

Puerto Rican Same-Sex Households in the U.S.

In 2014 there were an estimated 10,842 Puerto Rican same-sex cohabitating couples in the United States discernible from publicly available Census Bureau data. These same-sex households comprised 0.7% of the nearly 1.6-million Puerto Rican households in the U.S. The proportion of same-sex Puerto Rican households was slightly higher than both the same-sex couple household proportions among all U.S. households (0.6%) and non-Puerto Rican Hispanic households (0.5%). 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 of 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.

TABLE 1. Household by relationship to head of household in the U.S., 2014

	Total U.S. Population		Puerto Ricans		Non-Puerto Rican Hispanics	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
Total Households	116,211,074	100	1,561,066	100	12,520,160	100
² Same-Sex Couples	674,300	0.6	10,842	0.7	60,614	0.5
Married M/F Couples	56,085,386	48.3	568,227	36.4	6,190,485	49.4
Unmarried M/F Couples	6,442,036	5.5	133,142	8.5	1,068,167	8.5
¹ Male Householders	20,319,308	17.5	278,717	17.9	2,057,607	16.4
¹ Female Householders	32,690,044	28.1	570,138	36.5	3,143,287	25.1

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

TABLE 2. Same-sex couple households by sex in the U.S., 2014

	Total U.S. Population		Puerto Ricans		Non-Puerto Rican Hispanics	
	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage	Total	Percentage
¹ Same-Sex Couples	674,300	100	10,842	100	60,614	100
² Same-Sex Male Couples	323,820	48	5,204	48	30,316	50
² Same-Sex Female Couples	350,480	52	5,638	52	30,298	50

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

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At a Glance

The majority of Puerto Rican same-sex households in the U.S. were female, accounting for over half (52%) of Puerto Rican same-sex households; the remaining 48% were reported as male. Similar proportions were observed on the national level among 674,300 same-sex households for the U.S. population, with 52% reported as female and the remaining 48% as male. Non-Puerto Rican Hispanics had similar gender proportions with a near even split of 50% between observed female and male same-sex couples.

Children in Households

Over one in four (26.6%) same-sex Puerto Rican household couples lived with children, a rate higher than the proportion (20.5%) of same-sex households

that lived with children in the country as a whole. Non-Puerto Rican Hispanic couples had the highest rate of habitation with children with one in three (32.6%) same-sex households living with children. In general, Puerto Rican households, whether heterosexual married couples, single householder, or same-sex, had a higher proportion of households with children (51.8%) than among all households in the U.S. (40.2%), but lower than among non-Puerto Rican Hispanic households (61.1%).

Puerto Rican female same-sex couple households reported living with children at a rate more than double (38%) that of Puerto Rican male same-sex households (14.3%). Similar differences were also observed among all U.S. same-sex households with 26.5% of female same-sex households and 11.4% of male same-sex households having children. Among

TABLE 3. Households with children in the U.S. 2014

	Total U.S. Pop		Puerto Ricans		Non-Puerto Rican Hispanics	
	Percentage	Average no. of children per hh	Percentage	Average no. of children per hh	Percentage	Average no. of children per hh
All Households	40.2	0.7	51.8	1	61.1	1.3
² Same-Sex Couples	20.5	0.3	26.6	0.5	32.6	0.6
² Same-Sex Males	13.5	0.2	14.3	0.3	25.8	0.5
² Same-Sex Females	26.9	0.5	38.0	0.7	39.4	0.7
Married M/F Couples	52.7	1	65.4	1.3	75.7	1.7
Unmarried M/F Couples	43	0.8	59.2	1.2	68.2	2.1
¹ Male Householders	13.4	0.2	15.7	0.2	20	0.3
¹ Female Householders	35.2	0.6	54.8	1	57.4	1.1

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

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

	No High School diploma	High School diploma	Some College	BA or Above
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
Total Households	23.7	29.5	29.7	17.1
² Same-Sex Couples	10.4	21.1	36.7	31.9
² Same-Sex Males	8.4	20.4	34.8	36.5
² Same-Sex Females	12.2	21.7	38.4	27.8
Married M/F Couples	17.0	28.3	32.3	22.4
Unmarried M/F Couples	24.3	32.5	30.2	13
¹ Male Householders	29.4	33.5	25.1	12
¹ Female Householders	29.0	27	29.5	14.5

