

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

APRIL DEBOER, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

-vs-

ED Mi #12-civ-10285

Hon. Bernard A. Friedman

RICHARD SNYDER, *et al.*,

Defendants.

EXPERT WITNESS REPORT OF MICHAEL J. ROSENFELD, Ph.D.

1. Qualifications and Required Disclosures:

I have been retained by plaintiff's counsel as an expert witness in connection with the above-referenced litigation. My background, experience, and list of publications are summarized in my curriculum vitae, which is attached as Exhibit A to this report.

I have not testified in court nor have I provided written expert testimony in any case in the past 4 years. My compensation for testimony in this case is limited to reimbursement for out-of-pocket travel expenses.

In connection with my anticipated testimony in this action, I may use portions of this report or the references cited herein as exhibits. In addition, I may use various documents produced in this case that refer or relate to the matters discussed in this report. I may also create, or assist in the creation of, demonstrative exhibits or summaries of my findings and opinions to assist me in testifying.

I may testify as an expert regarding additional matters, including (i) rebutting positions that the State Defendants take, including opinions of their experts and materials they discuss or rely upon; (ii) addressing issues that arise from any forthcoming order by Judge Friedman; (iii) addressing issues that arise from documents or other discovery that State Defendants or other entities have not yet produced, or that were produced too late to be fully considered before my report was due; or (iv) responding to witness testimony that has not yet been given.

I reserve the right to supplement or amend this report based on (i) any orders that Judge Friedman issues; (ii) documents or other discovery that the State Defendants or other entities have not yet produced; or (iii) witness testimony that has not yet been given.

In 1989 I received a BA in Mathematics from Brown University. In 2000 I received a Ph.D. degree in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Since 2000 I have taught Sociology at Stanford University, where I currently hold the rank of Associate Professor with Tenure. I am a social demographer. I study large datasets and survey research methods. I have particular interests in marriage, child development, family structure, and population. I teach research methods to both undergraduate students and graduate students at Stanford University.

I am the author of the book *The Age of Independence: Interracial Unions, Same-Sex Unions, and the Changing American Family* (Harvard University Press, 2007), and I am the author of numerous articles including “Nontraditional Families and Childhood Progress Through School” (Rosenfeld 2010), and “Reply to Allen et al,” (Rosenfeld 2013), in response to a critique by Allen, Pakuluk, and Price (2013).

I am the sole Principal Investigator of a nationally representative longitudinal study of American couples, known as the “How Couples Meet and Stay Together” study (Rosenfeld, Thomas and Falcon 2011), funded by the US National Science Foundation (grants SES-0751977 and SES-1153867, totaling more than \$400,000). The “How Couples Meet and Stay Together” data provide important new scientific evidence about the stability of both same-sex couples and heterosexual couples in the US.

I have served on the editorial boards of two of the leading academic Sociology journals, the American Journal of Sociology (2006-2008) and Social Forces (2009-2011). I have won a variety of awards for my teaching and for my scholarship.

2. The Scholarly Consensus about Children Raised by Same-Sex Couples.

The state has an interest in ensuring that children, who are the future of our society, have their basic needs met. The scholarly literature on the progress of children raised by same-sex couples finds that children raised by same-sex couples are at no disadvantage compared to other children (Meezan and Rauch 2005; Wald 2006; Ball and Pea 1998; Stacey and Biblarz 2001). In-depth studies of the psychosocial development of children raised by same-sex couples have found that these children are normal and well-adjusted (Chan, Raboy and Patterson 1998; Flaks et al. 1995; Golombok et al. 2003). Although my research focuses mostly on large nationally representative datasets, it is important to recognize that the small scale in-depth psychological studies of families are equally valid and important. The small scale studies allow researchers to learn directly about how children live and think from the children themselves, and from their parents and teachers. The large scale survey research and the small scale in-depth studies complement each other, and provide consistent findings about the efficacy of same-sex couples as parents.

Against the heavy weight of social science evidence and consensus, there are a few fringe dissenting voices, represented by the experts called by the state in this case. The State Defendants’ experts acknowledge the existence of a scholarly consensus on the efficacy of same-sex couple parents (Allen 2013b), but the State Defendants’ experts denigrate the scholarly consensus and argue that not enough is known about children raised by same-sex couple parents to justify same-sex marriage (Allen et al. 2013). I will explain in detail below why

the published arguments made by State Defendants' expert witnesses are wrong on the facts, wrong on the data, and wrong in their policy implications. The relevant professional associations of academic scholars, the American Sociological Association and the American Psychological Association have considered all the evidence and have officially endorsed the right to marry for same-sex couples and have officially rejected the arguments the State Defendants' experts have made (American Psychological Association 2005; American Sociological Association 2013b; American Sociological Association 2013a).

