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Using Title IX to Measure the  
Return to High School Sports**

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# *Beyond the Classroom: Using Title IX to Measure the Return to High School Sports*

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## Abstract

Previous research has found that male high school athletes experience better outcomes than non-athletes, including higher educational attainment, more employment, and higher wages. Students self-select into athletics, however, so these may be selection effects rather than causal effects. To address this issue, I examine Title IX which provides a unique quasi-experiment in female athletic participation. Between 1972 and 1978 U.S. high schools rapidly increased their female athletic participation rates (to approximately the same level as their male athletic participation rates) in order to comply with Title IX. This paper uses variation in the level of boys' athletic participation across states before Title IX as an instrument for the change in girls' athletic participation over the 1970s. Analyzing differences in outcomes for both the pre- and post-Title IX cohorts across states, I find that a 10-percentage point rise in state-level female sports participation generates a 1 percentage point increase in female college attendance and a 1 to 2 percentage point rise in female labor force participation. Furthermore, greater opportunities to play sports leads to greater female participation in previously male-dominated occupations, particularly for high-skill occupations.

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## 1. Introduction

While economists have spent decades estimating the returns to an additional year of schooling, less is known about how what kids do in school contributes to these returns. One presumption is that classroom learning is the source of these returns; yet academic research has simultaneously had little success connecting the returns to schooling to high school curriculum and found large associations between labor market returns and non-classroom oriented activities such as sports participation.<sup>1</sup> Recent work by Persica, Postewaite, and Silverman (2004) demonstrated that taller teens earn a wage premium and they present suggestive evidence that much of this height premium is mediated through participation in high school athletics.<sup>2</sup> This research follows a long debate in both economics and sociology about the merits of high school sports. Many studies have documented a positive relationship between participation in high school athletics and educational aspirations, educational attainment, and wages later in life.<sup>3</sup>

What remains elusive is whether such benefits are treatment effects (*caused* by participation) or merely selection effects (associated with the type of student who chooses to participate in athletics). Much of the existing research has focused on sorting out the possible mediating mechanisms instead of dealing with the fact that students are not randomly assigned to participation in sports. Athletes tend to be more extroverted, aggressive, and achievement oriented. Are these traits they bring to athletics or are these traits athletics brings to them? Are they learning valuable skills? Or are the high skilled simply more likely to participate in sports?

To measure the causal benefits of participating in high school sports, one would want to randomly assign students to participation, or randomly assign different levels of athletic opportunities to different schools. Neither of these policy experiments exists, but there does exist a natural experiment that mimics the second policy experiment for girls. In 1972 Congress enacted Title IX of the Educational Amendments,

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<sup>1</sup> Altonji (1995) estimates the returns to particular high school courses and finds that “one cannot account for the value of a year of high school with the estimates of the value of the courses taken by the typical student during the year.”

<sup>2</sup> The authors estimate a 2.6% increase in adult wages with an additional inch of height in high school. Adding controls for athletic participation reduces the coefficient estimate by a little more than a third and it becomes statistically indistinguishable from zero (p. 1044).

<sup>3</sup> Rehberg and Schafer (1968); Spreitzer and Pugh (1973); Picou (1978); Hanks (1979); Long and Caudill (1991); Barron, Ewing, and Waddell (2000).

legislation that banned gender discrimination in federally-funded educational institutions. Compliance with Title IX can be characterized as requiring a school to raise its female athletic participation rate to near equality with its male athletic participation rate.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the proportion of female high school girls participating in athletics rose from 1 in 27 females in 1972 to 1 in 4 by 1978. In contrast, male participation remained relatively constant at 1 in 2. Although Title IX applied to every state, at the time of its passage there was considerable variation in male sports participation rates across states. Female sports participation rates also varied, but were low everywhere. Most of the variation in the scale of the compliance problem, therefore, came from male participation, which resulted in some states needing much larger increases in female sports participation than others. This paper uses the variation in states' mandated increases as a credibly exogenous source of variation in states' actual participation changes. As such, I identify causal effects of athletic participation stemming from this large-scale policy change.

The outline of the paper is as follows: Section 2 describes the previous literature, results from cross-sectional analysis, and the likely motivations for playing sports in order to clarify the nature of the selection problem. Section 3 discusses Title IX, the subsequent effect on male and female athletic participation at the high school level, and the specific instrumental variables procedure generated by Title IX. Sections 4 and 5 analyze data from the Census of Population to generate estimates of the effects of athletic participation on educational attainment, employment status, occupation, and wages. Section 6 considers several robustness checks including presenting estimates from an alternative instrument. Section 7 concludes.

## **2. Cross-Sectional Evidence on the Effects of Sports Participation**

Most research on the effects of sports participation has focused on the benefits for males, with the few studies that examine girls finding little evidence of positive effects of sports participation on outcomes for girls. However, this likely reflects the fact that these studies have largely looked at pre-Title IX sports participation severely limiting the power of any analysis.<sup>5</sup> In order to update these descriptive analyses in

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<sup>4</sup> Although the rules about compliance are in reality quite complicated, this is a reasonable approximation. For more detailed information on Title IX see Appendix B.

<sup>5</sup> Long and Caudill (1991) analyzed the effects of college sports participation using data from the entering college freshman class in 1971, finding an increase in annual incomes of 4 percent for men. Although the estimated coefficient for women is economically comparable, the large standard errors (stemming from the small number of female sports

light of the substantial number of girls playing sports since Title IX Table 1 shows the cross-sectional relationship between high school sports and labor market outcomes using the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY).<sup>6</sup> Similar analysis using this data set has been done to demonstrate positive labor market returns to high school sports for boys.<sup>7</sup>

Panel A shows that controlling for age, race, state of residence at age 14, and the urban status of the area in which the individual attended high school, being an athlete is associated with about a year more schooling for both girls and boys (columns 1 and 5).<sup>8</sup> The next column adds controls for family background (parents' education, poverty status of family in 1979, number of siblings, whether the respondent lived with both parents, and whether the household had a newspaper subscription and/or a library card) and school characteristics (percent of teachers with master's degrees, the attendance rate, the dropout rate, and the percentage of disadvantaged students). These controls reduce the coefficient on athletics by about a third. The next column accounts for the possibility that students with greater cognitive ability or self-esteem select into athletics, and thus adds controls for the percentile rank on the Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT), membership in the National Honor Society, and self-reported ratings of self-worth and failure. The association between athletics and education remains statistically significant at the 1% level, but is reduced to approximately 0.4 of a year of schooling for both boys and girls (column 3 and 7), still an economically meaningful effect. It should be noted that many of these controls could themselves be influenced by athletic participation, and are therefore potentially biasing the coefficient on athletics downward. The final column permits a comparison of the relationship between education, athletic participation and other extracurricular

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participants in their sample) indicate that they simply lack sufficient statistical resolution to be able to distinguish effects of sports participation on wages for women.

<sup>6</sup>The NLSY79 is a nationally representative sample of 12,686 men and women aged 14 to 22 in 1979, as such most of the girls in the NLSY data attended high school after Title IX's passage so that their participation tendencies were more like those of boys. In the NLSY sample 49% of boys and 38% of girls played sports.

<sup>7</sup> Postlewaite and Silverman (2005) do a similar analysis to the one discussed here looking at the returns to participating in sports for boys.

<sup>8</sup>The sample is restricted to those who attend school beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, as attending some high school is necessary in order to participate in high school sports. In addition, restricting the sample to those with complete data on athletic participation, demographics, family characteristics, and AFQT scores reduces the sample size to 9,730. The sample is further restricted to those with information on school characteristics (5,099). In order to have a consistent sample across specifications the results shown reflect this smaller subsample, however the results shown are similar to those attained

activities. Adding indicator variables for participation in (non-athletic) non-vocational clubs and vocational clubs does not change the magnitude of the coefficient on athletics much. However, the coefficient on non-vocational clubs is positive, statistically significant, and similar to the coefficient on athletics (columns 4 and 8), while the coefficient on vocational clubs is negative and statistically significant.<sup>9</sup>

The association between high school activities and wages (approximately 15 years after high school) is examined in Panel B.<sup>10</sup> The baseline specification, controlling for demographics, shows that being a high school athlete is associated with 14 and 19 percent higher wages among working women and men, respectively (columns 1 and 5).<sup>11</sup> Adding controls for family background and school characteristics reduces the coefficients to .11 and .14 (columns 2 and 6). When controls for ability are added the wage premium is reduced to around 7 percent (columns 3 and 7). When controls are added for participation in other clubs, we see that *only* high school sports participation has a statistically significant association with wages (columns 4 and 8). The effect of athletics on women's wages is as large as that for men.

A substantial portion of the athletic wage premium cannot be explained by measurements of family background, cognitive ability, school characteristics, and school involvement in other activities. The fact that athletic participation (and only athletic participation among all extra-curricular activities) is associated with higher wages suggests that sports have an especially strong correlation with a type of ability that is both an important determinant of wages and is not measured by other observable variables. Yet, sports participation is not randomly assigned in the NLSY and it remains unclear whether the coefficients recorded reflect causal effects or selection. Moreover, the sensitivity of these estimates to the conditioning set suggests that there is substantial selection into athletics.

It's useful to consider why we might observe a positive relationship between high school athletics and educational attainment and wages. Athletic participation might be associated with better outcomes in later life either because students who choose athletics have skills that are valued by the market or because

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from the larger sample. The final sample size of 3,732 for education and 3,144 for wages reflects availability of education and wage data in 1994.

