

Puerto Rican Same-Sex Households in Puerto Rico

In 2014 there were an estimated 3,278 Puerto Rican same-sex couple households in Puerto Rico discernible from publicly available Census Bureau data. These same-sex households comprised 0.3% of the nearly 1.2-million Puerto Rican households in Puerto Rico. Key characteristics of observable same-sex couples included higher levels of education, labor force participation, employment, and income when compared to other households.

Defining Same-sex Couples

For couples to be defined as a same-sex in this dataset they would have to live in the same household and with one partner designated as the “head of household” and the other as either “partner” or “spouse”, and both would have to be

the same sex. As a census data rule there is only one head of household per household and relations are primarily based off the head of household. Thus, the designation of same-sex couple here is meant to indicate two people of the same sex, living in the same household, wherein one partner qualifies as the head of household and the other is identified as either a partner or spouse in relation to the head of household. Same-sex couples that did not cohabit or self-identified as either partner or spouse were not recorded as a same-sex couple.

At a Glance

Two-thirds (66.3%) of Puerto Rican same-sex couples in Puerto Rico were female with the remaining third (33.7%) identified as male. Compared to the near even split among same-sex Puerto Rican households in the U.S. (52% and 48%, respectively), there was a more skewed distribution on the island. Although the single largest Puerto Rican type of householder identified in Puerto Rico was married male-female

TABLE 1. Household by relationship to head of household in Puerto Rico*, 2014

	Total PR. Population		Puerto Ricans	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Total Households	1,241,456	100	1,180,196	100
² Same-Sex Couples	3,511	0.3	3,278	0.3
Married M/F Couples	507,039	40.8	483,804	39.2
Unmarried M/F Couples	100,209	8.1	94,558	8.2
¹ Male Householders	182,905	14.7	171,963	15.5
¹ Female Householders	447,801	36.1	426,593	36.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-yr. estimate, 2014

¹includes single, divorced, separated, widowed, and individuals who are married but whose spouse might reside in a separate household

²includes both married and unmarried couples cohabitating

*includes Puerto Rican and non-Puerto Rican residents of the island

TABLE 2. Same-sex couple households by sex in Puerto Rico* 2014

	Total P.R. Population		Puerto Ricans	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
¹ Same-Sex Couples	3,511	100	3,278	100
² Same-Sex Male Couples	1,267	36.1	1,104	33.7
² Same-Sex Female Couples	2,244	63.9	2,174	66.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-yr. estimate, 2014

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householders (39.2%), single female householders accounted for over a third of all households (36.7%).

same-sex male and female couples were 0.2 and 0.5, respectively.

Children in Households

More than one in four (26.3%) of Puerto Rican same-sex couple households in Puerto Rico lived with children under 18 years of age. The proportion of Puerto Rican female same-sex couples living with children in Puerto Rico (31.5%) was nearly double that of Puerto Rican male same-sex couples (16%). Unmarried (57.9%) and married male-female (56.6%) Puerto Rican households had the highest proportion of habitation with children as well as the highest average number of children per household (one per household). The number of average children per household in Puerto Rico was 0.8 and 0.4 per same-sex households. Average number of children for

Although nearly half (49.3%) of all households in Puerto Rico reported living with children, there were less children per household in Puerto Rico than among Puerto Ricans in the U.S. (0.8 and 1, respectively).

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an important socio-economic indicator related to occupational sectors and income.

More than a third (35.9%) of Puerto Ricans age 25 and older living in a same-sex household in Puerto Rico had earned at least a bachelor's degree. Individuals in male same-sex Puerto Rican households had the

TABLE 3. Households with children in Puerto Rico, 2014

	Total Population in Puerto Rico		Puerto Ricans	
	Percentage	Average no. of children per hh	Percentage	Average no. of children per hh
All Households	49.1	0.8	49.3	0.8
² Same-Sex Couples	25	0.4	26.3	0.4
² Same-Sex Males	15.3	0.2	16	0.2
² Same-Sex Females	30.5	0.5	31.5	0.7
Married M/F Couples	56.5	1	56.6	1
Unmarried M/F Couples	56.5	1	57.9	1
¹ Male Householders	13.4	0.2	15.7	0.2
¹ Female Householders	35.2	0.6	54.8	0.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-yr. estimate, 2014