3. Factors that Do and Do Not Diminish Children's Chances of Making Good Progress in School: Evidence of School Progress for Children from the 2000 US Census.

In this section I will be relying on my 2010 paper "Nontraditional Families and Childhood Progress Through School" (Rosenfeld 2010), a paper which used data from the 2000 US Census. The 2000 US Census data show that children raised by same-sex couples are as likely to make good progress through school as children raised by any other family type, after the income of the parents and parental education (factors that are known to strongly affect children's educational outcomes) are accounted for. The 2000 US Census is the largest publicly available dataset in the US that includes variables that make it possible to study children who have lived with and been raised by same-sex couples. The outcome variable in question for children is whether the children are progressing normally through the elementary school grades, or whether the children have been held back in school (i.e. forced to repeat a grade). If a child repeats a grade in elementary school, inadequate parenting could be one cause. The 2000 US Census public use data files include about 3,000 children who lived in households with same-sex couples long enough (more than 5 years) to have their progress through elementary school shaped by parenting provided in that household. The five year mobility question is the only question in the 2000 US Census that allows researchers to be sure that the family has been together long enough to influence the child's progress through elementary school.

Table 1 (see appendices) drawn from my published analysis of the 2000 US Census data supports several conclusions:

- * Making no allowances for differences between families in education or income, the children of heterosexual married couples make the best progress through school, but differences are small: 6.8 percent of the children of heterosexual married couples had been held back in the elementary grades, compared to 9.6 percent of the children raised by same-sex couples, and 11.7 percent of the children raised by unmarried heterosexual couples.

- * Given that no US states recognized same-sex marriages in 2000, the same-sex couples were most similar to the unmarried heterosexual couples in terms of legal status. The children raised by same-sex couples had *better* outcomes (i.e. a lower rate of being held back in school) than the children raised by unmarried heterosexual couples.

- * It is also important to keep in mind that same-sex couples in 2000 in the US had none of the legal or economic advantages that marriage bestowed on the heterosexual married couples. The legal privileges of marriage are numerous and have direct consequences for the well-being of children (Eskridge 1996; Pawelski et al. 2006).

* The modest differences in average school progress among the children raised by different types of families is dwarfed by the difference between the children in families and the children living in group quarters, of whom 34.4 percent had been held back in school. Of the children in foster care, 20.6 percent had been held back in school. These comparisons to children in group quarters and to children in foster care are important because children adopted by same-sex couples often come from the pool of children who might otherwise be in group quarters or foster care. Table 1 shows that children in group quarters, and foster care have much worse outcomes than children raised by same-sex couples. The census data clearly show that families (regardless of the sexual orientation of the parents) do a much better job of raising children than the government can do. Any policy that excludes a group of adoptive parents as Michigan's laws do, ultimately increases the number of children under the care of the state, and diminishes the opportunities of children to be under the consistent care of a family.

* When we compare families that are similar in parental education and income (column 2 of Table 1), in other words after comparing children in families that are similar except for family type, there is no statistically significant difference in school progress between children raised by same-sex couples and children raised by heterosexual married couples in the 2000 US Census data. The analysis of census data reinforces the multitude of findings from other studies, which consistently have shown that children raised by same-sex couples are just as healthy as children raised by heterosexual couples (Meezan and Rauch 2005; Wald 2006; Ball and Pea 1998; Stacey and Biblarz 2001).

* The most durable predictors of child outcomes such as educational attainment and occupational status in the US are income and resources in the family of origin (Gennetian 2005; Biblarz and Raftery 1999; Ginther and Pollak 2004).

