



A Portrait of Women & Girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area Fact Sheet on Latinas

A Portrait of Women & Girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area (the Portrait Project) is an unprecedented collaboration. Led by the Washington Area Women's Foundation, the project utilized the time, data, and expertise of 24 leading research organizations to document the issues affecting the lives of women and girls in the region. The Foundation embarked upon the Portrait Project 18 months ago to examine the roles of education, economics, health, safety, and leadership in the lives of the region's 1.8 million women and girls in the District of Columbia; Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in Maryland; Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax Counties in Virginia.

Key Facts about Latinas:

Earnings: Median annual earnings for Latinas in the region are the lowest of all women in the region and range from \$21,649 to \$22,589. Local Latina's earnings match those and are marginally higher than Latinas nationally in some jurisdictions. For instance, Latinas in the District of Columbia make \$955 more than women nationally. Latinas in Montgomery County make \$2,800 more than Latinas nationally. In fact, Latinas in Montgomery County have the highest median annual earnings of all Latinas in the region.

Education Attainment: While women of all races and ethnicities locally have higher levels of education than their counterparts nationally, the racial differences in educational attainment among women are stark. While 62% of white women and 56% of Asian women in the region have college degrees, only 26% of Hispanic women do.

- A disproportionate number of Latinas lack a high school diploma putting them at a critical disadvantage in the labor market. Fifty percent (50%) of Latinas in the District of Columbia and 48% in Prince George's County lack a high school diploma compared to 45% nationally.
- Young Latinas also have some of the lowest graduation rates of girls in our local school systems. In Prince George's and Montgomery Counties in 2001, for example, the percentage of Latinas graduating from high school was 84% and 90% respectively, the lowest figures for all girls (including African-American, white and Asian girls).

Key Facts on the Washington Metropolitan Area:

Regional Strengths:

- For each county in the region, the women's median annual earnings outpace the national median income, from a low of \$8,500 above the national median in Prince George's County to a high of \$14,000 above the national median in Arlington County. However, women still earn less than their male counterparts by as much as \$18,700.
- The Washington region ranks 4th among the top 50 metropolitan areas for women's business ownership.
- Women head 34% of the top 100 foundations (by assets) and 28% of the largest foundations established in the region since 1996. Women-led foundations oversaw more than \$141.2 million in giving in 2001.

Key Facts on the Washington Metropolitan Area:

Regional Weaknesses:

- Women-headed households make up 58% of families in poverty in our region. In the District, women-headed households make up 74% of all families living in poverty. In Prince George's County they represent 59% of all families in poverty.
- Key family supports such as affordable childcare and housing are difficult to access for those who need them most. Women-headed families at the median income level (\$26,500) in the District can afford to purchase only 8% of the homes there; those at the median income level in Arlington (\$41,100) can afford to purchase only 14% of that county's homes.
- The incidence of infant mortality in the District and in Prince George's County (12 and 9.8 per 1,000 births, respectively) is higher than the national average (6.9 per 1,000 births).
- The rate of new AIDS cases among adolescent and adult women in the District is ten times the national rate (92 vs. 9 per 100,000, respectively).
- One hundred thirty-eight new foundations, with assets of at least \$1 million, have been created in the region since 1996. Only \$1.97 million of the \$68.8 million in grants made by these foundations went to women's and girls' programs or activities.

earnings in Fairfax to 99% of men's earnings in the District of Columbia. While there is more equality in earnings between Hispanic women and men, these two groups have lower median earnings than whites.

Health: Latinas are particularly at risk for being uninsured. A recent Montgomery County health assessment study showed that the lack of health insurance is a major factor affecting the health of Latinos, especially low-income individuals. Latinas have estimated uninsured rates ranging from 40-80%.

- Latino residents in Montgomery County have the highest percent of self-pay hospital admissions of any racial/ethnic group in that county.
- Among Latinas in the District of Columbia, 54% have health coverage (compared to 52% Latinos).

Heart Disease: Latinas have the lowest heart disease mortality rates of nearly all women in the region.

HIV/AIDS: For women of color, HIV and AIDS represent an increasing threat. New AIDS cases among women of color are higher than their actual representation in the population nationally and regionally.

Poverty: Latinas are tied with African-American women for having the highest poverty rates of all women in the region at 14%. Latinas in the District have the 2nd highest poverty rates of all women in our region (when compared to Montgomery, Prince George's Arlington, Fairfax, and Alexandria).

- In the District of Columbia, almost one in four Latinas live in poverty, one in four Latino children live in poverty and almost one in three elderly Latinas live in poverty. The District has the highest poverty rate for elderly Latinas in the region.
- Latinas in Alexandria have the 2nd highest poverty of all Latinas in the region.

Unemployment: Unemployment remains a significant problem for Latinas who face unemployment rates of 7.5% in this region. The national statistic for all people in the workforce is 5.8%. Compared with women in neighboring counties Latinas in the District of Columbia and Prince George's County have the 2nd highest unemployment rates of all women in the region (10%)—significantly higher than the national rate for all women at 6%.

Wage Gap: One of the smallest wage gaps for women in the region exists between Hispanic women and men. Hispanic women's earnings range from being 84% of Hispanic men's

Latinas in the Washington Metropolitan Area Key Statistics

	National	Regional	District of Columbia	Montgomery County	Prince George's County	Arlington County	Fairfax County	Alexandria
Demographics	12%	10%	7%	11%	6%	17%	10%	13%
Unemployment	10.7%	7.5%	10%	6.4%	10.3%	7.3%	6.4%	6.3%
Earnings								
Women	\$21,634	N/A	\$22,589	\$25,453	\$21,815	\$21,888	\$23,947	\$21,649
Men	\$25,400	N/A	\$22,795	\$30,084	\$25,307	\$25,488	\$28,556	\$25,099
Percent of Women's Earning to Men	85%	N/A	99%	85%	86%	86%	84%	86%
Poverty								
All Women	24.2%	14.1%	23.2%	12.2%	15.1%	14.5%	11.4%	16.1%
Child	28%	14.1%	25.5%	11.9%	13.6%	15.7%	11.2%	18.7%
Adult	22.2%	14%	21.7%	12.1%	16.1%	14%	11.5%	15%
Elderly	21.8%	16.7%	31.5%	14.8%	9%	16.6%	11.9%	17.5%
Educational Attainment								
No High School Diploma	45.9%	40%	49.8%	36.1%	47.9%	42.6%	34.7%	43.3%
High School Graduates	22.4%	19%	13.8%	19.6%	19%	19.7%	20.4%	16.4%

In the region, Latinas:

- Have the lowest median earnings in the region.
- Have the 2nd highest unemployment rate for women in the region.
- Have the highest percentage of women without a high school diploma in the region.
- Have the 2nd highest women's poverty rate in the region.

Please note: Regional comparisons include the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland and Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax Counties in Virginia.

Established in 1997, the Washington Area Women's Foundation is the only public foundation dedicated to increasing resources and opportunities for women and girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Our mission is to foster a powerful wave of philanthropy to improve the lives of all women and girls in the Washington region. Since 1998, Foundation grants to 47 local organizations have helped more than 30,000 women, girls, and their families achieve economic and physical security, escape violence and physical abuse, maintain health and well-being, and secure education and leadership opportunities. Visit www.wawf.org to view the full report.



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