Is Same-Sex Marriage in the Best Interests of the Child?

Scientific notes on of the Swiss 2021 "Marriage for All"-Referendum on same-sex marriage, adoption rights for same-sex couples and access to sperm donation for female couples

Dr. Christl Ruth Vonholdt

Abstract

Contrary to popular belief, same-sex attractions are not biologically determined. Spontaneous changes in non-heterosexual attractions are more common than previously thought and individuals with mixed attractions are by far the largest group among the sexual minorities. Also contrary to relentless public remarks, current representative studies give evidence that there are major differences for children growing up with same-sex parents compared to growing up with mother and father. Children with same-sex parents have a significantly higher risk to suffer from emotional, mental and psychosocial problems, including depression and anxiety, compared to children with opposite-sex parents. In addition: Children with married same-sex parents (self-described) fare worse than children with cohabiting same-sex parents.

There is no evidence to believe that minority stress theory can explain these findings.

Children with lesbian parents are more likely to become homosexual themselves. Children with same-sex parents probably have a higher risk of experiencing sexual abuse as a minor.

The legalization of same-sex marriage and with it comprehensive LGBTQ education will give young people the message that the man-woman marriage is nothing special and nothing specifically worth striving for. In light of the fact that human sexuality isn't set in stone, same-sex marriage may have a deeply unsettling and disturbing effect on children's psychosexual and identity development

Introduction

On 26 September 2021 the majority of Swiss voters affirmed their National Council's decision from 2020 to legalize same-sex marriage with adoption rights for same-sex couples and access to assisted reproductive technology (sperm donation) for female couples. Is such a vote in the "best interests of the child"? (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child)

The following article is an extended translated version of a lecture held in August 2021 in German language.

I. Same-sex Attraction is Not Biologically Determined

1. A pivotal argument in the US Supreme Court decision to establish same-sex marriage was that same-sex orientation reflected an "immutable nature". However, this hypothesis is not grounded in science.

After evaluating all scientifically relevant research in the fields of genetics, brain studies, twin studies and hormone studies – a total of almost one hundred sources – the scientific researchers Lawrence Mayer and Paul McHugh come to the conclusion (2016): "The understanding of sexual orientation as an innate, biologically fixed property of human beings – the idea that people are 'born that way' – is not supported by scientific evidence."[1]

The most **extensive genetic study** to date was published in 2019 with nearly 500,000 participants, men and women. It shows that genetic influences play only a small role in the development of homosexual attractions. Individually experienced environmental factors and life experiences of a person play the dominant role.[2] The researchers write: „It is *not* possible to predict or identify someone's sexual behavior or sexual orientation from their DNA… and knowing someone's genetic information allows us to guess their sexual behavior just about as well as guessing with no genetic information at all."[3]

Representative twin studies confirm:[4] Genetic influences are small. In addition, all genetic influences are indirect, comparable to an innate tendency to react very sensitively to the social environment. Overall, biological factors[5] – in the sense of predisposition – can possibly lead to a greater openness to homosexual development. However, they do not determine this development.

Individually experienced social-environment factors have the greatest influence. Here too, there is no factor that would determine development. These influences include:

- relationship dynamics in the relationship of the child to the parents, especially early deficits and wounds in attachment
- sexual abuse
- sexual conditioning by childhood experiences
- furthermore: feminist-political lifestyle choices.[6]

2. Sexual orientation is not set in stone – spontaneous changes in non-heterosexual attractions are more common than previously thought

New long-term studies indicate that spontaneous changes in non-heterosexual attractions are more common than previously thought. One speaks here of the fluidity of sexual orientation. Often such changes have to do with new experiences and or new living conditions. But they again emphasize the fact that same-sex feelings are not simply innate.

In the scientific German journal „Zeitschrift für Sexualforschung" it says: „The view that sexual orientation is fixed and unalterable has recently been challenged. (…) …individuals may experience transitions in sexual orientation throughout their lives. Sexual orientation is viewed

[1] Mayer, Lawrence S., McHugh, Paul R., Sexuality and Gender. Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences, Fall 2016, p. 7. https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/part-one-sexual-orientation-sexuality-and-gender

[2] Ganna, Andrea et al., Large-scale GWAS reveals insights into the genetic architecture of same-sex sexual behavior. Science 365, 882, 2019. https://geneticsexbehavior.info/what-we-found/

[3] Ganna, A., (2019) Emphasis added. For a summary and analysis of the study see: Sullins, P., The gay gene myth has been exploded. https://mercatornet.com/the-gay-gene-myth-has-been-exploded/24683/

[4] For example the Finnish study, 2008: https://www.dijg.de/homosexualitaet/wissenschaftliche-studien/zwillingsstudie-genetischer-einfluss/

[5] These may include gender-atypical personality traits.

[6] Rosik, Ch., Guidelines for the Praxis of Sexual Attraction Fluidity Exploration in Therapy. Journal of Human Sexuality, Vol. 9, 2018, p. 6.

as continually evolving out of an individual's sexual and emotional experiences, social interactions, and the influence of the cultural context."[7]

The sex researcher and self-identifying lesbian psychologist Lisa Diamond, ascertains: „Arguments based on the immutability of sexual orientation are unscientific, given what we now know from longitudinal, population-based studies of naturally occurring changes in the same-sex attractions of some individuals over time."[8] Accordingly, 25% to 75% of all persons with *non*-heterosexual attraction experience changes in their sexual attraction over the course of their life. In most cases, this is done in the direction of heterosexuality.[9]

Again, Diamond asserts: "The existing body of international research assessing sexual attractions, behaviors, and identities among representative samples of adolescents and adults shows that sexual orientation is not a static and categorical trait. Rather, same-sex sexuality shows substantial fluidity in both men and women."[10]

Robin Savin-Williams, psychologist and LGBT activist recognizes: "The **instability** of same-sex romantic attraction and behavior presents a dilemma for sex researchers who portray **non-heterosexuality** as a stable trait of individuals."[11] Heterosexual orientation is, furthermore, not set in stone. However, it is far more stable than any non-heterosexual orientation.

3. Individuals with "non-exclusive", i.e. mixed or "bisexual" attraction (those who have both heterosexual and homosexual attractions) are by far the largest group among the sexual minorities – it is not the group with exclusively homosexual attraction.

Extensive data show: among sexual minorities, the group of persons with "mixed attractions", i.e. "bisexuals" – those who experience both heterosexual and homosexual attraction (often not equally half and half, but in differing proportions) – is significantly larger than the group of those with exclusively same-sex attractions.