<sup>9</sup> It is not surprising that the coefficient on vocational clubs is negative, if participating in such clubs indicates a desire to pursue a vocation rather than further schooling. This appears to be a clear case of sorting.

<sup>10</sup> Wages are log hourly wages measured in 1994 when the average respondent was 33 years old.

athletics fosters the development of such skills. In Becker's seminal work on human capital he acknowledged the difficulty in conceptualizing ability, noting that conventional measures of ability "while undoubtedly relevant at times, do not reliably measure the talents required to succeed in the economic sphere."<sup>12</sup> While some intellectual and academic abilities can be measured with standard IQ tests, other abilities are less easily measured by conventional tests. These attributes may include the ability to communicate, the ability to work well with others, competitiveness, assertiveness, and discipline.

Partitioning talent into these two components ("conventional" and "unconventional" ability) can help clarify how high school students choose among extra-curricular activities. Consider a high school student who has to decide how to allocate out-of-school time. Those possessed with an aptitude for academics may find reading or studying the most beneficial activity; those with strong motivation and aptitude in the interpersonal domain may find athletics most beneficial, and those with low ability in several domains may prefer activities such as watching television. Even if none of these activities generates human capital, they may generate private benefits to students because they signal (otherwise unobservable) abilities to employers and colleges. Note that even if abilities *were* observable to employers and colleges (though not to econometricians), a cross-sectional correlation between extra-curricular activities and outcomes would still be observed, so long as students with particular abilities enjoyed disproportionate (consumption) benefits from participating. Under this omitted variables interpretation, changes in the aggregate levels of athletic activity in a state yield no effect on adult outcomes within that state. However, the signaling model is more subtle. Conceptualizing Title IX as a reduction in the cost of playing sport for women can yield predictions of either more or less efficient sorting of people of unknown abilities across jobs.

Alternatively athletics may foster the development of skills valued by the market. Athletics is a highly regulated system in which social conflict is displayed in a positive light. From this, players learn how to compete and how to operate successfully under a formal code of rules and procedures. Furthermore, players are taught to function as a team. The development of these skills could be especially important for

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<sup>11</sup> Wages are measured for 80% of women and 87% of men.

<sup>12</sup> Becker, 1993 p. 97.

girls who must try to maneuver their way through traditionally male occupations later in life. Additionally, sports participation has direct physiological benefits that may be rewarded in the labor market.<sup>13</sup>

Additional potential mediating mechanisms include things that may occur because of athletic participation, but are not necessarily required by, or unique to, athletic participation. Athletes may receive increased attention and encouragement from teachers, counselors, and other adults. Alternatively, athletes may have larger, or more useful, social networks than non-athletes. Finally, because athletes often gain visibility amongst their peers, their self-esteem may rise and they may feel increased peer pressure to succeed.

In sum, athletes may earn more by signaling that they are motivated and competitive. Alternatively, a cross-sectional correlation may simply reflect unobserved background variables. Or athletics may foster the development of skills that increase productivity. These productivity-enhancing effects will be observed both in cross-sectional data, and in the evolution through time of athletic participation rates and outcome measures in aggregate populations. I now turn to a large-scale social experiment that generates a credibly exogenous shock to female sports participation in order to explore the possibility of this latter explanation.

### **3. History of Title IX and Empirical Strategy**

On June 23, 1972 President Nixon signed into law Title IX of the Education Amendments to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.<sup>14</sup> Title IX mandates that “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving financial assistance.”<sup>15</sup> The primary area in which many schools still had explicitly discriminatory policies was the provision of opportunities to play high school sports.<sup>16</sup> Title IX banned such explicit discrimination against female athletes and, as such, one its most far-reaching implications was to increase access to sports. Although Title IX applied to most activities of schools, many

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<sup>13</sup> For evidence on the relation between physiological characteristics and earnings see Averett and Sanders (1993) or Hamermesh and Biddle (1994).

<sup>14</sup> The legislative history of Title IX is shown in Appendix B.

<sup>15</sup> Historically single sex schools were exempt from Title IX, as were military institutions, and religious institutions where Title IX was a violation of their religious beliefs.

<sup>16</sup> The potential for Title IX to impact sports participation was so great that the NCAA mounted an aggressive lobbying effort against its passage.

other forms of explicit discrimination had been removed prior to Title IX. For instance, most of the male-only colleges and universities had become coeducational prior to Title IX and the rapid increase in women attending professional schools had also begun prior to Title IX (Goldin and Katz 2000). However, the empirical strategy employed in this paper to evaluate the effects of Title IX on sports does not require that Title IX had no other effects on female educational opportunities.<sup>17</sup>

There has been little research done on Title IX's effect on high school sports participation, and the subsequent effects on adult outcomes, because there are few existing data sources that contain detailed information on sports participation. Moreover, because Title IX was a federal policy, it was difficult to identify useful variation. However, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSH) has collected and published an annual volume that contains detailed information on the number of sports participants in each sport, by gender, for each state. Each state, plus the District of Columbia, has its own high school association, which is responsible for gathering information from individual schools. The NFSH conducts a National High School Athletic Participation Survey that is completed by the state associations which record the number of athletes in each sport, by gender.<sup>18</sup>

The sports participation data provide the total number of team members in each state. To get sports participation *rates*, the raw numbers need to be divided by total high school enrollment by gender, for each state, for each year. However, high school enrollment by state and sex is not collected. Instead I collect state level high school enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and impute a gender division using graduation rates from the 5% Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) of the 1990 Census of Population.<sup>19</sup>

Examining the data at the national level, the impact of Title IX on female high school sports

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<sup>17</sup> The empirical strategy requires that any other effect of Title IX be uncorrelated with male sports participation rates prior to Title IX. This will be further explored in section 7.

<sup>18</sup> Annual data exists for the number of participants for each gender, in each sport, and by state, for the academic years 1970-71, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1975-6, 1977-78 and every academic year thereafter. Iowa appears to significantly under-report athletic participation through the 1970s.

<sup>19</sup> While this estimate has many problems, including the fact that state of birth is used to identify the state of high school and that people with GED degrees are counted as having graduated high school, this estimate should help control for any bias that may result from a change over time in female enrollment rates caused by the increasing athletic

participation is apparent. There is a large and discontinuous jump in national female high school sports participation that occurred in the early 1970s (Figures 1 and 2).<sup>20</sup> Figure 1 shows girls' participation as a share of all athletes, which increased from 7% in 1971 to over a third by 1978. This increase in female participation appears to start with the passage of Title IX in 1972 and continues through to 1978, by which time the legislation required schools to be in compliance.<sup>21</sup> Furthermore, the little evidence available in the earlier years indicates that girls throughout the United States had been virtually shut out of athletics prior to Title IX. Following 1978 the female share of athletes remained largely stable until a 1992 Supreme Court ruling that allowed for plaintiffs filing Title IX lawsuits to receive punitive damages in cases where intentional action to avoid Title IX compliance is shown.

The data in Figure 1 show female athletes as a percentage of overall athletes. Naturally, it is just as important to think about the underlying compositional changes. In particular an important question is whether male athletic opportunities were eliminated in order to give more opportunities to girls. Figure 2 shows that overall male high school athletic participation was stable through this period with national male participation rates remaining around 50 percent.<sup>22</sup>

In sum, Title IX legislation appears to have provided an exogenous shock to female sports participation. The equality of opportunity and equality of provision mandates in Title IX induced schools to allow and/or encourage girls to pursue an interest in sports. Although enforcement of the law was (and still is) far from perfect, many schools made discrete and significant changes in the accessibility and attractiveness of high school sports for girls.

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opportunities in high school. An alternative is to impute that half of all students are female. All results have been checked and found to be robust to using this alternative imputation procedure.

<sup>20</sup> High school participation is measured as the total number of varsity players in all teams. If a person plays on two teams, they are counted as two participants.

<sup>21</sup> Schools immediately increased athletic opportunities for female students, despite the fact that they were given until July 1978 to comply with the Title IX regulation. Although the regulation stipulating the procedures for the implementation of Title IX was not released until June 1975, most high school principals probably realized at the time the legislation passed that their schools would need to move toward roughly equal athletic participation rates among males and females. Further, a school that had a high rate of male participation needed to achieve particularly large gains in female participation, unless it eliminated male sports teams.

<sup>22</sup> Schools may have changed spending on male sports without affecting the quantity of slots available. Additionally they may have made sports less convenient by adjusting playing and practice times to accommodate the additional

Figures 3 and 4 show that this shock to female sports participation varied across states. Specifically, Figure 3 shows that states varied in their pre-Title IX male participation rates.<sup>23</sup> Figure 4 shows that the pre-Title IX male participation rates across states predict the post-Title IX female athletic participation rate. Combining the Title IX legislation with variation across states in *male* sports participation rates, prior to Title IX, generates a useful identification strategy for estimating the effects of female high school sports participation. States with higher levels of male participation needed a higher level of female participation by 1978 in order to be in compliance with Title IX.<sup>24</sup> The participation rates in 1977-78 show that while there were some changes in male participation rates at the state level, the overwhelming change was the increase in female participation rates.<sup>25</sup>

As a first stage equation, it might seem natural to regress a state's change in the girls' participation rates on the initial (1971) gap between the boys' and girls' participation rates: (1)

$$Girls' participation_s^{1978} - Girls' participation_s^{1971} = \alpha + \beta(Boys' participation_s^{1971} - Girls' participation_s^{1971}) + \varepsilon_s$$

However, there are two reasons why this specification is not the most desirable one. First, female sports participation rates in 1971 appear to be measured with a great deal of error (perhaps because female athletics were not considered to be important). Putting a variable that contains substantial measurement error on both sides of an equation produces biased coefficients. Second, the *initial level* of girls' participation is likely to be correlated with state norms regarding female education, female labor force participation, and women generally. The level of boys' sports participation prior to Title IX is far less likely to reflect such norms. Since most of the variation in states' compliance problems is generated by boys' participation and since this variation is more credibly exogenous to the outcomes of interest, better first stage equations are:

$$Girls' participation_s^{1978} = \alpha + \beta Boys' participation_s^{1971} + \varepsilon_s \quad (2)$$

or

$$Girls' participation_s^{1978} - Girls' participation_s^{1971} = \alpha + \beta(Boys' participation_s^{1971}) + \varepsilon_s \quad (3)$$

female teams. However, these adjustments, if they occurred, were minor enough that they didn't change the number of male students playing sports.