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

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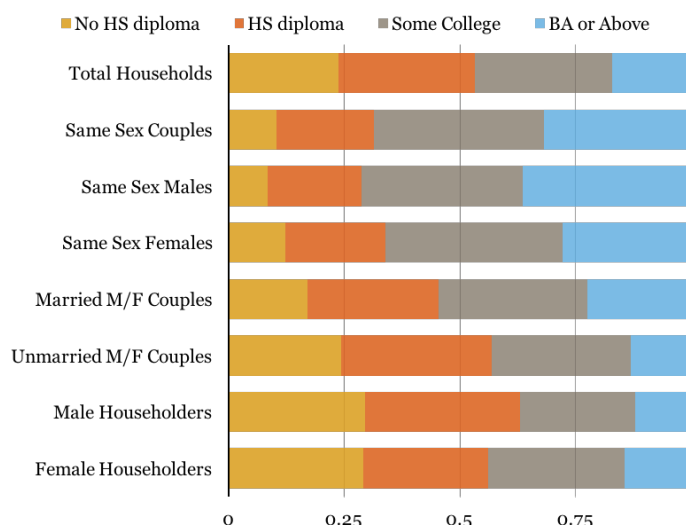
non-Puerto Rican Hispanic same-sex households, rates of living with children were higher than both national and Puerto Rican rates with nearly four in ten (39.4%) non-Puerto Rican Hispanic female same-sex households living with children. Similarly, over one in four of same-sex non-Puerto Rican Hispanic male households (25.8%) reported living with children, a rate higher than among male Puerto Rican (14.3%) and all U.S. (13.5%) same-sex couples.

Generally, Puerto Rican households had more children than national averages, but less than among non-Puerto Rican Hispanic households. Female Puerto Rican same-sex couples had an average of 0.7 children per household, similar to that of non-Puerto Rican Hispanic female same-sex couples (0.7), but higher than among the national average for female same-sex couples (0.5). Compared to all Puerto Rican households, same-sex couples had half the average children per household count (1 and 0.5, respectively).

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment is an important socio-economic indicator related to occupational sectors and income. Over three in ten (31.9%) Puerto Ricans age 25 and older living in a same-sex couple household had earned at least a bachelor’s degree. This rate was higher than the rate among Puerto Rican individuals in a married household (22.4%) and nearly double the rate among all Puerto Rican

Figure 1: Educational attainment among Puerto Ricans in the U.S. by household type



households (17.1%). Puerto Rican same-sex male couples in particular had a high rate of educational attainment with over a third (36.5%) having earned at least a bachelor’s degree. Puerto Rican female same-sex couples had lower educational attainment relative to male same-sex couples with only 27.8% having attained at least a bachelor’s degree. However, this rate was still more than 10-percentage points over the average for all Puerto Ricans in the U.S.

Employment

Education and employment opportunities tend to be linked. Higher wage work in the management,

TABLE 5. Puerto Rican labor force participation by household in the U.S., 2014

	In labor force	Employed	Unemployment (as percentage of labor force)	Not in labor force
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Households	62.3	53.7	13.8	37.7
² Same Sex Couples	82	75.4	8.1	17.9
² Same-Sex Males	80	74.8	6.8	19.8
² Same-Sex Females	83.7	76.0	9.2	16.3
Married M/F Couples	69.8	64.6	7.6	30.2
Unmarried M/F Couples	78.2	67.6	13.5	21.8
¹ Male Householders	58	46.1	19.9	42.5
¹ Female Householders	54.9	45.7	16.7	45.1

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 U.S., 2014

	Total U.S. Population	Puerto Ricans	Non-Puerto Rican Hispanics
All Households	\$52,800	\$38,622	\$42,107
² Same-Sex Couples	\$85,897	\$78,213	\$68,626
² Same-Sex Males	\$96,555	\$85,457	\$76,000
² Same-Sex Females	\$76,300	\$70,000	\$61,592
Married M/F Couples	\$79,116	\$69,106	\$57,537
Unmarried M/F Couples	\$54,293	\$45,736	\$41,264
¹ Male Householders	\$37,791	\$30,491	\$36,843
¹ Female Householders	\$28,872	\$21,053	\$25,778

