Are Children Adoption Policies Impacted by

Same-Sex Marriages

Kaché Byrd

Tony E. Graham, D. Eng.

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University

December 5, 2011
Table of Contents

Research Question ................................................................. 3

Objective Statement ............................................................. 3

Hypothesis .............................................................................. 3

Target Audience ..................................................................... 3

Abstract .................................................................................. 4

Background Information ......................................................... 5

Introduction .............................................................................. 5

Methodology ............................................................................ 6

Results ................................................................................... 7

Conclusion ............................................................................... 8

Future Research ....................................................................... 8

References ................................................................................ 9

Appendix ................................................................................. 10
Research question:

How has gay marriages evolved since the passing of “same-sex marriage” laws and the impact on adoption of children?

Objective Statement:

To show the growing trend of same-sex marriages and their possible impact on children adoption policies within the United States.

Hypothesis:

Are same sex marriages having an impact on children adoption policies?

Target Audience:

Same-sex couples, politicians, policy makers, general public
Abstract

Using GIS data-modeling demonstrates the variables which impact the legalization of same-sex marriages and the adoption policies of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) couples. This report uses demographic statistical data to analyze same-sex households in the United States. Since the passing of same-sex marriage laws, findings show that there has been an increased rate of same-sex couple’s households in the United States. Of the fifty states and DC, 32 states, majority in the Midwest and West regions, have no explicit prohibition of same-sex couples’ adoption. Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois, California, Oregon and DC permit same-sex joint adoption. Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas and Utah prohibit same-sex couples to jointly adopt. New Hampshire is the only state that allows same-sex joint adoption depending on the jurisdiction. The number of adopted children living with same-sex couples increased during 2000 to 2009 by 24,261 children; along with the number of same-sex couples living in the United States during 2000 to 2010 by 307,606 couples.
Background Information

Originally in the United States, formal adoption was reserved for white, middle-class, married couples. Today, all of the U.S. allows same-sex individuals to adopt children. Some states allow couples to jointly adopt children whether it is a stepchild (child of the head of household) or adopted. Other states prohibit any variable of same-sex joint adoption. The Human Rights Campaign, working for LGBT equal rights, compiled a list of states’ statutes concerning the rights of gay adoption. Within the past decade the rights of gay adoption has been a controversial issue in the United States, this is possibly due to the growth trends, collected by the Census Bureau, of same-sex couples living in the fifty (50) states. The National Conference of State Legislatures documents provisions of each state and related statutes of same-sex marriage laws.

Introduction

November, 2003 marked the proliferation of same-sex marriages in the United States. In 2004, same-sex couples began marrying in Massachusetts. Since the legalization of same-sex marriages, it has become a common topic amongst current events as states have begun legalizing same-sex marriage. According to Wikipedia, LGBT is an initialism that collectively refers to the "lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender" community. In use since the 1990s, the term "LGBT" is an adaptation of the initialism "LGB", which itself started replacing the phrase "gay community" beginning in the mid-to-late 1980s, which many within the community in question felt did not accurately represent all those to whom it referred. The initialism has become mainstream as a self-designation and has been adopted by the majority "sexuality and gender identity-based" community centers and media in the United States and some other English-.
ARE CHILDREN ADOPTION POLICIES IMPACTED BY SAME-SEX MARRIAGES speaking countries. The term LGBT is intended to emphasize a diversity of "sexuality and gender identity-based cultures" and is sometimes used to refer to anyone who is non-heterosexual or cisgender instead of exclusively to people who are homosexual, bisexual, or transgender.

LGBT couples have petitioned equality rights of adoption. Because of this, same-sex marriage has shaped the dynamics of the American household. The United States Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in 1996 which bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows states to take part in the act. Many states have passed constitutional amendments defining marriage between one man and one woman. Furthermore, in 2008 Florida, Arizona and California amended their constitutions passing the DOMA.

This report maps the years 2000 to 2010 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) data showing the change of unmarried partner and spouse same-sex couple’s households in the United States and those states that allow same-sex couples to adopt. According to the Urban Institute research, “96 percent of all U.S. counties have at least one same-sex couples with children under 18 in the household, Census 2000 reveals.” Out of the 594,000 same-sex couples households, about 115,000 reported having children. In 2009 approximately 21,740 same-sex couples adopted children compared to 2000’s 6,477 statistic. About 32,571 children were living with same-sex couples in 2009 compared to the low 8,310 in 2000, these estimates were newly released by the Census Bureau.