Lisa Diamond writes about sexual minorities: "Hence, directly contrary to the conventional wisdom that individuals with exclusive same-sex attractions represent the prototypical 'type' of sexual minority individual, and that those with bisexual patterns of attractions are infrequent exceptions, the opposite is true. **Individuals with nonexclusive patterns of attraction are indisputably the 'norm'**, and those with exclusive same-sex attractions are the exception."[12]

If same-sex marriage is to be about "equal rights" for sexual minorities, marriage for people with mixed attractions would first have to be legalized, that is, a marriage for three or more – because mixed attractions are the norm among the sexual minorities. **If marriage is legalized**

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[7] Kinnish, Kelly K., Geschlechtsspezifische Differenzen der Flexibilität der sexuellen Orientierung. Zeitschrift für Sexualforschung 17, 2004, p26-45. English publication: Sex Differences in the Flexibility of Sexual Orientation: A Multidimensional Retrospective Assessment. Arch Sex Behavior, 34,2, 2005, p. 173-183.

[8] Diamond, Lisa M, Rosky, Clifford J., Scrutinizing Immutability. The Journal of Sex Research 53, 2016, p. 363-391.

[9] Diamond, L., Sexual Fluidity in Male and Females, 2016. Current Sexual Health Reports 8, 2016. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/309694747_Sexual_Fluidity_in_Male_and_Females

[10] Diamond. L., Sexual Fluidity in Male and Females, 2016, see above.

[11] Savin-Williams, Ritch C. et al, Prevalence and stability of sexual orientation components during adolescence and young adulthood. Arch. Sex. Behavior, 36, 2007, p. 385-394, 393. Emphasis added. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/17195103/

[12] Diamond, L., in: APA Handbook of Sexuality and Psychology, 2014, p. 633. Emphasis added. In fact, by far the largest group among the sexual minorities is the group that describes itself as "mostly heterosexual".

for two men or two women, why should one refuse marriage for three men or for one man and two women?

This is exactly what is currently happening in the USA: The most important journal of sexual science in the English language has devoted an entire issue to the acceptance of "consensual non-monogamy". The aim is that individuals who live in "relationship anarchy" or polyamory should be recognized as a legally protected sexual minority. They should be protected from "discrimination", "stigma" and "minority stress" and receive the same legal advantages as marriage currently does: family health insurance, housing subsidies, non-discrimination in labor law, tax advantages, etc.[13] In the Netherlands, the four-parent family is propagated: half of the week the child lives with two mothers, the other half of the week with two fathers.[14]

II. The Best Interests of the Child have Priority

1. The "no differences" hypothesis is untenable

The following sentence by Charlotte Patterson (2005) is quoted again and again: „Not a single study has found children of lesbian or gay parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents."[15] Patterson is a psychologist and advisor to the influential American Psychological Association (APA). With this sentence she summarized 59 small studies; her summary was published in a brochure of the APA, which delineated a strategic political course.

But does this quote of Patterson reflect the facts?

The social scientist Loren Marks[16] (and later other scientists) examined her statement and concluded that, while Patterson had collected many small studies, not one of the studies could validly make a general, representative statement about the same-sex family.[17] The vast majority of these studies had significant methodological deficiencies, for example: small, selected, unrepresentative (biased) samples; participants were selected through LGBT networks; same-sex mothers had positive reports about their children; children had positive reports about their same-sex parents (children usually protect their parents); no independent evaluation of children's development (social, psychological, psychosexual); classic questions about child welfare (education, labor market participation, early pregnancies, drug and alcohol consumption) were not asked; a control group was absent or not clearly defined.[18]

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[13] https://link.springer.com/journal/10508/volumes-and-issues/504?utm_source=toc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=toc_10508_50_4&utm_content=etoc_springer_20210619

[14] https://www.zdf.de/gesellschaft/re/arte-re-vier-eltern-und-ein-kind-100.html

[15] Patterson, Charlotte J., 2005: Lesbian and Gay Parenting. Summary of Research Findings. Ed.: American Psychological Association. www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/parenting-full.pdf (APA-Brochure)

[16] Marks, L., Same-Sex Parenting and Children's Outcomes. Social Science Research 41,4, 2012, p. 735-751. https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0049089X12000580 "By their own reports, social researchers examining same-sex parenting have repeatedly selected non-representative, homogeneous samples of privileged lesbian mothers to represent all same-sex parents."

[17] The assertion that if you put together many such small studies together, the result should be representative, is scientifically false.

[18] Marks. Loren, Same-sex parenting and children's outcomes: A closer examination of the American Psychological Association's brief on lesbian and gay parenting, 2012. Most studies had very small samples. A German summary: https://www.dijg.de/homosexualitaet/adoptionsrecht/gleichgeschlechtliche-elternschaft/

Already in 1996 an Australian study was published by Sarantakos.[19] It demonstrated numerous negative psychological and social effects for children with same-sex parents. The study was methodologically flawless: It had a relatively large sample (174), two clearly defined control groups, did not rely primarily on information from parents and examined child development in the psycho-social and school areas using objective criteria.

In the study, three different constellations of parents with 58 children each were compared with one another. Children who lived with married heterosexual couples did better in school – both academically and socially – followed by children who lived with unmarried heterosexual couples. Children who lived with homosexual couples came only in third place. The children of heterosexual, married parents achieved the best results in eight out of nine categories in which teachers were surveyed (including language and math skills, sports and learning behavior). Information about the well-being of the children came primarily from teachers (exams, written work, observations) and only afterwards, if necessary, from the parents and children.

Why did Patterson not include this study in her summary?

In another study (2000), Sarantakos reported higher alcohol and drug consumption among children from same-sex families.[20]

In the only **German study**[21], the statements of 866 adults who lived in same-sex relationships, and with children, were evaluated: 93% of participants were women, only 7% were men. 92% of the children living with them had lived with a biological parent from birth (almost always the mother, who now lived in a lesbian relationship). In addition, 95 children and adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 years (average age 14 years) were interviewed. They were selected for this interview by their same-sex parents. Almost all of the children interviewed (93%) lived with their birth mother. Most of them (78%) came from their mother's previous heterosexual relationship and on average had spent the first 5 years together with mother and father! At the time their rainbow-family was formed, the mean age of the children was 7.6 years. At the time of the interview, 66% had a relationship with their biological father.

Such a study can draw no valid conclusions as to whether children who grow up with same-sex parents fare as well as with mother and father. The 95 children interviewed had spent decisive years of development with their father and mother. And the positive statements made by mothers about their children are understandable, but not useful for making general socio-political decisions that deeply affect child well-being. After the study was published, the then German Justice Minister Zypries claimed: "According to the results of the study, the best interests of the child in rainbow-families are just as safeguarded as in other unions. … Children develop just as well with two mothers or two fathers as in other family forms."[22] The study does not provide any evidence for this sentence.

