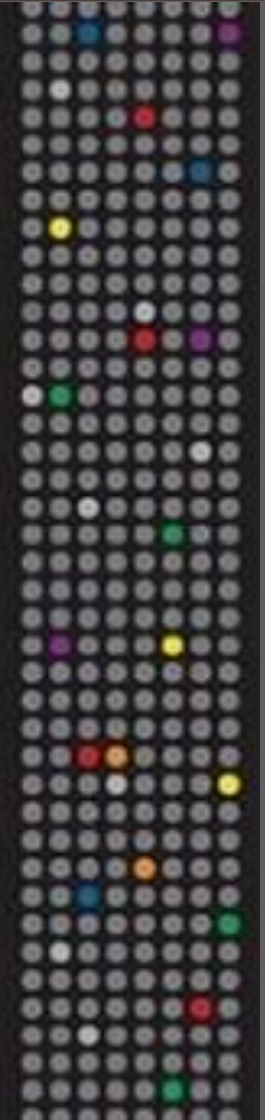


LGBT Research: Science in the Public Square

Gary J. Gates, PhD

@DrGaryJGates



Coming out

%LGB/T Identity, by year

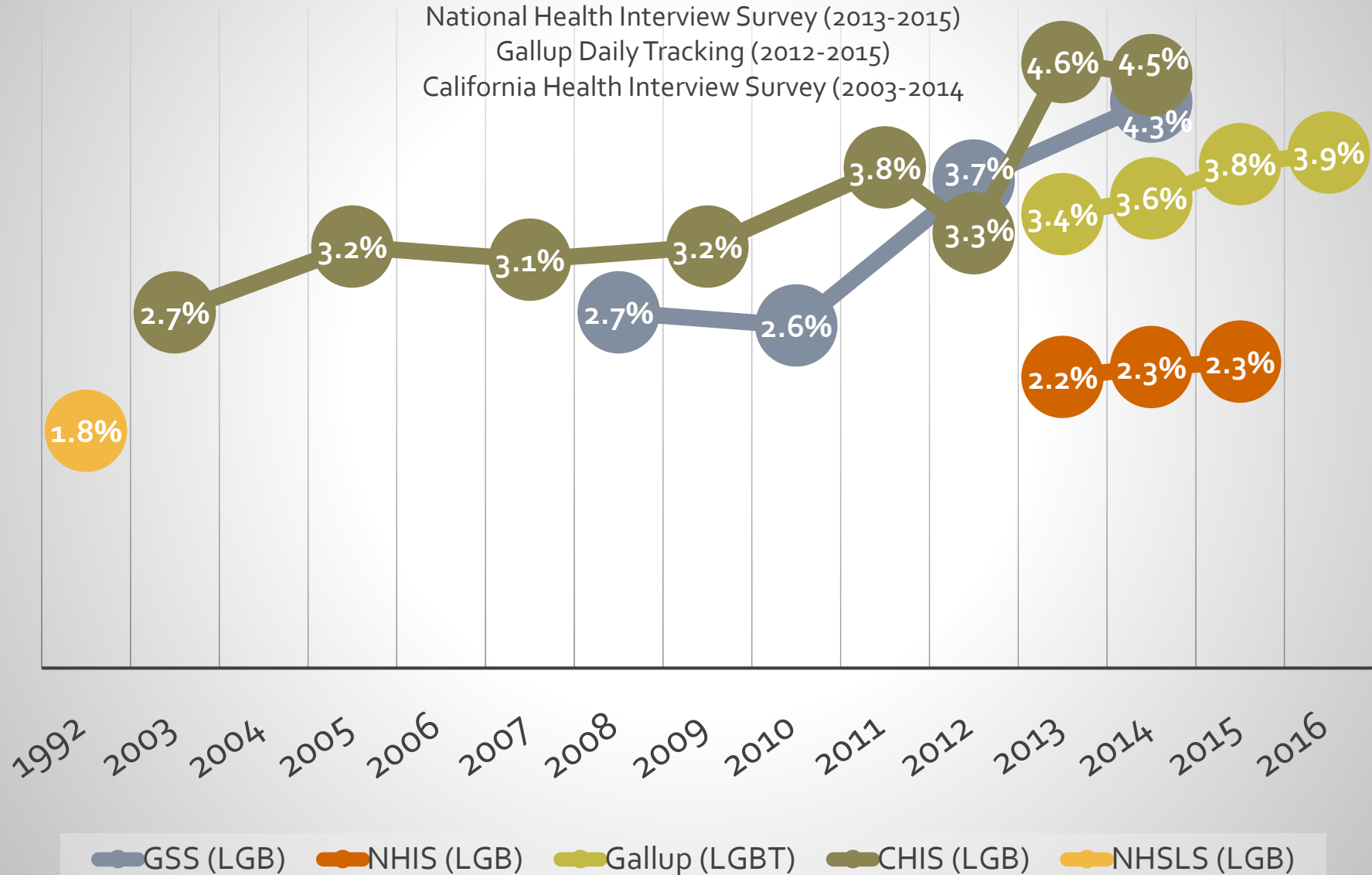
National Health and Social Life Survey (1992)

General Social Survey (2008-2014)

National Health Interview Survey (2013-2015)

Gallup Daily Tracking (2012-2015)

California Health Interview Survey (2003-2014)