Methodology

Using ESRI ArcGIS software this report demonstrates spatial analysis of demographic statistical data of same-sex households in the United States. The data was collected using variables from the US Census Bureau for the years of 2000 and 2010, of persons being same-sex couples.
ARE CHILDREN ADOPTION POLICIES IMPACTED BY SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

(unmarried partner and reported spouse) in each of the fifty (50) states and District of Columbia (DC). Information concerning LGBT state laws to adopt was gathered from the Human Rights Campaign of most recent adoption policies in the U.S. Statutes concerning how states recognize same-sex marriage according to constitutional amendments pertaining to the DOMA and prohibition of same-sex marriages were gathered from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

To generate comparison maps, the U.S. year 2000 *states and equivalent* shapefile was downloaded from *2000 U.S. Census Tiger/Line Shapefile*, then added to a geodatabase. The geodatabase was used in ArcMap GIS software to demonstrate the data. The findings gathered from the specified sources were generated into an excel document to be joined to the states shapefile attribute table.

**Results**

Research shows between the years 2000 and 2010 there was an increase of 211,606 same-sex unmarried partner households in the United States and an increase of 96,000 married couple households according to Census 2000, Census 2010 and American Community Survey. The *American Community Survey Briefs* describe unmarried partner households as persons “reporting as an unmarried partner of the household but has a close relationship with the reference person” and reported spouse households as persons who were originally reported as a spouse of the householder. Of the fifty states and DC, 32 states, majority in the Midwest and West regions, have no explicit prohibition of same-sex couples’ adoption. Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Indiana, Illinois, California, Oregon and DC permit same-sex joint adoption. Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas and Utah prohibit same-sex couples to jointly adopt. New Hampshire is the only state that allows same-sex
ARE CHILDREN ADOPTION POLICIES IMPACTED BY SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

joint adoption depending on the jurisdiction. During 2004 and 2011, after Massachusetts was the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, Connecticut, Indiana, Vermont, New York and DC also legalized same-sex marriage. Three states, California, Arizona and Florida amended their constitution in 2008 passing DOMA. Currently Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Nebraska, New Jersey and Rhode Island have no statues concerning same-sex marriage. All other 35 states define marriage as one man and one woman. Four out of the six states allowing same-sex marriage, also allow same-sex couples to jointly adopt.
Conclusion

Statistics show that in previous years to present time, there has been an increase of adopted children in same-sex couple’s households increasing during 2000 to 2009 by 24,261 children; along with the number of same-sex couples living in the United States during 2000 to 2010 by 307,606 couples. Through this research, it has not been confirmed the legalization of same-sex marriages have impacted child adoption policies for LGBT couples. It can be concluded that, because of the proliferation of same-sex couples’ households, LGBT petition more strongly for the adoption of children. If the rate of states legalizing same-sex marriages continues to increase, more states will also prohibit same-sex couples to jointly adopt.
ARE CHILDREN ADOPTION POLICIES IMPACTED BY SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

Future Research

Legalization of same-sex marriages has not been concluded to have any impact on children adoption policies for LGBT couples. Much research remains pertaining to the number of same-sex joint adoptions, state-by-state, in previous years and the current year, which was not thoroughly researched by the Williams Institute or the Urban Institute. In addition, it has not been cumulatively documented the timeline of change in adoption policies, if any, state-by-state between the years 2004 and 2011 of LGBT rights to jointly adopt.

If further research is thoroughly conducted, patterns, if any, can be analyzed to note any correlation of each state’s change in adoption policies and statutes of legalizing same-sex marriages. Furthermore, growth trends can be analyzed to note the number of same-sex joint adoptions per state between 2004 and 2011 to ultimately conclude if there is any impact of same-sex marriage laws on children adoption policies.

References


CREATING THE GEODATABASE

Before creating the Geodatabase, be sure all shapefiles and other data to be used in generating the map have been downloaded and saved to a specified location for easy retrieval. You can add data to the geodatabase once created.

1. Open ArcCatalog 10.

2. Click the Connect to Folder icon and navigate to location to place GeoDatabase. Click OK.
3. In the Folder Connections drop down menu navigate to the specified location. Right-click the folder and click New>File Geodatabase.

4. Rename the geodatabase from New File Geodatabase to SSMarriage.

5. To import shapefiles, in ArcCatalog’s right panel, right click the SSMarriage file geodatabase, click Import>Feature Class (multiple).
6. In the dialog box, click the **browse button** to the right of the Input Features field, browse to the location of your shapefiles. Hold the **Shift** key down to select shapefiles and click **Add**.

7. I created an Excel table, named **SSMarriageData**, which I will use to generate the maps. To import a data table: right click **SSmarriage** file geodatabase, **Import>Table (single)**. In the dialog box, click the **browse button** to the right of the Input Rows, browse to the location of the table, select the file, and click **Add**.

8. Type **SSMarriageData** in the Output Table field and click **OK**.

   The geodatabase should be similar to:

---

**CREATE NEW MAP DOCUMENT: SSHouseholdPercentage**

1. Open **ArcMap 10** to create a new map.
2. In the Table of Contents panel, right click Layers, and click Add Data.

3. Navigate to SSMarriage.gdb (this is the geodatabase just created). Double click the States shapefile (this is the shapefile of the United States).

