

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

“THE REVOLUTION IN PARENTHOOD THE EMERGING GLOBAL CLASH BETWEEN ADULT RIGHTS AND CHILDREN’S NEEDS”

“In Canada, with virtually no debate, the controversial law that brought about same-sex marriage quietly included the provision to erase the term ‘natural parent.’ With that law, the locus of power in defining who a child’s parents are shifts precipitously from civil society to the state, with the consequences as yet unknown.”

“In Spain, after the recent legalization of same-sex marriage the legislature changed the birth certificates for all children in that nation to read ‘Progenitor A’ and ‘Progenitor B’ instead of ‘mother’ and ‘father.’ With that change, the words ‘mother’ and ‘father’ were struck from the first document issued to every newborn by the state. Similar proposals have been made in other jurisdictions that have legalized same-sex marriage.”

“Meanwhile, in India new guidelines on assisted reproductive technology issued in June of 2005 by the Indian Council of Medical Research state that ‘the child born through the use of donor gametes [i.e., sperm or eggs] will not have any right whatsoever to know the identity of the genetic parents.’”

“In recent decades a powerful consensus among social scientists has emerged about the benefits of marriage for children. The New York Times not long ago reported: ‘From a child’s point of view, according to a growing body of social science research, the most supportive household is one with two biological parents in a low-conflict marriage.’”

“Children raised by divorced or never-married parents face an increased risk of living in poverty, failing in school, suffering psychological distress and mental illness, and getting involved in crime. Children raised outside a married family are less likely to graduate from college and achieve high-status jobs. When they grow up, they are more likely to divorce or become unwed parents.”

“In terms of children’s physical health and well-being, marriage is associated with a sharply lower risk of infant mortality, and children living with their own married parents are more physically healthy, on average, than children in other kinds of families. Most tragically, children not living with their own two married parents are at significantly greater risk of child abuse and suicide.”

“Increasing number of people are realizing that marriage has important benefits for children. What many do not know is that there is something about the marriage of a child’s own mother and father (as opposed to a remarriage) that on average brings these

benefits. On many important indicators of child well-being, such as teen pregnancy, educational failure, delinquency, and child abuse, children raised in married stepparent families look more like children of single parents than children raised by their own, married mother and father.”

“More than seventy reputable studies document that an astonishing number -anywhere from one third to one half – of girls with divorced parents report having been molested or sexually abused as children, most often by their mothers’ boyfriends or stepfathers.”

“A separate review of forty-two studies found that ‘the majority of children who were sexually abused...appeared to come from single-parent or reconstituted families.’ Two leading researchers in the field conclude, ‘Living with a stepparent has turned out to be the most powerful predictor of severe child abuse yet.’”

“There have been a number of scholarly reviews of the literature on same-sex parenting. One of the most thorough was prepared by Steven Nock, a sociologist at the University of Virginia, who was asked to submit a brief for a major same-sex marriage case in Canada. After reviewing several hundred studies he concluded that all of the articles ‘contained at least one fatal flaw of design or execution’ and ‘not a single one of those studies was conducted according to general accepted scientific standards of research.’”

(Elizabeth Marquardt, “The Revolution in Parenthood The Emerging Global Clash Between Adult Rights and Children’s Needs,” Institute for American Values, (2006):5,11,19-21)

“NEW POLL SHOWS AT LEAST 5% OF AMERICA’S HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS GAY OR LESBIAN”

“New York, NY – The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, or GLSEN, today announced results from a new national poll on students’ attitudes on sexual orientation. Based on results from the poll, approximately 5% of America’s high school students identify as lesbian or gay, 16% of America’s students have a gay or lesbian family member, and 72% know someone who is gay or lesbian.”

“The national poll conducted by Widmeyer Research and Polling in conjunction with Penn, Schoen & Berland Associates, Inc., asked questions of 9th – 12th grade students across the country about sexual orientation, name-calling, and general attitudes towards lesbian and gay people in schools.”

“The findings suggest that, on average, every classroom in America has at least one student who identifies as lesbian or gay and that a majority of those students know at least one gay or lesbian person, whether it be a teacher, a classmate or a family member,’ noted GLSEN Executive Director Kevin Jennings.”

(Riley Snorton, “New Poll Shows At Least 5% of America’s High School Students Identify as Gay or Lesbian,” GLSEN, October 2004)

“STUDY FINDS NEW EVIDENCE THAT CHILDHOOD FAMILY FACTORS INFLUENCE SEXUAL ORIENTATION”

“COPENHAGEN, November 29, 2006 (LifeSiteNews.com) – A major study published last month in the prestigious peer reviewed journal, Archives of Sexual Behavior, provides striking new evidence for the influence of childhood family factors on sexual-orientation development.”

“The study used a population-based sample of 2,000,355 native-born Danes between the ages of 18 and 49. Denmark – a country noted for its tolerance of a wide variety of alternative lifestyles, including homosexual partnerships – was the first country to legalize gay marriage. The researchers assessed detailed marriage records for all Danish-born men and women marrying a same-sex partner from the years 1989 through 2001.”

