



# CUPPLES Project Newsletter 2015

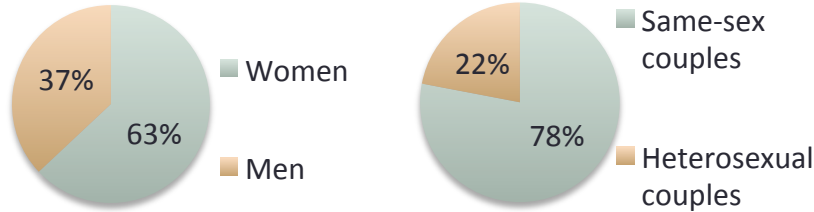
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Palo Alto University

Greetings from the CUPPLES Project research team! It has been a busy few years for us. As many of you know, we concluded data collection for our 10-year follow-up study in 2013-14. Thanks again to all of you who participated and to those who have continued to express interest in the project after all these years! Please stay in touch and let us know if your contact information changes so we can re-contact you in the future.

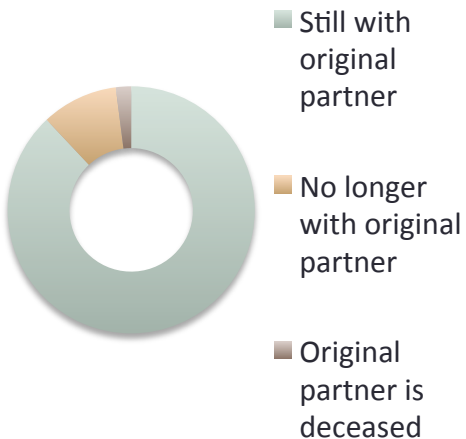
## Participants in 2013-14

- 786 individuals from original couples
- Ages ranged from 32 to 89, with an average age of 55

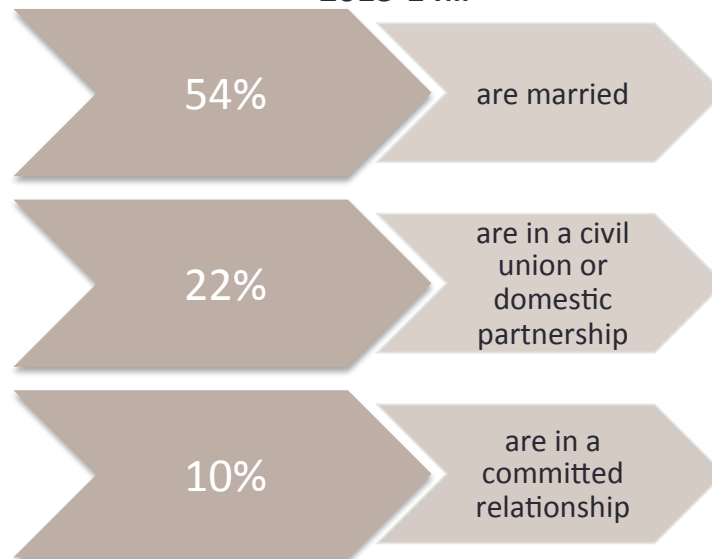
Gender and couple type of participants



## Of original couples surveyed again in 2013-14...

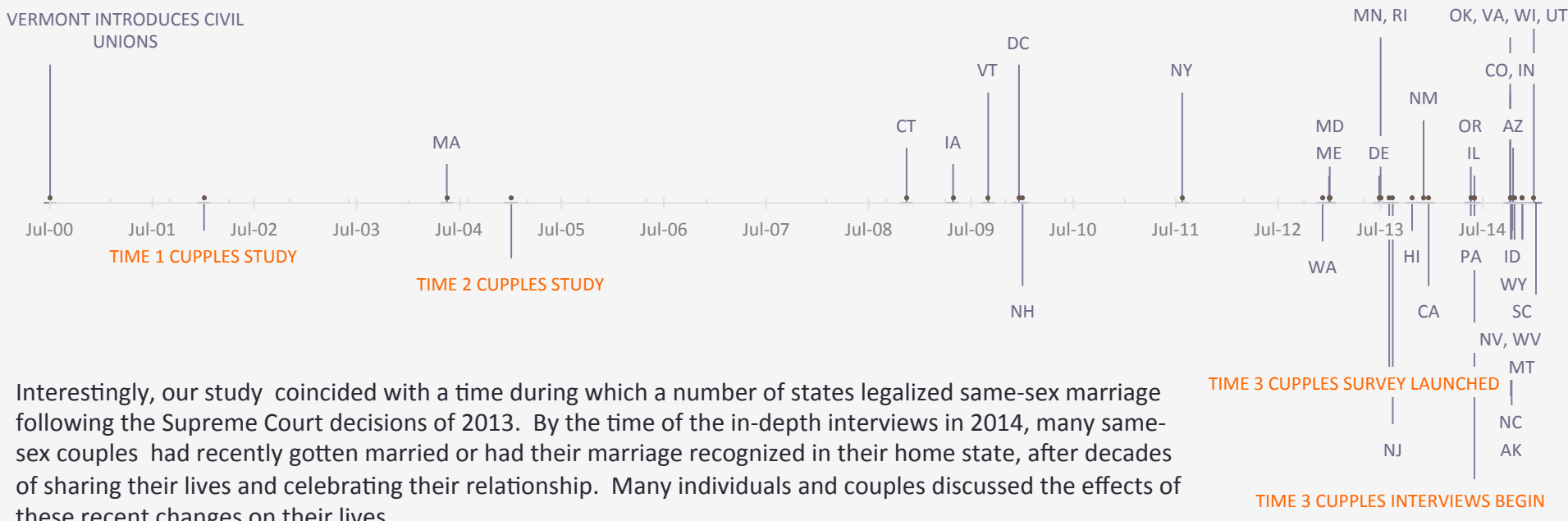


## Among original same-sex couples in 2013-14...



- In the 2013-14 study, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual participants reported similar levels of mental and physical health and well-being.
- By 2013-14, same-sex and heterosexual couples had been together an average of 25 years
- 38% of individuals in same-sex and 91% of individuals in heterosexual couples have kids; 59% of kids are now adults

# The changing landscape of relationship recognition in the U.S.



Interestingly, our study coincided with a time during which a number of states legalized same-sex marriage following the Supreme Court decisions of 2013. By the time of the in-depth interviews in 2014, many same-sex couples had recently gotten married or had their marriage recognized in their home state, after decades of sharing their lives and celebrating their relationship. Many individuals and couples discussed the effects of these recent changes on their lives.

## What did participants say about the Supreme Court's 2013 decisions regarding same-sex couple rights?

Absolutely elated

Long overdue

My initial reaction was one of emotion, tears, happiness. A great pain of inequity was lifted.

I didn't think it would happen in my lifetime

The value of societal recognition of my marriage was substantially diminished by the lack of recognition given to my sister's marriage.

We have already presented some of our results at conferences of the American Psychological Association, Association for Psychological Science, and Association for Women in Psychology. See our website for more information and updates on future presentations and publications.

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