Harvard and Beyond Sample

Three cohorts of Harvard/Radcliffe students (graduates, non-graduates, transfers) were sampled and surveyed.

(1) 1969 to 1972, and 1973 women (Cohort 1, C1970);
(2) 1979 to 1982 (Cohort 2, C1980);

Fraction female was 21% for C1970 but was 41% for C1990, which is why the women of 1973 were added.

Sampling universe contains 21,000 students. Of these, 16,426 had easily accessible contact information and were surveyed.
Harvard and Beyond Sample

Web and hard-copy (mail) surveys were sent beginning Fall ’06, resulting in 6,554 full responses by Summer ’07.

Response rate was 40% overall: 46% for women; 37% for men.

Survey covered educational, demographic, work, volunteer histories; Harvard experience; home and family life histories.

Questions were anchored at various moments: (a) directly after college; (b) 15 years out; and (c) contemporaneously
Harvard and Beyond Sample

In some ways, the employment and family histories of H&B respondents differ from those of other college graduates in the U.S. population. But in many ways, they are very similar.

As demonstrated in the next three graphs, the fraction of H&B women working full-time, full-year was considerably higher than national data, but the time trend is similar.

The fraction married by age 25 is lower for H&B, but the trend across the 20 years is downward for all.

Delay in childbearing is also apparent for both groups, although it is more apparent for the H&B sample.
Full-time, Full-year Workers at 15 Years Out: CPS and H&B Women

Year of Birth

Harvard and Beyond

March CPS, College Graduate Women
Fraction Married by Age 25: CPS and H&B

March CPS, College Graduate Women

Harvard and Beyond
Fraction with Children < 6 Years at 15 Years Out: CPS and H&B

Year of Birth

March, CPS
College Graduate Women

Harvard and Beyond