Chapter 10

Gender and Age
Issues of Sex and Gender

• Sex – Biological Characteristics
• Female and Male
• Primary and Secondary Sexual Characteristics
• Gender - Social Characteristics
• Masculinity and Femininity
• Appropriate Behavior
Gender Differences In Behavior: Biology or Culture?

• Dominant Position in Sociology
  – Social Factors Primary, Not Biological
  – If Biological Should Be Less Variation

• Opening the Door to Biology
Gender Differences In Behavior: Biology or Culture?

– A Medical Accident
– Vietnam Veterans Study
  • Researchers found boys and men who have higher levels of testosterone tend to be more aggressive
Gender and Inequality in Global Perspective

• How Females became a Minority Group
  – Human Reproduction
  – Hand-to-Hand Combat
  – Which One?
  – Continuing Dominance
Violence Against Women

• A global human rights issue is violence against women.

• Historical examples include foot binding in China, witch burning in Europe;
  – And suttee (burning the living widow with the body of her dead husband) in India
Gender Inequality in the U.S.

• Fighting Back: The Rise of Feminism
  – First Wave—Early 1900s
  – Second Wave Began 1960s
  – Third Wave Has Emerged

• Gender Inequality in Health Care
The “Dick and Jane” readers were the top selling readers in the United States in the 1940s and 1950s. In addition to reading, they taught “gender messages.” What gender message do you see here?

Housework is “women’s work,” a lesson girls should learn early in life.
What does this page teach children other than how to read the word “Father”? (Look above to see what Jane and Mother are doing.)

Besides learning words like “pigs” (relevant at that historical period), boys and girls also learned that rough outside work was for men.

Gender Inequality in the U.S.

- Gender Inequality in Education
  - The Past
  - The Change
  - Gender Tracking
  - Graduate School and Beyond
Gender Inequality in the Workplace

• The Pay Gap
  – Historical Background
  – Geographical Factors
  – The “Testosterone Bonus”
  – Reasons for the Gender Pay Gap
  – The CEO Gap
Women in the Workforce

What percentage of women are in the workforce?
- Less than average: 49.2% to 57.9%
- Average: 58.2% to 62.6%
- More than average: 62.9% to 68.8%

Fewest women in the workforce:
1. West Virginia (49.2%)
2. Mississippi (52.1%)
3. Alabama (53.1%)

Most women in the workforce:
1. Vermont (68.8%)
2. South Dakota (68.3%)
3. Iowa (68.0%)
The Gender Pay Gap, by Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average of All Workers</td>
<td>$61,783</td>
<td>$43,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Dropouts</td>
<td>$33,457</td>
<td>$22,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduates</td>
<td>$43,493</td>
<td>$31,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College, No Degree</td>
<td>$50,433</td>
<td>$36,019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Degree</td>
<td>$54,830</td>
<td>$39,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Graduates</td>
<td>$94,206</td>
<td>$60,293</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Men's earnings as a percentage of women's earnings: 70%, 66%, 73%, 71%, 73%, 64%.
Gender Inequality in the Workplace

• Is the Glass Ceiling Cracking?
  – The Women Who Break Through
  – And the Future?

• Sexual Harassment—and Worse
The Gender Gap over Time: What Percentage of Men’s Income Do Women Earn?
Gender and Violence

• Violence Against Women
  – Forcible Rape
  – Date (Acquaintance) Rape
  – Murder
  – Violence in the Home
  – Feminism and Gendered Violence
  – Solutions
## Table 10.1: Age of Rape Victims

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000 Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12–15</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16–19</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20–24</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25–34</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35–49</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50–64</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 and Older</td>
<td>0.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: By the author. A ten-year average, based on *Statistical Abstract of the United States*; 2002:Table 303; 2003:Table 295; 2004:Table 322; 2005:Table 306; 2006:Table 308; 2007:Table 312; 2008:Table 316; 2009:Table 305; 2010:Table 305; 2012:Table 316.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relative</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known Well</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casual Acquaintance</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stranger</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Reported</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: By the author. A ten-year average, based on Statistical Abstract of the United States; 2002:Table 296; 2003:Table 323; 2004–2005:Table 307; 2006:Table 311; 2007: Table 315; 2008:Table 316; 2009:Table 306; 2010:Table 306; 2011:Table 313.
Changing Face of Politics