2. New research based on representative data collections show differences

[19] Sarantakos, Sotirios, Children in three contexts: Family, education, and social development. In: Children Australia, 21, 1996, 23-31.

[20] See Schumm, Walter R., Same-Sex Parenting Research, London 2018, p. 172.

[21] Rupp, „Marina, Die Lebenssituation von Kindern in gleichgeschlechtlichen Lebenspartnerschaften", Köln 2009.

[22] See: https://www.dijg.de/homosexualitaet/adoptionsrecht/kindeswohl-nicht-im-blick-homosexuelle/

New, scientifically valid studies based on representative data sets come to the conclusion that children with same-sex parents are psychologically worse off than children who grow up with opposite-sex parents. Most children with same-sex parents are at least twice as likely to suffer from mental health problems.[23]

Current studies based on representative data sets are summarized below:

a) Michael Rosenfeld (2010)[24] used U.S. census data to compare the school development of children from gay / lesbian families with those from heterosexual families. He concluded that there were no significant differences. It then turned out, however, that there had been a coding error in the classification of the data: more than 40% of the couples coded as same-sex were actually opposite-sex couples.

b) Douglas W. Allen (2012)[25] used the same data set as Rosenfeld, but chose a different methodological approach and new control groups. He found negative effects on children from same-sex families, particularly with regard to school development.

c) Paul Sullins (2015)[26] re-evaluated three studies by Wainright, Russell and Patterson (2004, 2006, 2008)[27] based on the same representative long-term data. Sullins first found that more than half of the samples were incorrectly coded. More than half of the data was coded as "children with same-sex parents"; in reality, they were children with heterosexual parents.[28] There were further inconsistencies in the three studies, e.g. the problem of missing data.[29]

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[23] Sullins, D. Paul, Are Children Harmed with Same-Sex Parents? The Full Mandiner Interview, 2021. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3891386

[24] Rosenfeld, Michael J., Nontraditional Families and Childhood Progress through School. In: Demography 47, 3, 2010. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3000058/
Black, Dan, Gates, Gary et al, The Measurement of Same-Sex Unmarried Partner Couples in the 2000 U.S. Census https://escholarship.org/uc/item/72r1q94b
See: https://www.dijg.de/homosexualitaet/adoptionsrecht/gleichgeschlechtliche-elternschaft/

[25] Allen, Douglas W. et al.: Nontraditional Families and Childhood Progress Through School: A Comment on Rosenfeld. In: Demography, 50,3, 2012, p. 955-961.
See: https://www.dijg.de/homosexualitaet/adoptionsrecht/gleichgeschlechtliche-elternschaft/

[26] Sullins, D. P., The Unexpected Harm of Same-Sex Marriage: A Critical Appraisal, Replication and Re-analysis of Wainright and Patterson's Studies of Adolescents with Same-Sex Parents. In: Brit Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science, 11,2, 2015.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2589129

[27] Wainright, Jennifer L, Russell, Stephen T., Patterson, Charlotte J., Psychosocial adjustment, school outcomes, and romantic relationships of adolescents with same-sex parents. In: Child Dev. 75,6, 2004. Wainright, JL, Patterson, CJ., Delinquency, victimization and substance use among adolescents with female same-sex parents. In: J Fam Psychol 20,3, 2006. Wainright, Patterson, CJ., Peer relations among adolescents with female same-sex parents. In: Dev Psychol, 44,1, 2008.

[28] Sullins, D.,P., The Unexpected Harm of Same-Sex Marriage, 2015.

[29] Schumm, Walter R., Navigating Treacherous Waters. Comprehensive Psychology, 4, 2015. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.2466/17.CP.4.24 "Wainright, Russel and Patterson (2004) had as much as 29.5% missing data, while their later study Wainright & Patterson (2008) had as much as 46.6% missing data. In the case of Wainright et al. (2004, 2006, 2008) the problem of missing data was compounded by the fact that up to 61% (Sullins, 2015) or more of their "same-sex" mother families were heterosexual families, and it is not certain how missing data were distributed among the presumed and actual lesbian parent families." p. 12.

Wainright also disregarded six teenagers who grew up with gay couples in order "to simplify interpretation of results".[30]

After correcting the various data and analysis errors, most of the parameters showed negative effects for children who grew up with parents of the same sex compared to those who grew up with parents of the opposite sex.[31]

Sullins then further evaluated the data, dividing them into not just two but four groups: opposite sex married parents, opposite sex cohabiting parents; same-sex married parents (self-attribution of the couples), same-sex cohabiting parents. The parameters which were examined in the children included: depressive symptoms, unhappiness, negative interpersonal relationships, anxiety, grade point average and the question of whether a girl was ever forced to have sex.

Among the children with parents of the opposite sex, those with married parents fared better than those with cohabiting parents. In the same-sex families it was the other way around: the children with same-sex married parents had almost twice as often depressive symptoms, felt almost three times as likely to feel unhappy, were more anxious, cried much more frequently, and their grade point average was worse – in each case compared with the children with same-sex *cohabiting* parents. All sexually active girls with married same-sex parents (all lesbian families) reported having experienced forced sex by another person. [32]

On average, the children in same-sex married families lived in these families for 10 years; in the same-sex cohabiting families, the children had only lived in these families for an average of 4 years. Sullins**:** "The longer a child has been with same-sex parents, the greater the harm."[33]

d) In another study **Paul Sullins (**also in **2015)** [34] used the representative data from the "National Health Interview Survey" (NHIS, 1997-2013), a standardized survey of 35,000 - 40,000 households carried out in the USA every year. The data analysis showed:

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[30] Wainright et al., 2004, p. 1889. "To simplify interpretation of results we excluded these 6 families [headed by male same-sex couples] from the final sample."

[31] School grades (and school connectedness) were higher for children with same-sex parents than with opposite-sex parents. Looking at this study as well as a new study by Deni Mazrekaj et al. 2020 the most likely reason for the better school grades is selection of sperm donors with high IQ. When lesbian women intentionally conceive a child, they usually select sperm donors with desirable qualities, especially high intelligence. Lesbian couples also often have higher education degrees and more money compared to average opposite-sex couples. They can send their children to better schools, support them with extra books, laptops etc. They may also make it a special aim to promote their children's academic achievement, more than opposite-sex parents do on average. (Mazrekaj, D. et al: School Outcomes of Children Raised by Same-Sex Parents: Evidence from Administrative Panel Data American Sociological Review, 2020, Vol. 85) – However, while school grades were higher for children from married opposite-sex couple than from cohabiting opposite-sex couple, the opposite was true for same-sex couples: Children with married same-sex coupled had lower grades on average compared to children with cohabiting same-sex parents.

[32] Sullins, D. P., The Unexpected Harm of Same-Sex Marriage, 2015. See also footnote 31.

