

Values Advocacy Council

Evidence Is Clear: Children are substantially better off when raised by a committed mother and father

For years now there has been an ever-increasing amount of evidence that the healthiest environment in which children may be raised is by their biological parents—a committed mother and a committed father. However, a number of studies have been issued concluding that same-sex parenting is no different in the rearing of children than heterosexual parenting.

An often-quoted study is the American Psychological Association's Public Interest Directorate 1995 statement on homosexual parenting, authored by openly lesbian activist Charlotte Patterson of the University of Virginia: "There is no evidence that lesbians and gay men are unfit to be parents or that psychosocial development among children of gay men or lesbians is compromised in any respect.... Not a single study has found children of gay or lesbian parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents."¹

However, she adds, "research on lesbian and gay parents and their children is still very new and relatively scarce.... Longitudinal studies that follow lesbian and gay families over time are badly needed."² She acknowledges, "Homosexual parenting research has been criticized for using poorly matched or no control groups in designs that call for such controls.... Other criticisms have been that most studies have involved relatively small samples [and] that there have been inadequacies in assessment procedures employed in some studies."³

Robert Lerner and Althea K. Nagai, who conducted a thorough review of homosexual parenting studies, concluded that such research could not be upheld in a court of law. They stated, "We conclude that the methods used in these studies are so flawed that these studies prove nothing. Therefore, they should not be used in legal cases to make any argument about 'homosexual vs. heterosexual' parenting. Their claims have no basis."⁴

Experts agree that studies in support of homosexual parenting are hopelessly flawed. Information concerning the disadvantages to children of same-sex parenting does exist; however, the information is generally ignored, as it does not fit in the "politically correct" agenda.

Difficulties in Social and Academic Adjustment

A 1996 study done by an Australian journal compared the academic and social lives of an equal number of children from three different types of families. The children studied were children of heterosexual cohabiting couples, children of heterosexual married couples and children of homosexual couples. Sotirios Sarantakos, the sociologist who authored the report, found that children of heterosexual married couples did the best of the group in nine of the thirteen academic and social categories measured. The children raised by homosexual couples did worst in those categories. These nine categories were Language, Mathematics, Sports, Sociability, Attitude to School and to Learning, Parent-School Relationship, Sex Identity, School-Related Support (e.g., parent's help with homework), and Parental Aspirations. Sarantakos, who by no means has an anti-homosexual agenda, concluded, "Overall, the study has shown that children of married couples are more likely to do well at school, in academic and social terms, than children of cohabiting heterosexual and homosexual couples."⁵

Gender Orientation and Sexual experimentation

One of the concerns with same-sex parenting is a child of homosexual parents struggling with gender confusion as well as with increased sexual experimentation. A comparison of the number of males and females who have ever practiced homosexuality to the number of children of homosexuals who practice it shows an increased probability that children raised in homosexual homes will become homosexual themselves.

Girls raised in lesbian homes are 4 times as likely to become active lesbians themselves (12% compared to 3% ever having practiced in their lifetime).⁶

Males raised with homosexual father are almost twice as likely to be homosexual in their adult behavior (9% compared to 5% ever having been practiced in a life time).⁷

Also children of homosexual parents are more likely to be encouraged in cross gender behavior.⁸

In the words of Judith Stacey and Timothy J. Biblarz, “The adolescent and young adult girls raised by lesbian mothers appear to have been more sexually adventurous and less chaste.”⁹

Sexual Abuse

Twenty-nine percent “of adult children of homosexual parents” have been sexually molested by that homosexual parent. This, compared with only 0.6 percent of adult children reporting sexual relations with a heterosexual parent, reveals that children of homosexuals are almost 50 times as likely to be sexually molested by a parent as children of heterosexuals.¹⁰

When pedophilia happens it is almost always males who commit it, and approximately 1/3 of these sexual abuse cases are homosexual in nature (men molesting young boys).¹¹

Homosexual men seem to prefer youngest age categories which include males as young as 15.¹²

Seventy-three percent of homosexuals surveyed in 1979 by *The Gay Report*, had at some time had sex with boys 16 to 19 years of age.¹³

Children who are molested by adults of the same gender are more likely to become homosexual. The *Archive of Sexual Behavior* reports: “Forty-six percent of homosexual men and 22 percent of homosexual women reported having been molested by a person of the same gender. This contrasts to only 7 percent of heterosexual men and 1 percent of heterosexual women reporting having been molested by a person of the same gender.”¹⁴

Family Stability

Children raised in two parent homes (one man and one woman) have proven to be better off than children born in other situations. They are more likely to do well academically as well as socially. They are less likely to experience premarital childbearing, illicit drug use, undergo arrest, live in poverty, or have health, emotional or behavioral problems.

The two parent homes of same-sex relationships do not provide this stable structure for raising the children. First, same-sex relationships are not conducive to reproduction. Second, the child misses out on the valuable experience of being raised by a mother and a father that promotes an understanding of the different sexes and gives them the valuable mixed-gender relationship with the people closest to him or her. Third, there is a high level of promiscuity and violence in the homosexual community, not providing a healthy atmosphere in which children may be raised.