“With access to the ‘virtually complete registry coverage of the entire Danish population,’ the study sample therefore lack the problematic selection bias that has plagued many previous studies on sexual orientation.”

“Parental Influences on Sexual Orientation Development”

“The authors conclude: ‘Our study provides population-based, prospective evidence that childhood family experiences are important determinants of heterosexual and homosexual marriage decisions in adulthood.’”

“Assuming that people who marry heterosexually are almost always heterosexual – especially in a country where homosexuality carries little stigma, and gay marriage is legal – and people who marry homosexually can be presumed to be homosexual, the study’s findings offer intriguing evidence about family factors separating homosexual from heterosexual persons.”

“The following are findings from this new data:”

“-Men who marry homosexually are more likely to have raised in a family with unstable parental relationship – particularly, absent or unknown fathers and divorced parents.”

“-Findings on women who marry homosexually were less pronounced, but were still associated with a childhood marked by a broken family. The rates of same-sex marriage ‘where elevated among women who experienced maternal death during adolescence, women with short duration of parental marriage, and women with long duration of mother-absent cohabitation with father.”

“-Men and women with ‘unknown fathers’ were significantly less likely to marry a person of the opposite sex than were their peers with known fathers.”

“-Men who experienced parental death during childhood or adolescence ‘had significantly lower heterosexual marriage rates than peers whose parents were both alive on their 18th birthday.”

“The shorter the duration of parental marriage, the higher was the likelihood of homosexual marriage...homosexual marriage rates were 36% and 26% higher among men and women, respectively, who experienced parental divorce after less than six years of marriage, than among peers whose parents remained married for all 18 years of childhood and adolescence.”

“-‘Men whose parents divorced before their 6th birthday were 39% more likely to marry homosexually than peers from intact parental marriages.”

“-‘Men whose cohabitation with both parents ended before age 18 years had significantly (55% - 75[^]) higher rates of homosexual marriage than men who cohabited with both parents until 18 years.”

“-‘The mother’s age was directly linked to the likelihood of homosexual marriage among men – the older the mother, the more likely her son was to marry another man. Also, ‘only children’ were more likely to be homosexual.”

“-‘Persons born in large cities were significantly more likely to marry a same-sex partner – suggesting that cultural factors might also affect the development of sexual orientation.”

“‘Whatever ingredients determine a person’s sexual preferences and marital choices,’ conclude the study’s authors, ‘our population-based study shows that parental interactions are important/’”

“Reference: ‘Childhood Family Correlates of Heterosexual and Homosexual Marriages: A National Cohort Study of Two Million Danes,’ by Morten Frisch and Anders Hviid, Archives of Sexual Behavior Oct 13, 2006”

(Linda Ames Nicolosi, “Study Finds New Evidence that Childhood Family Factors Influence Sexual Orientation,”)

“In the mid-1990s, a few dozen Gay-Straight Alliance clubs were in U.S. high schools; now 3,200 are registered with the education network, Jennings says.”

(Marilyn Elias, USA TODAY, February 2007, www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-02-07-gay-teens-cover_x.htm)

“GAY TEENS ELECTED HOMECOMING KING, QUEEN”

“It may not shock people that a jock and a cheerleader were chosen as homecoming king and queen at a Chicago high school, but some were surprised by which was which.”

“Jen Wohlner and Ryan Cooperman are popular leaders at Buffalo Grove High School. They're also openly gay.”

“Wohlner plays sports and went to prom with another girl last year. Cooperman is a cheerleader.”

‘I guess you could say this year it was kind of a jock and a cheerleader, but flip-flopped positions,’ Wohlner said.

“Wohlner said it may show that her school, and her generation as a whole, is a little more progressive.”

“Time magazine made gay students subject its cover story last week, saying that students are coming out earlier and earlier. And the number of gay clubs in high schools has exploded from 100 a few years ago to more than 3,000 nationwide today, the magazine reported.”

“‘It's really kind of uncool to be anti-gay,’ said school psychologist Jennifer Zacharski. Attitudes have shifted dramatically in one generation, said Zacharski, who sponsors Buffalo Grove's Gay-Straight Alliance. But not everyone is cheering about the school's

groundbreaking choices for homecoming royalty. ‘For us, it’s a sad thing,’ said Illinois Family Institute spokesman Pete LaBarbera. ‘Something that was once sort of universally regarded as a sin, is now becoming sort of cool in high school.’”

(“Gay Teens Elected Homecoming King, Queen,” NCB5, October 21, 2005, <http://www.nbc4.tv/irresistible/5143976/detail.html>)

“GAY-PARENTED FAMILIES MULTIPLYING”

“Homosexual parents with children are increasing across the United States. More than 160,000 families with two homosexual parents and approximately 250,000 children in these arrangements are housed in 96% of U.S. counties. This does not include children being raised solely by one homosexual parent; there are more than one million children in those situations.”

