

Notes and references for the Ruth Institute brochure, “Children and Same Sex Parenting”

Quotes on the “How would you feel if?” panel:

1. “I experienced the loss of my father as an amputation.” --Jean-Dominique Bunel, 66 year old French humanitarian raised by his mother and her female partner. Interview, **Le Figaro**, January 10, 2013.
2. “I felt it was better to be a gay male, or even a transgender male, that it was to be a little girl growing up. I always felt that I wasn’t lovable because I did not see the men in my life loving women.” --Dawn S., Canadian woman raised by her gay father and a series of his partners. **Jephthah’s Daughters: Innocent Casualties in the War for Family Equality,** edited by Robert Oscar Lopez and Rivka Edelman, (International Children’s Rights Institute: Northridge, CA, 2015) (hereafter, JD) pg. 51.
3. “I just didn’t have a dad there... I filled that gap sexually. From the age of 13 on, I was extremely promiscuous and sleeping with a lot of older men.” --Bobby L., Puerto Rican-Philippine-American man raised by his mother and her female partner. JD pg. 53.
4. “After my parents’ separation, my sister and I began spending every other weekend with my father in the city. He shared a condo with a man who had also left his wife and children. Those weekends were a nightmare for my sister and me. Children are forced to live in a lifestyle they did not choose.” -- Jeremy D., American man whose mother and gay father divorced. JD pg. 75.
5. “Growing up, I always had the feeling of being something unnatural... I had the feeling I was a lab experiment.” --Bronaugh C., American woman created by artificial insemination by her mother and her female partner. JD pg. 79.

Notes to the Table Entries: numbers in parentheses refer to references below.

1. Women: larger number of sex partners (8)
2. Forced to have sex against their will (8)
3. Serious emotional problems (9)
4. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) (9,10)
5. Pleading guilty to a non-minor offense (8)
6. Currently unemployed (8)

7. Learning disabilities (9)
8. Receiving welfare as a child (8)
9. Having an affair while married or cohabiting (8)
10. Not finishing high school (1)
11. Family of origin provided less safety and security (8)
12. Being arrested (8)
13. Difficulty trusting others (8)
14. Being depressed (8)
15. Identifying as something other than exclusively heterosexual (8)
16. Repeating a grade of school (2)

These results cannot be easily explained away. The studies took account of many possible alternative explanations. The studies referenced in parentheses took account of these possible confounding factors:

- Bullying experienced by the child (9,10)
- Parental divorce (8: see note below)
- Relationship or residential instability (1,2,9,10)
- Parental psychological distress (9,10)
- Education and income of the parents (1,2,8,9,10)

References for the Right-hand panel:

Analyses of the methodological flaws in the “no differences” studies (3, 5)

Quotation from Dr. Charlotte Patterson (6)

Quotation from Dr. Mark Regnerus (8)

Dr. Patterson became the author of the American Psychological Association’s 2005 brief stating: “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.” (7)

References:

1. Doug Allen, “High School Graduation Rates among Children of Same Sex Households,” **Review of the Economics of the Household**, 2013.

2. Douglas W. Allen, Catherine Pakaluk & Joseph Price, "Nontraditional Families and Childhood Progress Through School: A Comment on Rosenfeld," **Demography**, November 18, 2012.
3. Robert Lerner and Althea Nagai, "No Basis: What the Studies don't Tell us About Same Sex Parenting," Washington DC: **Marriage Law Project**, 2001.
4. Robert Oscar Lopez and Rivka Edelman, **Jephthah's Daughters: Innocent Casualties in the War for Family "Equality,"** Los Angeles, CA: International Children's Rights Institute, 2015.
5. Loren Marks, "Same Sex Parenting and Children's Outcomes: A Closer Examination of the American Psychological Association's Brief on Lesbian and Gay Parenting," **Social Science Research** 41, 735-751, 2012.
6. Charlotte Patterson, "Families of the Lesbian Baby Boom: Parents' Division of Labor and Children's Adjustment," **Developmental Psychology**, January 1995.
7. Charlotte Patterson, "Lesbian and Gay Parents and Their Children: Summary of Research Findings," **Lesbian and Gay Parenting: American Psychological Association**, 5-22, 2005.
8. Mark Regnerus, "How Different Are the Adult Children of Parents who have Same Sex Relationships? Findings from the New Family Structures Study," **Social Science Research** 41, 752-770, 2012.
9. Paul Sullins, "Emotional Problems among Children with Same Sex Parents: Difference by Definition," **British Journal of Education, Society and Behavioral Science**, February 2015. <http://www.sciencedomain.org/journal-home.php?id=21>
10. Paul Sullins, "Child Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in Same Sex Parent Families in the United States: Prevalence and Comorbidities," **British Journal of Medicine & Medical Research** 6(10), 987-998, 2015.

A note on the study by Mark Regnerus:

The controversy over the Regnerus study concerns the proper interpretation of the category labeled in his tables as "lesbian mother" and "gay father." The young adults were classified into this category if they reported that one of their parents had a same sex relationship while they were growing up.

This categorization was criticized because the children classified as having "lesbian mothers" might also have experienced the divorce or separation of heterosexual parents. Critics argued that the problems attributed to mothers

having a same sex relationship might in fact be due to the disruption of a previous heterosexual relationship.

To fully take this factor into consideration, the table in the Ruth Institute brochure includes only outcomes where the results for children whose mother had ever had a lesbian relationship were significantly different from both married biological parents AND single mothers or step families.

These are variables in Regnerus' Tables 2, 3 and 4, with a carat (^) indicate in the "stepfamily" or "single mother" columns.

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