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

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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 (8.1%) and the highest household labor force participation rate (82%). Female same-sex couples in particular had the highest labor force participation rates (83.7%). Among all Puerto Rican households in the U.S., the unemployment rate was 13.8% and the labor force

participation rate was 62.3%. Married male-female couples had the lowest unemployment rate (7.6%), but a lower labor force participation rate (69.8%) than same-sex couples. Single male householders had the highest unemployment rates (19.9%), followed by single female householders (16.7%).

Money Matters

There were noteworthy differences in the incomes of same-sex households and those of other households. Notably, the median income for Puerto Rican same-

sex households was \$78,213, more than double the median income for all Puerto Rican households of \$38,622. Among Puerto Ricans in the U.S., same-sex male couple households had the highest median income (\$85,457), followed by same-sex female couple households (\$70,000), and married male-female households (\$69,106). Single female-headed households had the lowest median income (\$21,053), followed by single male-headed households (\$30,491), and unmarried male-female couple households (\$45,736).

There are three primary observable trends in household data regarding income. First, as indicated, same-sex households had higher median incomes than all other households. Secondly, male-led households, whether same-sex or single, earned more than their female counterparts. For example, the median income of single Puerto Rican male households (\$30,491) was higher than for single Puerto Rican female households (\$21,053). Finally, coupled households of any type had higher average earnings than single households.

Puerto Rican coupled households had higher median incomes than analogous non-Puerto Rican Hispanic households, but slightly less than all comparable households in the U.S. However, median incomes among single non-Puerto Rican Hispanics were higher than Puerto Rican single householder median incomes. The overall distribution of median incomes indicates that although there are likely other factors affecting income, same-sex households tend to earn more.

Housing

The decision to own a home is dependent on many factors, but generally requires at least access to financial capital and either necessity or desire to own a home. Approximately 45.4% of Puerto Rican same-sex couples owned a home with a median home value of \$195,000. This rate of home ownership was higher than among all Puerto Ricans in the U.S. (37.3%), but lower than among married male-female couples (60%). Puerto Rican married male-female couples had higher median home values (\$200,000) than Puerto Rican same-sex couples, a finding not seen either among other non-Puerto Rican Hispanic households or among all U.S. households. Same-sex Puerto Rican male couples had a higher median home value (\$195,000) than same-sex Puerto Rican female couples (\$189,000). Single Puerto Rican male and female households had the lowest rates of home ownership (26.3% and 22.6%, respectively), but median home values (\$197,720 and \$192,690) over the median home value of all Puerto Rican owned homes (\$175,000).

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. There are limitations to these data; same-sex couples in this case only applies to households with both partners present and fails to capture cases in which partners live apart. Despite this limitation, clear trends of higher educational attainment and higher incomes are seen among same-sex couples in the Puerto Rican community in the U.S.

TABLE 7. Home tenure by household type in the U.S., 2014

	Total U.S. Population				Puerto Ricans				Non-Puerto Rican Hispanics			
	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	64.1	\$175,000	35.9	37.3	\$175,000	62.7	47.1	\$150,000	52.9			
² Same-Sex Couples	68.5	\$220,000	31.5	45.4	\$195,000	54.6	52.3	\$190,000	47.7			
² Same-Sex Males	69.5	\$250,000	30.5	48.9	\$195,000	51.1	53	\$224,000	47			
² Same-Sex Females	67.5	\$200,000	32.5	42.1	\$189,000	57.9	51.5	\$160,000	48.5			
Married M/F Couples	80.1	\$200,000	19.9	60	\$200,000	40.0	60	\$150,000	40			
Unmarried M/F Couples	42	\$149,000	58	25.6	\$150,000	74.4	27.9	\$130,000	72.1			
¹ Male Householders	48.6	\$140,000	51.4	26.3	\$197,720	73.7	34	\$130,000	66			
¹ Female Householders	50.7	\$140,000	49.3	22.6	\$192,690	77.4	36.9	\$125,000	63.3			

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

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²includes both married and unmarried couples cohabitating

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