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### INTRODUCTION

The editing procedures for same-sex partners were revised in the 2013 American Community Survey (ACS). This poster estimates error in the ACS estimates of same-sex married couples using a names index to assess the likelihood that married couples are same- versus opposite-sex, with attention to differences in results for respondents missing data on relationship and/or sex, to evaluate the new edit procedure.

## DATA: 2013 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

#### **Modes of Data Collection**

- Mailout/mailback (paper)
- Computer-assisted telephone and personal interviews (CATI/CAPI)
- Internet (introduced in 2013)

#### **Capitalization of Procedures**

- Prior to 2013, same-sex partners who reported being a "spouse" of the householder were changed to an "unmarried partner" of the householder.
- In 2013, the same-sex spouses were no longer edited to be samesex unmarried partners. This change not only applies to those who gave a response for relationship and sex items, but also applies to those missing data for relationship and/or sex where, when possible, sex was assigned based on their first name.
- The First Names Index tallies the number of times a particular name is reported as male in the 2010 Census.
- •If a name was reported as male 95 percent (or more) of the time, then sex is assigned as male.
- •If a name was reported as male 5 percent (or less) of the time, then sex is assigned as female.
- If a name did not meet the threshold, it was labeled "Cannot determine."

### RESEARCH GOALS

- Evaluate the edit for those who have missing data by comparing those with missing data to those without missing data
- Using the names index, identify couples who are likely same-sex married couples
- Compare characteristics of those who are likely same-sex married couples to those most likely not same-sex married couples

1. Mailout/mailback respondents were more likely to have missing relationship and/or sex data.

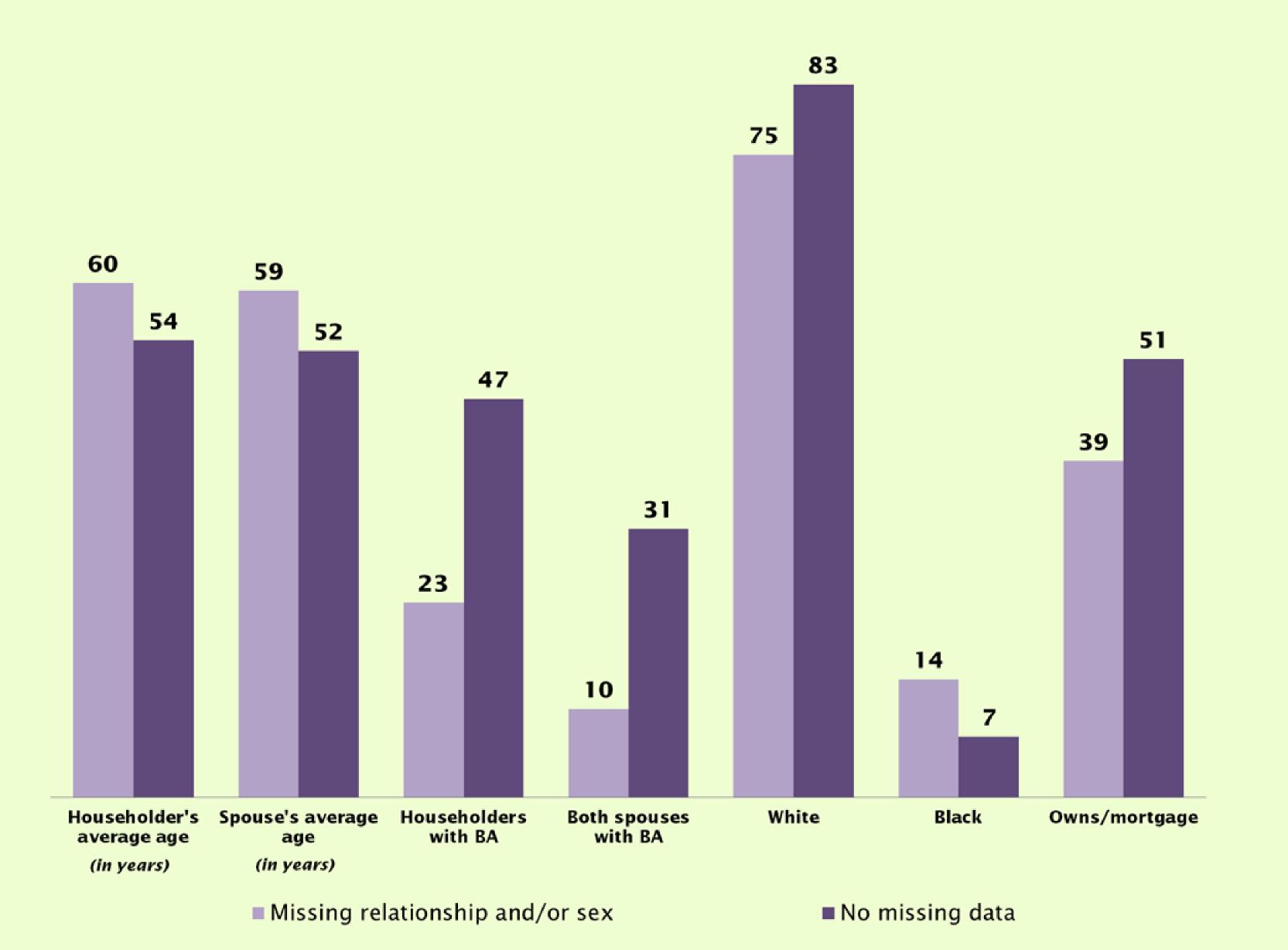
## Table 1. Same-sex married couples by presence of missing data by mode

