

- **Children from married heterosexual two-parent households do better academically, financially, emotionally and behaviourally than children raised in other forms of relationships.**

A study reported in the journal *Children Australia*, comparing 174 children living in either heterosexual married, heterosexual cohabiting or homosexual co-habiting homes, concludes:

Overall, the study has shown that children of married couples are more likely to do well at school, in academic and social terms, than children of co-habiting heterosexual and homosexual couples...In this study, married couples seem to offer the best environment for a child's social and educational development.

(S. Sarantakos, "Children in three contexts: Family, Education and Social Development," *Children Australia*, Vol 21, No 3 (1996), 23.)

The American College of Pediatricians states:

In summary, tradition and science agree that biological ties and dual gender parenting are protective for children. The family environment in which children are reared plays a critical role in forming a secure gender identity, positive emotional well-being, and optimal academic achievement. Decades of social science research documents that children develop optimally when reared by their two biological parents in a low conflict marriage.

(American College of Pediatricians, Revised March 2012,
<http://www.acpeds.org/Homosexual-Parenting-Is-It-Time-For-Change.html>)

A report by *Child Trends*, a nonpartisan research organization, concludes:

[R]esearch clearly demonstrates that family structure matters for children, and the family structure that helps children the most is a family headed by two biological parents in a low-conflict marriage.

(Kristin Anderson Moore, Susan M. Jekielek, and Carol Emig. "Marriage from a Child's Perspective: How Does Family Structure Affect Children, and What Can be Done about It?" Research Brief, June 2002. Washington, DC: *Child Trends*. p. 6.)

Conversely, a recent Australian report finds:

...if there is one major demographic change in western societies that can be linked to a large range of adverse consequences for many children and young people, it is the growth in the numbers of children who experience life in a family other than living with their two biological parents, at some point before the age of 15.

(For Kids' Sake – Repairing the Social Environment for Australian Children and Young People, 2011 http://sydney.edu.au/law/news/docs_pdfs_images/2011/Sep/FKS-ResearchReport.pdf)

- **Studies of same sex parenting have generally suffered from serious methodological problems.**

Sociology professor, Steven Nock, reviewed several hundred such studies as an expert witness for the Attorney General of Canada, and concluded:

Through this analysis I draw my conclusions that 1) all of the articles I reviewed contained at least one fatal flaw of design or execution; and 2) not a single one of those studies was conducted according to general accepted standards of scientific research.

(Steven Nock. 2001. Affidavit to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice regarding Halpern *et al.* v. Canada. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Sociology Department.)

The 2005 American Psychological Association (APA) Brief on “Lesbian and Gay Parenting”, which is repeatedly invoked in the same-sex marriage debate, makes the strong assertion: “Not a single study has found children of lesbian or gay parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents.” However, Loren Marks’ 2012 paper in the journal *Social Science Research* systematically examines whether the APA’s conclusions are valid and precise, based on the cited scientific evidence.

Are we witnessing the emergence of a new family form that provides a context for children that is equivalent to the traditional marriage-based family? Even after an extensive reading of the same-sex parenting literature, the author cannot offer a high confidence, data-based “yes” or “no” response to this question. To restate, not one of the 59 studies referenced in the 2005 APA Brief compares a large, random, representative sample of lesbian or gay parents and their children with a large, random, representative sample of married parents and their children. The available data, which are drawn primarily from small convenience samples, are insufficient to support a strong generalizable claim either way. Such a statement would not be grounded in science. To make a generalizable claim, representative, large-sample studies are needed—many of them.

(Loren Marks, “Same-sex parenting and children’s outcomes: A closer examination of the American psychological association’s brief on lesbian and gay parenting” *Social Science Research* 41 (2012) 735–751.)

The American College of Pediatricians state:

The limited research advocating childrearing by homosexual parents has severe methodological limitations. There is significant risk of harm inherent in exposing a child to the homosexual lifestyle. Given the current body of evidence, the American College of Pediatricians believes it is inappropriate, potentially hazardous to children, and dangerously irresponsible to change the age-old prohibition on homosexual parenting, whether by adoption, foster care, or reproductive manipulation. This position is rooted in the best available science.

(American College of Pediatricians, Revised March 2012,
<http://www.acpeds.org/Homosexual-Parenting-Is-It-Time-For-Change.html>)

- **The New Family Structures Study (NFSS) is the *first large, long-term study to look at young-adults who were raised by parents that had a same-sex relationship.***

The NFSS fielded a survey to a large, *random* sample of American young adults (ages 18–39) who were raised in different types of family arrangements. In the debut article of the NFSS, Mark Regnerus has found numerous, consistent differences on 40 different social, emotional, and relational outcome variables (including many that are obviously suboptimal such as education, depression, employment status, or marijuana use) between young-adult children of a parent who has had a same-sex romantic relationship and those with still-married (heterosexual) biological parents.

While the NFSS may best capture what might be called an “earlier generation” of children of same-sex parents, and includes among them many who witnessed a failed heterosexual union, the basic statistical comparisons between this group and those of others, especially biologically-intact, mother/father families, suggests that notable differences on many outcomes do in fact exist. This is inconsistent with claims of “no differences” generated by studies that have commonly employed far more narrow samples than this one.

(Mark Regnerus, “ How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study” *Social Science Research* 41 (2012) 752–770.)