

Measuring the Presence and Impact of Same-Sex Married Couples on Poverty Rates in the Current Population Survey

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Abstract

Since 2010, the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement has treated respondents who report being in a same-sex married couple as unmarried partners. This has implications for poverty measurement as the official poverty measure assumes that resources are shared only across family units and unmarried partners are not categorized as “families” in the official poverty measure. Currently, income from each member of a same-sex married couple is compared separately to his/her own poverty threshold.

Beginning in the 2018 CPS ASEC, the U.S. Census Bureau expects to implement new editing procedures—coding same-sex married couples as a single family consistent with their survey responses. In order to evaluate this change on official estimates of the national poverty rate, this paper uses data from calendar years 2014 and 2015 to examine the presence and characteristics of same-sex married couples and evaluate how estimates of poverty are impacted by treating same-sex married couples as separate or combined families.

Findings indicate that current data processing rules lead to higher poverty estimates among individuals in same-sex marriages, as well as for related family members in these households. When same-sex married couples are assigned to family units consistent with those in opposite-sex marriages, poverty rates for the married population do not vary statistically based on relationship type. The impact of these family assignment changes on overall poverty rates is limited, with national estimates consistent to the nearest tenth of a percentage point.

¹ This report is released to inform interested parties of ongoing research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed on methodological or operational issues are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau. Any error or omissions are the sole responsibility of the authors. All data are subject to error arising from a variety of sources, including sampling error, non-sampling error, model error, and any other sources of error. For further information on CPS statistical standards and accuracy, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/technical-documentation/complete.html.

Background

The Census Bureau's definition of a family for the purpose of assigning poverty status has remained unchanged since the initial development of the poverty thresholds in the mid 1960s. This definition assigns a family as a group of two or more people who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and are residing together in a household. This assignment of families within households is a critical component in the measurement of poverty, as poverty status is assigned at the *family* level—based on comparing total *family* income to an assigned threshold that only varies by *family size and composition*.²

Although the definition used to assign individuals to families within a household has not changed in the past 50 years, there has been growing complexity in family and non-family living arrangements over this period (Vespa et. al. 2013). In order to understand how individuals residing within a household should be grouped into family units, the Census Bureau collects data on the relationship of each household member to the householder (the person who owns or rents the home).³ Recent changes in how the Census Bureau collects information on the relationships of people living together within a household include improvements to better account for unmarried partners and same-sex couples. While the ability to report relationships among unmarried partners has been facilitated by the addition of new survey questions and answer categories, the reporting of same-sex marriage has always been possible by reporting the relationship status of “married” among two individuals of the same sex (as reported separately in the survey). Given that the definition of a family for the purposes of assigning poverty status is only impacted by individuals who report being related by birth, marriage, or adoption, this research is primarily concerned with those survey respondents who report themselves as being in a same-sex marriage.⁴

Although same-sex survey respondents have always had the ability to report themselves as “married,” prior to 2010 their responses in the Current Population Survey Annual and Social Supplement (CPS ASEC) were changed in the data editing process to convert the sex of the non-householder to the opposite sex of the householder, turning these cases into opposite-sex married couples.⁵ Under this data editing procedure, the couple's poverty status was unaffected. Their family assignment was consistent, as they were still classified as a single family given their relationship by marriage, but their identification as a same-sex married couple was lost. In 2010, these editing rules were changed; respondents who reported themselves as same-sex married

² Established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive 14. See <http://www.census.gov/hhes/povmeas/methodology/ombdir14.html>.

³ If a home is jointly owned or rented, one individual is designated as the householder for this purpose.

⁴ Proposals for the 2017 PAA meetings from Larysa Mykata and Trudi Renwick further discuss considerations related to measuring poverty in the Current Population Survey among cohabiting unmarried partners.

