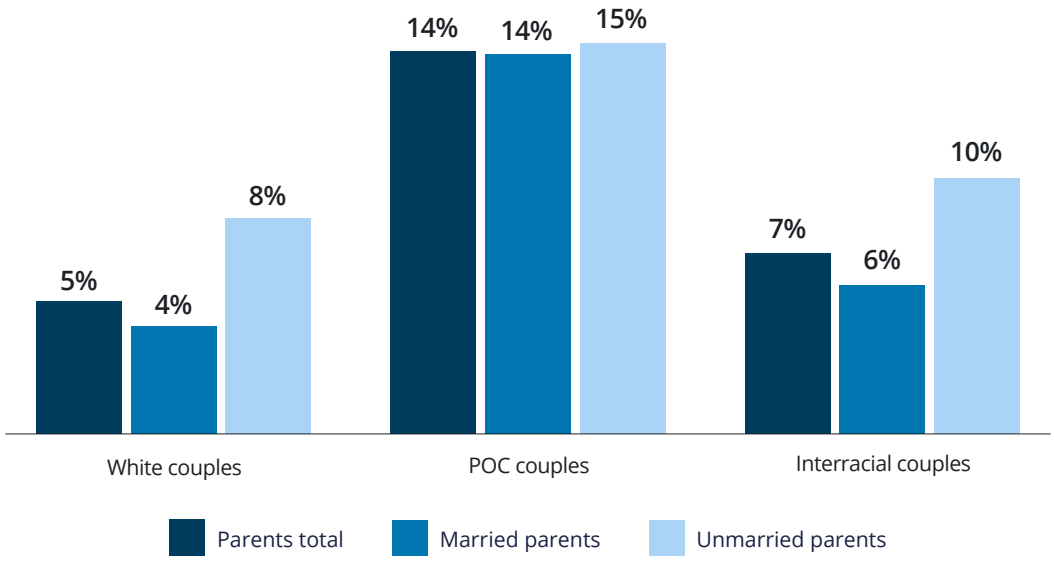
- There are differences in marital status among parents by sexual orientation and gender identity.
  - 49% of LGBTQ parents are married compared with 20% of LGBTQ non-parents and 71% of straight cisgender parents.
  - 23% of LGBTQ parents have never been married, and 12% are in an unmarried partnership, while 12% of straight cisgender parents have never married, and 6% are in unmarried partnerships.
  - LGBTQ parents have a similar rate of divorce, separation, or widowhood as straight cisgender women, with both groups having a higher rate than straight cisgender men.



  - When assessing relationship status among subgroups of LGBTQ parents, we find that the majority of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents are married or partnered.
  - While cisgender bisexual women make up about 60% of LGBTQ parents, and many of them are married or partnered, a large proportion of them are single parents (43%).
  - Likewise, 40% of lesbian parents are single mothers compared with 29% of straight women parents.
- There are differences in marital status among White parents and parents of color by sexual orientation and gender identity.
  - Among White adults, more LGBTQ parents are married than non-parents, but fewer are married compared to straight cisgender parents (60% vs. 22% and 78%).
  - People of color (POC) are less likely to be married across all parenting and SOGI groups compared to their White counterparts.
  - Among POC adults, more LGBTQ parents are married than non-parents, but fewer are married compared to straight cisgender parents (37% vs. 17% and 62%).

Economics Among LGBTQ Parents

- LGBTQ parents are more likely to be living in poverty than non-parents and straight cisgender parents (33% vs. 21% and 21%).
- For most groups, fewer people who are married are living in poverty compared to other relationship categories, particularly compared to those who were never married.
    - One important exception to this finding is that marriage is not a significant factor in whether someone lives in poverty for Black and Latinx LGBTQ parents who are partnered or in same-sex couples.



Family Formation and Stressors

- Overall, 47% of partnered LGBTQ parents are in a same-gender or transgender-inclusive partnership; however, the majority of cisgender lesbian/gay parents are vs. 10% of cisgender bisexual/queer parents.
- 78% of LGBTQ parents became parents through current or previous sexual relationships, 20% through stepparenthood, and 6% through adoption.
- Among parenting households, same-sex couples adopt (21%), foster (4%), and have stepchildren (17%) at significantly higher rates than different-sex couples (3%, 0.4%, 6%).
    - Notably among parents, 24% of married same-sex couples have adopted a child versus 3% of married different-sex couples.
- Approximately 35,000 same-sex couple parents have adopted children, and 6,000 are fostering children. The majority of these couples are married.
- Among all LGBTQ parents, approximately 57,000 are fostering children (1.4%). Less than half of these parents are married.
- Approximately 30% of LGBQ parents are not legally recognized or are unsure about their legal status as the parent/guardian of at least one child.

- 23% of LGBQ adults said it was very important to them to have children in the future, and 22% thought it was very likely they would. LBQ cisgender women were three times more likely to think this than GBQ cisgender men.

This report on LGBTQ parenting rates and sociodemographic characteristics illustrates that a significant proportion of LGBTQ adults are parents, and many of these parents are experiencing economic instability. For context, prior research has identified how many LGBT adults had minors in the household, yielding higher percentages than the percentages of LGBTQ parents we have identified in this report. However, we now know that a significant proportion of those minors were siblings, grandchildren, or unrelated. As such, our estimates of how many LGBTQ people identify as parents may look slightly smaller than previous estimates due to more precise data becoming available. It also appears that the percentage of same-sex couples who are parents is slightly lower now than in prior estimates, using similar ways of defining parenthood. It is also possible that there are fewer LGBTQ people raising children than 10 years ago due to opportunities to live outside of heteronormative expectations of marriage and family.

Policies aiming to improve the lives of LGBTQ communities should focus on issues specific to LGBTQ parents, such as concerns around parental rights and access to reproductive services, as well as issues generally important to all parents, such as access to parenting support and economic justice. While the findings related to characteristics and experiences among parents are quite similar to patterns observed over a decade ago, which included people who were parents and non-parents to the children in the household,[1] this report focuses only on those who identify as parents. Reporting on those who identify as having a parental relationship allows for a more accurate estimate of the population size of LGBTQ parents, and it highlights those with the most need in relation to policies impacting children and families. Yet, future research is needed that explores the nature of "non-parent" relationships to children in the household as they may represent parental figures despite non-parental labels, or they may reflect various forms of kin and queer chosen family structures. Further, LGBTQ people living with and involved in the care of young children to whom they are not formally parents may experience a range of positive social and mental health benefits, as well as economic and/or social challenges.

[1] Gates, G.J. (2013). *LGBT parenting in the United States.* Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Parenting-Feb-2013.pdf

BACKGROUND

Parents are among the most important people in the lives of young children.[2] In the U.S., parents remain a population with significant challenges and unique opportunities. While people who parent report more positive experiences with social integration, life satisfaction, and some indicators of mental health at some stages of parenting compared to non-parents,[3] they also tend to report higher levels of stress and unhappiness.[4] Current research has demonstrated that these mental health and happiness disparities between parents and non-parents are likely both about direct parenting worries[5] and about the context in which people must parent (e.g., low paid time off availability, limited childcare resources).[6] Related to these known parenting status disparities, the U.S. population of parents experience greater rates of economic instability than those not parenting.[7]

As such, parenting is an important demographic characteristic and social experience within the U.S. across myriad subpopulations, including among LGBTQ people. Yet, most research on parenting benefits and challenges, as well as demographic characteristics of parents, remains focused on cisgender heterosexual adults. LGBTQ parents in the U.S. are a particularly vulnerable group with respect to parental rights and access to pathways to parenting, despite some positive cultural shifts impacting family structure, such as marriage equality.[8] As such, in the context of ongoing shifts in parenting, LGBTQ-related, and economic policies, this report provides current rates and sociodemographic characteristics of LGBTQ parents in the U.S. and data on parental concerns among LGBTQ adults.

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[2] National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education; Board on Children, Youth, and Families; Committee on Supporting the Parents of Young Children. (2016). Breiner, H., Ford, M., & Gadsden, V.L., (Eds.). *Parenting matters: Supporting parents of children ages 0-8*. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US). https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK402024/ doi: 10.17226/21868

[3] Simon, R. W., & Caputo, J. (2019). The costs and benefits of parenthood for mental and physical health in the United States: The importance of parenting stage. *Society and Mental Health*, 9(3), 296-315. https://doi.org/10.1177/2156869318786760; Everett, B.G., Bos, H., Carone, N., Gartrell, N., & Hughes, T.L. (2022). Examining differences in alcohol and smoking behaviors between parenting and nonparenting lesbian women. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 57(9), 1442–1449. https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2022.2091145; Gartrell, N., Rothblum, E.D., Koh, A.S., Van Beusekom, G., & Bos, H. (2019) "We were among the first non-traditional families": Thematic perceptions of lesbian parenting after 25 years. *Frontiers in Psychology*, 10, 2414. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2019.02414

[4] Assink, M., Rothblum, E. D., Wilson, B. D. M., Gartrell, N., & Bos, H. M. W. (2022). Mental Health of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Other-Identified Parents and Nonparents from a Population-Based Study. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 69(2), 205–229. https://doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2021.1892401

[5] Minkin, R. & Horowitz, J.M. (2023). *Parenting in America today*. Pew Research Center. https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2023/01/24/parenting-in-america-today/

[6] Glass, J., Simon, R. W., & Andersson, M. A. (2016). Parenthood and Happiness: Effects of Work-Family Reconciliation Policies in 22 OECD Countries. *American Journal of Sociology*, 122(3), 886–929. https://doi.org/10.1086/688892

[7] Goldberg, N.G., Schneebaum, A., Durso, L.E., & Badgett, M. L. (2020). LGBTQ-parent families in the United States and economic well-being. *LGBTQ-Parent Families: Innovations in Research and Implications for Practice*, 105-124. Springer. https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-35610-1; Wilson, B.D.M., Bouton, L.J.A., Badgett, M.V.L., & Macklin, M.L. (2023). *LGBTQ poverty in the US: Trends at the onset of COVID-19*. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-poverty-us/

[8] Movement Advancement Project. (2023). *Relationships at risk: Why we need to update state parentage laws to protect children and families*. www.mapresearch.org/2023-parentage-report

DEFINING PARENTS AND CONCEPTUALIZING FAMILIES

The current report focuses on a specific subset of people who identify as parents—a group we identify based on whether they indicate they are a parent or a foster parent on a question about their relationship to the children under 18 years of age living in their home. Herein, we refer to this specific group as "parents." While a focus on this group is important, two key limitations warrant discussion upfront. First, most of the data presented here do not represent the estimates and experiences of LGBTQ people who have ever been parents, meaning they do not include parents of "children" who are now adults or children who are not living in their households. Second, we recognize that parenting and having families can be more complicated and defined in more expansive ways for many people than the definition we use in this study.

The Census defines a family as "a group of two people or more (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together."[9] Yet, research has shown that many cultural groups have defined family in more expansive ways. Studies on diversity in family structures have included a focus on Black kinship,[10] documenting the ways Black families, particularly those living with low incomes, took in children from other relatives to help raise them as needed or raised children as collectives. The involvement of extended family in parenting children has also been documented among other racialized minorities in the U.S. and among American Indian Nations.[11] Research has pointed to the ways in which LGBTQ communities have also expanded understandings of family beyond biological or parental relationships.[12] This expanded understanding of family is an important component of many LGBTQ communities and spaces and warrants further study at a population level. Where possible, we identify data that indicate household compositions that may be indicators of such extended family. Nonetheless, the primary focus of this report is on the experience of parenting minors. Our approach is not intended to limit how communities understand family but instead focuses on the experience of people who identify as parents of children.

DATA SOURCES

For this report, we primarily use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) to provide information on the demographic characteristics and socioeconomic well-being of LGBTQ parents. We also use BRFSS to assess differences in characteristics and outcomes between LGBTQ parents and LGBTQ non-parents and non-LGBTQ

[9] U.S. Census Bureau & U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. (2023). *Subject definitions*. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/subject-definitions.html#:~:text=Hispanic%20White%20origin.-,Family,as%20members%20of%20one%20family.

[10] Taylor, R., Chatters, L., Cross, C. J., & Mouzon, D. (2022). Fictive kin networks among African Americans, Black Caribbeans, and Non-Latino Whites. *Journal of Family Issues*, 43(1), 20-46. https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X21993188

[11] Coser, A., Sullivan, M., & Espeleta, H. (2020). Beyond the nuclear family: A qualitative examination of extended family involvement among American Indian families. *Journal of Family Strengths*, *20*(2), 3. https://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/jfs/vol20/iss2/3/

[12] Hammack, P. L., Frost, D. M., & Hughes, S. D. (2019). Queer intimacies: A new paradigm for the study of relationship diversity. *Journal of Sex Research*, 56(4-5), 556–592. https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2018.1531281; Jackson Levin, N., Kattari, S. K., Piellusch, E. K., & Watson, E. (2020). "We just take care of each other": Navigating 'chosen family' in the context of health, illness, and the mutual provision of care amongst queer and transgender young adults. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public health*, 17(19), 7346. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17197346

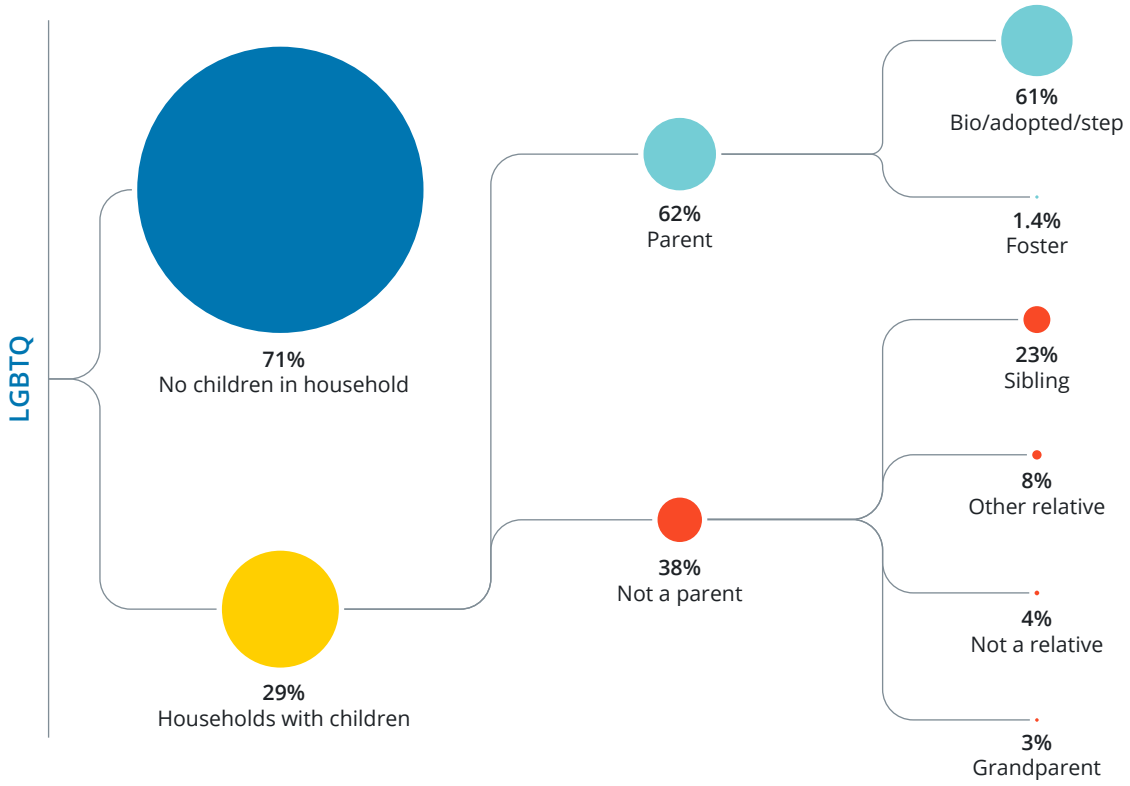
parents. We selected BRFSS data as the primary source because of multiple years of inclusion of SOGI measures, the larger sample sizes of sexual and gender minority participants (e.g., compared to the General Social Survey), and its use of a follow-up parenting survey with information about the relationship between the survey respondent and children in the household. To provide data on parents in same-sex couples, an important subset of the LGBTQ population, we use data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). To estimate how many LGBTQ adults have ever had children, a larger population than the main focus of this study but another important overlapping group, we use the General Social Survey (GSS). Finally, to provide an understanding of LGBTQ-specific concerns related to parenting, which are not found in federal population health and demographic datasets, we use data from the NIH-funded Generations and Trans Pop studies. Throughout this summary and report, we use the term LGBTQ as an umbrella term that is inclusive of the respondents in these multiple data sources, including LGBT-identified people responding to BRFSS and GSS, respondents who reported being in same-sex couples in ACS, and the LGBTQ+ respondents who participated in the Generations and TransPop studies.

FINDINGS

DIVERSITY OF RELATIONSHIPS TO CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD

As noted above, the focus of this report is on the significance of SOGI status among those who identify as parents, a group that makes up about 62% of the population of LGBTQ people who are living with minors in the household (Figure 1). "Parents" for this study included those that indicated their relationship to the youth under 18 years of age in the home was biological parent, stepparent, adoptive parent, or foster parent. The other 38% of people who are not parents but are living with minors in the household include grandparents, siblings, other relatives, and non-relatives. LGBTQ people who are not parents living with minors in their household were less likely to be grandparents and more likely to be siblings, other relatives, and unrelated compared to the percentages among straight cisgender people. Compared to White adults, higher proportions of LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ people of color (POC) were living with minors to whom they were "other relatives" (Table A2).

Figure 1. LGBTQ parenting status in the US



Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

The distribution of who is parenting the child(ren) under 18 years old in the home looks quite different across age groups, as would be expected (Table 1). Adults between 30-50 years of age are more likely to be the parents of the children in their homes rather than other relationships to those children. Also, the proportion of those with parenting relationships to the children in their homes looks different across gender groups, with most cisgender women parenting the children in their homes and with fewer proportions of parents among cisgender men and trans people (Table 2).

Table 1. Proportions of LGBTQ-headed households with children under the age of 18 by age group

	LGBTQ (N = 24,053)		
	AGE 18-29 (n = 7,424)	AGE 30-50 (n = 7,876)	AGE 51+ (n = 8,753)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Households with children	29.1 (26.7, 31.4)	41.9 (38.9, 45.0)	9.1 (7.2, 11.1)
Parents	11.6 (9.9, 13.4)	36.0 (33.3, 38.7)	4.7 (3.5, 6.0)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Parents = Relationship to child is biological, step, adopted, or foster. Non-parents = No children in the household + households with children where the relationship to the child is not biological, adopted, step, or foster

Table 2. Proportions of LGBTQ-headed households with children under the age of 18 by gender group

	LGBTQ (N = 24,053)		
	CISGENDER WOMEN (n = 12,541)	CISGENDER MEN (n = 8,996)	TRANSGENDER PEOPLE (n = 2,516)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Households with children	37.4 (35.0, 39.8)	18.0 (15.5, 20.6)	26.5 (21.1, 32.0)
Parents	26.2 (24.0, 28.3)	7.6 (6.2, 9.1)	15.2 (10.4, 20.1)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Parents = Relationship to child is biological, step, adopted, or foster. Non-parents = No children in the household + households with children where the relationship to the child is not biological, adopted, step, or foster.