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TABLE 4: Puerto Rican educational attainment for household members 25 years and older in Puerto Rico, 2014

	No High School diploma	High School diploma	Some College	BA or Above
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Total Households	27.9	27.2	21.6	23.4
² Same-Sex Couples	16.6	23.6	23.9	35.9
² Same-Sex Males	18.8	17.7	26.3	37.2
² Same-Sex Females	15.4	26.7	22.7	35.2
Married M/F Couples	24.5	26.6	21.9	27
Unmarried M/F Couples	24.2	27.4	22.8	26
¹ Male Householders	34.1	29.6	20.3	16
¹ Female Householders	28.8	24	22.1	25.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-yr. estimate, 2014

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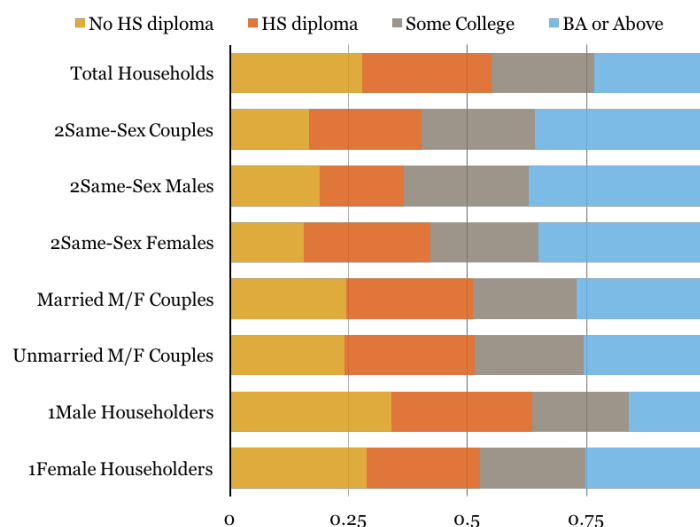
highest proportion with a bachelor’s degree or higher (37.2%) with female same-sex couples following at second highest (35.2%). Despite the larger proportion of bachelor and higher degree holders, same-sex Puerto Rican males in Puerto Rico had a higher proportion (18.8%) without a high school diploma than their female counterparts (15.4%). Over 50% of Puerto Rican same-sex couple households in Puerto Rico had either some college experience or a higher degree as well as the lowest levels of individuals without a high school diploma.

Individuals in married male-female Puerto Rican households had the next highest rate of educational attainment with over a quarter (27%) possessing a bachelor’s degree or higher. The proportion of all Puerto Rican individuals age 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher, regardless of household, was 23.4%.

Employment

Education and employment opportunities tend to be linked. Higher wage work in the management, science, business, and arts sector often requires a college degree or some sort of specialized education or training. Puerto Rican same-sex couples, which relative to other Puerto Rican households were more educated, also had one of the lowest unemployment rates (11.9%) and second highest household labor

Figure 1: Educational attainment among Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico by household type



force participation rate (63%). The unemployment rate relative to the labor force size for Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico was reported as 22.7%; however, among same-sex Puerto Rican couples it was 11.9% (8.7% and 14.1% for males and females, respectively) and for married male-female couples it was 10.8. Single male households had the highest rate of unemployment at 36.9%, followed by single female households (29%), who also had the lowest rate of labor force participation 38.3%.

Money Matters

Among all Puerto Rican households in Puerto Rico

TABLE 5. Puerto Rican labor force participation by household in Puerto Rico, 2014

	In labor force	Employed	Unemployment (as percentage of labor force)	Not in labor force
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Households	44.9	36.6	22.7	55.1
² Same Sex Couples	63	56.3	11.9	37
² Same-Sex Males	70	64.4	8.7	30
² Same-Sex Females	59.2	51.9	14.1	40.8
Married M/F Couples	46.5	42	10.8	53.5
Unmarried M/F Couples	63.8	52.2	22.3	36.2
¹ Male Householders	45	33.2	36.9	54.6
¹ Female Householders	38.3	29.7	29	61.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-yr. estimate, 2014

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²includes both married and unmarried couples cohabitating