• Women Majority in Population
• Women Underrepresented in Government
• Women Underrepresented in Law and Business Careers
• More women are becoming corporate executives & lawyers
Killers and Their Victims

- **The Killers**
  - Men: 89%
  - Women: 11%

- **The Victims**
  - Men: 79%
  - Women: 21%
### TABLE 10.3 U.S. Women in Political Office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage of Offices Held by Women</th>
<th>Number of Offices Held By Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Senate</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. House of</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State Office</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governors</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lt. Governors</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attorneys General</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretaries of State</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurers</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Auditors</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Legislators</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Glimpsing the Future - With Hope

• Barriers Coming Down
  – Stereotypes that limit females to “feminine” activities & males to “masculine” ones

• Activities Degendered

• New Consciousness
Aging

- Inequalities of Aging
- Aging in Global Perspective
  - The Social Construction of Aging
  - Industrialization and the Graying of the Globe
  - The Graying of America
- The Symbolic Interactionist Perspective
  - Shifting Meanings of Growing Old
The Graying of the Globe

**Lowest percentage of population age 65 and older**

1. Uganda (2.1%)
2. Niger (2.3%)
3. Afghanistan (2.4%)

**Highest percentage of population age 65 and older**

1. Japan (22.6%)
2. Germany (20.4%)
3. Italy (20.3%)
U.S. Life Expectancy by Year of Birth
FIGURE 10.12 The Graying of America: Americans Age 65 and Older

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2012: Table 9, and earlier years.
FIGURE 10.13 The Median Age of the U.S. Population

Year

1850  1900  1950  2000  2050

Age

20  23  30  35  39

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 2000:Table 14; 2012:Table 9, and earlier years.
FIGURE 10.14  As Florida Goes, So Goes the Nation

Percent Elderly
- The younger states: 10.1% to 14.2%
- The average states: 14.4% to 15.7%
- The grayer states: 15.8% to 19.5%

Aging

– The Influence of the Mass Media

• The Functionalist Perspective
  – Disengagement Theory
  – Activity Theory
  – Continuity Theory

• The Conflict Perspective
Aging

– Fighting for Resources: Social Security Legislation
– Intergenerational Competition and Conflict

• Looking toward the Future
  – New Views of Aging
FIGURE 10.15 Social Security Payments to Beneficiaries

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States 1997: Table 518; 2012:Table 474. Broken line indicates the author’s projections.
Health Care Costs for the Elderly and Disabled

[Graph showing the increase in health care costs over time, with lines for Medicare and Medicaid.

- Medicare costs have increased exponentially since 1967.
- Medicaid costs have also increased significantly, but at a slower rate than Medicare.

The graph indicates a rapid rise in costs towards the end of the period, particularly for Medicare.]
FIGURE 10.17 Age and Trends in Poverty

Source: By the author. Based on Statistical Abstract of the United States, various years, and 2012:Table 713. Broken lines indicate the author’s projections.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of college students who are women</th>
<th>Percentage of dental school graduates who are women</th>
<th>Percentage of medical school graduates who are women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970 42%</td>
<td>1970 1%</td>
<td>1970 8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOW 57%</td>
<td>NOW 45%</td>
<td>NOW 49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women make up this percentage of the U.S. labor force

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOW</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of men’s salary earned by women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOW</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER NUMBERS
Number of U.S. senators since 1789

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEN</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOMEN</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of workers paying into Social Security for each beneficiary</td>
<td>Annual Social Security payments to beneficiaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median age in the United States</th>
<th>Elderly Americans who are in poverty</th>
<th>Americans age 65 and older</th>
<th>Percent in poverty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900: 23</td>
<td>NOW: 37</td>
<td>2050: 39</td>
<td>Elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7% MEN</td>
<td>12% WOMEN</td>
<td>12% ASIAN AMERICANS</td>
<td>20% AFRICAN AMERICANS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 1900: 4% | NOW: 13% | 2050: 20% |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elderly</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970: 25%</td>
<td>1970: 16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>