Response Mode	Total	Missing relationship and/or sex	No missing data
Total (number)	251,695	15,440	236,255
Total (percent)	100.0	6.1	93.9
Mailout/Mailback	87,867	(16.7)	83.3
CATI/CAPI	43,690	1.2	98.8
Internet	120,138	0.2	99.8

Source: U.S Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey 1-year data file <sup>1</sup>Missing data could include those with relationship and/or sex missing or had their data allocated for some reason, which could include Don't Know or Refused.

2. Couples with missing data tend to be older, have a lower percentage of householders and spouses in which both have at least a bachelor's degree, are less likely to be White, are more likely to be Black, and are less likely to have a mortgage.

# Characteristics of Same-sex Married Couples by Presence of Missing Data



## RESULTS

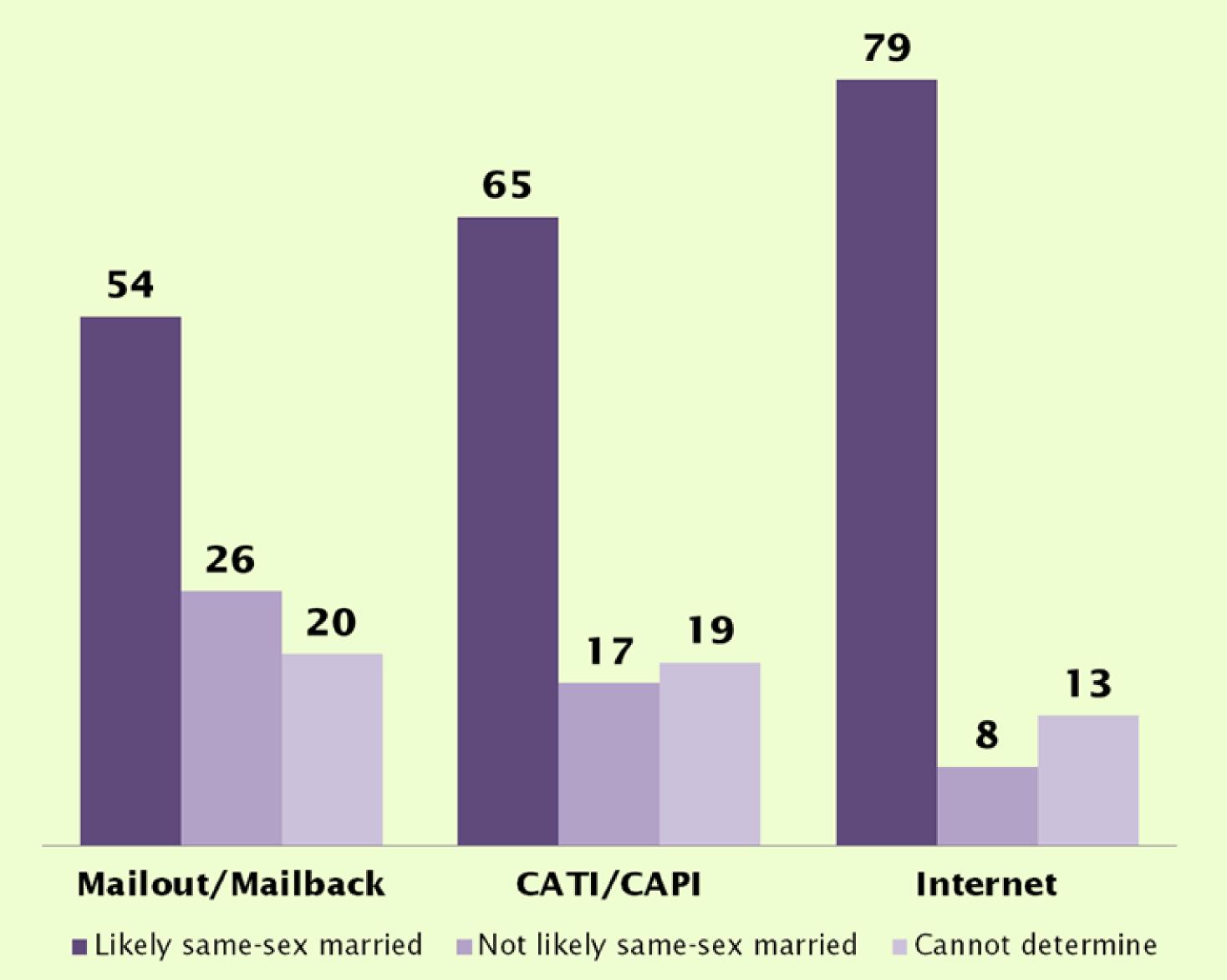
3. Overall, at least 68 percent of the estimated same-sex married couples likely are same-sex married couples based on the First Names Index.

## Table 2. Sex assigned based on names compared to reported sex

Same-sex Couples	Total	Likely same-sex married	same-sex	Cannot
Total Missing data No missing data	251,695 15,440 236,255	55.8	) 15.8 8.9 16.3	35.3

- For couples missing relationship and/or sex data, 56 percent are likely same-sex married couples, while this is true of 69 percent of those with no missing data.
- 4. For same-sex married couples about 79 percent of those who responded using the internet are likely same-sex married couples based on the First Names Index.