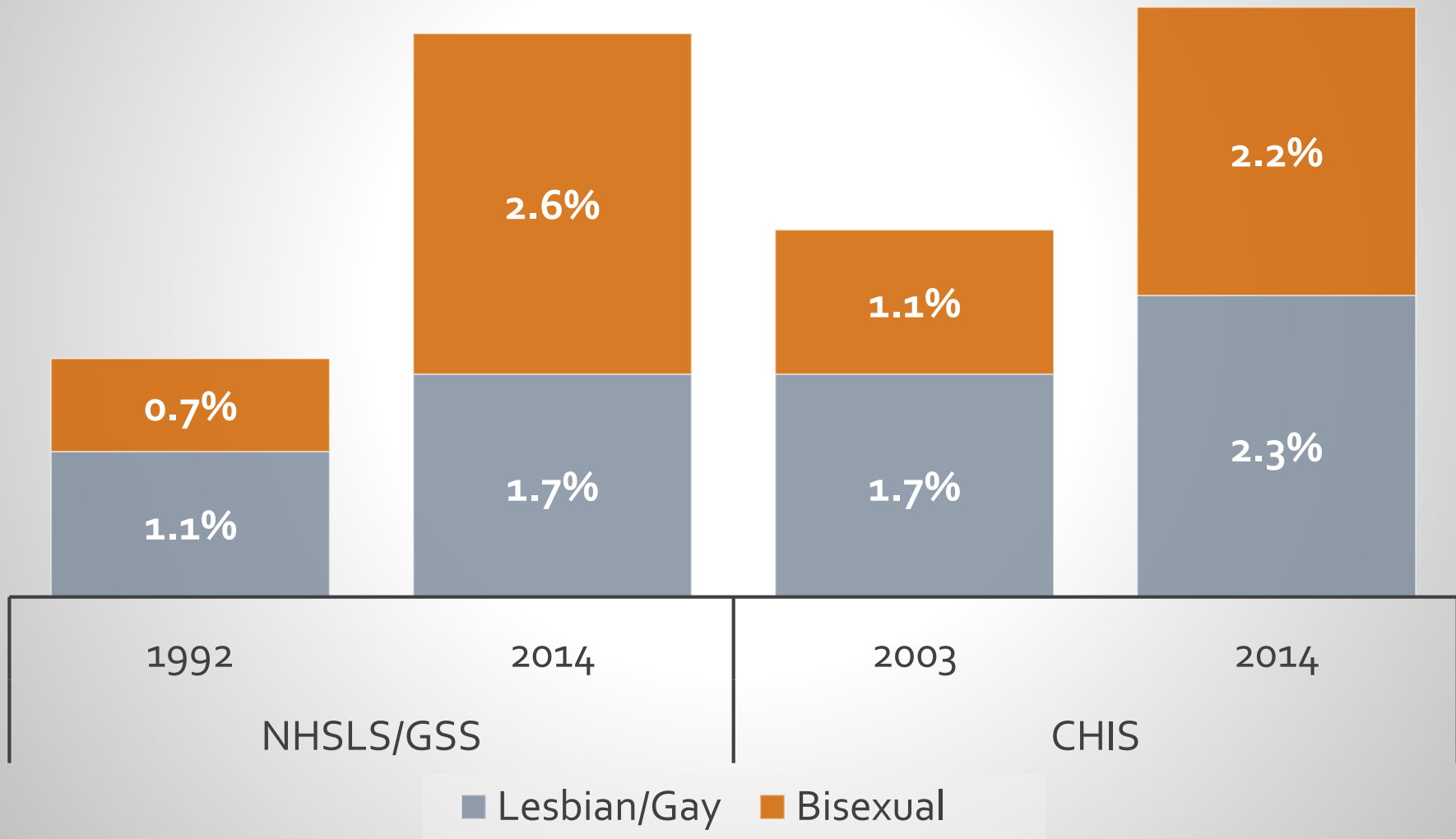




Bisexuality

Lesbian/Gay v. Bisexual Identity, by year

1992 National Health and Social Life Survey
2014 General Social Survey
2003, 2014 California Health Interview Survey

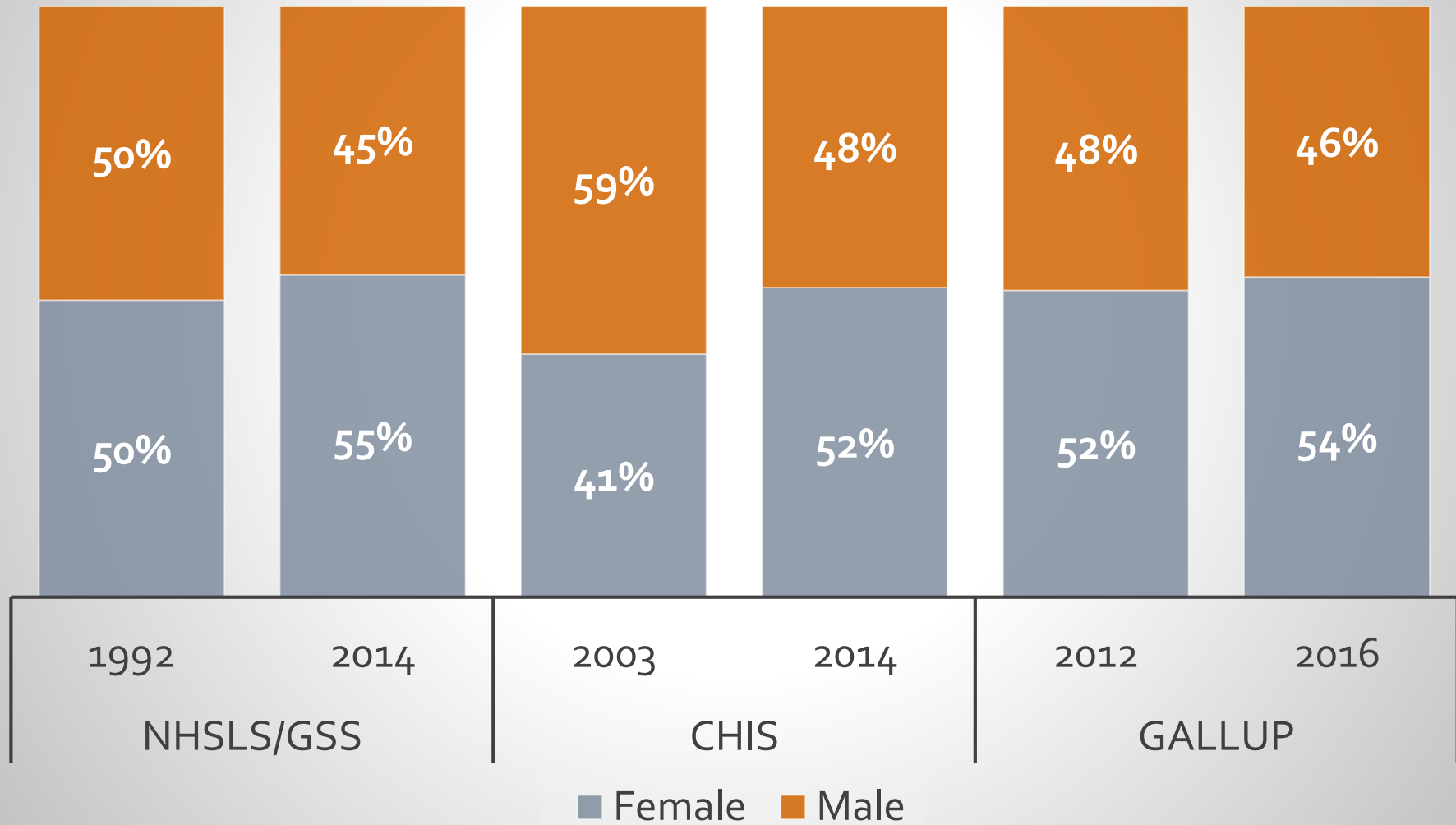




Gender

Gender Among LGB/T, by year

National Health and Social Life Survey/General Social Survey
California Health Interview Survey
Gallup Daily Tracking

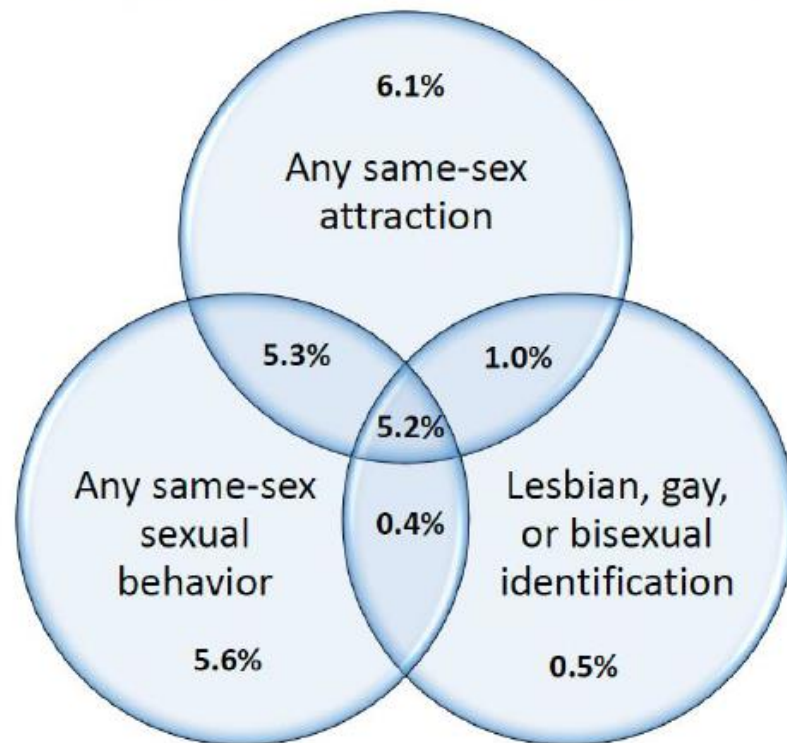


Behavior, attraction, and identity

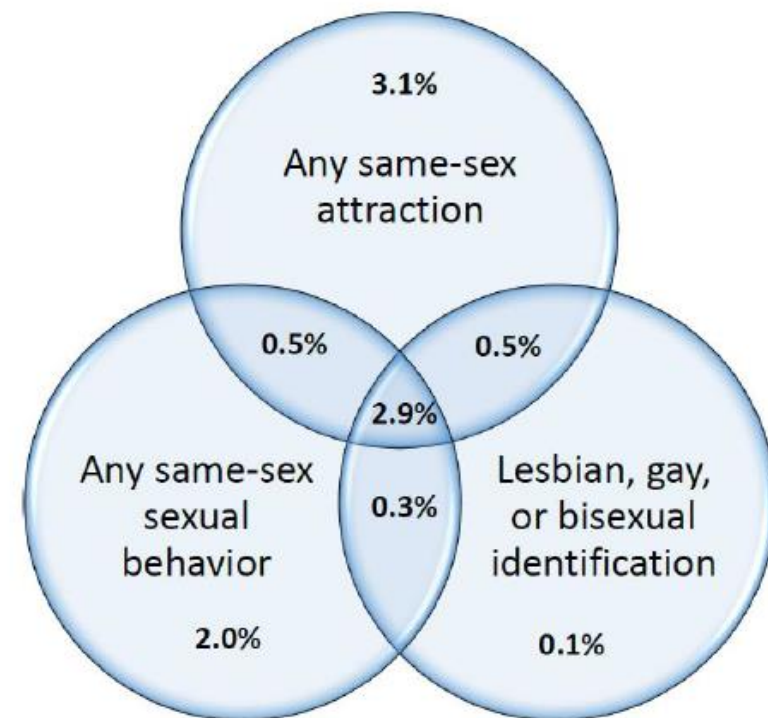
Sexual behavior, attraction, and identity among adults age 18-44, by gender

2011-2013 National Survey of Family Growth

Any same-sex sexuality, women: 24%



Any same-sex sexuality, men: 9.2%





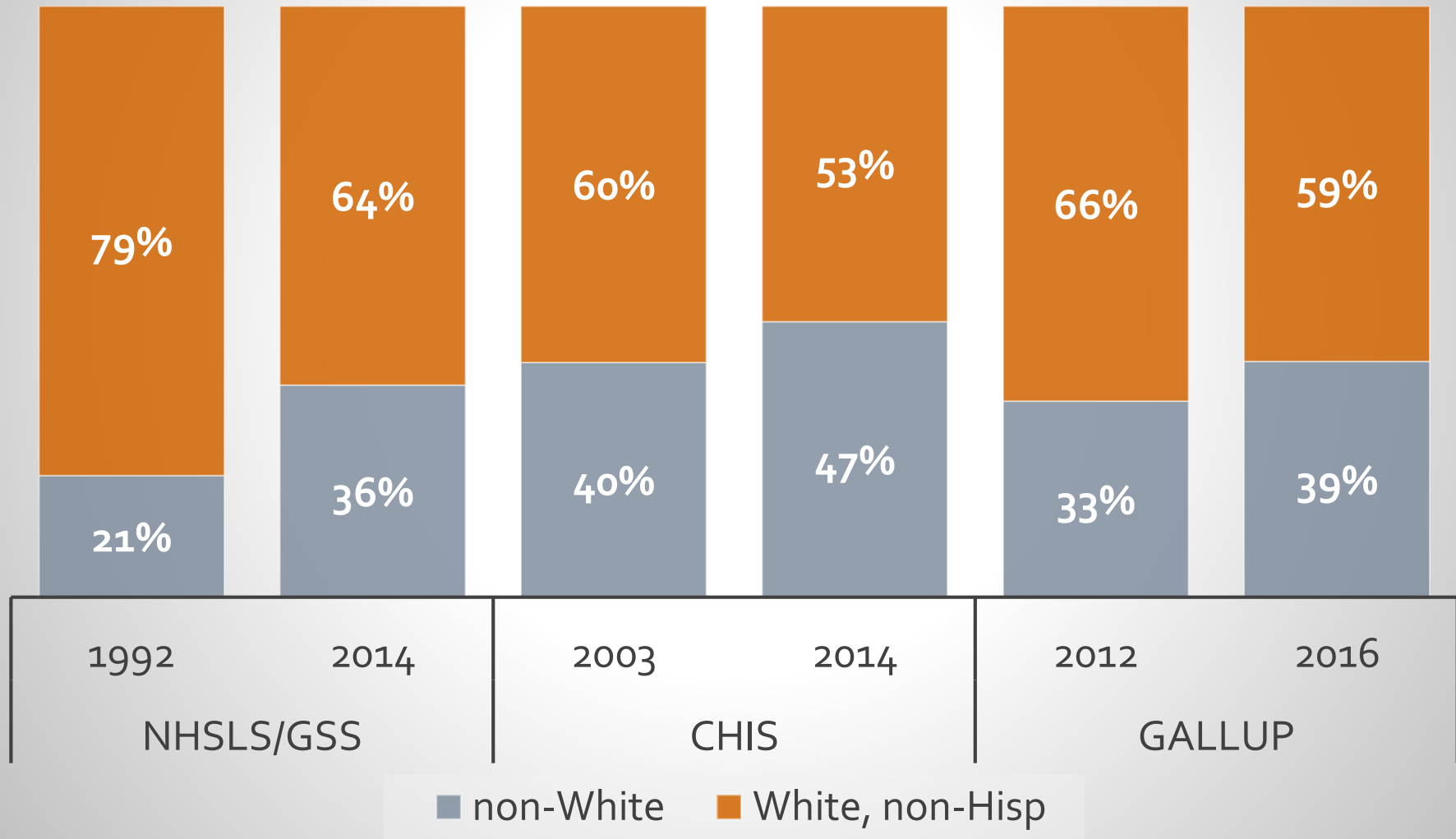
Race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity Among LGB/T, by year

