

## How would you feel if ...?

"I experienced the loss of my father as an amputation." --*Jean-Dominique B., 66 year old French humanitarian raised by his mother and her female partner*

"I felt it was better to be a gay male, or even a transgender male, than to be a little girl growing up. I always felt that I wasn't lovable because I did not see the men in my life loving women." --*Dawn S., Canadian woman raised by her gay father and a series of his partners*

"I just didn't have a dad there... I filled that gap sexually. From the age of 13 on, I was extremely promiscuous with a lot of older men." --*Bobby L., Puerto Rican-Philippine-American man raised by his mother and her female partner*

"After my parents' separation, my sister and I began spending every other weekend with my father in the city. He shared a condo with a man who had also left his wife and children. Those weekends were a nightmare for my sister and me. Children are forced to live in a lifestyle they did not choose." --*Jeremy D., American man whose mother and gay father divorced*

"Growing up, I had the feeling of being something unnatural... I had the feeling I was a lab experiment." --*Bronaugh C., American woman created by artificial insemination by her mother and her female partner*

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### The Problem:

Too many people have been harmed by misguided sexual or parenting choices they or their loved ones have made.

Too few of them get the chance to tell their story.

### How do we help?

By telling the whole truth about what happened to us.

### What you can do right now:

Sign-up for the Ruth Institute newsletter at [www.RuthInstitute.org](http://www.RuthInstitute.org) and receive a free PDF download entitled "You Were Loved Into Existence."

The Ruth Institute is a global non-profit organization focused on preventing divorce and helping the millions of people who have been harmed by it. Founded by world-renowned author, speaker and academic, Dr. Jennifer Roback Morse, the Ruth Institute's Resource Center provides decades of research and educational tools to support individuals and families harmed by divorce, the hook-up culture, and other aspects of the Sexual Revolution.

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# Children and Same Sex Parenting



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Compared to children raised by their own biological parents, married to each other, children whose parents had a same sex relationship are at elevated risks for the following:

Women: larger number of female sex partners

Serious emotional problems

Pleading guilty to a non-minor offense

Learning disabilities

Having an affair while married or cohabiting

Family of origin provided less safety and security

Difficulty trusting others

Identifying as something other than exclusively heterosexual

Forced to have sex against their will

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Currently unemployed

Receiving welfare as a child

Not finishing high school

Being arrested

Being depressed

Repeating a grade of school

These results cannot be easily explained away. The studies took account of many possible alternative explanations, including some combination of the following:

- Bullying experienced by the child
- Parental divorce
- Relationship or residential instability
- Parental psychological distress
- Education and income of the parents

“But I heard that the American Psychological Association said ‘Not a single study has found children of lesbian or gay parents to be disadvantaged in any significant respect relative to children of heterosexual parents.’”

That statement, made in 2005, was based on 59 studies, purporting to show “no difference” between children raised by same sex couples or heterosexual married couples. These studies had one or more of the following methodological flaws:

- Small sample sizes, in one case, only 5 participants
- Non-random samples, consisting of those who volunteered to participate
- Non-representative samples, mostly white, well-educated, upper middle-class women
- No heterosexual comparison group
- Compared children of same sex couples to single parents, not heterosexual married couples
- Measured parents’ reports about their children, not objective measures such as grades, or school completion rates

References available at  
[www.RuthInstitute.org/References](http://www.RuthInstitute.org/References)

Which sounds more scientific to you?

Data collection for a “no differences” study:

“Recruitment began when I contacted friends, acquaintances and colleagues who might be likely to know eligible lesbian mother families.”  
Dr. Charlotte Patterson, 1995.

Data collection for a study showing significant differences:

“The data collection was conducted by Knowledge Networks, a research firm with a very strong record of generating high-quality data for academic projects. It is a random, nationally-representative sample of the American population.” Dr. Mark Regnerus, 2012.