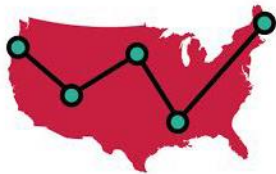


STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE STATES



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IWPR #R416

The Status of Women in Colorado, 2015: Highlights

Women in Colorado have made considerable advances in recent years but still face inequities that often prevent them from reaching their full potential. Since the 2004 *Status of Women in the States* report was published, the gender wage gap in Colorado has narrowed, a higher percentage of women have bachelor's degrees, and women are more likely to work in managerial or professional occupations. Yet, as in all other states, women in Colorado are less likely than men to be in the labor force and more likely to live in poverty. Women also continue to be underrepresented in the state legislature.



If current trends continue, women in Colorado will not see equal pay until the year **2057**.*



Women hold **42.0%** of seats in the state legislature.

Key Findings

- Colorado's best grades are in the areas of employment and earnings and health and well-being, for which it receives a B. Its worst grade is in political participation, for which it gets a C-.
- Colorado women who work full-time, year-round earn 80 cents on the dollar compared with similarly employed men.
- Approximately 28.9 percent of those working in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in Colorado are women, compared with 28.8 percent nationwide.
- As of 2015, there are no women of color in statewide elective executive office in Colorado, and no women of color from the state in the U.S. Congress.
- Women in Colorado who are unionized earn \$92 more per week, on average, than those who are not represented by a union.
- Approximately 37.5 percent of women in Colorado have a bachelor's degree or higher, an increase of about 7 percentage points since 2000.
- In 2012–2013, 34.1 percent of Colorado's four-year-olds were enrolled in state pre-K, preschool special education, or state and federal Head Start.
- Heart disease is the biggest killer of women in the United States. Colorado ranks 4 of 51 with a mortality rate of 102.3 per 100,000.

Colorado

Report Card Summary	
Employment & Earnings	B
Poverty & Opportunity	B-
Health & Well-Being	B
Reproductive Rights	C+
Political Participation	C-
Work & Family	C+

*Equal pay projection is based on rate of progress between 1959 and 2013. See Appendix A2 of *The Status of Women in the States: 2015* for sources and methodology. Calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Table 1. How Colorado Ranks on Key Indicators of Women's Status

	2004 Report	2015 Report	Progress?	2015 Rankings and Grades		
				National Rank	Regional Rank	Grade
Political Participation Composite Rank	15	19	No	19	3	C-
Percent of Women Registered to Vote	67.8%	67.2%	No	25	2	
Percent of Women Who Voted	53.8%	59.1%	Yes	8	1	
Women in Elected Office Index (score)	2.85	2.22	No	18	4	
Women's Institutional Resources Index (score)	0.25	0.50	Yes	36	3	
Employment & Earnings Composite Rank	7	12	No	12	1	B
Women's Median Annual Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers	\$41,390	\$40,000	No	13	1	
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings	75.9%	80.0%	Yes	19	4	
Women's Labor Force Participation	64.4%	62.7%	No	11	2	
Percent of All Employed Women in Managerial/Professional Occupations	36.4%	42.6%	Yes	10	1	
Work & Family Composite Rank	n/a	11	n/a	11	1	C+
Paid Leave Legislation Index (score)	n/a	0.00	n/a	12	8	
Elder and Dependent Care Index (score)	n/a	2.00	n/a	1	1	
Child Care Index (score)	n/a	1.11	n/a	31	2	
Percentage Point Gap in Parents' Labor Force Participation Rate (fathers' labor force participation rate minus mothers' labor force participation rate)	n/a	28.9	n/a	38	7	
Poverty & Opportunity Composite Rank	4	8	No	8	1	B-
Percent of Nonelderly Women with Health Insurance	82.4%	83.3%	Yes	23	2	
Percent of Women with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	30.9%	37.5%	Yes	4	1	
Percent of Businesses Owned by Women	28.0%	29.2%	Yes	13	2	
Percent of Women Above Poverty	90.4%	87.0%	No	12	2	
Reproductive Rights Composite Rank	30	21	Yes	21	4	C+
Health & Well-Being Composite Rank	10	6	Yes	6	2	B

Notes: See Appendices A1–A6 in *The Status of Women in the States: 2015* for methodology and sources. Earnings are in 2013 dollars and compare 2000 Decennial Census data with 2013 American Community Survey data. Health insurance data are for 2013, prior to the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The regional rankings are of a maximum of eight and refer to the states in Mountain West region (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming). n/a=not available. All indicators are defined so that a higher rate translates into higher rankings and letter grades. **Calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.**