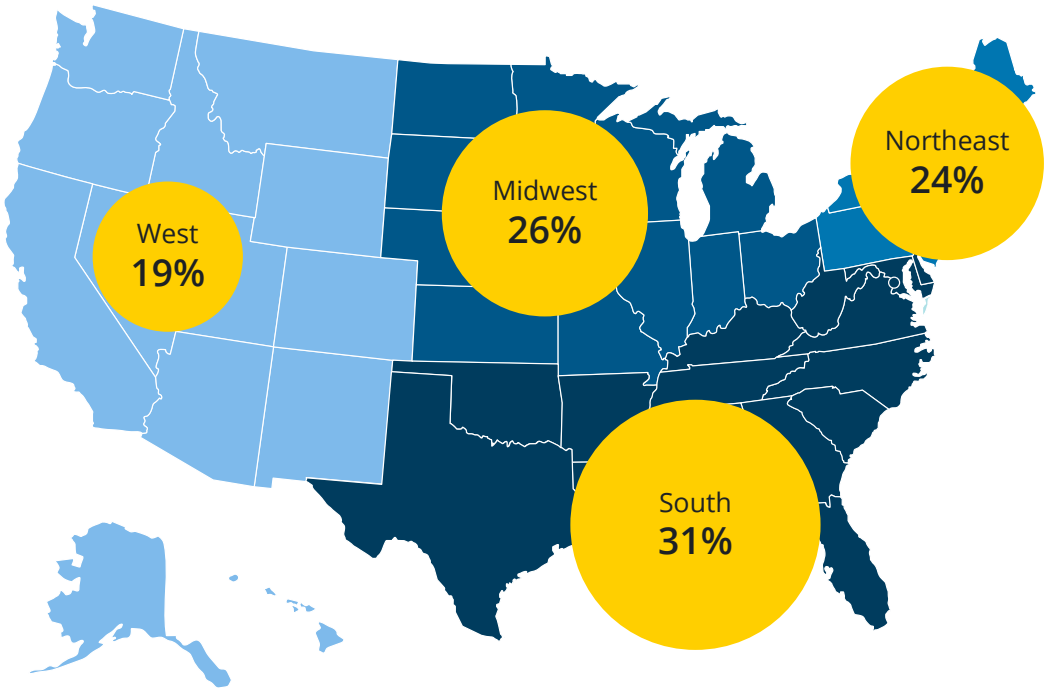
PARENTING POPULATION SIZE ESTIMATES

Among LGBTQ-identified adults, approximately 18% are parents of children under age 18 in the household. This means there are approximately 2,572,000 LGBTQ parents of children across the U.S., including 1.55 million who are married or partnered and 1 million who are single (Table A3). Half of LGBTQ adults are cisgender women; however, they make up 75% of LGBTQ parents (1.9 million). Cisgender men make up almost 40% of the LGBTQ adult population; however, they make up about 15% of LGBTQ parents (407,000). Approximately 10% of LGBTQ adults are transgender, and a similar proportion make up LGBTQ parents (227,000) (Table A4).

An estimated 5 million children live with an LGBTQ parent. Two million of them live in an LGBTQ single-parent household, the majority among bisexual women. However, 300,000 children live in a lesbian-headed single-parent household (Table A7). Approximately 57,000 LGBTQ parents are foster parents, and 33,000 of them are married or in an unmarried partnership (23,000 and 10,000, respectively). Approximately 23,000 LGBTQ parents are single and raising foster children.

The distribution of LGBTQ parents across regions of the U.S. somewhat mirrors patterns seen among non-LGBTQ parents, except there are fewer LGBTQ parents in the West and more in the Northeast (Figure 2 & Table A5).

Figure 2. LGBTQ parents by region



Though not the focus of most of the current report, it is useful to note that LGBTQ people who are currently parents of minors are only a subgroup of the larger population of adults who have ever had a child. Using the GSS, we found that approximately 32% of LGB people and 19% of trans adults report ever having a child (Table 3).

Table 3. Percent of population who are parents of minors versus adults who have ever had children by SOGI

	STRAIGHT	LGBT	LGB	LESBIAN	GAY	BISEXUAL	TRANS
Current parent of child under age 18[a]	27.5%	18.1%	18.4%	20.1%	4.3%	23.3%	15.2%
Have ever had a child[b]	70.8%	31.7%	31.9%	29.3%	5.0%	40.7%	19.3%[c]

Source: [a]BRFSS, 2019-2021; [b]GSS 2018, 2021, 2022; [c]GSS, 2021-2022

Note: See Appendix tables for sample sizes. BRFSS sexual orientation groupings are cisgender; however, GSS gender identity is unknown for those groups.

SAME-SEX COUPLES

Though the focus of this report is primarily on the characteristics and experiences of people who identify as LGBTQ, a related subpopulation is those that are specifically coupled with someone of the same gender. Among those who are partnered, being partnered with someone of the same gender may make someone (and their children) especially vulnerable to various forms of anti-LGBTQ discrimination within heterosexual contexts, regardless of their sexual identity.[13] As such, we present a brief review of sociodemographic profiles of same-sex couples who are parents using the Census Bureau's ACS data. For further analysis of same-sex coupled households, see the Census Bureau's detailed tables page for same-sex couples.[14]

Similar to differences in parenting rates among LGBTQ-identified and non-identified people, same-sex couples are less likely to be living with children in the household compared to different-sex couples (Table 4). Among those who do have children in the household, a smaller proportion of couples are parents (defined as biological, step, adoptive, or foster) to those children compared to different-sex couples. Approximately 14% (N = 167,105) of same-sex couples are parents. Among married same-sex couples, 18% are parents (n = 119,000; Figure 3 and Table A8 & A9).

Table 4. Percent of couples with children in the household and parenting by same-sex status

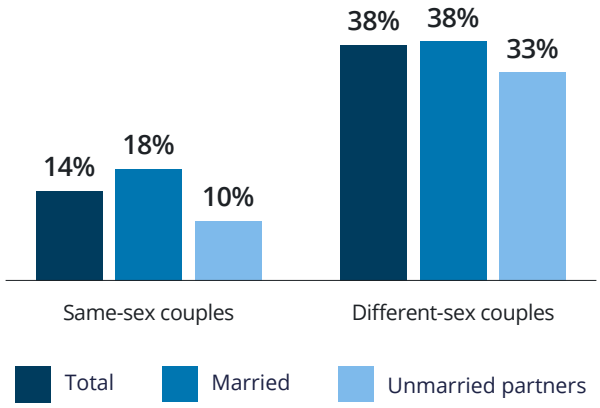
	SAME-SEX COUPLES (N = 31,821)	DIFFERENT-SEX COUPLES (N =2,008,300)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Children in the household	16.9 (16.3, 17.5)	40.5 (40.4, 40.6)
	(n = 4,802)	(n =717,708)
Parental relationship*	84.7 (83.3, 85.9)	92.9 (92.8, 92.9)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS; *among those with children in the household

[13] Hall, C. D. X., Feinstein, B. A., Sales, J. M., Girod, C., & Yount, K. M. (2021). Outness, discrimination, and depressive symptoms among bi+ women: The roles of partner gender and sexual identity. *Journal of Bisexuality*, 21(1), 24–41. https://doi.org/10.1080/15299716.2021.1886219; Friedman, S., Reynolds, A., Scovill, S., Brassier, F., Campbell, R., & Ballou, M. (2013). *An estimate of housing discrimination against same sex couples*. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Policy Development and Research. https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/pdf/hsg_disc_against_samesexcpls_v3.pdf; Goldberg, A. E., & Smith, J. Z. (2014). Perceptions of stigma and self-reported school engagement in same sex couples with young children. *Psychology of Sexual Orientation and Gender Diversity*, 1(3), 202–212. https://doi.org/10.1037/sgd0000052; Goldberg, A.E., & Allen, K.R., (Eds.) (2020). *LGBTQ-Parent Families: Innovations in Research and Implications for Practice*. Springer. https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-35610-1

[14] U.S. Census Bureau. *Characteristics of same-sex couple households: 2005 to Present*. https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html

Figure 3. Parenthood among same-sex and different-sex couples by marital status



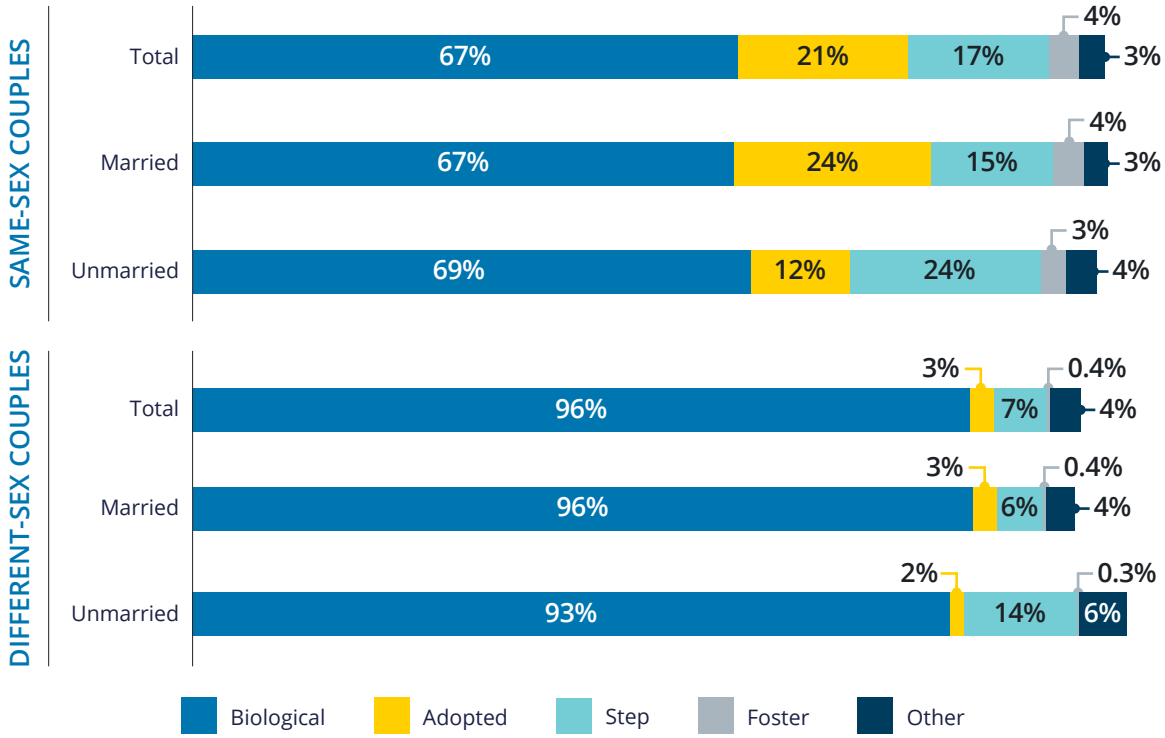
Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS

Our analysis regarding the gender distribution and parent-child relationship types among same-sex couples resulted in similar conclusions reported by the Census Bureau.[15] We found that among parents, same-sex couples adopt, foster, and have stepchildren at much higher rates than different-sex couples. Notably, 24% of married same-sex parents have adopted a child versus 3% of married different-sex parents. More unmarried coupled parents have stepchildren than married among both same-sex and different-sex couples (Figure 4).

An estimated 294,000 children live in same-sex couple households (Table A7.) Approximately 35,000 same-sex couple parents have adopted children, and 6,000 are fostering children. The majority of these couples are married (approximately 29,000 and 5,000, respectively; Table A8).

[15] Hemez, P. & Washington, C. (2022). Most kids with parent in same-sex relationship live with female couple. U.S. Census Bureau. https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/07/most-kids-with-parent-in-same-sex-relationship-live-with-female-couple.html

Figure 4. Relationship to the child(ren) in the household among same-sex and different-sex couples by marital status



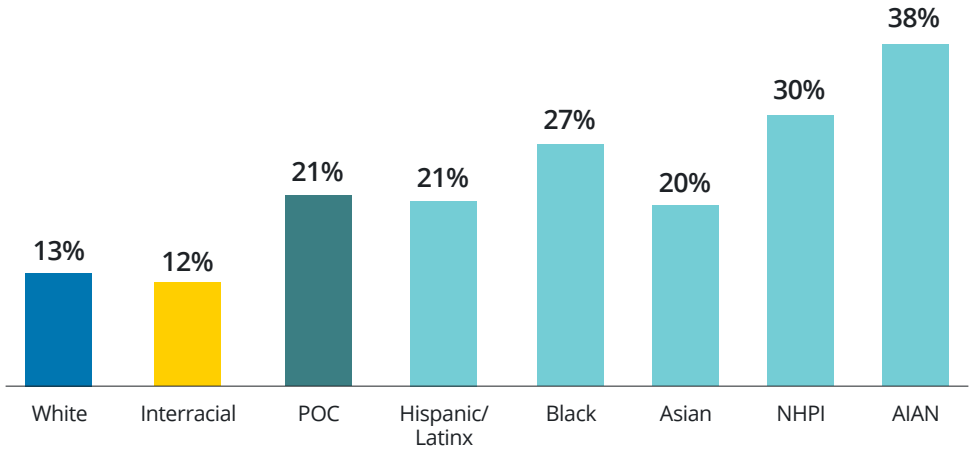
Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS

Note: Proportions are among parents with the exception of 'Other', which includes grandchildren, siblings, other relatives, and non-relatives.

Figure 5 highlights that same-sex couples of color are parenting at higher rates than White or interracial same-sex couples. As has been found in prior studies,[16] same-sex couples who are parents are less likely to be White than non-parenting same-sex couples and different-sex parents (Table A11, A12, & A27). Same-sex parents are more likely to be interracial couples compared to different-sex parents, and it is more likely for both partners to be people of color (i.e., racialized minorities) among same-sex parents compared to same-sex non-parents (Table A27). Particularly among male same-sex couples, POC households make up a significantly higher proportion of parenting couples than among non-parenting couple households (Table A13). Same-sex couples who are parents are also more likely to be younger (40 vs. 47 years old), female- headed households (Figure 6), and married than their non-parenting peers (See Table A11).

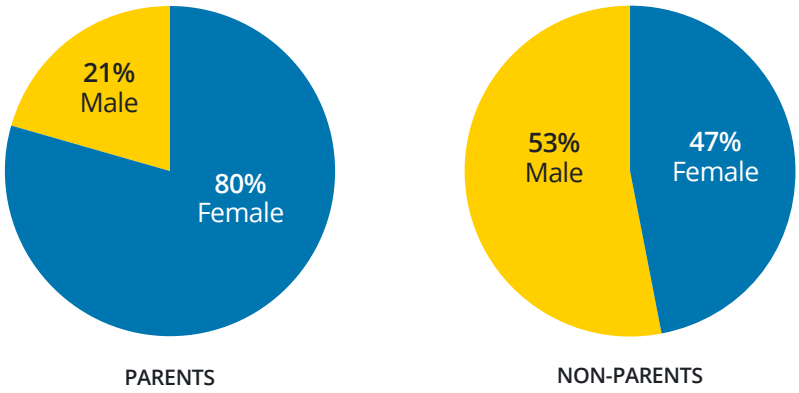
[16] Gates, G.J. (2013). *LGBT parenting in the United States.* Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Parenting-Feb-2013.pdf; Goldberg, A.E., & Allen, K.R., (Eds.) (2020). *LGBTQ-Parent Families: Innovations in research and implications for practice*. Springer. https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-35610-1; Hemez, P. & Washington, C. (2022). *Most kids with parent in same-sex relationship live with female couple.* U.S. Census Bureau: America Counts: Stories. https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/07/most-kids-with-parent-in-same-sex-relationship-live-with-female-couple.html

Figure 5. Percent of same-sex couples parenting by race



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021
Note: Interracial = White + POC couple; POC = People of color

Figure 6. Gender composition of same-sex couples by parental status



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021
Note: Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding

The distribution of same-sex couples who are parents across regions of the U.S. is similar to that of LGBTQ-identified parents in that the largest proportion are in the South (Table 5).

Table 5. Distribution of same-sex couples who are parents across the US by region

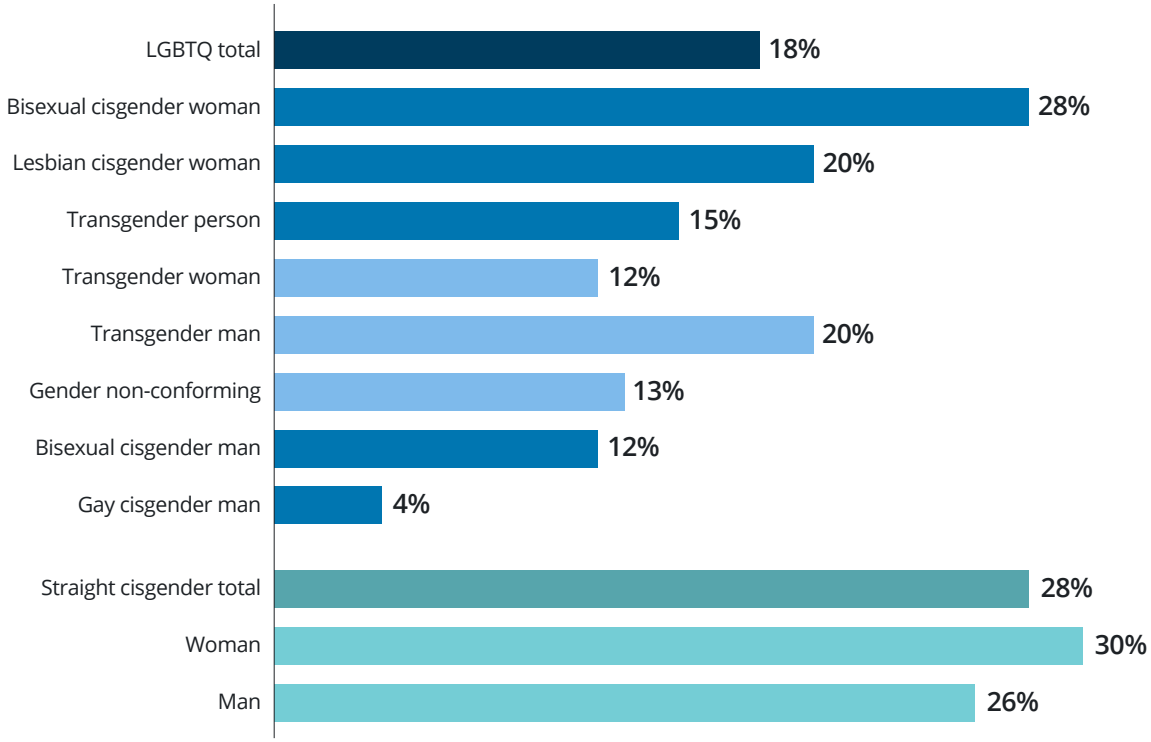
REGION	SAME-SEX COUPLE PARENTS (N = 3,992)
	% (95% CI)
South	39.5 (37.5, 41.6)
West	26.4 (24.7, 28.2)
Midwest	18.0 (16.4, 19.6)
Northeast	16.1 (14.8, 17.5)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC PATTERNS AMONG LGBTQ PARENTS

Looking at the role of gender and sexual orientation in parenting among LGBTQ people, higher percentages of cisgender women and transgender men report being parents of children in their household than cisgender men and transgender women (Figure 7). Overall, LGBTQ people are less likely to be parenting children in their household than non-LGBTQ people, and the known age difference between LGBTQ and straight cisgender populations does not explain this difference (Table A17 & A27). However, cisgender bisexual women parent at similar rates to straight cisgender women and men (Figure 7).