National Health and Social Life Survey/General Social Survey

California Health Interview Survey

Gallup Daily Tracking





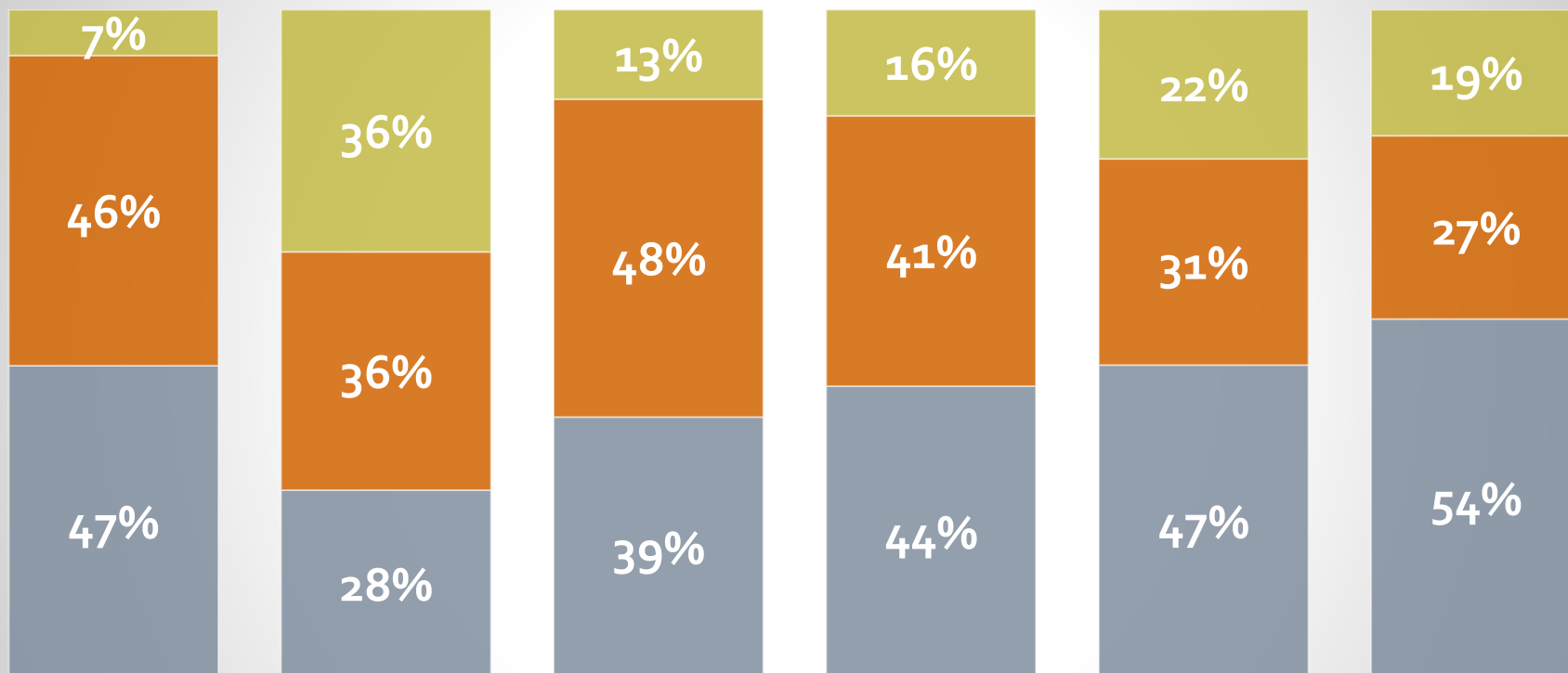
Age

Age Among LGB/T, by year

National Health and Social Life Survey/General Social Survey

California Health Interview Survey

Gallup Daily Tracking



1992

2014

2003

2014

2012

2016

NHSLS/GSS

CHIS

GALLUP

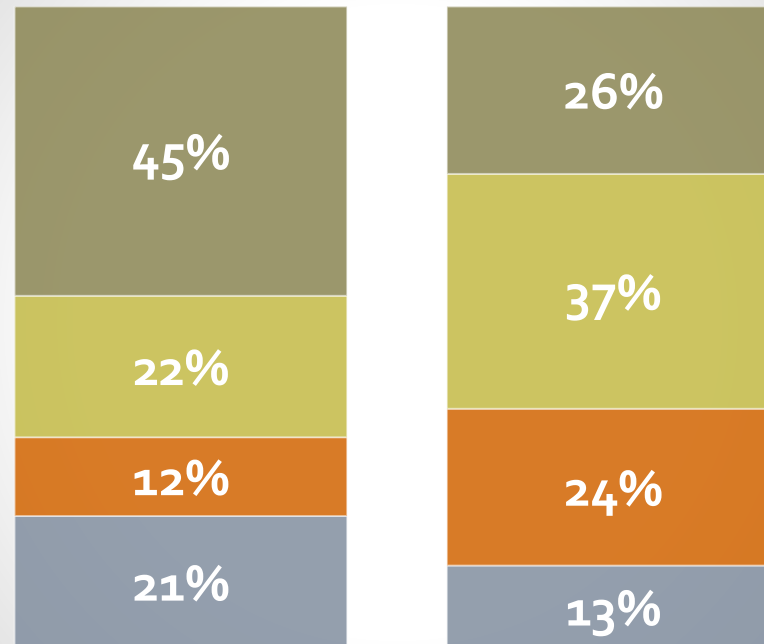
18-34 35-54 55+



Residence

Region of Residence Among LGB, by year

National Health and Social Life Survey/General Social Survey



1992

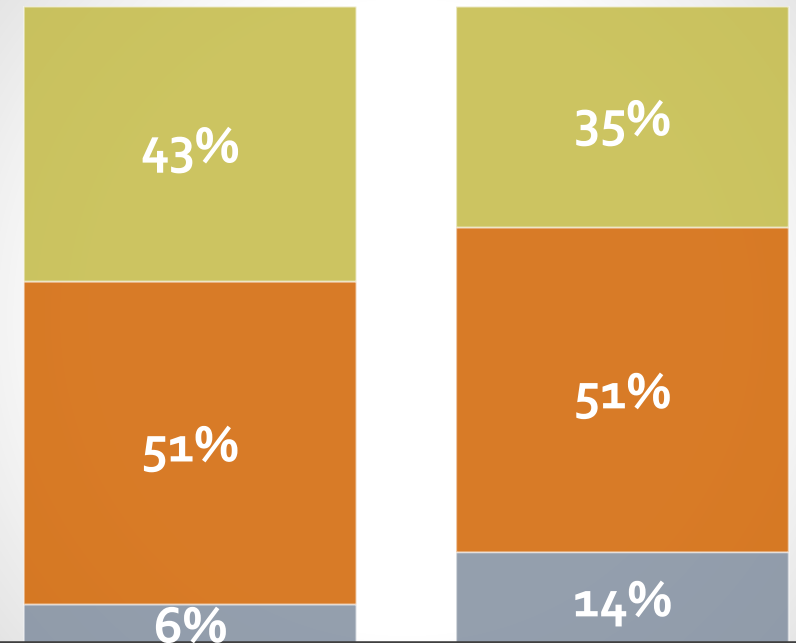
2014

NHSLs/GSS

■ East ■ Midwest ■ South ■ West

Where You Lived at Age 14 (1992)/Age 16 (2014) Among LGB, by year

