

Marriage-Supplemental Chapter

Multnomah County issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples between March 3, 2004 and April 20, 2004. Although the licenses were issued by Multnomah County, the ceremony could have occurred in any Oregon county. During this time period, a total of 2,975 certificates to same-sex couples were registered by the Center for Health Statistics. On April 14, 2005, the Oregon Supreme court ruled the same sex marriages as void. The Center for Health Statistics stopped issuing certified copies of the records. (For more information on the legal proceedings see http://www.doj.state.or.us/hot_topics/samesex.shtml).

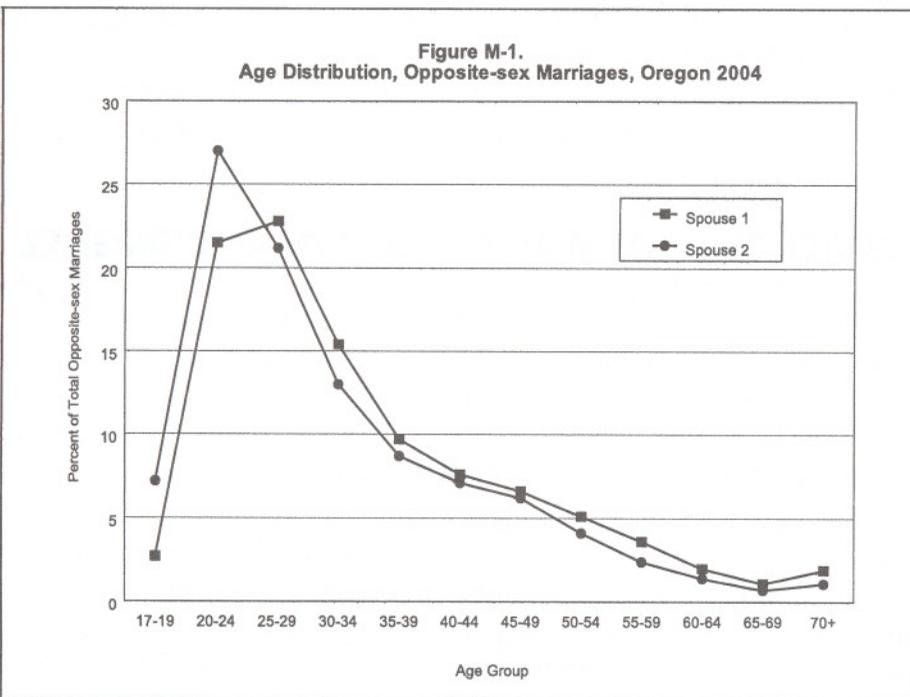
In this supplemental chapter to the 2004 annual report these same-sex marriages are compared to the 25,796 male/female marriages that occurred during 2004. Same-sex marriages represented 10.3 percent of all marriage licenses in 2004. Marriages among same-sex couples were more likely to be between two women; women comprised 70.8 percent of same-sex marriages, nearly two and a half times the number of unions between males.

Differences in characteristics and demographics between same-sex unions and male/female unions exist as well as differences between male/male and female/female unions. These differences are most pronounced in education, age, and residency.

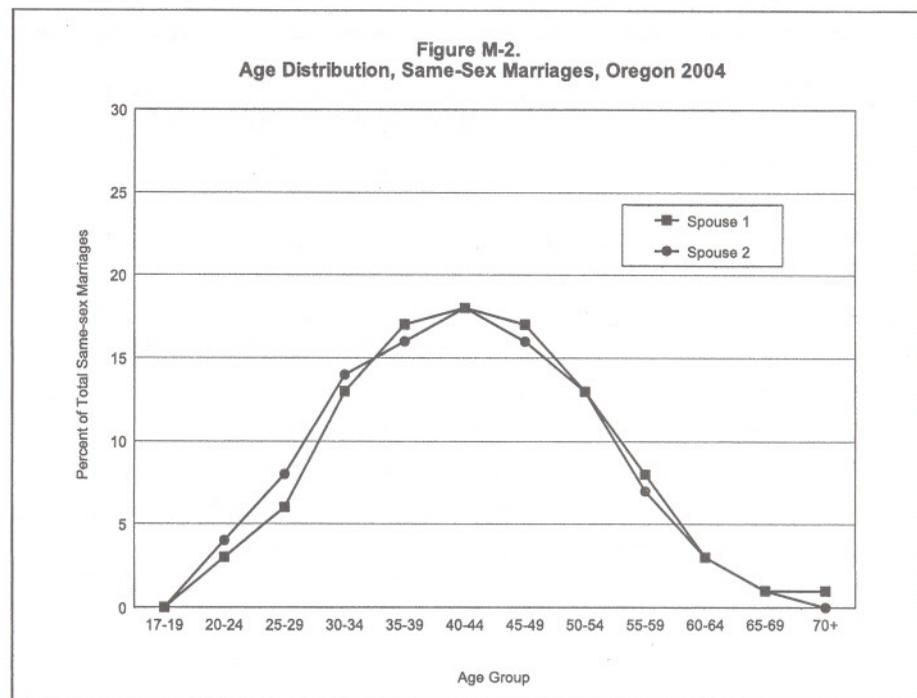
AGE

There is a significant difference in the ages of male/female marriages and same-sex marriages. Male/female marriages

Total Number of Marriages, Oregon, 2004	
Type of Union	Number
Male/Female	25,796
Female/Female	2,106
Male/Male	869



Youngest & Oldest Individuals Married by Type of Union, Oregon, 2004			
	Type of Union		
	M/F	F/F	M/M
Youngest	17	18	18
Oldest	98	79	84



involved younger people with a larger age difference between the spouses. The mean ages for all same-sex marriages, 42.7 for spouse 1 and 41.9 for spouse 2, were nearly ten more years than those of male/female marriages, 34.3 years for the male and 31.8 for the female.