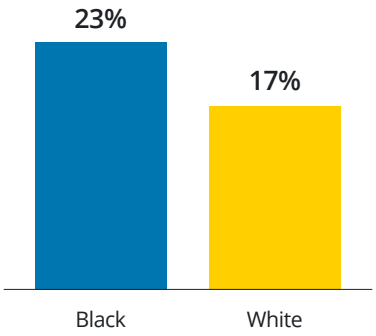
Figure 7. Percent parenting children in the household by sexual orientation and gender identity



Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

With regard to race, LGBTQ POC and White people parent at similar rates; however, more Black than White LGBTQ people are parents (Figure 8). Both Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) and American Indian/Alaska Natives (AIAN) also appear to have relatively higher rates of parenting compared to White LGBTQ people, but the evidence is weaker and probably affected by the smaller sample sizes (See Table A15 & A27).

Figure 8. Percent of Black and White LGBTQ people who are parents

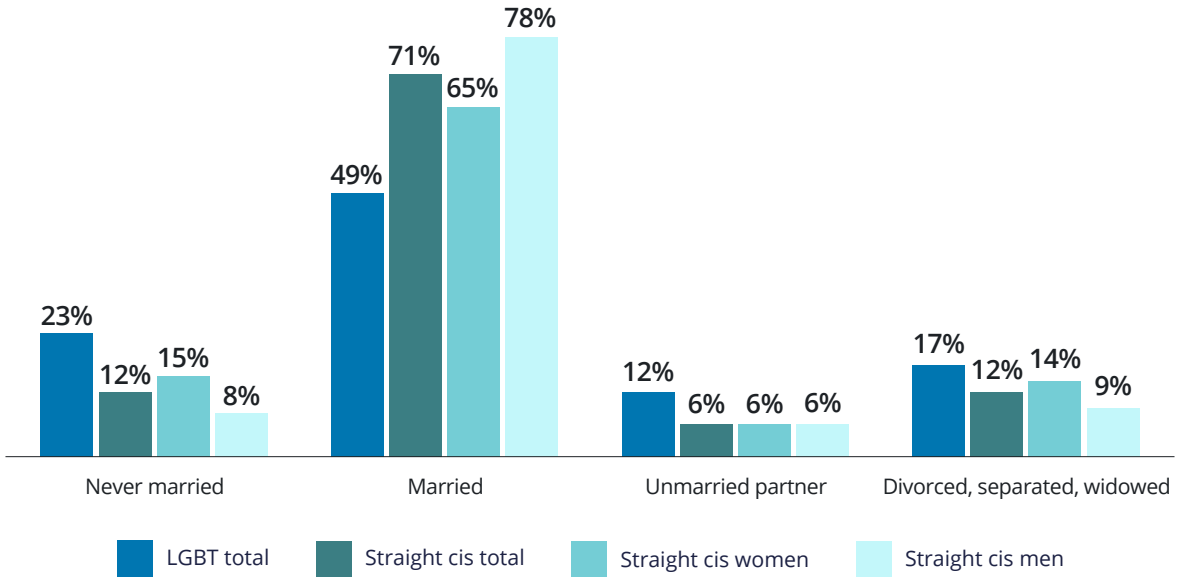


Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

The subgroup of LGBTQ people who are parenting children looks different than LGBTQ people who are not parenting children in their households. Similar to what we see among same-sex couples, LGBTQ parents are somewhat younger than LGBTQ people who are not parents, and there are higher proportions of Black-identified and married people among LGBTQ parents than non-parents (Table A16 & A27). Concerning socioeconomic status, similar proportions of LGBTQ parents report having college experience as non-parents; however, more LGBTQ parents report living in poverty than LGBTQ non-parents (See Figure 11 & Table A16).

With regard to relationship status, a clear pattern emerges in Figure 9—lower proportions of LGBTQ people who are parenting children are married compared to straight cisgender parents. A higher proportion of LGBTQ parents are in unmarried partnerships or have never been married compared to straight cisgender men and women. However, LGBTQ parents have a similar rate of divorce, separation, or widowhood as straight cisgender women, with both groups having a higher rate than straight cisgender men (Table A18). It is important to note, however, that these data do not allow us to understand at what point these respondents became parents in relationship to their marital status or whether their separation and divorce was to same- or different-gender partners. As such, we do not draw any conclusions about the impetus or impact of marriage or relationship status on whether LGBTQ people have children.

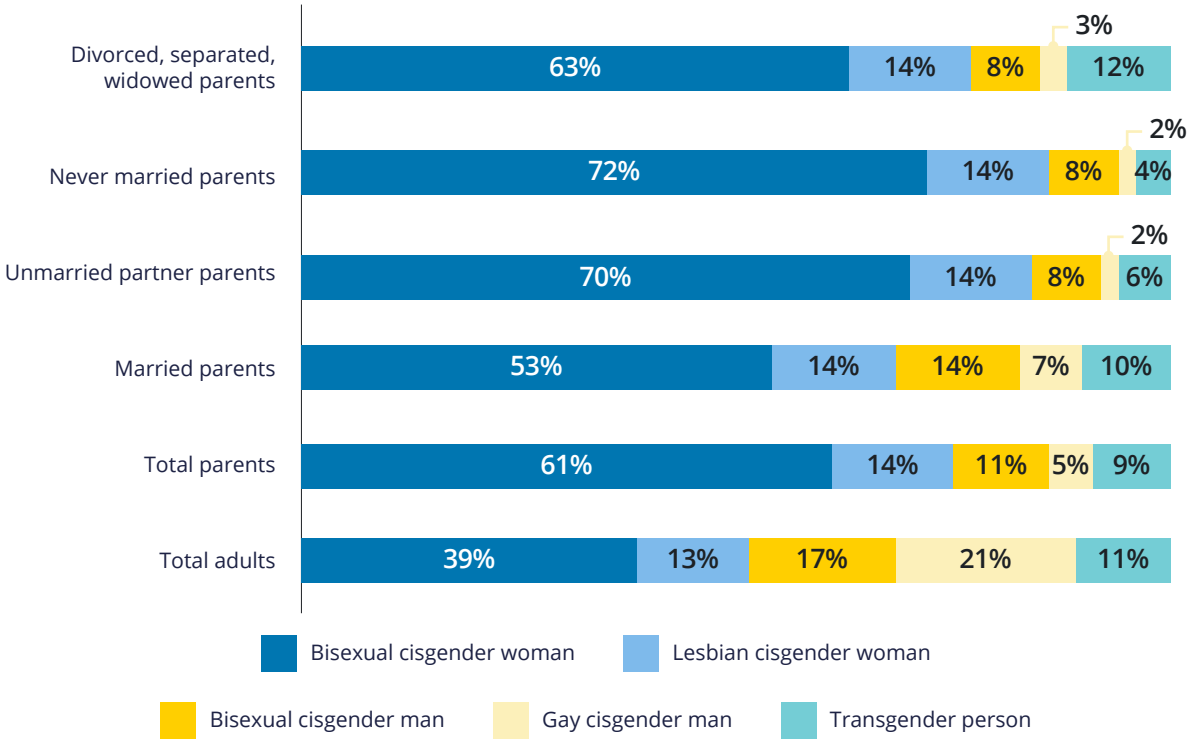
Figure 9. Marital status of parents by SOGI



Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021
Note: Cis = cisgender

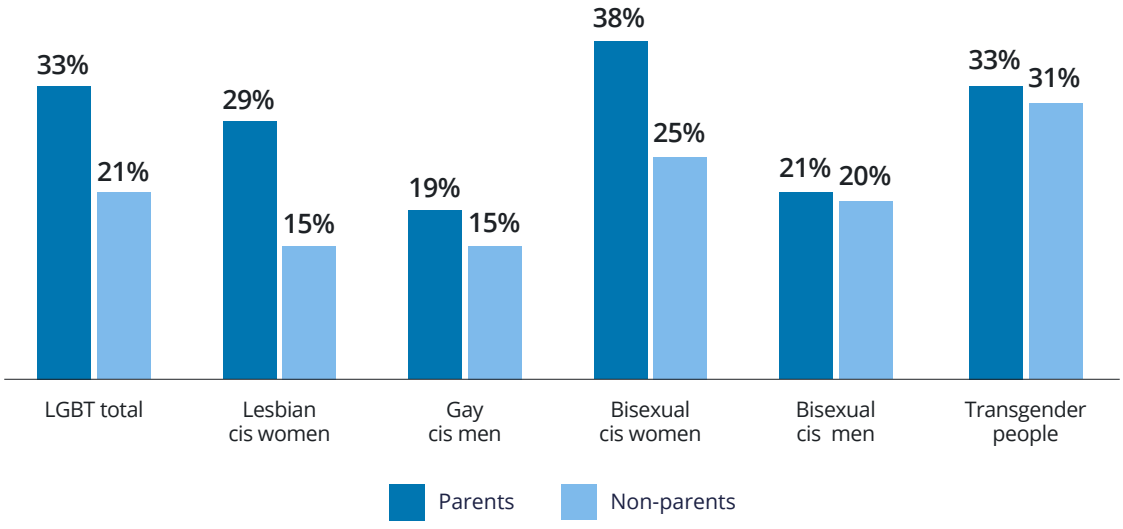
When assessing relationship status among subgroups of LGBTQ parents, we find that the majority of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender parents are married or partnered (Table A18). And while over half of married LGBTQ parents are cis bisexual women (Figure 10), 44% of bisexual women parents are single mothers, i.e., never married and not in an unmarried partnership (Table A18). Likewise, 40% of lesbian parents are single mothers compared with 29% straight women parents.

Figure 10. Proportion of LGBTQ subgroups among marital statuses



Mirroring SOGI-based economic disparities overall, LGBTQ parents are more likely to be living in poverty than non-LGBTQ parents. This difference remains even when age differences between LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ populations are accounted (controlled) for (Table A27). Bisexual women parents, lesbian parents, and trans parents have the highest rates of poverty, and bisexual women parents and lesbian parents have the greatest difference in poverty rates compared to their non-parenting counterparts (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Percent of LGBTQ people living on poverty-level incomes by SOGI and parental status



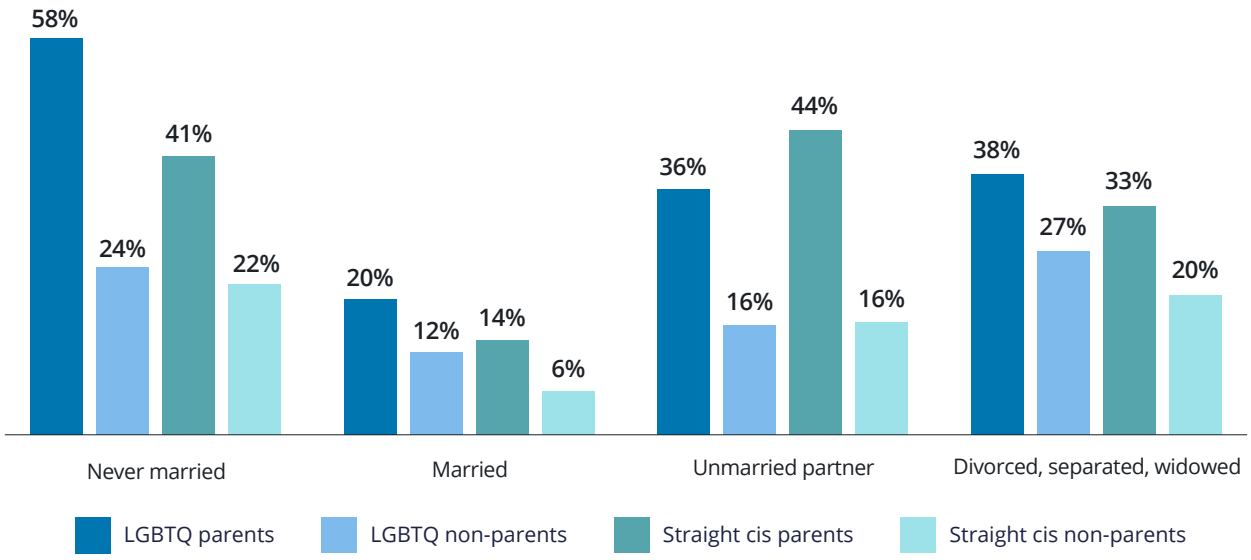
Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender

KEY PATTERNS BETWEEN MARITAL STATUS, SOGI, AND POVERTY

Figure 12 shows that higher percentages of parents who are not married or not partnered, regardless of whether they are LGBTQ, are living with poverty-level incomes. Overall, fewer LGBTQ parents who are married are living in poverty compared to their unmarried counterparts, including those who were never married/single, divorced/widowed/separated, or with an unmarried partner (Table A27). The significance of being LGBTQ in parental poverty rates differs by marital status groups—that is, more LGBTQ parents compared to non-LGBTQ parents are living in poverty among those who have never been married and those who are married. LGBTQ status appears to matter less for poverty rates among those living with an unmarried partner or divorced/separated/widowed (Table A21). Among all groups across LGBTQ status and parenting status, LGBTQ parents who have never been married have the highest proportion of people living in poverty, a statistic likely driven by the proportions of bisexual cisgender women who have never married and are living on poverty-level incomes (Tables A18 & A20).

Figure 12. Poverty by marital status, parental status, and SOGI



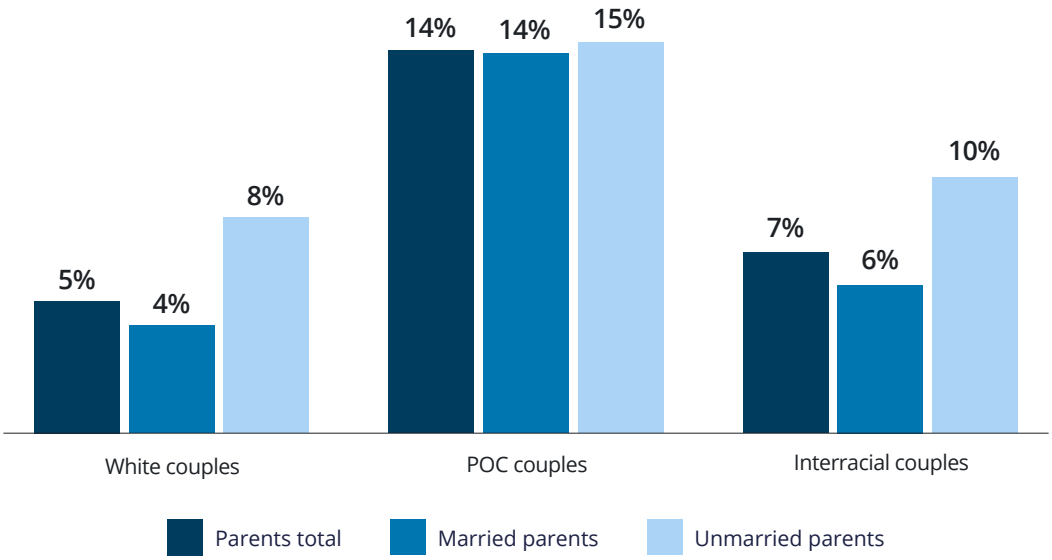
Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender; Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2021). Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Rates of marriage differ by racialized groups among LGBTQ parents. Among White LGBTQ parents, almost 60% are married, which is a higher proportion than among White LGBTQ non-parents (22%) but a smaller proportion than among White straight cisgender parents (78%). However, POC across the board are less likely to marry across all parenting and SOGI groups (Table A19 & A27). Often, marriage is discussed as a pathway out of poverty, particularly for parents. While the data above indicate lower poverty rates among those who are married in their parenting and SOGI group counterparts, it is unclear if that is a function of the value of marriage among people with higher incomes or the impact of marriage on income.

Further, the possible protective relationship from poverty as a function of marriage across SOGI groups does not hold for all racial groups. For example, in contrast to White same-sex parents, the poverty rate is not different (i.e., lower) among married parents compared to unmarried partnered parents who are POC or are interracial (Figure 13). When we look at Black and Hispanic LGBTQ parents specifically, we find little evidence of a difference in the poverty rate between parents who are married versus those who are living with an unmarried partner (Table 6 and Table A22 & A27). In addition, there is strong evidence that married White and Black LGBTQ parents, but not Hispanic LGBTQ parents, are less likely to be living in poverty than those who were never married (Table A22 & A27).

Figure 13. Poverty among same-sex couples by race groups and marital status



Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS
Note: POC = People of color; Interracial = Couples that are POC + White; Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2021).

Table 6. Poverty among LGBTQ parents by racial groups and marital status

IN POVERTY*	LGBTQ PARENTS		
	WHITE (n = 2,241)	BLACK (n = 222)	HISPANIC/LATINX (n = 403)
	%	%	%
Never married	48.8	62.3	62.2
Married	12.9	29.3	42.3
Unmarried partner	26.9	34.6	46.7
Divorced, separated, widowed	30.8	36.5	49.1

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021
Note: *Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2021) Sample sizes (n's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

PARENTAL CONCERNS AND PARENTING PATHS

Federal agency data on how LGBTQ people become parents is very limited. Datasets, such as the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), do not recruit cisgender gay men or transgender respondents. Further, the assessments included in the NSFG do not explore the myriad of LGBTQ-specific concerns and pathways to parenting among cisgender lesbians and bisexual women. As such, we must turn to investigator-initiated population-based studies, like the NIH-funded Generations and Transpop studies, to examine exposures to LGBTQ-specific or highly relevant parenting stressors. Using data from Generations and TransPop, we examined questions that cannot be answered with the data from BRFSS or any other survey led by a federal health and population studies agency, such as

- Among LGBTQ adults who are parents and partnered, what proportion are in same-sex couples or partnered with transgender partners?
- How do LGBTQ parents become parents?
- What concerns do LGBTQ parents have about their legal status and recognition related to their children?
- What are the unmet needs related to becoming parents among LGBTQ adults?

Table 7 below shows that 47% of partnered LGBTQ parents are in same-gender couples or partnered with transgender people. When looking among partnered LGBTQ people, we find that same-gender/transgender-inclusive partnerships are much lower among cisgender bisexual/queer-identified parents (10%) compared to cisgender lesbian/gay parents (100%) (Table A24).

