



FACT SHEET

The State of Women in Minnesota

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 nationwide 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. Minnesota, however, stands out as one of the states that are among the best in the nation for women. Across 36 factors of economic security, leadership, and health, Minnesota ranks 11th in the nation for how women are faring. On many issues important to women, Minnesota should provide an example for the rest of the country and demonstrate how women can get a fair shot at achieving economic security, reaching success, and living a healthy life.

Overall grade

B+

National ranking

11

Minnesota facts

Economic security

Minnesota received a “C+” on the economic factors examined in the report. Overall, Minnesota ranks 21st in the nation based on the economic factors analyzed.

- **Women in Minnesota make 80 cents for every dollar a man makes.** Minnesota has the 16th-smallest wage gap in the nation for women overall. However, women of color are not faring as well: Hispanic women in Minnesota make only 57 cents for every dollar a white male makes.
- **More than 12 percent of women in Minnesota live in poverty.** This places Minnesota with the sixth-lowest poverty rate for women in the nation. Women of color, however, are not doing as well: 39.4 percent of African American women in Minnesota live in poverty.

- **Minnesota doesn't 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

Minnesota received an “A-” on the leadership factors examined in the report. Overall, Minnesota ranks ninth in the nation based on the leadership factors analyzed.

- **Three in 10 of Minnesota's congressional seats are held by women.** Minnesota ranks 10th in the nation on female elected officials in Congress.
- **Almost 63 percent of the managerial jobs in Minnesota are held by men.** Women hold only 37.1 percent of the managerial jobs in Minnesota, despite making up 51 percent of the state's population.

Health

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

- **Almost 9 percent of nonelderly women in Minnesota are uninsured, but Minnesota is taking steps to help its people.** Minnesota stands out as a state that is expanding Medicaid, which could provide insurance for 51,000 more women.
- **Overall, women in the United States already face a greater risk of maternal death than women in 40 other countries.** But within the United States, Minnesota has the sixth-best maternal mortality rate in the nation, with just five 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/>.