<sup>23</sup> Since participation counts all team members and many athletes play on more than one team, this number can be greater than one.

<sup>24</sup> Female participation rates also varied by state prior to Title IX, but the variation in girls' participation is much smaller than that in boys' participation. The difference between the maximum and minimum rates of girls' participation is less than one-sixth of the difference between the maximum and minimum rates of boys' participation.

<sup>25</sup> Figures available from the author.

Table 2 shows the results of estimating these two first stage equations. Columns 1 and 2 show the estimated coefficients from equations 2 and 3, respectively. The R-squared statistics indicate that the initial level of boys' participation is a strong instrument for either the level of girls' participation in 1978 or the change in girls' participation between 1971 and 1978. The coefficients indicate that a state that inherited a 10 percentage point higher rate of male sports participation increased female participation rates by 3 to 4 percentage points by 1978. The similarity of these specifications reflects the fact that female sports participation rates were close to zero in most states. Figure 4 shows that the rise in female sports participation rates from 1971 to 1978 is closely related to the pre-existing (1971) levels of participation.

To test that the relationships just described reflect Title IX rather than other trends, the third column shows the results of estimating an analogous "placebo" regression a decade later; boys' participation in 1981 is used to predict the change from 1981 to 1988 in girls' participation. As expected, boys' participation in 1981 is not significantly correlated with the subsequent change in female athletic participation.

Title IX was passed in 1972 and took full effect in the summer of 1978. Girls who graduated from high school in 1972 would have been unaffected by Title IX, while those who started high school in the fall of 1978 would have been fully exposed to the regulations mandated by Title IX. Given approximate high school starting and finishing ages of 14 and 18 respectively, those born before 1954 would have had no exposure to Title IX in high school, while those born after 1964 would have had complete exposure in high school and beyond.<sup>26</sup> The cohort born between 1954 and 1964 had intermediate and increasing exposure to Title IX. Thus, three cohorts can be identified: a non-treated cohort consisting of women born prior to 1954, a partially treated cohort comprised of individuals born between 1954 and 1964, and a treatment cohort consisting of those born after 1964.

In sum, the *combination* of pre-law variation in male sports participation rates and the timing of the Title IX legislation interact to generate a natural experiment in girls' sports participation. The instrumental

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<sup>26</sup> Title IX likely also affected sports participation at younger ages both because junior high schools were under the same legal requirement as high schools to give the same athletic opportunities to girls that they are giving to boys and because Title IX provide a strong incentive for girls to "invest" in sports in their early years (e.g. the prospect of playing

variable yields plausibly exogenous variation in girls' participation unless there is an omitted variable that *changes* in a way that is correlated with states' 1971 *levels* of boys' participation. This possibility is explicitly examined in Section 7.

There remain two necessary clarifications about the identification strategy. First, because Title IX increased athletic opportunities for women at college, the instrument may also pick up a rise in college athletic scholarships and athletic participation. This effect may provide an alternative explanation for any observed positive association between high school sports and educational attainment. However, both male and female students are much less likely to participate in college athletics than in high school athletics, so this is unlikely to constitute a large share of any observed impact of athletic opportunities on educational attainment. Even so, the reduced form results reflect the differential impact of Title IX across states.

The second clarification is to discuss the driving factors behind the state variation in male high school athletic participation rates. Much of the variation can be explained by average high school size. States with larger high schools in 1971 had a smaller percentage of students participate in athletics. Additionally state weather patterns, monthly average temperatures and precipitation as well as their standard deviations, and demographic patterns in a state explain some of variation. From this it appears as if much, although not all, of what drives differences in male high school sports participation in 1971 reflects time-invariant state characteristics.<sup>27</sup>

#### **4. The Effects of Athletic Participation on Education**

I use data on 25-34 year olds from the 5% Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) of the 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population to analyze educational attainment.<sup>28</sup> The 25-34 year olds from the 1980 PUMS

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varsity sports in high school). As such, one could go as far as to say that completely exposed girls were those born in 1978.

<sup>27</sup> School size is not a good instrument for athletic participation in a cross-section, because there are likely important effects of school size beyond athletic participation. In this situation it is possible to use school size as an instrument because the relevant instrument is school size interacted with cohort. Schools of all sizes gave no opportunities to girls prior to Title IX and smaller schools gave greater opportunities post Title IX than did larger schools. In the robustness checks in section 8 I will replace my instrument with school size and weather interacted with cohort.

<sup>28</sup> Data are for 49 states and the District of Columbia. Iowa was dropped from the sample due to reporting problems with the girls' sports participation. All results are robust to including Iowa in the sample. Note that the NLSY sample cannot be used for this purpose because the sample size is too small and it doesn't have a pre-Title IX comparison group.

would have attended high school entirely before Title IX; the 25-34 year olds from the 2000 PUMS went to high school entirely after Title IX went into effect.<sup>29</sup> I regress each individual's educational attainment on the level of athletic participation that was characteristic of their cohort in their state:<sup>30</sup>

$$\text{Years of Education}_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta \text{Athletic Participation}_{s,t} + \sum_s \eta_s \text{State}_s + \sum_t \lambda_t \text{Year}_t + X_{i,s,t} \delta + \varepsilon_{i,s,t} \quad (4)$$

where  $i$ =individual,  $s$ =state, and  $t$ =year of census.<sup>31</sup>

The instrument for athletic participation is the pre-Title IX (1971) level of boys participation interacted with the individual's cohort. In other words, the instrument is the pre-Title IX (1971) level of boys' participation for 2000 cohort observations and is zero for 1980 cohort observations (because the states' compliance problem was "zero" for this cohort). The standard errors are clustered by state-cohort cells.

Table 3 shows the instrumental variables estimates of the effects of female athletic participation on educational attainment. The first row in the first column of Table 3 suggests that a 10 percentage point increase in the female athletic participation rate in a state generates an increase in the average educational attainment among all women of 0.039 years. An alternative way to interpret the estimate is to say that if Title IX induced *every* woman to participate in athletics (and if none had been participating in the prior cohort) then educational attainment among all women would be 0.39 years higher after Title IX. (This latter interpretation is less natural as it requires one to extrapolate beyond the variation in the data.) This baseline estimate includes a saturated set of dummy variables for age, race, ethnicity, state of birth, and cohort. The

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<sup>29</sup> With the 25-34 year olds in 1980 it is possible that they may have had some exposure to Title IX if they were in school beyond the standard age of high school students. Mistakenly treating those who attend high school at an older age as untreated may lead to attenuation bias.

<sup>30</sup> State of birth is used as an indicator of the state in which an individual attended high school. This is likely to attenuate the estimated effects of Title IX. Investigating those high school ages in the 1980, 1990, and 2000 Censuses shows no relationship between changes in the probability of still living in your state of birth and the 1971 level of boys' athletic participation. While mobility changes may themselves be an outcome of increased sports opportunities, there appears to be no preexisting pattern.

<sup>31</sup> Alternatively, the regressions can be run by aggregating outcomes to the state-level. All of my results are robust to such a specification. Results are available from the author upon request.

second row reports the reduced form estimate of the relationship between Title IX compliance problems and educational attainment. The third row gives the estimate from the first stage (equation 3).<sup>32</sup>

The estimates in the next two columns examine whether the instrumental variables estimate is robust to changes in the specification. Column 2 shows that the estimated coefficients are largely unchanged by adding controls economic conditions at age 18 – approximately the time these women were making their education decisions.<sup>33</sup> Recall that, in order for an omitted variable to be driving the results, it would have to be changing over time in a way that is correlated with the initial level of boys’ sports participation. For example, if there were relatively smaller or larger increase in educational attainment in the south during this period we might be concerned about regional trends. Indeed Figure 4 shows that southern states had boys’ participation rates in 1971 that were below the median. In column 3 of Table 3, controls are added for regional changes (year-times-region-of-birth indicator variables).<sup>34</sup> Adding regional trends magnifies the coefficient somewhat. In sum, there appears to be a robust relationship between educational attainment and the opportunity to play sports.

Table 4 further analyzes the relationship between sports participation and post-secondary educational attainment. The first two columns in Table 4 regress sports participation on whether or not an individual received at least 1 year of education beyond high school. The first column shows that a 10 percentage point increase in girls’ sports participation in a state generates an average increase of 1.3 percentage points in the probability that girls in that state get some post-secondary education. As in Table 3, I test the sensitivity of the specification to the inclusion of regional time trends and economic conditions at age 18. Adding these controls has little impact on the estimate.