Table 2. Overview of the Status of Women of Color in Colorado

	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Other Race or Two or More Races
Political Participation						
Number of Women in Statewide Elected Executive Office, 2015 (out of 5 offices)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Women in U.S. Congress, 2015 (out of 9 offices)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Employment & Earnings						
Women's Median Annual Earnings (Full-Time, Year-Round), 2011-2013	\$43,000	\$30,000	\$36,527	\$39,355	\$31,069	\$38,000
Ratio of Women's to White Men's Earnings, 2011-2013	77.1%	53.8%	65.5%	70.5%	55.7%	68.1%
Women's Labor Force Participation, 2011-2013	63.4%	62.3%	65.0%	61.0%	59.4%	68.9%
Percent of All Employed Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations, 2011-2013	47.0%	24.2%	29.0%	45.1%	37.4%	43.2%
Poverty & Opportunity						
Percent of Nonelderly Women with Health Insurance, 2011-2013	87.3%	67.0%	82.1%	83.0%	70.0%	85.6%
Percent of Women with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 2011-2013	42.5%	13.3%	26.0%	45.8%	21.1%	39.5%
Percent of Women Above Poverty, 2011-2013	90.0%	76.7%	74.0%	89.9%	77.5%	84.6%
Reproductive Rights						
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births), 2010-2012	4.6	5.5	11.2	6.4	n/a	n/a
Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies, 2013	8.3	8.7	14.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health & Well-Being						
Female Heart Disease Mortality Rate, per 100,000, 2011-2013	103.1	88.0	136.7	70.3	80.3	n/a
Female Lung Cancer Mortality Rate, per 100,000, 2011-2013	28.6	19.9	31.9	18.0	n/a	n/a
Female Breast Cancer Mortality Rate, per 100,000, 2011-2013	19.7	16.9	26.0	10.3	n/a	n/a
Average Number of Days per Month on Which Mental Health is Not Good, 2011-2013	3.9	4.1	4.7	1.8	5.9	5.2
Average Number of Days per Month on Which Activities Are Limited by Health Status, 2011-2013	3.6	4.3	4.9	3.2	6.5	3.7

Notes: n/a=not available. Data on statewide elected executive office include the governorship. Earnings are in 2013 dollars. Health insurance data are for 2013, prior to the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act. See Appendices A1-A2 and A4-A6 of *The Status of Women in the States: 2015* for sources and a description of how race and ethnicity are defined in the data presented here. **Calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.**

Table 3. Colorado State Laws

Provide the Right to Earn Paid Sick Days	No
Adopted the Medicaid Expansion under the ACA or State Medicaid Family Planning Services Eligibility Expansion	Yes
Recognize Same-Sex Marriage and/or Allow Second-Parent Adoption	Yes
Allow Women to Obtain an Abortion without a Mandatory Waiting Period	Yes
Bar Gun Possession for Individuals Convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Crimes	Yes

Notes: Data are current as of April 2015, except for the bar on gun possession, which is current as of June 2014. See Appendices A3, A5, and A7 of *The Status of Women in the States: 2015* for sources.

Compiled by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research.

Table 4. Basic Demographic Statistics for Colorado

Total Population, 2013	5,268,367
Number of Women and Girls, All Ages, 2013	2,616,599
Proportion of Women Aged 65 and Older, 2013	13.6%
Proportion of Women Who Are Immigrants, All Ages, 2013	9.9%
Number of Female Same-Sex Partner Households, 2011–2013	6,726
Percent of All Households Headed by Single Mothers with Children Under Age 18, 2013	6.3%

Note: See Appendix B8 in *The Status of Women in the States: 2015* for additional demographic information. Sources: IWPR analysis of American Community Survey microdata.

About the Status of Women in the States



The Status of Women in the States is an ongoing research project conducted by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) to measure and track the status of women in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. IWPR appreciates the support of the Ford Foundation, the American Federation of Teachers, and the Women’s Funding Network for the production of this fact sheet, as well as the Women’s Foundation of Colorado.



The Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) conducts rigorous research and disseminates its findings to address the needs of women, promote public dialogue, and strengthen families,

communities, and societies. IWPR is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that also works in affiliation with the women’s studies and public policy and public administration programs at The George Washington University.

