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By Angelina Chapin, Updated: February 28, 2011



Lesbian wage gap

Gay women earn a wage premium over heterosexuals. The question is why?

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The reason lesbians earn more than heterosexual women has long been a bit of a mystery, but a group of economists at the University of Nevada have an answer. Previous studies have controlled for the fact that lesbians are better educated, more likely to be white, have fewer children and live in cities, but a 6% wage premium still exists.

A study from 2009 now getting buzz on the blogosphere explored the role marriage plays in the lesbian wage premium, and found that women who don't expect to be part of a traditional family spend more time investing in labour participation through on-the-job training and working longer hours than household skills. They add that women who marry or expect to marry high-earners are more likely to enjoy spare time rather than use it to develop market skills.

The researchers looked at four groups: never-married and previously married lesbians and heterosexual women. After controlling for marriage, they found the lesbian wage premium dropped to 5.2% and there was no significant wage difference between previously married lesbians and never-married heterosexuals. The study did not account for time off work for children, but did cite a study from 2007 that concludes lesbian wage premiums are larger in households with children.

Information is current as of the original date of publication.

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skytop10

March 2, 2011 8:07:04 AM

So, are you saying married women (with children) are lazy and dependant ? 😞

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bava

March 2, 2011 8:43:43 AM

What kind of "NEW" English Language Grammar use is this, "Previous studies have controlled for the fact?"

This is very POOR grammar use and the journalist needs to learn to convey her thoughts in a manner at least decipherable.

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Marina Adshade

March 2, 2011 8:45:06 AM

Previous commenters are incorrect when they say that the same applies to gay men. Economic research, like the paper cited in this study finds that gay men earn less than straight men in the same occupations and with the same level of education. The main reason for the difference is that gay men work less hours.

The study is not suggesting that straight women are lazy. It is suggesting that straight women who anticipate being in a household with a partner who earns more than they do invest less in the workforce. This is a pretty interesting result because it says that part of the reason women earn less than men is because of this under-investment.

As this post says there has been a lot of discussion on this topic on the blogosphere. This discussion started on my blog, Dollars and Sex. You can see that at <http://bigthink.com/blogs/dollars-and-sex> if you are interested in reading more.

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ErnestoGuevara

March 2, 2011 8:51:14 AM

In 1950 the man was perceiving himself as a hunter providing for his family... society was the battlefield...

Lesbians have social values and exercising them in the city jobs pays well...

I love lesbians 

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simplymealways

March 2, 2011 10:18:43 AM

To bava.... Before criticizing this journalist for poor grammar, one should probably know how to SPELL grammar.

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Just--Wondering

March 2, 2011 10:22:50 AM

@bava: it made perfect sense to me, though it was in passive voice...the control is a reference to their statistical methods. And btw, it's GRAMMAR, not grammer. Oh the irony!

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havoc72

March 2, 2011 11:15:02 AM

Let me get this straight ... lesbians are more likely to work themselves to death, as an unmarried, childless, overachieving slave ,that an employer can exploit with out guilt of interfering in parental activities....? With the increase in adoptions and in-vitro pregnancies those numbers should have dropped, but they haven't.....Reality is, a large number of executives ,who employ these women are not getting spousal pressure to avoid showing any favouritism to the attractive hetero underlings ,as well, hetero women tend to hold a bit of resentment when promoted... worried that they got a head based on their booty, it shows , employers notice, then the next attractive hetero female pays the price...!

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liby966

March 2, 2011 11:52:41 AM

Grammar is spelled with an "a" after the second "m". If you're gonna complain about English language usage -

at least do it right. LOL

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Worry Free

March 2, 2011 12:17:09 PM

This is hilarious!! People actually studying the wage differential between lesbians and hetro women. I wonder what they are being paid to do that? Who cares!!

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poster8675309

March 2, 2011 1:10:52 PM

Many lesbians take on an assertive attitude and are therefore less susceptible to oppression by men 😊😊😊
Examining economic realities in the workforce demonstrates that women are not offered the same opportunities as men in this patriarchal society.

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- A little optimistic
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