I next look at the probability of attending at least four years of college. The first column shows that a 10 percentage point increase in girls’ sports participation generates an increase of 0.8 percentage points in

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<sup>32</sup> The estimated coefficient here will differ from that in Table 3 both because of added controls and because these regressions reflect census weights.

<sup>33</sup> Controls are measured for each person at age 18 and include inflation, the interest rate (prime), and the log of per capita personal income, and the unemployment rate in the state of birth.

<sup>34</sup> Region is a saturated set of dummies for the nine U.S. regions, identified for an individual’s state of birth.

the probability of getting at least a college degree. Adding controls for regional changes and economic conditions in the state of birth at age 18 reduces the estimate somewhat.

Finally, I look at post-graduate education by generating a variable indicating whether or not an individual has received more than 4 years of post-secondary schooling. With a saturated set of controls for age, race, ethnicity, and state and cohort fixed effects, a 10 percentage point increase in girls' sports participation generates an increase of .13 percentage points in the probability post-college education. However, this effect is not statistically significant. Adding regional time trends and economic conditions in the state of birth at age 18, the estimated effect of a 10 percentage point increase in girls' sports participation increases to .44 percentage points and becomes statistically significant.

In sum, it appears as if sports participation induced by Title IX had a large and statistically significant effect on female educational attainment. The reduced form results indicate that states with bigger compliance problems (and thus bigger predicted increases in female sports participation) had bigger increases in educational attainment for women. The IV results suggest that a 10 percentage point rise in sports participation raises average years of education in a state by .04 to .06 years. Overall female sports participation rose by around 30% suggesting that this might account for a rise in female educational attainment of .12 to .18 years (with a 3 percentage point rise in college attendance). This rise appears evident across all education levels.

## **5. The Effect of Athletic Participation on Employment, Occupational Choice, and Wages**

If participating in athletics gives women skills that are particularly useful in the workforce, then we may expect to find that women who participated in athletics are more likely to be part of the employed labor force.<sup>35</sup> To test this Table 5 follows the regression format in the previous section to assess effects of sports participation on labor force participation.

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<sup>35</sup> For instance, using the NLSY-79 women who played sports in high school were 5 percent more likely to be working 10 years later.

Column 1 of Table 5 shows that a 10-percentage point increase in girls' sports participation generates an increase of 1.9 percentage points in the probability of being employed. Adding controls for the economic conditions at age 18 raises the estimated coefficient somewhat, while adding controls for regional changes raises the standard error and suggests a slightly smaller effect. Further regressions examine women who report working full-time (a typical work-week of 35+ hours). Controlling for age, race, ethnicity, and state and year fixed effects, a 10-percentage point increase in girls' sports participation generates an increase of 1.9 percentage points in the probability of working full-time (column 2). As with the previous measure the coefficient rises slightly with the inclusion of controls for economic conditions at age 18 and falls somewhat with inclusion of regional changes. In both measures, increased opportunities to play sports are associated with a statistically significant increase in labor force participation.

The last three columns turn to a different measure, analyzing the probability that a woman is employed full-time conditional on being employed. The baseline specification indicates that among the employed, women born in states with athletic opportunities that were 10-percentage point higher were .7 percentage points more likely to work full-time. Adding controls for economic conditions has little impact on the estimated coefficient, however adding controls for regional trends reduces the point estimate and it becomes statistically insignificant.

Sports participation might have an effect on the type of career chosen. The natural starting point is to examine whether women in states with more opportunities to play sports are subsequently more likely to be employed in a sports-related occupation. Using time-consistent occupational codes in the IPUMS, 0.034% of all women were employed in sports-related occupations in 1980 and that number tripled to 0.089% in 2000. Results in Table 6 (columns 1 & 2) shows that a 10-percentage point rise in the opportunities to play high school sports offered to girls increased the probability of being employed in a sports related position by .02 percentage points, which represents one-third of the growth in employment in sports-related occupations between 1980 and 2000. Since Title IX led to an average female high sports participation rate of about 30%,

the sports opportunities offered by Title IX can explain *all* of the growth in employment of women in sports-related occupations between 1980 and 2000.<sup>36</sup>

Additionally, one might want to ask if girls who play sports are more likely to choose an occupation that has been traditionally male in the past. Male occupations are defined as those occupations in which at least two-thirds of the workers under the age of 50 in 1970 were male. Similarly female occupations are those in which two-thirds of the workers under the age of 50 in 1970 were female. “Mixed” occupations represent the remaining occupations. In 1980, 12.9% of women were employed in male occupations, 25.2% in mixed occupations, and 22.7% in female occupations. In 2000 those numbers had risen to 22.5% and 29% in male-dominated and mixed occupations respectively, while the percent of women employed in female occupations had fallen to 20.2%. Table 6 shows that states with greater growth in opportunities for girls to play sports had greater growth in male and mixed occupations relative to that in female occupations. A 10-percentage point rise in athletic opportunities led to a 1.1 percentage point rise in the probability of being in a “mixed” occupation, a 0.45 percentage point rise in the probability of being employed in a male occupation, and a 0.36 percentage point rise in the probability of being in a female occupation. The growth of women in all three occupation categories is not surprising given the rise in female employment documented in Table 5. Adding controls for regional changes and economic conditions at age 18 slightly increases the coefficient on male occupations and reduces the estimated effect on female and mixed-gender occupations. However, the results in Table 6 indicated that the growth occurred disproportionately in occupations that are not traditionally female.

Table 7 examines occupational selection conditional on employment and the skill-requirement of the occupations. “High education” occupations are those in which the average worker had 12.5 years of education or higher in 1970, while “low education” occupations are ones in which the average worker had less than 12.5 years of education. The first 6-columns examine the likelihood that an individual is employed in a high-education occupation that is traditionally male, female, or mixed. The pattern of coefficients shows

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<sup>36</sup> Note that the demand shock provided by Title IX affects the 1980 cohort – it is from that generation of employees that coaches would need to be hired to meet the sports demand of the 2000 cohort.

that higher rates of athletic participation led a rise in employment of women in high-education male-and mixed-gender occupations. However these results are not robust to the inclusion of regional changes.<sup>37</sup> Both specifications show no relationship between sports opportunities and employment in high-education female occupations.

The second 6-columns examine the likelihood low-education occupations. Among low education occupations the pattern of coefficients shows a relationship between greater sports opportunities and an increase in female employment in mixed occupations. For low-skill male occupations there is a small, and in most cases statistically insignificant, negative relationship with athletic opportunities.

Finally, I examined the relationship between athletic opportunities generated by Title IX and the subsequent wages received by women. This relationship is particularly difficult to examine because the results in the previous section illustrate that Title IX generated a large labor supply shock which may mitigate against any human capital gain that might increase wages. Indeed examination of multiple specifications (not shown) reveals an unstable, at times negative, and highly variable relationship between sports participation and wages. It is difficult to draw any conclusions from this experiment on the true causal relationship between sports participation and wages.

## **6. Robustness Checks**

One potential concern is that states that had higher rates of male athletic participation prior to the passage of Title IX were bad for women in ways that changed over time, perhaps as a result of Title IX, but not because of athletic participation. To test this I examined a number of data sources to test the relationship between outcomes for women and pre-Title IX male participation rates. The 1972 National Longitudinal Survey provides information about course offerings. Using the 1972 NLS I examined high school course offerings and female enrollment in specific subjects prior to Title IX. I found no relationship between male athletic participation rates and the percent of women taking home economics courses. Similarly, no

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<sup>37</sup> In regressions (not shown) adding controls for economic conditions without controlling for regional trends, generates estimated coefficients that are slightly larger.

relationship was found when examining the percent of women taking science and math courses or the number of math and science courses taken by women.

Data from the 1970 Censuses of Population show no relationship between state male athletic participation rates in 1971 and outcomes for women relative to men. For example, there is no relationship between male sports participation and the difference between a 19 year-old girl and boy's likelihood of being enrolled in college. There was also no relationship between male sports participation rates in 1971 and female employment rates.

None of the specifications shown in Tables 3 through 7 control for marital status, number of children, or education – common factors effecting employment status – because these factors are themselves affected by the coefficient of interest – sports participation. Indeed, in further regressions (not shown), greater opportunities to play sports are also associated with a lower likelihood of marriage and fewer children. Even so, the results are robust to including such controls.

Additional checks came from examining alternative instruments: school size and weather. I use average state high school class size in 1971 and average temperature and precipitation from 1940-1970. While these measures are undoubtedly correlated with important drivers of adult outcomes, these instruments are interacted with cohort such that they predict changes in outcomes from the pre-Title IX cohort to the post-Title IX cohort. These variables provide a weaker instrument than that using male sports participation rates, with a combined F-statistic of only 8 compared with that of 27 for male participation. However, results are broadly consistent with those found using male participation rates (interacted with cohort) as an instrument (shown in column 2 of Table 8 for all outcome variables).

An additional test involved focusing on the one-third of the 25-34 year old women in the 1980 and 2000 censuses who are no longer living in their state of birth.<sup>38</sup> Examining only people who have moved allows us to consider whether the effects are coming only from changes in outcomes for those remaining in their state of birth. The regressions, shown in Table 8, look at all people who move and look to see whether the sports opportunities available in their birth state have explanatory power for their ultimate education and

employment outcomes. Interpretation of these coefficients is muddled by the non-random assignment of who moves and the possibility that this also reflects the effects of sports participation. Additionally, the previous estimates shown provide the average effect for all girls in the state. One might expect that those induced by greater career opportunities to move are among those most affected by their high school opportunities. The third column of Table 8 shows the effects for all outcome variables among movers. The effects are broadly consistent to what is found when using the total population, but the coefficients in most cases are slightly greater.