[33] Sullins, D. P., The Unexpected Harm of Same-Sex Marriage 2015.
"Comparing unmarried to (self-described) married same-sex parents, above-average child depressive symptoms rise from 50% to 88%; daily fearfulness or crying rises from 5% to 32% … The longer a child has been with same-sex parents, the greater the harm." (Abstract)

[34] Sullins, D. P., Emotional Problems among Children with Same-Sex Parents: Difference by Definition. British Journal of Education, Society & Behavioural Science 7, 2, 2015, S. 99-120.
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2500537
Sullins, D. P., Are Children Harmed with Same-Sex Parents? The Full Mandiner Interview, 2021.

Compared to parents of the opposite sex, children with parents of the same sex were more than twice as likely to have:

- **emotional problems, including depression and anxiety,**
- **problems in relationships with peers,**
- **difficulty concentrating.**

In the past year, children from same-sex families were twice as likely to have seen a doctor for psychological problems and twice as likely to have taken medication for a psychological problem – compared to children from opposite-sex families.

The data show that social stigmatization (peer rejection, bullying, being picked on) was a factor in the occurrence of emotional distress in the children. However, 19.2% of children from opposite-sex families had experienced social stigma from their peers compared to only 15.1% of children living with same-sex parents.[35]

e) In a very recent study, **Paul Sullins (2021)**[36] evaluated the representative data from the "National Health Interview Survey" (NHIS) from 2008 to 2018. The examined parameters pertain to the psychological, psychosocial and school development of the children (learning difficulties, ADHD, repetition of a grade). Sullins compares children from three types of family (see Figure 1):

- man-woman intact married (biological parents of the child, married to one another),
- same sex cohabiting,
- same-sex married.

The results are summarized in Figure 1[37].

In all areas, children who grow up with their biological married parents, i.e. with father and mother, do significantly better than children with same-sex parents. In six of the seven areas, children with same-sex married parents do substantially worse than children with same-sex cohabiting parents. Incidentally, education and income were higher for same-sex married couples than for mother-father married couples.[38]

According to P. Sullins, other studies also show that children whose same-sex parents are married to each other have more psychological problems than children whose same-sex parents only cohabit. In 2017, Sullins re-evaluated the data of a study by Reczek (2016) and found: Compared to the mother-father family, children whose same-sex parents only cohabit were more than twice as likely to suffer from mental health problems. However, compared to the mother-father family, children whose same-sex parents were married to each other were more than four times as likely to suffer from a mental health problem.[39]

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[35] The difference was not significant.

[36] Sullins, D. P., The Case for Mom and Dad, The Linacre Quarterly, March 2021 https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0024363921989491
Altogether Sullins analyzed data from eight different types of family arrangements, see his original article.

[37] Sullins, D. P., The Case for Mom and Dad, 2021, see above. Sullins, P., Are Children Harmed with Same-Sex Parents?, The Full Mandiner Interview, 2021. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3891386
Figure 1: used with permission.

[38] Sullins, D. P., The Case for Mom and Dad, 2021.

[39] Sullins, D. P., Are Children Harmed with Same-Sex Parents?, 2021.

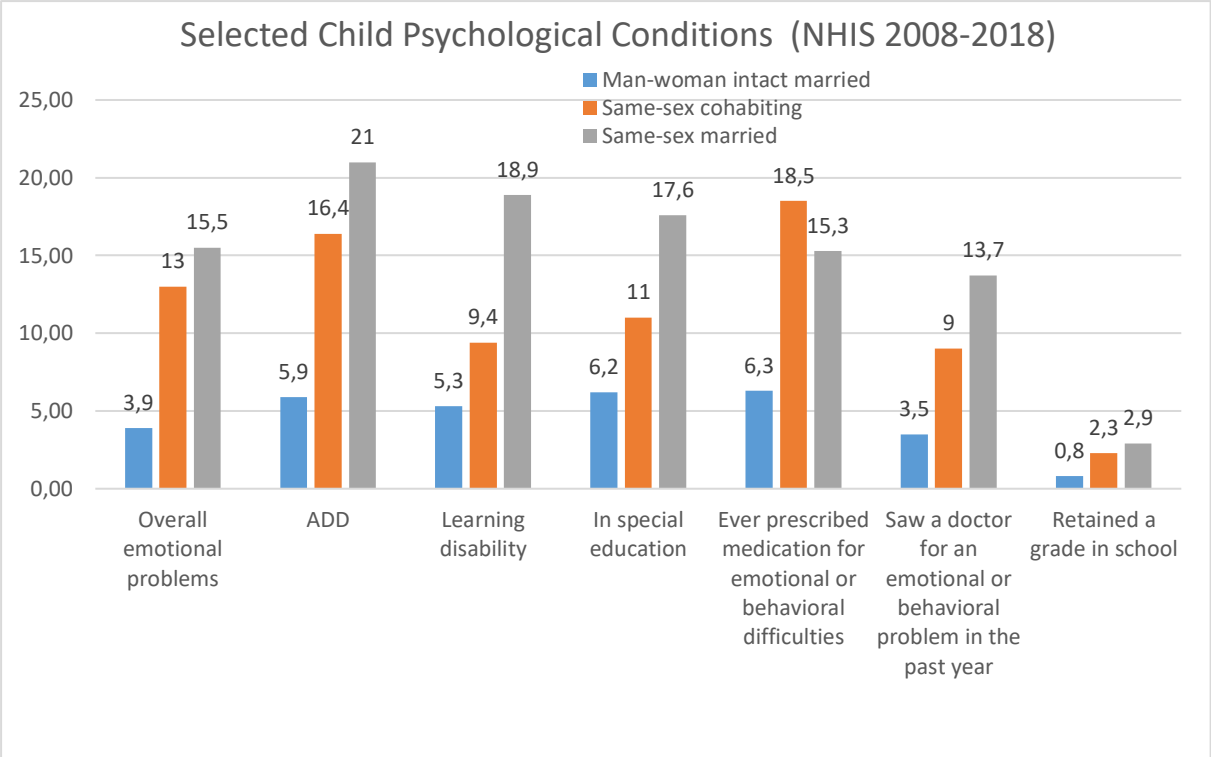


Figure 1. P. Sullins 2020: "Data statistically representative for children (USA): N = 133 (parents same-sex married; N = 292 (parents same-sex cohabiting); N = 51,565 (man-woman intact married). Same-sex categories are significantly different from man-woman intact married at 0.5 or stronger for all measured except retained in school and learning disability with same-sex cohabiting parents."