⁵ Historical editing procedures for same-sex married couples and the dates of editing changes vary across Census surveys.

couples were recoded in the editing procedure to same-sex unmarried partners (Lofquist & Ellis 2011). By converting these respondents to unmarried partners, their family assignments were also reassigned, as they were no longer related to one another by birth, marriage, or adoption.

The reassignment of members of same-sex married couples into unmarried partners leads to a variety of consequences in the formation of families and assignment of poverty status. In households where the household reference person is in a same-sex marriage and has shared children with their same-sex spouse, those children are assigned to the family unit with the household reference person if they are related to that parent by birth or adoption. The second (non-householder) member of the same-sex couple is then assigned to a separate family, along with any children that are *only* related to them through birth or adoption. See Figure A1 in Appendix.

Given this family reassignment, each member of the same-sex married couple family's income is counted separately towards their own individual poverty thresholds, which vary based on the size and composition of their reassigned family. For example, in a household composed of a same-sex married couple and a shared adopted child, data for 2015 from the CPS ASEC would show one family composed of the household reference person and the shared child, with a poverty threshold of \$16,337, while the remaining spouse (now an unmarried partner) would have a poverty threshold of \$12,331.⁶ Alternatively, had that same-sex married couple instead been an opposite-sex married couple, they would have been considered a single three-person family with a poverty threshold of \$19,078 and the income of both spouses would contribute to meeting this threshold. Since the poverty thresholds assume that there are economies of scale (i.e., an additional person within a family requires fewer resources than a single individual living alone), the threshold for the same configuration of people organized as a single family in 2015 was \$9,590 lower than the thresholds across two families containing the same number of people.⁷

While the CPS ASEC continues to reassign same-sex married couples to unmarried partners, the American Community Survey (ACS) ended this practice with the release of the 2013 data, and the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) will end this practice in the 2014 Panel (Lofquist & Lewis 2015). Beginning in the 2018 CPS ASEC, the Census Bureau expects to implement new editing procedures—coding same-sex married couples as a single family consistent with their survey responses. See Figure A2 in Appendix.

⁶ These threshold examples assume each member of the same-sex married couple is aged less than 65.

⁷ For additional details on the assignment of poverty thresholds based on family size and composition, see www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html.

Data

To evaluate the impact of treating same-sex married couples as a single family unit in the measurement of official poverty rates, this analysis is based on data collected in the Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC). This is the official source of United States poverty estimates as mandated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Policy Directive 14.

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly, nationally representative, household survey sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The CPS is designed to capture data on widely used labor force estimates, namely the monthly unemployment rate. The CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) contains additional question content with questions that capture the receipt and value of up to 27 different sources of income, as well as noncash benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, subsidized school lunches, and housing assistance. The CPS ASEC is fielded in February, March, and April with a sample of approximately 100,000 addresses per year.⁸

In addition to asking detailed questions on income and program reciprocity, the CPS ASEC also collects information on families' living arrangements. The CPS ASEC allows for the reporting of same-sex marriage and cohabitation through questions on the household roster, as well as a subsequent probe related to cohabitation. Prior to 2010, reports of married same-sex couples were converted to *opposite-sex* married couples in the data editing process. Beginning in 2010, reports of same-sex married couple families were converted to same-sex *unmarried partners* (Lofquist & Ellis 2011). While same-sex married survey respondents are converted to "unmarried" in the final CPS ASEC data, this research takes advantage of extract files, made available beginning in 2014, that allow researchers to identify sample members who originally reported being a same-sex married couple.⁹

This research is based on data collected in the 2015 and 2016 CPS ASEC, which collected data referencing calendar years 2014 and 2015, respectively. Data from the CPS ASEC are then merged with their corresponding same-sex extract files in order to evaluate the impact of this family reassignment on official poverty rates. Because this research is motivated by understanding changes in the official annual poverty rate, we are driven to use the single-year estimates from the CPS ASEC, although larger surveys, such as the American Community Survey or the pooling of multiple years of CPS ASEC data may provide more precise estimates of the characteristics of same-sex couples.

⁸ For additional information on the CPS and CPS ASEC, see www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html.

