Women PhDs are a rare find

Only 3 out of 500 people in the U.S. are female PhDs.

Getting a PhD is no small feat. Years of research, writing, and teaching take many graduates into their 30's.

Women, especially, face hurdles in higher education. They contend with societal judgment about intelligence and ambition, bump up against the glass ceiling, and experience harassment and toxicity. When others are starting families, women PhDs are creating novel research. And if women do want to start a family while working through a PhD program, they are met with limited support (I've been told to "have the baby in the summer"). All of this is served with a hefty dose of imposter syndrome, which disproportionately affects women.

Yet, in spite of all of these challenges, thousands of women in the US obtain their PhDs each year and rise to become professors, influencers, researchers, scientists, writers, leaders, and change-makers.

If you are a woman holding a PhD and are experiencing feelings of inadequacy, know that you are singular, unique, and rare. But most importantly, you are resilient. You have conquered enormous obstacles and came out on the other side standing strong.

Number of women graduating with a research PhD in 2022

- District of Columbia
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Minnesota
- North Dakota

Top 5 states with the highest percentage of female research PhD graduates in 2022

- Massachusetts: 53%
- Rhode Island: 52%
- Minnesota: 49%
- North Dakota: 48%
- District of Columbia: 47%

The highest concentration of female PhDs lives near Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Have you watched Oppenheimer?