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## **Fact Sheet: Black Same-Sex Couples in the Chicago Metropolitan Area**

The US Census counts 3,954 Black gay and lesbian couples in the Chicago area. This represents 4.7% of all Black same-sex couples in the U.S. Sixteen percent of all same-sex households in the Chicago area are Black same-sex households (i.e. at least one partner is Black).

### **Demographics**

- The average age of individuals in Black same-sex couples was 42.
- Ninety-eight percent of Black male same-sex partners and 96% of Black female same-sex partners were citizens.
- Fifteen percent of men and 14% of women in Black same-sex couples reported having a disability.
- Eighty-one percent of men and 85% of women in Black same-sex couples reported that they spoke English at home. Fifteen percent of men and 10% of women in Black same-sex couples spoke Spanish, while the remainder spoke some other language.
- Four percent of partnered Black men and five percent of partnered Black women in same-sex couples were born outside of the United States.

### **Income**

- The median household income for Black male same-sex couples was \$44,000. The median household income for Black female same-sex couples was \$45,700.
- The median personal income for individuals in Black same-sex couples was \$18,560.

### **Family**

- Fifty-nine percent of Black female same-sex couples and 41% of Black male same-sex couples are raising children.
- Forty-two percent of Black female same-sex couples and 34% of Black male same-sex couples are raising biological children.
- Seventeen percent of Black female same-sex couples and seven percent of Black male same-sex couples are raising nonbiological (fostered or adopted) children.

### **Residence**

- Fifty-seven percent of Black male same-sex couples and 56% of Black female same-sex couples report living in the same residence five years ago.
- Fifty-two percent of Black male same-sex couples and 44% of Black female same-sex couples own their own home.

### **Employment**

- Fifty-nine percent of Black men in same-sex households and 68% of Black women in same-sex households report working full-time. Four percent of Black men in same-sex households and seven percent of Black women in same-sex households work part-time. Thirty-seven percent of men and 24% of women in Black same-sex couples reported not working.
- Sixteen percent of Black men and 16% of Black women in same-sex households work in the public sector.

### **Military Service**

- Fifteen percent of men and four percent of women in Black same-sex couples are military veterans.