⁹ Available at www.census.gov/housing/extract_files/toc/data/.

Methods

By merging the CPS ASEC to corresponding same-sex extract files, we are able to identify sample members who are listed as a same-sex spouse in the extract file, but have been re-assigned as an unmarried partner in the CPS ASEC.

Since unmarried partners are not considered to be family members under the current definition of a family for the purpose of assigning poverty status, these unmarried partners are not included in the same family as their reported spouse in the CPS ASEC. We reassign these same-sex married couples into a new family unit, composed of the married couple, as well as any other household members who reported being related by birth, marriage, or adoption to either spouse as originally reported in the CPS ASEC.¹⁰ See Figure A2 in Appendix. Following these new family assignments, updated poverty thresholds are assigned to these families reflecting their new composition. Poverty thresholds are determined by the size of the family and the age of family members, and do not vary geographically.

Measures of family income calculated in the CPS ASEC are aggregated based on the definition of family, therefore, total family income is recalculated in these estimates to account for the incomes of all family members under these new family reassignments. The calculation of total family income for these new family units is consistent with the official poverty measure, based on pre-tax cash income.¹¹ Poverty status is then reassigned based on these updated thresholds and measures of family income. Sample members who *did not* originally report being in a same-sex marriage—or *did not* report being related to someone in a same-sex marriage—experience no change in their family composition, family income, or poverty status.

This analysis is done “post processing,” meaning we are not recalculating income at the person level based on these updated family assignments. This is important to note because had these individuals not been initially reclassified as unmarried partners, their marital status would have been used when imputing income sources and amounts, which would have potentially impacted the imputed value of person-level income for these individuals.

It is reasonable to assume that there are same-sex couples in our sample who are cohabiting and do not report themselves as married. In these cases, individuals are not included as a family for the purpose of this analysis, consistent with how non-married, opposite-sex couples are treated in the official poverty measure in all census surveys.

¹⁰ It is possible for a married family member to be related to someone other than their spouse by marriage, for example a mother or brother-in-law.

¹¹ For more information on the income sources used to measure total family income, see www.census.gov/topics/income-poverty/poverty/guidance/poverty-measures.html.

In evaluating the impact of these new family assignments on poverty estimates in the CPS ASEC, this analysis provides descriptive statistics on the prevalence and characteristics of same-sex married couples across calendar years 2014 and 2015 with comparisons made to the total adult population as well as opposite-sex married couples. Within-person changes in poverty rates and income-to-poverty ratios for individuals in a same-sex marriage—as well as individuals in same-sex, married-couple families—are evaluated using these new family assignments. We also measure overall changes in the official poverty rate in order to evaluate the implications of this proposed change in the 2018 CPS ASEC. Comparisons of these measures across 2014 and 2015 are made to evaluate the stability of these changes across successive years. Standard errors are produced using replicate weights, and differences across populations are tested using a 90 percent confidence interval.

Findings

In calendar year (CY) 2014, 556,000 individuals reported being in a same-sex married couple relationship, comprising 0.23 percent of the total population aged 18 or older. A total of 670,000 individuals lived in a family with a same-sex married couple, comprising 0.21 percent of the total population. Approximately 74.9 percent of individuals in a same-sex marriage in 2014 were in a family with only their same-sex spouse, while 25.1 percent lived with their spouse and at least one other related family member.

In 2015 the number of individuals living in same-sex marriages increased to 913,000 individuals, climbing to 0.37 percent of the adult population. Over 1 million individuals (0.42 percent of the total population) lived in a family including a same-sex married couple, and the percent of same-sex married couple families that included additional family members increased to 38.7 percent.

Individuals in Same-Sex Marriages

As shown in Appendix Table A1, individuals who report being in a same-sex marriage are more likely to be female than within the total adult population and the opposite-sex married population. This is true in both 2014 and 2015. In 2015 women composed 61.4 percent of individuals in same-sex marriages compared to 51.6 percent of the total adult population and half of the opposite-sex married couple population, by definition. There was no statistical change in the composition of the same-sex married population from 2014 to 2015 by sex.

