

Supplemental Information

ARTICLE: Does social class matter equally for the timely transition into and out of college?
Evidence from a national longitudinal sample

JOURNAL: *Research in Higher Education*

Serge Atherwood, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (satherwood@berkeley.edu)

Gabriela Sánchez-Soto, Ph.D., Rice University (gabriela.sanchez.soto@rice.edu)

Proportions of the NLSY97 analytic sample are given in Table A for all levels of each social class proxy and covariate, disaggregated by race/ethnicity and by college pathway milestone. On almost all measures, proportions increase or decrease with each subsequent (and more challenging) milestone in ways that intuitively suggest a social selection effect. For example, regardless of race/ethnicity, the proportion of respondents with at least one parent with some college education continually climbs as one moves from origin cohort to degree completion. The same is true of respondents in the top third of household net worth, while the opposite (a continual decrease) is seen among those in the bottom third.

Other consistencies include the universal, continual decline in the proportion of males and the proportion of respondents in the lowest third of ASVAB scores who fully traversed the college pathway, plus the universal, steady increase in mean ASVAB score and the proportion of individuals in excellent or very good health across the same pathway. Comparing patterns by race/ethnicity, however, reveals advantages for non-Hispanic whites on all three social class proxies: At every step of the pathway, smaller proportions of Black and Latinx collegegoers had parents with college experience, lived with both parents in 1997, or came from households with upper-tercile net worth in 1997. Blacks and Latinx were also notably less likely in high school to be surrounded by peers with college intentions or score highly on the ASVAB. Overall, Blacks showed greater disadvantage, relative to non-Hispanic whites, than Latinx on most attributes.

Table A Summary characteristics of the analytic sample

	NON-HISPANIC WHITES				NON-HISPANIC BLACKS				HISPANIC/LATINX			
	Origin cohort	Graduated high school	Enrolled in college on time	Finished degree on time	Origin cohort	Graduated high school	Enrolled in college on time	Finished degree on time	Origin cohort	Graduated high school	Enrolled in college on time	Finished degree on time
Social class proxies												
<i>Parental education</i>												
High school diploma or less	36.1	30.6	17.3	16.0	60.9	53.0	39.8	36.7	63.6	55.9	38.5	35.6
1 or more years of college	63.9	69.4	82.7	84.0	39.1	47.0	60.2	63.3	36.4	44.1	61.5	64.4
<i>Household net worth in 1997</i>												
Lower third of distribution	40.7	33.0	20.6	18.2	80.9	75.1	59.7	57.7	70.5	64.3	51.9	42.5
Middle third of distribution	31.8	34.0	33.9	31.8	15.6	20.3	32.7	33.3	20.2	23.0	20.9	33.7
Upper third of distribution	27.5	33.0	45.5	50.0	3.5	4.6	7.6	9.0	9.3	12.7	27.2	23.8
<i>Household structure in 1997</i>												
Two parents, both biological	58.3	65.5	75.6	78.6	28.2	32.9	42.4	49.4	53.0	60.6	60.5	63.1
Living with biological mother	33.4	27.6	20.0	17.1	64.3	58.8	49.3	46.6	40.9	34.0	28.8	34.0
Other household structure	8.3	6.9	4.4	4.3	7.5	8.3	8.3	4.0	6.1	5.4	10.7	2.9
College-going culture/academic aptitude												
<i>Percent of peers expecting to go to college</i>												
Less than 75%	38.5	33.8	25.9	22.1	53.3	51.6	44.1	43.3	49.9	46.4	38.7	42.2
75% or more	61.5	66.2	74.1	77.9	46.7	48.4	55.9	56.7	50.1	53.6	61.3	57.8
<i>High school delinquency</i>												
Never skipped class	44.9	48.9	57.9	60.5	43.9	49.4	53.9	58.6	44.3	50.2	57.2	61.0
Skipped one or more classes	55.1	51.1	42.1	39.5	56.1	50.6	46.1	41.4	55.7	49.8	42.8	39.0
<i>ASVAB score rank</i>												
Lower third of distribution	27.7	19.7	3.9	5.0	67.2	55.8	32.4	26.2	56.5	45.0	17.2	16.7
Middle third of distribution	34.5	35.3	28.1	23.0	25.3	33.7	44.4	46.6	26.3	31.9	34.3	32.6
Upper third of distribution	37.8	45.0	68.0	72.0	7.5	10.5	23.2	27.2	17.2	23.1	48.5	50.7
ASVAB mean score†	56.7	62.4	76.0	76.5	29.4	35.9	50.2	54.8	38.4	45.3	63.1	64.5
Other												
<i>Sex</i>												
Male	50.6	49.1	47.4	42.4	48.6	42.7	32.6	28.3	51.9	48.7	46.6	40.1
Female	49.4	50.9	52.6	57.6	51.4	57.3	67.4	71.7	48.1	51.3	53.4	59.9
<i>Self-rated health in 1997</i>												
Excellent or very good	77.2	80.6	89.0	89.6	67.6	69.7	75.7	74.7	68.7	72.5	80.3	82.1
Less than very good	22.8	19.4	11.0	10.4	32.4	30.3	24.3	25.3	31.3	27.5	19.7	17.9

Source: NLSY97 (weighted data)

Note: Cell values indicate percentages of cohort (males and females pooled) at each level of a covariate. Percentages sum to 100 within each covariate. Cohorts exclude individuals with missing data on covariates.

† On a scale of 1 to 100