## 7. Conclusion

Despite the controversial nature of applying Title IX to athletics, there has been surprisingly little research done on the effects of Title IX on sports participation, and even less on the effects of female sports participation on later outcomes for women. Previous research, in both the economics and sociology literature, has found that participating in athletics, both at the high school and college level, translates into improved outcomes for men. While some of this research has attempted to look at women, the small number of women participating in athletics prior to 1972 made it near impossible to find significant effects. Furthermore, the existing literature has been hampered by a severe methodological problem in that sports participation is not randomly determined. As such, selection issues may swamp the previous findings of positive relationships between sports participation and outcome measures.

Title IX of the Education Amendments to the 1964 Civil Rights Act required schools to provide athletic opportunities for girls equal to those provided to boys. Before Title IX was enacted, states differed in the levels of athletic opportunities offered to boys, while negligible opportunities were offered to girls everywhere. Hence compliance required a larger increase in girls' sports participation in those states with historically strong sports programs for boys. Thus, the *interaction* of the Title IX legislation with pre-existing levels of boys' sports participation provides a credibly exogenous instrument for the change in girls' athletic participation over the 1972-78 period. Reduced form estimates suggest that this interaction is significantly related to changes in female educational attainment and employment status. Further, first stage

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<sup>38</sup> As noted earlier there is no relationship between mobility as a teenager and male participation rates.

regressions show that the instrument does indeed explain much of the variation through time in state-level measures of athletic participation. Thus, I conclude that athletic participation has important causal effects on women's educational and labor market outcomes. While alternative interpretations may point to the impact of Title IX on other things going on in the education system, these interpretations need to rely on the change in outcomes being correlated with the initial level of sports participation of boys.

My central estimates suggest that if a state's female sports participation rate rises 10-percentage points, then average levels of schooling in the state will rise by around .04-.06 years, and employment rates will rise by 1-to-2 percentage points. Thus, while selection may explain some of the positive correlates of athletic participation found in cross-sectional analysis, this research provides evidence of important treatment effects as well.

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Figure 1  
 Female High School Sports Participants  
 (As a Fraction of all Sports Participants)

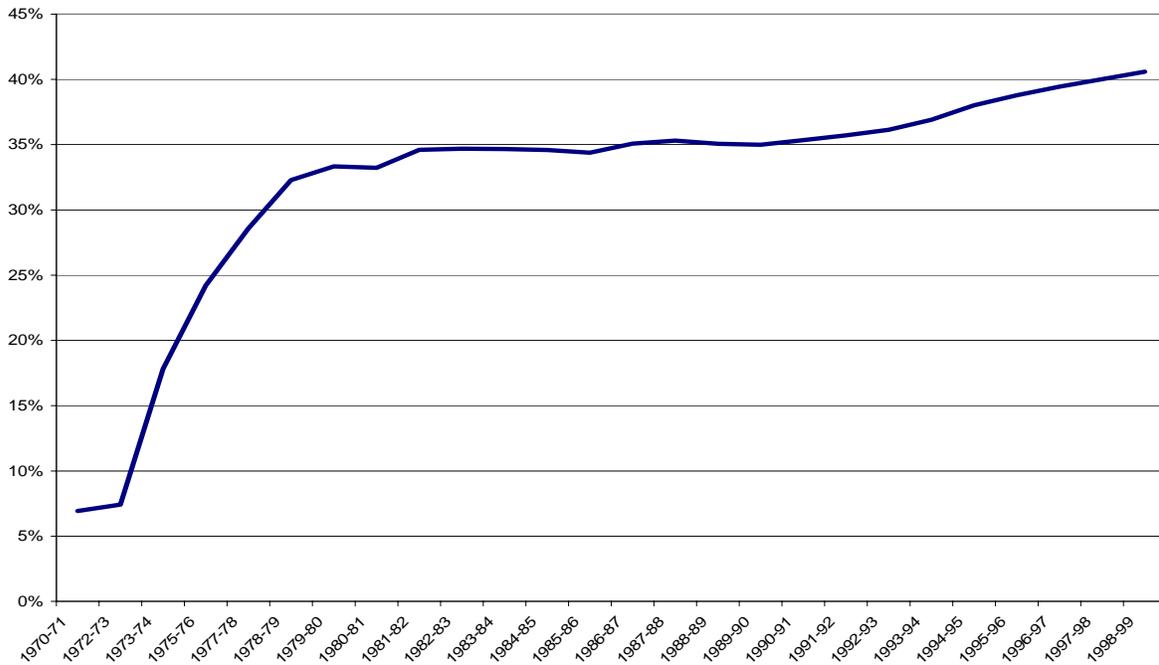
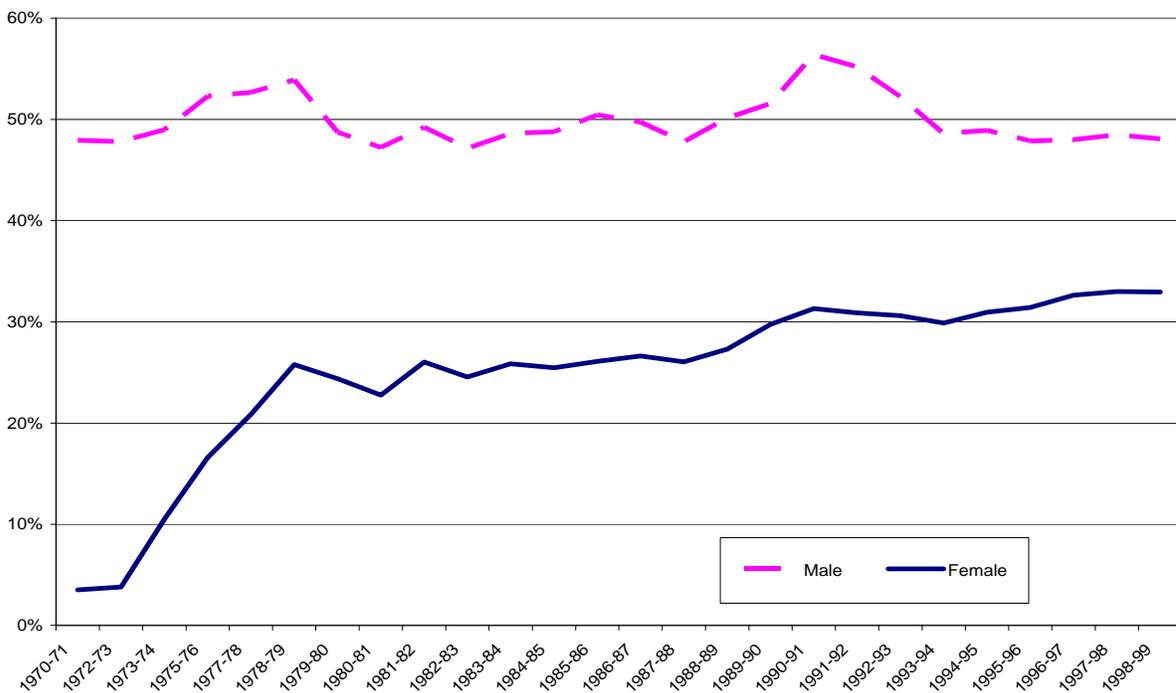
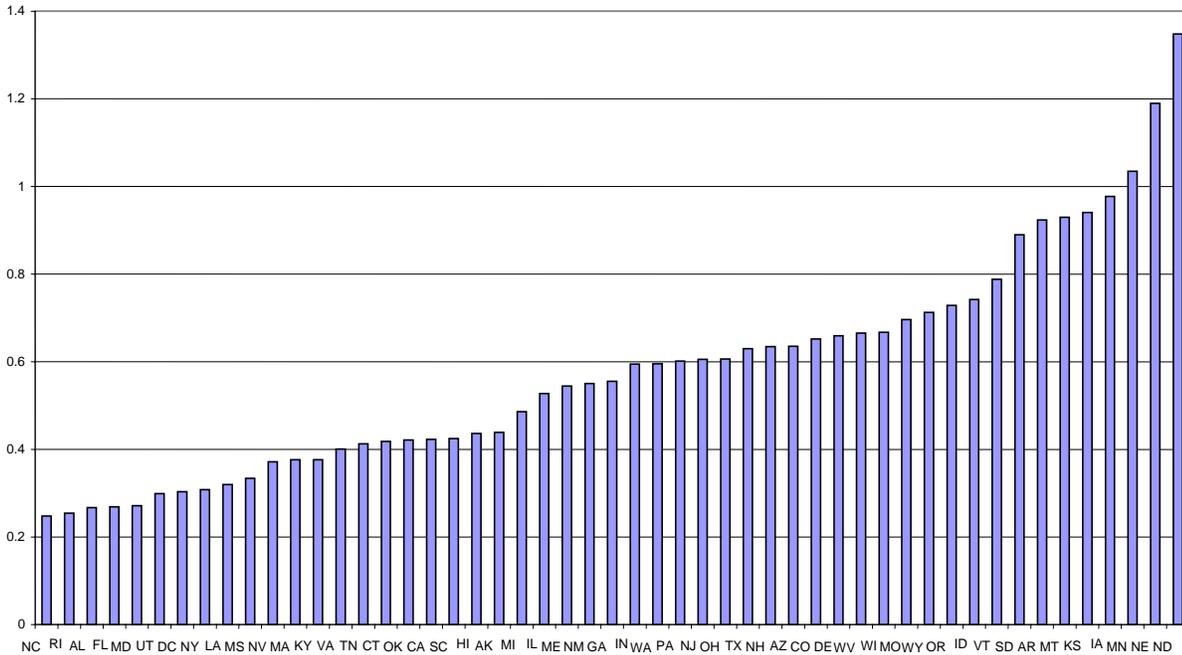


