

# The Context and Evolution of Data Collection for Same-Sex Married Couple Households

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## Research Highlights

2006

Research indicates that first names can be used to confirm same-sex couple reports in the data (O'Connell & Gooding, 2006).

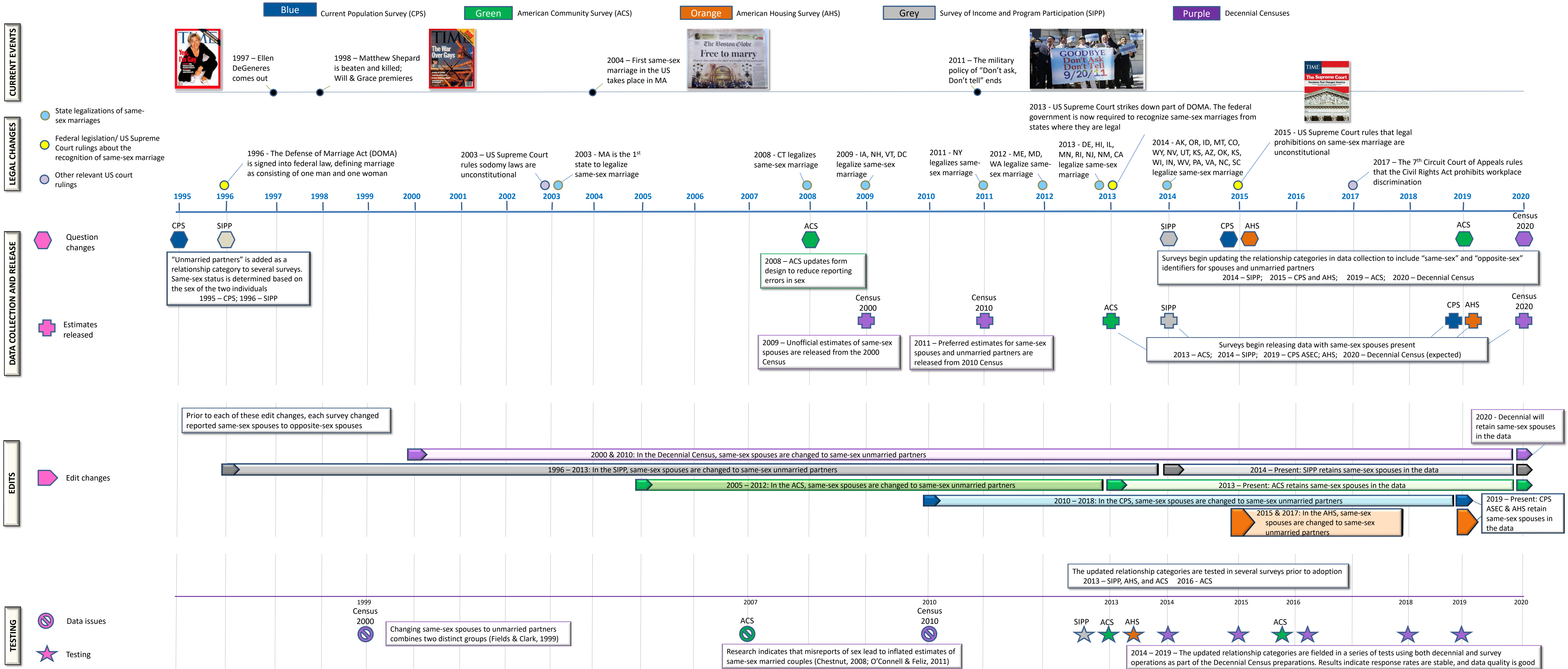
2008

The form layout to collect sex data, which was used in the ACS and part of the 2010 Decennial, resulted in a large number of records with both "male" and "female" reported (Chesnut, J., 2008). At the same time, edit processing in the ACS defaulted to the first option ("male") selected in this situation, which led to an increase in reported same-sex couples (O'Connell, et. al, 2010).

Both the form layout and data processing were updated in the ACS beginning in 2008, and resulted in cleaner data for same-sex couples in the ACS (O'Connell, et. al, 2010).

2011

Investigations into the 2010 Census data determined that a substantial portion of same-sex married couples were likely the result of misreporting by a small portion of opposite-sex married couples. As a result, preferred estimates for same-sex couples were released by the Census Bureau (O'Connell & Feliz, 2011).



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