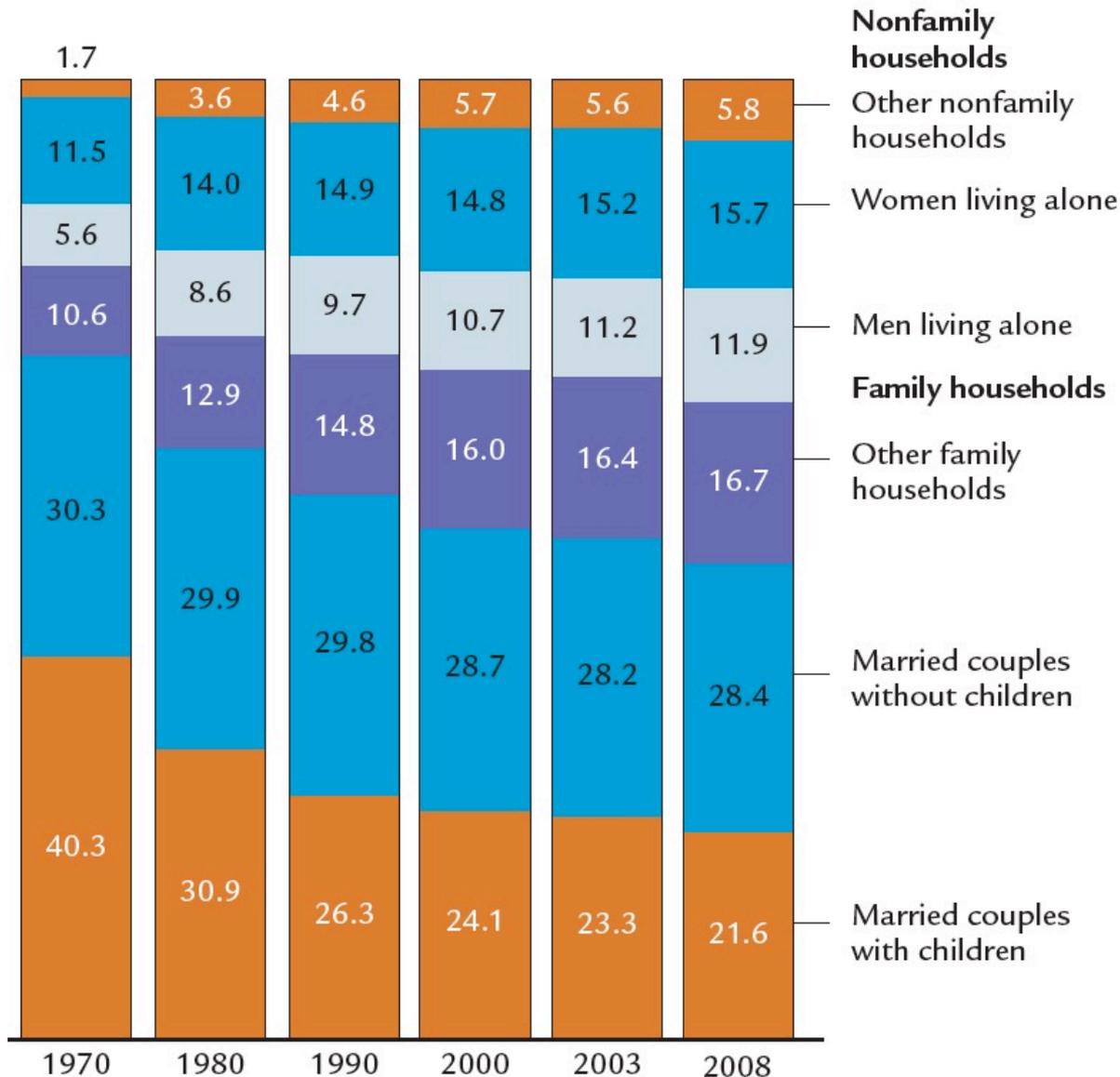


Emergent Families in the Global Era

The Rise in New Family Arrangements

- The percentage of the U.S. population in family households declined from 85 percent of all households in 1960 to 68 percent in 2003.
 - Family Households include families in which a family member is the householder – the person who owns or rents the residence.
 - A non family household includes the householders who live alone or share a residence with individuals unrelated to the householder such as a college friend sharing an apartment.



