

State of Women: A County by County Report on Women and Girls in Massachusetts Hampden County

Basic Demographics

Female Population

Total: 237,735

- Under 21.....28.58%
- 21 to 34.....17.13%
- 35 to 64.....37.37%
- 65 and over.....16.92%

Households, Year 2000

Total: 175,288

Female householder, no husband present... 15.92%

- With children under 6.....13.46%
- With children under 18.....63.35%

- In Hampden County, 31.99% of families with a female householder (no husband present) live in poverty, much more than in any other county in the state.

Earnings and Employment

Median Earnings for Full-Time Employees in 1999

Male.....\$39,021

Female.....\$28,896

The Living Wage in 2003

For one Adult and 2 children, one in pre-school and one in elementary school.....\$36,603-40,598

For 2 Adults and 2 children, one in pre-school and one in elementary school.....\$42,844-46,714

Percentage of Women Living in Poverty in 1999

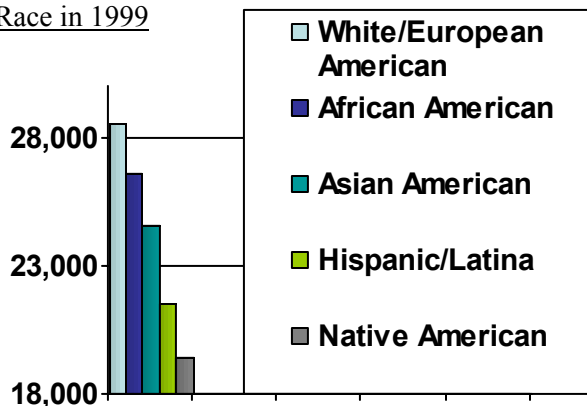
All women.....15.99%

Girls under 5.....25.87%

Women over 65.....10.96%

Families.....11.45%

Median Earnings for Full-Time, Female Workers by Race in 1999



Employment Status of Women, Year 2000

Employed: 100,232

Unemployed in Labor Force: 5,585

Not in Labor Force: 80,755

Education

Female Educational Attainment in 2000

No High School Diploma.....20.40%

High School Graduate.....51.02%

Associate or Professional Degree.....10.30%

Bachelor's Degree.....12.46%

Master's Degree.....5.46%

Doctorate Degree.....0.37%

2003 Female Public High School

Drop-Out Rate

Massachusetts State Average.....2.79%

Hampden County Average.....5.23%

- This is the second-highest dropout rate for girls in the state.

Health and Wellness

Reproductive Health

- In 2004, 722 new mothers (12.60%) in Hampden County were adolescents of age 20 or younger—the highest percentage in the state.
- Hampden County has the highest infant mortality rate in the state; nearly 7.7 babies per 1,000 births in 2002.
- In 2004, 1,508 pregnant women (26.50%) did not receive any prenatal care in their first trimester, which was also the highest percentage in the state.
- Thus, publicly funded prenatal care had the biggest impact in Hampden County, where 52.90% of mothers benefited from it—a total of 2,987 women.

HIV and AIDS

- In April of 2000, 655 women were living with HIV or AIDS and 278 women were living with AIDS in Hampden County.

Smoking

- Between 2001 and 2003, 381 women died from either bronchus or lung cancer.

Political Participation in 2006

Females elected to State House: 3 (25.00%)

❖ Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women ❖

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