



FACT SHEET

The State of Women in Texas

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. Texas 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, Texas ranks 45th in the nation for how women are faring. This illustrates the long path ahead before women in Texas can get a fair shot at achieving economic security, reaching success, and living a healthy life.

Overall grade

F

National ranking

45

Texas facts

Economic security

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

- **Women in Texas make 79 cents for every dollar a man makes.** Texas has the 17th-smallest wage gap in the nation. The statistics are worse for women of color: Hispanic women in Texas make only 45 cents for every dollar a white male makes.
- **More than 19 percent of women in Texas live in poverty.** This places Texas with the 12th-highest poverty rate for women in the nation. The statistics are even worse for women of color: 26.6 percent of African American women in Texas live in poverty.
- **Texas 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

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

- **Just 10 percent of Texas’s congressional seats are held by women.** Texas ranks 34th in the nation on female elected officials in Congress.
- **More than 63 percent of the managerial jobs in Texas are held by men.** Women hold only 36.8 percent of the managerial jobs in Texas, despite making up 51 percent of the state’s population.

Health

Texas received an “F” on the health factors examined in the report. Overall, Texas ranks 47th in the nation based on the health factors analyzed.

- **Almost one quarter of nonelderly women in Texas are uninsured.** Despite the number of uninsured, Texas refuses to expand Medicaid. Expanding Medicaid could provide insurance for 903,000 women.
- **Texas 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 Texas, however, has passed a bill to cut funding for Planned Parenthood’s preventive health services, threatening access to health care for women in Texas.
- **Texas has the 23rd-worst maternal mortality rate in the nation,** with 10.5 deaths for every 100,000 live births.

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/>.