Figure 2  
 Male and Female High School Sports Participation  
 (As a Percentage of Female High School Enrollment)

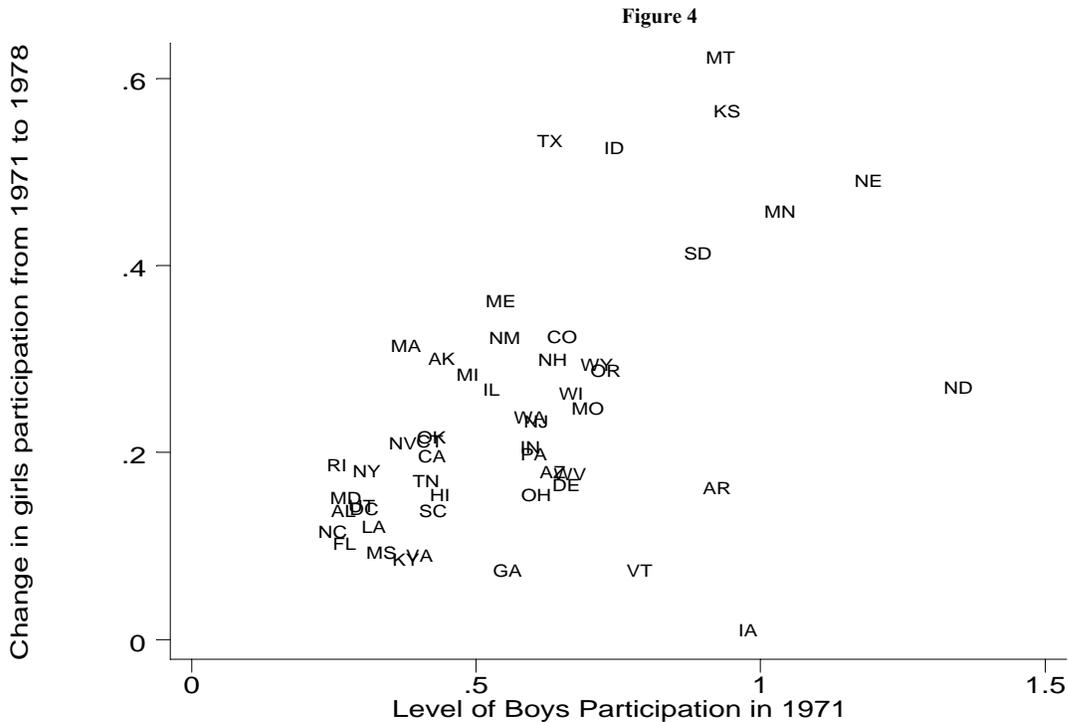


Source for Figures 1 & 2: Participation numbers are given by the National Federation of High Schools (Athletic Participation Survey). A participant is a varsity sport team member. (Individual students may be counted more than once if they play on multiple teams.) The participation rate is the sum of total team memberships in a year, divided by total high school enrollment given by the National Center for Education Statistics.

**Figure 3**  
**Male Sports Participation Rate in 1971**



Source: State numbers for 1971 are calculated by the author from state-level participation numbers by sport (provided by the National Federation of High Schools Athletic Participation Survey). The participation numbers are divided by an estimate of the state's high school population. These are estimated using state-level high school enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), with a gender split imputed using graduation rates by state of birth from the 5% Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) of the 1990 Census of Population.



Source: State numbers for 1971 are calculated by the author from state-level participation numbers by sport (provided by the National Federation of High Schools Athletic Participation Survey). The participation numbers are divided by an estimate of the state's high school population. These are estimated using state-level high school enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), with a gender split imputed using graduation rates by state of birth from the 5% Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) of the 1990 Census of Population. The states in Figure 7 are sorted in order of increasing level of boys' sports participation in 1971 (see Figure 4).

**Table 1**  
**Effects of High School Participation in Extra Curricular Activities on Educational Attainment and Log Wages**

Independent Variable	Female				Male			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<b>Panel A: Dependent Variable: Years of Education<sup>a</sup> (OLS)</b>								
Athletics <sup>b</sup>	.984 (.117)	.632 (.111)	.436 (.098)	.380 (.098)	1.14 (.119)	.862 (.112)	.471 (.097)	.429 (.096)
Non-vocational Clubs <sup>b</sup>				.358 (.095)				.462 (.104)
Vocational Clubs <sup>b</sup>				-.362 (.101)				-.456 (.103)
Adjusted R-squared	.117	.260	.431	.441	.165	.297	.485	.499
<b>Panel B: Dependent Variable: Log of Wages<sup>a</sup> (OLS)</b>								
Athletics <sup>b</sup>	.141 (.039)	.106 (.039)	.072 (.038)	.076 (.039)	.190 (.034)	.142 (.034)	.076 (.034)	.073 (.033)
Non-vocational Clubs <sup>b</sup>				-.018 (.039)				.010 (.033)
Vocational Clubs <sup>b</sup>				-.032 (.040)				-.061 (.036)
Adjusted R-squared	.092	.140	.210	.211	.142	.202	.275	.277
<b>Controls<sup>c</sup></b>								
Demographics	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Family characteristics		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
School characteristics		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ability/achievement			✓	✓			✓	✓

Source: Author's calculations based on data from National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 1979 (NLSY79). Education was measured in 1994 when respondents were 29-37 years old. (Standard errors robust to heteroskedasticity in parentheses.)

<sup>a</sup> Sample is restricted to those who completed at least 10<sup>th</sup> grade. <sup>b</sup> Participation in extra-curricular activities was asked in 1984. *Athletics* is an indicator variable for an individual having participated in high school sports. *Non-vocational clubs* include student government, newspaper, yearbook, and other, primarily hobby, clubs. The National Honor Society is not included among the clubs, but is included as a control for academic ability/achievement. <sup>c</sup> Demographic controls include a saturated set of dummy variables for age, race, urban status at age 14, and state of residence at age 14. Family characteristics include parents' education (measured as the highest grade completed by either parent), whether respondent lived with both parents in high school, number of siblings, family poverty status in 1978, and whether the household had a newspaper subscription or a library card. School characteristics include the percentage of teachers with a masters degree, the percentage of students who are disadvantaged, the dropout rate, and the attendance rate. Ability/achievement controls include AFQT score, membership in the National Honor Society, and self-reported measures of self-worth and failure.

**Table 2**  
**The Relationship Between the Change in Girls Sports Participation and the Pre-existing Level of Boys Sports Participation**

<b>Independent Variable</b>	<b>Change in Girls' participation Rate: 1971-1978 (1)</b>	<b>Girls' participation Rate in 1978 (2)</b>	<b>PLACEBO Change in Girls' participation Rate: 1981-1988 (3)</b>
<b>Boys' participation in 1971</b>	.326*** (.063)	.410*** (.060)	
<b>Boys' participation in 1981</b>			.035 (.086)
<b>Constant</b>	.052 (.039)	.052 (.038)	.035 (.086)
<b>R<sup>2</sup></b>	.35	.48	-.02
<b>Observations</b>	50	50	50

\*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate statistically discernible from zero at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels, respectively.

Source: Participation rates are calculated by the author using total participation numbers from High School Athletics Participation Survey (conducted by the National Federation of High Schools). A participant is a varsity sport team member. (Individual students may be counted more than once if they play on multiple teams.) The participation rate is the sum of total team memberships in a state in a year, divided by an estimate of the state's high school population. These are estimated using state-level high school enrollment data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), with a gender division is imputed using graduation rates by state of birth from the 5% Public Use Micro Sample (PUMS) of the 1990 Census of Population. Data are for 49 states plus the District of Columbia. Iowa is excluded because it does not report girls' sports participation in 1978.

**Table 3**  
**Instrumental Variables Estimates of the Effects of Female Athletic Participation on Educational Attainment**

	(1)	(2)	(3)
<b>Wald Estimator (IV)</b>			
<b>Causal Effect of Sports Participation<sup>a</sup></b>	.392** (.180)	.387** (.172)	.550*** (.191)
<b>Reduced Form Results:</b>			
<b>Differential Effects of Title IX on Years of Education, by State<sup>b</sup></b>	.168*** (.066)	.168*** (.064)	.216*** (.051)
<b>First-Stage Results:</b>			
<b>Changes in Female Sports Participation Generated by Title IX<sup>c</sup></b>	.429*** (.059)	.434*** (.052)	.392*** (.071)
<b>Controls</b> (All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity.)			
<b>Economic conditions</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Year*Region of Birth Fixed Effects</b>	No	No	Yes
<b>Observations (standard errors are clustered at the level of 100 state-cohort cells)</b>	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870

Standard errors (shown in parentheses) are clustered by state of birth and cohort. \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate statistically significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels.

