



FACT SHEET

The State of Women in Michigan

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.¹ 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.² 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. Michigan is no better than the middle of the pack. Across 36 factors of economic security, leadership, and health, Michigan ranks 24th in the nation for how women are faring. This illustrates the long path ahead before women in Michigan can get a fair shot at achieving economic security, reaching success, and living a healthy life.

Overall grade

C

National ranking

24

Michigan facts

Economic security

Michigan received a “C” on the economic factors examined in the report. Overall, Michigan ranks 25th in the nation based on the economic factors analyzed.

- **Women in Michigan make 74 cents for every dollar a man makes.** This places Michigan 44th in the nation on the wage gap. The statistics are even worse for women of color: Hispanic women in Michigan make only 54 cents for every dollar a white male makes.
- **More than 18 percent of women live in poverty.** This places Michigan 15th worst in the nation on poverty rates for women. The statistics are even worse for women of color: 37.3 percent of African American women in Michigan live in poverty.
- **Michigan 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

Michigan received a “C-” on the leadership factors examined in the report. Overall, Michigan ranks 28th in the nation based on the leadership factors analyzed.

- **Only 12.5 percent of Michigan’s congressional seats are held by women.** Michigan ranks 19th worst in the nation on female elected officials in Congress.
- **Almost 62 percent of the managerial jobs in Michigan are held by men.** Women hold only 38.3 percent of the managerial jobs in Michigan, despite making up 52 percent of the state’s population.

Health

Michigan received a “C” on the health factors examined in the report. Overall, Michigan ranks 25th in the nation based on the health factors analyzed.

- **More than 12 percent of nonelderly women in Michigan are uninsured.** The statistics are even worse for women of color: 14.6 percent of African American women lack health insurance, as do more than 21 percent of Hispanic women.
- **Michiganders have difficulty accessing health care:** There is one OB-GYN for every 10,905 women in the state.
- **Michigan places unconstitutional restrictions/conditions on a women’s access to reproductive health care.** Michigan has passed Targeted Restrictions on Abortion Providers, or “TRAP” laws, that aim at requiring regulations of women’s health centers so burdensome as to result in many of them shutting down.
- **Michigan has the worst maternal mortality rate in the nation,** with 21 deaths for every 100,000 live births.

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/>.