* Along with parental socioeconomic status, family stability is another key predictor of children's outcomes. The US Census provides only indirect insight into couple stability, since the US Census is what is known as a cross-sectional survey: the US Census is a snapshot of the US population at one moment in time. The US Census does not follow the same respondents over time. In order to be sure that the children in each family in the Census were actually raised by that family (that is, in order to assess any influence of family structure at the time of the Census over children's prior progress through school), I limited the sample to children and parents who had all coresided together in the same location for at least 5 years. Without limiting the census data to subjects with at least 5 years of residential stability as a family, there is no way to know who was living with whom when the child progressed (or failed to progress) through the elementary grades. In their critique of my work, Allen et al (Allen, Pakaluk and Price 2013) rely on the worse progress through school of children whose family at the time of their school failures is unknown.

4. Why the Doctrine of Giving Legal Support Only to So-Called “Optimal” Families as Argued by the State Defendants’ Experts, Would, if Carried to its Logical Extent, Exclude Almost Everyone.

In their 2013 amicus brief to the Supreme Court for the Hollingsworth v Perry case (Allen et al. 2013) the State Defendants’ experts argued that heterosexual married biological parents raise children with the best outcomes and, therefore that the law and policy should only support such “optimal” families. Leaving aside the fact that research shows same-sex couples are equally optimal as parents, consider the very problematic ramifications that would result from the law supporting only the most “optimal” families. In this section I refer back to the variety of predictors of children’s progress through school in Appendix Table 1.

* According to Table 1 and consistent with other data sources, the probability of making good progress through school is greater in the US for children of Asian descent than for children of all other racial groups. Since non-Asian families are “sub-optimal” compared to Asian families (following the logic of the State Defendant’s experts), and since the State Defendants’ experts argue that poorer average child outcomes is a basis for excluding family types from marriage, it would follow from their faulty logic that only Asian couples should be permitted to marry.

In the same vein, rural and urban residents are “sub-optimal” compared to suburban residents, middle class and poor families are “sub-optimal” compared to well-off families, and couples with less formal education are “sub-optimal” compared to couples with more formal education. The logical conclusion of this “optimal” families approach is that only an Asian family led by married parents with advanced degrees and high incomes, living in the suburbs and raising their biological children should be permitted to marry. Every other family would be “suboptimal” by the logic that the State Defendants’ experts use. In other words, if we broadly adopted the State Defendants’ experts’ rule that only those couples belonging to groups with the statistically highest chance of positive child outcomes should be allowed to marry, few heterosexual couples would qualify.

5. The Fundamental Problems with the Research Published by the State Defendants’ Experts

The social science consensus strongly supports the conclusion that same-sex couples raise children just as successfully as any other type of family. The arguments made by the State Defendants’ experts to the effect that same-sex couples are or might be inadequate as parents have been rejected by the American Sociological Association (2013a). Furthermore, the State Defendants’ experts published research is not relevant to the question of how children raised by same-sex couples develop, because their research *is not research about children raised by same-sex couples*.

A) Regnerus and the New Family Structure Study. The 2012 article by Mark Regnerus, “How Different are the Adult Children of Parents who have Same-Sex Relationships? Findings

from the New Family Structure Study” (Regnerus 2012a)¹ suggests that children raised by gay fathers and lesbian mothers had worse outcomes compared to children raised by heterosexual married couples. Regnerus (2012a; 2012c) compared children who lived their entire childhoods with stable heterosexual married biological parents, to children whose parents ever had a same-sex partner, referring to the latter category as “lesbian mothers” or “gay fathers,” even if the child never lived with or even met the same-sex partner of one parent, and even if, for instance, the child never lived with the father who was reported to have had a same-sex partner. Of the 236 subjects that Regnerus categorized as having had “lesbian mothers” or “gay fathers,” 161 subjects never lived with same-sex couples. Of the 75 subjects who ever lived with same-sex couples, 3 subjects lived their entire childhood with same-sex couples, and those 3 subjects developed into normal healthy adults. 72 subjects spent part of their childhoods (an average of 3 years) living with same-sex couples, meaning the remaining years of their childhoods were shaped by other kinds of families.

I have performed my own analysis of the raw individual level data that Regnerus used, the New Family Structures Study (Regnerus 2012b). All of the negative outcomes that Regnerus ascribed to children of gay and lesbian parents are explained by family stability and instability. When family transitions are accounted for, the data show that the children whose parents had a same-sex relationship develop into adults who are just as healthy and productive as adults raised by any other kind of family. Children who lived through multiple divorces and whose parents did not have stable relationships were more likely to do poorly as adults. Children who had the benefit of a stable family situation growing up, had much better outcomes as adults. It has long been known that consistency of parental care is fundamental to the healthy development of children (Wu and Martinson 1993; Wu 1996; Manning and Lamb 2003; Cavanagh and Huston 2006; Fomby and Cherlin 2007; Potter 2012).