Household by Type: 1970-2008 (percent distribution)

Sources: Fields, Jason (2004). "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2003." *Current Population Reports*, P20-553. Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of the Census, p. 4; "America's Families and Living Arrangements: 2008." *Current Population Survey Reports (2009)*. U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Online: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam/cps2008.html>.

The Global Revolution in Family Life

- Five Global Trends in Family Formation:
 - Women's age of first marriage and first birth has risen.
 - Families and households are smaller.
 - The burden on working age parents of supporting younger and older dependents has increased.
 - Sandwich generation
 - The proportion of female-headed households has increased.
 - Women's labor force participation has increased while men's has decreased; shifting the economic balance in families.

How to Think About Family Diversification

- Family adaptations emerge in response to changes and constraints in the external world.
 - The family field has made the distinction between the “*traditional family*” and the “*nontraditional alternatives*”.
- Rather than thinking of varied family arrangements as alternatives to an idealized traditional form, we should think of all family forms in their own right.
 - No one family structure is better than another – it is a question of lifestyles.

Single Life

- Single refers to the never married, the divorced, the separated, and the widowed.
- The rise of single hood has its roots in urbanization and industrialization.
- Research shows that many married individuals express loneliness similar to singles.
- Today a growing share of adults are unmarried.
 - Since 1970 the postponement of marriage has led to a substantial increase in the percentage of young, never married adults.

Single Life

- Demographic and cultural factors combine to create a "*marriage squeeze*" that is an imbalance in the number of women and men available for marriage.
- Women no longer "*have*" to get married to survive – many women chose to remain single and pursue a career.
- The pool of eligible men shrinks as women age, especially for professional women .
 - Among people aged 65 and older, men are in the minority.

Experiencing Single Life

- Single life in the US is stigmatized.
- New research finds that single and married people are really more similar than different.
- Although there has been a sharp rise in the number of single people, marriage still remains a viable option for most.
- To know someone is single tells us little about their living arrangements or their relationship commitments.
- Today what it means to be single is no longer clear.

Heterosexual Cohabitation

- There are about 15 million people living with an unmarried partner in the US.
 - 60% of all marriages formed in the nineties began with cohabitation.
- Cohabitation is shaped by gender, class, and race.
 - Men tend to have a serial cohabitation ideal and women view it more as a step toward long-term commitment
 - Cohabitors have less traditional notions about gender roles.
 - Another perspective holds that cohabitation is not a step toward marriage, but a family form in its own right for couples who don't see marriage as a defining characteristic of their lives.

Heterosexual Cohabitation

- Contemporary cohabiters are primarily young adults – more prevalent among people younger than 35.
 - A sizeable portion are divorced from a previous mate.
 - Increasing proportions of cohabiting couples include children in their households.
 - 2 out of 5 children today live in a cohabiting family at some point in their childhoods.
 - The fastest growing population of cohabiters is adults over 65.
- People are much more cautious about marrying.