TABLE 6. Household Median Income in Puerto Rico, 2014

	Total U.S. Population	Puerto Ricans	Non-Puerto Rican Hispanics
All Households	\$19,282	\$38,622	\$52,800
² Same-Sex Couples	\$36,593	\$78,213	\$85,897
² Same-Sex Males	\$50,005	\$85,457	\$96,555
² Same-Sex Females	\$33,600	\$70,000	\$76,300
Married M/F Couples	\$30,500	\$69,106	\$79,116
Unmarried M/F Couples	\$21,035	\$45,736	\$54,293
¹ Male Householders	\$13,400	\$30,491	\$37,791
¹ Female Householders	\$12,200	\$21,053	\$28,872

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-yr. estimate, 2014

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the median income was \$19,282 with same-sex couples having the highest median income (\$36,593), followed by married male-female couples (\$30,500) and unmarried male-female couples (\$21,035). The median income for Puerto Rican same-sex couples in Puerto Rico (\$36,593) was less than half the median income for Puerto Rican same-sex couples in the U.S. (\$78,213). However, these differences were slightly less drastic among same-sex males, whose median income in Puerto Rico was \$50,005 and \$85,457 in the U.S., than among women, whose median income

in Puerto Rico was \$33,600 and \$70,000 in the U.S. – more than twice as high.

Although these patterns were observed among same-sex couples in the U.S., whether Puerto Rican or not, the disparities in Puerto Rico were more extreme with single male and female households having much lower median incomes of \$13,400 and \$12,200, respectively.

Housing

Rates of home ownership in Puerto Rico were much higher than among Puerto Ricans in the U.S. An estimated 70.2% of Puerto Rican households owned their home, compared to 37.3% of Puerto Ricans in the U.S. Same-sex couples exceeded average rates of home ownership both in Puerto Rico and in the U.S. with 74.4% and 45.4% owning homes, respectively. However, just as in the U.S., married male-female couples in Puerto Rico had even higher rates of home ownership (83.6% in Puerto Rico). A key difference regarding home ownership in Puerto Rico relative to Puerto Ricans in the U.S. and the entire U.S. population was home ownership among unmarried male-female couples. Although same-sex couples in the U.S. had far higher rates of home ownership than unmarried male-female couple households, in Puerto Rico this was not the case. A higher proportion of Puerto Rican unmarried male-female households owned their home (78.3%) than among same-sex Puerto Rican couple households in Puerto Rico (74.4%).

Median home values in Puerto Rico (\$120,000) lower than in the U.S. (\$175,000). Although same-sex couples in Puerto Rico and the U.S. had homes with median values exceeding those of the population overall, Puerto Rican same-sex female households had homes with higher median values than male same-sex holds. This was not the case in among Puerto Ricans in the U.S. or the U.S. as a whole.

Final Notes

Households with discernibly higher levels of educational attainment tend to earn more, have higher rates of labor force participation and higher incomes, and generally a greater range of economic opportunities including home ownership. In Puerto Rico, with relatively low labor force participation rates and high unemployment, characteristics of greater educational attainment and higher incomes observed in same-sex couples remain true.

TABLE 7. Home tenure by household type in Puerto Rico, 2014

	Puerto Ricans in Puerto Rico				Puerto Ricans in the U.S.				Total U.S. Population			
	Own home	Median home value	Rent home	Percent	Own home	Median home value	Rent home	Percent	Own home	Median home value	Rent home	Percent
	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
All Households	70.2	\$120,000	29.9		37.3	\$175,000	62.7		64.1	\$175,000	35.9	
² Same-Sex Couples	74.4	\$150,000	25.6		45.4	\$195,000	54.6		68.5	\$220,000	31.5	
² Same-Sex Males	68.8	\$134,000	31.3		48.9	\$195,000	51.1		69.5	\$250,000	30.5	
² Same-Sex Females	77.2	\$150,000	22.8		42.1	\$189,000	57.9		67.5	\$200,000	32.5	
Married M/F Couples	83.6	\$125,000	16.4		60	\$200,000	40.0		80.1	\$200,000	19.9	
Unmarried M/F Couples	78.3	\$110,000	21.8		25.6	\$150,000	74.4		42	\$149,000	58	
¹ Male Householders	60.5	\$100,000	39.5		26.3	\$197,720	73.7		48.6	\$140,000	51.4	
¹ Female Householders	63	\$110,000	37.0		22.6	\$192,690	77.4		50.7	\$140,000	49.3	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-yr. estimate, 2014

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