



Statistics Netherlands

Press release

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One hundred thousand people live with a partner of the same sex

On 1 January 2002 some 100 thousand people who were cohabiting lived with a partner of the same sex. This number has increased substantially in recent years. Five years ago there were about 40 thousand same-sex couples, today there are 50 thousand. More than half of the couples consist of two men. One in seven same-sex couples have registered their partnership or are married. One in thirteen couples have children, according to figures from Statistics Netherlands.

Five percent of same-sex couples are married

Since 1 April 2001 partners of the same sex can get married in the Netherlands. On 1 January 2002 some 2,400 couples had done this, nearly five percent of the total number of same-sex couples. Another ten percent opted to officially register their relationship. This means that some 15 percent of homosexual couples are at a municipal Registry Office.

One in five used to be married to a partner of the opposite sex

About one in five homosexual partners were formerly married to someone of the opposite sex. Nearly all of these are divorced, a few are widowed. More women than men have such a heterosexual past.

Eight percent have children

Eight percent of homosexual couples have one or more children living at home. Some of these children come from a previous relationship, others are born to female couples. Since 1 April 2001 homosexual couples are also allowed to adopt children. There are only few male households with children: fewer than 5 percent have a child at home, compared with 15 percent of female couples.

One quarter live in the four large cities

While one tenth of all cohabiting married and unmarried couples live in one of

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the four largest Dutch cities, the proportion of same-sex couples in these cities is much larger. One quarter of them live in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht or The Hague. Amsterdam is especially popular, gay couples account for nearly five percent of all of couples living together there. In The Hague this proportion is 3 percent, in Utrecht just over 2 percent and in Rotterdam just under 2 percent. For the country as a whole, same-sex couples make up 1 percent of all couples.