

Educational and Labor Market Outcomes of Ghanaian, Liberian, Nigerian, and Sierra Leonean Americans, 2010–2017

Ernesto F. L. Amaral (amaral@tamu.edu), Arthur Sakamoto (asakamoto@tamu.edu), Courtney Nelson (nelson20@sbc.edu), Sharron X. Wang (xw2683@tamu.edu)



Objective

- ✓ We investigate education and wages among second-generation African Americans
 - Ghanaians, Liberians, Nigerians, and Sierra Leoneans (GLNS)
- ✓ We also estimate models focusing on Nigerian Americans

Prior literature on socioeconomic outcomes of 2nd generation African Americans

Literature	Relative to 3+ Generation Blacks	Relative to 3+ Generation Whites
Lower Class Vulnerability (Gans 1992; Portes and Zhou 1993)	Equal to	Less than
Segmented Assimilation (Waters 1994)	Greater than	Less than
Immigrant Optimism (Kao and Tienda 1995; Suarez-Orozco and Suarez-Orozco 1995)	Greater than	Less than or equal to
Voluntary Immigrant View (Ogbu 1978)	Greater than	Equal to
New Second Generation (Farley and Alba 2002)	Greater than	Equal to or greater than

Data

- ✓ 2009–2018 Current Population Surveys (CPS)

Dependent variables

- ✓ **Educational attainment**
 1. Less than high school
 2. High school or GED
 3. Some college or Associate degree
 4. Bachelor's degree
 5. Master's degree
 6. Professional or PhD degree

- ✓ **Log-hourly wages**
 - Total hourly and salary earnings from the previous calendar year divided by total hours worked during that year
 - Total hours is total number of weeks worked multiplied by the usual hours worked per week
 - Paid employees (exclude individuals with self-employment earnings)

Models and independent variables

- ✓ People with 25–54 years of age
- ✓ Separated models for men and women
- ✓ Generalized ordered logit models for educational attainment (GLNS)
 - Odds ratios indicate the factor change in odds of observing a value at least at the specified category versus observing values below the specified category
 1. At least high school or GED
 2. At least some college or Associate degree
 3. At least Bachelor's degree
 4. At least Master's degree
 5. At least Professional or PhD degree
 - Control for age, disability status

- ✓ Ordered logit models for educational attainment (Nigerians)
 - Control for age, disability status

- ✓ Ordinary least squares (OLS) models for log-hourly wages
 - Control for age, age-squared, educational attainment, disability status, marital status, own child in household, region of residence, live in metro area

GLNS, educational attainment Sample size, 2010–2017

Race/ethnicity/generation	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	86,057	82.27	89,009	79.85	175,066	81.02
3+ Gen. Blacks	11,409	10.91	15,263	13.69	26,672	12.34
2nd Gen. Asians	2,728	2.61	2,677	2.40	5,405	2.50
2nd Gen. GLNS	95	0.09	75	0.07	170	0.08
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	3,769	3.60	3,783	3.39	7,552	3.50
2nd Gen. Blacks	547	0.52	665	0.60	1,212	0.56
Total	104,605	100.00	111,472	100.00	216,077	100.00

Generalized ordered logit model Odds ratios for men, 2010–2017

Independent variables	At least HS/GED	At least Associate	At least Bachelor's	At least Master's	At least Prof./PhD
Race/ethnicity/generation					
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
3+ Gen. Blacks	0.539*** (0.024)	0.563*** (0.014)	0.403*** (0.013)	0.425*** (0.023)	0.258*** (0.030)
2nd Gen. Asians	2.249*** (0.295)	2.348*** (0.143)	2.342*** (0.117)	2.058*** (0.128)	2.561*** (0.242)
2nd Gen. GLNS	1.530e+9*** (1.946e+8)	1.688* (0.534)	1.925*** (0.474)	1.259 (0.404)	1.764 (0.873)
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	1.291** (0.134)	1.680*** (0.083)	1.595*** (0.070)	1.641*** (0.094)	1.840*** (0.169)
2nd Gen. Blacks	0.568*** (0.122)	0.951 (0.113)	0.749*** (0.083)	0.675** (0.110)	0.767 (0.214)
Age	1.017 (0.019)	1.021** (0.010)	1.039*** (0.010)	1.245*** (0.019)	1.274*** (0.037)
Age squared	1.000 (0.000)	1.000*** (0.000)	0.999*** (0.000)	0.997*** (0.000)	0.997*** (0.000)
No disability	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
Any disability	0.292*** (0.013)	0.382*** (0.013)	0.267*** (0.012)	0.280*** (0.022)	0.244*** (0.036)
Constant	16.120*** (5.866)	1.656*** (0.312)	0.332*** (0.063)	0.001*** (0.000)	0.000*** (0.000)
Observations	104,605	104,605	104,605	104,605	104,605

