



FACT SHEET

# The State of Women in Pennsylvania

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. Pennsylvania stands out as one of the states that are among the worst in the nation for women. Across 36 factors of economic security, leadership, and health, Pennsylvania ranks 28th in the nation for how women are faring. This illustrates the long path ahead before women in Pennsylvania can get a fair shot at achieving economic security, reaching success, and living a healthy life.

Overall grade

C-

National ranking

28

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## Pennsylvania facts

### Economic security

Pennsylvania received a “D+” on the economic factors examined in the report. Overall, Pennsylvania ranks 31st in the nation based on the economic factors analyzed.

- **Women in Pennsylvania make 76 cents for every dollar a man makes.** This places Pennsylvania 39th in the nation on the wage gap. The statistics are even worse for women of color: Hispanic women in Pennsylvania make only 53 cents for every dollar a white male makes.
- **Almost 15 percent of women in Pennsylvania live in poverty.** This places Pennsylvania 22nd in the nation on poverty rates for women. The statistics are even worse for women of color: 30.4 percent of African American women in Pennsylvania live in poverty.
- **Pennsylvania 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

Pennsylvania received a “D” on the leadership factors examined in the report. Overall, Pennsylvania ranks 37th in the nation based on the leadership factors analyzed.

- **Only 5 percent of Pennsylvania’s congressional seats are held by women.** Pennsylvania ranks 35th in the nation on female elected officials in Congress.
- **More than 63 percent of the managerial jobs in Pennsylvania are held by men.** Women hold only 36.9 percent of the managerial jobs in Pennsylvania, despite making up 52 percent of the state’s population.

## Health

Pennsylvania received a “C” on the health factors examined in the report. Overall, Pennsylvania ranks 26th in the nation based on the health factors analyzed.

- **Almost 11 percent of nonelderly women in Pennsylvania are uninsured.** Despite the number of uninsured, Pennsylvania has so far not acted to expand Medicaid, which could provide insurance for 241,000 women.
- **Pennsylvanians have difficulty accessing health care:** There is one OB-GYN for every 19,656 women in the state.
- **Pennsylvania places unconstitutional restrictions/conditions on a woman’s access to reproductive health care.** Pennsylvania 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.
- **Pennsylvania has the 12th-highest infant mortality rate in the nation,** with 7.3 deaths for every 1,000 infants.

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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/>.