



A Portrait of Women & Girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area Prince George's County Fact Sheet

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.

Prince George's County Strengths:

Earnings: Women's median annual earnings in Prince George's County outpace those for women in the nation but are the lowest for all women in the region. Women in Prince George's County earn \$35,718 compared to \$27,194 nationally.

Family Supports: Women-headed families earning a median annual income of \$39,882 can afford 31% of the homes in the county. Prince George's has the highest percentage of homes affordable to women-headed families.

Leadership: Maryland is among the top ten states in the country, with high proportions of women in elected office. Maryland is also among the few states to have both a commission for women and a formal women's caucus in each house of the state legislature.

- While nationally, women hold 32% of professional and managerial jobs, the rate in Maryland is much higher at 41%.

Poverty: Prince George's County is tied with Arlington County for having the 3rd lowest percentage of women in poverty in the region (8.2%). Prince George's County also has the lowest poverty rates among African-American women in the region (8.3%).

Wage Gap: Prince George's County has the smallest wage gap between women and men's earnings in the region at 92%. Women's median earnings are \$35,718 compared to men's at \$38,904.

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.

Prince George's County Weaknesses:

Education: Prince George's County has the lowest percentage of women with a college degree. Only 30% of women have some sort of college degree compared to 46% of women in the region overall.

- Almost half (48%) of the Latina women in the county do not have a high school diploma. Young Latinas also have the lowest graduation rates of nearly all girls in the local school system. Eighty-four percent (84%) of Latinas graduate from high school compared to 92% of white girls and 94% of African-American and Asian girls.

Heart Disease: Prince George's County has the 3rd highest mortality rates from heart disease for women in the region at 351 per 100,000 people (tied with Fairfax County).

Infant Mortality: Prince George's County has the 2nd highest infant mortality rate in the region – 9.8 per 1,000 births compared to the national rate of 6.9. The county also has the 2nd highest African-American infant mortality rate in the region at 12 per 1,000 births. This is just below the national African-American rate of 13.5, but far above the national rate for all infants at 6.9.

Leadership: Women's representation in local government in Prince George's County is the 2nd lowest among all jurisdictions and tied with Montgomery County. Only 22% of the County Council is made up of women compared to 43% in Alexandria and 60% in Fairfax.

Teen Pregnancies: Prince George's County has the 3rd highest teen birth rate in the region at 28.8 per 1,000 girls ages 15-17.

Unemployment: Female unemployment in Prince George's County is one of the highest in the region (5.3%) compared to 4.9% regionally and 5.8% nationally.

Violence: In Maryland in 2000, there were more than 20,000 incidences of intimate partner violence tracked by the state through police reports, and in 75% of the cases, the victims were women.

Wage Gap: White women and Asian women experience the largest wage gaps with their male counterparts. African-American and Hispanic women experience the smallest wage gaps with their male counterparts. While there is more equality in earnings among African-American and Hispanic women and men, this is due to the relatively lower wages of both women and men in these groups, compared to those of whites.

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Women in Prince George's County Key Statistics by Race & Ethnicity

	Unemployment Rates	Wage Gap (% of Women's Median Earnings to Men's)	Poverty Rates	Educational Attainment (% of women with less than a high school diploma)	Heart Disease Mortality Rates (per 100,000)
White Women	3.6%	79%	5.7%	11.3%	317
African-American Women	5.6%	95%	8.3%	12.3%	471
Hispanic Women	10%	86%	15.1%	48%	105
Asian Women	3.8%	84%	9.8%	18.8%	205
All Women	5.3%	92%	8.2%	14.2%	351

In the region, Prince George's County has:

- The 2nd highest women's unemployment rate.
- The smallest wage gap for median earnings (% of women's earnings to men's).
- The 3rd lowest, tied with Arlington County, women's poverty rate.
- The 2nd highest percentage of women without a high school diploma.
- The 3rd highest, tied with Fairfax County, women's mortality rate from heart disease.

Women in Prince George's County Key Statistics for All Women in the County

Families in Poverty (by Family Type)	% of Homes Affordable to Families for purchase	Women's Higher Educational Attainment	Women and AIDS Incidence Rates (new cases)	Teen Birth Rates for Girls (ages 15-17)	Women in Local Government
30.5% married couples	85% married couples	5.6% Associates degree	27 per 100,000 (in Maryland)	28.8 per 1,000	22%
10.2% male-headed families (no wife present)	31% male householders (no wife present)	16.4% Bachelor's degree			
59.3% women-headed families (no husband present)	31% women-headed families (no husband present)	8.4% Masters or Professional degree			

In the region, Prince George's County has:

- The 2nd highest percentage of families in poverty headed by women.
- The highest percentage of homes affordable to women-headed families (at the median income level).
- The lowest percentage of women with some sort of college degree.
- The 2nd highest AIDS incidences (new cases) rates for women (by state).
- The 3rd highest teen birth rate for girls (ages 15-17).
- The 2nd lowest percentage of women's representation in local government (tied with Montgomery County).

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. Comparisons for AIDS incidence rates include the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland.

Prince George's County Weaknesses (cont.):

Wage Gap (cont.):

- White women earn 79% of white men in the county (\$36,409 vs. \$45,946).
- Asian women earn 84% of Asian men's earnings in the county (\$30,597 vs. \$36,360).
- African American women earn 95% of African American men's earnings in the county (\$36,291 vs. \$38,170).
- Hispanic women earn 86% of Hispanic men's earnings in the county (\$21,815 vs. \$25,307).

Women-headed families: Eleven percent (11%) of all women-headed families in the county are living in poverty, the second lowest percentage in the region. Out of all families living in poverty in the county, 59% are women-headed families.

- Women-headed families have the lowest median earnings compared to all other family types in the county. The median income for a women-headed family is \$39,882, compared to \$75,755 for married couple families and \$44,992 for male-headed households.

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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