Regnerus’s (2012a) Table 2 suggested that children raised by “lesbian mothers” and children raised by “gay fathers” had relatively high rates of reporting sexual abuse by parents or guardians, but recall that Regnerus’s categories of “lesbian mothers” and “gay fathers” were not based on same-sex couple coresidence with children. The wildly misleading implication of Regnerus’s work is that gay and lesbian parents are more likely to abuse their children. Regnerus (2012a p.763) hedged the unseemly implication that gay parents are more associated with abuse of children somewhat by noting that “further exploration of the... detailed household structure calendar offers some possibility for clarification.” In analyzing Regnerus’s data, I find the following: Of the 31 abused respondents who were categorized by Regnerus as having been raised by “lesbian mothers,” only 3 were living with their biological mother and mother’s

¹ Regnerus (2012a) is the most widely condemned work of social science in the past decade. Hundreds of scholars signed a critique of Regnerus, citing among other flaws, the unreasonable way Regnerus defined the family categories in his analysis, and the failure of Regnerus to take family stability into account in his models (Gates 2012; see also Sherkat 2012; Perrin, Cohen and Caren 2013; Cheng and Powell 2013).

girlfriend when the abuse started. Of the 12 abused respondents who Regnerus categorized as having been raised by “gay fathers,” *none* was living with father and father’s boyfriend when the abuse started. It is also important to note that Regnerus’s New Family Structure Study asked respondents who they were living with at the time of the abuse by parents or guardians, but *not* the more specific question of who committed the abuse. Despite the limitations of the data and despite Regnerus’s misleading report, Regnerus’s data show clearly that children living with same-sex couples are *not* more likely to be abused.

Appendix Figure 1 contains two scatterplots derived from Regnerus’s New Family Structure Study data. The first plot shows that a child’s chance of being sexually abused by parents rises with each family transition the respondent experienced as a child (transitions include any change in the set of parents the child lived with, so divorce and mother’s remarriage would constitute two transitions). The second plot shows that years lived with same-sex couples does not predict sexual abuse at all.

B) Allen, Pakaluk, and Price on children’s progress through school in the US. Allen et al (Allen, Pakaluk and Price 2013) expanded the set of children under study from my 2010 paper (Rosenfeld 2010) to include not only the children who had lived with their current families for at least 5 years, but all children including adopted children and children whose career through elementary school occurred while living with a different family than the family they were living with at the time of the 2000 Census. As a result, Allen et al were not measuring the effect of same-sex couples on children, but rather they were measuring children’s experiences before becoming part of their same-sex couple family.

C) Douglas Allen on high school graduation rates in Canada. Allen’s (2013b) study of young adults from the Canadian census claims to show that young adults raised by same-sex couples have a lower rate of graduating from high school, but it is impossible to know in the Canadian Census data who raised the young adults in question. As in the US Census, the Canadian Census of 2006 included a question about 5 year mobility, but because Allen was studying a later educational outcome (high school graduation instead of progress through elementary school), the 5 year data on family history covered too small a fraction of the students’ educational careers. In Allen’s study, the subject students were age 17-22, meaning that for residentially stable families, we know the same family was in place during the preceding 5 years (when the subjects were ages 12-17), but nothing is known about who the subject children lived with before the ages of 12-17. Most children who have trouble in school first manifest those problems in the primary school years (Brooks-Gunn and Markman 2005). Allen’s inability (because of limitations in the Canadian Census) to know who the children were living with during the primary school years means Allen’s study fails to demonstrate how same-sex couples² might or might not affect children’s educational outcomes.

² Allen (2013b) claimed that the Canadian Census identified same-sex couples more directly (and therefore more accurately) than the US census. Allen’s claim about the advantages of the Canadian

The Canadian Census, like the US Census, is a household survey. In household surveys, one can only study family relationships of people who live together, in the same household. The reason it does not make sense to study high school graduation rates as a function of family structure, as Allen (2013b) tries to do is that people who are old enough to have graduated from high school are old enough not to be living with their parents any more. Once the young adult is not living with their parents, the household survey has no information about their family of origin. Young adults in their early 20s who live with their parents are not representative of all young adults in this age group.