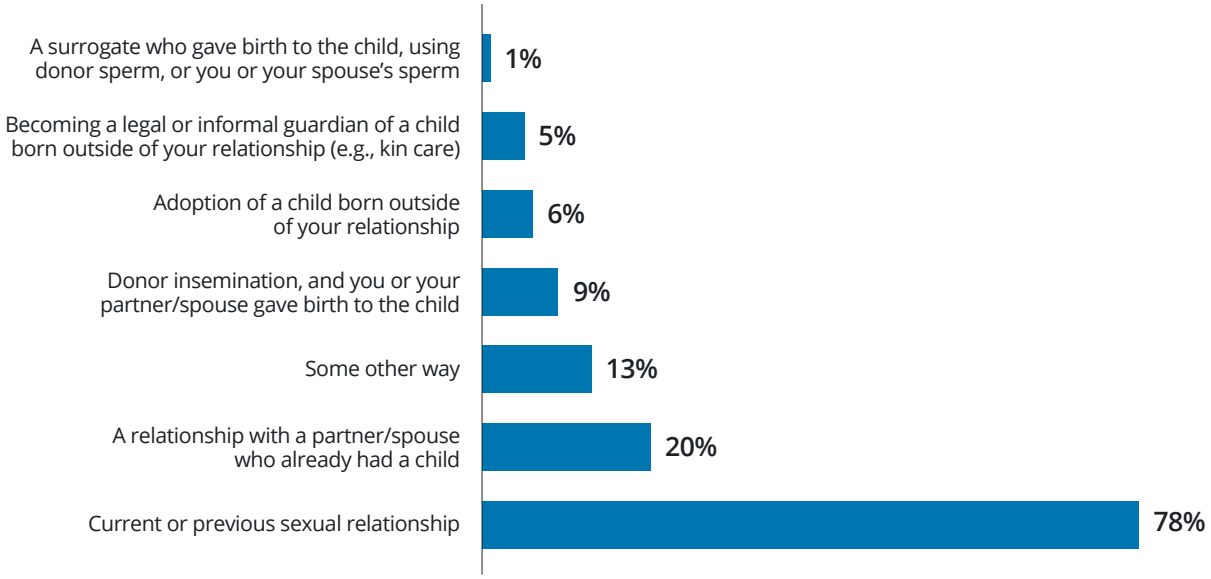
Table 7. Partner gender among partnered LGBTQ parents and non-parents

PARTNER GENDER	LGBTQ PARENT (N = 151)	LGBTQ NON-PARENT (N = 893)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Different gender (and cisgender)	53.2 (43.1, 63.0)	29.9 (26.1, 34.0)
Same gender (and cisgender) or transgender/nonbinary	46.8 (37.0, 56.9)	70.1 (66.0, 73.9)

Source: Generations Study and TransPop Study, 2016-2018

In terms of pathways to parenthood (Figure 14), most LGBTQ adults became parents through prior or current sexual relationships or through stepparenthood (i.e., through a relationship with a partner/spouse who already had a child). More detailed analyses of these data in the Williams Institute's 2021 report, Health and Socioeconomic Well-Being of LBQ Women in the US, suggests that there may be gender differences in some additional pathways, though the evidence is weak. For instance, cisgender GBQ men may be more likely to adopt or take on parenting responsibilities of kin, and cisgender LBQ women and their partners may be more likely to give birth.

Figure 14. Pathways to parenting among LGBQ adults



Source: Generations Study Wave 2, 2017-2018

With regard to parenting stress, we examined reports highlighting concerns about the possibility of having children or maintaining legal relationships with one's children. Approximately 30% of LGBQ parents are not legally recognized or are unsure about their legal status as the parent/guardian of at least one child (Table 8).

Table 8. Legal status among LGBQ people who are parents

	LGBQ TOTAL (N = 155)
	% (95% CI)
Which of the following best describes your relationship to your child(ren)?	
Legally recognized as parent/guardian for at least one child	93.0 (84.4, 97.1)
Not legally recognized as parent/guardian for at least one child	21.4 (12.9, 33.5)
Unsure about legal status as parent/guardian of at least one child	9.8 (3.8, 23.2)

Source: Generations Study Wave 2, 2017-2018
Note: LGBQ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and pansexual cisgender and nonbinary respondents; Respondents were allowed to select more than one response to account for multiple children; therefore, percentages exceed 100%.

It was somewhat or very important to have children in the future for about half of LGBQ adults, and a similar proportion thought it was somewhat or very likely to happen (Table 9). LBQ women were three times more likely than GBQ cisgender men to think it was very or extremely likely they would have children in the future among the 22% who said so (Table A27).

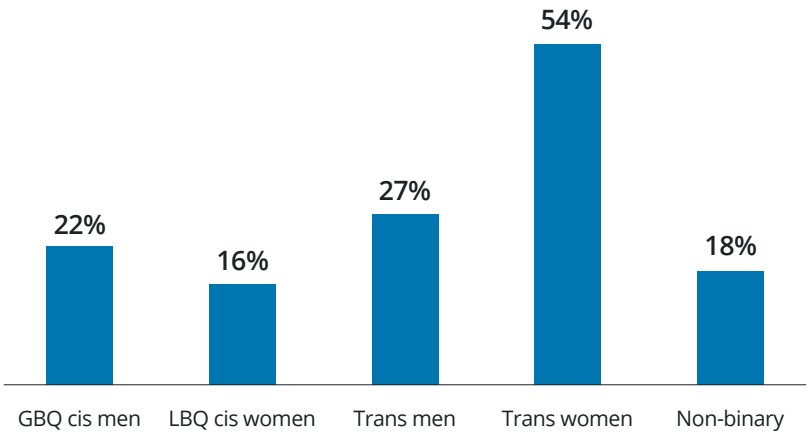
Table 9. Parenting intentions among LGBQ people

	LGBQ TOTAL (N = 894)
	% (95% CI)
How important is it to you to have children one day?	
Not at all important	48.5 (43.7, 53.4)
Somewhat important	28.8 (24.4, 33.6)
Very/extremely important	22.7 (18.7, 27.3)
*Thinking about the future, how likely do you think it is that you will have children?**	
Not at all likely	47.4 (42.6, 52.3)
Somewhat likely	30.2 (25.8, 35.0)
Very/extremely likely	22.4 (18.3, 27.1)

Source: Generations Study Wave 2, 2017-2018
Note: LGBQ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and pansexual cisgender and nonbinary respondents. *A Williams Institute report compared this outcome among LBQ women and GBQ men (Wilson et al., 2021).[17]

Though sexual minority cisgender women were more likely than other subgroups to expect to be a parent at some point,[18] sexual minority cisgender men and transgender people reported concerns that they could not have children even though they wanted them (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Percent of LGBTQ people who wish they could have children but cannot



Source: Generations Study and TransPop Study, 2016-2018
Note: Cis = cisgender; Trans = transgender; Nonbinary = Transgender and non-transgender nonbinary-identifying people

[17] Wilson, B.D.M, Gordon, A.R., Mallory, C., Choi, S.K., Badgett, M.V.L., & LBQ Women's Report Team. (2021). *Health and socioeconomic well-being of LBQ women in the U.S.* Williams Institute, Los Angeles. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LBQ-Women-Mar-2021.pdf

[18] See footnote 17.

DISCUSSION

Many LGBTQ-identified people in the U.S. are parenting children in their households. Cisgender bisexual women and cisgender lesbians are most likely to be parenting among sexual minorities and transgender men are most likely to be parenting among gender minorities. The pattern of increased likelihood to parent among people who are assigned female at birth is also seen among the higher proportions of female same-sex couples parenting compared to male same-sex couples.

Similar to patterns known among parents overall in the U.S., LGBTQ parents look somewhat different than their non-parenting counterparts. Namely, LGBTQ parents and same-sex couples tend to be racial minorities (particularly Black), married or partnered, younger, and living in poverty, compared to LGBTQ people who are not parenting. When we look at the significance of LGBTQ status among parents in the U.S., patterns of SOGI-related economic disparities are similar to that of the overall population but more pronounced. LGBTQ parents overall (across race and gender) are more likely to be living in poverty than non-LGBTQ parents.

Our analyses of LGBTQ-specific population-based data indicate that a significant proportion of LGBTQ people have concerns about their legal status in relationship to their children, and many want to have children but fear they will not be able to. This latter concern was particularly expressed among GBQ cisgender men and transgender women across sexual orientations, two groups among LGBTQ people who must identify pathways to parenting outside of giving birth. The range of pathways to having children that do not require one parent to give birth is known to be time-consuming and expensive and, therefore, presents major access barriers to cisgender GBQ men and transgender women who want to parent.

This report provides current estimates of the characteristics and experiences of LGBTQ people who are parenting. Due to data availability limitations, previous population research on LGBTQ parenting focused on reporting children in the household as a proxy for parenting, in addition to reports of ever having a child (no matter the age) and the parenting of minors, specifically among same-sex couples exclusively.[19] Our data show that nearly 40% of those who report living with a child in the household are not parents to those children but instead are siblings, grandparents, or unrelated. Reporting on those who identify as having a parental relationship to minors in the household allows for a more accurate estimate of the population size of LGBTQ parents. Nonetheless, the findings related to prevalence and characteristics and experiences among parents are essentially the same as those observed over a decade ago.[20] Future research is needed that explores the nature of these "non-parent" relationships to children in the household as they may represent parental figures despite labels or reflect various forms of kin and queer chosen-family structures. Those LGBTQ adults in these roles within families or households with children may experience a range of unique benefits and disadvantages compared to their counterparts not living with children as part of the household.

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[19] Walker, L. & Taylor, D. (2021). *Same-sex couple households: 2019*. U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey Briefs. https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2021/acs/acsbr-005.pdf

[20] Gates, G.J. (2013). *LGBT parenting in the United States*. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Parenting-Feb-2013.pdf; Gates, G.J. (2013). *LGB families and relationships: Analysis of the 2013 National Health Interview Survey*. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgb-families-and-relationships/; Pew Research Center (2013). *A survey of LGBT Americans*. Washington D.C. https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2013/06/13/a-survey-of-lgbt-americans/

There are numerous policy implications of these data on LGBTQ parents and how they look similar or different compared to LGBTQ people who are not parenting and compared to parents who are not LGBTQ. First, the fact that LGBTQ people are less likely to be parents compared to straight cisgender people is probably, in part, a function of lower interests in parenting, a finding of this study that has been supported elsewhere in prior research and may reflect freedom from cisheteronormative expectations of sex, intimacy, and family.[21] However, the lower parenting rates are also likely a function of access to opportunities and resources to become parents. We see this reflected in the findings of the Generations and TransPop studies demonstrating that many LGBTQ parents fear they may not be able to become parents but want to.

In this context, LGBTQ parenting rights are a needed focus within policy advocacy. One major implication is the need for attention to barriers to accessing alternative reproductive technologies (for those who produce sperm and for those with uteruses) and adoption services. Additionally, continued attention to LGBTQ parental recognition rights is needed, particularly for non-biological parents in same-sex couples. A significant proportion of LGBTQ parents and same-sex couples adopt. Considering the recent Supreme Court decision in *Fulton v. Philadelphia*, in which religious exemptions to LGBTQ non-discrimination laws were determined to be allowable in foster and adoption services, ensuring that adoption services do not engage in discriminatory practices and implement adequate support are needed ongoing areas of policy and services work.

Though the federal health data (BRFSS) do not allow us to identify who among those who identify themselves as parents are stepparents to the children in the household, we do know from the LGBTQ-specific dataset used for this report that a significant percentage of them were stepparents. The prevalence and significance of stepparenthood as a primary pathway to being a parent is well documented in LGBTQ family studies.[22] Previous research on this topic also indicates that stepparents, biological parents, and adoptive parents experience overlapping policy concerns and threats to family well-being with regard to navigating the process of establishing parentage for themselves and partners, family court systems, and family policing.[23] Future research should continue to understand and examine the ways that stepparenthood creates unique opportunities for family formation and challenges to parental rights and well-being.

Additionally, the high proportion of the LGBTQ parent population that is comprised of cisgender women of color living in poverty is a reminder that policies aiming to reduce or abolish family policing are also likely important LGBTQ agenda policies to focus on. That is, research has shown that women of color who are living in poverty or living with low incomes are at far higher risk of being under the surveillance of child welfare systems and having their children removed from their homes.[24] There is

[21] Riskind, R. G., & Patterson, C. J. (2010). Parenting intentions and desires among childless lesbian, gay, and heterosexual individuals. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 24(1), 78–81. https://doi.org/10.1037/a0017941

[22] Moore, M. (2011). *Invisible families: Gay identities, relationships, and motherhood among Black women*. University of California Press. https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520269521/invisible-families.; Acosta, K. L. (2021). *Queer stepfamilies: The path to social and legal recognition.* NYU Press. http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv2tr51kn

[23] Movement Advancement Project. (2023). *Relationships at risk: Why we need to update state parentage laws to protect children and families*. www.mapresearch.org/2023-parentage-report

[24] Dettlaff, A. J., & Boyd, R. (2020). Racial disproportionality and disparities in the child welfare system: Why do they exist, and what can be done to address them? *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 692(1),

also preliminary evidence indicating that queer cisgender women and transgender men experience biased and discriminatory interactions with the child welfare system and family court.[25] As such, when we look at the profile of LGBTQ parents in the U.S., it seems clear that policies aiming to protect family and parental rights among poor women of color generally would also likely benefit LGBTQ parents as a population.

Regardless of lower rates of parenting among LGBTQ adults as a whole, economic concerns among LGBTQ parents indicate a need to continue identifying policies and services that address economic inequities. For example, policy advocacy groups working on economic justice, reproductive justice, and the needs of parents have identified policies such as universal health coverage, increasing access to the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, and wage equity as key policies of interest. Future advocacy efforts and research should continue examining the potential for these types of policies to move the needle of economic security for LGBTQ parents as well.

253-274. https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716220980329; Roberts, D. (2009). *Shattered bonds: The color of child welfare*. Hachette UK. https://www.hachettebookgroup.com/titles/dorothy-roberts/shattered-bonds/9780465070596/

[25] Polikoff, N. D. (2018). Neglected lesbian mothers. *Family Law Quarterly*, 52(1), 87–122. https://www.jstor.org/stable/27007797; Wilson, B.D.M., Gomez, A. G. H., Sadat, M., Choi, S.K., & Badgett, M. V. L. (2020). *Pathways into poverty: Lived experiences among LGBTQ people*. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Pathways-Overview-Sep-2020.pdf

METHODS

This report relies on four datasets to describe the population of LGBTQ parents and its subpopulation characteristics. We describe each data source and the analytic techniques used per source below.

BRFSS

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a national probability survey of more than 400,000 adults aged 18 or older designed to collect information on health behaviors, conditions, and services. It is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and administered in English or Spanish via computer-assisted interviewing (CATI) at the state level by state health departments, universities, or call centers. It utilizes a complete overlap sample frame of cell phones, which are contacted using random digit dialing, and landlines which use disproportionate stratified sampling. BRFSS is primarily an individual-level survey (respondents from the cellphone sample are considered a single household and respondents from the landline sample are randomly chosen within the household among all eligible adults) and is "with replacement", therefore eligible respondents, including respondents within the same household, have the potential to be interviewed more than once per year.[26] Data are collected annually and on an ongoing basis in 50 U.S. states and three U.S. territories. The BRFSS includes a standardized core set of questions that are asked in every state, optional modules that states choose to include, and other specific state-added questions. The dataset used for this study pooled BRFSS years 2019-2021[27] and was restricted to states that administered the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) module in addition to the Random Child Selection (RCS) module (see Table A28). The New York state RCS module (2019-2021) was merged separately since it was not included in the national dataset.[28] Results from categorical variables are reported as proportions with 95% confidence intervals and from continuous variables as means with standard deviations. The BRFSS final person weight variable (_LLCPWT) was applied; however, it was amended to account for varying sample sizes by each year and state so that the sample from each state's year of data was represented equally (see BRFSS documentation for further information on this method).[29]

[26] CDC. (2020). 2021 BRFSS data collection protocol. OMB Report, Attachment 10a. https://omb.report/icr/202312-0920-004/doc/137852600.pdf

[27] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [2019-2021]. https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/annual_data.htm

[28] New York State Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. New York State Department of Health, Center for Community Health. Division of Chronic Disease Prevention. Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research, [2019-2021]. https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/brfss/

[29] CDC BRFSS (2022, July). *Complex sampling weights and preparing 2021 BRFSS module data for analysis.* https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/2021/pdf/complex-sampling-weights-and-preparing-module-data-for-analysis-2021-508.pdf

Measures

Sexual orientation and gender identity

In BRFSS 2019-2021, respondents were assigned a sex from their answer to a screening question about gender ("Are you male or female?"). If respondents did not identify as male or female, the interview was terminated.[30] Later respondents were asked a question about their sexual orientation ("Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself?" Gay [or Lesbian]; Straight, that is, not gay; Bisexual; Something else; I don't know the answer; Refused) and then a question about transgender gender identity ("Do you consider yourself to be transgender?" Yes, Transgender, male-to-female; Yes, Transgender, female to male; Yes, Transgender, gender nonconforming; No). For privacy, respondents have the option to respond using the terminology associated with a particular identity or by choosing the number associated with that term read aloud by the interviewer. Anyone who identified as straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual to the sexual orientation questions and answered yes to the transgender identity question was included in the analysis. Respondents who answered "something else" or "don't know or not sure" or who declined to answer the questions were not included in the analysis. Some respondents were asked their sex at birth in a separate module but not about their gender identity; thus, we did not have the opportunity to categorize transgender identity based on sex assigned at birth and current gender identity as is commonly done. However, in the New York state BRFSS survey, respondents were asked, "What sex were you assigned at birth?" and "How do you describe your gender" (Male, Female, Gender queer/gender nonconforming/nonbinary, Gender not listed, please specify). If respondents identified as a gender identity different than their sex at birth or as genderqueer, etc., then they were categorized as transgender for this analysis.

Race/ethnicity

In BRFSS, race/ethnicity is categorized into eight categories: White, Black, Latinx/Hispanic, American Indian or Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (NHPI), Multiracial, and Other race. Anyone who identified with more than one race was categorized as 'Multiracial' with the exception of the Hispanic category, where anyone who chose Hispanic was categorized as Hispanic, regardless of other race categories chosen. Therefore, White, Black, American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN), Asian, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) categories do not include Latinx/Hispanic or Multiracial respondents. The first authors' decisions about racial categorizations are grounded in multiple theoretical frameworks in which it is understood that well-being is impacted by discrimination and, therefore, based on the assumption that those who identify with one or more ethnic minority or racialized groups are likely to be impacted by White Supremacy and racist institutions.[31]

[30] BRFSS surveys post 2021 have updates to the core questionnaire which allow for states to continue the survey if respondents do not easily answer male or female to this screening question. For example, interviewers can read a script explaining the rationale of sex questions in health surveys, in addition to transitioning to the sex at birth module at that point in the survey.

[31] See here, Wilson et al., 2021 for discussion of these issues. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/Latinx-lgbt-adults-in-the-us/

Parental status and children in the household

In the core BRFSS survey, respondents were asked, "How many children less than 18 years of age live in your household?". Respondents who answered anything other than '0' were categorized as living with children for this analysis. In the optional Random Child Selection module, respondents who had children living in the household were asked more detailed questions about one of the children, including, "How are you related to the child?". Those who answered parent (biologic, step, adoptive) or foster parent or guardian were categorized as parents for this analysis, and the rest (grandparent, sibling (biologic, step, adoptive), other relative, and not related in any way) were coded as non-parents, along with anyone who did not have any children in the household.