Consistent with the opposite-sex married population, individuals in same-sex marriages have an older age distribution than the total adult population. Approximately 65.3 percent of individuals in same-sex marriages in 2014 were aged 45 or older, not statistically different from opposite-sex married couples. This age distribution shifts for same-sex couples in 2015 however,

with increases in the proportion of individuals in same-sex marriages aged 25 to 44, from 30.2 percent in 2014 to 43.0 percent in 2015. See Appendix Table A1 and Table A2.

Racially and ethnically, the characteristics of individuals in same-sex marriages seem to have fluctuated from 2014 to 2015. In 2014, individuals in same-sex marriages were more likely to report being White, and less likely to report being Black or Hispanic than both the overall adult population and those in opposite-sex marriages. However, in 2015, individuals in same-sex marriages appear more similar demographically to those in opposite-sex marriages. In both 2014 and 2015, individuals in same-sex marriages are more likely than the general population as well as individuals in opposite-sex marriages to be native-born citizens, with naturalized citizens underrepresented among the same-sex married population. See Appendix Table A1 and Table A2.

While individuals in opposite-sex marriages are more likely than the general adult population (over age 25) to have received an education culminating in a bachelors degree or higher, this trend is dramatically more pronounced for individuals in a same-sex marriage. In 2015, 50.6 percent of individuals in a same-sex marriage reported receiving at least a bachelor's degree, compared to a rate of 33.4 percent among the general population. Further, this reflects a decline since 2014 in rates of higher education among individuals in a same-sex marriage, when 58.4 percent of individuals had received advanced education. See Appendix Table A1 and Table A2.

These differences in educational attainment help to explain variation in personal income based on marital status. In 2015, 14.6 percent of adults over age 18 had annual incomes higher than \$75,000. This high-income population increases to 20.0 percent among the opposite-sex married population. Among individuals in same-sex marriages, 27.8 percent reported incomes over \$75,000 in 2015, with 16.0 percent reporting annual income greater than \$100,000. See Appendix Table A1 and Table A2.

By treating respondents who report being in a same-sex marriage as unmarried partners, poverty rates among this population vary dramatically from those who report being in an opposite-sex marriage—even though individually, persons in same-sex marriages appear to be more advantaged based on educational attainment and personal income. In 2015, poverty rates for individuals who reported being in a same-sex marriage (but who, under current editing procedures, are treated as separate family units) had a poverty rate of 15.4 percent, 3.7 percentage points higher than the total adult population, and a full 9.9 percentage points higher than individuals in opposite-sex marriages. Official poverty rates for same-sex married couples in 2014 were not statistically different from rates in 2015, and the magnitude of the difference in the official poverty rates across individuals in opposite-sex married couples and those who reported being in a same-sex marriage was statistically unchanged. See Appendix Table A1 and Table A2.

Impact on Poverty Rates

Financially, same-sex married couples are largely similar to opposite-sex married couples. There is no significant difference in the percent of married-couple, dual-income families across relationship type in either 2014 or 2015. Further, the median income differential across same-sex spouses was not statistically different from that among opposite-sex spouses in either 2014 or 2015, although in both years the average age difference across couples in same-sex marriages is greater than the average difference among opposite-sex married couples. When treating same-sex married couples as a single family unit, their median total family income in 2014 (\$84,802) was not statistically different from opposite-sex married couple families, while in 2015 same-sex couples had *higher* median family incomes (\$105,020) compared to opposite-sex married couple families (\$84,482).¹²

Table 1. *Poverty Rates in 2014 Before and After Alternate Demographic Edits*

2014 Poverty Rate	Individuals in a Same-Sex Marriage		Individuals in Families Containing a Same-Sex Married Couple		Total Population	
	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE
Before treating same-sex married couples as a single family	20.5	2.85	20.3	2.83	14.8	0.17
After inclusion of same-sex married couples as a single family	6.1	2.28	5.2	1.93	14.7	0.17
Unweighted N		322		401		198,745
Weighted N (in thousands)		556		670		315,804

Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Before constructing new family assignments, using the official poverty definition in 2014, 20.5 percent of individuals in a same-sex marriage were in poverty. After including same-sex spouses in a single family, poverty rates for these individuals dropped to 6.1 percent, a decline of 14.4 percentage points. Similarly, the poverty rate for people in a family containing a same-sex couple dropped from 20.3 percent to 5.2 percent, a decline of 15.1 percentage points.¹³ While this reflects a large drop in poverty for individuals in same-sex marriages or in families containing a same-sex married couple, the overall effect on poverty rates for the total population

¹² Note: When evaluating differences in characteristics across spouses, this analysis is limited to cases where both spouses are over the age of 17. In 2014, this removed 0.06 percent of unweighted couples from the analytical sample, while 0.05 percent of unweighted couples were dropped due to these conditions in 2015.

¹³ The decline in 2014 poverty rates for same-sex married couples (14.4 percentage points), was not statistically different from individuals in same-sex married couple families (15.1 percentage points).

leads to a statistically significant¹⁴, but practically insignificant, decline in overall poverty rates. In 2014, treating same-sex married couples as a single family unit led to a decline in poverty of 0.03 percentage points—from an official rate of 14.77 percent to a revised rate of 14.74 percent using new family assignments. The poverty rate for opposite-sex married individuals in 2014 (6.3 percent) did not change as the new family edits did not affect them, and was not statistically different from the poverty rate for same-sex spouses in the reassigned family units (6.1 percent). See Text Table 1.

From 2014 to 2015, national poverty rates experienced the largest year-to-year decline since 1999, dropping from 14.8 percent in 2014 to 13.5 percent in 2015 (Edwards 2016). This improvement in economic conditions was shared by individuals in opposite-sex marriages, who experienced a 0.8 percentage point decline in poverty rates, but the official poverty rate for individuals who reported being in a same-sex marriage (when treated as unmarried partners) was statistically unchanged from 2014 to 2015.

After reassigning same-sex married partners to a single family, their poverty rates in 2015 declined 10.9 percentage points, to a rate of 4.5 percent. The impact of these new family assignments on individuals in same-sex marriages was not statistically different from the decline observed in 2014 and the resulting revised poverty rates for individuals in same-sex marriages were not statistically different across 2014 and 2015. See Text Table 2.

Table 2. *Poverty Rates in CY 2015 Before and After Alternate Demographic Edits*

2015 Poverty Rate	Individuals in a Same-Sex Marriage		Individuals in Families Containing a Same-Sex Married Couple		Total Population	
	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE
Before treating same-sex married couples as a single family	15.4	1.89	14.3	1.78	13.5	0.18
After inclusion of same-sex married couples as a single family	4.5	1.37	5.5	1.97	13.5	0.18
Unweighted N		496		745		185,216
Weighted N (in thousands)		913		1336		318,454

Source: 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The percentage of individuals in families containing a same-sex married couple classified as being in poverty dropped 8.8 percentage points in 2015 from an official rate of 14.3 percent to

¹⁴ Given the small population of individuals who are reassigned to family units based on the reporting of a same-sex marriage, the correlation coefficient across individual's poverty status using traditional and alternate demographic edits is .999 in 2014. When calculating changes in overall poverty rates, statistical tests across estimates are biased towards Type I error, that is, falsely concluding that estimates are statistically different when they are not.

a revised rate of 5.5 percent under alternate family assignments. The impact of these revised family assignments was smaller than in 2014, when poverty rates declined 15.1 percentage points for this population, although the resulting rate of 5.5 percent was not statistically different from 2014. See Text Table 2.