National Health and Social Life Survey/General Social Survey



1992

2014

NHSLs/GSS

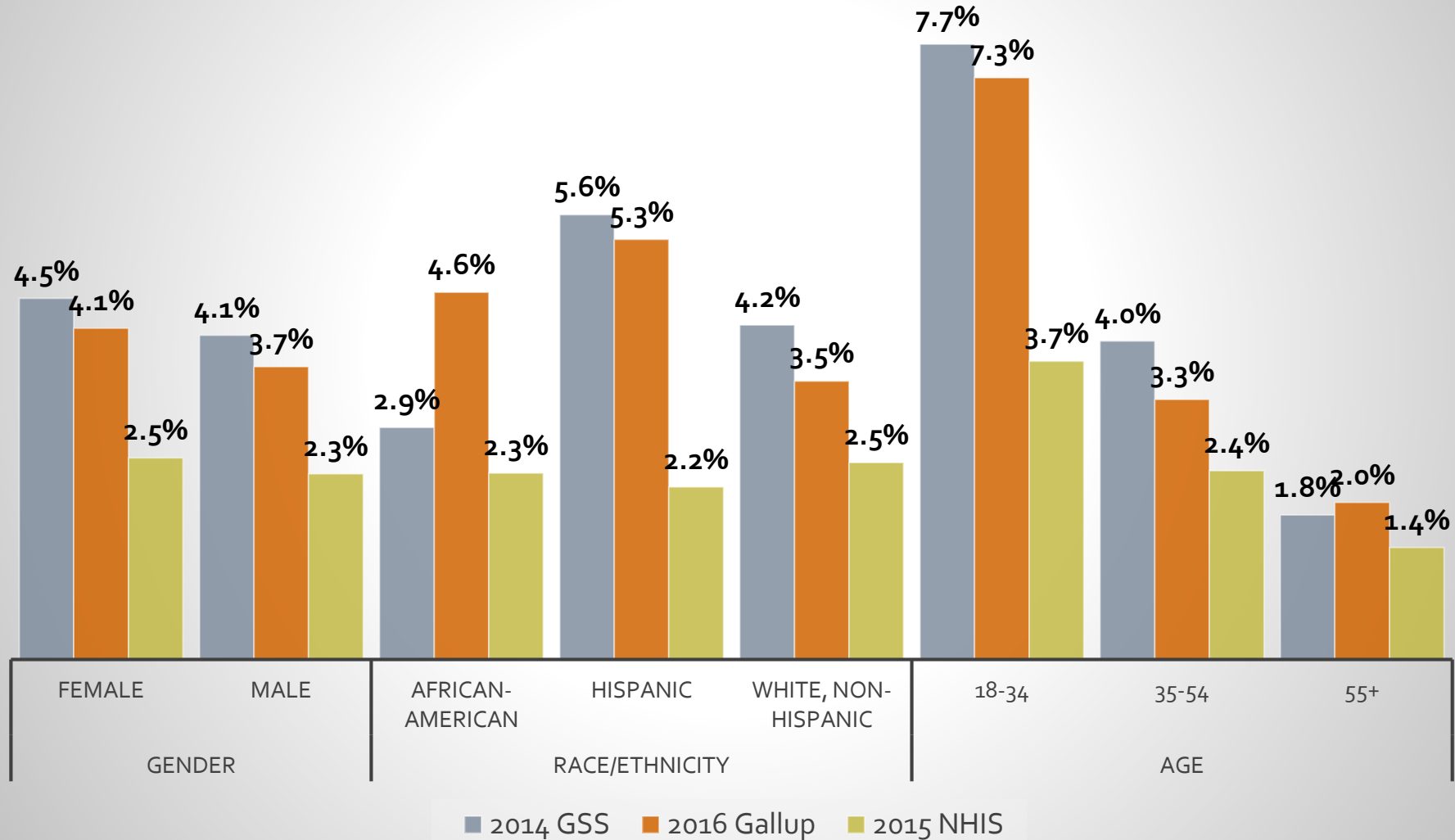
■ Country ■ Small town/city ■ Big city



Residence

%LGB/T, by survey & demographic characteristics

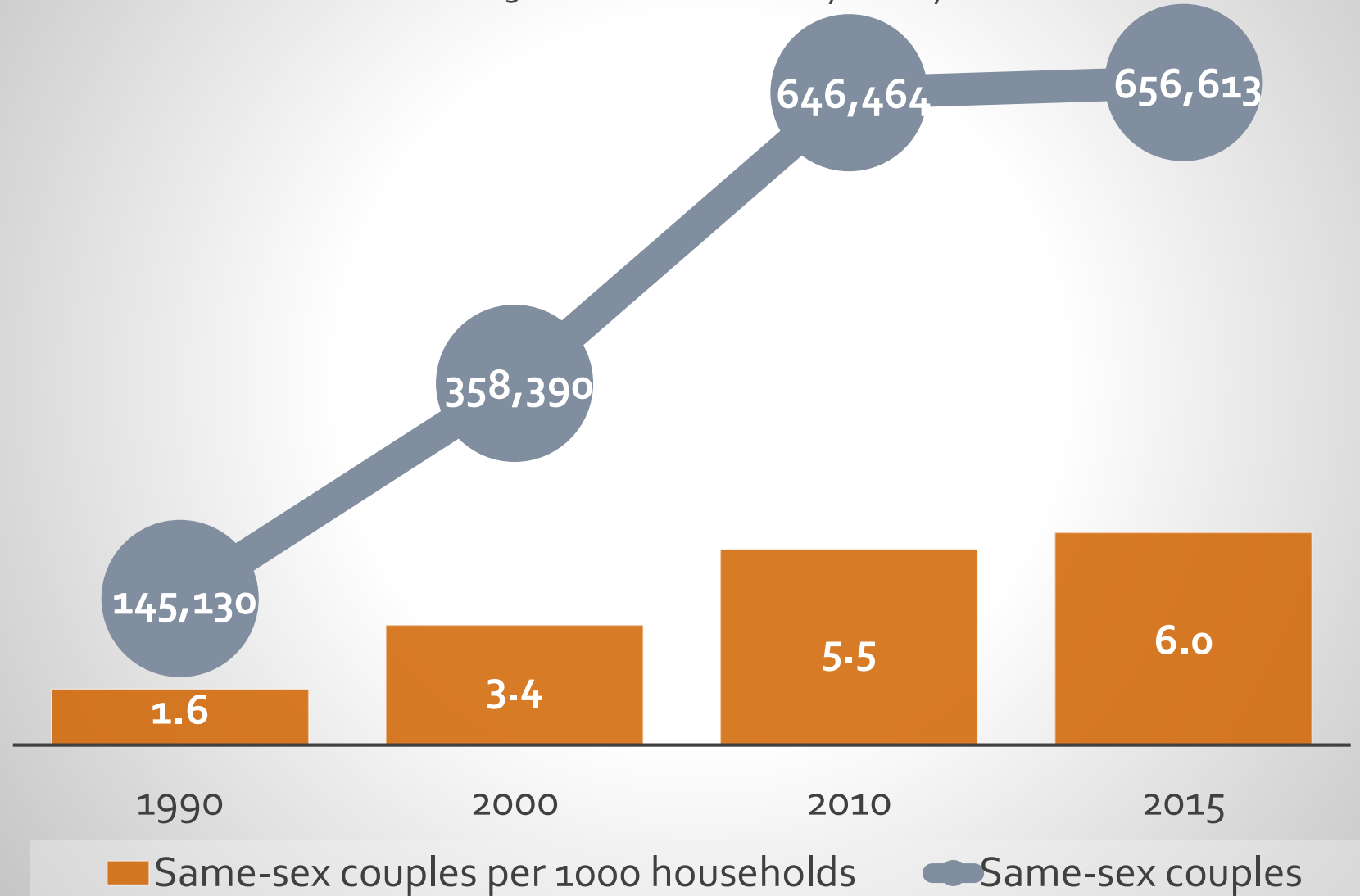
2014 General Social Survey
2016 Gallup Daily Tracking
2015 National Health Interview Survey



Same-sex couples

Same-sex Couples, by year

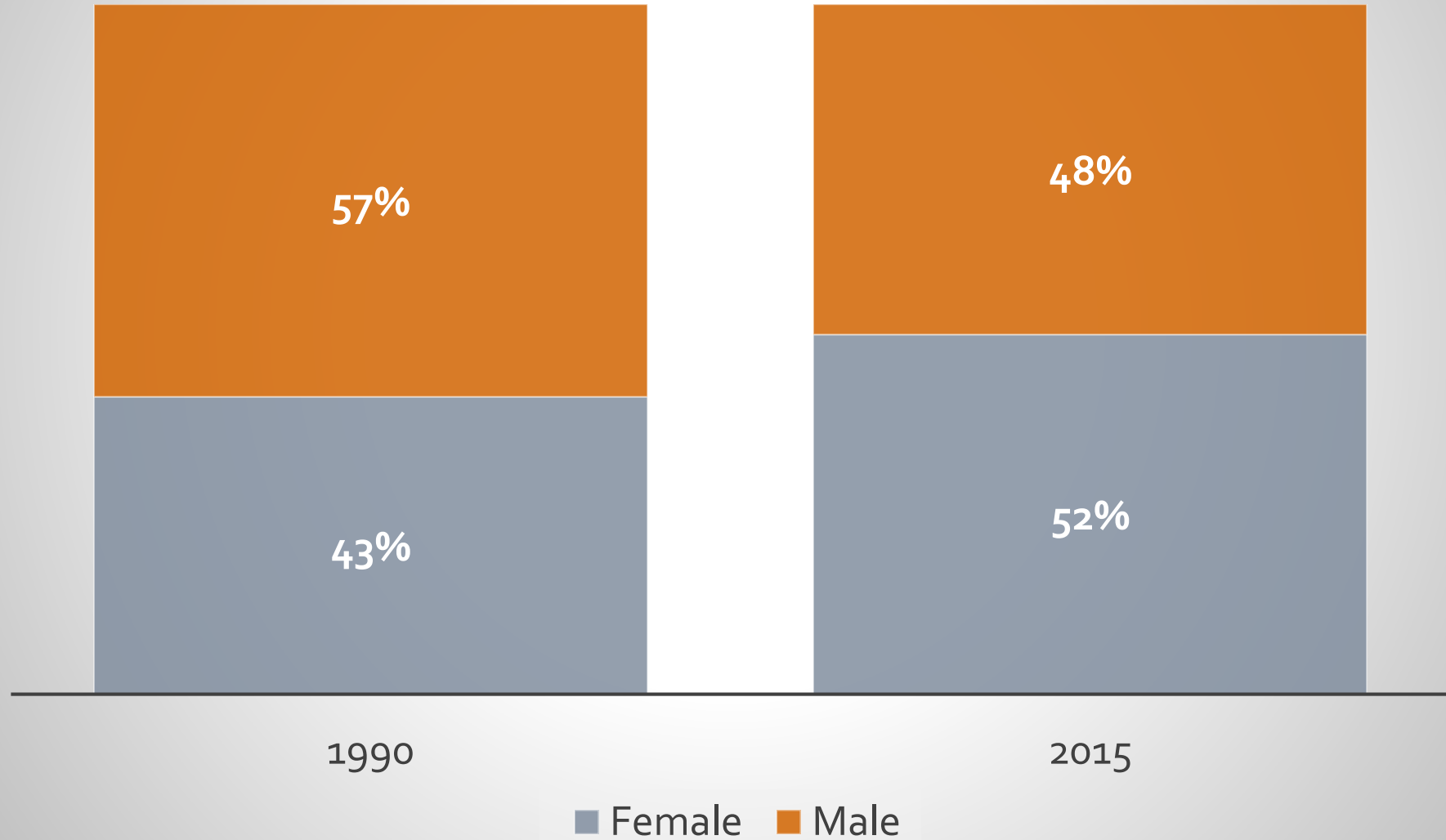
1990, 2000, & 2010 Decennial Census
2015 American Community Survey



Same-sex
couples:
Gender

Gender Among Individuals in Same-sex Couples, by year

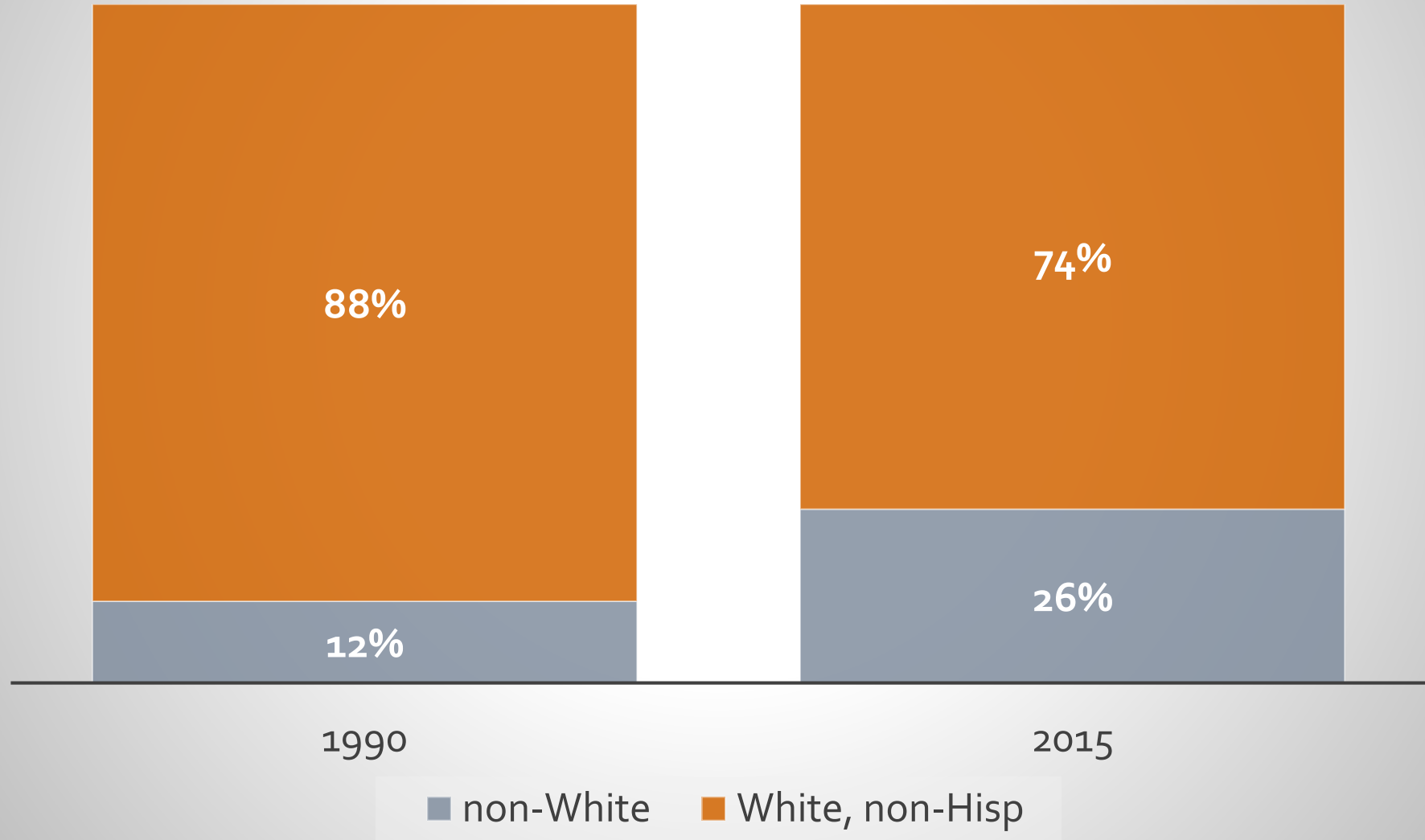
1990 Decennial Census, 2015 American Community Survey