Poverty

The poverty variable was created from BRFSS data based on the federal poverty thresholds provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for each respective year of data.[32] Using number of adults in the household, number of children under the age of 18 in the household, and household income, respondents were categorized as either experiencing poverty or not (the official U.S. poverty measure excludes income from people not related to each other by marriage or birth, however, the household income question in BRFSS is less specific). Because the BRFSS annual household income variable is a categorical variable of an income range with 8 to 11 categories depending on the year (i.e., less than $10,000; $10,000 to less than $15,000; $15,000 to less than $20,000; $20,000 to less than $25,000; $25,000 to less than $35,000; $35,000 to less than $50,000; $50,000 to less than $75,000; and $75,000 or more, etc.) rather than an exact income that is used by the U.S. Census Bureau, we used the income midpoint (i.e., $12,500 for respondents who answered $10,000 to less than $15,000) as a comparison point.

Other variables

Region (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West) was created by categorizing states according to U.S. Census Bureau regions. Metro (versus non-metro) is the BRFSS _metstat variable, which is a calculated variable based on a county's urban-rural status. Descriptions of all other variables, such as marital status, education, sex, and age, are in the tables of this report or the BRFSS documentation on their website.[33]

Population estimates

To estimate the number of LGBT adults who are parenting children in the U.S., the population count for people 18 years of age and older from the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census (258,343,281)[34] was multiplied by the BRFSS (2020-2021) population proportion of LGBT adults in the U.S. (5.5%).[35] That

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[32] U.S. Census Bureau (2019-2021). *Poverty thresholds.* https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html

[33] CDC BRFSS (2022, June). *Calculated variables in the 2021 data file of the BRFSS.* https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/annual_data/2021/pdf/2021-calculated-variables-version4-508.pdf

[34] United States Census Bureau. 2020 Decennial Census. *DP1: Profile of general population and housing characteristics.* https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=U.S.%20Decennial%20Census,%202020%20united%20states%20DP1&g=010XX00US

[35] Flores, A.R. & Conron, K.J. (2023). *Adult LGBT population in the United States*. The Williams Institute, UCLA, Los

number (14,208,880) was multiplied by the BRFSS (2019-2021) population proportion of LGBT adults parenting children in the U.S. (18.1%). Population estimates by marital status were estimated by multiplying the proportion of parenting relationship types and LGBTQ subgroups by the total LGBTQ population estimate for each marital status. With the exception of transgender subgroups, which were estimated by multiplying the marital status proportion of parents among each transgender subgroup by the total population estimate of the subgroup.

In contrast to the ACS, in the BRFSS, the relationship to the child is based on a question asked of the adult who answers the cell phone (or randomly selected adult from a landline household), not necessarily the householder, about their relationship to one randomly selected child in the household. Therefore, for example, a college-age sibling could have responded to the survey about their minor sibling, or a parent could have responded about their biological child and not their stepchild. Therefore, a limitation in the analysis of the BRFSS data is the relationship identified with one child may be different to other children in the home, and therefore we may be underestimating parental relationships and possibly overestimating other relationships. However, the estimates may have balanced themselves out via randomly distributed sampling error. To calculate the number of children being parented by LGBTQ adults in the US, we first determined the ratio of children per parent overall and by SOGI subgroup among the weighted LGBTQ parent sample. We then applied that ratio to the weighted estimates of people overall and within each LGBTQ subgroup. See Table A7.

Imputation

Correspondence and documentation from BRFSS indicate missing values from the Random Child Selection (RCS) and other state-specific modules resulted from out-of-state interviews. If a respondent was reached by cell phone but not currently residing in the state that called, the core questionnaire was completed, but not the state-specific module. Data from out-of-state interviews was transferred to the correct state after data collection ended. Households without children had mostly complete data, whereas most of the missing data were found in households with children.

In states that asked the SOGI and RCS modules, we multiply imputed by chained equations the missing values of relationship to child (n ~40,000), as well as values for gender identity (transgender versus cisgender only; trans subgroups such as trans woman, trans man, or GNC individuals were not imputed), sexual orientation, marital status, race, education, and poverty status (see Table 10). Don't know and refused responses were set to missing before imputation. Sex, state, metro, and age did not have missing values but were included to help predict missing values in the imputation model. The imputation was done separately for those with children in the household and those without children in the household. Any case that was missing on child in the household had no values imputed. Twenty imputed data sets were generated. Below is the STATA[36] syntax for the imputation regression model.

mi impute chained (mlogit, augment) childrelate LGB race marital education (logit) trans poverty = _age80 _sex _state metro , add(20) by(childhh)

Angeles, CA. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/adult-lgbt-pop-us/

[36] StataCorp. 2023. Stata Statistical Software: Release 16 & 17. College Station, TX: StataCorp LLC.

Table 10. Variables included in chained equation regression multiple imputation

VARIABLE	CATEGORIES	COMPLETED CASES	MISSING/ IMPUTED CASES	TOTAL CASES
Relationship to child	No children, parent, grandparent, foster parent, sibling, other relative, or not related	518,592	39,483	558,075
Gender identity	Transgender vs. cisgender	506,845	51,230	558,075
Sexual orientation	Straight, lesbian/gay, or bisexual	489,690	68,385	558,075
Marital status	Never married, married, unmarried partner, or divorced/ separated/widowed	554,491	3,584	558,075
Race	White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, NHPI, AIAN, or Multiracial	551,972	6,103	558,075
Education	No high school diploma, high school diploma, some college, or college degree	556,465	1,610	558,075
Poverty status	In poverty vs. not in poverty	452,539	105,536	558,075
Sex	Male vs. female	572,552	0	
State	U.S. states	572,552	0	
Metro	Urban vs. rural	572,552	0	
Age	Range: 18-80	572,552	0	
Child in the household	Child in the household vs. no child in the household	558,075	14,477	Not imputed

Note: NHPI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; AIAN = American Indian/Alaska Native

ACS

The U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) is a national survey that collects demographic, economic, and housing information on millions of American households each year. The survey is distributed to a random sample of addresses on a monthly basis, first by mail with an option to complete by web and then in person as part of non-response follow-up. The survey can be completed in English or Spanish. One adult member of the household who is considered to be the householder serves as a proxy by answering questions about the other members of the household, such as their age, race/ethnicity, sex, educational attainment, and relationship to the householder. Beginning in 2019, the ACS included response options for the relationship to the householder question that differentiated between same-sex and different-sex married and unmarried partners. For this report, the ACS 2019-2021 dataset was retrieved via IPUMS (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series) and is a combined household level and person level file.[37] Demographic characteristics related to partnership and parenting are reported as proportions with 95% confidence intervals. The household weight provided by IPUMS was applied for all statistical analyses.

[37] Ruggles, S., Flood, S. Sobek, M., Backman, D., Chen, A., Cooper, G., Richards, S., Rogers, R., & Schouweiler, M. (2023). IPUMS USA: Version 14.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS. https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V14.0

Measures

Partner status and parental status

The dataset was restricted to coupled households only (same and different-sex married spouses and unmarried partners), in addition to households with householders over the age of 18 and spouses/partners over the age of 18. The couple is considered to be parenting if the relationship of the child under 18 years old in the household to the householder is biological, adopted, step, or foster.

Gender, age, and race

The gender of same-sex couples (i.e., female same-sex spouses) is based on the sex of the householder. Age is based on the mean age of the householder. An individual's race/ethnicity was categorized as White only, Black only, Hispanic/Latinx (Hispanic only + Hispanic and 1 race option chosen), Asian only, Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (NHPI) only, American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN) only, or Multiracial (2 or more races chosen). Anyone who was not White only was categorized as a Person of color (POC). The race/ethnicity of the couple is based on the race/ethnicity of the householder and the race/ethnicity of the spouse/partner. POC couples are ones where the householder and the spouse are both POC. Interracial couples are ones where either the householder or partner is White and the other is POC. The first authors' decisions about racial categorizations are grounded in multiple theoretical frameworks in which it is understood that well-being is impacted by discrimination and, therefore, based on the assumption that those who identify with one or more ethnic minority or racialized groups are likely to be impacted by White Supremacy and racist institutions.[38]

Poverty status

Similar to BRFSS, the poverty variable was created based on the federal poverty thresholds provided by the U.S. Census Bureau for each respective year of data. Using number of adults in the household, number of children under the age of 18 in the household, and household income, respondents were categorized as either experiencing poverty or not (the official U.S. poverty measure excludes income from people not related to each other by marriage or birth, however, we include income from all members of the household).

Population Estimates

To estimate the number of same-sex couples who are parenting in the U.S., the sum of same-sex married (668,497) and unmarried partnered (500,073) households from the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census[39] was multiplied by the ACS (2019-2021) population proportion of same-sex couples parenting in the U.S. (14.3%).

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[38] See here, Wilson et al., 2021 for discussion of these issues. https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/Latinx-lgbt-adults-in-the-us/

[39] United States Census Bureau. 2020 Decennial Census. DP1: Profile of general population and housing characteristics. https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDP2020.DP1?q=U.S.%20Decennial%20Census,%202020%20united%20states%20DP1&g=010XX00US

In contrast to the BRFSS, in the ACS, the relationship of the householder to all the children in the household are asked about. To calculate the number of children being parented by same-sex couples in the U.S., we first determined the ratio of children per same-sex couple among the weighted same-sex-couple parent sample. We then applied that ratio to the census count of same-sex couples overall. See Table A7.

GENERATIONS/TRANSPOP

The Generations Study (NICHD # 1R01HD078526)[40] and Transpop Study (NICHD # R01HD090468)[41] data were aggregated to include waves 2016-2019. The Generations Study is a national probability survey of sexual minority adults in the U.S. It studies the health and well-being of three generations of non-transgender sexual minorities in age groups 18–25, 34–41, and 52–59, who came of age in different historical contexts. It is a longitudinal study that followed the same respondents across three years. Data collection occurred from 2016 to 2019. More about the study is available on the website (www.generationsstudy.com). The Transpop Study is the first national probability sample of transgender adults in the U.S. The survey measures the demographics, health, and experiences of transgender people and includes a cisgender sample. Data collection for transgender-identified respondents occurred April–August 2016 and June 2017–December 2018. TransPop study participants were recruited through a two-step process using the Gallup Daily Tracking Survey. The Transpop website describes more about the study and also has extensive methodological notes (www.transpop.org). Results are reported as proportions with 95% confidence intervals, and national survey sampling weights were applied to all analyses.

Measures

Respondents were asked to choose from a list of terms or write in a term that best describes their sexual orientation. Answers options included: straight/heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, same-gender-loving, or other. Respondents were categorized as monosexual if they chose gay, lesbian, or same-gender-loving; and plurisexual if they chose bisexual, queer, or pansexual. The groups were combined for analysis by cisgender GBQ men and LBQ women. In addition to describing their gender identity in their own words, respondents were given the option to choose man, woman, transgender woman, transgender man, or transgender nonbinary (TransPop)/ nonbinary/ genderqueer (Generations). Transgender nonbinary and non-transgender nonbinary people were combined for analyses. Additionally, if they responded yes to, “Are you in relationship or feel a special commitment to someone?”, they were asked to describe their current partners gender as either woman non-transgender, man non-transgender, transgender woman, transgender man, or non-binary/genderqueer. Couples that were comprised of both cis women, both cis men, and all partnerships inclusive of trans person (respondent or reported partner) were categorized as “same gender/trans inclusive” partnerships.

[40] Meyer, I.H., Frost, D.M., Hammack, P.L., Lightfoot, M., Russell, S.T., & Wilson, B.D.M. Identity Stress and Health in Three Cohorts of LGB individuals funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human (NIHCD) (Grant No.: R01HD078526). https://www.generations-study.com/

[41] Meyer, I.H., Bockting, W.O., Herman J.L., Reisner, S.L. & Choi, S.K. “U.S. Transgender Population Health Survey” is funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human (NIHCD) (Grant No.: R01HD090468). https://www.transpop.org/

In both the Generations and Transpop studies, respondents were asked if they had any children, what age(s) they were, and whether they lived in the same household as the respondent. Anyone who had a child under the age of 18 living with them was considered a parent for this analysis. Since the Generations Study was based on three particular age cohorts, it did not collect data on people between the ages of 26-33 (common reproductive ages). Therefore, estimates of adults parenting children under the age of 18 who live in the household may be underestimated.

GSS

The General Social Survey is a nationally representative survey administered every two years through NORC at the University of Chicago. The GSS is conducted in English and Spanish and is primarily done in person; however, in 2022, some respondents were given the option to complete the survey online as part of a methodological experiment. For this study, data was pooled for the years 2018, 2021, and 2022 (2020 was not available) and was extracted via the GSS Data Explorer tool.[42]

Measures

Respondent sex (male/female) is based on interviewer coding of respondent's sex. There is also a sex at birth question, but it was not used for this analysis. Respondents were asked, "Which of the following best describes you? Gay, lesbian, or homosexual; Bisexual; Heterosexual or straight," and in 2021 and 2022, "Do you describe yourself as male, female, or transgender?" All of these respondents were included in the analysis, but anyone who answered, "none of these," "don't know," or who refused to answer any of the questions was excluded. Anyone who answered any number other than 0 to the question, "How many children have you ever had? Please count all that were born alive at any time (including any you had from a previous marriage)." was counted as *ever having children.* The "Person weight composed (wtsscomp)" weight variable was used for this analysis.

DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

Throughout this report, we describe point estimates between groups and indicate that some are meaningfully different (e.g., higher, lower). We rely on the 95% confidence intervals (CIs) around these estimates to assess whether there is evidence to support (or not) claims of difference between the groups. When CIs come close to or marginally overlap, we examined the confidence intervals around the mean difference or calculated odds ratios/relative risk ratios to assess significance (Table A27). We did not use traditional hypothesis testing (p-values) alone to identify significance for any claims, in line with shifts in statistical standards.[43]

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[42] Davern, M., Bautista, R., Freese, J., Herd, P., & Morgan, S.L. (2023). General Social Survey 1972-2022. [Machine-readable data file]. Sponsored by National Science Foundation. NORC at the University of Chicago [producer and distributor]. Data accessed from the GSS Data Explorer website at gssdataexplorer.norc.org.

[43] Choi W. S. (2023). Problems and alternatives of testing significance using null hypothesis and P-value in food research. *Food Science and Biotechnology*, 32(11), 1–9. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10068-023-01348-4; Halsey L. G. (2019). The reign of the p-value is over: What alternative analyses could we employ to fill the power vacuum?. *Biology Letters*, 15(5), 20190174. https://doi.org/10.1098/rsbl.2019.0174

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RESEARCH THAT MATTERS

APPENDIX

Table A1. Relationship to child in the household by sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)

	TOTAL (N = 487,990)	LGBTQ (N = 24,053)	STRAIGHT CISGENDER (N = 463,937)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
No children in the household	65.8 (65.4, 66.2)	71.0 (69.4, 72.6)	65.4 (65.0, 65.9)
Households with children	34.2 (33.8, 34.6)	29.0 (27.4, 30.6)	34.6 (34.1, 35.0)
	(n = 463, 176)	(n = 22,851)	(n = 440,325)
Parent	78.8 (78.0, 79.5)	62.3 (58.8, 65.8)	79.7 (78.9, 80.4)
Parent (Bio, adopted, step)	77.5 (76.8, 78.3)	60.9 (57.4, 64.4)	78.4 (77.7, 79.2)
Foster parent	1.2 (1.0, 1.4)	1.4 (0.6, 2.1)	1.2 (1.0, 1.4)
Not a parent	21.2 (20.5, 22.0)	37.7 (34.2, 41.2)	20.3 (19.6, 21.1)
Grandparent	6.9 (6.5, 7.3)	2.8 (1.8, 3.8)	7.1 (6.7, 7.5)
Sibling	8.8 (8.2, 9.3)	22.9 (20.1, 25.7)	8.0 (7.4, 8.6)
Other relative	3.8 (3.4, 4.2)	8.5 (5.9, 11.0)	3.6 (3.2, 4.0)
Not related	1.8 (1.5, 2.0)	3.6 (1.8, 5.3)	1.7 (1.4, 1.9)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Sample sizes reflect observed cases (non-missing) since samples sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A2. Relationship to child in the household by SOGI and race/ethnicity

	LGBTQ (N = 23,742)		STRAIGHT CISGENDER (N = 459,306)	
	WHITE (n = 17,035)	POC (n = 6,707)	WHITE (n = 357,902)	POC (n = 101,404)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
No children in the household	75.1 (73.5, 76.7)	65.3 (62.0, 68.7)	71.4 (71.0, 71.8)	56.0 (55.1, 56.9)
Households with children	24.9 (23.3, 26.5)	34.7 (31.3, 38.0)	28.6 (28.2, 29.0)	44.0 (43.1, 44.9)
	(n = 16,409)	(n = 6,158)	(n = 343,494)	(n = 92,639)
Parent (parent + foster parent)	69.3 (65.9, 72.6)	55.4 (49.3, 61.5)	83.4 (82.7, 84.1)	75.8 (74.5, 77.1)
Parent (bio, adopted, step)	67.9 (64.5, 71.4)	54.0 (47.9, 60.1)	82.2 (81.5, 82.9)	74.5 (73.2, 75.9)
Foster parent	1.3 (0.5, 2.2)	1.4 (0.4, 2.2)	1.2 (1.0, 1.4)	1.3 (0.9, 1.7)
Not a parent (grandparent, sibling, other relative, non-relative)	30.7 (27.4, 34.1)	44.6 (38.4, 50.7)	16.6 (15.9, 17.3)	24.2 (22.9, 25.5)
Grandparent	2.4 (1.5, 3.3)	3.2 (1.4, 5.0)	6.8 (6.4, 7.2)	7.4 (6.6, 8.2)
Sibling	20.5 (17.7, 23.3)	25.2 (20.3, 30.1)	6.3 (5.8, 6.8)	9.7 (8.8, 10.7)
Other relative	4.8 (3.2, 6.5)	12.0 (7.3, 16.7)	1.8 (1.6, 2.1)	5.4 (4.6, 6.1)
Not related	3.0 (1.4, 4.6)	4.2 (1.3, 7.0)	1.6 (1.4, 1.9)	1.7 (1.3, 2.1)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: POC = People of color; Sample sizes reflect observed cases (non-missing) since samples sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A3. Population estimates of LGBTQ adults by marital status and parent child relationship types

	LGBTQ ADULTS							
	TOTAL		HAS CHILDREN IN THE HOUSEHOLD		PARENT (OF CHILD(REN) IN THE HOUSEHOLD)		FOSTER PARENT	
	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)
Total U.S. adult population	100.0	258,343,281[b]						
LGBTQ adults total	5.5[a] (5.2, 6.6)	14,208,880 (13,433,851: 17,050,657)	29.0 (27.4, 30.6)	4,121,388 (3,890,953 : 4,351,754)	18.1 (16.7, 19.4)	2,567,243 (2,377,782 : 2,756,705)	0.4 (0.2, 0.6)	56,914 (27,075 : 86,751)
Married	25.1 (23.3, 26.9)	3,566,572 (3,316,978 : 3,816,166)	38.0 (34.6, 41.4)	1,355,220 (1,233,242 : 1,477,199)	34.9 (31.6, 38.2)	1,244,790 1,125,636 : 1,363,945	0.7 (0.2, 1.1)	23,386 (8,096 : 38,677)
Unmarried partners	11.6 (10.5, 12.7)	1,644,290 (1,487,370 : 1,801,210)	24.1 (19.8, 28.4)	396,803 (326,329 : 467,277)	18.6 (14.6, 22.6)	306,363 (240,764 : 371,962)	0.6 (-0.3, 1.5)	9,835 (5,292, 24,961)
Never married	51.5 (49.7, 53.4)	7,322,139 (7,059,422 : 7,584,855)	24.2 (21.9, 26.5)	1,769,329 (1,600,621 : 1,938,037)	7.9 (6.5, 9.3)	576,849 (474,538 : 679,160)	0.2 (0.0, 0.4)	13,607 (1,569 : 25,644)
Divorced, separated, widowed	11.8 (10.7, 12.9)	1,675,879 (1,514,293 : 1,837,467)	35.8 (30.3, 41.3)	599,868 (507,802 : 691,934)	26.2 (21.1, 31.3)	439,130 (353,666 : 524,595)	0.6 (0.1, 1.3)	10,072 (2,415 : 22,560)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021; [a]BRFSS 2019-2020; [b]U.S. Decennial Census, 2020

Note: Percentages are the proportion of the row group that are also the column group. For example, 34.9% of married LGBTQ adults are parents; Parent totals include biological, step, adopted, and foster parents; BRFSS does not measure adoptive parenting separately from biological and step parenting; Households are restricted to respondents and spouses who are 18 years of age and older.

