



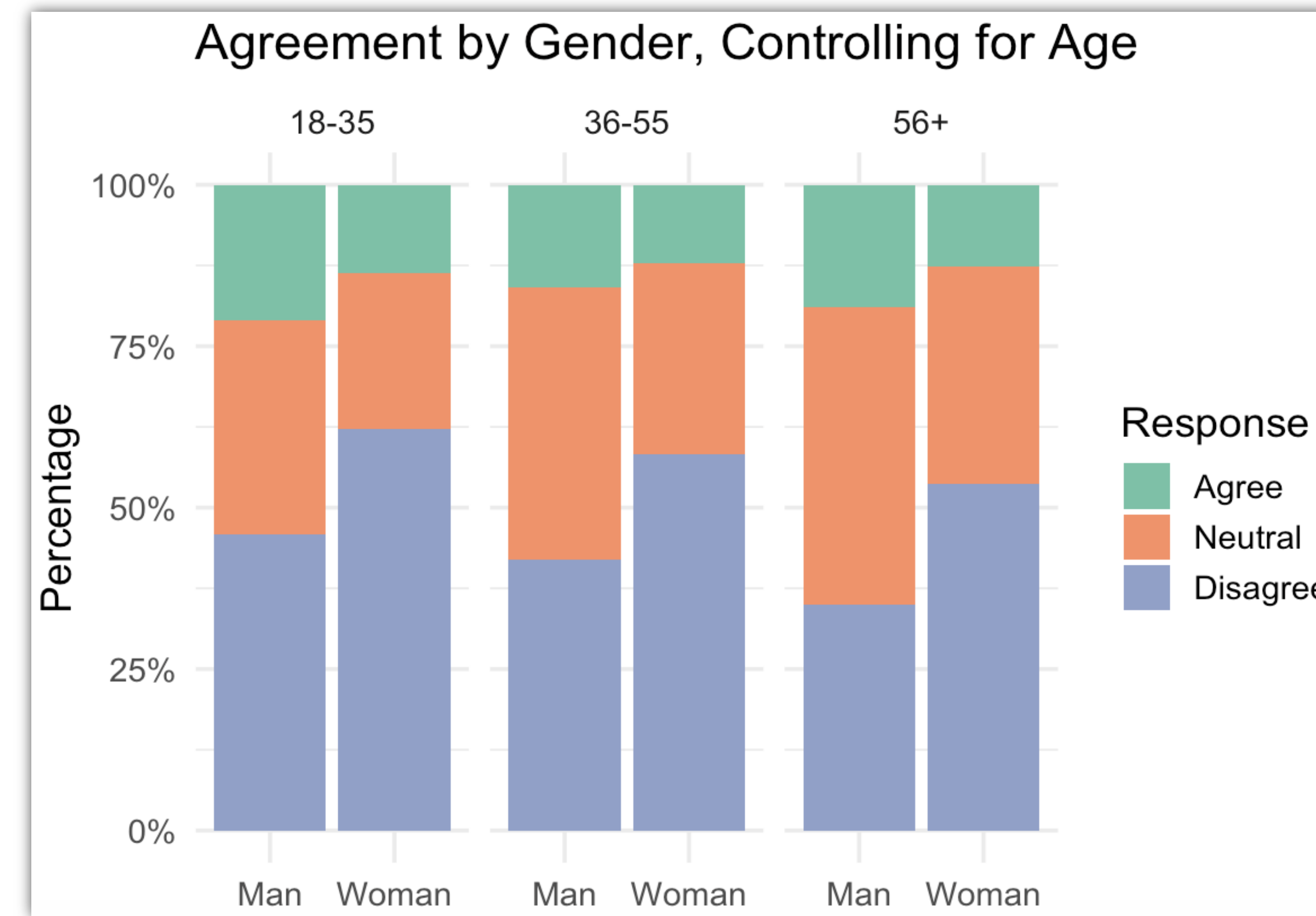
# American Attitudes to “Women Seek Power by Getting Control Over Men”

