



Outcomes for children of same-sex couples

Key findings: How do the children of same-sex couples fare?

“ (Research shows) no discernible differences in the children of heterosexual or homosexual parents regarding children’s sex role identification, level of happiness, level of social adjustment, sexual orientation, satisfaction with life or moral and cognitive development.”

Tauber E and Moloney L. "How is the issue of lesbian and gay parenting addressed in family reports", *Australian Journal of Family Law*, 16(3) December 2002, p 187.

“ (A) considerable body of professional literature provides evidence that children with parents who are homosexual can have the same advantages and the same expectations for health, adjustment, and development as can children whose parents are heterosexual.”

American Academy of Pediatrics. "Policy Statement: Co-parent or Second-Parent Adoption by Same-Sex Parents," *Pediatrics*. 109(2002): 339-340. (Reaffirmed 1 February 2010).

The consensus: gender doesn't matter

“ (S)cholars have achieved a rare degree of consensus that unmarried lesbian parents are raising children who develop at least as well as their counterparts with married heterosexual parents ...

(C)laims that children need both a mother and father are spurious because they attribute to the gender of parents benefits that correlate primarily with the number and marital status of a child’s parents since infancy. At this point no research supports the widely held conviction that the gender of parents matters for child well-being.”

Biblarz, T.J. & Stacey, J. (2010). "How does the gender of parents matter?", *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 72 (February 2010): 3–22.

“ There is no scientific basis for concluding that gay and lesbian parents are any less fit or capable than heterosexual parents, or that their children are any less psychologically healthy and well adjusted ... (But) the children of same-sex couples will benefit if their parents are allowed to marry.”

"Brief of the **American Psychological Association**, The **California Psychological Association**, the **American Psychiatric Association**, and the **American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy** as amici curiae in support of plaintiff-appellees", Appeal from United States District Court for the Northern District of California Civil Case No. 09-CV-2292 VRW (Honorable Vaughn R. Walker).

“ (P)arenting practices and children’s outcomes in families parented by lesbian and gay parents are likely to be at least as favourable as those in families of heterosexual parents, despite the reality that considerable legal discrimination and inequity remain significant challenges for these families.”

Short, E., D Riggs, A. Perlesz, R. Brown and G. Kane. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Parented Families: a literature review prepared for *The Australian Psychological Society*". Melbourne, 2007.

Loving parents, healthy children

“ (L)esbian mothers were shown to be just as child-centered and as nurturing as their heterosexual counterparts and ... the children from lesbian families did not exhibit higher rates of psychological disorders than their counterparts from heterosexual families.”

Cooper D. "For richer for poorer, in sickness and in health: Should Australia embrace same-sex marriage?", *Australian Journal of Family Law*, 19, 2005, p 166.

“ Available information conclusively demonstrated that sexual orientation and parental fitness are unconnected.”

Millbank, Jenni. "From Here to Maternity: A Review of the Research on Lesbian and Gay Families". *Australian Journal of Social Issues*, Vol. 38, No. 4, pp. 541-600, November 2003.

Balanced, well-adjusted kids

“ Research suggests that the children of gay and lesbian parents have similar psychological adjustment to children growing up in more traditional family structures.”

Ray, V., and Gregory, R. "School experiences of the children of lesbian and gay parents", *Australian Institute of Family Studies, Family Matters*, No 59, Winter 2001.

“ Findings from research suggest that children with lesbian or gay parents are comparable with children with heterosexual parents on key psychosocial developmental outcomes.”

Tasker, F. (2005) "Lesbian mothers, gay fathers, and their children: A review." *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, 26(3), 224-240