Table A4. Population estimates of LGBTQ parents by LGBTQ subgroup and marital status

	TOTAL ADULTS		TOTAL PARENTS		MARRIED PARENTS		UNMARRIED PARTNER PARENTS		NEVER MARRIED PARENTS		DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWED PARENTS	
	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)
Total U.S. population	100.0	258,343,281[b]										
LGBTQ	5.5[a] (5.2, 6.6)	14,208,880 (13,433,851 : 17,050,657)	18.1 (16.7, 19.4)	2,567,243 (2,377,782 : 2,756,705)	48.5 (44.6, 52.3)	1,244,869 (1,146,081 : 1,343,656)	11.9 (9.4, 14.4)	305,700 (241,916: 369,483)	22.5 (18.9, 26.0)	576,780 (485,730 : 667,829)	17.1 (13.4, 20.9)	439,895 (343,557 : 536,233)
LBQ cisgender woman	51.9 (50.0, 53.8)	7,370,257 (7,098,819 : 7,641,695)	75.3 (71.3, 79.3)	1,932,808 (1,829,208 : 2,036,408)	67.8 (62.4, 73.2)	844,124 (776,859 : 911,388)	83.7 (73.3, 94.2)	255,976 (223,948 : 288,004)	85.7 (78.4, 93.0)	494,211 (451,946 : 536,477)	77.0 (66.1, 88.0)	338,901 (290,897 : 386,904)

	TOTAL ADULTS		TOTAL PARENTS		MARRIED PARENTS		UNMARRIED PARTNER PARENTS		NEVER MARRIED PARENTS		DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWED PARENTS	
	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95% CI)
Bisexual cisgender woman	39.2 (37.4, 41.0)	5,570,324 (5,318,878 : 5,821,772)	61.1 (56.8, 65.3)	1,567,678 (1,459,119 : 1,676,238)	53.4 (47.9, 59.0)	665,261 (595,687 : 734,834)	69.9 (57.8, 82.1)	213,783 (176,650 : 250,916)	71.7 (64.1, 79.3)	413,646 (369,844 : 457,449)	62.6 (50.2, 74.9)	275,297 (220,961 : 329,633)
Lesbian cisgender woman	12.7 (11.6, 13.8)	1,799,933 (1,641,474 : 1,958,390)	14.2 (11.4, 17.1)	365,130 (291,807 : 438,452)	14.4 (9.9, 18.8)	178,863 (123,853 : 233,873)	13.8 (4.8, 22.8)	42,193 (14,767 : 69,619)	14.0 (8.9, 19.0)	80,565 (51,560 : 109,570)	14.5 (7.4, 21.6)	63,604 (32,352 : 94,856)
GBQ cisgender man	37.6 (35.8, 39.4)	5,345,592 (5,093,534 : 5,597,651)	15.9 (13.0, 18.7)	407,111 (333,320 : 480,903)	21.8 (17.3, 26.3)	271,565 (215,892 : 327,238)	10.3 (0.8, 19.7)	31,356 (2,420 : 60,292)	9.9 (5.4, 14.3)	57,013 (31,306 : 82,720)	10.7 (5.5, 15.8)	47,035 (24,408 : 69,662)
Bisexual cisgender man	16.8 (15.3, 18.2)	2,380,627 (2,175,161 : 2,586,093)	10.9 (8.6, 13.3)	280,633 (220,910 : 340,357)	14.5 (10.7, 18.2)	180,272 (133,768 : 226,777)	7.8 (-1.9, 17.4)	23,719 (5,902 : 53,339)	7.5 (3.5, 11.6)	43,360 (20,099 : 66,621)	7.5 (3.8, 11.2)	33,082 (16,834 : 49,329)
Gay cisgender man	20.9 (19.3, 22.4)	2,964,967 (2,745,031 : 3,184,902)	4.9 (3.2, 6.7)	126,478 (81,447 : 171,509)	7.3 (4.3, 10.4)	91,293 (53,655 : 128,931)	2.5 (-0.4, 5.4)	7,637 (1,250 : 16,525)	2.4 (0.4, 4.4)	13,653 (2,173 : 25,133)	3.2 (-0.3, 6.7)	13,953 (1,517 : 29,424)
Transgender person	10.5 (9.0, 12.0)	1,493,031 (1,278,360 : 1,707,701)	8.9 (6.0, 11.7)	227,324 (154,413 : 300,235)	10.4 (6.9, 13.8)	129,180 (85,990 : 172,370)	6.0 (0.4, 11.6)	18,368 (1,347 : 35,388)	4.4 (-1.0, 9.9)	25,555 (5,767 : 56,878)	12.3 (1.9, 22.7)	53,959 (8,231 : 99,688)
Transgender man*	36.3 (26.8, 45.7)	541,332 (400,593 : 682,071)	47.9 (33.1, 62.7)	108,849 (75,177 : 142,520)	45.6 (20.1, 71.2)	49,679 (21,839 : 77,519)	8.0 (-4.0, 19.9)	8,683 (4,323 : 21,689)	8.0 (0.6, 15.4)	8,709 (688 : 16,730)	38.4 (6.1, 70.7)	41,777 (6,641 : 76,913)
Transgender woman*	31.1 (25.0, 37.2)	464,309 (373,290 : 555,329)	24.7 (15.3, 34.1)	56,211 (34,798 : 77,624)	80.0 (69.5, 90.5)	44,971 (39,059 : 50,883)	3.2 (0.3, 6.2)	1,807 (153 : 3,462)	5.6 (-0.9, 12.0)	3,122 (491 : 6,735)	11.2 (3.8, 18.7)	6,311 (2,108 : 10,514)
Gender non-conforming*	32.6 (26.4, 38.9)	487,389 (394,565 : 580,213)	27.4 (17.5, 37.2)	62,264 (39,894 : 84,635)	56.8 (41.1, 72.5)	35,365 (25,592 : 45,138)	9.8 (3.1, 16.4)	6,077 (1,929 : 10,225)	14.3 (4.3, 24.3)	8,888 (2,654 : 15,122)	19.2 (7.1, 31.2)	11,934 (4,441 : 19,428)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021; [a]BRFSS 2019-2020; [b]U.S. Decennial Census, 2020

Note: Percentages are the proportions of each LGBTQ subgroup that makeup each marital status. For example, 67.8% of married LGBTQ parents are cisgender women; *For transgender subgroups, % are the proportion of the subgroup that are the column group. For example, 80% of trans women parents are married; Parent totals include biological, step, adopted, and foster parents.

Table A5. LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ parents by region

	PARENTS						
REGION	STRAIGHT CIS TOTAL (N = 81,822)	LGBTQ TOTAL (N = 3,549)	GAY CIS MEN (N = 172)	LESBIAN CIS WOMEN (N = 488)	BISEXUAL CIS MEN (N = 419)	BISEXUAL CIS WOMEN (N = 2,202)	TRANSGENDER PEOPLE (N = 268)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Northeast	20.4 (19.9, 20.9)	24.2 (21.1, 27.2)	29.3 (16.3, 42.3)	22.7 (16.3, 29.1)	27.8 (20.2, 35.3)	22.1 (18.6, 25.6)	34.2 (18.6, 49.8)
South	30.7 (29.9, 31.4)	31.3 (27.1, 35.5)	33.6 (18.0, 49.2)	36.8 (26.6, 47.0)	30.8 (19.6, 41.9)	30.3 (25.5, 35.2)	28.2 (15.2, 41.1)
Midwest	22.5 (22.0, 23.1)	25.8 (22.9, 28.6)	18.0 (8.3, 27.7)	23.7 (15.2, 32.3)	24.2 (16.1, 32.3)	27.8 (24.1, 31.5)	22.1 (12.8, 31.3)
West	26.4 (25.3, 27.5)	18.8 (14.6, 22.9)	19.1 (4.1, 34.1)	16.8 (4.8, 28.7)	17.2 (5.6, 28.8)	19.8 (14.8, 24.9)	15.6 (0, 32.7)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender; Sample sizes reflect observed cases (non-missing) since samples sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset; Regions are categorized according to U.S. Census Bureau divisions.

Table A6. Percentage of LGBT adults who have ever had children

	EVER HAD A CHILD (N = 3,600)
	% (95% CI)
LGB total (n = 387)	31.9 (26.0, 38.4)
Lesbian women	29.3 (17.0, 45.7)
Gay men	5.0 (2.2, 11.2)
Bisexual women	40.0 (30.6, 50.2)
Bisexual men	48.3 (30.2, 66.8)
Transgender people (n = 24)*	19.3 (7.4, 42.0)
Straight total (n = 4,769)	70.8 (68.9, 72.6)
Men	65.4 (62.5, 68.3)
Women	76.3 (73.9, 78.5)

Source: General Social Survey (GSS), 2018, 2021, & 2022

Note: *2021 and 2022 only; LGBT total = 31.7 (25.9, 38.1); Bisexual total = 40.7 (32.4, 49.6).

Table A7. Number of children per same-sex couple/LGBTQ parent in the ACS and BRFSS, 2019-2021

	TOTAL PARENT CHILD RATIO	TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN AMONG PARENTS	SINGLE PARENT CHILD RATIO	NUMBER OF CHILDREN AMONG SINGLE PARENTS	COUPLED PARENT CHILD RATIO	NUMBER OF CHILDREN AMONG COUPLED PARENTS
	RATIO (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	RATIO (95% CI)	N (95% CI)	RATIO (95% CI)	N (95% CI)
ACS, 2019-2021						
Same-sex couple	1.76 (1.72, 1.80)	293,986 (287,011 : 300,960)				
BRFSS, 2019-2021						
Total LGBTQ*	2.01 (1.91, 2.12)	5,177,513 (4,901,815 : 5,453,213)	1.94 (1.76, 2.14)	1,978,237 (1,785,592 : 2,170,883)	2.06 (1.94, 2.17)	3,189,531 (3,010,954 : 3,368,109)
Lesbian woman	2.03 (1.81, 2.24)	740,168 (662,588 : 817,748)	2.03 (1.73, 2.33)	292,734 (249,465 : 336,003)	2.03 (1.75, 2.31)	449,054 (387,788 : 510,320)
Gay man	1.97 (1.66, 2.28)	199,145 (169,607 : 228,682)	1.84 (1.19, 2.48)	50,669 (32,887 : 68,451)	2.01 (1.71, 2.31)	199,145 (169,607 : 228,682)
Bi woman	2.04 (1.89, 2.18)	3,191,633 (2,962,487 : 3,420,778)	1.96 (1.72, 2.19)	1,347,493 (1,183,703 : 1,511,285)	2.10 (1.94, 2.26)	1,847,922 (1,704,954 : 1,990,889)
Bi man	1.85 (1.61, 2.10)	520,403 (451,194 : 589,613)	1.75 (1.37, 2.12)	133,696 (104,995 : 162,397)	1.90 (1.61, 2.18)	386,758 (329,132 : 444,383)
Trans person*	2.13 (1.70, 2.56)	483,242 (385,377 : 581,107)	1.93 (1.32, 2.54)	153,625 (105,053 : 202,197)	2.22 (1.68, 2.76)	327,107 (247,345 : 406,870)

Note: Children include biological, step, adopted, and foster children; Analyses are restricted to households with less than 15 children and respondents and spouses who are 18 years of age and older; Totals by partnership status do not equal overall total since marital status was unknown for some LGBTQ parents (n = 12); Coupled LGBTQ parents include same and different gender partnerships; gender of partner is not asked in BRFSS; *The unimputed trans variable was used for this calculation.

Table A8. Population estimates of child relationship types among same-sex couple households, by marital status

HOUSEHOLDS	SAME-SEX COUPLES					
	TOTAL		MARRIED		UNMARRIED PARTNERS	
	% (95% CI)	N (95%CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95%CI)	% (95% CI)	N (95%CI)
Proportion of same-sex couples	0.5*	1,168,570[a]	57.2	668,497[a]	42.8	500,073[a]
With children	16.9 (16.3, 17.5)	197,525 (190,917 : 204,314)	20.2 (19.4, 21.0)	134,780 (129,534 : 140,184)	12.4 (11.7, 13.3)	62,218 (58,339 : 66,315)
With parents	14.3 (13.8, 14.9)	167,246 (161,017 : 173,663)	17.8 (17.1, 18.6)	119,203 (114,177 : 124,401)	9.5 (8.8, 10.2)	47,468 (43,965 : 51,219)
With biological or stepparents	11.6 (11.1, 12.1)	134,993 (129,218 : 140,990)	14.0 (13.2, 14.7)	93,185 (88,568 : 98,002)	8.3 (7.6, 9.0)	41,422 (38,085 : 45,022)
With adoptive parents	3.0 (2.8, 3.2)	34,851 (32,197 : 37,718)	4.3 (4.0, 4.7)	28,825 (26,455 : 31,397)	1.2 (1.0, 1.4)	5,811 (4,752 : 7,104)
With foster parents	0.5 (0.4, 0.6)	5,932 (4,686 : 7,506)	0.7 (0.5, 0.9)	4,455 (3,370 : 5,887)	0.3 (0.2, 0.4)	1,451 (946 : 2,223)

Source: ACS, 2019-2021; [a]U.S. Decennial Census, 2020

Note: *Among total U.S. population 18 years and older (258,343,281; U.S. Decennial Census, 2020); Percentages = the proportion of same-sex couples in the column who are also the group on the row. For example, 17.8% of married same-sex couples are parents; Parent totals include biological, step, adopted, and foster parents; Households are restricted to respondents and spouses who are 18 years of age and older, however, the Decennial Census same-sex population estimates may consist of couples younger than age 18.

Table A9. Relationship to child(ren) in the household among same and different-sex couples, by marital status

	SAME-SEX COUPLES			DIFFERENT-SEX COUPLES		
	TOTAL (N = 31,821)	MARRIED (N =18,954)	UNMARRIED PARTNERS (N = 12,867)	TOTAL (N = 2,008,300)	MARRIED (N = 1,800,458)	UNMARRIED PARTNERS (N = 207, 842)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Children in household*	16.9 (16.3, 17.5)	20.2 (19.4, 21.0)	12.4 (11.7, 13.3)	40.5 (40.4, 40.6)	41.0 (40.9, 41.1)	36.8 (36.6, 37.1)
Parenting*	14.3 (13.8, 14.9)	17.8 (17.1, 18.6)	9.5 (8.8, 10.2)	37.6 (37.5, 37.7)	38.2 (38.1, 38.3)	33.2 (33.0, 33.5)
Biological	67.1 (65.20, 69.0)	66.6 (64.3, 68.7)	68.6 (64.9, 72.1)	95.6 (95.5, 95.7)	95.9 (95.8, 96.0)	93.1 (92.8, 93.4)
Adopted	20.8 (19.3, 22.4)	24.2 (22.3, 26.1)	12.2 (10.1, 14.8)	2.9 (2.8, 2.9)	3.0 (3.0, 3.1)	1.7 (1.5, 1.8)
Step	17.4 (15.9, 19.0)	15.0 (13.3, 16.9)	23.5 (20.3, 27.0)	6.5 (6.4, 6.6)	5.6 (5.5, 5.6)	13.9 (13.6, 14.3)
Foster	3.6 (2.8, 4.5)	3.7 (2.8, 4.9)	3.1 (2.0, 4.7)	0.4 (0.4, 0.5)	0.4 (0.4, 0.5)	0.3 (0.3, 0.4)
Other*	3.3 (3.1, 3.6)	3.0 (2.7, 3.4)	3.7 (3.3, 4.1)	3.8 (3.8, 3.9)	3.6 (3.5, 3.6)	5.8 (5.6, 5.9)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS

Note: Other includes grandchildren, siblings, other relatives, and non-relatives. *Proportion is among entire sample, otherwise proportion is among parents (ss: n = 3,992; ds: n = 660,956); Relationships to parents do not add to 100% since they are not mutually exclusive because some households have multiple children with different relationships to parents.