4. Create bookmarks for easy retrieval to zoomed in areas of the US:
   a. Click the Zoom In icon
   b. Draw a marquee over the shape of Alaska by click and dragging the cursor. Modify the view as needed using the Zoom In tool and/or the Hand tool.
   c. On the main tool bar choose Bookmarks>Create. Name the bookmark Alaska.
   d. Zoom out and repeat these steps to create two additional bookmarks [bookmarks will be used later as inserts], name them Hawaii, District of Columbia and States:
5. Save document in the project’s folder, name it SSMarriage2000_2010.
1. Right click the **States** layer and click **Open Attribute Table**.

2. In the table window, click **Table Options** icon, **Join and Relates>Join**

3. The **Join Data** window will appear. The common field to join both tables is “Name10,” in the first drop down menu (1), select **Name10**, in the second field (2), click the browse icon and choose **SSMarriageData** within the SSMarriage geodatabase folder. In the third (3) drop down menu, select **Name10**. The table should be completed as follows:
4. Click OK. **If a pop-up menu appears to index a field, click No**
5. Review the Attribute Table to check if fields have been added. If it has been done properly you should see the following fields:

![Attribute Table](image)

6. Modify the Attribute table to show these fields as the first fields once the table is opened, by clicking the field name and dragging to the left of the Attribute Table.
7. Close the Attribute Table.

**USE ATTRIBUTES TO SYMBOLIZE DATA**

1. Zoom out to view full view of shapefile polygons.
2. Right click **States** layer, click **Properties**
3. In the Properties menu click the **Symboloby** tab, **Quantities>Graduated Colors**
AREN CHILDREN ADOPTION POLICIES IMPACTED BY SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

4. For the **Value** field, select **SSUM2000**, to show the percentage of same-sex couple households in the United States during the year of 2000.

5. Choose a default color ramp from the drop down menu.

6. Click **OK**. Map should appear as the following:

ADD NEW DATA FRAME

Now we will create the comparison map for same-sex couple households in the United States during the year of 2010.

1. Nested under the **Insert** tab on the main toolbar, click **Data Frame** to add a new data set.
2. Change the name of the data set to **SS Un-Married 2010** by clicking twice.

3. Repeat to change the name of the first data set, titled **Layers** to **SS Un-Married 2000**

4. Copy and paste **States** layer to new data frame. Right click **States** layer and click copy. Right click **SS Un-Married 2010** data frame and click **Paste Layer(s)**
5. Create bookmarks for this new data set, as explained previously: Alaska, Hawaii, District of Columbia and States.
6. Activate each data set by right clicking its name and click Activate.
8. Right click the States layer to change the symbology of this layer by going to Properties and click the Symbology tab.
9. Under the Quantities>Graduated colors change the value field to SSUM2010

10. Click OK. Map should appear as the following:

**NOTE:** Create a Full View bookmark of all US territories for efficiency instead of having to zoom in and out of the map between changes. The new bookmark view will appear like the above image. *****
1. Copy and Paste **SS Un-Married 2010** by right clicking the data set and click Copy

2. On the main toolbar, click the Edit menu. Click Paste.
3. Repeat these steps to create another data frame.
4. Rename the data frames as **SS Spouses 2000** and **SS Spouses 2010**.
5. Change the symbology of these data frames to reflect the data set.
   a. **SS Spouses 2000**: Value field = **SSM2000**
   b. **SS Spouses 2010**: Value field = **SSM2010**
Now we will generate a comparison map of prohibition of Same-Sex couples to adopt children.

1. Insert new data frame.
2. Rename the Data frame SS Couple Adoption
3. Copy and paste States layer from SS Spouses 2010.
4. Right click the new States layer, click Properties>Symbology>Categories>Unique Values.
5. Change the value field to SSAdop.
6. Click **Add Values** to show all attributes of **SScAdop**.

7. Since this is a different comparison map dealing with prohibition of adoption of children, the color ramp should be changed (as seen above). Change the colors by doing the following.
   a. Double click the symbology representing **Yes** attribute.
   b. The **Symbol Selector** window will appear
   c. Change the **fill color** and **outline Color** to the color of preference and click **OK**.
   d. Repeat these steps for the remaining attributes
   e. Click **OK** to close the **Properties** window.
We will now create year comparison maps of state statutes of legalizing same-sex marriages. This is to show, which years states decided to legalize same-sex marriages, define marriage, or pass an amendment.

1. Open a blank map in ArcMap. File>New>Blank Map.
2. Click OK.
3. From ArcCatalog navigate to the location of SSMarriage.gdb.
4. Click the States polygon shapefile and drag over to the blank map.
5. Join the SSMarriage data table to the attribute table.