Same-sex couples:
Race/ethnicity

Race/ethnicity Among Individuals in Same-sex Couples, by year

1990 Decennial Census, 2015 American Community Survey

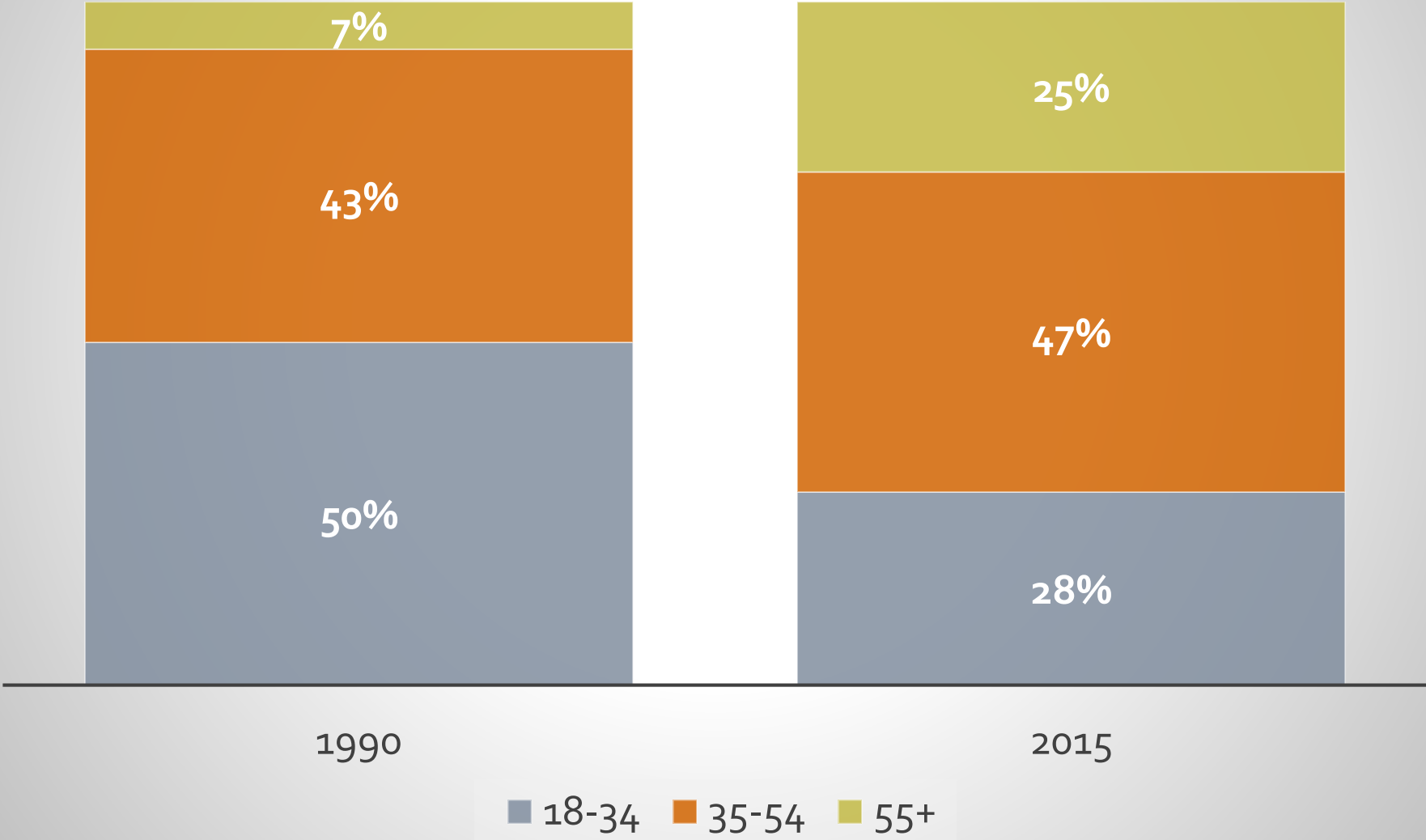




Same-sex couples: Age

Age Among Individuals in Same-sex Couples, by year

1990 Decennial Census, 2015 American Community Survey

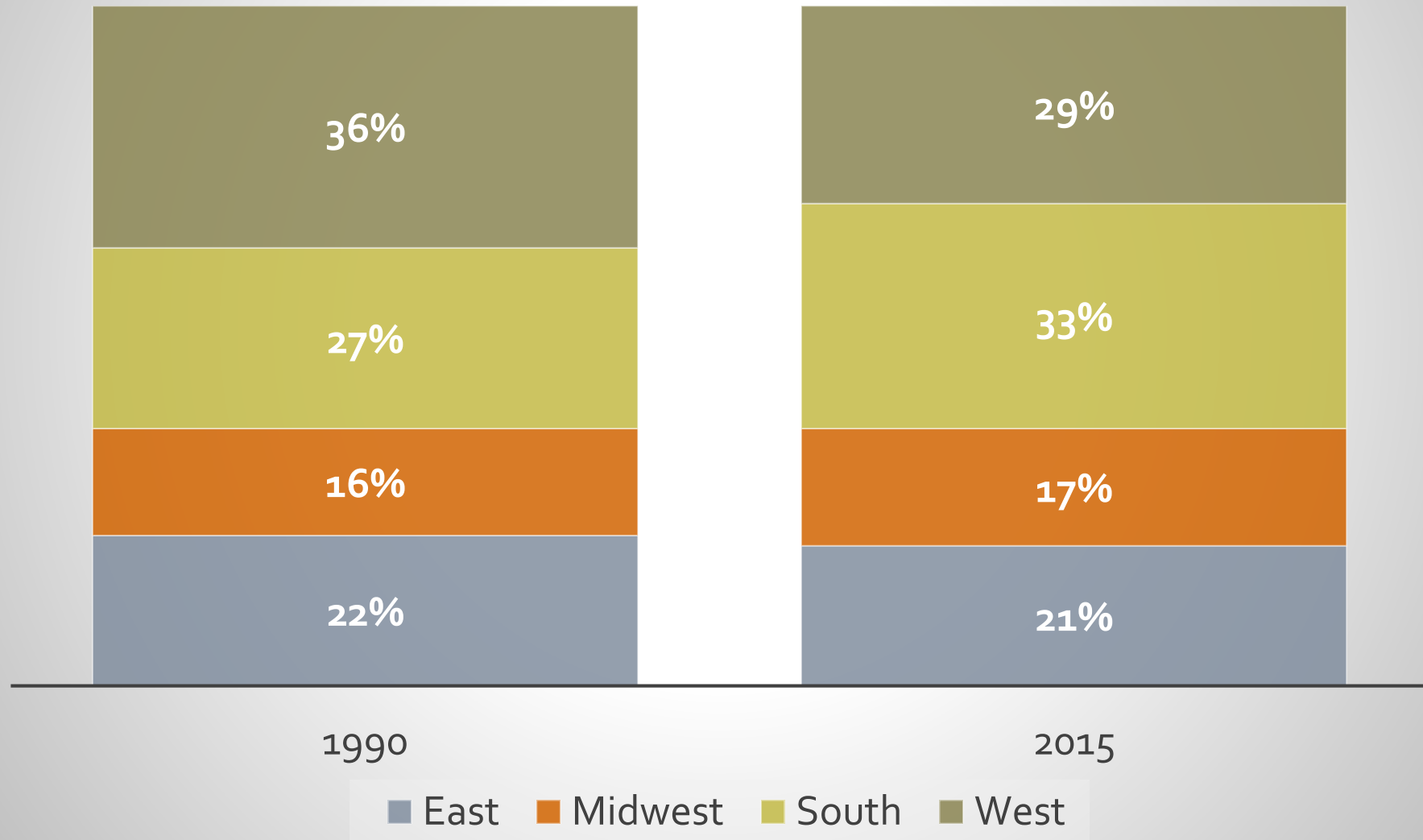




Same-sex couples: Region

Region of Residence Among Individuals in Same-sex Couples, by year

1990 Decennial Census, 2015 American Community Survey

