



# Gender Disparities in NLSY97: Educational Attainment and Income Level

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## Background

Although much effort has been devoted to explaining the differences in employment and promotion opportunities between males and females, there is little evidence about the relation between education and wage level. Since the mean education level of men and women in the U.S. is comparable, educational attainment often gets left out in economic research about gender differences.

This paper is designed to examine gender differences in education and their impact on education and occupation status, following the research Economic Rationale for Sex Differences in Education conducted by Janice Fanning Madden. Data was collected from the NLSY97 (National Longitudinal Survey) on American youth born between 1980-84. The sample originally included 8,984 respondents when first interviewed in 1997.

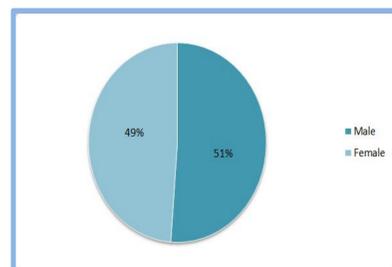
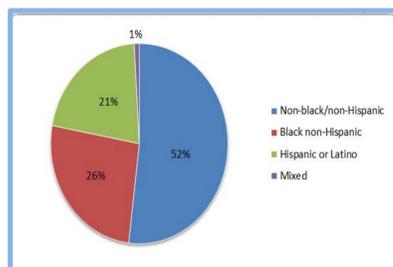
## Method

### Survey method (Rounds 2 through Present)

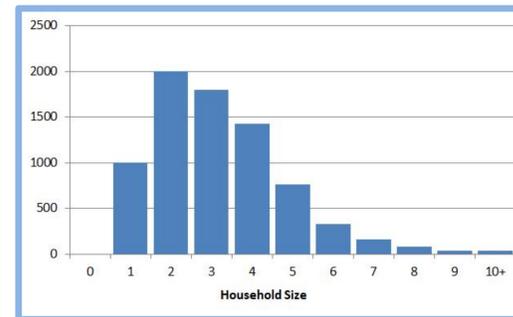
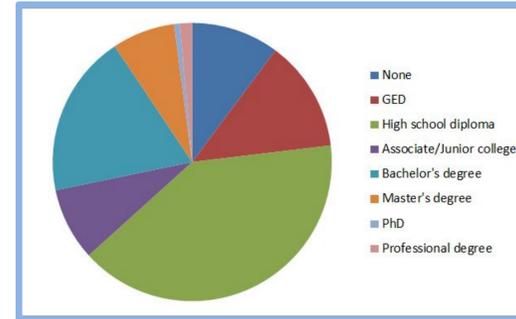
Eligible youths and their parents were administered a questionnaire that covered a range of topics, including work experience, education, work-related attitudes, and other labor force and human capital issues.

The interviews are conducted each round using a CAPI (computer-assisted personal interview) instrument, administered by an interviewer with a laptop computer. Computer software automatically guides interviewers through an electronic questionnaire, selecting the next question based on a respondent's answers. The program also prevents interviewers from entering invalid values and warns interviewers about implausible answers. The preferred mode of the interview is in person. When an interview is conducted in person, during sensitive portions of the interview, the respondents enter their answers directly into the laptop rather than interacting with the interviewer.

### Demographics

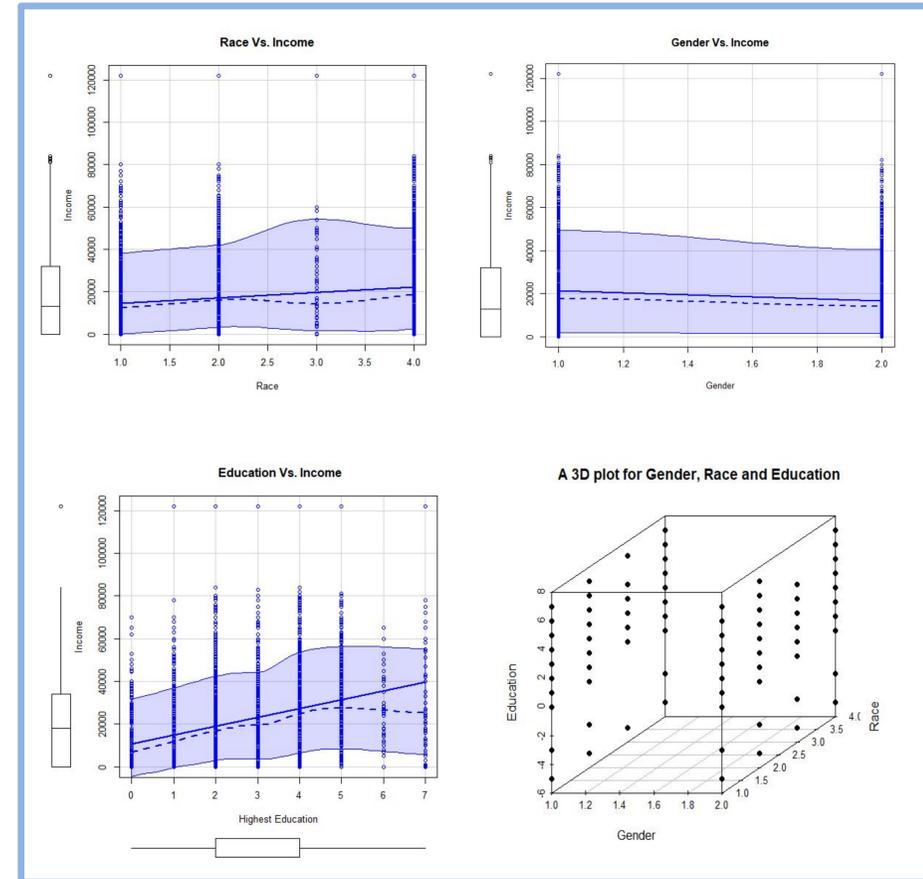


## Results



## Cross-tabulation analysis

We ran cross-tabulation analyses on 20 variables such as the highest degree attained, household size, and income level versus race and income. We also compare the changes in these numbers between 2009 and 2019 to explore the social changes in the participants surveyed over a 10-year period. The four following models, created to compare the impact of gender, race, and education on income based on the data provided, shows that educational opportunities are the main cause for income inequality. The higher the education level, the higher the income, and vice versa.



## Conclusion

The analyses prove that gender and race both have an impact on the level of income and educational attainment among the subjects surveyed. On average, female participants have lower education levels than their male counterparts. Their income is also slightly lower than that of male participants, showing that education plays a huge role in income inequality based on gender. Since women has less access to higher level of education, they are also subject to lower wages. This conclusion matches the previous study with the same national longitudinal survey conducted in 1968.

## Reference

Madden, Janice Fanning. "Economic Rationale for Sex Differences in Education." Southern Economic Journal, vol. 44, no. 4, 1978, pp. 778-797., <https://www.jstor.org/stable/1057729>

## Acknowledgement

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