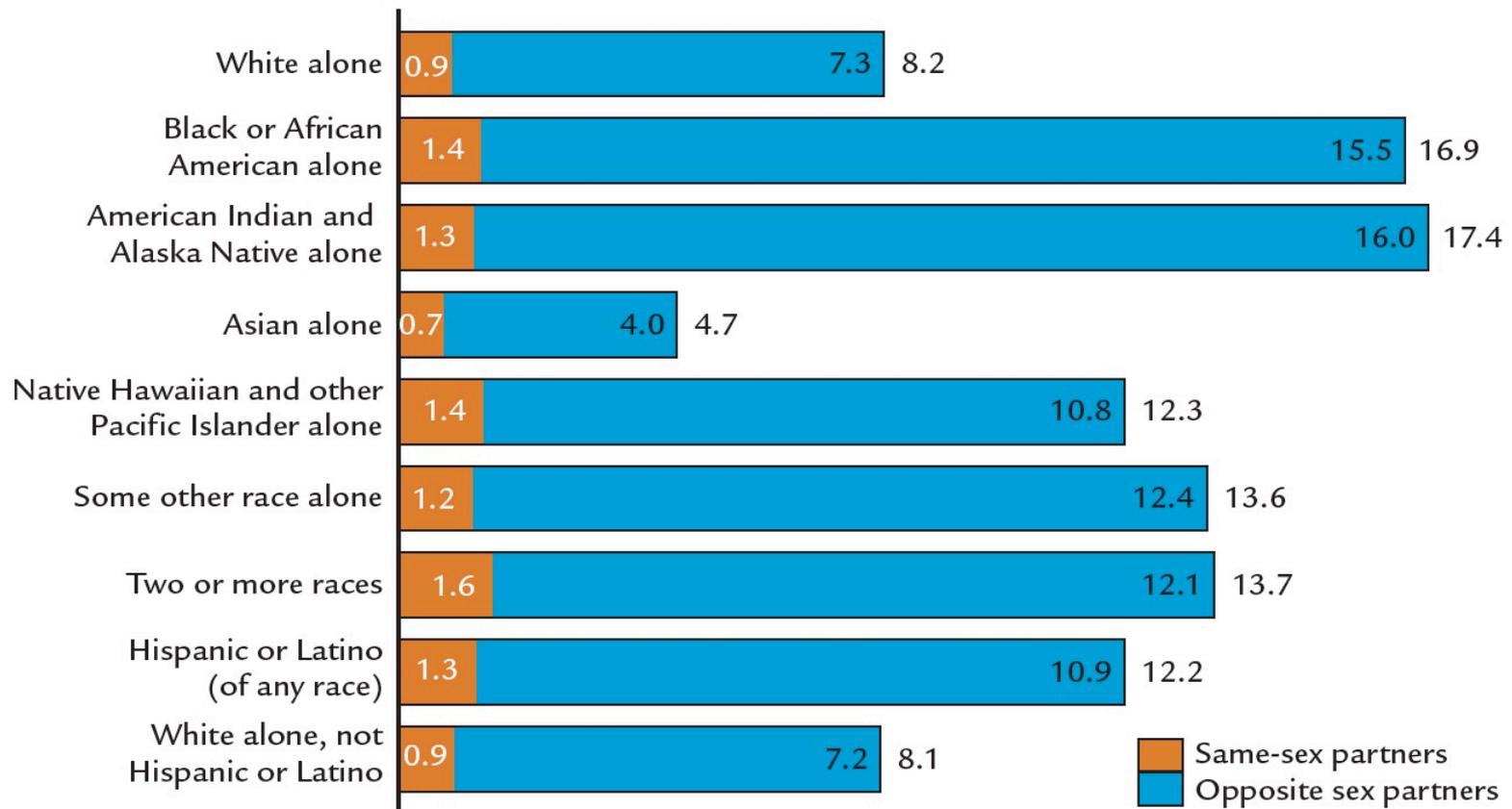


Figure 12.3

Unmarried-Partner Households by Sex of Partners and Race and Hispanic Origin of Householder: 2000

(Percent of all coupled households. For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error and definitions, see <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/docs/sf1.pdf>.)

Note: Percent same-sex partners and percent opposite-sex partners may not add to total percent unmarried-partner households because of rounding.

Source: Simmons, Tavia, and Martin O'Connell (2003). "Married-Couple and Unmarried-Partner Households: 2000." *Census 2000 Special Reports*. U.S. Bureau of the Census (February).