As in 2014, individuals who were themselves in a same-sex marriage, or in a family containing a same-sex married couple, had large changes in their poverty rates in 2015 under the revised family grouping definition. Changes in poverty rates for the overall population in 2015 were again statistically lower under the new definition, although the difference was negligible in a practical sense, unchanged at the tenth decimal place. The correlation across the original and revised poverty estimates in 2015 was .998, with overall poverty rates declining from 13.54 percent to 13.51 percent.¹⁵ The 2015 poverty rate for opposite-sex married individuals did not change from the original 5.5 percent, and estimates for married-couple individuals were not statistically different across relationship type. See Text Table 2.

For both 2014 and 2015, these findings consistently indicate that current data processing rules that reassign same-sex married individuals as unmarried partners lead to higher poverty estimates among these individuals, as well as for any other related family members in these households. When same-sex married couples are assigned to family units consistent with those in opposite-sex marriages, poverty rates for the married population do not vary statistically based on relationship type. When anticipating the impact that revised demographic editing procedures would have on official estimates of poverty in the CPS, these findings indicate that overall poverty rates remain consistent to the nearest tenth of a percentage point.

Implications

The Current Population Survey is the longest running annual household survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is the source of the official national poverty rate as mandated by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in Statistical Policy Directive No 14. While the OMB directive mandates the base year for the poverty thresholds, and how they are to be updated annually, OMB does not specify the definition of a family. However, as with any methodological change to the collection or processing of data in the CPS, changes to the definition of family when assigning poverty status in the CPS must be weighed against the impact on the interpretation of the data series over time. This research serves to inform researchers and policy makers of the anticipated changes to the family editing procedures in the

¹⁵ Given the small population of individuals who are reassigned to family units based on the reporting of a same-sex marriage, the correlation coefficient across individual's poverty status using traditional and alternate demographic edits is .998 in 2015. When calculating changes in overall poverty rates, statistical tests across estimates are biased towards Type I error, that is, falsely concluding that estimates are statistically different when they are not.

2018 CPS and set expectations regarding the magnitude and impact of this change on poverty estimates.

This research indicates that given the small population of individuals who report being in a same-sex marriage (0.37 percent of all adults in 2015), treating these couples as a related family will have a limited impact on overall poverty rates or year-to-year changes in poverty rates. However, this change will have a large impact on individuals living in these family arrangements, reducing their annual poverty rates by a magnitude of 9 to 15 percentage points. Further, from 2014 to 2015 the number of adults reporting themselves in a same-sex marriage increased by approximately 357,000 individuals, suggesting that the size of this population may be expected to increase and have a larger impact on overall poverty rates in future years.

The revised demographic edit being implemented in the 2018 CPS (CY 2017), will no longer reassign individuals who report being same-sex spouses as unmarried partners. This will impact all CPS data collection, not just the ASEC, although the ASEC is where this editing change will impact annual family income and poverty status.

The estimates presented here are based on the existing income edits, meaning income for same-sex married couples has been reaggregated after being separately processed through the income edit as unmarried partners. Since these editing procedures currently use male and female spouse pointers for their imputation procedures, we might expect same-sex families to have different income allocations if they were run through that editing procedure as a single family. In the 2018 CPS ASEC, editing procedures for income and health insurance coverage (which also use gender and marital status in their editing procedures) will be updated to remove references to the “husband” and “wife” concept and move to gender-neutral references for married couples.

It is important to note that while this research describes the characteristics and economic circumstances of individuals in same-sex marriages, data from the CPS is only able to identify homosexual individuals who report being in a coresidential marriage or cohabiting partnership, leaving us unable to produce poverty rates by sexual orientation for individuals outside those living arrangements. The estimates presented here are only intended to be representative of married same-sex couples at the national level. The Census Bureau is involved in the Federal Interagency Working Group on Improving Measurement of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, but the impact of that working groups recommendations on Census Bureau surveys is currently unknown.