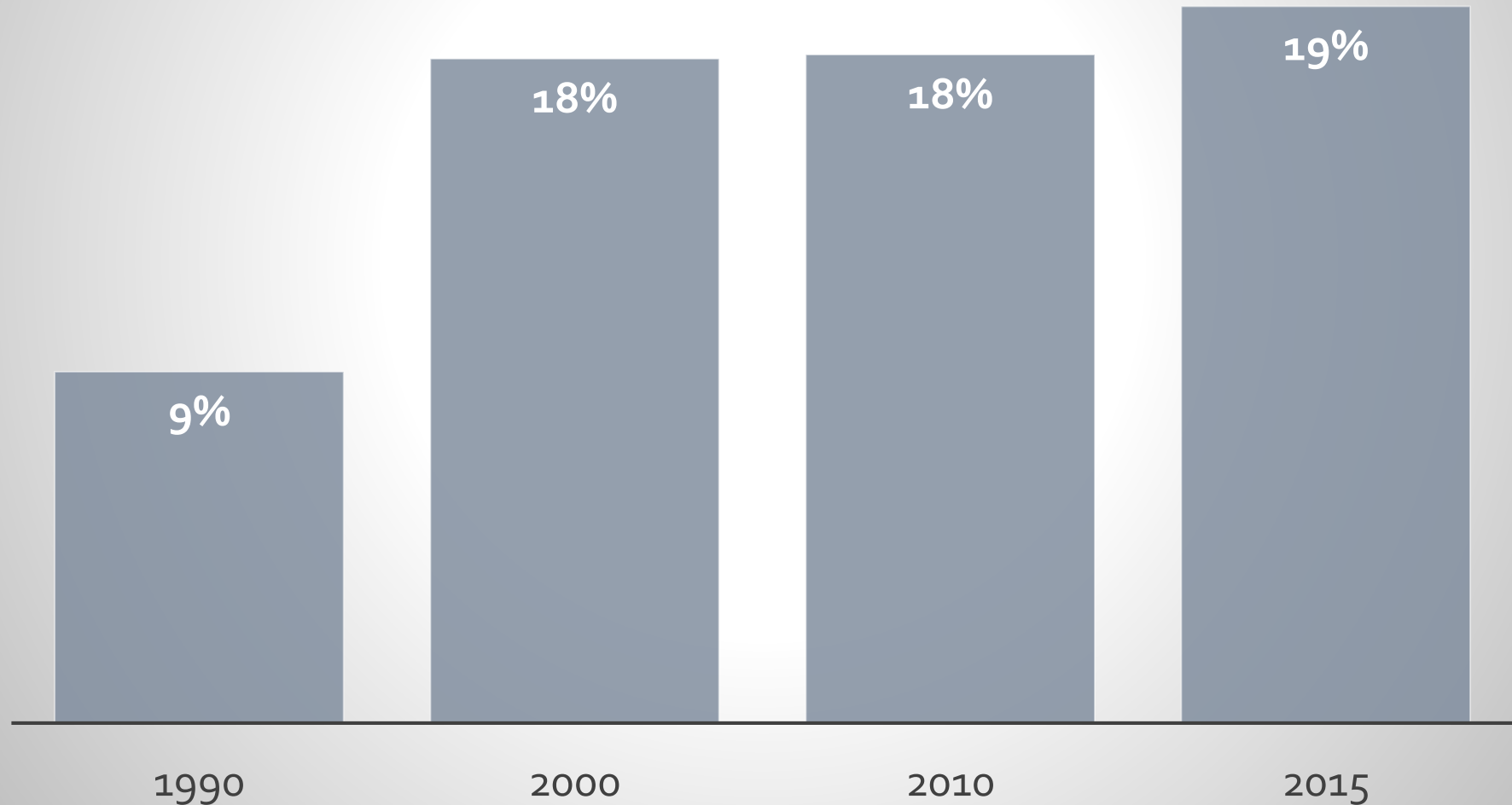




Same-sex couples: Children

% Raising Children Among Same-sex Couples, by year

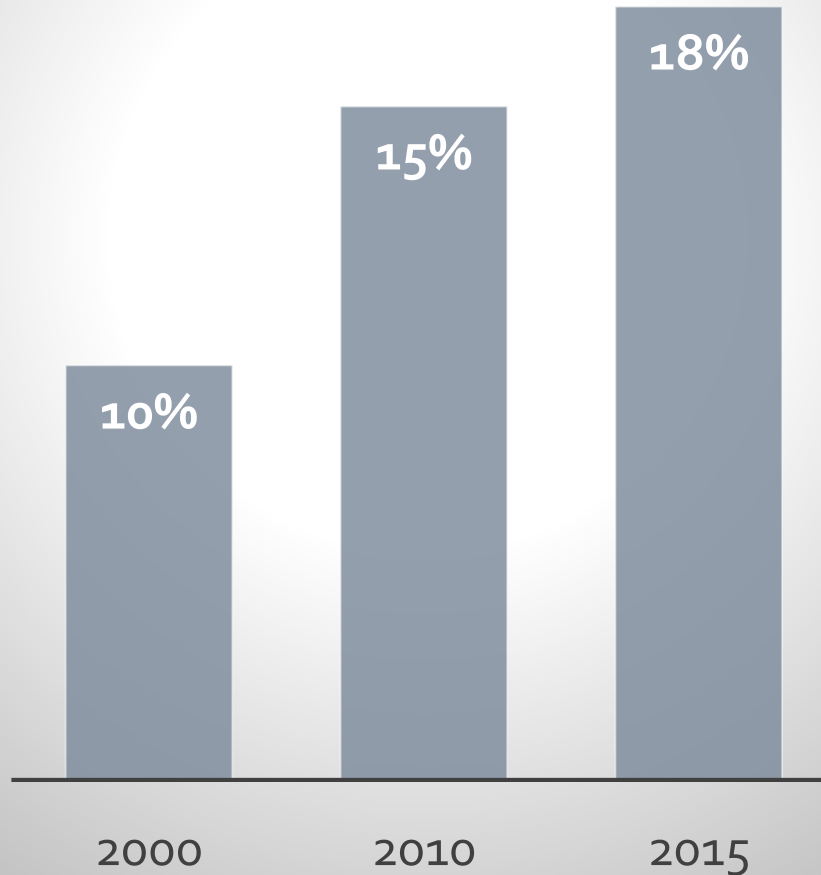
1990, 2000, 2010 Decennial Census
2015 American Community Survey



Same-sex couples: Adoption

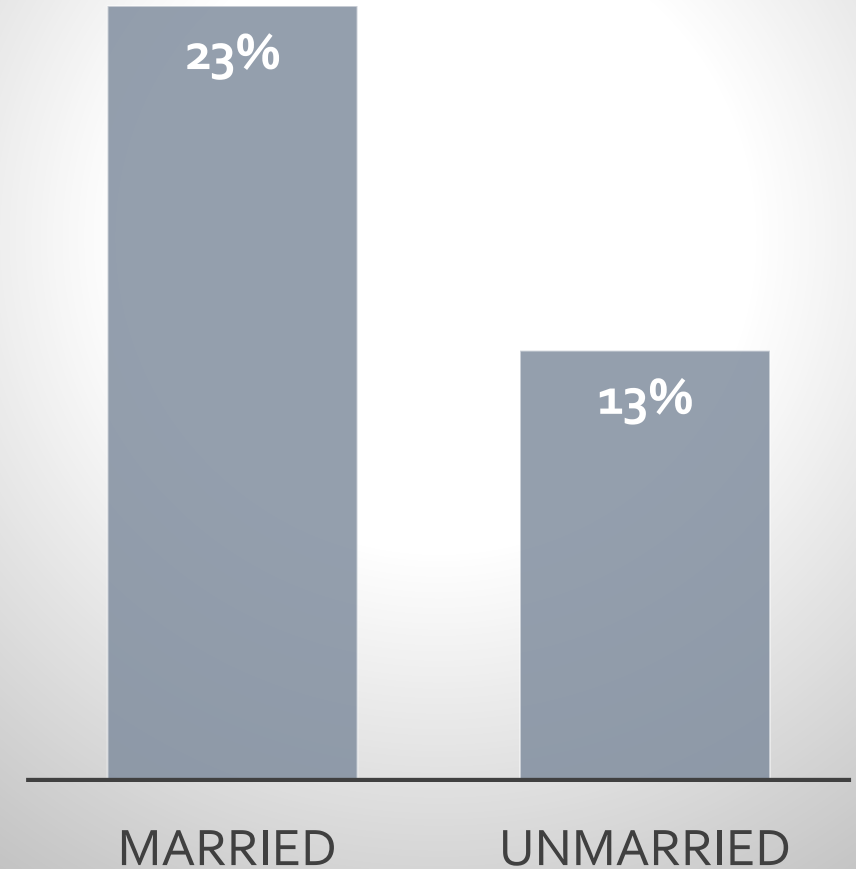
% Raising Adopted Children, Among Same-sex Couples Raising Children Under Age 18

2000 Decennial Census
2010, 2015 American Community Survey



% Raising Adopted Children, Among Same-sex Couples Raising Children Under Age 18, by marital status