Same-Sex Partners and Families

- The emergence of non-heterosexual families is a movement with large social, political and legal ramifications.
 - Researchers estimate that four to ten percent of the adult population are homosexual.
 - Demographic data reveal that homosexual couples are an overwhelmingly urban population.
 - Many of the couples include children.

Same-Sex Partners and Families

- Domestic partners – two individuals who are in a long-term committed relationship and are responsible for each other's financial and emotional well-being.
 - Gay and Lesbian couples tend to be more highly educated than their heterosexual counterparts.
- However, same sex couples are denied significant legal and economic benefits by the prohibition on homosexual marriage.
 - Healthcare
 - Legal and health proxy rights etc.

Same Sex Partners and Families

- Research has long identified social networks as the distinguishing feature of same sex families.
 - Networks are made up of “*chosen*” family connections.
 - “*Chosen*” families are formed from networks of lovers, friends, co parents, children conceived through artificial insemination, adopted children, children from previous relationships and other blood kin.
- Gay and Lesbian couples tend to be egalitarian.

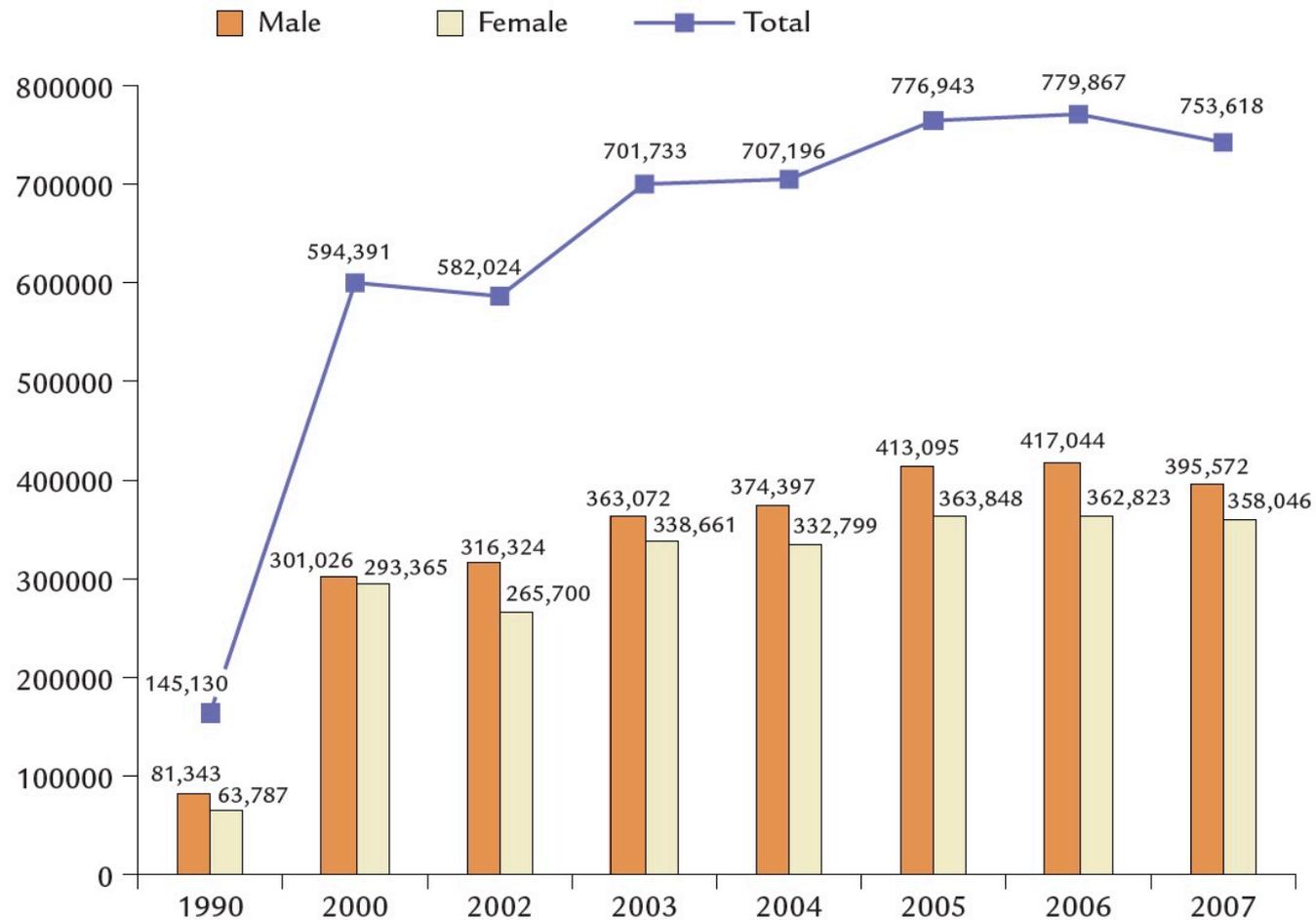


Figure 12.4
Same-Sex Couples in the United States, 1990-2007

Sources: Gates, Gary J. (2007). "Geographic Trends among Same-Sex Couples in the U.S. Census and the American Community Survey." The Williams Institute, p. 3. Online: http://repositories.cdlib.org/uclalaw/Williams/census/gates_1; O'Connell, Martin and Daphne Lofquist (2009). "Counting Same-Sex Couples: Official Estimates and Unofficial Guesses." *U.S. Census Bureau Working Papers*. Online: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/socdemo/hh-fam.html>.

Same Sex Partners and Families

- A shifting social context for Same Sex Partners.
 - In general gay and lesbian couples face a catch-22. They are legally prohibited from marrying but they face serious discrimination because they are not married.
 - The domestic partner movement has been quite successful in securing employment benefits for same sex families.
 - It has achieved remarkable success in corporate settings.
 - 90% of employers who offer domestic partner benefits make them available to both same sex and different sex couples, thus cohabitating heterosexual couples also benefit.

