

Quick Facts About U.S. Women

Population

In 2000:

- _ Women were 52% of the population in the United States, about the same as 1960.
- _ 60.2% of women were in the labor force, up from 37.7% in 1960.
- _ 46% of the labor force was female, up from 33% in 1960.
- _ Women provided at least half of the income for more than two-thirds of American families.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Labor, 2000.

Family

In 2000, two-thirds of American women with preschool children and 59 percent of those with infants less than a year old were in the labor force and 73 percent of all mothers (regardless of their children's age) were in the labor force.

Between 1970 and 1998, the number of women living alone doubled from 7.3 million to 15.3 million. The percentage of women living alone rose for every age group, except those ages 65 to 74.

Source: Census Bureau, 2000.

Education

The number of women entering law school jumped from 10 percent of first-year law students in 1970 to 49.4 percent in 2000.

Source: *The New York Times*, March 26, 2001.

In 2001, women made up 56 percent of the student body at American colleges.

In 1997 the proportion of women among full-time faculty members was 36 percent, double the percentage in 1972. The proportion of women with tenure was 39 percent, a 1 percent increase from 1975.

Source: Harvard School of Education, 2001.

Business

In 2000, women made up almost half of the work force, but only 12 percent of managers (a job whose description included the words administrator, director, manager or supervisor) were women.

Source: General Accounting Office, 2000.

In 1999, of the 1.2. million Hispanic firms nationwide, 400,000 were owned by Hispanic women.

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, 1999.

Professions

In 2000, 28.8 percent of lawyers were women; 24.5 percent of physicians were women; 92.9 of registered nurses were women; 83.8 percent of elementary school teachers were women; and 12 percent of corporate officers were women.

Source: *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, 2000.

Three out of five women with high-tech jobs said they would choose another profession if they were starting their careers today because they feel that there is a glass ceiling, or barriers to women's career advancement.

Source: Deloitte & Touche, 2001.

Military

In 2000, women made up 19 percent of the Air Force, 15 percent of the Army, 14 percent of the Navy, and 6 percent of the Marines. The percentage of military positions open to women were: 99 percent in the Air Force, 91 percent in the Navy, 70 percent in the Army, and 62 percent in the Marines. Women were not (and still are not) permitted by law to serve in ground combat units.

Source: Defense Department, 2000.

In 1999, women made up one-third of the 850 cadets at the Coast Guard Academy and held 6 of the 10 regimental staff offices, including the regimental commander.

Source: Coast Guard Academy, 2000.

Money

A recent study found that women working full-time earn an average of 73.5 cents for every dollar earned by a man. On a state-by-state basis, the District of Columbia topped the list with women earning 85.7 cents for every dollar a man earns. In Wyoming, at the bottom of the list, women earned only 62.8 cents for every man's dollar. Women who work in New Jersey earn, on average, at least 25 percent less than their male counterparts. Earnings also differ among women, with white women earning more than women of color, especially African Americans and Latinas.

Source: Institute for Women's Policy Research and Institute for Women's Leadership, Rutgers University, 2000.

Health

Heart disease is the leading cause of death of women across all ages, more than all cancers combined.

Source: Center for Disease Control, 2001.

A 1995 study found that 30 percent to 48 percent of college women report either current or past eating disorder symptoms such as binge eating.

Source: Heatherton, Nichols, Mahamedi & Keel.

Sports

In 1999, Tori Murden became the first American and first woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean. It took her 81 days to row 3,000 miles in a 23-foot rowboat.

Before Title IX was passed in 1972, only 1 out of every 27 girls played high school sports. In 2001, the ratio is 1 of every 3.

Source: President's Council of Physical Fitness and Sports, 2001.