2015 American Community Survey

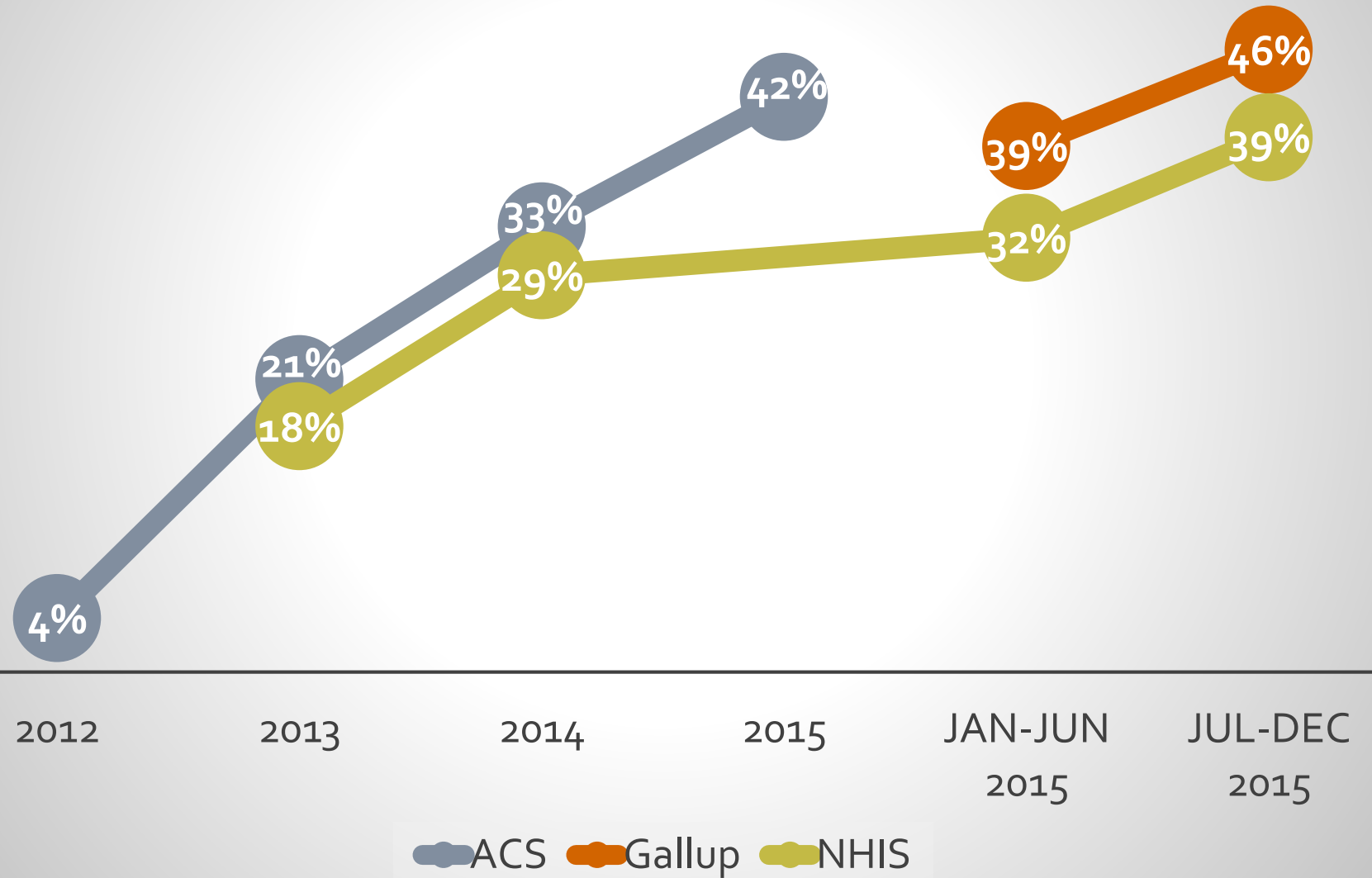




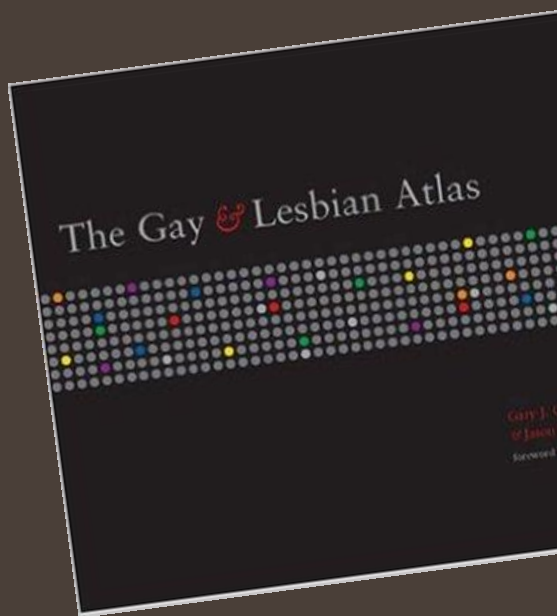
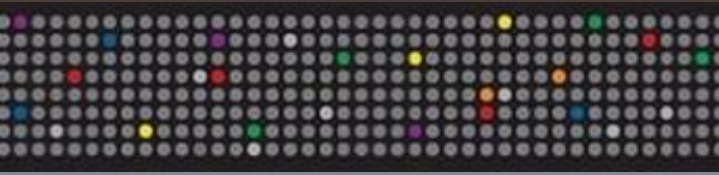
Marriage

% Married Among Same-sex Couples

2012-2015 American Community Survey
2013-2015 National Health Interview Survey

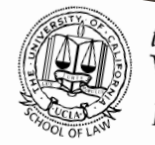


Dissemination: Scholarly



How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender?

by Gary J. Gates, Williams Distinguished Scholar



the William INSTITUTE

April 2011

Executive Summary

Increasing numbers of population-based surveys in the United States and across the world include questions that allow for an estimate of the size of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) population. This research brief discusses challenges associated with collecting better information about the LGBT community and reviews eleven recent US and international surveys that ask sexual orientation or gender identity questions. The brief includes with estimates of the size of the LGBT population in the United States.

Key findings from the ...



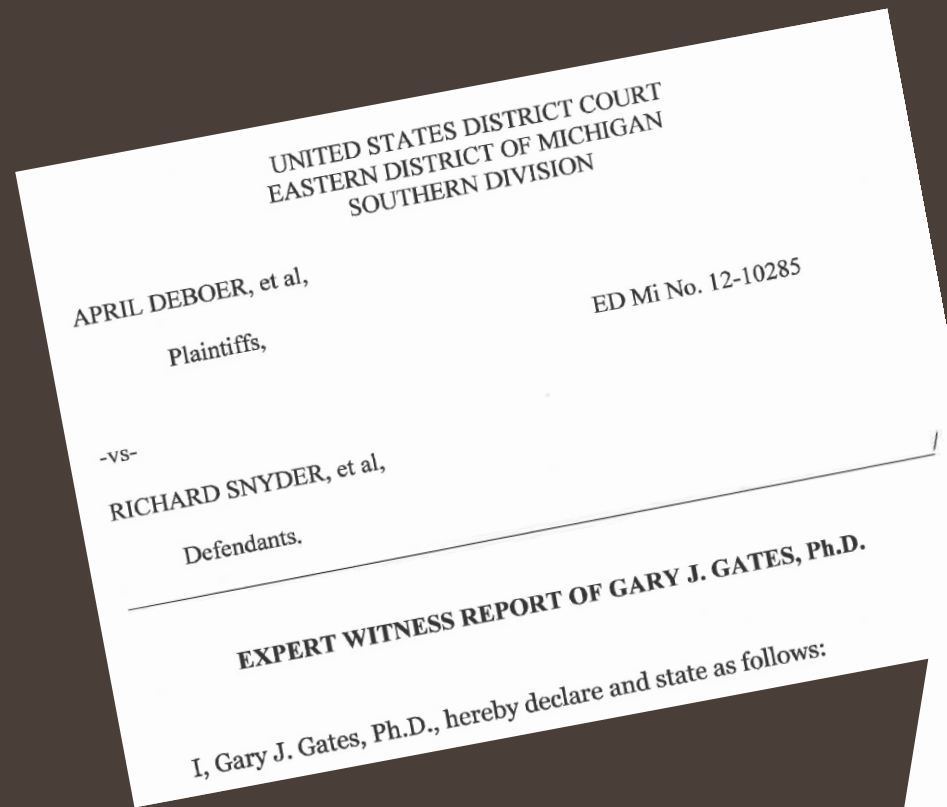
Gary Gates

Retired
LGBT demography
Verified email at law.ucla.edu - [Homepage](#)
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Title	Add	More	1-20	Cited by	Year
<input type="checkbox"/>	Demographics of the gay and lesbian population in the United States: Evidence from available systematic data sources			D Black, G Gates, S Sanders, L Taylor Demography 37 (2), 139-154	655	2000
<input type="checkbox"/>	How many people are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender?			GJ Gates	507	2011
<input type="checkbox"/>	Technology and tolerance: The importance of diversity to high-technology growth			R Florida, G Gates Research in Urban Policy 9 (1), 199-219	416	2003
<input type="checkbox"/>	The gay & lesbian atlas			GJ Gates, J Ost The Urban Institute	346	2004
<input type="checkbox"/>	Why do gay men live in San Francisco?			D Black, G Gates, S Sanders, L Taylor Journal of Urban Economics 51 (1), 54-76	197	2002

Dissemination: Courts & Legislatures

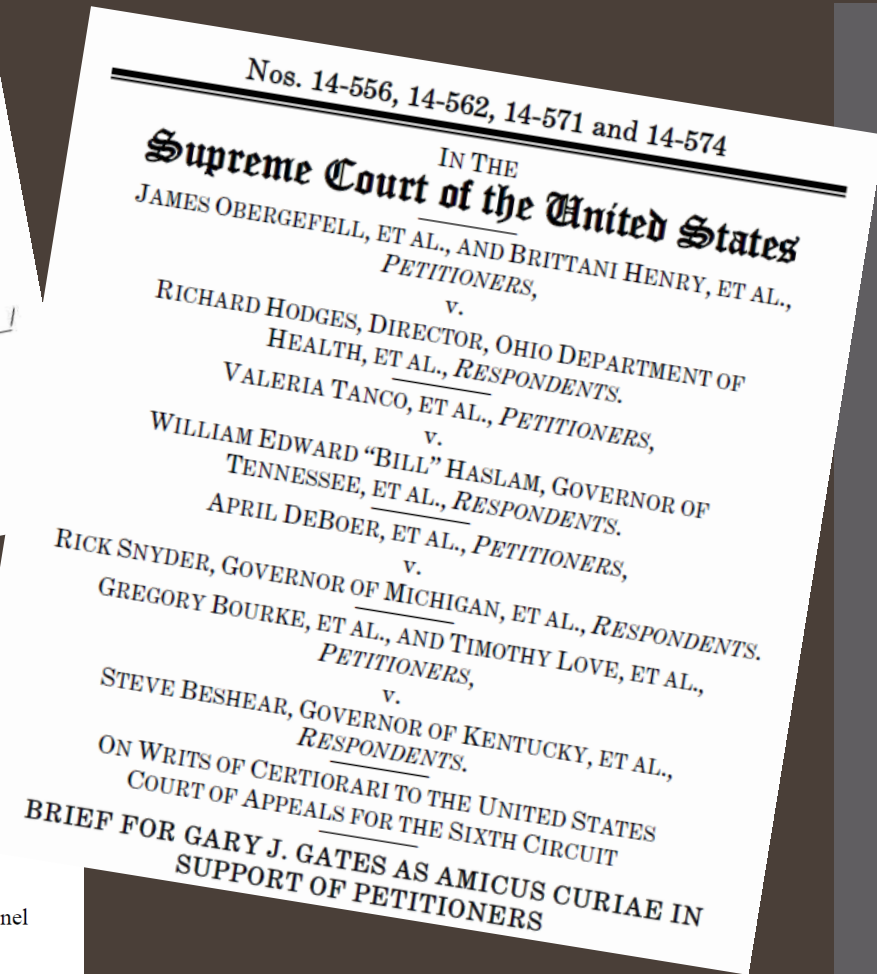


Gates DADT Testimony: Page 1

Testimony on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" by Gary J. Gates
Friday, 18 July 2008

Submitted to: U.S. House of Representatives, Armed Services Committee, Military Personnel
Subcommittee

I am a demographer and Senior Research Fellow at the Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law and Public Policy, UCLA School of Law. Prior to taking my position at the Williams Institute three years ago, I served as a Research Associate at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. I have studied the geographic, economic, and demographic characteristics of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) population for more



Dissemination: Media

The Washington Post

Gay people count, so why not count them correctly?

By Gary J. Gates April 8, 2011

Back in the 1960s, pioneering gay activists found an obscure passage from a 1948 book written by prominent sex researcher Alfred Kinsey that read, "10 percent of the males are more or less exclusively homosexual . . . for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55." They used that quote to claim that 10 percent of the population was gay, even though Kinsey's study was not designed to make a population-based estimate.

The 10 percent figure was less about science and more about the very existence of a gay community.

The motivation politics. In the





The New York Times

Parenting by Gays More Common in the South, Census Shows

By SABRINA TAVERNISE JAN. 16, 2011



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Being gay in this Southern city was once a lonely existence. Most people kept their sexuality to themselves, and they were reminded of the dangers of being openly gay when a gay church was burned in the 1980s. These days, there are slight changes that enable

RELATED COVERAGE
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Census

TOPICS > ARTS

Though Acceptance for Gay Americans Is Growing, Discrimination Persists

June 13, 2013 at 12:00 AM EDT



A new survey by the Pew Research Center offers a complex view of what it's like to be an LGBT American. The survey found that while 92 percent of LGBT Americans say society is more accepting, 53 percent say they still face discrimination. Ray Suarez talks with Paul Taylor, co-author of the survey, and Gary Gates of UCLA.

