



Influence of Well-Known University on Neighboring Public School Achievement Gap

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INTRODUCTION

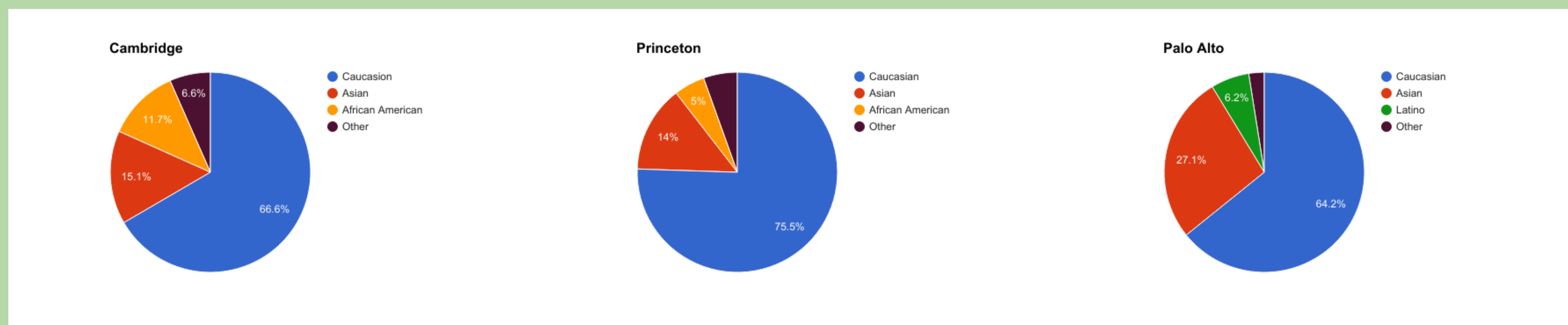
The achievement gap has been well-documented amongst differences between races, genders, and socioeconomic groups.¹ However, less has been researched on the influence of larger, well-known universities on their respective public school systems.^{2,3} This project is intended to look at the influence of these universities and present specific programs to help combat the achievement gap of public schools in these areas.

BACKGROUND

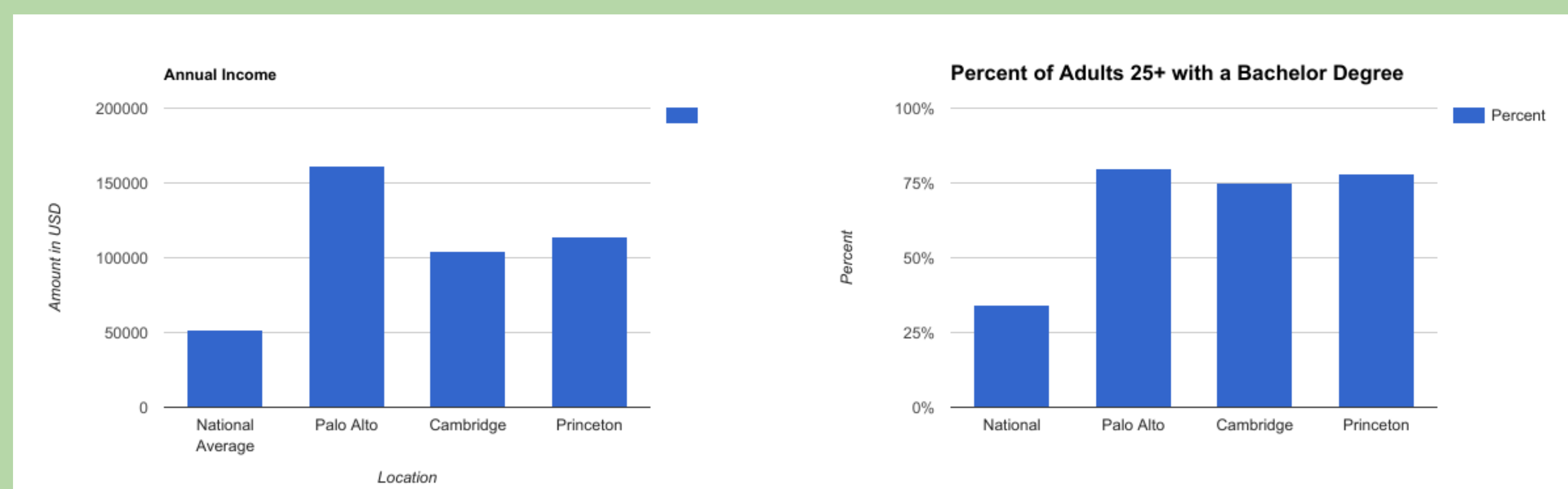
This project subsisted of the comparing and contrasting of 3 public school systems in towns/counties near to a large, well-known academic institution. These school districts are listed below with their respective university in parentheses:

- Palo Alto Unified School District (Stanford University)²
- Cambridge Public School District (Harvard University)³
- Princeton Public School District (Princeton University)⁴

Comparison by Race



Comparison by Education Level and Income



Despite the high level of education and median annual income, the influence of college students and faculty can often highlight any discrepancies in academic achievements. In fact, all three have recorded instances of large disparities in academic success^{5,6}.

FUTURE RESEARCH

Encourage students to achieve more

Encourage cohorts of low-achieving students to take Honor/AP courses. By having others that they may be more comfortable around, will allow them to work together and also achieve together.

Increase diversity of administration⁷

While all three of the test towns are predominantly Caucasian, a larger population of minorities should be reflected in the teaching and administration of the schools. Having role models of the same race/gender/sexuality allows marginalized students to feel more confident in their abilities.

Requirement of grade wide course each year⁸

Classroom diversity benefits all students. Having more courses such as ones required in Palo alto (Freshman English and Economics), which are not laned will help students intermix and work with those unlike themselves.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / REFERENCES

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