

Women's
Funding
Alliance

The Power to Do More

A Path Forward for Women and Girls

Research commissioned by Women's Funding Alliance

Progress & Change

Women's Funding Alliance has been a leader in improving the lives of women and girls in Washington State for the past 30 years. Working together with thousands of committed individuals and hundreds of community partners, we have increased opportunities and broken down barriers. Yet we know that great work remains to achieve equality and justice for women and girls. And the story of women and girls in Washington State is changing. The experiences and perspectives of girls and young women growing up today differ from those of their mothers and grandmothers. The future is dependent on how every one of us does our part to ensure all women and girls are able to capitalize on progress already made, and how we collectively tackle the challenges that remain.

61%

The share of young adult women who have attended some college in 2011, an increase from 51% in 2000.¹

160%

The percent increase in women pursuing master's degrees and PhDs in Washington State over the last 20 years.¹

The progress achieved is profound. Women and girls are excelling in education, with girls consistently improving their performance in traditionally male-dominated subjects of math and science, and more young women are seeking higher education and obtaining advanced degrees than ever before.¹ Women make up nearly half of the entire labor force and are increasingly leaders in their families' economic security.² Women are strengthening communities by working in fields responsible for children becoming the citizens of tomorrow and leaders who care for the health and well-being of their communities.³ Women's contributions at home, at work, in their communities, and in the economy are increasingly recognized and valued.

Shifts & Challenges

Changing Demographics

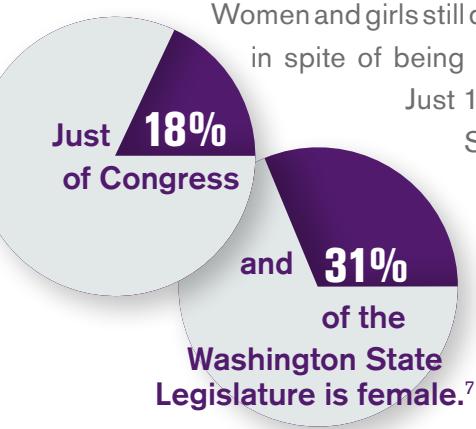
Women and girls are also a population in flux. Young adult women (aged 18 to 34 years) are making different decisions than previous generations, marrying later or not at all, and postponing children to build careers. The age structure of the population continues to shift toward seniors, as a large share of women and men of the baby boom generation enter their sixties and are living longer than previous generations.⁴

Girls in Washington State today represent the most racially diverse generation yet, with four of every 10 being of color.⁵ There is strength in this diversity, yet the inequities facing women and girls of color are pronounced across the

Just 10% of women and girls were of color in 1980 compared to 28% today. By 2050, 50% will be women and girls of color.⁶

board. On nearly every indicator of female well-being – health, economic security, education, or safety – women and girls of color continue to fare worse than their white peers. Civil rights and racial equality remain paramount to advancing the well-being of all Washingtonians.

Leadership



Women and girls still do not have equal representation in politics or the workplace, in spite of being half of the population and nearly half of the labor force.

Just 18 percent of Congress and 31 percent of the Washington State Legislature is female. While Washington ranks 8th best in the nation for female political representation, we have consistently slipped over the last decade from our 10 year run (1993 to 2003) as number one.⁷ Eight of every 10 corporations in Washington State have less than three women on their boards.

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Health



Washington remains a state with strong reproductive health policies, but the reproductive rights women and girls fought for over time are under assault, and women's sexuality remains politically contested and charged. The need for better understanding and advocacy for reproductive health is critical. One in three high school girls in Washington State are having sex, often without a condom.⁸ Young adult women (aged 18 to 34 years) have the highest rates of unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases among all women.⁹ Over 400,000 women and girls in Washington State have no health insurance, and young adult women are also the least likely to have coverage.¹⁰

415,000

The number of women and girls with no health insurance in Washington State.¹⁰



In Washington State:

Safety

Violence and harassment against women and girls remains prevalent and has taken on new forms in a socially networked world. One in three women in Washington State are sexually or physically assaulted in their lifetime, with 80 percent of those reporting the abuse happening to them as a child.¹¹ One in three murders in 2012 resulted from

domestic violence, and eight of every 10 victims were female.¹² Of the nearly 14,000 rapes each year in Washington State, just 81 perpetrators go to jail.¹³ 80 percent of high school girls report being harassed via computer or cell phone.¹⁴