6. Stability of Same-Sex Couples

Research on couple relationships shows that same-sex couples can and do have stable, long-term relationships just as heterosexual married couples have (Balsam et al. 2008). Because marriage and other forms of relationship recognition for same-sex couples are relatively new, less is known about the long term longevity of same-sex marriages than is known about the long term longevity of heterosexual marriages. Research using data that predated the era of same-sex marriage tended to show that same-sex cohabiting couples were less stable than heterosexual married couples (Andersson et al. 2006, reporting on data from the 1990s in Sweden; Lau 2012, reporting on same-sex couples who cohabited in Britain between 1974 and 2004; Blumstein and Schwartz 1983; Kurdek 1998; Kurdek 2004), but even then the break-up rates of same-sex couples were comparable to or lower than the divorce rates for some demographic categories of heterosexual couples who are not excluded from marriage, such as African Americans, non-college educated people, low income people, and people who have been previously married and divorced.³

Whereas data from before the era of same-sex marriage tends to show that same-sex couples were less stable than heterosexual married couples, couple longevity data from the era of same-sex marriage tends to show that same-sex couples with formal unions have couple longevity comparable to heterosexual married couples (Balsam et al. 2008, following same-sex couples with civil unions from 2001 to 2004). In my How Couples Meet and Stay Together longitudinal study, which has followed couples from 2009 through 2011, same-sex couples with formal unions had the same couple stability as heterosexual married couples (Rosenfeld 2012).

Census turned out to be wrong- the Canadian Census identifies same-sex couples in the same indirect manner as the US Census ("Erratum..." Allen 2013a).

³ In the United States, based on data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Survey of Family Growth 1995 survey (Bramlett and Mosher 2002), the probability of divorce among heterosexual couples after 10 years of marriage was 20% for Asian couples, 32% for white couples, and 47% for African American couples. Heterosexual married couples with more than \$50,000 of household income had a 10 year divorce probability of 23% compared to a 53% divorce probability for heterosexual married couples whose household income in 1995 was less than \$25,000. Women who had had at least one child before their first marriage had a 10 year divorce rate of 29% compared to 18% for women who had not born a child before their first marriage. In the How Couples Meet and Stay Together surveys, heterosexual married subjects who have been previously married are twice as likely to divorce as heterosexual married subjects in their first marriages.

Ross et al (2011), in an official report from British Office of National Statistics, reported that same-sex civil partnerships in the United Kingdom from 2005 to 2010 had a *lower* break-up rate than heterosexual marriages solemnized in the United Kingdom during the same five year period.

7. The Lack of Impacts of Same-Sex Marriage on Heterosexual Couples

The potential benefits of legal marriage for same-sex couples and their children are the same as the benefits of marriage for heterosexual couples and their children. Opponents of same-sex marriage have sometimes argued that same-sex marriage will reduce the heterosexual marriage rate or cause existing heterosexual married couples to divorce (Kurtz 2004). Badgett's (2009) examination of marriage trends and divorce trends in Europe showed that national trends in marriage rates and divorce rates for heterosexual couples are not affected by changes in policy towards same-sex couples. Research in the United States using yearly state-by-state data on marriage and divorce shows that states that opened marriage to same-sex couples have experienced either no change in the overall marriage rate (Dinno and Whitney 2013) or a slight increase in the overall marriage rate (Langbein and Yost 2009), controlling for state averages in individual education, income, age and racial distribution, all of which factors affect marriage rates.⁴

A simple examination of the Center for Disease Control's published data on the year-by-year marriage rates and divorce rates by state (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2012b; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2012a) is sufficient to dispel any suspicion that overall marriage rates or divorce rates are negatively affected by same sex marriage legalization. According to the CDC tables which are compiled from the United States National Vital Statistics System, in 2002 Massachusetts had 5.9 marriages per 1,000 residents. In 2003, the year of the *Goodridge v. Dept. Public Health (2003)* decision, Massachusetts had 5.6 marriages per 1,000 people. In 2004, when same-sex marriage took effect in Massachusetts, there were 6.5 marriages per 1,000 people in Massachusetts. In 2005, there were 6.2 marriages per thousand people in Massachusetts, so the marriage rate in Massachusetts *increased* in the immediate aftermath of the legalization of same-sex marriage. The divorce rate in Massachusetts was 2.5 divorces per 1,000 residents in 2002, remained at 2.5 divorces per 1,000 people in 2003, dropped to 2.2 divorces per 1,000 people in 2004 (the first year same-sex couples could legally marry in Massachusetts), and remained at 2.2 divorces per 1,000 people in 2005, so the divorce rate *decreased* in the immediate aftermath of same-sex marriage legalization in Massachusetts.