“It’s putting adult desires above the interest of children. For the first time in history, we’re talking about intentionally creating permanently motherless and fatherless families.’ Focus on the Family’s Bill Maier, author of *Marriage on Trial: The Case Against Same-Sex Marriage and Parenting*.”

(“Gay-Parented Families Multiplying” Current Thoughts & Trends Online, May 2004)

“PARTWAY GAY?”

“Social scientists say that 5 percent to 7 percent of young people are gay or lesbian, and that teenagers are starting at younger ages to have same-sex sexual experiences: 13 for boys, 15 for girls.”

(Laura Sessions Stepp, “Partway Gay?” *Washingtonpost.com*, January 4, 2004, pD01, www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A53140-2004Jan4?Language=printer)

“WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION IS GAY?”

“In his 1948 book, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, Alfred Kinsey shocked the world by announcing that 10% of the male population is gay. A 1993 Janus Report estimated that nine percent of men and five percent of women had more than ‘occasional’ homosexual relationships. The 2000 U.S. Census Bureau found that homosexual couples constitute less

than 1% of American households. The Family Research Report says ‘around 2-3% of men, and 2% of women, are homosexual or bisexual.’ The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force estimates three to eight percent of both sexes. So who's right—what percentage of the population is homosexual?"

"In August 2002, Gallup asked Americans, in an open-ended format, to estimate the percentage of American men and the percentage of American women who are homosexual. The average estimates were that 21% of men are gay and 22% of women are lesbians. In fact, roughly a quarter of the public thinks more than 25% of men and 25% of women are homosexual. It should be pointed out, too, that many Americans (at least one in six) could not give an estimate."

(Jennifer Robison, "What Percentage of the Population Is Gay?" Gallup Tuesday Briefing, Religion and Values, October 8 2002, <http://www.gallup.com/poll/tb/religvalue/20021008b.asp?Version=p>)

“GALLUP TUESDAY BRIEFING

“Gallup Poll Vault”

“In 1977, 43% of Americans said they thought homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal. In 2001, 54% of Americans say they should be legal. [June 17-20, 1977; May 8-10, 2001]”

“The Gender Gap”

48% of women say sex between an unmarried man and woman is morally acceptable, compared to 58% of men who say that it is. [May 10-14, 2001]”

“ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALITY: A YOUTH MOVEMENT”

“A Gallup poll last May found 52% of Americans saying they believe homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle, up from just 34% in 1982. The poll also showed that a stronger majority--62%-of young adults (age 18 to 29) consider homosexuality acceptable.”

“Age is also a significant factor with regard to opinions of one of most hotly debated facets of this topic: same-sex marriages. Overall, 44% of Americans said in the May 2001 poll they would favor a law that would ‘allow homosexual couples to legally form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples,’ while 52% said they would oppose such a law. A generational gap appears when results are broken down by age

category: among 18 to 29 year olds, 59% would favor the law, compared to 42% of those aged 30 to 49 and 35% of those 50 and older. Further, a poll of American teens aged 13 approve of marriage between homosexuals.”

“The public’s gradually shifting stance on homosexuality is also evident in other measures. More than half of Americans (54%) now say they think homosexual relations between consenting adults should be considered legal, while 42% say they should not be legal. As recently as 1986, only 32% of American adults thought homosexual relations should be legal. Again, the data indicate that young adults are helping drive the change in public perception: 65% of 18 to 29 year olds currently say homosexual relations should be legal, compared to 58% of 30 to 49 year olds, 49% of 50 to 64 year olds, and 33% of those age 65 and older.”

“So the data clearly indicate that younger people tend to be more accepting of homosexuality—but can they tell us anything about why? The ‘nature versus nurture’ question is often a prominent facet of discussions about gay rights. The 2001 results show that overall, the American public is split on the question, with 40% saying they think homosexuality is something a person is born with and 39% saying it is due to factors such as upbringing or environment, while 21% did not have an opinion either way. Among the general population, those who view homosexuality as a genetic trait tend to be more accepting of it than those who believe it is a function of one’s environment, which implies a more voluntary lifestyle choice.”

“Given that younger Americans are more accepting of homosexuality, are they also dramatically more likely to come down on the side of genetics? Surprisingly, the answer is no: among 18 to 29 year olds, 46% say they think homosexuality is due to factors such as upbringing and environment, while 36% believe it is an inherent trait—results that are little different from other age groups. It is perhaps this question that demonstrates most convincingly that the changing attitudes represent a true cultural shift toward acceptance: the scientific origin of homosexuality doesn’t appear to make much difference to young adults—they’re more likely to be accepting of it either way.”

“*Results are based on telephone interviews with 1,012 national adults, age 18 and over, conducted May 10-14,2001. For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the margin of sampling error is +/- 3 percentage points.”

(Darren K. Carlson, “Acceptance of Homosexuality: A Youth Movement.” Education & Youth, Gallup Tuesday Briefing; February 19, 2002
www.gallup.com/poll/tb/educaYouth/200202119.asp?Version=p)