

SIMPSON'S PARADOX



APPLICATION SUCCESS RATE

	MALE	FEMALE
SUBJECT 1	14 % (168 of 1200)	15 % (270 of 1800)
SUBJECT 2	50 % (400 of 800)	51 % (102 of 200)
TOTAL	28 % (568 of 2000)	19 % (372 of 2000)



A phenomenon in which a trend appears in different groups of data but disappears or reverses when the groups are combined.



In the 1970s, Berkeley University was accused of sexism because female applicants were less likely to be accepted than male ones. However, when trying to identify the source of the problem, they found that for individual subjects the acceptance rates were generally better for women than men. The paradox was caused by a difference in what subjects men and women were applying for. A greater proportion of the female applicants were applying to highly competitive subjects where acceptance rates were much lower for both genders.

