



FACT SHEET

The State of Women in Ohio

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.¹ 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.² 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. Ohio 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, Ohio ranks 30th in the nation for how women are faring. This illustrates the long path ahead before women in Ohio can get a fair shot at achieving economic security, reaching success, and living a healthy life.

Overall grade

C-

National ranking

30

Ohio facts

Economic security

Ohio received a “C” on the economic factors examined in the report. Overall, Ohio ranks 27th in the nation based on the economic factors analyzed.

- **Women in Ohio make 77 cents for every dollar a man makes.** This places Ohio as the 17th-largest state in the nation on the wage gap. The statistics are even worse for women of color: Hispanic women in Ohio make only 64 cents for every dollar a white male makes.
- **Almost 18 percent of women in Ohio live in poverty.** This places Ohio as the state with the 19th-highest poverty rate for women in the nation. The statistics are even worse for women of color: 36.4 percent of African American women in Ohio live in poverty.
- **Ohio 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

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

- **Only 16.7 percent of Ohio’s state elected executive offices are held by women.** Ohio ranks 27th in the nation on female elected officials in state elected executive office.
- **Almost 63 percent of the managerial jobs in Ohio are held by men.** Women hold only 37.2 percent of the managerial jobs in Ohio, despite making up 52 percent of the state’s population.

Health

Ohio received a “C-” on the health factors examined in the report. Overall, Ohio ranks 30th in the nation based on the health factors analyzed.

- **12.5 percent of nonelderly women in Ohio are uninsured.** Despite the number of uninsured nonelderly women in Ohio, Ohio refuses to expand Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid could provide insurance for 256,000 women.
- **Ohio places unconstitutional restrictions/conditions on a woman’s access to reproductive health care.** Planned Parenthood is a key provider of critical health services for women, including family planning services, cancer screenings, pelvic and breast exams, and contraception coverage. Abortion services account for only about 3 percent of Planned Parenthood’s activities.³ Ohio, however, has passed a bill to cut funding for Planned Parenthood’s preventive health services, threatening access to health care for women in Ohio.
- **Ohio has the fourth-worst infant mortality rate in the nation,** with 7.7 deaths for every 1,000 infants.

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 Emilie Openchowski, “Abortion Is the Battle, but Women’s Health Is the War,” Center for American Progress, August 23, 2012, available at <http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/news/2012/08/23/33841/abortion-is-the-battle-but-womens-health-is-the-war/>.