The How Couples Meet and Stay Together Survey follows a nationally representative sample of American couples, which allows for an individual level test (rather than a state level

⁴ Marriage rates and divorce rates are sensitive to the age structure of the society, and to economic cycles. Both the marriage rate and the divorce rate are subject to long term demographic changes that have nothing to do with same-sex marriage. Across the US, heterosexual divorce rates rose in the aftermath of the implementation of no-fault divorce laws in the 1970s, and then heterosexual divorce rates stabilized after 1980 (Cherlin 1992).

test) of whether heterosexual couples in the US break up at a greater rate if they happen to be living in a state that allows same-sex marriage. In 2010, same-sex marriage was legal in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, and the District of Columbia. In 2011, same-sex marriage became legal in New York. The How Couples Meet and Stay Together data include 262 heterosexual married couples living in states that allowed same-sex marriage, and 2,687 observations of heterosexual married couples living in states that did not allow same-sex marriage. The yearly divorce rate for heterosexual married couples in states allowing same-sex marriage was 0.85% per year, compared to a divorce rate of 1.5% per year for heterosexual couples living in states that did not allow same-sex marriage. The difference between rates was not statistically significant, even after controlling for other factors expected to affect divorce rates such as individual age, race, income, college educations, whether the couple was coresident, respondents' religious beliefs, whether the subject had been married before, parental approval, and duration of the marriage up to that point.

Data and research show that there is no negative effect of same-sex marriage on the divorce rate or on the marriage rate of heterosexual couples.

8. Conclusion

The social science rationale for extending marriage rights to same-sex couples is strong. We know that children raised by same-sex couples develop to be just as healthy as other children. We know that same-sex couples can and do have stable, durable relationships. We know that same-sex marriage does not have any negative impacts on marriage for heterosexual couples. Social Science points in a clear direction: there is no rational basis for denying same-sex couples the right to marry.



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Date: 12/20/2013

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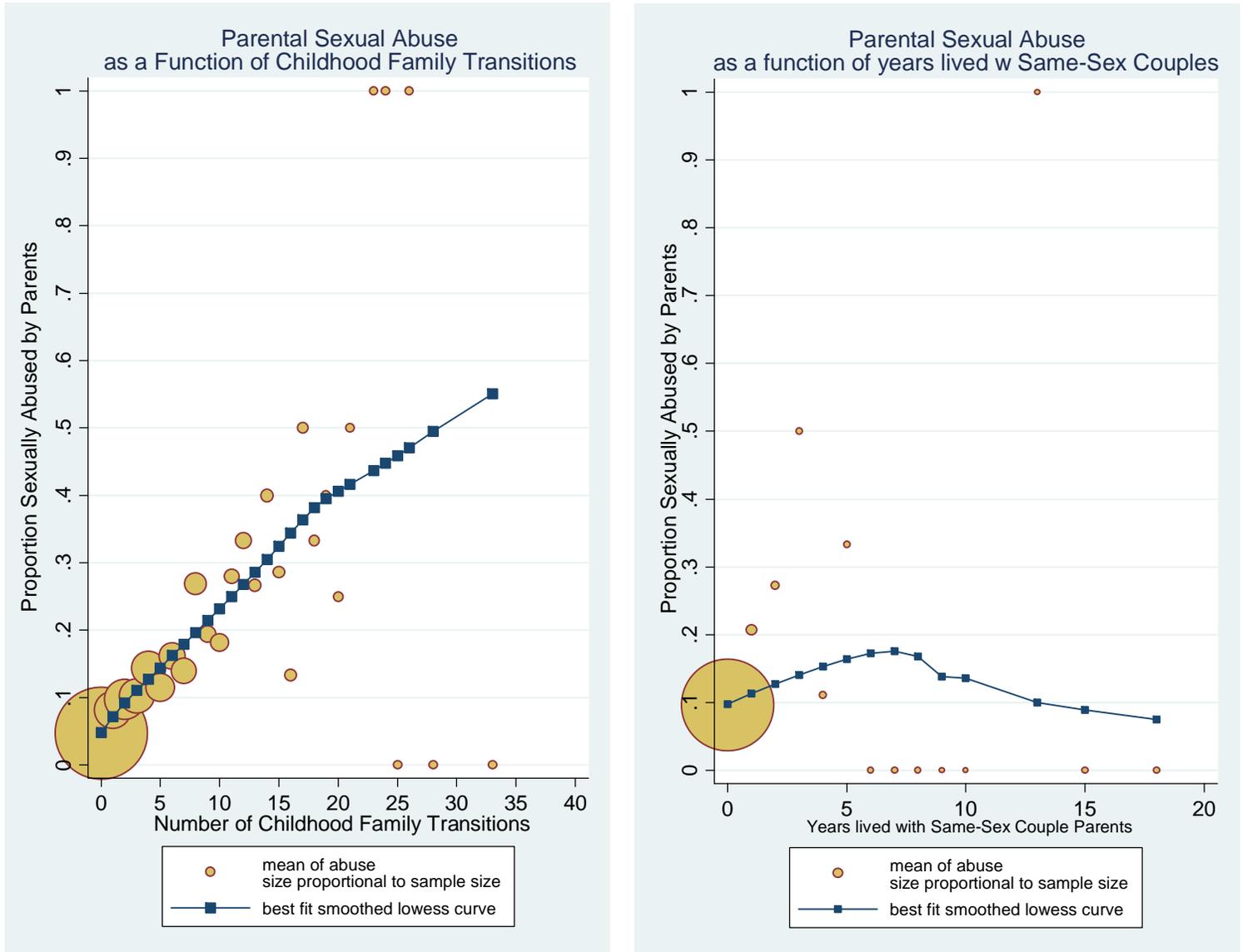
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Table 1: What Factors Affect Children's Progress Through School?