To sum it up: For most of the parameters surveyed – emotional, mental, psychosocial and school problems – children growing up with same-sex parents are more than twice as likely to suffer from these problems. In addition, children with same-sex married parents are more likely to suffer from these problems than children whose same-sex parents only cohabit. [40]

As a reminder, these data come from representative surveys, which makes methodological problems more unlikely. The expectation that the introduction of same-sex marriage would give children living in these families more psychological security has not been fulfilled. On the contrary.

Why do children from same-sex married families suffer even more than children from same-sex cohabiting families?

Perhaps the reason is that the same-sex married family is even further removed from the natural, biological mother-father family. Same-sex married parents may more strongly convey the goals of the LGBTQ movement: That the same-sex family is equal in every respect to the mother-father family. Perhaps more children in these families were conceived by sperm donation or surrogacy[41] and have never met their father or mother.

[40] Sullins, D. P., The Case for Mom and Dad, 2021.

[41] How surrogacy is being pushed through even though it is still prohibited in many countries is shown in this book: Eva Maria Bachinger, Kind auf Bestellung – Ein Plädoyer für klare Grenzen, 2015.

The family model of the same-sex family expects the child to suffer another injury in addition to the deliberate, structural mother or father deprivation: Children with a single mother or father are allowed to know that someone is missing in the family. They can mourn the loss and deal with it constructively. However, LGBTQ associations claim that the child is not lacking anything. They say that the "alternative" family with two mothers or two fathers is a "complete" family. Anyone who claims otherwise is discriminating against the new type of family. Here the second wrong happens to the child: Not only does it suffer from deprivation of the father or mother – it can neither name nor mourn this loss. This leaves the wound split off and unable to heal. – So adoption law is not about whether homosexual parents can take good care of children, it is about the family structure, about the presence of the feminine and the masculine in the family. Where one of these is tragically and accidentally missing, the child must be able to mourn it. Where this is strategically prevented, the child suffers twice.

In his research, Sullins found that the children from same-sex married families had lived in this family form on the average much longer than the children from same-sex cohabiting families.[42] So the length of the life together may also be a reason why the children in same-sex married families are so much worse off.

3. Adding children to lesbian partnerships increases the instability of these partnerships

Numerous studies show that same-sex partnerships – especially lesbian partnerships – are less stable and last less long than heterosexual partnerships.[43] In addition, a current study by Doug Allen (2020)[44] shows: In a heterosexual partnership, children in the family contribute to the stability of the partnership. In the case of same-sex partnerships the opposite is true: if children live with them, this leads to a further destabilization of the partnership.

There is broad consensus in the social sciences that family stability promotes child well-being. Family instability violates the child's basic need for connection and connectedness.

4. Children fare best with a mother and a father

The intact biological bond facilitates the attachment of the child to its mother and father, which is so important for the child's development. With same-sex parents, however, there is always a fundamental relationship deficit, either a deficit with the missing father or the missing mother. When the child is conceived via sperm donation, the relationship with the father is broken off at the beginning of life, and even later the child often has no relationship with him. The scientific

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[42] Sullins, D. P., The Unexpected Harm, 2015.

[43] See Schumm, W., Same-Sex Parenting Research, 2018, pp.75, chapter 5. - Gay male partnerships may last longer than lesbian partnerships. However, gay male partnerships are usually non-monogamous partnerships. The researchers, themselves a gay couple, D. McWhirter and A. Mattison note: "The expectation for outside sexual activity was the rule for male couples and the exception for heterosexuals. (…) Many couples learn very early in their relationship that ownership of each other sexually can become the greatest internal threat to their staying together." In: McWhirter, D., Mattison, A., The Male Couple, Englewood Cliffs, 1984, p. 3, 256.

[44] Allen, Doug, Stability Rates of Same-Sex Couples: With and Without Children. In: Marriage and Family Review, 56, 1, 2020, 51-71. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/01494929.2019.1630048 The researchers used three nationally representative samples, two from the U.S., one from Canada.
Schumm, W., Same-Sex Parenting Research, London, 2020, p. 87-89.

literature[45] shows that prenatal life is extremely important for the development of the child. In addition, the child's senses are designed for prenatal-postnatal connection. Every break in relationships, including the prenatal one, is associated with conscious or unconscious pain for the child.

More than thirty years of social research shows: Children fare best when they grow up with their two biological parents, father and mother, who are in a committed marital relationship with little potential for conflict. When children grow up in their natural family, they progress through their stages of development more easily, perform better at school, are less prone to emotional disorders and are also better able to cope with their tasks as adults. **Fatherlessness** puts children at increased risk of numerous psychological problems. The children develop fewer social skills, have more self-esteem problems, are more susceptible to stress and have a higher tendency towards addictive behavior. Boys in particular have more aggressive behavior disorders and learning difficulties, are more likely to drop out of school, are more prone to criminal behavior and have more accidents. Girls are at increased risk of teenage pregnancies, depression, social isolation and promiscuity. [46]

Attachment theory researchers K. and K. Grossmann write: „There are clear differences in the parents' influence on the development of their children. (…) Both parents together, father and mother, only they together, lay the foundation for the psychological security, and complement each other in the area of secure attachment as well as in the area of secure exploration.“[47]

5. Further study results

Compared to children living with opposite-sex parents, children with same-sex parents:

- have fewer romantic relationships in adolescence. More seldom can they imagine themselves in a relationship that could conceivably lead to marriage and pregnancy.[48]
- have twice the risk of depression and four times the risk of having suicidal thoughts in adulthood.[49] By the age of 30, women who lived in same-sex families as children are less likely to be married, are less likely to have been in any relationship that lasted longer than 3 years, and are less likely to be pregnant.[50]

6. Adult children from same-sex families are more likely to identify themselves as homosexual

A current, representative longitudinal study (2019) by Nanette Gartrell, psychiatrist and lesbian

[45] Hüther, Gerald, Das Geheimnis der ersten neun Monate. Beltz Verlag 2005.

[46] With extensive literature references: https://acpeds.org/position-statements/homosexual-parenting-a-scientific-analysis

[47] Grossmann, Klaus, Grossmann, Karin: Bindungen, das Gefüge psychischer Sicherheit. 2017

[48] Sullins, D. P., Family Formation and Sexual Identity Development among Children with Same-Sex Parents. Unpublished research, details available by request via sullins@cua.edu

[49] Sullins, D., P., Invisible Victims: Delayed onset Depression among Adults with Same-Sex Parents. In: Depression, Research and Treatment, May 2016. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27313882/

[50] Sullins, P., Family Formation. Unpublished research, see above.

activist, shows:[51]

Almost 69% of 25-year-old girls who grew up with two lesbian women state that they feel "not only attracted to males". 54% have already had homosexual experiences. Almost 30% say they have adopted a lesbian or bisexual identity. In the comparison group with mother-father families, 37.6% of the 25-year-old girls stated that they had already had homosexual experiences; 12.3% have adopted a lesbian or bisexual identity.[52] See Figure 2.

