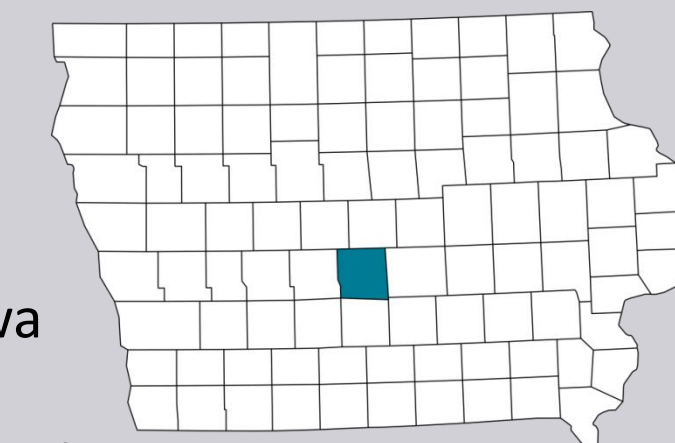


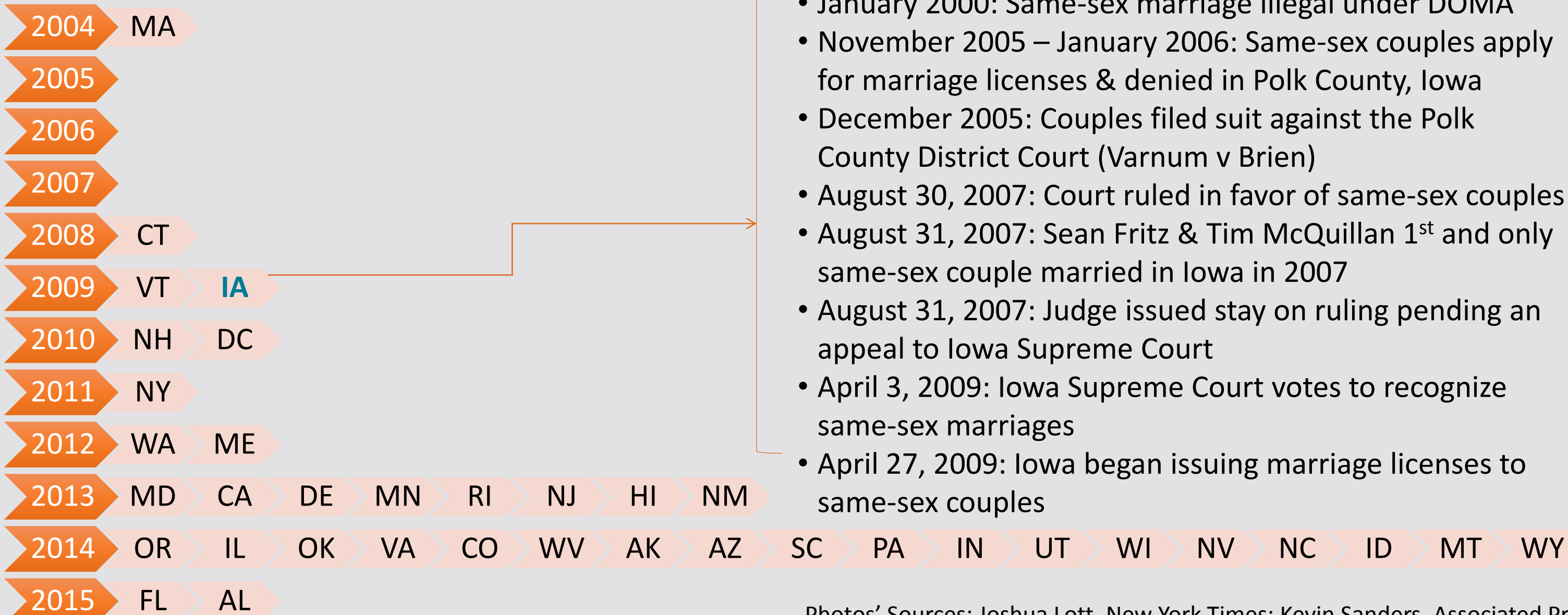
Same-Sex Marriage: A County Perspective Polk County, Iowa

Sabreena N. Woods (woodss@bgsu.edu)
Department of Sociology
Bowling Green State University



- Polk County – most populous county in Iowa
 - 451,677 in 2013
- County seat is Des Moines—also state Capitol
 - 207,293

Legalization Timeline in the U.S.



Legalization of Same-Sex Marriage in Iowa

- January 2000: Same-sex marriage illegal under DOMA
- November 2005 – January 2006: Same-sex couples apply for marriage licenses & denied in Polk County, Iowa
- December 2005: Couples filed suit against the Polk County District Court (Varnum v Brien)
- August 30, 2007: Court ruled in favor of same-sex couples
- August 31, 2007: Sean Fritz & Tim McQuillan 1st and only same-sex couple married in Iowa in 2007
- August 31, 2007: Judge issued stay on ruling pending an appeal to Iowa Supreme Court
- April 3, 2009: Iowa Supreme Court votes to recognize same-sex marriages
- April 27, 2009: Iowa began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples



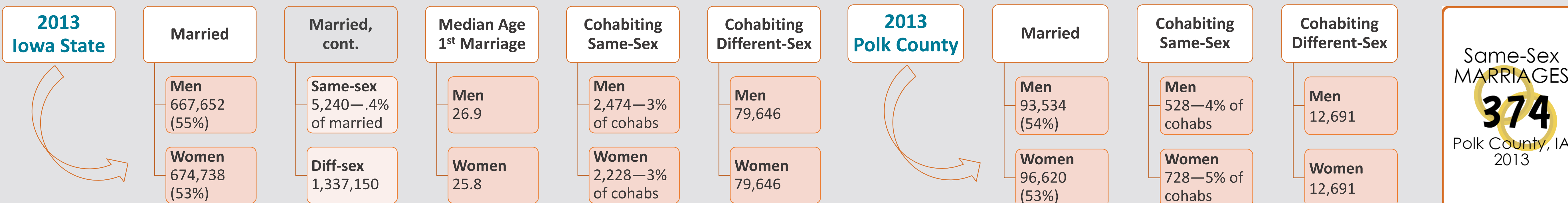
Photos' Sources: Joshua Lott, New York Times; Kevin Sanders, Associated Press

Number of Same-Sex Marriages: Polk County, 2009

	Male – Male		Female – Female	
	Total	% Out of State	Total	% Out of State
May	63	18%	109	23%
June	22	46%	49	47%
July	20	85%	49	67%
August	27	82%	33	26%
September	18	50%	39	61%
October	20	60%	27	67%
November	18	83%	19	58%
December	9	78%	22	68%
Total	197	42%	347	35%

Source: <http://data.desmoinesregister.com/dmr-public-records/marriages/?page=184> (accessed 8-13-14)

Marriage and Cohabiting Unions in Iowa and Polk County, 2013



Source: Badgett, 2015