Generalized ordered logit model Odds ratios for women, 2010–2017

Independent variables	At least HS/GED	At least Associate	At least Bachelor's	At least Master's	At least Prof./PhD
Race/ethnicity/generation					
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
3+ Gen. Blacks	0.479*** (0.019)	0.574*** (0.013)	0.455*** (0.011)	0.569*** (0.021)	0.462*** (0.041)
2nd Gen. Asians	1.130 (0.139)	1.678*** (0.105)	1.925*** (0.096)	1.660*** (0.097)	2.942*** (0.268)
2nd Gen. GLNS	1.383e+9*** (1.221e+9)	1.144 (0.458)	2.441*** (0.781)	3.405*** (1.020)	4.002*** (1.610)
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	1.662*** (0.071)	1.662*** (0.071)	1.662*** (0.071)	1.662*** (0.071)	1.662*** (0.071)
2nd Gen. Blacks	0.803 (0.152)	0.963 (0.110)	0.755*** (0.076)	1.070 (0.147)	1.617* (0.419)
Age	1.050** (0.022)	1.035*** (0.011)	1.057*** (0.010)	1.236*** (0.018)	1.232*** (0.036)
Age squared	0.999*** (0.000)	0.999*** (0.000)	0.999*** (0.000)	0.997*** (0.000)	0.997*** (0.000)
No disability	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.	ref.
Any disability	0.249*** (0.011)	0.408*** (0.013)	0.279*** (0.011)	0.267*** (0.019)	0.272*** (0.049)
Constant	11.480*** (4.680)	2.297*** (0.446)	0.395*** (0.071)	0.003*** (0.001)	0.001*** (0.000)
Observations	111,472	111,472	111,472	111,472	111,472

Final considerations

- ✓ Contrary to the usual pattern of socioeconomic disadvantage for African Americans, 2nd gen. GLNS and Nigerian Americans have
 - Exceeded whites in educational attainment
 - Reached parity with equally-educated whites in terms of wage determination among employed workers
- ✓ We view our results as being only suggestive and call for more research on the socioeconomic outcomes of 2nd gen. African Americans who have been relatively neglected in immigration studies

GLNS, log-hourly wages Sample size, 2010–2017

Race/ethnicity/generation	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	71,607	83.34	66,117	79.92	137,724	81.67
3+ Gen. Blacks	8,379	9.75	11,045	13.35	19,424	11.52
2nd Gen. Asians	2,281	2.65	2,075	2.51	4,356	2.58
2nd Gen. GLNS	74	0.09	60	0.07	134	0.08
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	3,134	3.65	2,900	3.51	6,034	3.58
2nd Gen. Blacks	443	0.52	529	0.64	972	0.58
Total	85,918	100.00	82,726	100.00	168,644	100.00

OLS models, 2010–2017

Independent variables	Men	Women
Race/ethnicity/generation		
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	ref.	ref.
3+ Gen. Blacks	-0.181*** (0.010)	-0.091*** (0.008)
2nd Gen. Asians	-0.002 (0.017)	0.079*** (0.017)
2nd Gen. GLNS	-0.122 (0.083)	0.064 (0.089)
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	0.018 (0.016)	0.036** (0.016)
2nd Gen. Blacks	-0.100*** (0.033)	-0.002 (0.030)
Age	0.046*** (0.003)	0.050*** (0.003)
Age squared	-0.001*** (4.29e-05)	-0.001*** (4.22e-05)
Educational attainment		
Less than high school	-0.197*** (0.015)	-0.275*** (0.017)
High school or GED	ref.	ref.
Some college or Assoc. degree	0.133*** (0.007)	0.174*** (0.007)
Bachelor's degree	0.461*** (0.008)	0.502*** (0.008)
Master's degree	0.580*** (0.011)	0.663*** (0.009)
Professional or PhD degree	0.825*** (0.017)	0.909*** (0.017)
Married	0.178*** (0.007)	0.074*** (0.006)
Not married	ref.	ref.
Have own child in household	ref.	ref.
No own child in household	-0.084*** (0.006)	0.010* (0.006)
Region of residence		
New England	0.073*** (0.014)	0.066*** (0.012)
Middle Atlantic	0.062*** (0.011)	0.057*** (0.011)
East North Central	0.012 (0.009)	-0.018** (0.009)
West North Central	-0.030*** (0.010)	-0.031*** (0.010)
South Atlantic	ref.	ref.
East South Central	-0.054*** (0.011)	-0.056*** (0.012)
West South Central	0.042*** (0.011)	-0.014 (0.011)
Mountain	0.014 (0.011)	0.003 (0.012)
Pacific	0.097*** (0.011)	0.082*** (0.011)
Live in metro area	0.116*** (0.007)	0.154*** (0.007)
Do not live in metro area	ref.	ref.
Constant	1.586*** (0.067)	1.271*** (0.066)
R-squared	0.234	0.213
Adjusted R-squared	0.234	0.212
Observations	85,918	82,726

