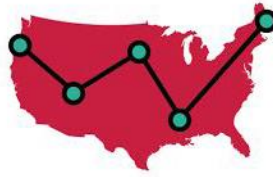


STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE STATES



The Status of Women in the States **Menu of Options for Research**

June 1, 2016

Prepared by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research for the Nevada Commission For Women. The Commission’s research goal is to study the changing and developing roles of women in society, including the recognition of socioeconomic factors that influence the status of women.

Introduction

For nearly 30 years, the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) has been the premier research organization offering analysis that supports state and local efforts for women-centered public policies. Since 1996, IWPR has produced an ongoing series of reports on the *Status of Women in the States*, which is the most cited resource on women’s issues nationwide and has fueled countless policy initiatives across the country. IWPR has recently worked with a number of women’s foundations and community organizations in individual states to deliver targeted data analyses, briefing papers, and reports with indicators of women’s standing. *Status of Women* reports have been created for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. In 2015, IWPR released *The Status of Women in the States: 2015*, the first comprehensive report on all the states since 2004 and launched statusofwomendata.org, an interactive website with hundreds of data points by state, much of it disaggregated by race and ethnicity. The first regionally-focused report, *The Status of Women in the South*, was released in 2016.

State-specific information on women’s status is critical for evaluating and promoting policies and programs that address women’s needs. IWPR offers high-value analyses, and recipients of *Status of Women in the States* reports are often pleasantly surprised by how much mileage they get from the focused data these reports provide. Previous reports have yielded many positive outcomes, including increased public awareness about the disparities women face, targeted fundraising successes, more effective resource allocations, and increased opportunities to inform programs and public policies. Over the last 20 years, data from IWPR Status of Women in the States projects have been used to improve women’s access to critical services such as health care, initiate activities to promote better policies, increase women’s voter turnout and political participation, strengthen or create women’s commissions or councils, and continue the fight for equal pay for women through the passage of stricter laws and enforcements.

Recent IWPR briefing papers on the Status of Women in the States have addressed how women in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania were affected by the Great Recession and assessed the economic, educational, and health status of women in Utah and in metropolitan and rural areas within North Carolina. In the last several years, IWPR has also completed comprehensive reports on the status of women and girls in Colorado, North Carolina, West Virginia, and New Haven, Connecticut; these reports build on earlier reports for these states. In addition, IWPR produced a report on women's employment status in Connecticut and women's economic and political status in Washington State. In each of these projects, IWPR has worked closely with partners and/or a local advisory committee to determine the scope of the project, select indicators and geographic areas to be studied, and review report drafts to ensure that the project meets its intended goals. IWPR enjoys collaborating with local and state partners and, throughout the various phases of its Status of Women projects, stays in regular contact through e-mail and conference calls.

Research Options

IWPR offers a range of research options on the Status of Women in the States, each of which can be customized to address the particular needs of its state and local partner organizations. In general, the research draws on multiple data sources, including data provided by federal government agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics. IWPR uses the data to analyze topical issues that profoundly address women's and girls' lives, including employment and earnings, economic security and poverty, education, health and well-being, violence and safety, reproductive rights, and political participation. If desired and sample sizes are sufficient, IWPR can also provide data for many indicators on the status of women in substate areas and on specific population groups within a given state (e.g., younger women, older women, immigrant women, women in the LGBT community).

Some of the research options that IWPR offers on these topics include:

A. REPORTS

IWPR's reports on the Status of Women in the States vary in size. Recent comprehensive reports have covered a range of indicators, including the following:

1. Demographic Statistics

- Total female and male populations of the state, and sex ratio
- Number and proportion of women and men aged 65 and older and under age 35
- Distribution of female and male populations by race and ethnicity
- Proportion of women and men who are foreign-born
- Region of birth for the female and male immigrant populations
- Proportion of women and men who are married, aged 15 and older
- Distribution of household type

- Proportion of households with dependent children that are headed by women
- Proportion of women and men living in metropolitan and rural areas
- Percent of federal and state prison population who are women

2. Employment & Earnings

- Median annual earnings for full-time, year-round workers, aged 16 and older by gender * (and race/ethnicity)
- Gender earnings ratio, aged 16 and older * (by race/ethnicity)
- Increase in women's earnings if women were paid the same as comparable men, by marital status, and corresponding increase in each state's GDP
- Projected year for closing the gender wage gap
- Gender earnings ratio by level of educational attainment, aged 25 and older
- Shares of women and men among top and bottom quartile of earners, aged 16 and older (nationally by race/ethnicity)
- Labor force participation rate for women and men, aged 16 and older * (by race/ethnicity)
- Composition of the workforce by gender and race/ethnicity
- Percent of employed women and men who work full-time or part-time, aged 16 and older
- Unemployment rates by gender and race/ethnicity, aged 16 and older
- Distribution of employed women and men across broad occupational groups, aged 16 and older
- Percent of employed women and men in professional or managerial occupations, aged 16 and older * (by race/ethnicity)
- Percent of private sector employees without access to paid sick leave by gender and race/ethnicity, aged 18 and older (state only)

3. Poverty & Opportunity

- Percent of women and men with health insurance coverage * (by race/ethnicity)
- Percent of women aged 25 and older with a bachelor's degree or higher * (by race/ethnicity)
- Percent of women aged 25 and older with: less than a high school diploma, a high school diploma or the equivalent, some college or an associate's degree (by race/ethnicity)
- Percent of businesses that are women-owned (available only at the state level) *
- Percent of women and men living above poverty, aged 18 and older * (by race/ethnicity)
- Decrease in poverty among women if working women were paid the same as comparable men, by marital status
- Percent of women and men living below poverty, by age group
- Poverty by educational attainment, aged 25 and older
- Percent living below poverty, by family type

Data for the indicators listed in #1, #2, and #3 come from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), with the exception of prison population data from the U.S. Department of Justice and the percent of businesses that are women-owned, which comes from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Survey of Women Business Owners that is released every five years. IWPR uses the most recent data available.