Table A10. Percent of same-sex couples parenting by race

RACE/ETHNICITY	SAME-SEX COUPLES PARENTING (N = 31,821)
	% (95% CI)
White	12.7 (12.0, 13.3)
Interracial	11.6 (10.7, 12.7)
POC	21.4 (19.9, 23.0)
Black	27.1 (23.7, 30.7)
Hispanic/Latinx	20.8 (18.6, 23.3)
Asian	20.3 (16.7, 24.4)
NHPI	30.4 (10.4, 62.1)
AIAN	38.3 (24.5, 54.4)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: ACS, 2019-2021
Note: Interracial = White + POC couple; POC = People of color

Table A11. Sociodemographic characteristics of same-sex and different-sex couples who are parents of children in the household

	DIFFERENT-SEX COUPLE PARENTS			SAME-SEX COUPLE PARENTS		
	TOTAL (N = 660,956)	MARRIED (n = 598,879)	UNMARRIED (n = 62,077)	TOTAL (N = 3,992)	MARRIED (n = 2,939)	UNMARRIED (n = 1,053)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Mean age of householder (SD)	40.5 (8.2)	41.1 (8.1)	35.9 (7.6)	39.7 (8.5)	40.5 (8.5)	37.7 (8.3)
Poverty	6.7 (6.6, 6.8)	5.9 (5.8, 5.96)	13.6 (13.2, 14.0)	8.3 (7.2, 9.5)	7.3 (6.1, 8.6)	10.9 (8.54, 13.78)
RACE/ETHNICITY*						
White	53.9 (53.7, 54.0)	55.6 (55.5, 55.8)	39.6 (39.1, 40.1)	48.3 (46.3, 50.4)	51.6 (49.2, 54.0)	39.9 (36.1, 43.9)
Interracial	12.6 (12.5, 12.7)	12.2 (12.1, 12.3)	15.6 (15.3, 16.0)	19.0 (17.4, 20.6)	18.7 (16.9, 20.6)	19.6 (16.7, 23.0)
POC	33.5 (33.4, 33.7)	32.1 (32.0, 32.3)	44.8 (44.3, 45.3)	32.7 (30.7, 34.8)	29.7 (27.4, 32.2)	40.4 (36.4, 44.6)
Black	6.4 (6.3, 6.5)	5.9 (5.8, 6.0)	10.4 (10.0, 10.7)	11.3 (9.8, 13.0)	8.5 (6.9, 10.4)	18.5 (15.1, 22.3)
Hispanic/Latinx	16.7 (16.5, 16.8)	15.5 (15.4, 15.7)	26.2 (25.7, 26.6)	12.8 (11.3, 14.3)	12.6 (10.9, 14.6)	13.1 (10.7, 15.9)
Asian	6.6 (6.5, 6.7)	7.2 (7.1, 7.3)	1.6 (1.5, 1.7)	2.4 (2.0, 3.0)	3.1 (2.5, 3.9)	0.6 (0.3, 1.2)
NHPI	0.1 (0.1, 0.1)	0.1 (0.09, 0.1)	0.1 (0.1, 0.2)	0.1 (0.0, 0.3)	0.07 (0.01, 0.4)	0.2 (0.1, 0.8)
AIAN	0.2 (0.2, 0.2)	0.4 (0.2, 0.7)	0.9 (0.5, 1.6)	0.5 (0.3, 0.8)	0.2 (0.2, 0.2)	0.6 (0.5, 0.7)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS
Note: *Race/ethnicity of the couple (householder + spouse); POC = People of color; Interracial = POC + White; NHPI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; AIAN = American Indian/Alaska Native; Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level

Table A12. Sociodemographic characteristics of same-sex couples by parental and marital status

	SAME-SEX COUPLES			
	NON-PARENTS (N = 27,829)	PARENTS (N = 3,992)	MARRIED PARENTS (n = 2,939)	UNMARRIED PARENTS (n = 1,053)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Mean age of householder (SD)	46.9 (15.9)	39.7 (8.5)	40.5 (8.5)	37.7 (8.3)
Poverty	3.8 (3.5, 4.1)	8.3 (7.2, 9.5)	7.3 (6.1, 8.6)	10.9 (8.54, 13.78)
GENDER				
Female	47.2 (46.4, 48.0)	79.5 (77.8, 81.1)	77.2 (75.1, 79.3)	85.3 (82.5, 87.8)
Male	52.8 (52.0, 53.6)	20.5 (18.9, 22.2)	22.8 (20.7, 24.9)	14.7 (12.2, 17.5)
MARITAL STATUS				
Married	55.4 (54.6, 56.2)	72.0 (70.1, 73.9)	100.0	0.0
Unmarried partnership	44.6 (43.8, 45.4)	28.0 (26.1, 29.9)	0.0	100.0
RACE/ETHNICITY*				
White	55.8 (55.0, 56.6)	48.3 (46.3, 50.4)	51.6 (49.2, 54.0)	39.9 (36.1, 43.9)
Interracial	24.1 (23.4, 24.8)	19.0 (17.4, 20.6)	18.7 (16.9, 20.6)	19.6 (16.7, 23.0)
POC	20.1 (19.4, 20.8)	32.7 (30.7, 34.8)	29.7 (27.4, 32.2)	40.4 (36.4, 44.6)
Black	5.1 (4.7, 5.5)	11.3 (9.8, 13.0)	8.5 (6.9, 10.4)	18.5 (15.1, 22.3)
Hispanic/Latinx	8.1 (7.6, 8.6)	12.8 (11.3, 14.3)	12.6 (10.9, 14.6)	13.1 (10.7, 15.9)
Asian	1.6 (1.4, 1.8)	2.4 (2.0, 3.0)	3.1 (2.5, 3.9)	0.6 (0.3, 1.2)
NHPI	0.0 (0.0, 0.1)	0.1 (0.0, 0.3)	0.07 (0.01, 0.4)	0.2 (0.1, 0.8)
AIAN	0.1 (0.1, 0.2)	0.5 (0.3, 0.8)	0.2 (0.2, 0.2)	0.6 (0.5, 0.7)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS

Note: Non-parent = households with no children + households with children where the relationship to householder is not parent; *Race/ethnicity of the couple (householder + spouse); POC = People of color; Interracial = POC + White; NHPI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; AIAN = American Indian/Alaska Native; Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level

Table A13. Sociodemographic characteristics of female andmale same-sex couples by parental and marital status

	FEMALE SAME-SEX COUPLES				MALE SAME-SEX COUPLES			
	NON-PARENTS (N = 13,017)	PARENTS TOTAL (N = 3,151)	MARRIED PARENTS (n = 2,269)	UNMARRIED PARENTS (n = 882)	NON-PARENTS (N = 14,812)	PARENTS TOTAL (N = 841)	MARRIED PARENTS (n = 670)	UNMARRIED PARENTS (n = 171)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Mean age of householder (SD)	45.8 (16.6)	38.9 (8.2)	39.8 (8.1)	36.9 (7.9)	47.9 (15.3)	42.7 (9.3)	42.8 (9.3)	42.3 (9.2)
Poverty	4.9 (4.4, 5.5)	8.8 (7.5, 10.2)	7.5 (6.2, 9.1)	11.6 (9.0, 14.9)	2.8 (2.4, 3.2)	6.4 (4.6, 8.8)	6.3 (4.3, 9.1)	6.7 (3.2, 13.4)
MARITAL STATUS								
Married	55.1 (53.9, 56.2)	70.0 (67.7, 72.1)	100.0	0.0	55.7 (54.7, 56.8)	79.9 (76.2, 83.2)	100.0	0.0
Unmarried partnership	44.9 (43.8, 46.1)	30.1 (27.9, 32.3)	0.0	100.0	44.3 (43.2, 45.3)	20.0 (16.8, 23.8)	0.0	100.0
RACE/ETHNICITY*								
White	59.1 (58.0, 60.3)	50.3 (58.0, 60.3)	53.6 (51.1, 56.2)	42.6 (38.9, 46.3)	52.8 (51.8, 53.9)	40.7 (36.4, 45.1)	40.4 (36.0, 44.9)	36.3 (29.4, 43.7)
Interracial	19.0 (18.1, 20.0)	18.3 (18.1, 20.0)	18.0 (16.2, 20.0)	18.2 (15.5, 21.3)	28.7 (27.7, 29.6)	21.6 (18.2, 25.3)	18.9 (15.7, 22.6)	25.0 (18.7, 32.7)
POC	21.9 (20.9, 22.9)	31.4 (20.9, 22.9)	28.4 (26.0, 30.9)	39.3 (35.5, 43.2)	18.5 (17.6, 19.5)	37.8 (33.0, 42.8)	40.7 (35.8, 45.8)	38.7 (31.3, 46.7)
Black	7.1 (6.4, 7.8)	12.0 (10.3, 13.9)	9.0 (7.4, 10.9)	18.5 (15.3, 22.2)	3.3 (2.9, 3.8)	8.4 (5.4, 12.8)	9.3 (5.9, 14.3)	10.1 (6.2, 15.9)
Hispanic/Latinx	7.6 (7.0, 8.3)	11.3 (9.9, 12.9)	11.8 (10.1, 13.6)	11.8 (9.7, 14.3)	8.6 (7.9, 9.3)	18.4 (14.5, 23.2)	18.9 (14.9, 23.7)	20.4 (14.4, 28.0)
Asian	1.7 (1.5, 2.0)	1.6 (1.2, 2.2)	2.2 (1.7, 3.0)	0.9 (0.4, 2.0)	1.5 (1.3, 1.8)	5.5 (4.1, 7.3)	7.0 (5.3, 9.2)	1.4 (0.6, 3.3)
NHPI	0.1 (0.0, 0.2)	0.0 (0.0, 0.3)	0.0 (0.0, 0.7)	0.1 (0.01, 0.7)	0.02 (0.01, 0.1)	0.4 (0.1, 1.5)	0.3 (0.1, 0.7)	0.4 (0.1, 2.5)
AIAN	0.2 (0.1, 0.3)	0.5 (0.3, 0.9)	0.4 (0.2, 0.8)	0.8 (0.4, 1.5)	0.1, (0.04, 0.2)	0.4 (0.1, 1.1)	0.2 (0.1, 0.6)	1.1 (0.3, 3.6)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS

Note: *Race/ethnicity of the couple (householder + spouse); Interracial = POC + White; POC = People of color; NHPI = Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander; AIAN = American Indian/Alaska Native; Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level.

Table A14. Sociodemographic characteristics of same-sex couples by race and parental and marital status

	WHITE SAME-SEX COUPLES			POC SAME-SEX COUPLES			INTERRACIAL SAME-SEX COUPLES		
	PARENTS (N = 2,164)	MARRIED PARENTS (n = 1,684)	UNMARRIED PARENTS (n = 480)	PARENTS (N = 1,028)	MARRIED PARENTS (n = 690)	UNMARRIED PARENTS (n = 338)	PARENTS (N = 785)	MARRIED PARENTS (n =554)	UNMARRIED PARENTS (n = 231)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Mean age of householder (SD)	40.9 (8.8)	41.5 (8.6)	39.0 (9.1)	38.0 (7.6)	38.8 (7.9)	36.4 (6.7)	39.5 (8.6)	40.2 (8.2)	37.9 (9.4)
Poverty	4.9 (3.8, 6.4)	4.0 (3.0, 5.3)	8.0 (4.8, 13.1)	14.2 (11.8, 17.1)	14.1 (11.2, 17.7)	14.5 (10.4, 19.8)	6.7 (4.8, 9.2)	5.5 (3.5, 8.5)	9.5 (5.9, 15.0)
GENDER									
Female	82.7 (80.7, 84.6)	81.2 (78.8, 83.3)	88.0 (84.4, 90.9)	76.4 (72.5, 79.8)	71.8 (66.6, 76.4)	85.0 (79.8, 89.1)	76.7 (72.7, 80.3)	75.2 (70.4, 79.5)	80.3 (72.8, 86.2)
Male	17.3 (15.4, 19.3)	18.9 (16.7, 21.2)	12.0 (9.1, 15.6)	23.6 (20.2, 27.5)	28.2 (23.6, 33.4)	15.0 (10.9, 20.2)	23.3 (19.8, 27.3)	24.8 (20.5, 29.6)	19.7 (13.8, 27.2)
MARITAL STATUS									
Married	76.9 (74.4, 79.2)	100.0	0.0	65.4 (61.5, 69.2)	100.0	0.0	71.0 (66.5, 75.1)	100.0	0.0
Unmarried partnership	23.1 (20.8, 25.6)	0.0	100.0	34.6 (30.8, 38.5)	0.0	100.0	29.0 (24.9, 33.5)	0.0	100.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: ACS, 2019-2021 via IPUMS

Note: POC = People of color; Interracial = couples that are POC + White; Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level.

Table A15. Percent parenting among LGBTQ adults by race/ethnicity

	PARENTS						
	STRAIGHT CIS TOTAL (N = 81,125)	LGBTQ TOTAL (N = 3,507)	GAY CIS MEN (n = 171)	LESBIAN CIS WOMEN (n = 483)	BISEXUAL CIS MEN (n = 414)	BISEXUAL CIS WOMEN (n = 2,175)	TRANSGENDER PEOPLE (n = 264)
RACE/ETHNICITY	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
White	23.9 (23.5, 24.2)	17.2 (15.8, 18.6)	3.8 (2.4, 5.3)	17.7 (13.4, 22.0)	11.9 (9.0, 14.8)	27.7 (25.2, 30.3)	11.7 (7.5, 15.9)
POC	33.4 (32.5, 34.2)	19.2 (16.5, 22.0)	4.9 (1.9, 7.8)	23.6 (16.1, 31.2)	11.8 (6.9, 16.6)	28.8 (24.1, 33.4)	19.0 (9.9, 28.1)
Black	26.6 (25.4, 27.7)	22.9 (18.5, 27.4)	5.3 (0.7, 10.0)	23.3 (15.1, 31.5)	16.1 (5.7, 26.5)	35.3 (28.2, 42.4)	12.6 (2.3, 23.0)
Hispanic	38.2 (36.8, 39.5)	19.7 (15.8, 23.6)	4.8 (1.1, 8.5)	26.1 (13.5, 38.7)	10.0 (3.0, 16.9)	29.1 (21.9, 36.4)	25.9 (12.9, 38.9)
Asian	33.2 (30.5, 36.0)	11.6 (4.1, 19.2)	3.8 (0, 10.8)	16.5 (0, 39.5)	11.5 (1.5, 21.4)	13.9 (1.9, 26.0)	13.5 (0, 35.7)
NHPI	32.8 (27.5, 38.2)	28.4 (8.7, 48.0)	7.2 (0, 27.6)	54.1 (1.3, 100)	19.4 (0.01, 38.8)	32.8 (9.8, 55.9)	19.2 (0, 40.5)
AIAN	25.0 (20.6, 29.4)	25.4 (16.3, 34.5)	4.0 (0, 13.2)	20.1 (0, 43.2)	6.7 (0, 16.1)	46.4 (30.5, 62.3)	26.2 (0, 53.0)
Multiracial	26.5 (23.8, 29.2)	15.6 (10.7, 20.6)	8.1 (0, 18.9)	15.9 (1.6, 30.3)	12.7 (0, 26.2)	22.0 (12.9, 31.1)	7.0 (0, 14.2)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender; POC = People of color; Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A16. Demographic characteristics of LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ parents and non-parents

	LGBTQ PARENTS (N = 3,549)	LGBTQ NON-PARENTS (N = 19,302)	STRAIGHT CIS PARENTS (N = 81,822)	STRAIGHT CIS NON-PARENTS (N = 358,503)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Age mean (SD)	35.0 (9.1)	36.5 (17.6)	39.7 (9.3)	52.1 (19.4)
Race/ethnicity	(n = 3,507)	(n = 19,060)	(n = 81,125)	(n = 355,008)
White	55.1 (50.5, 59.8)	58.4 (56.1, 60.7)	53.2 (52.3, 54.1)	64.5 (63.9, 65.0)
POC	44.9 (40.2, 49.5)	41.6 (39.3, 43.9)	46.8 (45.9, 47.7)	35.5 (34.9, 36.1)
Black	13.8 (10.8, 16.9)	10.2 (9.2, 11.3)	10.8 (10.3, 11.3)	11.3 (10.9, 11.6)
Hispanic	23.4 (19.2, 27.5)	21.0 (18.8, 23.3)	26.1 (25.2, 27.0)	16.1 (15.6, 16.6)
Asian	4.3 (1.5, 7.2)	7.2 (5.4, 9.1)	7.9 (7.1, 8.7)	6.0 (5.7, 6.4)
NHPI	0.3 (0.05, 0.5)	0.2 (0.08, 0.2)	0.2 (0.2, 0.2)	0.2 (0.1, 0.2)
AIAN	1.2 (0.7, 1.7)	0.8 (0.5, 1.0)	0.7 (0.5, 0.8)	0.7 (0.7, 0.8)
Multiracial	1.8 (1.2, 2.4)	2.2 (1.7, 2.6)	1.2 (1.0, 1.3)	1.2 (1.1, 1.3)
Marital Status	(n = 3,537)	(n = 19,162)	(n = 81,642)	(n = 356,803)
Never married	22.5 (18.9, 26.0)	57.9 (55.8, 60.1)	11.7 (11.1, 12.3)	28.0 (27.5, 28.5)
Married	48.5 (44.6, 52.3)	19.9 (18.0, 21.9)	70.6 (69.8, 71.5)	44.6 (44.1, 45.1)
Unmarried partner	11.9 (9.4, 14.4)	11.5 (10.2, 12.8)	6.2 (5.8, 6.7)	4.2 (4.0, 4.4)
Divorced, separated, widowed	17.1 (13.4, 20.9)	10.6 (9.5, 11.7)	11.4 (10.9, 12.0)	23.2 (22.8, 23.6)
Education	(n = 3,545)	(n = 19,275)	(n = 81,706)	(n = 357,764)
High school or less	44.2 (40.0, 48.3)	36.4 (34.1, 38.7)	37.9 (37.0, 38.8)	40.97 (40.5, 41.5)
Some college	30.7 (27.1, 34.3)	34.9 (32.8, 37.0)	28.0 (27.1, 28.9)	30.9 (30.5, 31.4)
College degree or higher	25.1 (22.1, 28.1)	28.1 (27.7, 28.5)	34.1 (33.3, 34.9)	28.1 (27.7, 28.5)
Poverty	(n = 3,217)	(n = 16,067)	(n = 74,623)	(n = 289,356)
Household income < 100% FPL	33.2 (29.1, 37.4)	21.1 (19.0, 23.2)	21.1 (20.3, 21.9)	14.3 (13.8, 14.8)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender; POC = People of color; FPL = Federal Poverty Level 2019-2021; Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table 17. Percentage of adults who are parents of children in the household by SOGI and marital status (cell %)

PARENTING	TOTAL ADULTS (N = 463,176)	MARRIED ADULTS (n = 240,224)	UNMARRIED PARTNERS (n = 16,998)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
LGBTQ (N = 22,851)	18.1 (16.7, 19.4)	34.9 (31.6, 38.2)	18.6 (14.6, 22.6)
Cisgender woman	26.2 (24.1, 28.3)	45.2 (40.9, 49.4)	27.9 (21.8, 33.8)
Bisexual cisgender woman	28.2 (25.7, 30.6)	51.6 (46.9, 56.3)	30.4 (23.6, 37.1)
Lesbian cisgender woman	20.1 (16.1, 24.1)	30.9 (22.6, 39.3)	19.8 (7.3, 32.3)
Transgender person	15.2 (10.4, 20.1)	27.9 (15.2, 40.6)	11.9 (0.8, 22.9)
Trans man	19.9 (8.2, 31.6)	21.1 (1.8, 40.4)	22.2 (0, 50.6)
Gender nonconforming	12.5 (8.4, 16.7)	38.2 (21.6, 54.9)	9.3 (1.6, 17.0)
Trans woman	12.0 (7.7, 16.2)	26.2 (13.9, 38.4)	4.5 (0.2, 8.8)
Cisgender man	7.5 (6.2, 8.7)	22.0 (17.3, 26.6)	5.5 (0.4, 10.6)
Bisexual cisgender man	11.8 (9.3, 14.4)	33.7 (25.9, 41.5)	10.0 (0, 21.1)
Gay cisgender man	4.3 (2.7, 5.9)	12.9 (7.8, 18.1)	2.3 (0, 5.0)
Straight cisgender (N = 440,325)	27.5 (27.1, 27.9)	37.5 (36.9, 38.2)	36.0 (33.8, 38.2)
Woman	29.5 (28.9, 30.1)	38.2 (37.3, 39.1)	42.0 (38.7, 45.1)
Man	25.5 (24.9, 26.0)	36.9 (36.1, 37.7)	30.6 (27.6, 33.7)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Total adults includes married, unmarried partners, never married, and divorced, separated, and widowed respondents as well as those who had missing values for marital status; Sample sizes reflect observed cases (non-missing) since samples sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset; n = 152 are missing for LGBTQ parents by marital status and n = 1,880 for straight cisgender parents; % parenting among all bisexual adults = 23.3 (21.4, 25.2); % parenting among LGB only = 18.4 (17.0, 19.8).

