



FACT SHEET

# The State of Women in Arizona

Despite the advancements made by women over the past few decades, it is still difficult for women to get ahead and not just get by. There remain challenges on economic security, leadership, and health issues that make it harder for women to have a fair shot at success. While an increasing number of women are either the sole breadwinner for their family or share the role with their partners, women are still paid only 77 cents for every dollar a man makes.<sup>1</sup> And while 2012 was a watershed year for women in terms of getting elected to public office, women comprise only 18.1 percent of Congress despite making up more than half of the U.S. population.<sup>2</sup> And on the health front, 2012 saw continued efforts by conservatives to erode women's ability to make their own decisions about their reproductive health and well-being.

A deeper examination shows that women in some states face higher barriers to success than others. Arizona is no better than the middle of the pack. Across 36 factors of economic security, leadership, and health, Arizona ranks 22nd in the nation for how women are faring. This illustrates the long path ahead before women in Arizona can get a fair shot at achieving economic security, reaching success, and living a healthy life.

Overall grade

C+

National ranking

22

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## Arizona facts

### Economic security

Arizona received a “B-” on the economic factors examined in the report. Overall, Arizona ranks 19th in the nation based on the economic factors analyzed.

- **Women in Arizona make 83 cents for every dollar a man makes.** This places Arizona as the state with the seventh-smallest wage gap in the nation. The statistics are worse for women of color: Hispanic women in Arizona make only 54 cents for every dollar a white male makes.
- **Almost 20 percent of women in Arizona live in poverty.** This places Arizona as the state with the ninth-highest rate of poverty in the nation. The statistics are even worse for women of color: 28.5 percent of African American women in Arizona live in poverty.
- **Arizona does not have a policy providing for paid family, medical, or temporary disability leave.** This leaves women—and men—without the security of knowing their job will be there if they need to take time off to care for family or medical issues.

## Leadership

Arizona received an “A” on the leadership factors examined in the report. Overall, Arizona ranks fourth in the nation based on the leadership factors analyzed.

- **Only 18 percent of Arizona’s congressional seats are held by women.** Arizona ranks 26th in the nation on female elected officials in Congress.
- **Almost 61 percent of the managerial jobs in Arizona are held by men.** Women hold only 39.1 percent of the managerial jobs in Arizona, despite making up 51 percent of the state’s population.

## Health

Arizona received a “D-” on the health factors examined in the report. Overall, Arizona ranks 38th in the nation based on the health factors analyzed.

- **Arizonans have difficulty accessing health care:** Almost 18 percent of nonelderly women in Arizona are uninsured, and there is only one OB-GYN for every 10,232 women in the state.
- **Arizona places unconstitutional restrictions on a woman’s access to reproductive health care.** Planned Parenthood is a key provider of critical health services for women, including family planning services, cancer screenings, pelvic and breast exams, and contraception coverage. Abortion services account for only about 3 percent of Planned Parenthood’s activities.<sup>3</sup> Arizona, however, has passed a bill to cut funding for Planned Parenthood’s preventive health services, threatening access to health care for women in Arizona.
- **Arizona ranks 22nd in the nation on infant mortality rate,** with six deaths for every 1,000 infants under a year.

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## Endnotes

1 National Women’s Law Center, “The Wage Gap By State for Women Overall,” April 2, 2013, available at <http://www.nwlc.org/resource/wage-gap-state-women-overall>.

2 Jane Farrell, “Infographic: Where Are U.S. Women in 2013?,” Center for American Progress, March 8, 2013, available at <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/labor/news/2013/03/08/55678/infographic-where-are-u-s-women-in-2013/>.

3 Emilie Openchowski, “Abortion Is the Battle, but Women’s Health Is the War,” Center for American Progress, August 23, 2012, available at <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/news/2012/08/23/33841/abortion-is-the-battle-but-womens-health-is-the-war/>.