Among the 25-year-old boys who grew up in lesbian families, 33% stated that they had already had homosexual experiences. 10% indicate a gay or bisexual identity. In the comparison group with father-mother families, 8.8% of the 25-year-old boys have already had homosexual experiences. 2.4% have adopted a gay or bisexual identity. See Figure 3.

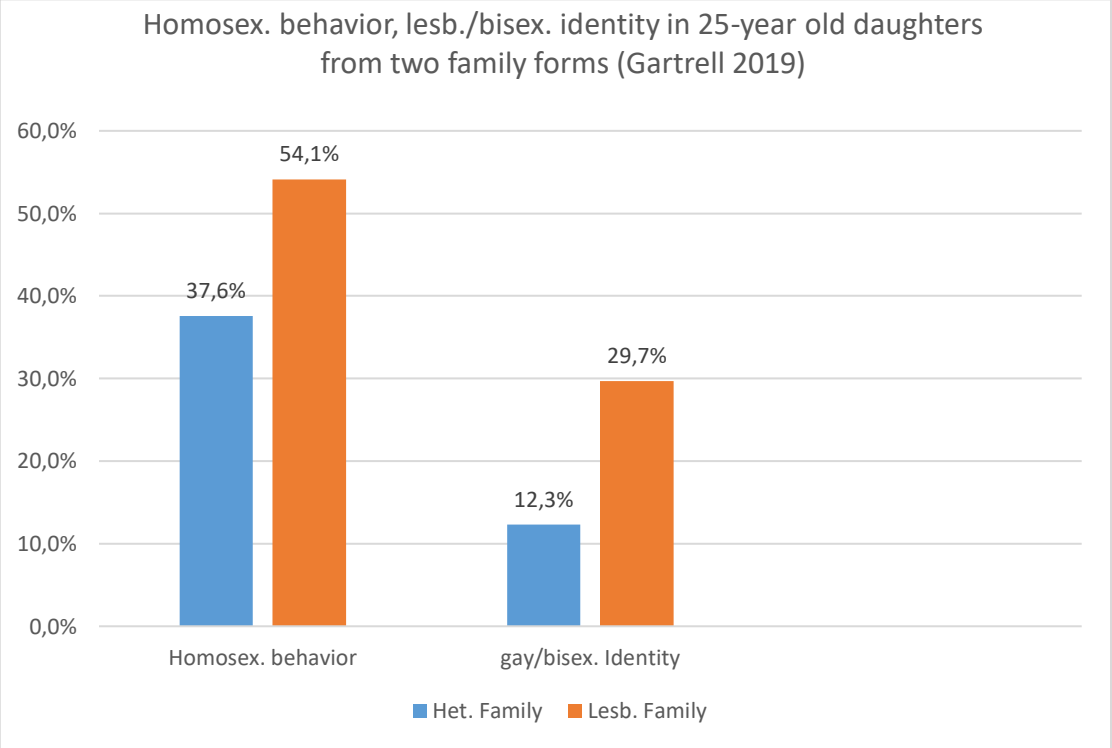


Figure 2. (Gartrell 2019): the situation of girls. Homosexual experiences and lesbian/bisexual identity in adult (25-year-old) girls from two types of families.

Adult children from same-sex families are more likely to describe themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual – is that irrelevant to the children? Extensive data show: Homosexual and bisexual persons are two to three times more likely to have mental health problems compared to the

[51] Gartrell, Nanette., Sexual Identity and Same-Sex Sexual Experiences of Adult Offspring in the U.S. Nat. Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study, Arch Sex Behavior, 48,5, 2019, p. 1495-1503. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30888553/ The figures in both diagrams are taken from table 3 in the published study, p. 1500.

[52] The numbers for girls, even from heterosexual families, seem high. However, new data from a survey in Great Britain show: Only 54% of 18-23 year olds say they are only attracted to those of the opposite sex. "Only half of young exclusively attracted to opposite sex." The Sunday Times 28 Feb 2021. – Additionally, can expect spontaneous changes in the self-identity of some of the young people (see L. Diamond).

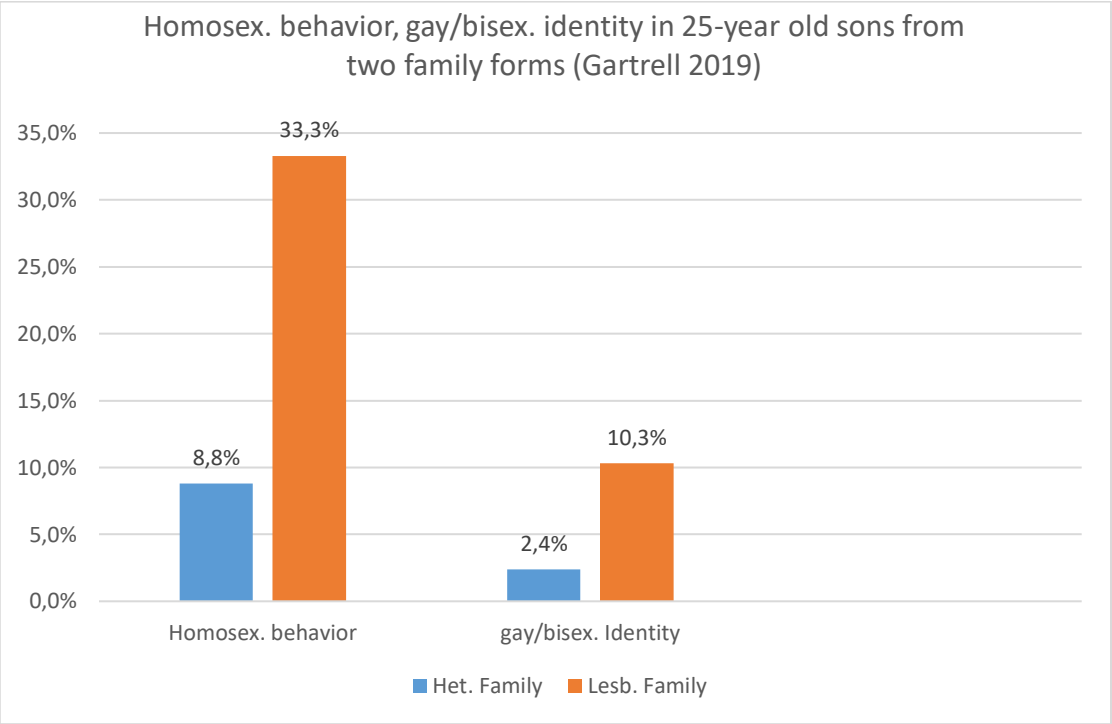


Figure 3. (Gartrell 2019): the situation of boys. Homosexual experiences and lesbian/bisexual identity in adult (25-year-old) boys from two types of families.