1 IN 3

Number of adult women in Washington State sexually assaulted in their lifetime.¹¹

80%

of these assaults
occurred before age 18.¹¹

Economic Opportunities

The gains we have made in education have not been fully realized in the labor market, where female-dominated industries have been historically undervalued. Among full-time workers in Washington State, women still earn an average of just 75 cents for every dollar men earn.¹⁵ Nearly three of every four women (72 percent) who work outside the home are in industries that pay below the state average.¹⁶ Many of these industries are in the public sector, where state budget cuts have resulted in job losses that disproportionately impact women and have kept female unemployment stubbornly high.¹⁷ Women, especially those with young children, face barriers to opportunity that impede their economic security. Family-friendly policies like sick leave, flextime, and affordable child care are not as abundant as they need to be for how many families rely on women working to make ends meet.

These structural barriers put women at an economic disadvantage – over half a million women and girls in Washington State live in poverty today, an increase of 100,000 since the Great Recession began.¹⁸

100,000 more women and girls are now living



in poverty than before the Great Recession.¹⁸

= 1,000 women

500,840

Number of women and girls living
in poverty in Washington State in 2011.¹⁸

72%

The percent of women who
work in industries that pay
below the state average.¹⁶

13,684 average cases
of rape per year¹³

2,600 cases reported
to police¹³

624 perpetrators
arrested¹³

231 perpetrators
prosecuted¹³

106 perpetrators
convicted¹³

81 perpetrators
face jail time¹³

Live. Lead. Thrive.

As Women's Funding Alliance marks 30 years of leadership in Washington State, the time is right to set the trajectory for the next 30. It is our work to name the critical issues that shape the lives of women and girls and to mobilize our community in answering the urgent call to action. We must ensure women and girls benefit from the progress already made, break down remaining barriers and stand together for a future where everything is possible.

CELEBRATING
30
YEARS

We envision a world where all women and girls have the opportunity to live, lead and thrive. Our mission is to build leadership, drive community investments and accelerate systemic change to improve the lives of women and girls in Washington State.

For more information visit us at www.wfalliance.org.

Research provided by Washington State Budget & Policy Center (budgetandpolicy.org)

Designed by Golden Lasso

We invite you to stand with Women's Funding Alliance for every woman and girl in Washington State.

We are for:

Women and girls being safe and healthy.

Girls being powerful. Valued.

Women and girls speaking up and leading. At school, in the community and in corporate boardrooms.

Women running for office and getting elected.

Women and girls getting the best education possible.

Women getting better jobs, lifting their families out of poverty, being entrepreneurs.

Systems and decision-makers better supporting women and girls.

Being part of a community that stands up and says, "enough!" or "right on!" at every opportunity.

Women and girls reaching their full potential. And then surpassing it.

Sources

- 1 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction test score data and 2000, 2008-2011 American Communities Survey and Census data
- 2 2000, 2008-2011 American Communities Survey and Census data
- 3 Census Quarterly Workforce Indicators and Washington State Economic Security Department Occupational Estimates
- 4 1980, 2000, 2008-2011 American Communities Survey and Census data
- 5 2011 Intercensal Population estimates
- 6 Office of Financial Management Population Forecast data
- 7 Center for Women in American Politics
- 8 2010 Washington State Healthy Youth Survey
- 9 Washington State Department of Health Vital Statistics and Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance data
- 10 2011 American Communities Survey data
- 11 Office of Crime Victims Advocacy *Sexual Assault Experiences and Perceptions of Community Response to Sexual Assault: A Study of Washington State Women, 2001* (<http://depts.washington.edu/hcsats/PDF/research/sexualassaultex2001-11.pdf>)
- 12 Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- 13 Budget & Policy Center analysis of the following sources: Office of Crime Victims Survey (2001); Rape in Washington State: A Report to the State (2003); National Institute of Justice Report (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/210346.pdf>); BPC analysis of Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC) data; Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs (WASPC)
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- 15 2011 American Communities Survey data
- 16 Census Quarterly Workforce Indicators
- 17 Pfingst, Lori (2012) *Women, Work, & Washington's Economy: How Budget Cuts are Hurting All Three*. Washington State Budget & Policy Center (<http://budgetandpolicy.org/schmudget/new-brief-women-work-and-washingtons-economy-1/?searchterm=women>)
- 18 2008-2011 American Communities Survey data