

LGBTQ Families - Research Article Summaries**9. Adoption and Foster Care by Lesbian and Gay Parents:
Study Deals with Demographic Information of These Families Across the U.S.**

Gates, G. J., Badgett, M. V. L., Macomber, J. E., & Chambers, K. (2007). *Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States*. Los Angeles: UCLA School of Law Williams Institute.

The Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law and the Urban Institute in Washington, D.C. put out a major study on adoption and foster care by lesbian and gay parents. Using census data and other governmental surveys, demographic information about adoptive and foster care families headed by lesbian and gay parents was collected. Additionally, researchers estimated the social and economic costs of banning adoption and foster care by LGB parents.

Results of the study showed that over one in three lesbians have given birth and one in six gay men have fathered or adopted a child. Over 50 % of gay men and 41% of lesbians desire to be a parent. Lesbian and gay parents are raising 4 % of all adopted children in the U.S. and approximately 2 million LGB people are interested in adoption. About 65,500 children have been adopted and are living with a lesbian or gay parent, and over 16,000 of these adoptions were in California—the highest number in the states. Children who are adopted by same-sex couples are younger and more likely to be born abroad. Same-sex couples who have adopted are older, more educated, and have more economic resources than other adoptive parents. Roughly 14,100 foster children are living with lesbian or gay parents—approximately 3 % of all children in foster care homes in the U.S. The cost of a national ban on LGB foster care could range from \$87 to \$130 million and costs to individual states could range from \$100,000 to \$27 million.