

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

Basic Demographics

Female Population

Total: 357,132

Under 21.....	25.36%
21 to 34.....	28.80%
35 to 64.....	32.75%
65 and over.....	13.09%

- Suffolk County is the most racially and ethnically diverse county in the state. Only 57.11% of women identify themselves as white, whereas throughout Massachusetts 81.75% of women identify themselves as white.

Households, Year 2000

Total: 278,722

Female householder, no husband present...	16.27%
With children under 6.....	21.37%
With children under 18.....	57.49%

- This is the largest percentage of female-headed households in the state.

Earnings and Employment

Median Earnings in 1999

Male.....	\$27,465
Female.....	\$22,871

- The gap between male and female earnings was significantly smaller in Suffolk County than in any other.

The Living Wage in 2003

For one Adult and 2 children, one in pre-school and one in elementary school.....\$51,284-55,373

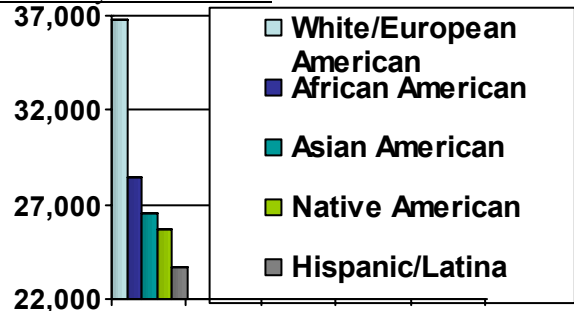
For 2 Adults and 2 children, one in pre-school and one in elementary school.....\$54,612-62,041

- Suffolk has the highest requirement for self-sufficiency for a mother with two children of any county in the state.

Percentage of Women Living in Poverty in 1999

All women.....	19.49%
Girls under 5.....	24.02%
Women over 65.....	18.00%
Families.....	14.90%

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



Employment Status of Women, Year 2000

Employed: 163,427

Unemployed in Labor Force: 11,501

Not in Labor Force: 102,567

Education

Female Educational Attainment in 2000

No High School Diploma.....	22.23%
High School Graduate.....	41.03%
Associate or Professional Degree.....	8.37%
Bachelor's Degree.....	18.30%
Master's Degree.....	8.91%
Doctorate Degree.....	1.16%

2003 Female Public High School

Drop-Out Rate

Massachusetts State Average.....	2.79%
Suffolk County Average.....	5.28%

- This is the highest drop-out rate for girls in the state.

Health and Wellness

Reproductive Health

- Seven hundred and ten pregnant women (7.70%) did not receive any prenatal care in their first trimester. 18.30% of new mothers, however, utilized publicly funded prenatal care in 2004—a total of 1,671 women.

HIV and AIDS

- In April of 2000, 572 women were living with HIV and 675 women were living with AIDS in Suffolk County—the highest percentage for any county in the state.

Political Participation in 2006

Females elected to State House: 6 (31.58%)

❖ Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women ❖

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