References

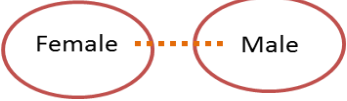

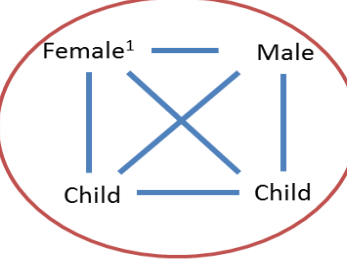
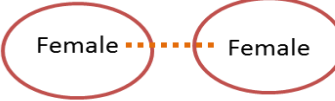

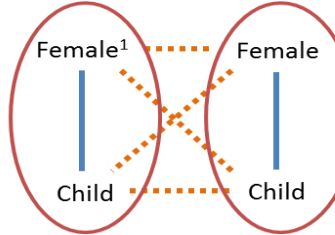
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Appendix

Figure A1. Family Assignments Under Existing 2016 CPS Editing Procedures

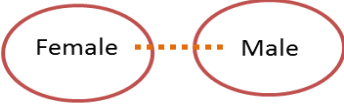

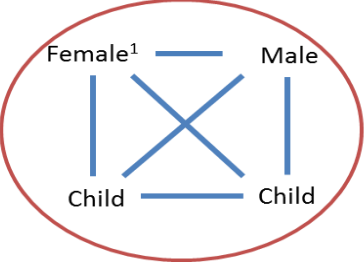
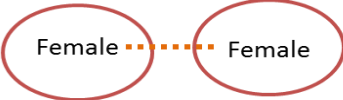

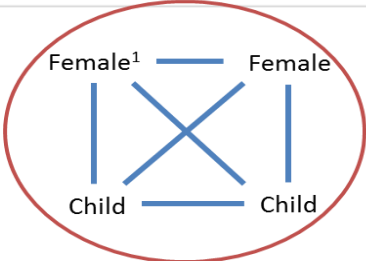
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Key

-  Related by birth, marriage, or adoption
-  Not Related by birth, marriage, or adoption
-  Defined family unit

¹ listed as householder

Figure A2. Proposed Family Assignments Under using 2018 CPS Editing Procedures

Proposed 2018 CPS Editing Procedures										
As Reported in Survey	As Assigned in Family Editing Procedures									
(1) Female ¹ Male										
(2) Female ¹ — Male										
(3) <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Female¹</td> <td style="text-align: center;">—</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Male</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">/</td> <td style="text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Child</td> <td style="text-align: center;">—</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Child</td> </tr> </table>	Female ¹	—	Male		/		Child	—	Child	
Female ¹	—	Male								
	/									
Child	—	Child								
(4) Female ¹ Female										
(5) Female ¹ — Female										
(6) <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Female¹</td> <td style="text-align: center;">—</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Female</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"> </td> <td style="text-align: center;">/</td> <td style="text-align: center;"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Child</td> <td style="text-align: center;">—</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Child</td> </tr> </table>	Female ¹	—	Female		/		Child	—	Child	
Female ¹	—	Female								
	/									
Child	—	Child								

Key




-  Related by birth, marriage, or adoption
 -  Not Related by birth, marriage, or adoption
 -  Defined family unit
- ¹ listed as householder