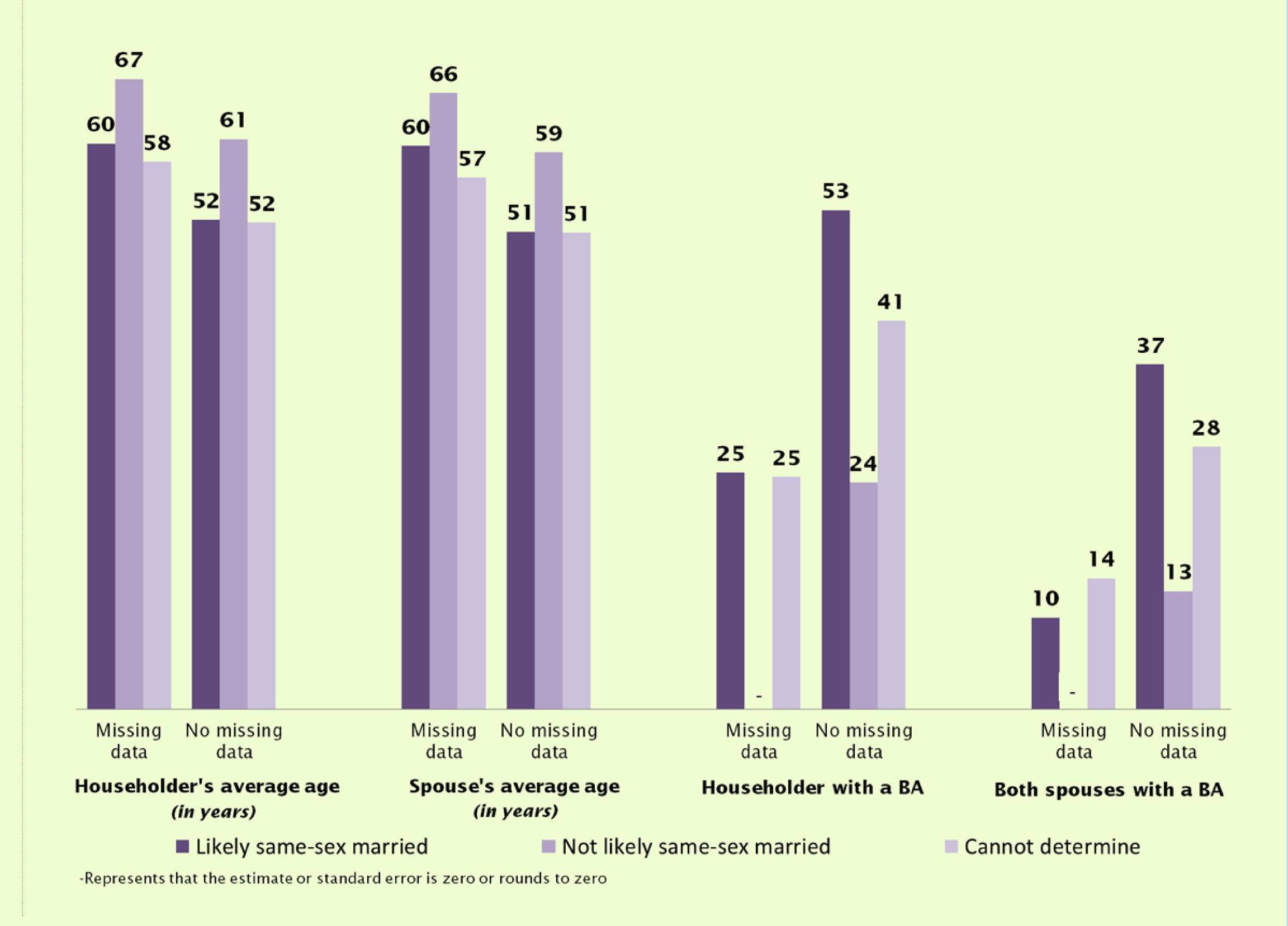
## Likely Same-sex Married Couples by Mode



• Similarly, 65 percent of those whose data were collected using the CATI/CAPI and 54 percent of those who filled out the mailout/mailback form were likely same-sex married couples.

5. Householders and spouses in couples that are likely same-sex married couples tend to be younger and more highly educated.

## Characteristics of Likely Same-sex Married Couples



### SUMMARY

- At least 68 percent of edited same-sex married couples are likely same-sex married couples.
- Those missing data on relationship and/or sex tended to be: mailout/mailback respondents, older, not White, and did not have a mortgage.
- The internet response mode showed a comparatively lower rate of missing data, which may reflect a different group of respondents who use the internet.
- •Since sex is assigned for many based on the First Names Index, the apparent error rate is lower for those with missing data. However, 35 percent either did not provide a name or the name did not meet the 95 percent threshold to assign a sex.