The Journal of Sex Research found that the average number of sexual partners that homosexual men had in a lifetime was in the hundreds. But an additional 10.2 to 15.7 percent of the men studied had had between 501-1,000 partners in their lifetime. More than 10 percent reported having had over 1,000 sexual partners in their lifetime.¹⁵

Usually homosexual relationships among men last no more than 2 years.¹⁶

Studies in the Netherlands show that men with steady partners have an average of 8 other casual partners in a year and those without steady partners an average of 22 casual partners.¹⁷ This is compared to 77% of married men and 88% of married women remaining faithful to their spouses.¹⁸

Domestic violence among the homosexual community is higher than in the heterosexual community. One study postulated that “the incidence of domestic violence among gay men is nearly double that in the heterosexual population.”¹⁹

Verbal/emotional/psychological abuse and physical/psychological abuse by female love partners has been reported by a little over half of lesbians in another study.²⁰ Meanwhile women married into traditional families are the most likely to experience the lowest rate of domestic violence.²¹

One should not be surprised by these findings. The homosexual agenda does not accommodate the natural purpose and parameters of marriage but instead seeks to redefine it and ultimately eliminate it. Natural marriage stands as the one witness to the illegitimacy of their relationships.

The purpose of the marriage relationship is to provide a stable and healthy environment for children. The homosexual Agenda is otherwise. Paula Ettlbrick, former legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, has stated, “Being queer is more than setting up house, sleeping with a person of the same gender, and seeking state approval for doing so.... Being queer means pushing the parameters of sex, sexuality, and family, and in the process transforming the very fabric of society.”²²

-- Contributed by Judah Kiley --

For more information about this subject, contact: Values Advocacy Council, 1175 Hillsdale Avenue, San Jose, CA 95118 or call 408. 267. 0800.

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¹ Charlotte J. Patterson, “Lesbian and Gay Parenting,” *American Psychological Association Public Interest Directorate* (1995): 8.

²Ibid.

³Ibid, 2.

⁴Robert Lerner and Althea K. Nagai, *No Basis: What the Studies Don't Tell Us About Same Sex Parenting* (Washington: Ethics and Public Policy Center, 2001): 6.

⁵ Sotirios Sarantakos, “Children in three contexts: Family, education and social development,” *Children Australia*, Vol. 21, No.3, (1996), 23.

⁶ A.M. Johnson et al., “Sexual Lifestyles and HIV Risk,” *Nature* 360 (1992): 410-412; R. Turner, “Landmark French and British Studies Examine Sexual Behavior, including Multiple Partners, Homosexuality,” *Family Planning Perspectives* 25 (1993):91, 92; Fiona L. Tasker and Susan Golombok, “Adults Raised as Children in Lesbian Families,” *Developmental Psychology* 31 (1995): 213.

⁷ ACSF Investigators, “Aids and Sexual Behavior in France,” *Nature* 360 (1992):407-409; J.M. Bailey et al., “Sexual Orientation of Adult Sons of Gay Fathers,” *Developmental Psychology* 31 (1995): 124-129; J.O. G. Billy et al., “The Sexual Behavior Men in the United States,” *Family Planning Perspectives* 25 (1993): 52-60; A.M. Johnson et al., “Sexual Lifestyles and HIV Risk,” *Nature* 360 (1992): 410-412.

⁸ Richard Green et al., “Lesbian Mothers and Their Children: A Comparison with Solo Parent Heterosexual Mothers and Their Children,” *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 15 (1986): 167-184.

⁹ Judith Stacey and Timothy J. Biblarz, “(How) Does the Sexual Orientation of Parents Matter,” *American Sociological Review* 66 (2001): 174, 179.

¹⁰P. Cameron and K. Cameron, “Homosexual Parents,” *Adolescence* 31 (1996): 772.

¹¹Kurt Freund, et al., "Pedophilia and Heterosexuality vs. Homosexuality," *Journal of Sex & Marital Therapy* 10 (1984): 197.

¹²Zebulon A. Silverthorne & Vernon L. Quinsey, "Sexual Partner Age Preferences of Homosexual and Heterosexual Men and Women," 73.

¹³Karla Jay and Allen Young, *The Gay Report: Lesbians and Gay Men Speak Out about Sexual Experiences and Lifestyles* (New York: Summit Books, 1979), 275.

¹⁴Marie, E. Tomeo, et al., "Comparative Data of Childhood and Adolescence Molestation in Heterosexual and Homosexual Persons," *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 30 (2001): 539.

¹⁵Paul Van de Ven et al., "A Comparative Demographic and Sexual Profile of Older Homosexually Active Men," *Journal of Sex Research* 34 (1997): 354.

¹⁶M. Pollak, "Male Homosexuality," in *Western Sexuality: Practice and Precept in Past and Present Times*, ed. P. Ariès and A. Bejin, translated by Anthony Forster (New York, NY: B. Blackwell, 1985), 40-61, cited by Joseph Nicolosi in *Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality* (Northvale, New Jersey: Jason Aronson Inc., 1991), 124, 125.

¹⁷Maria Xiridou, et al., "The contribution of steady and casual partnerships to the incidence of HIV infection among homosexual men in Amsterdam," *AIDS* 17 (2003): 1031.

¹⁸Michael W. Wiederman, "Extramarital Sex: Prevalence and Correlates in a National Survey," *Journal of Sex Research* 34 (1997): 170.

¹⁹D. Island and P. Letellier, *Men Who Beat the Men Who Love Them: Battered Gay Men and Domestic Violence* (New York: Hayworth Press, 1991), 14.

²⁰Gwat Yong Lie and Sabrina Gentlewarrier, "Intimate Violence in Lesbian Relationships: Discussion of Survey Findings and Practice Implications," *Journal of Social Service Research* 15 (1991): 41-59.

²¹"Violence Between Intimates," *Bureau of Justice Statistics Selected Findings*, November 1994, 2.

²²Paula Ettelbrick, quoted in William B. Rubenstein, "Since When Is Marriage a Path to Liberation? Lesbians, Gay Men, and the Law," (New York: The New Press, 1993), 398, 400.

Note: The information in this paper was taken from the Family Research Council's *Getting It Straight: What the Research Shows about Homosexuality*, Co-edited by Peter Sprigg and Timothy Dailey, 2004.