## INTRODUCTION

The United States has some of the highest levels of sexism among industrialized nations despite advances in gender equality. This study examines how gender, political ideology, and education shape agreement with the statement “Women seek power by getting control over men” using 2024 ANES or the American National Election Study data, because I want to find out why these differences persist. Understanding these patterns helps readers see the enduring gender-based animosity in American public opinion.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Glick and Fiske (1996), hostile sexism involves antagonistic views of women as power-seeking rivals who threaten traditional male authority. A central item in hostile sexism scales, including those in the ANES, is the statement: “Women seek power by getting control over men.” Recent studies using ANES and similar data consistently show that men endorse this item at higher rates than women, even after controlling for demographics. Conservatives show stronger agreement than liberals or moderates, while higher education is associated with lower endorsement. Supporting research finds that hostile sexism, including this power-control item, strongly predicts attitudes on gender issues, independent of party and ideology (Cizmar & Kalkan, 2023). It is linked to opposition to policies like paid family leave and fair pay (Gothreau, Arceneaux, & Friesen, 2022), as well as greater support for political illiberalism and political violence (Piazza & O’Rourke, 2025)



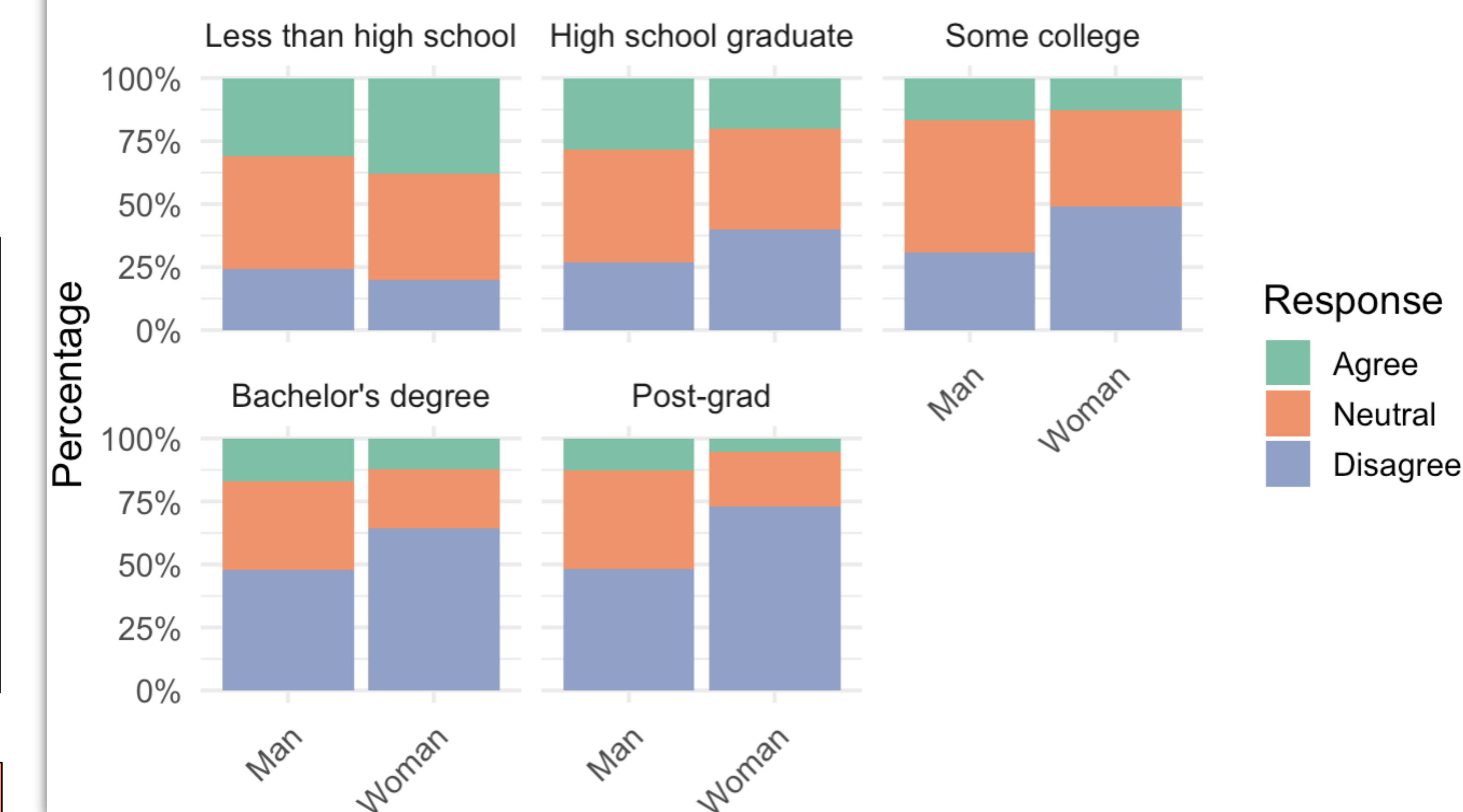
## FINDINGS

- Gender gap: In almost every aspect, men exhibit significantly larger "Agree" proportions than women.
- Ideology: The bivariate political views graph and the facet by political views both reveal that conservatives have the highest levels of agreement and liberals the lowest.
- Education: Those with less than a high school diploma or a high school diploma has the highest level of agreement, which slowly decreases as education levels rise (the strongest support for H3 in the education facet).

## HYPOTHESIS

- Those identifying as male are more likely to agree with the statement “Women seek to gain power by getting control over men” than those identifying as female.
- Those holding conservative political ideology are more likely to agree (or strongly agree) with the statement than those holding liberal political ideology.
- Those with lower levels of education are more likely to agree (or strongly agree) with the statement than those with higher levels of education.

