

Methodology

Pew Research Center worked with PSB Insights to conduct 30 in-depth interviews with 15 men and 15 women who are raising children younger than 18 with a same-sex spouse or partner. The interviews were conducted online from Nov. 4 to Nov. 25, 2024.

Each interview lasted about one hour and was led by an experienced interviewer. Interviewers used a discussion guide that was developed by Pew Research Center in conjunction with PSB Insights and was reviewed by an Institutional Review Board. Participants were asked the same set of core questions, and occasionally the interviewers asked follow-up questions to understand their responses. The interviews were conducted over a secure online research platform with video and audio capabilities.

Participants were from 16 states representing all four regions of the United States: Northeast, South, Midwest and West. They ranged in age from mid-20s to mid-60s, and we heard from a mix of White, Black, Hispanic, Asian and multiracial participants. Almost all of the participants were married; some were living with their partner but not married.

Participants were recruited by RRU Global through targeted email outreach among their panel of qualified candidates and through connections with potential participants through LGBTQ networks and LGBTQ parent groups via social media. All participants were paid for their time.

Participants had to meet the following criteria to be eligible: they are 18 years of age or older, identify as LGBTQ and are married to or living with a same-sex spouse or partner, and they are jointly raising a child age 17 or younger living in their household at least 50% of the time. They also had to have access to the internet and a device with a working webcam. Transgender adults were eligible to participate if they have a same-sex spouse or partner and children under age 18. The final sample did not include any transgender participants.

In order to ensure a diverse mix of participants among all who qualified, the research team also collected demographic information such as household income, education level, rurality, ethnicity and race.

Screening questionnaire

The following questions were used to determine whether respondents qualified to participate in an interview:

1A. Do you, or does anyone you live with, work for any of the following industries?
(READ EACH. RANDOMIZE WITH EACH RESPONDENT.)

	Yes	No	Refuse
A. A marketing research or consulting firm or the marketing department of any company	_____	_____	_____
B. An advertising or public relations agency or advertising or public relations department of any company	_____	_____	_____
C. Local or federal government	_____	_____	_____
D. A media company, such as a TV/radio station, newspaper, online news or political commentary site/blog	_____	_____	_____
E. Health care	_____	_____	_____
F. Manufacturing	_____	_____	_____

TERMINATE ANY RESPONDENT THAT SAYS “YES” TO ‘A’ OR ‘B’ OR ‘D’

1B. Have you ever participated in a marketing research focus group or one-on-one interview?

- Yes..... [] **ASK Q1C**
- No..... [] **SKIP TO Q2A**

1C. And when was the last time you participated? **(READ EACH SECTION):**

- Within the last month..... [] **TERMINATE**
- 1-3 months ago..... [] **TERMINATE**
- 3-6 months ago [] CONTINUE
- 6-12 months ago [] CONTINUE
- Over 12 months ago [] CONTINUE

DO NOT RECRUIT RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN RESEARCH IN PAST 3 MONTHS

1D. What was the topic or topics of discussion? **(RECORD)**

2. Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman or in some other way? (ASK UNAIDED; READ LIST, IF NEEDED)

Man..... [] CONTINUE
 Woman [] CONTINUE
 Some other way (specify)_____ [] CONTINUE UNTIL Q4A THEN **TERMINATE**

RECRUIT N16 MEN AND N16 WOMEN

- 3A/B. And for classification purposes, may I have your age please? (IF HESITATES) Are you... (READ LIST)

_____ Under 18 [] **TERMINATE**
 ACTUAL AGE 18-29 [] CONTINUE
 30-49 [] CONTINUE
 50-64 [] CONTINUE
 65 or older [] CONTINUE

RECORD ACTUAL AGE AS Q3A AND CODE IN AGE BUCKET AS Q3B

- 4A/B. In which state do you currently live? (RECORD RESPONSE)

TERMINATE IF INDIVIDUAL IS LIVING IN NEBRASKA OR ALABAMA **AND** AGE 18 OR YOUNGER
TERMINATE IF INDIVIDUAL IS LIVING IN MISSISSIPPI **AND** AGE 20 OR YOUNGER

CENSUS REGION CODE FOR TRACKING

ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT THE BEST POSSIBLE MIX OF EACH REGION

- **NORTHEAST:** CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT
- **MIDWEST:** IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI
- **SOUTH:** AL, AR, DC, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV
- **WEST:** AK, AZ, CA, CO, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY

RECORD ACTUAL STATE AS Q4A AND CODE CENSUS REGION Q4B

- 4C. Which of the following best describes the community in which you live? (READ LIST)

Urban [] CONTINUE
 Suburban [] CONTINUE
 Rural [] CONTINUE
 Don't know [] CONTINUE

RECRUIT A MINIMUM OF N4 THAT SELECT 'Rural' OR 'Suburban' IN Q4C AND THE FOLLOWING STATES IN Q4A: AL, AK, AR, FL, GA, ID, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, ME, MS, MT, NE, NC, ND, OH, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, WV, WY

5. Which of the following best represents how you think of yourself? (**ROTATE ORDER**)

- Gay or lesbian [] CONTINUE
 Straight, that is not gay or lesbian [] **TERMINATE**
 Bisexual [] CONTINUE
 I use a different term (specify) _____ [] **HOLD FOR TEAM REVIEW**
 I'm not sure [] **TERMINATE**

(READ TO PARTICIPANT) One of the goals of this research study is to understand the relationship between people within a household and how they make decisions as a household. Thus, we'd now like to know more about who lives in your household with you.

6A. Which of these best describes you?

- Married [] CONTINUE
 Living with a partner (including in a domestic partnership) [] CONTINUE
 Neither married nor living with a partner [] **TERMINATE**

6B. Thinking about your spouse or partner, do they describe themselves as a man, a woman or in some other way? (**ASK UNAIDED; READ LIST, IF NEEDED**)

- Man [] IF Q2 IS 'MAN', CONTINUE
 Woman [] IF Q2 IS 'WOMAN', CONTINUE
 Some other way (specify) _____ [] **TERMINATE**

PAUSE AT THIS POINT AND CHECK IF THE GENDER IN Q2 = THE GENDER OF A ROMANTIC PARTNER IN Q6B

ENSURE THAT YOU RECRUIT N3-6 WHO ARE IN A ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP AND LIVING TOGETHER BUT NOT MARRIED

7. Are you the parent or guardian of any children, including any stepchildren, under age 18?

- Yes, one [] CONTINUE
 Yes, more than one [] CONTINUE
 No [] **TERMINATE**

8. [**IF ONE:** Does your child; **IF MORE THAN ONE:** Does at least one of your children] younger than 18 spend at least half of the time living with you?

- Yes []
 No [] **TERMINATE**
 Don't know [] **TERMINATE**

IF PARTICIPANT IS IN A SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIP BUT DOES NOT HAVE A CHILD LIVING AT HOME, TERMINATE

IF PARTICIPANT IS IN A SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIP AND HAS A CHILD LIVING AT HOME, CONTINUE TO SCRIPT BELOW

9. **IF ONE CHILD:** How old is your child?

IF MORE THAN ONE: How many children do you have in the following age groups?

FOR ONE CHILD RECORD ACTUAL AGE AS Q9A AND CODE IN AGE BUCKET AS Q9B:

ACTUAL AGE _____

MORE THAN ONE CHILD/CODED RESPONSE FOR ONE CHILD:

0 to 1 years old __[#]

2 to 4 years old __[#]

5 to 12 years old [#]

13 to 17 years old [#]

RECRUIT A BEST-EFFORTS MIX OF CHILD AGES

(READ TO PARTICIPANT) Thank you sharing your responses thus far. I want to share with you now that this is a study about parents who are in same-gender relationships who are currently raising a child and how they make decisions in their household. We want to make sure that we are hearing from parents with a variety of different experiences and these next questions are to ensure we hear from multiple perspectives.

10. **[IF ONE CHILD:** Is your child under age 18 who lives with you; **IF MORE THAN ONE:** Are any of your children under age 18 who live with you] at least half the time from a previous opposite-sex partner, either yours or your spouse/partner's?