4. Health & Well-Being

- Heart disease mortality by gender * (and race/ethnicity)
- Breast cancer mortality rates * (by race/ethnicity)
- Lung cancer mortality by gender * (and race/ethnicity)
- Incidence of diabetes by gender * (and by race/ethnicity and age group)
- Rate of reported cases of chlamydia by gender * (and race/ethnicity)
- Incidence of AIDS by gender * (and race/ethnicity)
- Percent of adults reporting poor mental health by gender * (and by race/ethnicity and age group)
- Suicide mortality by gender * (and race/ethnicity)
- Percent of adults reporting that poor mental or physical health limited their activities, by gender * (and by race/ethnicity and age group)
- Overweight and obesity rates for adults by gender, and by age group
- Health Behaviors and Preventive Care
 - Percent of adults who smoke by gender and race/ethnicity
 - Percent of adults who binge drink by gender and race/ethnicity
 - Percent of adults who report at least 150 minutes of exercise per week by gender and race/ethnicity
 - Percent of adults who do not consume five or more servings of fruits or vegetables every day by gender and race/ethnicity
 - Percent of adults who have ever been tested for HIV by gender and race/ethnicity
 - Percent of adults who have been screened for cholesterol in the past five years by gender and race/ethnicity
 - Percent of women age 50 and older who report having had a mammogram within the last two years by race and ethnicity
 - Percent of women age 18 and older who report having had a pap smear within the last three years by race and ethnicity

Data for this section come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

5. Violence & Safety

- Lifetime prevalence of rape and sexual assault among women, by race and ethnicity
- Intimate partner violence statistics for women, by race and ethnicity
- Bullying and dating violence among teens, by gender
- Literature review on stalking, teen dating and violence, human trafficking, and the economic consequences of violence

Data for this section come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and any available reports that provide local or state data on violence against women and girls.

6. Reproductive Rights

- Restrictions on access to abortion and public funding for abortion *
- Percent of women living in a county with an abortion provider *
- Pro-choice governor and legislature *
- Coverage of infertility treatments *
- Mandatory sex education *
- Infant mortality rate, by race and ethnicity
- Percent of low birth weight babies, by race and ethnicity

Data for this section come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Guttmacher Institute, NARAL Pro-Choice America, Kaiser Family Foundation, and National Conference of State Legislatures.

7. Women's Political Participation

- Women's representation in state and national government *
- Voting in recent elections by gender *
- Registered voters by gender *
- Institutional resources for women candidates *

Data for this section come from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Center for American Women in Politics, National Women's Political Caucus and National Conference of State Legislatures Volunteering in America.

Some recent examples of IWPR reports on the status of women and girls include:

[*Status of Women in the South*](#)

[*Status of Women in the States: 2015*](#)

[*The Status of Women in Washington: Forging Pathways to Leadership and Economic Opportunity*](#)

[*The Status of Women in Connecticut's Workforce*](#)

Reports typically vary in size from 20 pages to 150 pages and have a cost of \$25,000–\$150,000 depending on factors such as the number of topics covered, the selection of indicators and data sources, and whether data on substate populations are included.¹ The cost for one topic is \$25,000, and each additional topic is an additional \$20,000. IWPR recommends including all of the indicators within a topic that are marked with an asterisk, as they are used to rank and

¹ Estimated costs for reports, briefing papers, and fact sheets do not include layout, design, and printing.

grade the states and allow historical comparisons and trend analysis. We are happy to work with you to design a report that fits within your budget.

B. BRIEFING PAPERS

Briefing papers can examine the status of women and girls in states and localities on a selection of the indicators mentioned above as well as other indicators for which data are available.

Some recent examples of IWPR briefing papers on the status of women and girls include:

“The Status of Women in Florida by County: Population & Diversity” (forthcoming 2016)

[“The Well-Being of Women in Utah: An Overview”](#)

[“The Economic Status of Women in Colorado”](#)

[“The Status of Women in Robeson County, North Carolina”](#)

Briefing papers typically range from 8–20 pages and have a cost of \$10,000–\$25,000.

C. FACT SHEETS

IWPR can provide fact sheets on a range of topics, such as economic security and poverty among women, the gender wage gap, women in the labor force, and women’s health or political participation. Where data are available, fact sheets (as well as briefing papers and reports) can focus on the status of specific populations, such as immigrant women and girls, older women, or women and girls from a particular age or racial/ethnic group.

Example of IWPR fact sheets on the status of women include:

[“The Status of Women in Kentucky, 2015: Highlights”](#)

[“The Economic Status of Women in Georgia: Wide Disparities by Race and Ethnicity”](#)

Usually, fact sheets range from 4–8 pages and have a cost of approximately \$10,000.

Process

IWPR is happy to schedule a conference call to discuss possible research options on the status of women and girls in the states. If there is interest in pursuing a project, IWPR will prepare a written proposal for review that outlines a suggested research agenda, work plan, and budget. For additional information, please contact Julie Anderson, Research Associate, at 202-640-5659 or anderson@iwpr.org.