Note for all models: Robust standard errors in parentheses.

*** Significant at p<0.01. ** Significant at p<0.05. * Significant at p<0.1.

Source: Current Population Surveys (CPS).

Nigerians, educational attainment Sample size, 2009–2018

Race/ethnicity/generation	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	105,911	82.31	109,961	79.96	215,872	81.09
3+ Gen. Blacks	13,995	10.88	18,785	13.66	32,780	12.31
2nd Gen. Asians	3,291	2.56	3,238	2.35	6,529	2.45
2nd Gen. Nigerians	76	0.06	55	0.04	131	0.05
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	4,701	3.65	4,682	3.40	9,383	3.52
2nd Gen. Blacks	699	0.54	803	0.58	1,502	0.56
Total	128,673	100.00	137,524	100.00	266,197	100.00

Ordered logit models, 2009–2018 Odds ratios for 2nd gen. Nigerians

Reference category	Men	Women
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	3.030*** (0.638)	5.263*** (1.140)
3+ Gen. Blacks	6.106*** (1.290)	10.07*** (2.186)
2nd Gen. Asians	1.351 (0.289)	3.025*** (0.666)
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	1.802*** (0.384)	3.241*** (0.711)
2nd Gen. Blacks	3.892*** (0.882)	5.763*** (1.330)
Control variables	Age Disability	Age Disability

- ✓ Educational attainment of 2nd gen. Nigerian Americans exceeds 3+ gen. whites, 3+ gen. blacks, 2nd gen. whites, and other 2nd gen. African Americans
- ✓ 2nd gen. Nigerian American women also exceed 2nd gen. Asian American women

Nigerians, log-hourly wages Sample size, 2009–2018

Race/ethnicity/generation	Male		Female		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	85,468	83.24	79,701	79.87	165,169	81.58
3+ Gen. Blacks	10,095	9.83	13,451	13.48	23,546	11.63
2nd Gen. Asians	2,699	2.63	2,447	2.45	5,146	2.54
2nd Gen. Nigerians	61	0.06	43	0.04	104	0.05
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	3,802	3.70	3,523	3.53	7,325	3.62
2nd Gen. Blacks	547	0.53	621	0.62	1,168	0.58
Total	102,672	100.00	99,786	100.00	202,458	100.00

OLS models, 2009–2018 Coefficients for 2nd gen. Nigerians

Reference category	Men	Men	Women	Women
3+ Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	-0.032 (0.089)	-0.022 (0.091)	0.029 (0.114)	0.032 (0.113)
3+ Gen. Blacks	0.177** (0.089)	0.167* (0.091)	0.134 (0.114)	0.125 (0.113)
2nd Gen. Asians	-0.043 (0.090)	0.005 (0.092)	-0.105 (0.115)	-0.043 (0.114)
2nd Gen. Non-Hispanic Whites	-0.063 (0.090)	-0.040 (0.092)	-0.050 (0.115)	-0.017 (0.113)
2nd Gen. Blacks	0.091 (0.093)	0.102 (0.095)	0.034 (0.117)	0.065 (0.116)
Control variables	Age Education Disability	Age Education Disability Marital status Child in household	Age Education Disability	Age Education Disability Marital status Child in household Region Metro area

- ✓ After controlling for age, education and disability
 - 2nd gen. Nigerian men have 18% higher wages than 3+ gen. blacks
- ✓ After controlling for all variables
 - 2nd gen. Nigerian men have 17% higher wages than 3+ gen. blacks