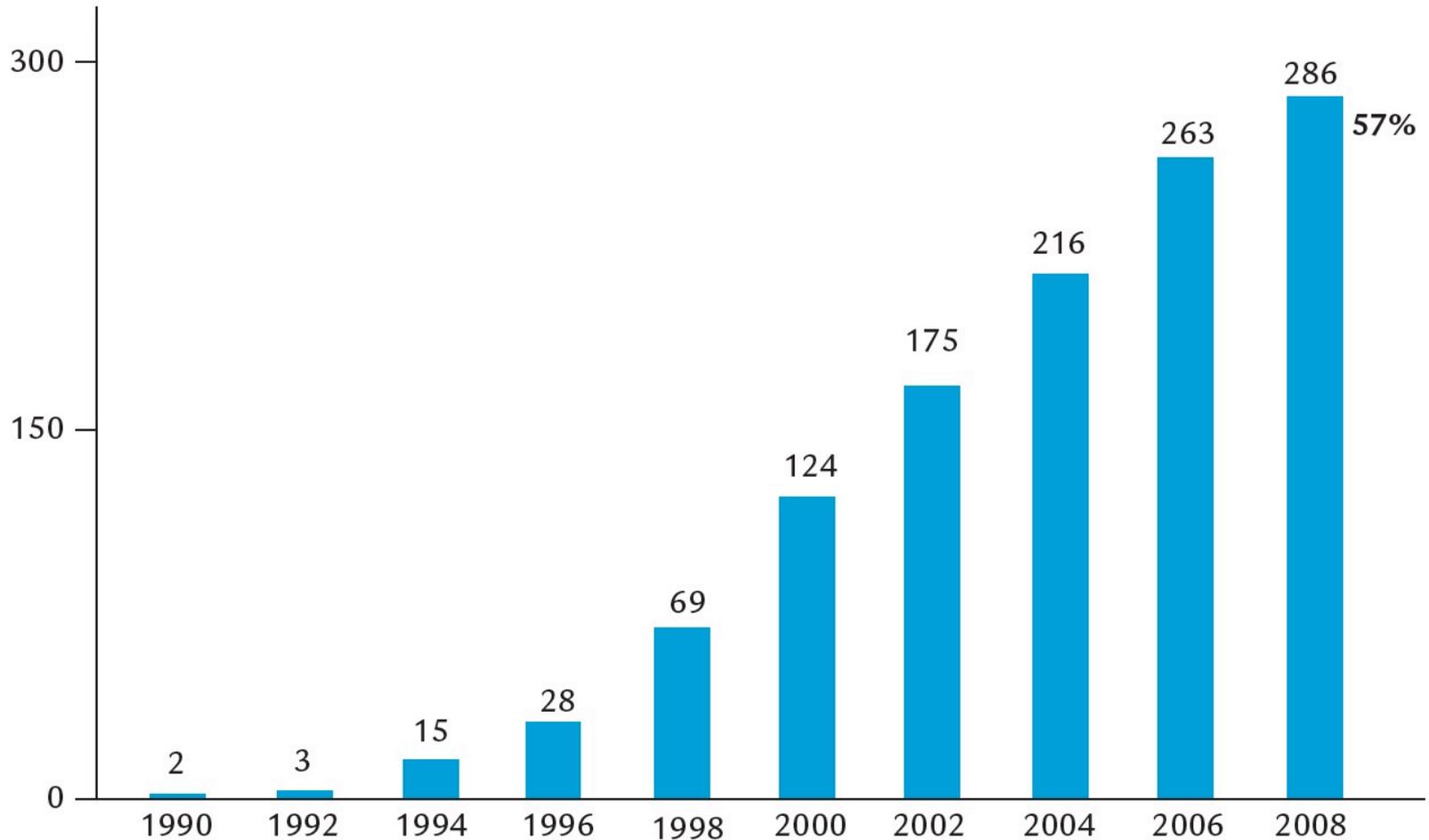


Figure 12.5

Fortune 500 Companies Providing Domestic Partner Health Benefits by Year

Source: Human Rights Campaign Foundation (2009). *The State of the Workplace, 2007–2008*.

Online: <http://www.hrc.org/workplace>.

Families Separated by Time and Space

- Transnational Families:
 - Families that have one or more members in the U.S. and one or more members in another country.
 - The family spans national boundaries.
 - Globalization is creating new immigration patterns and producing new family forms around the world.
 - Chain migration

Families Separated by Time and Space

- Transnational Families Continued:
 - Women involved in transnational employment are frequently mothers. Transnational motherhood is an arrangement whereby immigrant women work in one country while their children live in another country.
 - This arrangement is difficult for parents and children.
 - Transnational families are flexible family arrangements in which fathers often care for the children.

Families Separated

- Commuter Marriages:
 - Commuter arrangements are largely due to the changes in technology and the workplace.
 - Commuter marriages are those in which dual career couples set up residences in separate locations, usually in response to the demands of their work.
 - Many couples view this as a temporary life style.

Commuter Marriages

- Studies of commuting couples have found both advantages and disadvantages.
 - Benefits can include: A sense of autonomy, achievement and satisfaction; greater self esteem and self confidence; the ability to pursue careers without immediate and everyday family constraints.
 - Disadvantages can include: The separation can be stressful, loneliness and lack of companionship, missing sense of order, uncertainty about the relationship, hectic schedules.

Commuting Couples

- Gender
 - Women tend to view this arrangement overall less negatively than men. They are free from schedules and household chores and they have the ability to work uninterrupted.
 - A study of African American couples found that while commuting produced stronger identities for both husbands and wives, gender differences were also present. Wives' new identities centered on their confidence in managing home, career and travel responsibilities.