

Bridging the Educational Divide

- An Analysis of College Degree Holders in the United States

Blair Yu & Xiaohan Wang

Research question

What is the relationship between the number of college degree holders and social inequality across states in the United States over time?

Target population:

Individuals living in the United States who have completed a college degree

Descriptive Goal:

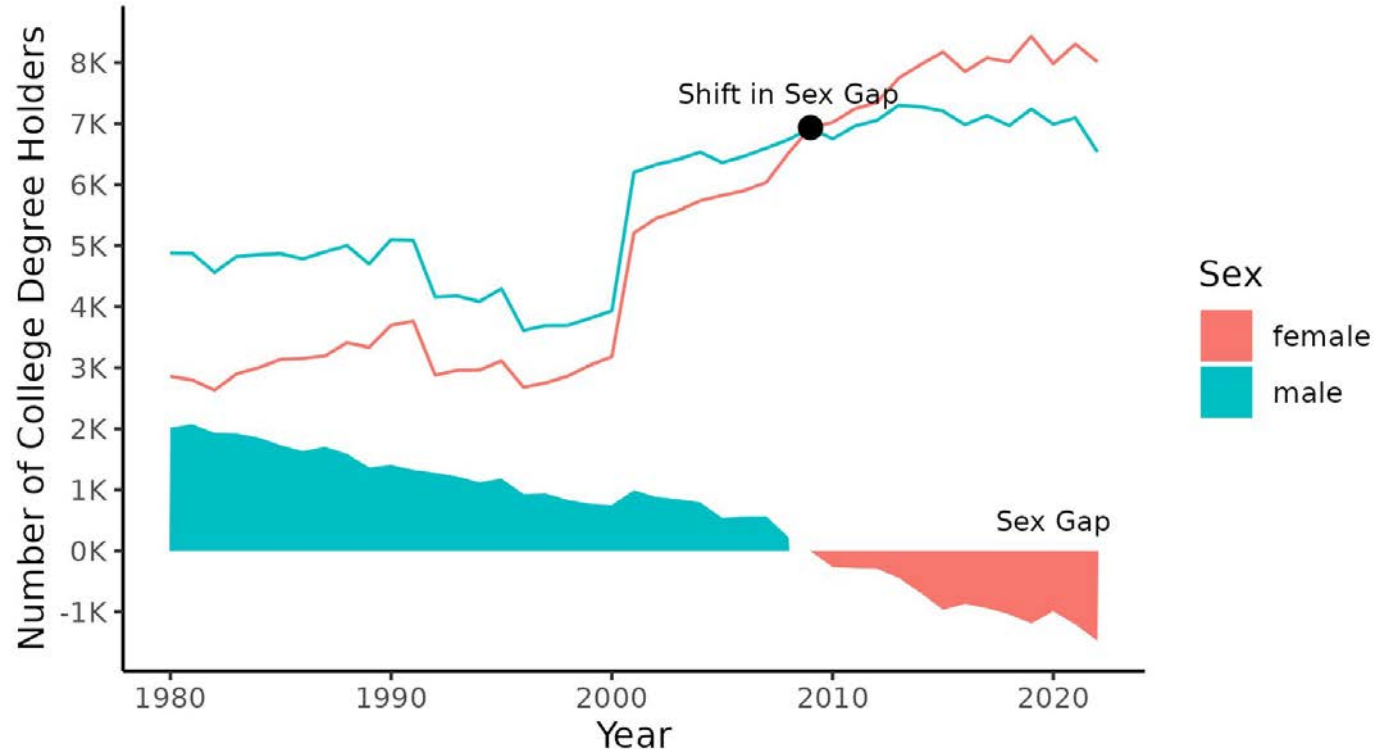
Seeks to characterize the differences among subpopulations

Why this matters

- Insights into the U.S. educational landscape
- Analyzing higher education attainment among subpopulations
- Nuanced understanding of social inequality
- Informing policy discussions and guiding future research

Trends in College Degree Attainment by Sex

Evolution of the Sex Gap in Higher Education - 1980 to 2022



Data Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)

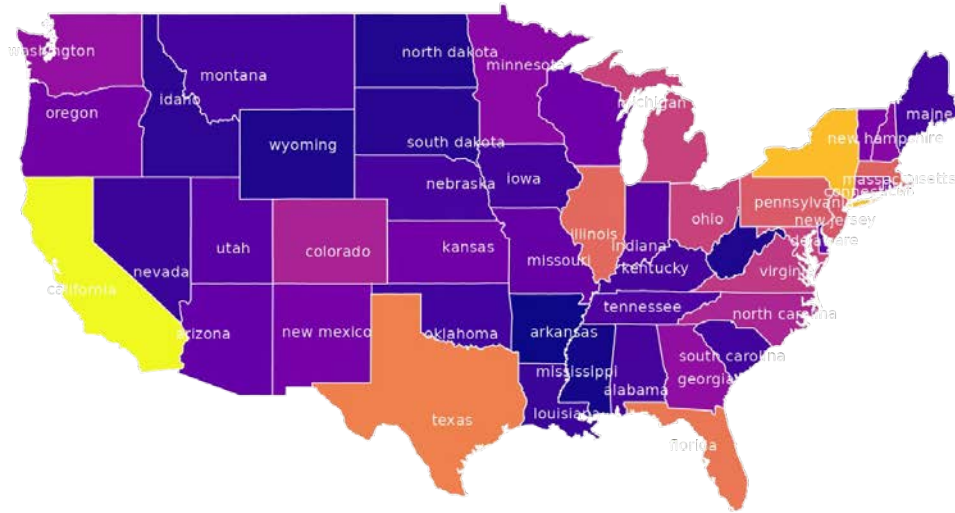
- Shift in 2009: Progress in gender equality vs. new forms of inequality

United States College Degree Holders (1980-2022)

Distribution by State

Top 10 States:

1. california: 42282
2. new york: 30120
3. texas: 20073
4. florida: 18892
5. illinois: 16857
6. massachusetts: 16121
7. district of columbia: 15610
8. pennsylvania: 15034
9. new jersey: 14795
10. michigan: 12342



College Degree Holders in log10



Data Source: Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)

- Top states: coastal, urban centers, strong economies

Conclusion

- Women surpass men in college degree attainment
- States with more degree holders: historical investment, prestigious institutions, economic opportunities
- Invest in education infrastructure and increase access
- Foster economic development in wider range of states