

This paper attempts to address the misconceptions about gay parenthood and gay adoption to prove that adoption discrimination based on sexual orientation is unfounded and unjust.

The paper first examines the history and current state of gay adoption. Legal adoption by gay couples is relatively new, occurring only in the last few decades since the gay rights movement. However, despite what has been labeled the “gay baby boom” in the last couple decades, there are many barriers to gay adoption from many sectors including the law, adoption agency policies, caseworkers, the public, and other countries in the case of international adoption.

Most of the arguments against gay adoption are based on the perception that having gay parents is detrimental to the development of children. The paper finds that the evidence from numerous empirical studies conducted over the last few decades rebuts this perception. The findings are divided into seven sections of child development: emotional functioning, sexuality, stigmatization, gender role behavior, behavioral adjustment, gender identity, and cognitive functioning. The empirical research proves that gay parents raise “normal” children. Data also shows that gay couples can have long, monogamous intimate relationships just like heterosexual couples and gay individuals are no more likely than heterosexual people to sexually molest children, two other concerns of opponents to gay adoption.

The paper then examines the arguments against gay adoption while the fourth section will explore the studies that address these arguments. The final section will apply the points made by this paper to the current situation of restricted and stigmatized gay adoption.