For these year comparison maps, we will compare four years which noted any change in their statues of gay marriage.

6. Create a copy of the Layers data frame.

7. Paste the data frame an additional three times.

10. Navigate to Symbology>Categories>Unique Values.

12. Click **Add All Values** to display all values.
13. Delete the **Null** value by right clicking the symbology and click remove and uncheck `<all other values>`. 
14. Click Ok.

15. Repeat these steps for the remaining data frames, changing the value field, to correlate with that year.
a. **SSMarriage 2008** value field = **SSMarriage2008**

b. **SSMarriage 2009** value field = **SSMarriage2009**

c. **SSMarriage 2011** value field = **SSMarriage2011**
We will now change the value field titles and symbol colors to preference.

1. Activate **SSMarriage 2004** data frame.
2. Click the **No** value, and click again to change the name of the field to **Marriage: One Man and One Woman**.
3. Click the red symbol that represents the **No** field.
4. The **Symbol Selector** window will appear.

5. Change the symbol color to your preference by clicking the drop down arrow of **Fill Color**.
6. Click **OK**.
7. Repeat these steps to change symbol colors to preference and the remaining value names of all other data frames to the following:
   a. **No** = **Marriage: One Man and One Woman**
   b. **Passed Law** = **Legalized Same-Sex Marriage**
Create Layout of Maps for Display

1. Navigate to View>Layout View

2. Data frames will appear stacked on one another.
3. Right click anywhere inside the layout and click Page and Print Setup.
4. Verify your print settings match these below:

5. Click OK.
6. Click each of the data frames, and drag them to the left and to the right of the layout view. Try to chronologically order them according to year (Reference the Table of Contents).
7. Resize the data frames by select and moving the handles.
8. Create guidelines to layout map to preference. To begin we will create guidelines dividing the layout evenly into four sections.
   a. Click at 10 inches on the top horizontal rule to create a vertical blue guide at that location.
   b. Repeat to create a horizontal guide at 15 inches on the vertical ruler.
   c. Drag, move and resize data frame SSMarriage 2004 to the top left section of the layout. The data frame should automatically snap to the blue guides.
d. Repeat for the remaining data frames.

9. Use additional tools to zoom in and out of state territories. In the layout view, we would want to zoom in on the states, not showing Alaska and Hawaii.
   a. Click the **Zoom In** icon on the tools toolbar.
   b. Drag a rectangle around states to increase the size of the map within its map element rectangle.
   c. Repeat for all data frames
d. Click data frame SSMarriage 2004. We will apply this scale to all of the other data frames.
   
i. On the Edit toolbar, locate the scale for this specific data frame. Select to highlight the scale.

ii. Press the keyboard short cut keys ctrl+C to copy.

iii. Select each other data frame and paste, ctrl+V, to change their scales.

10. Insert title, legend and scale bar to the map.
   a. Under Insert on the main toolbar, click Legend
b. When the dialog window appears, click next to import the legend into the map.

c. Use the **Selection** tool to move the legend to the desired area on the map.

d. Double click the **Legend** to edit its properties.
e. Change the name of the legend under the **Legend** tab by highlighting the default name “Legend” and type **Statutes**.

f. Click the **Items** tab to change the style of the legend.

g. Click **Style** button to pull up **Legend Item Selector**.

![Legend Item Selector](image)

h. Choose the style of preference.

![Legend Properties](image)

i. Click **OK** twice. To see the changed properties of the legend.

j. Click **Insert**>**Title**

k. The **Insert Title** window will appear, type **U.S. Statutes Year Comparisons**.
l. Click **OK**.

m. Move the title location to the top of the maps.

n. Add titles to each map to specify the year each map represents. Click **Insert>Text**

o. A text box will appear. Double click the text box and type **2004**.

p. Click **Change Symbol** to edit the size of the text to 48.

q. Click **OK**.

r. Position the text in the upper left map.

11. Create inserts on map layout for Alaska, Hawaii and DC
   a. Copy and paste SSMarriage 2004, data frame three times for each U.S. territory.
   b. Rename each new data frame: Alaska, Hawaii and DC.
   c. Move the data frames to the left side and zoom out to view all U.S. territories.
d. Zoom in on each data frame to create a view of that territory.

- In the DC data frame, change the colors to only highlight DC.
  i. Right double click No symbol to change the fill color to No Color and outline color to No Color.
ii. Click OK

iii. DC is highlighted alone in layout view.

iv. Position the data frames: Alaska, Hawaii and DC in their perspective positions on the map. Use the tools: Zoom In, Zoom Out, and Pan to assist with positioning. Make map similar to the following.
v. DC and Alaska has black borders around each data frame, to remove borders right click each data frame navigate to Properties. Scroll up in to border drop down menu, click None.

vi. Click OK.

12. Save document as SSMarriage Year Comparisons.