Source: 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population, IPUMS, 5% sample (Ruggles and Sobek 1997). Data are for 49 states plus the District of Columbia. Iowa is excluded because it does not report girls' sports participation in 1978. Data are for women aged 25-34 conditional on having completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Specifications:

<sup>a</sup>IV estimates of causal effects of rising state female sports participation rates:

$$Years\ of\ Schooling_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta Female\ Athletic\ Participation_{s,t}^{IV} + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>b</sup> Reduced Form Results: Relationship between changing girls' educational outcomes, and the pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Years\ of\ Schooling_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (Post\ Title\ IX\ Cohort_t * Boys\ Athletic\ Participation_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>c</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Regression: Changes in girls sports participation by state generated by the interaction of Title IX and pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Female\ Athletic\ Participation_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (Post\ Title\ IX\ Cohort_t * Boys\ Athletic\ Participation_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity. Race is included as a set of 4 dummies indicating black, Asian, Native American, and other. Ethnicity is a dummy variable indicating the respondent is Hispanic. Economic conditions are measured at age 18 and include inflation, the interest rate (prime), and the log of per capita personal income and the unemployment rate in the state of birth.

**Table 4**  
**Instrumental Variables Estimates of the Effects of Female Athletic Participation on the Probability of Attending College**

	Attended at least 1 year of college		Attended at least four years of college		Post-college education	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
<b>Wald Estimator (IV)</b>						
<b>Causal Effect of Sports Participation<sup>a</sup></b>	.133*** (.046)	.121*** (.041)	.076** (.038)	.054* (.031)	.013 (.014)	.044** (.019)
<b>Reduced Form Results: Differential Effects of Title IX on College-going propensities, by State<sup>b</sup></b>	.057*** (.015)	.046*** (.011)	.032** (.015)	.021* (.011)	.006 (.006)	.017*** (.005)
<b>First-Stage Results: Changes in Female Sports Participation Generated by Title IX<sup>c</sup></b>	.429*** (.059)	.392*** (.071)	.429*** (.059)	.392*** (.071)	.429*** (.059)	.392*** (.071)
<b>Controls</b> (All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity.)						
<b>Economic conditions</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Year*Region of Birth Fixed Effects</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Observations (standard errors are clustered at the level of 100 state-cohort cells)</b>	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870

Standard errors (shown in parentheses) are clustered by state of birth and cohort. \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate statistically significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels.

Source: 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population (IPUMS) 5% sample (Ruggles and Sobek 1997). Data are for 49 states plus the District of Columbia. Iowa is excluded because it does not report girls' sports participation in 1978. Data are for women aged 25-34 conditional on having completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Specifications: (Linear probability model)

<sup>a</sup> IV estimates of causal effects of rising state female sports participation rates:

$$Attended\ college_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta Female\ Athletic\ Participation_{s,t}^{IV} + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>b</sup> Reduced Form Results: Relationship between changing girls' educational outcomes, and the pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Attended\ college_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (Post\ Title\ IX_t * Boys\ Athletic\ Participation_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>c</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Regression: Changes in girls sports participation by state generated by the interaction of Title IX and pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Female\ Athletic\ Participation_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (Post\ Title\ IX_t * Boys\ Athletic\ Participation_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity. Race is included as a set of 4 dummies indicating black, Asian, Native American, and other. Ethnicity is a dummy variable indicating the respondent is Hispanic. Economic conditions are measured at age 18 and include inflation, the interest rate (prime), and the log of per capita personal income and the unemployment rate in the state of birth.

**Table 5**  
**Instrumental Variables Estimates of the Effects of Female Athletic Participation on Employment Status**

	Employed at time of the survey 1=Working, 0=Not Working			Full-time Worker Usually work at least 35 hours per week			Full-time Worker <i>conditional on being employed</i>		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	<b>Wald Estimator (IV) Causal Effect of Sports Participation<sup>a</sup></b>	.187*** (.054)	.207*** (.048)	.137** (.063)	.190*** (.058)	.219** (.050)	.127** (.061)	.069** (.028)	.088*** (.024)
<b>Reduced Form Results: Differential Effects of Title IX on Employment, by State<sup>b</sup></b>	.080*** (.018)	.090*** (.014)	.054*** (.018)	.081*** (.019)	.095*** (.015)	.050*** (.018)	.030*** (.011)	.038 (.008)	.006 (.011)
<b>First-Stage Results: Changes in Female Sports Participation Generated by Title IX<sup>c</sup></b>	.429*** (.059)	.434*** (.052)	.392*** (.071)	.429*** (.059)	.434*** (.052)	.392*** (.071)	.429*** (.059)	.434*** (.052)	.392*** (.071)

**Controls**(All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity.)

<b>Economic conditions</b>	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Year*Region of Birth Fixed Effects</b>	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
<b>Observations (standard errors are clustered at the level of 100 state-cohort cells)</b>	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,047,810	1,047,810	1,047,810

Standard errors (shown in parentheses) are clustered by state of birth and cohort. \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate statistically significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels.

**Source:** 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population (IPUMS) 5% sample (Ruggles and Sobek 1997). Data are for 49 states plus the District of Columbia. Iowa is excluded because it does not report girls' sports participation in 1978. Data are for women aged 25-34 conditional on having completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Specifications:** (Linear probability model)

<sup>a</sup> IV estimates of causal effects of rising state female sports participation rates:

$$Employed_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta \text{ Female Athletic Participation}_{i,s,t}^{IV} + \sum_s \eta_s \text{ State}_s + \sum_t \chi_t \text{ Year}_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>b</sup> Reduced Form Results: Relationship between changing women's labor market outcomes, and the pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Employed_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (\text{Post Title IX}_t * \text{Boys Athletic Participation}_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s \text{ State}_s + \sum_t \chi_t \text{ Year}_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>c</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Regression: Changes in girls sports participation by state generated by the interaction of Title IX and pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$\text{Female Athletic Participation}_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (\text{Post Title IX}_t * \text{Boys Athletic Participation}_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s \text{ State}_s + \sum_t \chi_t \text{ Year}_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity. Race is included as a set of 4 dummies indicating black, Asian, Native American, and other. Ethnicity is a dummy variable indicating the respondent is Hispanic. Economic conditions are measured at age 18 and include inflation, the interest rate (prime), and the log of per capita personal income and the unemployment rate in the state of birth.

**Table 6**  
**Instrumental Variables Estimates of the Effects of Female Athletic Participation on Occupational Choice**

	“Sports Worker” (Multiplied by 100)		“Male” Occupation		“Female” Occupation		“Mixed” Occupation	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<b>Wald Estimator (IV) Causal Effect of Sports Participation<sup>a</sup></b>	.215*** (.045)	.210*** (.060)	.045* (.027)	.051*** (.020)	.036* (.020)	.028 (.029)	.114*** (.032)	.066** (.029)
<b>Reduced Form Results: Differential Effects of Title IX on Occupation, by State<sup>b</sup></b>	.092*** (.016)	.082*** (.025)	.019* (.011)	.020*** (.006)	.015** (.008)	.011 (.010)	.049*** (.012)	.026*** (.010)
<b>First-Stage Results: Changes in Female Sports Participation Generated by Title IX<sup>c</sup></b>	.429*** (.059)	.392*** (.071)	.429*** (.059)	.392*** (.071)	.429*** (.059)	.392*** (.071)	.429*** (.059)	.392*** (.071)
<b>Controls</b> (All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity.)								
<b>Economic conditions</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Year*Region of Birth Fixed Effects</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Observations (standard errors are clustered at the level of 100 state-cohort cells)</b>	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870

Standard errors (shown in parentheses) are clustered by state of birth and cohort. \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate statistically significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels.

Source: 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population (IPUMS) 5% sample (Ruggles and Sobek 1997). Data are for 49 states plus the District of Columbia. Iowa is excluded because it does not report girls’ sports participation in 1978. Data are for women aged 25-34 conditional on having completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

Specifications: (Linear probability model)

<sup>a</sup> IV estimates of causal effects of rising state female sports participation rates:

$$Employed\ in\ occupation_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta Female\ Athletic\ Participation_{s,t}^{IV} + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \lambda + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>b</sup> Reduced Form Results: Relationship between changing women’s labor market outcomes, and the pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Employed\ in\ occupation_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (Post\ Title\ IX_t * Boys\ Athletic\ Participation_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \lambda + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>c</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Regression: Changes in girls sports participation by state generated by the interaction of Title IX and pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Female\ Athletic\ Participation_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (Post\ Title\ IX_t * Boys\ Athletic\ Participation_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \lambda + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity. Race is included as a set of 4 dummies indicating black, Asian, Native American, and other. Ethnicity is a dummy variable indicating the respondent is Hispanic. Economic conditions are measured at age 18 and include inflation, the interest rate (prime), and the log of per capita personal income and the unemployment rate in the state of birth.

**Table 7**

**Instrumental Variables Estimates of the Effects of Female Athletic Participation on Entering a High-or-low Education Occupations\***

	High Education Occupations						Low Education Occupations					
	“Male” Occupation		“Female” Occupation		“Mixed” Occupation		“Male” Occupation		“Female” Occupation		“Mixed” Occupation	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
<b>Wald Estimator (IV)</b>	.040*	.029	.015	-.002	.035**	.020	-.009*	-.001	.020**	.030*	.078**	.046**
<b>Causal Effect of Sports Participation<sup>a</sup></b>	(.023)	(.019)	(.013)	(.016)	(.015)	(.018)	(.005)	(.007)	(.009)	(.018)	(.023)	(.022)
<b>Reduced Form Results: Differential Effects of Title IX on Occupation, by State<sup>b</sup></b>	.017*	.011	.007	-.001	.015***	.008	-.004	-.000	.009**	.012**	.034***	.018**
	(.010)	(.007)	(.005)	(.006)	(.006)	(.007)	(.003)	(.003)	(.004)	(.006)	(.008)	(.007)
<b>First-Stage Results: Changes in Female Sports Participation Generated by Title IX<sup>c</sup></b>	.429***	.392***	.429***	.392***	.429***	.392***	.429***	.392***	.429***	.392***	.429***	.392***
	(.059)	(.071)	(.059)	(.071)	(.059)	(.071)	(.059)	(.071)	(.059)	(.071)	(.059)	(.071)
<b>Controls</b> (All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity.)												
<b>Economic conditions</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Year*Region of Birth Fixed Effects</b>	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Observations (standard errors are clustered at the level of 100 state-cohort cells)</b>	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870	1,544,870

Standard errors (shown in parentheses) are clustered by state of birth and cohort. \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate statistically significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels.