general population.[53] These include depression, bipolar disorder, suicidality, drug and alcohol problems. The thesis that these problems are mainly due to a negative social environment has not been proven. On the contrary: a new, comprehensive, representative study shows that **young homosexual and bisexual adults who grew up in the USA – a country with same-sex marriage and other rights for sexual minorities – have more psychological problems and higher suicidality than older homosexual persons who grew up in the US when same-sex marriage did not yet exist.**[54]

7. Are children who grow up in a homosexual environment more likely to be at risk for sexual abuse?

[53] Mayer, L., McHugh, P.: Sexuality and Gender. Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences. Fall 2016. https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/part-two-sexuality-mental-health-outcomes-and-social-stress-sexuality-and-gender

[54] Meyer, I., Minority stress, distress, and suicide attempts in three cohorts of sexual minority adults: A U.S. probability sample. PLOS ONE, 2021 https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0246827
"During the past 50 years there have been marked improvement in the social and legal environment of sexual minorities in the Unites States. Minority stress theory predicts that health of sexual minorities is predicated on the social environment. As the social environment improves, exposure to stress would decline and health outcomes would improve." However, this new study, based on a national probability sample shows the opposite: "Psychological distress and suicide behavior were also not improved, and indeed were worse for the younger than the older cohorts."

The question is of enormous importance. It is all the more strange that there is no representative, robust data on this. There is an urgent need for further research here.[55] A study by Sedlak (2010) comes to the conclusion: Of all family forms, the natural family (two biological parents, father and mother, married) is the one with the lowest risk of child sexual abuse. In all other family forms there is a 5-10 times higher probability of child sexual abuse; same-sex families are not listed as a separate family form in this study.[56]

In an analysis of data from 2005, the family researcher Walter Schumm comes to the conclusion that same-sex foster parents are possibly more often sexually abusive towards their foster children than opposite-sex foster parents.[57] In his re-evaluation of the data of the Wainright study from 2004, Sullins (2015) found that 100% of sexually active girls with same-sex married parents (all lesbian families) reported having experienced forced sex by another person.[58]

a) The cycle of abuse

It has been proven by representative data that LGB adults experienced sexual abuse substantially more often in their own childhood than heterosexual adults.[59] For some people, sexual abuse in childhood and adolescence can be causally related to the development of their same-sex attractions.[60] A non-representative study by Steed (2010) shows: More than 36% of LGB adults had suffered sexual abuse as minors (under 16 years of age). More than half said that these experiences influenced their sexual orientation.[61]

A survey of men and women who took part in a gay pride parade found that 46% of gay men and 22% of lesbian women had suffered homosexual abuse as minors. The mean age at the time of homosexual abuse was 11 years for boys and 13 years for girls. In the heterosexual control group, only 7% of heterosexual men and 1% of heterosexual women had experienced homosexual abuse as minors. A number of the gay men and lesbian women only identified themselves as gay or lesbian after the homosexual abuse.[62]

The cycle of abuse is known from social research: victims of abuse are more likely to become perpetrators, and perpetrators look for new victims. A study by Edwards (2013) on sexual abuse shows that LGBTQ college students were more likely to be sexually abusive towards their same-sex partners if they were previously abused themselves. In the way they abused their partners, they repeated the way they were abused themselves. In the study, there was a significant correlation between a person previously being a victim of abuse and later becoming

[55] For further information see chapter 6 in: Schumm, W., Same-Sex Parenting Research, 2018, p. 91-97, S. 95.

[56] Sedlak, Andrea et al., Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect: Report to Congress, 2010. Cit. from: Schumm, W., 2018, p. 93.

[57] Schumm, W., Same-Sex Parenting Research, 2018, p. 92.

[58] Sullins, P., The Unexpected Harm, 2015. Schumm, W., 2018, p. 94.

[59] See Mayer, L., McHugh, P.: Sexuality and Gender. Findings from the Biological, Psychological, and Social Sciences. Fall 2016. https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/part-two-sexuality-mental-health-outcomes-and-social-stress-sexuality-and-gender

[60] Mayer, L., McHugh, P., 2016.

[61] Steed, Jessica J., Gay man and lesbian women with molestation history. Open Psychology Journal 3, 2010, p. 36-41, cit. from: Schumm, W., Same-Sex Parenting Research, 2018, p. 94.

[62] Tomeo, Marie E., Comparative data of childhood and adolescence molestation in heterosexual and homosexual persons. Arch Sex Behavior, Oct 2001 https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11501300/

a perpetrator of abuse.[63] The family researcher Walter Schumm writes: "It would seem logical that those who are abused sexually as children, might be more likely to abuse sexually as adults", but so far there are no "high-quality studies" on this.[64]

b) Homosexual and bisexual adolescents are more likely to be victims of dating violence

Representative data show that LGB youth, compared to heterosexual youth:

- are sexually active at an earlier age,
- are more likely to have had four or more sexual partners,
- are more likely to be victims of physical and sexual dating violence[65].

Are children who grow up with homosexual parents more likely to be drawn into LGB youth groups? Perhaps because it corresponds more closely to the social environment of same-sex parents and because the children themselves (see above) more often describe themselves as homosexual or bisexual? Does this also expose these children more often to the risk of sexual abuse?

c) Gay men are more likely to live promiscuously

According to the self-description of LGBT groups, sexual monogamy is the exception for men who live as homosexuals. Before the introduction of the registered civil partnership in Germany, Volker Beck, politician and prominent proponent of same-sex marriage said:

"If the hope is to turn homosexuals into faithful marriage partners, then legislators must be and will be disappointed by the forms of relationships which actually exist among homosexuals. (…) Apparently, for many couples 'living out their sexuality with additional partners is an important factor in maintaining their partnership.' (…) A legal regulation would accommodate the wish for involvement at the political level without being able to offer lawmakers behavioural change in terms of decreasing promiscuity in return."[66] Sexual exclusivity seems to pose more of a threat to a gay male partnership, not something that deepens that partnership.[67]

If a child grows up in an environment where sexual fidelity matters little, does that affect the child? Will it be more likely to be exposed to sexual abuse from its environment because sexual boundaries matter less in the gay family? Does it have a different effect on boys living with them than it does on girls?

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[63] Edwards, Katie M. et al, The perpetration of intimate partner violence among LGBTQ youth: The role of minority stress. Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 2013, cit. from: Schumm, W., 2018, p. 95.

[64] See Schumm, W., 2018, p. 97.

