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NATION

## Young women in big cities earn more

### Study: Men lag in NYC, Chicago, Dallas

By Sam Roberts

New York Times News Service

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NEW YORK

Young women in New York, Chicago and several of the nation's other largest cities who work full time have forged ahead of men in wages, according to an analysis of recent census data.

The shift has occurred in New York since 2000 and even earlier in Los Angeles and Dallas.

Economists consider it striking because the wage gap between men and women nationally has narrowed more slowly and has even widened in recent years among one part of that group: college-educated women in their 20s. But in New York, young college-educated women's wages as a percentage of men's rose slightly between 2000 and 2005.

The analysis was prepared by Andrew Beveridge, a demographer at Queens College who first reported his findings in Gotham Gazette, published online by the Citizens Union Foundation. It shows that all women from 21 to 30 living in New York City and working full time made 117 percent of men's wages, and even more in Dallas, 120 percent. Nationwide, that group of women made much less: 89 percent of the average full-time pay for men.

Just why young women at all educational levels in big cities have fared better than their peers elsewhere is a matter of debate. But a big reason, experts say, is women have been graduating from college in larger numbers than men, and many of those women seem to gravitate toward urban areas.

In 2005, 53 percent of women in their 20s working in New York were college graduates, compared with only 38 percent of men of that age. And many of those women are not marrying right after college, leaving them freer to focus on building careers, experts said.

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What's in it for you?

In 1970, all New York women in their 20s made \$7,000 less than men, on average, adjusted for inflation. By 2000, they were about even. In 2005, according to an analysis of the latest census results, they were making about \$5,000 more: a median wage of \$35,653, or about 117 percent of the \$30,560 reported by men in that age group.

Women in their 20s also make more than men in Chicago, Boston and Minneapolis.

Nationally, women in their 20s had a median income of \$25,467; men had \$28,523.

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