## Agreement by Gender, Controlling for Education



## METHODS

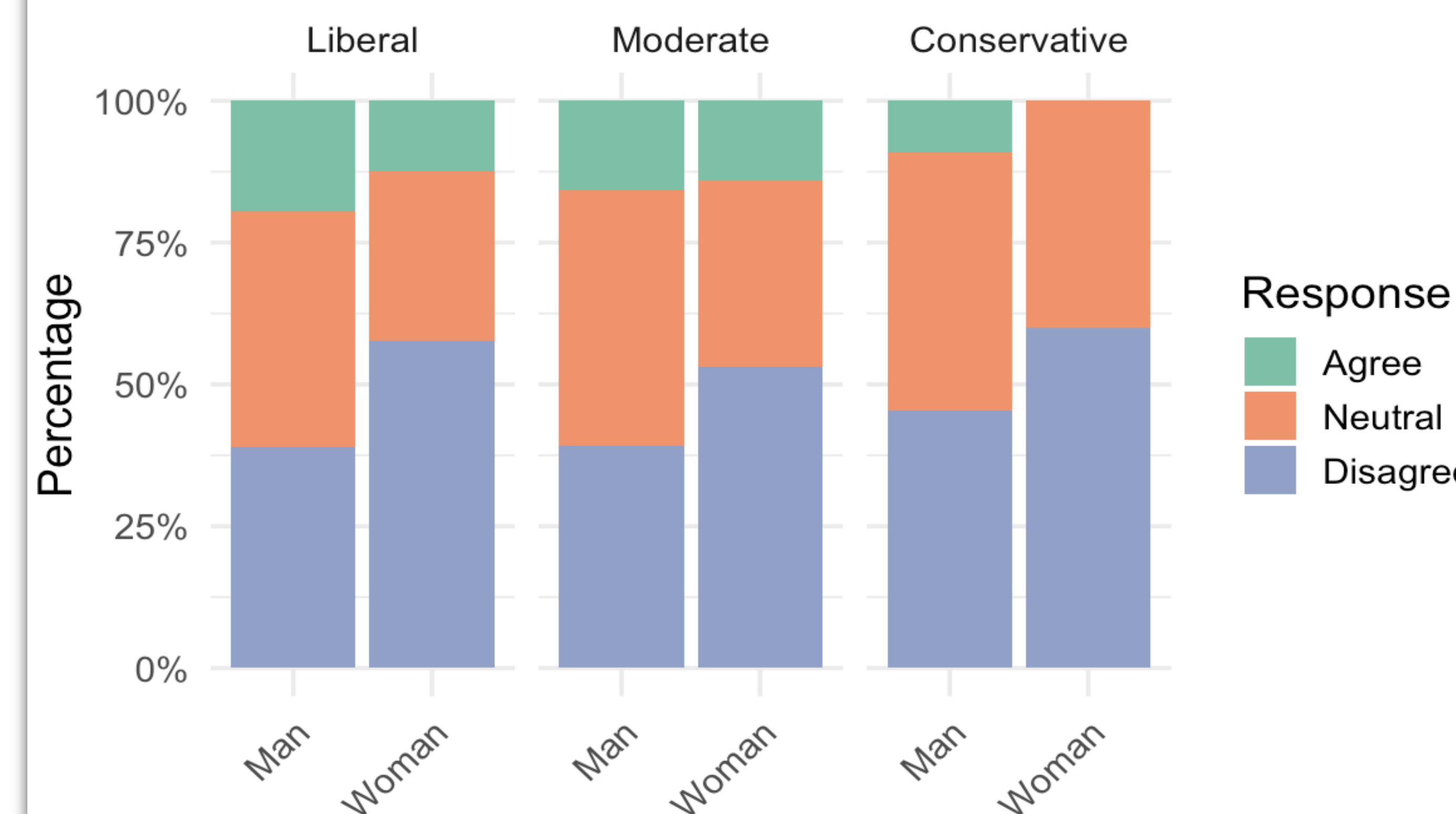
The 2024 American National Election Study (ANES), a nationally representative survey of American citizens, provided the data. Using the tidyverse tool in R, variables were cleaned and recoded (invalid responses were eliminated). To demonstrate proportional agreement, ggplot2 was used to create stacked percentage bar charts. Both multivariate faceted graphs (Gender × DV, with one variable controlled at a time) and bivariate graphs were produced. Respondents with reliable information on the dependent variable, gender, and controls comprise the analytical sample.

## CONCLUSION

Using 2024 ANES data to find considerable support for the hypotheses: A higher agreement that “Women seek power by getting control over men.” correlated with male gender, conservative ideology, and lower education.

These findings demonstrate how prejudiced sexism still exists in American culture. The gender gap's persistence across controls points to ingrained disparities in men's and women's perceptions of gender power relations. By raising awareness and educating people about these beliefs, equal perspectives may be promoted. Future studies could examine how these ideas affect support for electoral decisions or gender-related policy.

## Women Seek Power by Controlling Men? Agreement by Gender, Controlling for Political Views



## WORKS CITED

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Gothreau, Claire, Kevin Arceneaux, and Amanda Friesen. “Hostile, Benevolent, Implicit: How Different Shades of Sexism Impact Gendered Policy Attitudes.” *Frontiers in Political Science* 4 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2022.817309>.

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Piazza, James A., and Lauren O’Rourke. “Hostile Sexism, Social Dominance Orientation, Political Illiberalism, and Support for Political Violence in the United States.” *Politics & Gender* 21, no. 2 (2025): 144–168. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1743923X24000400>.

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Variable	Interpretation
DV: V241608	PRE: Women seek to gain power by getting control over men
Gender	Respondent's self-reported or observed gender (Man / Woman)
Age	Respondent's age
Education	Highest level of education completed
Political Views / Ideology	Respondent's self-reported political ideology