[65] CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2009-2019: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/su/pdfs/su6901a4-H.pdf - CDC survey: Interpersonal violence victimization among high school students – Youth Risk behavior Survey, United States, 2019: https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs/pdf/YRBSDataSummaryTrendsReport2019-508.pdf
LGB youth are also more likely to be perpetrators of dating violence: Reuter, Tyson R. et al, An Exploratory study of teen dating violence in sexual minority youth. In: Partner Abuse, vol. 6,1, 2015, p. 8-28. https://psycnet.apa.org/record/2015-09648-002

[66] Beck, Volker, Demokratie und Recht, 1991, S. 446-464, p. 457. Citation abridged.

[67] McWhirter, David P., Mattison, Andrew M., The Male Couple: How Relationships Develop, 1984, p. 256.

d) Lack of clarity in data due to unclear terminology

One reason (among others) for the lack of highly qualified data may be the confusion in technical terminology. The sexual abuse of minors by Catholic priests in the USA is almost always referred to as "pedophilia". However, 81% of the victims were boys and the vast majority of them were between 11 and 17 years old.[68] The term ephebophilia would be more precise, which, according to Wikipedia, is "the homosexual tendency (sexual preference) towards pubescent and post-pubertal boys".[69] In the study by McWhirter and Mattison (1984), almost 61% of gay men had their first sexual contact between the ages of 11 and 14, compared to only 13% of straight men.[70]

8. The minority stress theory is untenable

Proponents of minority stress theory claimed that if a country does not offer same-sex marriage, it leads to minority stress, which in turn causes or increases depression and suicidality among sexual minorities.[71]

In a new representative study, the same author states: Although the societal and social environment in the USA – with same-sex marriage and other LGBT rights – has changed a lot, suicidality and psychological problems in LGB persons are not diminishing. On the contrary: **the frequency of psychological problems and suicidality has continued to increase among young LGB people.**[72] **The hope that the offer of same-sex marriage could relieve homosexual adolescents from their depression and suicidal ideation has not been fulfilled.**

III. Same-sex partnerships, behavioral traits

1. Jealousy and rivalry between two equals

In a study by S. Pelka (2009), the researcher found that 30% of the 30 lesbian couples were jealous of the partner's "maternal bond". Some women suggested sharing the biological bond with the child.[73] An example of this: In 2017, two German lesbian partners sued the European Court of Human Rights. They both wanted to be entered into the child's birth register as parents because they claimed the same biological relationship to the child: one had donated the egg (the sperm donor was anonymous), the other carried the child to term. If they are not both entered

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[68] John Jay Report, 2004. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Jay_Report 81% of the victims were male. Of all the victims, only 22% were younger than 10 years, 51% were between 11 and 14, 27% were between 15 and 17 years old.

[69] https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephebophilie

[70] McWhirter, D., Mattison, A., The Male Couple, 1984, pp. 269, 271.

[71] Meyer, Ilan H., Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: conceptual issues and research evidence. Psychol. Bulletin 129,5, 2003, p. 674-697 https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12956539/

[72] Meyer, Ilan H., Minority stress, distress, and suicide attempts in three cohorts of sexual minority adults: A.U.S. probability sample. March 2021 https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0246827

[73] Pelka, Suzanne, Sharing motherhood: Maternal jealousy among lesbian co-mothers. Journal of Homosexuality 56, 2009, p. 195-217, cit. from: Schumm, W., The Legal recognition of Same-Sex marriage Produces Marital Inequality, 2015 https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/agispt.20171410

in the child's birth register, they argued, that is discrimination against their family form.[74]

2. Violence in same-sex partnerships

Contrary to what is often claimed, the rate of violence in gay partnerships is high. An analysis of 19 studies showed, for example: 48% of homosexual men have experienced some form of violence (including emotional violence) in a current or previous relationship.[75]

3. Promiscuity in gay male couples

See above.

IV. Same-Sex Marriage Will Have to be Taught in Kindergarten and School

Sexual orientation is not set in stone. A recent survey from Great Britain shows: Only 54% of Generation Z (18-23 year olds) describe themselves as exclusively heterosexual. Of the older respondents (older than 56 years) that is 81%. In particular, the number of those reporting mixed attractions has increased.[76] Renowned journalist Matthew Parris, who himself lives as a homosexual, reacted to these survey results: "We shall have many more gay and bisexual people in the century ahead. (…) But we should nail early the misconception that all we're doing is respecting 'what people really are'. By social pressure, classroom pressure, media pressure and, yes, through mere fashion, we are moulding soft clay, not discovering some great shard of internal granite children are born with. The younger the person, the softer the clay."[77]

Through same-sex marriage children and young people will grow up with a new "map" in their minds, namely that marriage between a man and a woman is nothing special, but just one of many dishes on the sexual buffet of life. They may also feel pressured to do more sexual experimentation to discover "who they are". And the possibilities for a society to especially encourage mother-father families is diminished when "marriage" also means homosexual partnerships.

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[74] European Centre for Law and Justice: Two mothers for one child. 4.5.2017. See also: https://eclj.org/family/echr/droits-de-lhomme-et-bricolage-procratif--la-cedh-saisie-par-les-deux--mres--dun-mme-enfant

[75] Buller, Ana Maria et al., Associations between Intimate Partner Violence and Health among Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1001609

[76] "Only half of young exclusively attracted to opposite sex." The Sunday Times 28 Feb 2021.

[77] Parris, Matthew, It's clear, our sexuality Isn't set in stone. The Times, Saturday Feb. 27 2021 "We shall have many more gay and bisexual people in the century ahead. That's fine. And perhaps many more trans people too. Again, fine. But we should nail early the misconception that all we're doing is respecting 'what people really are'. By social pressure, classroom pressure, media pressure and, yes, through mere fashion, we are moulding soft clay, not discovering some great shard of internal granite children are born with. The younger the person, the softer the clay."

V. Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Religion are at Risk

We know from the USA and Great Britain, two countries in which same-sex marriage is legalized: Christian adoption agencies that want to place children only in mother-father families must expect to be forcibly closed.[78] People who argue that children are better taken care of by a mother and a father must expect job losses.[79]

VI. Addendum: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

"In **all** actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, **the best interests of the child** shall be a primary consideration." (Art. 3,1, emphasis added.)

"The child… shall have the right from birth… to know and be cared for by his or her parents." (Article 7,1.)

"States Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis..." (Article 9,3).

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About the author: Christl R. Vonholdt is a doctor for pediatric and adolescent medicine, retired, Germany. Email: kontakt@christl-r-vonholdt.de

[78] https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/last-uk-catholic-adoption-agency-loses-final-appeal-over-homosexual-adoptio/

[79] https://christianconcern.com/news/court-upholds-richard-pages-sacking-for-sharing-christian-views-on-family/