# The Wage Gap and Occupational Segregation 

Barbara Gault, Ph.D.
Executive Director and Vice President, Institute for Women's Policy Research

gault@iwpr.org

www.iwpr.org


## About IWPR

## Mission:

The Institute for Women's Policy Research:
conducts rigorous research and disseminates its findings to address the needs of women, promote public dialogue, and strengthen families, communities, and societies.

- Program Areas:
- Poverty, Welfare, \& Income Security
- Work \& Family
- Employment, Education, \& Economic Change
- Health \& Safety
- Democracy \& Society


# The Pace of Change in Closing the Wage Gap Has Slowed 

The Gender Earnings Ratio, 1955-2009, FullTime Workers


## Race and Gender Differences are Still Very Significant. White and Asian American Men Earn the Most. Hispanic Women Earn the Least.

Median Annual Earnings of Men and Women Employed Full-Time, Year-Round by Race/Ethnicity, 2008


## Women's Accumulated Losses Are Large Across 15 Years (1983-1998)

- Women: \$273,592
- Men: \$722,693
- Ratio: 38 percent
, Gap: 62 percent
- Accumulated Loss \$499,101

Life-time earnings: includes years out of labor force and years of part-time work


Source: Rose, Stepm -and Heidi I. Hartmann. 2004. Still A Man's Labor Market: The
Long-Term Earnings Gap. inson, Institute for Women’s Policy Research.

## Women's Lower Life-time Earnings have Consequences for their Retirement Years.

Average Income Amounts by Source for Older Women and Men
(Aged 65 and Older)


Source: Lee, Hartman, and Finkle 2001 based on the US Census Bureau's 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

## Number of Men and Women With Bachelor's Degrees (1970-2007)



SOOn 5. UIS. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Earned Degrees Conferred, 186970 through - 65; Projections of Education Statistics to 2018; Higher Education General Information Survey (HEGIS), "Degrees at - Eormal Awards Conferred" surveys, 1965-66 through 1985-86; and 1986-87 through 2007-08 Integrated Postse - Education Data System, "Completions Survey" (IPEDS-C:87-99), and Fall 2000 through Fall 2008.

# Women Have Surpassed Men in Overall Postsecondary Ed Attainment 

## Percent with Some Postsecondary Education

Men Women


## Women in the Washington D.C. Region Need More Education to Earn What Men Do



Source: 2010 Portrait of Women \& Girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area, Washington Area Women's Foundation

## Weekly Earnings by Gender Compositions of Jobs

|  | Male- <br> Dominated <br> Occupations <br> (25 percent <br> or less <br> female) | Mixed <br> Occupations <br> $(25.1$ to 74.9 <br> percent <br> female) | Female- <br> dominated <br> occupations <br> (75 percent <br> or more <br> female) | Wage Ratio |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Low-skilled | $\$ 553$ | $\$ 435$ | $\$ 408$ | $73.8 \%$ |
| Medium- <br> skilled | $\$ 752$ | $\$ 735$ | $\$ 600$ | $79.8 \%$ |
| High-skilled | $\$ 1,424$ | $\$ 1,160$ | $\$ 953$ | $66.9 \%$ |

# Occupational Gender Integration Has Stalled [The Index of Dissimilarity, 1972-2009] 



## Share of Women in Selected Occupations Requiring Less than Four Years of College, 1972-2009



# Gender Composition of Undergraduate Majors of 1999-2000 Bachelor's Degree Recipients Employed Full Time* in 2001 


*Includes responants with multiple jobs, regardless of hours worked in any job.
Note: Excludes gradur than 35 at composition of bachelor's degree.
Source: U.S. Department of Eur National Center for Education Statistics, 2000-2001 Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study

## \% of Degrees in Computer sciences and engineering received by women, 1989-2008



NOTE: Data not available for 1999.
Source: Women Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities, 2011. NSF.

## U.S. Family Policies Lag Behind Other Countries

Out of 173 countries studied by Heymann and Earle and Hayes (2007) only four did not have government-guaranteed paid leave programs:

Liberia
Papua New Guinea
Swaziland
The United States

# For College-Educated Women, the US has the Lowest Labor Force Participation Rates Among 50 High-earning Nations. 



Source: Organisation for Economic Cooperation \& Development. Employment Outlook 2007, as cited in Ariane Hegewisch and Janet C. Gornick, Statutory Routes to Workplace Flexibility in Cross-National Perspective (Washington, DC: Institute for Women's Policy Research, 2008).

## IWPR: Supporting Student Parents in Postsecondary Education

- Building network of concerned professionals
- Raising awareness among key policy makers
- Conducting and commissioning
- Research on student-parent supports
- Tool kits to capture and replicate best practices


## Recommendations

- Support programs encouraging students to enter STEM and other high paying nontrad. fields
- Expand work/education and family supports (child care, paid family leave).
- Step up enforcement of equal pay and equal employment opportunity laws, to reduce discrimination in the work'place.


## Recommendations

- Protect workers' right to organize, since the gender wage gap is smaller among unionized workers than non-unionized workers.
- Step up advocacy to equalize care work and house work, to make salaries transparent