Although spouses in same-sex unions were older than their counterparts, the inter-union age differences were very similar. The mean age difference between spouses in opposite-sex marriages was 4.4 years, for same-sex unions it was 4.1 years. The median age difference for both types of unions was 4 years. An age difference of more than ten years between both spouses was rare in both types of unions; just 9.6% of spouses in male/female marriages had an age difference of over ten years while 14.3% of the spouses in same-sex marriages had a ten year age difference.

RESIDENCE STATE AND COUNTY OF OCCURRENCE

Among male/female marriages, at least one resident from all fifty states chose to make Oregon the destination of their marriage. Among same sex unions, 36 states were represented. Among all unions, the majority of those traveling from out of state were from the four surrounding states (Washington, California, Idaho, and Nevada).

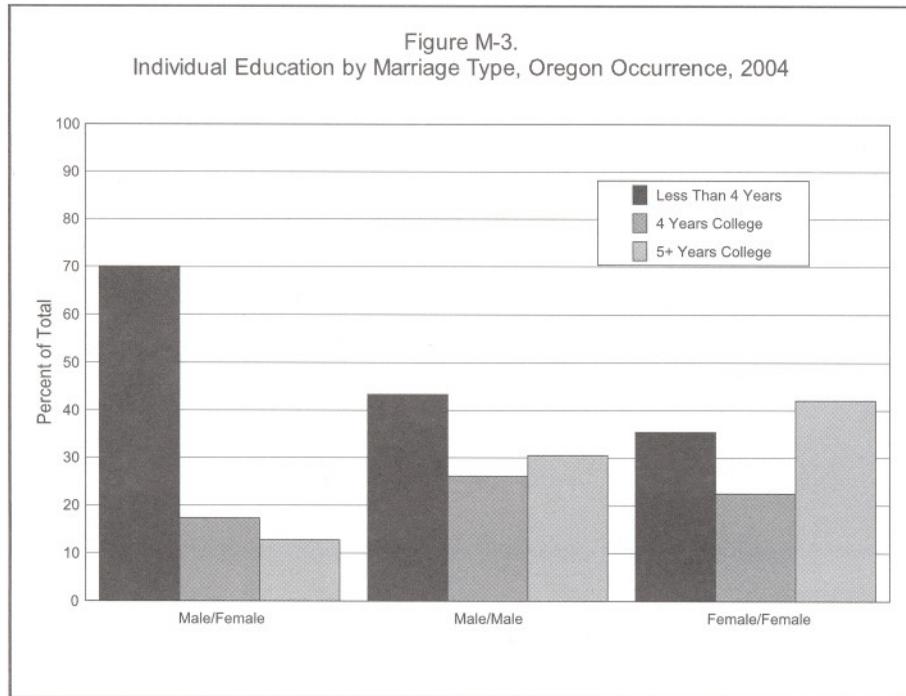
Although the majority of Oregon marriages in 2004 occurred between two residents, the percentage of dual resident unions varied by type of union. Among male/female marriages, both spouses were residents in 86.1 percent of the unions. Residency patterns among same-sex marriages were very similar for male/

male and female/female unions with only 68 percent of all same-sex marriages involving two Oregon residents. The number of same-sex unions in which neither spouse was an Oregon resident was nearly four times higher than male/female marriages (31.3% compared to 8.3%).

Although Multnomah County was the only county to temporarily issue same-sex marriage licenses, once the license was obtained the marriage ceremony could occur in any Oregon county. Same-sex marriages were concentrated in Multnomah County with nearly 94 percent of all these unions; no other single county had over 1.5 percent of the total. Comparatively, male/female marriages were distributed more evenly throughout the state as these licenses can be obtained from every county. Multnomah County accounted for just over 21 percent of the male/female marriages.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

During 2004, differences in education existed between male/female couples and same-sex couples. Same-sex marriage couples had both a higher percentage of college graduates and postgraduates. Female-female marriages were overall the most educated with 64.6% of these marriages involving at least one college graduate. In male-male unions 56.7% contained at least one college graduate while only 30.2% of male/female marriages involved at least one college graduate.



NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

Same-sex marriages were more likely than male-female marriages to be first marriages. Male unions were most likely to be first marriages with 84.8 percent of these individuals reporting this as their first marriage. First marriages for female unions were also relatively high at 74.4 percent, compared to 63 percent for male-female marriages.