Table A1. Demographic Characteristics of the Population 18 and Over in 2014

2014 Characteristics	Total Population Aged 18 and Older		Opposite-Sex Married Couples		Same-Sex Married Couples	
	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE
Official poverty rate	12.8	0.14	6.3	0.14	20.5	2.85
Female	51.7	0.02	50.0	0.00	66.4	4.46
Age						
18 – 24	12.4	0.03	1.8	0.07	4.5	1.60
25 – 34	17.8	0.01	14.7	0.15	14.6	2.36
35 – 44	16.5	0.01	19.9	0.13	15.7	2.77
45 – 54	17.7	0.01	21.9	0.15	26.5	3.22
55 – 64	16.7	0.04	20.9	0.18	25.0	3.42
65 and older	19.0	0.04	20.8	0.17	13.7	2.72
Education ¹						
Less than a high school diploma	11.6	0.12	9.7	0.14	3.7	1.58
High school diploma	29.5	0.18	27.8	0.23	15.9	3.04
Some college	26.4	0.16	25.4	0.20	22.0	3.38
Bachelor's degree and higher	32.5	0.22	37.0	0.27	58.4	3.19
Personal Income						
No income	9.8	0.10	7.6	0.10	9.0	2.02
\$1 - \$24,999	39.3	0.16	32.7	0.21	23.3	3.23
\$25,000 - \$49,999	24.9	0.13	25.5	0.17	24.9	3.03
\$50,000 - \$74,999	12.5	0.11	15.2	0.15	18.4	2.61
\$75,000 - \$99,999	5.7	0.07	7.6	0.12	9.9	1.69
\$100,000 and higher	7.9	0.10	11.4	0.16	14.5	2.47
Race and ethnicity						
White alone	78.7	0.04	83.3	0.15	89.3	2.20
Black alone	12.4	0.01	7.5	0.12	3.4	1.26
Hispanic, any race	15.5	0.02	13.8	0.12	8.9	2.05
Citizenship						
Native born	83.6	0.13	81.0	0.18	88.9	2.39
Naturalized citizen	7.9	0.09	9.8	0.13	3.2	1.09
Not a citizen	8.5	0.11	9.2	0.14	7.9	2.07

Note: All estimates limited to individuals aged 18 years or older unless otherwise stated.

¹ Limited to individuals aged 25 years or older.

Source: 2015 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

Table A2. Demographic Characteristics of the Population 18 and Over in 2015

2015 Characteristics	Total Population Aged 18 and Older		Opposite-Sex Married Couples		Same-Sex Married Couples	
	Percent	SE	Percent	SE	Percent	SE
Official poverty rate	11.7	0.15	5.5	0.14	15.4	1.89
Female	51.6	0.02	50.0	0.00	61.4	3.95
Age						
18 – 24	12.2	0.03	1.7	0.07	2.7	0.87
25 – 34	17.9	0.01	14.2	0.15	19.4	2.46
35 – 44	16.3	0.01	20.0	0.16	23.6	2.65
45 – 54	17.4	0.01	21.6	0.15	17.1	2.43
55 – 64	16.8	0.01	21.1	0.17	23.4	2.58
65 and older	19.4	0.01	21.4	0.18	13.8	2.45
Education ¹						
Less than a high school diploma	10.9	0.13	9.2	0.15	4.2	1.23
High school diploma	28.8	0.20	27.0	0.26	18.7	2.48
Some college	26.8	0.17	25.7	0.22	26.5	2.61
Bachelor’s degree and higher	33.4	0.24	38.1	0.31	50.6	3.15
Income						
No income	9.2	0.09	7.2	0.10	6.3	1.15
\$1 - \$24,999	37.9	0.16	31.6	0.21	23.3	2.31
\$25,000 - \$49,999	25.3	0.15	25.3	0.21	26.7	2.13
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13.0	0.11	15.8	0.15	15.9	1.63
\$75,000 - \$99,999	6.1	0.08	8.0	0.12	11.8	1.93
\$100,000 and higher	8.5	0.11	12.0	0.16	16.0	2.02
Race and ethnicity						
White alone	78.4	0.04	83.2	0.16	84.4	2.05
Black alone	12.5	0.02	7.4	0.12	9.0	1.95
Hispanic ethnicity	15.7	0.02	14.2	0.13	13.3	1.96
Citizenship						
Native born	83.5	0.16	80.5	0.20	87.6	1.91
Naturalized citizen	7.9	0.09	10.0	0.13	4.3	1.01
Not a citizen	8.6	0.13	9.5	0.17	8.1	1.57

Note: All estimates limited to individuals aged 18 years or older unless otherwise stated.

¹ Limited to individuals aged 25 years or older.

Source: 2016 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement.