



WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

STATUS OF WOMEN IN MISSOURI: A PREVIEW OF FINDINGS

In 2014 the Women's Foundation commissioned a study on the status of women in Missouri with the University of Missouri's Institute of Public Policy. The full study, along with a public online database with real-time updates, will be released in January 2015, and it will provide a baseline for continued research that will inform reasonable policy solutions for women and their families. In partnership with faculty and researchers from the University of Missouri, the Women's Foundation is pleased to share some of our initial findings.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Lead Indicator: the ratio of female to male income.

In Missouri, women who work full-time earn 29 percent less than male workers. The median annual income for female workers is \$23,260, compared with \$32,824 for male workers. The female to male income ratio is 0.71 – gender parity would be 1.0.

EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

Lead Indicator: the distribution of accredited child care centers.

In Missouri, 27 percent of counties lack any accredited child care centers, including three counties with the highest number of children aged 0-4. Most of the accredited centers are located in the greater Kansas City and St. Louis regions.

HEALTH

Lead Indicator: the proportion of Missourians without healthcare coverage.

Access to quality healthcare is critical to the well-being of women and their families. At least 650,000 Missourians or 13.6 percent are without health insurance, and in some Missouri counties, more than one fifth of the population is uninsured.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND AGING

Lead Indicator: the rate of impoverished women aged 65 and over.

In Missouri, just over nine percent of seniors are in poverty; two-thirds of whom are women. Overall the gap between elderly men and women in poverty is 3.7 percent, but in some counties this increases to 8.0 percent.

LEADERSHIP

Lead indicator: the proportion of women in the Missouri General Assembly.

Women in public leadership positions are very much in the minority, which has implications for policymaking and the priorities given to issues of greatest concern to women. Although women comprise 51 percent of the state's population, only 49 of the 197 General Assembly seats (25 percent) are held by women.

For more information visit www.Womens-Foundation.org.