



Policy Institute
90 William St., Suite 1201
New York, NY 10036
www.TheTaskForce.org

Fact Sheet: Black Same-Sex Households in the U.S.

Prevalence

- According to the 2000 Census, there are nearly 600,000 same-sex couples in the United States. Almost 85,000 of these couples include at least one Black person
- Thirteen percent of the US population is Black, and 14% of the same-sex couples in the U.S. include at least one Black person
- The top ten metropolitan areas in the U.S. with the largest number of Black same-sex households are: New York, Washington DC-Baltimore, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Detroit, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Houston, Miami

Parenting

- Black female same-sex couples parent at about the same rate as Black married opposite-sex couples (61% vs. 69%)
- Black female same-sex couples raise nonbiological (fostered or adopted) children at the same rate as Black married opposite-sex couples (14% vs. 13%)
- Black female same-sex couples parent children at nearly twice the rate of White female same-sex couples (61% vs. 38%)
- Black male same-sex couples parent at about two-thirds the rate of Black married opposite-sex couples (46% vs. 69%)
- Black male same-sex couples parent nonbiological children at a slightly lower rate than Black married opposite-sex couples (10% vs. 13%)
- Black male same-sex couples parent children at almost twice the rate of White male same-sex couples (46% vs. 24%)

Income and Employment

- White male same-sex households report \$20,000 more in median annual household income than Black male same-sex households
- White female same-sex households report \$18,000 more in median annual household income than Black female same-sex households
- Black men and women in same-sex households are nearly 25% more likely than White same-sex partners to hold public sector jobs (16% vs. 13%)

Home Ownership and Residence

- Only 52% of Black same-sex couples report home ownership compared to 71% of White same-sex couples and 68% of Black married opposite-sex couples
- Black same-sex couples are almost as likely as Black married opposite-sex couples, and more likely than Black cohabiting opposite-sex couples, to report living in the same residence as five years earlier
- Forty-nine percent of Black male same-sex couples and 45% of Black female same-sex couples report living in the same residence five years ago, compared to 58% of Black married opposite-sex couples
- Only 19% of Black cohabiting opposite-sex couples report living in the same residence as five years earlier

Education

- Overall, partnered Black men and women in same-sex households report lower levels of educational attainment than partnered White men and women in same-sex households
- Only 40% of partnered Black men and women in same-sex households report that they had any education beyond high school, compared to 67% of partnered White men and women in same-sex households

Military Service

- Partnered Black women in same-sex households report veteran status at nearly four times the rate of Black women married to a male partner (11% vs. 3%)
- Black men in same-sex households report veteran status at nearly two-thirds the rate of Black married men (18% vs. 31%)