Yes **[IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD: Yes, all]**.....[]

[IF MORE THAN ONE CHILD: Yes, some].....[]

No..... []

RECRUIT MINIMUM N5 WHO SELECT "No"

(READ TO PARTICIPANT) And finally, we have a few more demographic questions to ensure a good mix in who we're speaking to:

11. Are you of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban?

(DO NOT READ LIST)

Yes[]

No[]

Don't know[]

12. Which of the following describes your race or origin? You can select as many as apply.
(RECORD UP TO FOUR IN ORDER MENTIONED, BUT DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL)

White.....[]
 Black, African or African American.....[]
 Asian or Asian American[]
 American Indian or Alaska Native.....[]
 Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian.....[]
 Some other race, please specify _____.....[]

RECRUIT BEST POSSIBLE MIX AS CLOSE TO NATIONALLY REPRESENTATIVE AS POSSIBLE

13. Which, if any, best describes your Employment Status? (READ LIST; MAY SELECT MULTIPLE)

Work full time for pay.....[]
 Work part time for pay.....[]
 Not currently working for pay.....[]
 Student (full or part time).....[]
 Unable to work due to disability.....[]
 Retired.....[]
 Other (please record) _____.....[] **HOLD FOR TEAM REVIEW**

14. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received? (DO NOT READ LIST)

A. Less than high school (Grades 1-8 or no formal schooling).....[]
 B. High school incomplete (Grades 9-11 or Grade 12 with **NO** diploma).....[]
 C. High school graduate (Grade 12 with diploma or GED certificate).....[]
 D. Some college, no degree (include some community college).....[]
 E. Two-year associate degree from college or university[]
 F. Four-year college or university degree/Bachelor's degree (e.g., BS, BA, AB).....[]
 G. Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree.....[]
 H. Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree (e.g., MA, MS, PhD, MD, JD, graduate school).....[]
 I. Don't know/Refused.....[]

RECRUIT A MIX OF SOME WHO DON'T HAVE AT LEAST A BACHELOR'S DEGREE AND SOME WHO HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR GREATER.

15. Last year, that is 2023, which of the following best represents your annual pre-tax total family *household income*?

- Less than \$10,000.....[]
 \$10,000 or more but less than \$20,000.....[]
 \$20,000 or more but less than \$30,000.....[]
 \$30,000 or more but less than \$40,000.....[]
 \$40,000 or more but less than \$50,000.....[]
 \$50,000 or more but less than \$75,000.....[]
 \$35,000 or more but less than \$50,000.....[]
 \$50,000 or more but less than \$75,000.....[]
 \$75,000 or more but less than \$100,000.....[]
 \$100,000 or more but less than \$150,000.....[]
 \$150,000 or more.....[]
 Refused or Don't Know.....[]

RECRUIT A MIX

(READ TO PARTICIPANT) Based on your responses so far, you may be a good fit for this study. I have just a few more questions for you regarding computer usage.

- T1.** Do you have daily access to a computer or mobile phone with *high-speed internet access*?
 Yes.....[] CONTINUE
 No.....[] **TERMINATE**
- T2.** Does your computer or mobile phone have access to a *working webcam*?
 Yes.....[] CONTINUE
 No.....[] **TERMINATE**
- 16.** Where do you usually go to learn about things that interest you or to learn about things that are going on in the world? [**RECORD OPEN-END RESPONSE AS VERBATIM AS POSSIBLE**]

NOTE: TERMINATE AND TALLY ANY RESPONDENTS WHO ARE NOT FLUENT ENOUGH IN ENGLISH TO SPEAK AND WRITE IT OR APPEAR UNWILLING TO DISCUSS THEIR THOUGHTS/OPINIONS. PLEASE DO NOT INVITE ANY RESPONDENT WHO DOES NOT FIT THIS DESCRIPTION

Analysis

Center researchers reviewed the audio recordings and transcripts of each interview, creating a coding scheme based on the content to help identify key quotations and themes for inclusion in this essay. After the coding scheme was established, three researchers coded a selection of transcripts independently, then discussed the application of codes in each interview to ensure that the coding scheme covered all key themes and was being used similarly across researchers. The coding scheme was modified and refined for accuracy and clarity. The remaining transcripts were then divided among the researchers and coded independently.

After all transcripts were coded, codes were reviewed to determine larger themes and coverage for each topic. Some codes and quotations are not included due to infrequency and to preserve anonymity. Quotations that best represented the common themes were selected to feature in the essay.

Some quotes have been lightly edited for clarity, brevity or to remove identifying details. In this essay, participants are identified as mothers and fathers with a same-sex spouse or partner based on their answers to the screening questionnaire. These words don't necessarily encompass all of the ways in which participants described themselves. Participants' ages are grouped into the following categories to better preserve their anonymity: 20s, 30s, 40s, and ages 50 and older.

The findings are not statistically representative and cannot be extrapolated to wider populations.