Table A18. Marital status among LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ parents

	NEVER MARRIED	MARRIED	UNMARRIED PARTNER	DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWED
PARENTS	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
LGBTQ total (N = 3,537)	22.5 (18.9, 26.0)	48.5 (44.6, 52.3)	11.9 (9.4, 14.4)	17.1 (13.4, 20.9)
Lesbian cis women (n = 483)	22.1 (13.9, 30.2)	48.9 (37.9, 60.0)	11.6 (3.7, 19.5)	17.4 (9.1, 25.7)
Gay cis men (n = 172)	10.8 (0, 19.1)	72.1 (59.1, 85.1)	6.2 (0, 13.4)	11.0 (0, 22.0)
Bisexual cis women (n = 2,199)	26.4 (22.1, 30.6)	42.4 (37.6, 47.2)	13.6 (10.5, 16.8)	17.6 (12.6, 22.5)
Bisexual cis men (n = 416)	15.5 (7.2, 23.8)	64.3 (52.3, 76.2)	8.4 (0, 18.3)	11.8 (6.1, 17.6)
Transgender people (n = 267)	11.2 (0, 23.2)	56.9 (39.4, 74.5)	8.1 (0.3, 15.9)	23.8 (5.7, 41.8)
Straight cis total (N = 81,642)	11.7 (11.1, 12.3)	70.6 (69.8, 71.5)	6.2 (5.8, 6.7)	11.4 (10.9, 12.0)
Straight cis women (n = 45,398)	15.2 (14.2, 16.1)	64.9 (63.7, 66.1)	6.1 (5.4, 6.9)	13.6 (12.7, 14.5)
Straight cis men (n = 36,244)	7.5 (6.8, 8.3)	77.5 (76.4, 78.7)	6.3 (5.7, 7.0)	8.8 (8.1, 9.5)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender; Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A19. Marital status by race among LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ parents and non-parents

	LGBTQ PARENTS (N = 3,495)	LGBTQ NON-PARENTS (N = 18,925)	STRAIGHT CIS PARENTS (N = 80,952)	STRAIGHT CIS NON-PARENTS (N = 353,346)
RACE/ETHNICITY	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**
White (n = 359,903)				
Never married	15.8 (12.6, 18.9)	53.8 (51.6, 56.0)	7.5 (7.1, 8.0)	21.9 (21.5, 22.3)
Married	57.7 (53.4, 62.0)	22.1 (20.3, 23.9)	77.8 (77.1, 78.6)	50.3 (49.8, 50.8)
Unmarried partner	11.2 (8.5, 14.0)	13.1 (11.5, 14.8)	4.0 (3.6, 4.4)	4.0 (3.7, 4.2)
Divorced, separated, widowed	15.3 (11.9, 18.6)	11.0 (9.9, 12.1)	10.7 (10.1, 11.2)	23.8 (23.4, 24.2)
POC (n = 98,797)				
Never married	30.7 (24.2, 37.2)	63.8 (59.6, 67.9)	16.4 (15.2, 17.7)	39.0 (37.9, 40.1)
Married	37.2 (31.0, 43.3)	17.0 (13.0, 20.9)	62.4 (60.9, 64.0)	34.2 (33.2, 35.3)
Unmarried partner	12.7 (8.3, 17.1)	9.1 (7.1, 11.1)	8.8 (7.9, 9.7)	4.7 (4.2, 5.2)
Divorced, separated, widowed	19.4 (12.5, 26.4)	10.1 (7.9, 12.4)	12.3 (11.2, 13.4)	22.0 (21.2, 22.9)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021
Note: POC = People of color; Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A20. Poverty among LGBTQ adults by SOGI

	LGBTQ TOTAL (N = 19,284)	LESBIAN CIS WOMEN (n = 3,100)	GAY CIS MEN (n = 4,461)	BISEXUAL CIS WOMEN (n = 6,823)	BISEXUAL CIS MEN (n = 3,071)	TRANSGENDER PEOPLE (n = 1,829)
POVERTY*	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**	**% (95% CI)**
Parents (N = 3,217)	33.2 (29.1, 37.4)	28.8 (19.2, 38.4)	19.2 (6.1, 32.2)	37.6 (32.6, 42.7)	21.3 (10.9, 31.6)	32.5 (18.0, 46.9)
Non-parents (N = 16,067)	21.1 (19.0, 23.2)	15.4 (10.9, 19.9)	14.8 (11.5, 18.0)	24.9 (21.4, 28.4)	20.4 (16.2, 24.6)	31.1 (20.9, 41.4)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021
Note: Cis = cisgender; *Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of Federal Poverty Level; Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A21. Poverty by marital status, parental status, and SOGI (cell %)

IN POVERTY*	LGBTQ PARENTS (N = 3,205)	LGBTQ NON-PARENTS (N = 15,979)	STRAIGHT CIS PARENTS (N = 74,509)	STRAIGHT CIS NON-PARENTS (N = 288,522)
MARITAL STATUS	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
Never married	57.6 (49.7, 65.4)	24.3 (21.6, 26.9)	40.5 (37.5, 43.5)	21.9 (20.8, 22.9)
Married	19.7 (15.5, 23.8)	12.0 (5.6, 18.4)	13.8 (12.9, 14.7)	6.3 (5.8, 6.8)
Unmarried partner	35.6 (25.0, 46.2)	15.9 (11.5, 20.4)	44.3 (40.0, 48.5)	16.3 (14.0, 18.6)
Divorced, separated, widowed	37.9 (26.4, 49.5)	26.6 (21.0, 32.2)	33.2 (30.5, 35.8)	20.2 (19.2, 21.2)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender; *Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of the federal poverty level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2021). Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A22. Poverty among LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ parents and non-parents by marital status and race

IN POVERTY*	NEVER MARRIED	MARRIED	UNMARRIED PARTNER	DIVORCED, SEPARATED, WIDOWED
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
LGBTQ parents (N = 3,168)				
White (n = 2,241)	48.8 (37.8, 59.9)	12.9 (8.9, 17.0)	26.9 (16.0, 37.7)	30.8 (22.0, 39.5)
Black (n = 222)	62.3 (48.9, 75.7)	29.3 (11.2, 47.3)	34.6 (4.6, 64.6)	36.5 (15.0, 58.0)
Hispanic/Latinx (n = 403)	62.2 (44.9, 79.5)	42.3 (26.2, 58.5)	46.7 (25.1, 68.3)	49.1 (19.9, 78.2)
LGBTQ non-parents (N = 15,801)				
White (n = 11,609)	18.7 (15.7, 21.8)	5.0 (3.2, 6.8)	10.9 (7.3, 14.5)	18.0 (13.7, 22.3)
Black (n = 1,015)	30.2 (23.7, 36.6)	12.0 (1.1, 22.9)	19.7 (6.4, 33.1)	29.8 (11.2, 48.4)
Hispanic/Latinx (n = 1,656)	33.1 (25.4, 40.8)	20.0 (9.8, 30.2)	29.6 (13.4, 45.8)	45.7 (29.1, 62.2)
Straight cis parents (N = 73,918)				
White (n = 58,897)	30.0 (26.8, 33.3)	6.1 (5.5, 6.7)	18.8 (15.7, 22.0)	23.1 (20.5, 25.6)
Black (n = 4,631)	43.0 (38.6, 47.4)	15.3 (12.9, 17.8)	21.2 (13.9, 28.5)	30.8 (25.5, 36.1)
Hispanic/Latinx (n = 9,009)	50.2 (42.2, 58.2)	34.1 (31.3, 36.9)	64.7 (58.5, 71.0)	52.4 (46.6, 58.2)
Straight cis non-parents (N = 285,968)				
White (n = 229,540)	14.8 (13.8, 15.8)	2.9 (2.7, 3.1)	8.7 (7.1, 10.2)	14.3 (13.5, 15.1)
Black (n = 18,552)	28.6 (26.5, 30.7)	11.1 (9.2, 12.9)	19.1 (12.7, 25.5)	25.6 (22.8, 28.4)
Latinx (n = 18,072)	35.0 (31.6, 38.3)	22.4 (19.6, 25.3)	35.0 (28.0, 41.9)	40.5 (36.2, 44.8)

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Cis = cisgender; Poverty = Household income is less than 100% of the federal poverty level (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2021). Sample sizes (N's) are from observed values (non-missing) since sample sizes vary between each multiply imputed dataset.

Table A23. Partner's gender among LGBTQ parents by gender

	PARENTS			
	TOTAL (N = 173)	GBQ CIS MEN (N = 17)	LBQ CIS WOMEN (N = 129)	TRANS / NB (N = 27)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
In a relationship	87.4 (80.5, 92.1)	95.7 (73.7, 99.4)	86.6 (77.9, 92.2)	87.7 (71.6, 95.3)
Partner gender	(N = 151)	(n = 16)	(n = 113)	(n = 22)
Different gender (and cis)	53.2 (43.1, 63.0)	50.0 (21.0, 79.0)	65.1 (53.7, 75.0)	
Same gender (and cis) or transgender/nonbinary	46.8 (37.0, 56.9)	50.0 (21.0, 79.0)	34.9 (25.0, 46.3)	100.0

Source: Generations Study and TransPop Study, 2016-2018
Note: GBQ = Gay, bisexual, queer; LBQ = Lesbian, bisexual, queer; Cis = cisgender; Trans/NB = transgender/nonbinary

Table A24. Partner's gender among monosexual and plurisexual parents

	PARENTS	
	CIS LESBIAN/GAY (N = 53)	CIS BISEXUAL/QUEER (N = 92)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
In a relationship	92.5 (74.0, 98.2)	85.2 (75.1, 91.7)
Partner gender	(n = 50)	(n = 78)
Different gender (and cis)	0.0	90.2 (79.5, 95.6)
Same gender (and cis) or transgender/nonbinary	100.0	9.8 (4.4, 20.5)

Source: Generations Study and TransPop Study, 2016-2018
Note: Monosexual = Lesbian, gay, and same-gender loving; Plurisexual = Bisexual, queer, and pansexual; Respondents who identified as straight/heterosexual, asexual, or "other" were excluded (n = 7); cis = cisgender

Tabel A25. Parenting pathways among LGBQ parents

	LGBQ TOTAL (N = 155)
	% (95% CI)
The following is a list of different ways people begin parenthood. Please mark all the categories that apply to your children. Did you have a child through...	
A relationship with a partner/spouse who already had a child	19.9 (12.7, 29.7)
A surrogate who gave birth to the child, using donor sperm	0.2 (0.02, 1.3)
A surrogate who gave birth to child, using your and/or your partner's/spouse's sperm	0.9 (0.2, 4.3)
Donor insemination, and your partner/spouse gave birth to the child	4.0 (2.1, 7.5)
Donor insemination, and you gave birth to the child	5.1 (2.9, 8.9)
Donating sperm and co-parenting with someone who is not your partner/spouse	1.0 (0.3, 3.2)
Adoption of a child born outside of your relationship	5.5 (2.7, 11.0)
Current or previous sexual relationship	78.0 (69.4, 84.8)
Becoming a legal or informal guardian of a child born outside of your relationship (e.g., kin care)	4.5 (2.1, 9.7)
Some other way	12.0 (6.8, 20.3)

Source: Generations Study Wave 2, 2017-2018
Note: LGBQ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and pansexual cisgender and nonbinary respondents

Table A26. Parenting concerns among LGBTQ adults by SOGI

	TOTAL (N = 1,729)	GBQ CIS MEN (n = 666)	LBQ CIS WOMEN (n = 742)	TRANS MEN (n = 69)	TRANS WOMEN (n = 88)	NONBINARY (n = 164)	TRANS/NB (n = 321)
	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)	% (95% CI)
You wish you could have children but you cannot	20.5 (18.2, 23.0)	21.8 (18.29, 25.85)	16.0 (12.8, 19.7)	26.7 (15.9, 41.4)	53.5 (40.3, 66.3)	18.0 (11.9, 26.5)	28.8 (22.9, 35.4)

Source: Generations Study and TransPop Study, 2016-2018
Note: GBQ = Gay, bisexual, queer; LBQ = Lesbian, bisexual, queer; Cis = cisgender; Trans = transgender; Nonbinary = Transgender and non-transgender nonbinary identifying people

Table A27. Regression statistical tests

	INDEPENDENT VARIABLES (GROUPS)	STATISTICAL TEST
BRFSS		
Continuous Dependent Variable		Linear Regression *b* (95% CI)
Age	LGBTQ parents and non-parents	**-1.42*** (-2.48, -0.37)**
Categorical/Binary Dependent Variables		Logistic Regression with Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Parenting	LGBTQ vs. non-LGBTQ (controlling for age)	**0.35 (0.31, 0.39)**
Parenting	Among LGBTQ subgroups	1.07 (0.94, 1.21)
Parenting	Black LGBTQ vs. White LGBTQ adults	**1.43 (1.08, 1.89)**
Parenting	Black LGBTQ vs. Black non-LGBTQ adults	0.82 (0.63, 1.07)
Parenting	White LGBTQ adults vs. White non-LGBTQ	0.66 (0.59, 0.74)
POC	LGBTQ parent vs. non-parent	1.14 (0.92, 1.41)
Black vs. all else	LGBTQ parent vs. non-parent	**1.41 (1.07, 1.83)**
Hispanic vs. all else	LGBTQ parent vs. non-parent	1.15 (0.88, 1.49)
White vs. all else	LGBTQ parent vs. non-parent	0.88 (0.71, 1.08)
Poverty	LGBTQ parents vs. Straight/cis parents (controlling for age)	**1.60 (1.32, 1.95)**
Poverty	LGBTQ parents vs. LGBTQ non-parents	**1.85 (1.48, 2.34)**
Poverty	LGBTQ parents by marital status: married vs. all else	Never married **5.55 (3.65, 8.44)**
		Unmarried partner **2.26 (1.33, 3.82)**
		Div,sep,wid **2.49 (1.45, 4.28)**

	INDEPENDENT VARIABLES (GROUPS)	STATISTICAL TEST
Poverty	LGBTQ parents by marital status: unmarried partner vs. all else	Never married **2.46 (1.42, 4.25)**
		Married **0.44 (0.26, 0.75)**
		Div,sep,wid 1.10 (0.57, 2.13)
Poverty	Married White LGBTQ parents vs. Never married White LGBTQ parents	**6.42 (3.64, 11.33)**
Poverty	Married White LGBTQ parents vs. unmarried partnered White LGBTQ parents	**2.46 (1.28, 4.75)**
Poverty	Married Black LGBTQ parents vs. Never married Black LGBTQ parents	**4.07 (1.40, 11.8)**
Poverty	Married Black LGBTQ parents vs. unmarried partnered Black LGBTQ parents	1.27 (0.21, 7.51)
Poverty	Married Latinx LGBTQ parents vs. Never married Latinx LGBTQ parents	2.26 (0.89, 5.73)
Poverty	Married Latinx LGBTQ parents vs. unmarried partnered Latinx LGBTQ parents	1.20 (0.40, 3.58)
Married vs. all else	LGBTQ POC parents vs. LGBTQ White parents	**0.43 (0.32, 0.59)**
Married vs. all else	S/C POC parents vs. S/C White parents	**0.47 (0.44, 0.51)**
Married vs. all else	LGBTQ POC non-parents vs. LGBTQ White non-parents	**0.72 (0.54, 0.97)**
Married vs. all else	LGBTQ Black parents vs. LGBTQ White parents	**0.30 (0.19, 0.47)**
Married vs. all else	LGBTQ Latinx parents vs. LGBTQ White parents	**0.36 (0.23, 0.56)**
Married vs. all else	LGBTQ Asian parents vs. LGBTQ White parents	2.69 (0.66, 10.86)
Married vs. all else	LGBTQ NHPI parents vs. LGBTQ White parents	0.54 (0.09, 3.18)
Married vs. all else	LGBTQ AIAN parents vs. LGBTQ White parents	0.72 (0.32, 1.62)
ACS		
Poverty	White same-sex married and unmarried partner parents	**2.10 (1.13, 3.92)**
Poverty	POC same-sex married and unmarried partner parents	1.03 (0.65, 1.63)
Poverty	Interracial same-sex married and unmarried partner parents	1.81 (0.90, 3.63)
White vs. POC	Same-sex parents vs. non-parents	**1.64 (1.49, 1.80)**
White vs. POC	Same-sex parents vs. diff sex parents	**1.10 (1.01, 1.20)**
		Multinomial Logistic Regression with Relative Risk Ratio (95% CI)
Couple race: White vs. POC and Interracial	Same-sex parents vs. non-parents	**POC** **1.88 (1.69, 2.09)**
		Interracial 0.91 (0.81, 1.02)

	INDEPENDENT VARIABLES (GROUPS)	STATISTICAL TEST
Couple race: White vs. POC and Interracial	Same-sex parents vs. diff sex parents	POC 1.09 (0.99, 1.20)
		Interracial 1.68 (1.51, 1.87)
Couple race: White vs. POC and Interracial	Male same-sex parents vs. non-parents	**POC 2.65 (2.11, 3.32)**
		Interracial 0.98 (0.78, 1.22)
Couple race: White vs. POC and Interracial	Female same-sex parents vs. non-parents	**POC 1.69 (1.49, 1.92)**
		Interracial 1.13 (0.99, 1.30)
GENERATIONS STUDY		
		Logistic Regression with Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Think it is very/extremely likely they will have children in the future	LBQ women vs. GBQ men	**3.10 (1.52, 6.28)**

Note: Bolded values indicate statistical significance at $p = 0.0$. GBQ = Gay, bisexual, queer; LBQ = Lesbian, bisexual, queer

Table A28. States that included BRFSS SOGI module (●) and RCS module (▲) by year.

STATE	2019	2020	2021
TOTAL STATES	30/31	32/30	34/30
Alabama			▲
Alaska		●	●
Arizona	●		
Arkansas		●	●
California		● ▲	▲
Colorado	●	●	●
Connecticut	●	●	●
Delaware	● ▲	▲	▲
Florida	● ▲	▲	
Georgia	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Hawaii	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Idaho	●	●	●
Illinois	▲	● ▲	● ▲
Indiana	▲	● ▲	● ▲
Iowa	●	●	●
Kansas	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Kentucky		▲	● ▲
Louisiana	●	●	●
Maine	▲	▲	▲
Maryland	●		▲
Massachusetts		●	● ▲
Michigan	▲	● ▲	● ▲
Minnesota	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Mississippi	● ▲	▲	● ▲
Missouri	▲	▲	● ▲
Montana	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Nebraska	▲	▲	▲
Nevada	▲	▲	●
New Hampshire	▲	▲	▲
New Jersey		● ▲	● ▲
New Mexico	▲	● ▲	● ▲
New York	● ▲	● ▲	▲
North Carolina	●	●	●
North Dakota			
Ohio	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Oklahoma	●	●	●
Oregon	▲		
Pennsylvania	▲	▲	● ▲
Rhode Island	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
South Carolina	● ▲	●	

STATE	2019	2020	2021
TOTAL STATES	30/31	32/30	34/30
South Dakota	▲	▲	▲
Tennessee	●		
Texas	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Utah	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Vermont	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Virginia	●	●	●
Washington	● ▲	● ▲	●
West Virginia	●	●	●
Wisconsin	● ▲	● ▲	● ▲
Wyoming			
Guam		●	

Source: BRFSS, 2019-2021

Note: Highlighted cells indicate states and years included in the analysis. Only states and years that included both the SOGI and RCS module were subject to imputation and analyzed for this report. SOGI = Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; RCS = Random Child Selection; In some years, various states administered their own version of the BRFSS survey and are not included in the national BRFSS dataset which was used for this analysis (with the exception of NY state). Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic caused disruption to data collection efforts in some states, in others responses improved.