Source: 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population (IPUMS) 5% sample (Ruggles and Sobek 1997). Data are for 49 states plus the District of Columbia. Iowa is excluded because it does not report girls’ sports participation in 1978. Data are for women aged 25-34 conditional on having completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

\*High-education occupations are defined as occupations in which the mean educational attainment of men in 1970 was 12.5 years of education or more.

Specifications: (Linear probability model)

<sup>a</sup> IV estimates of causal effects of rising state female sports participation rates:

$$Employed_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta \text{Female Athletic Participation}_{s,t}^{IV} + \sum_s \eta_s \text{State}_s + \sum_t \chi_t \text{Year}_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>b</sup> Reduced Form Results: Relationship between changing women’s labor market outcomes, and the pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$Employed_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (\text{Post Title IX}_t * \text{Boys Athletic Participation}_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s \text{State}_s + \sum_t \chi_t \text{Year}_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

<sup>c</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Regression: Changes in girls sports participation by state generated by the interaction of Title IX and pre-existing levels of boys sports participation:

$$\text{Female Athletic Participation}_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (\text{Post Title IX}_t * \text{Boys Athletic Participation}_s^{1971}) + \sum_s \eta_s \text{State}_s + \sum_t \chi_t \text{Year}_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

All regressions include as controls a saturated set of dummy variables for state of birth, year of sample, age, race, and ethnicity. Race is included as a set of 4 dummies indicating black, Asian, Native American, and other. Ethnicity is a dummy variable indicating the respondent is Hispanic. Economic conditions are measured at age 18 and include inflation, the interest rate (prime), and the log of per capita personal income and the unemployment rate in the state of birth.

**Table 8**  
**Robustness Checks**

<b>Dependent variable:</b>	<b>Original Results (Final Column Tables 3-7)</b>	<b>Alternative IV: class size and weather</b>	<b>Alternative sample: Those who moved out of their birth state</b>
Years of schooling	.550*** (.191)	.554* (.292)	.987*** (.362)
At least 1 year of college	.121*** (.041)	.197** (.088)	.199*** (.071)
At least 4 years of college	.054* (.031)	.113* (.060)	.177*** (.065)
Post-college education	.044* (.019)	-.011 (.015)	.069* (.033)
Employed at the time of the survey	.137* (.063)	.166 (.114)	.153*** (.045)
Employed full-time	.127* (.061)	.139 (.109)	.135*** (.043)
Full-time conditional on being employed	.016 (.030)	.042 (.053)	.005 (.020)
Sports Worker	.210*** (.060)	.178** (.076)	.132* (.079)
Male occupation	.051*** (.020)	.057 (.040)	.046* (.027)
Female occupation	.028 (.029)	-.015 (.038)	.018 (.022)
Mixed occupation	.066*** (.029)	.132** (.061)	.096*** (.032)
Male, high-educ. occ	.029 (.019)	.069** (.036)	.009 (.029)
Female, high-educ. occ	-.002 (.016)	-.027 (.017)	.011 (.014)
Mixed, high-educ. occ	.020 (.011)	.083** (.035)	.082*** (.030)
Male, low-educ. occ	-.001 (.007)	-.018** (.009)	.003 (.008)
Female, low-educ. occ	.030* (.018)	.012 (.025)	.007 (.015)
Mixed, low-educ. occ	.046** (.022)	.049 (.031)	.014 (.014)

Standard errors (shown in parentheses) are clustered at the level of 100 state-cohort cells. \*\*\*, \*\*, and \* indicate statistically significant at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels.

Source: 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population (IPUMS) 5% sample (Ruggles and Sobek 1997). See earlier tables for notes on dependent variables, controls, and the sample. All regressions shown include the full set of controls including year by region of birth fixed effects. The alternative IV uses data on average winter rainfall and fall temperature from 1940-1970 and class size is calculated using the 1978-79 Common Core of Data: Public School Universe Data (ICPSR No 2244).

IV Specification:

Changes in girls' sports participation by state generated by the interaction of Title IX and class size and weather:

$$Female\ Athletic\ Participation_{i,s,t} = \alpha + \beta (Post\ Title\ IX_t * School\ Size_s^{1971}) + \phi (Post\ Title\ IX_t * Winter\ Precipitation_s^{1940-70}) + \phi (Post\ Title\ IX_t * Fall\ Temperature_s^{1940-70}) + \sum_s \eta_s State_s + \sum_t \chi_t Year_t + \mathbf{X}_{i,s,t} \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \varepsilon_{i,s,t}$$

**Appendix A**  
**Summary Statistics**

	Mean	SD
Boys' Athletic Participation 1971	.570	.247
Girls' Athletic Participation 1971	.048	.050
Boys' Athletic Participation 1978	.551	.180
Girls' Athletic Participation 1978	.286	.145
	<b>1980</b>	<b>2000</b>
	<i>Means</i>	
Years of Schooling	13.0	13.7
Attended at least 1-3 years of college	43%	65%
Attended at least 4 years of college	20%	30%
Attended school beyond college	10%	7%
Percent Employed (At time of Census Interview)	62%	72%
Percent Employed Full-Time (Usual hours of at least 35 per week)	47%	57%
Percent of employed working full-time		
Percent "sports workers"	.034%	.089%
Percent employed in "male" occupations	12.9%	22.5%
Percent employed in "female" occupations	22.7%	20.2%
Percent employed in "mixed" occupations	25.2%	29.0%
Percent employed in high-education "male" occupations	10.8%	20.9%
Percent employed in high-education "female" occupations	14.7%	9.9%
Percent employed in high-education "mixed" occupations	18.8%	23.8%
Percent employed in low-education "male" occupations	5.6%	6.5%
Percent employed in low-education "female" occupations	8.0%	10.3%
Percent employed in low-education "mixed" occupations	6.4%	5.2%

Source: Data on sports participation (summarized in the first 4 rows) are from the National Federal of State High School Athletic Associations. Data in the remaining rows are from the 1980 and 2000 Censuses of Population (IPUMS) 5% sample (Ruggles and Sobek 1997). Data are for 49 states plus the District of Columbia. Iowa is excluded from the sample because it does not report girls sports participation in 1978. Data are for women aged 25-34 conditional on having completed 10<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Appendix B**  
**History of Title IX Legislation, Regulation and Policy Interpretation<sup>1</sup>**

*“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”*

1972	On June 8 Congress passes Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972. Historically single-sex, religious, and military schools are exempt from Title IX. Signed into law on June 23 by President Nixon.
1972-1975	Department of Health, Education, and Welfare create specific regulations for implementing Title IX.
1975	Final Title IX regulation is released by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, which includes compliance measures. President Ford signs the Title IX regulations on May 27. Schools are given 3 years to meet the compliance criteria.
1978	Department of Health, Education, and Welfare issues compliance definitions that include a presumption of “substantially” equal per capita expenditures for men and women athletes and the potential for expansion of participation and opportunities for women.
1979	Department of Health, Education, and Welfare issues final compliance definitions. The equal spending requirement is replaced by a three-pronged test that focuses on an institution’s obligation to provide equal opportunity, rather than relying exclusively on a single compliance standard. The three-pronged test considers the number of male and female athletes with respect to overall enrollment, the history of expansion of female athletics, and whether the institution is meeting the demand of its female students. All that is required under Title IX is that an institution be in compliance with one part of the three-pronged test.
1980	Department of Education is established and given oversight of Title IX through the Office for Civil Rights (OCR).
1984	The Supreme Court ruled in <i>Grove City vs. Bell</i> that Title IX was program specific and therefore discrimination within non-federally funded programs was not a violation of Title IX.
1988	Congress reverses <i>Grove City vs. Bell</i> with the passage of the <i>Civil Rights Restoration Act</i> on 3/22/88 (overriding a veto by President Ronald Reagan). With this legislation Congress clarified its intent that Title IX should apply to all programs that are part of an educational institution that receives Federal financial assistance, regardless of whether Federal funds are used for the specific program.
1990	Title IX Investigation Manual is published by the U.S. Dept. of Education through the Office for Civil Rights.
1992	On February 2, 1992 the Supreme Court, in <i>Franklin vs. Gwinnett County Public Schools</i> , rules that schools could be held liable for discrimination toward women by individual members in the institution. Additionally, the ruling allows for monetary damages to be awarded to plaintiffs in Title IX lawsuits.
1994	<i>Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act (EADA)</i> is passed by the House and the Senate. The EADA requires an annual report by any co-educational institution of higher education participating in any Federal student financial aid program. The report makes information about the schools athletic program public.

<sup>1</sup> Information provided by <http://bailiwick.lib.uiowa.edu/ge/historyRE.html>