	Percentage of students who have ever been held back in grades 1-8	Is the difference with the reference category statistically significant?	Does the difference remain significant after other key factors are accounted for ?
<i>Family Type</i>			
Heterosexual Married (reference)	6.8	--	--
Same-Sex Couple	9.6	yes	NO
Single Women	11.1	yes	yes
Single Men	11.4	yes	yes
Heterosexual Cohabitors	11.7	yes	yes
Children living in group quarters, non-inmates	34.4	yes	yes
Group Quarters Inmates	78.0	yes	yes
<i>Child's Relationship to Householder</i>			
Own Child (reference)	7.4	--	
Adopted Child	10.6	yes	yes
Step Child	13.9	yes	yes
Foster Child	20.6	yes	yes
<i>Child's Race</i>			
Asian American	5.8	yes	no
Non Hispanic White (reference)	6.8		
Hispanic	9.0	yes	no
African Americans	12.6	yes	yes
<i>Household Income (1999 \$)</i>			
>100,000 (reference)	5.3	---	
50,000-99,999	6.1	yes	yes
25,000-49,999	8.7	yes	yes
<25,000	12.6	yes	yes
<i>Child's Gender</i>			
Female (reference)	6.5		
Male	9.0	yes	yes
<i>Householder's Education</i>			
BA+	4.4		
Some College	6.3	yes	yes
HS degree	8.7	yes	yes
<HS	14.3	yes	yes

Source: U.S. Census 2000 microdata, via IPUMS, coefficients reflect census weights. Statistical significance derived from weighted logistic regressions, see Rosenfeld (2010). Some categories of income, race, family type, and metro status left out to make the table more concise. All children had been living in the same place for at least 5 years. The "other key factors" in the last column include parental income, education, child race, child disability, child gender, and state of residence. For children in group quarters or prisons, no parental information is known.

Figure 1: Sexual Abuse by Parents. Note that the chance of being sexually abused by parents or guardians increases steadily with each family transition (left), but years lived with same-sex couples (right) has no effect on the chance of being sexually abused.



Source: unweighted data from Regnerus’s data, the New Family Structure Study. The yellow dots are actual data, size of the circle proportional to the number of observations. The blue lines are the best fit curve through the data, best fit determined by lowess regressions with bandwidth 0.8. “Family transitions” means a change in family structure from one year to the next. If a child’s parents divorce and the father moves out, that would be one transition. If in the next year the mother’s boyfriend moves in to the house, that would be a second transition, and so on.