

Number of same-sex couples increasing

Census data about same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples are about couples who live together. They are not about sexual orientation. To ensure the confidentiality of responses, random rounding is used. As a result, total values may not match the sum of the individual values.

- Same-sex couples living together in common-law unions were first counted in the 2001 Census. In July 2005, marriage became legal for same-sex couples across Canada, and in each of the following censuses (i.e., 2006, 2011 and 2016), both married and common-law same-sex couples were enumerated.
- The number of same-sex couples in New Brunswick has grown considerably over time. Between 2006 and 2016, the number increased by 85.2%. By comparison, the number of opposite-sex couples increased by 2.1% over the 10-year period. In Canada, the number of same-sex couples rose by 60.7% during this time, while the number of opposite-sex couples increased by 9.6%.
- The 2016 Census counted 1,435 same-sex couples in New Brunswick, representing 0.8% of all couples. Of these same-sex couples, 535 were married and 900 were living common law.
- There were more female (57.7%) than male (42.3%) same-sex couples in the province in 2016. The opposite was true in Canada where there were slightly more male same-sex couples (51.9%) than female (48.1%).

