Women's Education
A Module on Applied Demogrpahy

INTRODUCTION

Skills:

- Using software to access and analyze census data
- Identifying independent and dependent variables
- Learning how to construct, read, and interpret bivariate tables displaying frequencies and percentages

Substance:

- Use different datasets to look at :
    - Women's educational attainment between different demographic groups over time
    - The gender gap in educational attainment over time

EXERCISE 1

Use census data from 1950 to 2008 in the ACS 2008 collection

- Go to http://www.ssdan.net/datacounts/webchip
- Select the category **"acs2008trend"** from the drop-down menu.
- From the dataset menu, select **Educ**

In WebCHIP, make a Percent Down table with "EDUC" as the row variable, "GENDER" as the column variable and "YEAR", "RACE" and "AGE" as the control variables. The charts should have years on x-axes and the percent of each group with a college degree on the y-axes. Series 1 will be male and series 2 female.

Using Excel, draw two clustered column charts with side by side bars (the first subtype in the first row of column charts), one for non-blacks and one for blacks which show the percentages of men and women ages 25-34 who are college graduates from 1950 to 2008.

Briefly answer the following questions:

1. How does gender influence educational attainment?
2. How has the gender gap changed over time?
3. Why has the gender gap changed over time?
4. What differences, if any, are there in the evolution of the gender gap between blacks and non-blacks?

5. What is one explanation for the race-ethnic differences in the gender gap?
6. Why have we used the age group 25-34 rather than the age group 65+ for these analyses?

EXERCISE 2

This exercise uses the 2010 ACS data.

- Go to http://www.ssdan.net/datacounts/webchip
- Select the category **"acs2010"** from the drop-down menu.
- From the dataset menu, select **EducImm**

In WebCHIP, make a Percent Down table with "EDUC" the as row variable and "GENDER" as the column variable. The chart should have the x-axis labeled male and female. The series will be labeled <9yrs, 10-12yrs, etc. Copy (CTRL+C) and paste the WebCHIP table into Excel, and create a 100% stacked column bar (the third subtype in the first row of column charts) showing the percentages of each sex by level of educational attainment.

Answer the following questions:

1. Focusing on people those with at least a college degree, describe the gender gap among those with higher levels of educational attainment in 2010.
2. Are the gender gaps in higher educational attainment shown in this exercise different from those in the previous exercise? How?
3. How do you reconcile the gender gaps in higher educational attainment shown in the graphs for exercise 1 with those for exercise 2?