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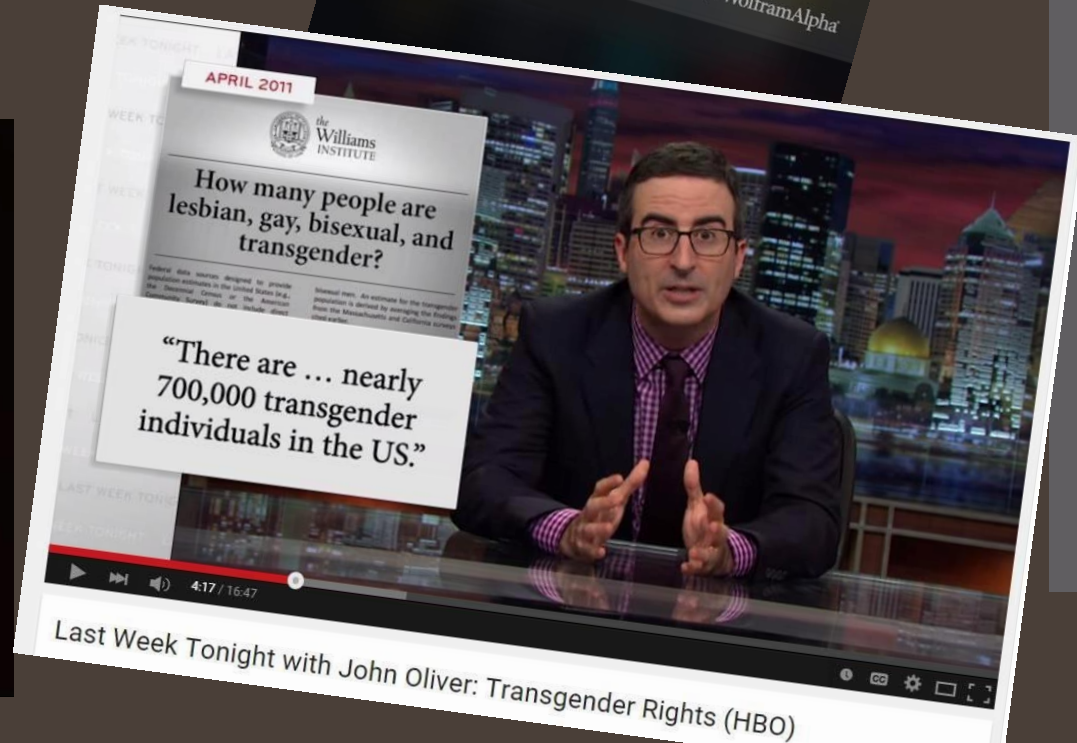
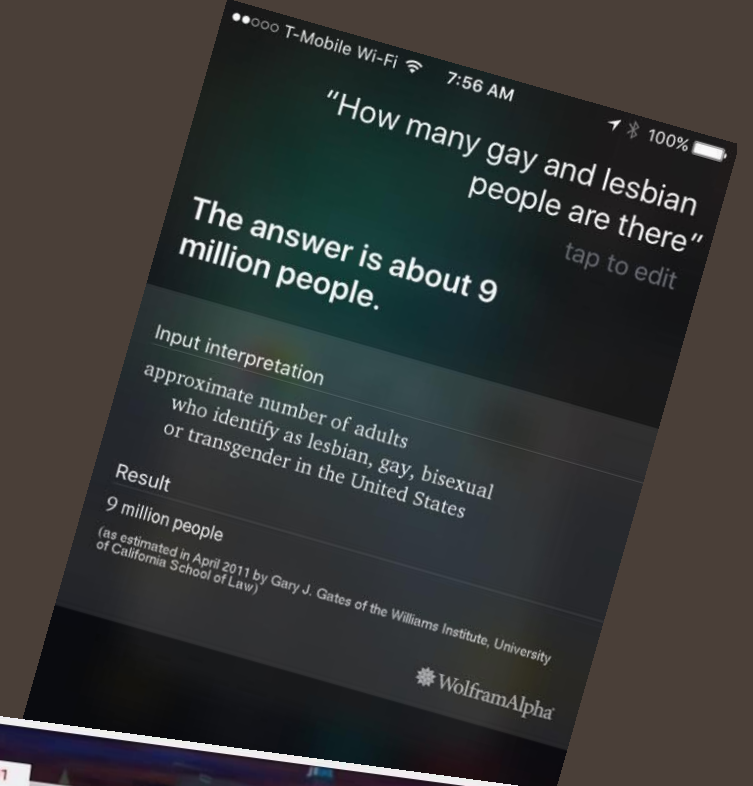
MORE VIDEO

- 'Prairie Home' gets a new companion
- This casting director likes you for your idiosyncrasies
- The candidates' flaws are a laughing matter for Seth Meyers



COMMENTS

Zeitgeist



Academic activism



Letter to the editors and advisory editors of *Social Science Research*

As researchers and scholars, many of whom with extensive experience in quantitative and qualitative research in family structures and child outcomes, we write to raise serious concerns about the most recent issue of *Social Science Research* and the set of papers focused on parenting by lesbians and gay men. In this regard, we have particular concern about Mark Regnerus' paper entitled "How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study."

LGBT parenting is a highly politicized topic. While the presence of a vibrant and controversial public debate should in no way censor scholarship, it should compel the academy to hold scholarship around that topic to our most rigorous standards. We are very concerned that these standards were not upheld in this issue or with this paper, given the apparently expedited process of publication and the decision to publish commentaries on the paper by scholars who were directly involved with the study and have limited experience in LGBT parenting research. We therefore encourage you to take the following steps:

Sociologists and Family Studies Scholars

Silke Aisenbrey, PhD	Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Yeshiva University
Katherine R. Allen, PhD	Professor of Human Development, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Eric Anderson, PhD	Professor of Sports Medicine, University of Winchester
Nielan Barnes, PhD	Associate Professor of Sociology, California State University, Long Beach
Amanda K. Baumle, PhD	Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Houston
Debbie Becher	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, Columbia University
Mary Bernstein, PhD	Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut
Natalie Boero, PhD	Associate Professor of Sociology, San Jose State University
H.M.W. Bos, PhD	Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Amsterdam
Lisa D Brush, PhD	Professor of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
Neal Caren	Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Mary Ann Clawson, PhD	Professor of Sociology, Wesleyan University
Dan Clawson, PhD	Professor of Sociology, University of Massachusetts Amherst
Philip Cohen, PhD	Professor of Sociology, University of Maryland
D'Lane Compton, PhD	Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of New Orleans
Shelley J. Correll, PhD	Professor of Sociology, Stanford University
David H. Demo, PhD	Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Catherine Donovan PhD	Professor of Social Relations, University of Sunderland
Sinikka Elliott, PhD	Assistant Professor of Sociology, North Carolina State University
Louis Edgar Esparza, PhD	Assistant Professor of Sociology, California State University, Los Angeles
Laurie Essig, PhD	Associate Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies, Middlebury College
Myra Marx Ferree, PhD	Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Tina Fetner, PhD	Associate Professor of Sociology, McMaster University
Jessica Fields, PhD	Associate Professor of Sociology and Sexuality Studies, San Francisco State University

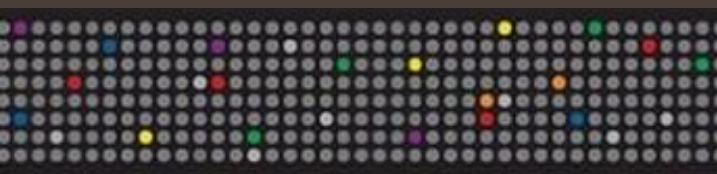


How different are the adult children of parents who have same-sex relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study

Mark Regnerus

Department of Sociology and Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station A1700, Austin, TX 78712-0118, United States

- Methodological flaws
- Review deficiencies
 - “Critical” commentaries from a co-PI and project consultant
 - Unprecedented speed of review
 - 2 of 3 peer reviewers were paid consultants to the project



DeBoer v.
Snyder:
Social science
on trial



- First marriage trial since California's Prop 8
- Expert testimony from social scientists on both sides focused largely on same-sex parenting research
- Significant testimony on the topic of "no difference" regarding kids raised by same-sex v. different-sex couples

Political v. Scholarly Framing of Research

Political: Assertion
Scholarly: Explanation



Political: Provocation
Scholarly: Causation





Regnerus perspective

- Simplify literature to assessment of difference
 - *The 'no differences' paradigm suggests that children from same-sex families display no notable disadvantages when compared to children from other family forms.*
- Design methods to enhance difference
 - *My analytical interest is in maximizing the sample size of Groups 2 and 3 (respondents with a parent who reported a same-sex sexual relationship).*
- Provocation in findings
 - Respondents who indicated their parent had a SS sexual relationship were more likely to have been sexually abused



Rosenfeld perspective

- Emphasize explanation for difference
 - *Studies of family structure and children's outcomes nearly universally find at least a modest advantage for children raised by their married biological parents. The question that has bedeviled researchers, and that remains essentially unresolved, is why.*
- Emphasize importance of causality
 - *Five years with the same family structure at the same address is long enough to imply that the child's primary school career through Grade 4, and most of the child's primary school career through Grade 8, are likely to have been undertaken within the family structure reported to the census in 2000.*



Political discourse

- Can/should motivate scholarship but is ill-suited as a theoretical or methodological framework
- Reviewing research with obvious political implications
 - Become familiar with political discourse associated with the issue
 - Be wary of analyses that rely too heavily on political rather than scholarly frameworks



The ruling

The Court finds Rosenfeld's testimony to be highly credible and gives it great weight. His research convincingly shows that children of same-sex couples do just as well in school as the children of heterosexual married couples, and that same-sex couples are just as stable as heterosexual couples. The Court notes that the testimony of Brodzinsky and Rosenfeld is in line

Although Regnerus touted the NFSS as one of the few studies to use a large representative pool of participants drawn from a random population-based sample, other sociological and demographic experts, including Rosenfeld and Gates, heavily criticized the study on several grounds. First, it failed to measure the adult outcomes of children who were

on such couples' children. The testimony of Gates, whom the Court also found to be a highly credible witness, showed the magnitude of this effect by noting that 5,300 children in Michigan are currently being raised by same-sex couples.



The ruling

The Court finds Regnerus's testimony entirely unbelievable and not worthy of serious consideration. The evidence adduced at trial demonstrated that his 2012 "study" was hastily concocted at the behest of a third-party funder, which found it "essential that the necessary data be gathered to settle the question in the forum of public debate about what kinds of family arrangement are best for society" and which "was confident that the traditional understanding of marriage will be vindicated by this study." See Pls.' Motion in limine to Exclude Testimony of Mark Regnerus, Ex. 9. In the funder's view, "the future of the institution of marriage at this moment is very uncertain" and "proper research" was needed to counter the many studies showing no differences in child outcomes. Id. The funder also stated that "this is a project where



The ruling

had a “romantic relationship with someone of the same sex” for any length of time. Whatever Regnerus may have found in this “study,” he certainly cannot purport to have undertaken a scholarly research effort to compare the outcomes of children raised by same-sex couples with those of children raised by heterosexual couples. It is no wonder that the NFSS has been widely and severely criticized by other scholars, and that Regnerus’s own sociology department at the University of Texas has distanced itself from the NFSS in particular and Dr. Regnerus’s views in general and reaffirmed the aforementioned APA position statement.

The reason

