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Same Sex Couples Baseline Demographics

Belizean Community Survey Brief

INTRODUCTION

Living arrangements are rapidly changing in Belize, especially when it comes to same-sex couple households. Some of these households are not complete without identifying the presence of children in these households by their relation to the householder—whether they are biological children, stepchildren, or adopted children. This report addresses these topics by presenting data from the Baseline Population of Same Sex Couples Survey conducted in February 2017. The data in this report are for people and households. Belize has no national statistics on same sex couples and in this baseline report fifty-two (52) same sex couples participated, which is less than 0.02% of the population.¹ This report is one of a series produced to accompany Our Circle’s “*Strengthening LGBT Families Against Social Inequality*” Project.

SAME-SEX COUPLES BY DISTRICT

Fifty-two (52) same-sex couples participated in the Baseline Population of Same Sex Couples Survey. The number of same-sex couple participants for the six (6) districts of Belize ranged from two (2) for Corozal District and twenty-two (22) for Belize District (see map). There is no legal recognition of same-sex couples in Belize.

SAME-SEX COUPLES WITH CHILDREN

Out of the fifty-two (52) same-sex couple participants, 42% (22) of the same sex couples reported having own children.²

SAME-SEX COUPLES AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security is the keystone of most Belizean’s retirement planning. Out of the fifty-two same sex couples who participated in the survey, 87 % (45) of the same sex couples who participated in the survey are paying consistent Social Security contributions. 71% (37) of the participants who are paying Social Security contributions are fully employed. 50% (26) of these participating same sex couples have more than 30 years more contributions to Social Security before they retire. Same-sex couples and many of their own children are not considered beneficiaries in the Social Security Act.³

SOURCE AND ACCURACY

Data presented in this report are based on people and households that responded to the Baseline Population of Same Sex Couples Survey conducted in February 2017. The resulting estimates are **not** a representative of the **entire** population. Due to rounding, some details may not sum to totals.

¹World Bank reported Belize’s 2015 population to be 359,287

²A never married child under 18 years old who is a son or daughter by birth, marriage (stepchild), or adoption.

³Social Security Act C 44 (Revised Edition 2003)



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Baseline Population of Same Sex Couples in Belize -March 2017

