



FACT SHEET

# The State of Women in Georgia

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. Georgia 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, Georgia ranks 41st in the nation for how women are faring. This illustrates the long path ahead before women in Georgia can get a fair shot at achieving economic security, reaching success, and living a healthy life.

Overall grade

F

National ranking

41

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## Georgia facts

### Economic security

Georgia received a “D-” on the economic factors examined in the report. Overall, Georgia ranks 40th in the nation based on the economic factors analyzed.

- **Women in Georgia make 81 cents for every dollar a man makes.** This places Georgia with the 11th-smallest wage gap in the nation. The statistics are worse for women of color: Hispanic women in Georgia make only 47 cents for every dollar a white male makes.
- **Almost 21 percent of women in Georgia live in poverty.** This places Georgia with the seventh-highest poverty rate for women in the nation. The statistics are even worse for women of color: 29.9 percent of African American women in Georgia live in poverty.
- **Georgia 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

Georgia received an “F” on the leadership factors examined in the report. Overall, Georgia ranks 43rd in the nation based on the leadership factors analyzed.

- **None of Georgia’s congressional seats are held by women.** Georgia is one of 15 states that have no female elected officials in Congress.
- **Almost 62 percent of the managerial jobs in Georgia are held by men.** Women hold only 38.4 percent of the managerial jobs in Georgia, despite making up 53 percent of the state’s population.

## Health

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

- **More than 20 percent of nonelderly women in Georgia are uninsured.** Despite the number of uninsured nonelderly women in Georgia, Georgia refuses to expand Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid could provide insurance for 342,000 women.
- **Georgians have difficulty accessing health care:** There is only one OB-GYN physician for every 7,125 women.
- **Overall, women in the United States already face a greater risk of maternal death than women in 40 other countries.**<sup>3</sup> But within the United States, women in Georgia face an even greater risk. Georgia has the second-highest maternal mortality rate in the nation, with 20.9 deaths for every 100,000 live births.

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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 National Women’s Law Center, “Maternal Mortality Rate (per 100,000),” available at <http://hrc.nwlc.org/status-indicators/maternal-mortality-rate-100000> (last accessed September 2013).