

# THE WELL-BEING OF WOMEN IN UTAH IN 2018

FACT SHEET



eliminating racism  
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**ywca**

Utah



STATUS OF WOMEN  
IN THE STATES



# The Well-Being of Women in Utah

YWCA Utah's vision is that all Utah women are thriving and leading the lives they choose, with their strength benefiting their families, communities, and the state as a whole. YWCA Utah and the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) have partnered to publish this 2018 fact sheet on the well-being of women in Utah as part of IWPR's Status of Women in the States project. We are proud to provide a reliable resource, with particular focus on the intersection of race and ethnicity with gender, and further encourage exploration, community collaboration, and policy change for the benefit of the entire state.

This fact sheet builds upon the briefing paper published in 2014 by IWPR and YWCA Utah, *The Well-Being of Women in Utah: An Overview*, and IWPR's *Status of Women in the States 2015*. The 2018 fact sheet compares indicators of women's well-being to the same indicators from the 2015 report, where available, and lays the foundation for what will become an annual snapshot of Utah women's well-being in key dimensions of their lives.

## Data Highlights

As of 2016, women in Utah still work outside of the home at similar rates to women nationally and—while not yet at the same levels as U.S. women—they also continue to pursue business ownership, make progress in educational attainment, and overcome some aspects of poverty. Utah women, however, still face significant challenges and lag behind both women nationally and Utah men in earnings and leadership opportunities in the workplace and the political sphere, as well as educational attainment beyond the bachelor's degree level. These gaps widen for women of color in Utah. A notably higher wage gap and lower bachelor's degree attainment among Hispanic and Native American women are just two examples of significant racial disparities experienced by Utah women.

While Utah women are less likely to report experiencing violence than women nationally as of 2012, one in three women in the state experiences violence by an intimate partner in her lifetime. In comparison with the 2015 report and women nationally, the data also point to a troubling trend indicating that more Utah women are losing their lives to suicide.

## Policy Implications

Policy changes must be holistic in their approach, taking into account the unique backgrounds, circumstances, and obstacles facing women and families in Utah. Closing the gender wage gap and addressing the needs of workers striving for self-sufficiency are key to sustaining Utah's economy and ability to attract new business. Policies that improve workplace flexibility and access to paid family leave can address workers' diverse caregiving responsibilities and help employers hire and retain highly skilled workers in a tight labor market. Policies to address violence against women, or to support women experiencing mental health challenges, must also be considered within a broader context. Solutions to these complex problems require consideration of many overlapping issues such as access to health care, affordable housing, and economic opportunity in general.

While an annual data profile cannot possibly include every indicator that is important to Utah women, or address the complex and varied reasons for current trends, it does present a representative baseline from which to explore policy changes that can improve women's lives. YWCA Utah shares this fact sheet to increase knowledge and awareness about the well-being of women in Utah and to promote statewide policy change based on shared values and a common desire to make Utah an even better place to live, work, raise a family, and build strong, prosperous communities.

**Table 1. Empowerment and Economic Advancement for Women in Utah and the United States, 2016**

	Utah, 2015 Report	Utah, 2018 Report	Progress?	United States, 2018 Report	2018 Rankings	
					National Rank	Regional Rank
Women's Labor Force Participation, Aged 16 and Older	58.7%	59.8%	Yes	58.3%	19	2
Percent of All Employed Women Working Part-Time, Aged 16 and Older	40.2%	37.4%	Yes	28.3%	51	8
Women's Median Annual Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers, Aged 16 and Older	\$36,059	\$35,000	No	\$40,000	38	5
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings, Aged 16 and Older	70.0%	70.0%	No	80.0%	50	8
Women's Median Annual Earnings for Part-Time Workers, Aged 16 and Older	n/a	\$9,600	n/a	\$10,700	45	7
Percent of All Employed Women in Managerial/Professional Occupations, Aged 16 and Older	38.0%	37.5%	No	41.6%	46	6
Percent of Businesses Owned by Women, 2012	24.9%	30.3%	Yes	35.8%	47	8
Percent of Women Above Poverty, Aged 18 and Older	86.5%	88.6%	Yes	86.0%	11	2
Percent of Women Aged 65 and Older Receiving Social Security Income	n/a	87.5%	n/a	85.0%	*	*
Average Annual Income for Women Aged 65 and Older from Social Security	n/a	\$11,200	n/a	\$12,000	48	8
Percent of Women Aged 65 and Older Who Receive:						
50% or More of Their Income from Social Security	n/a	66.7%	n/a	66.6%	*	*
80% or More of Their Income from Social Security	n/a	48.2%	n/a	48.2%	*	*
100% of Their Income from Social Security	n/a	38.7%	n/a	38.7%	*	*

Notes: n/a = data not available. \* = data not ranked. Data are for 2016 with the exception of the data on women's business ownership, which utilizes data from 2012. Regional ranks are relative to other states in the Mountain West Census division, which includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Dollar values from the 2015 report have been adjusted to 2016 values for comparison. Median annual income from Social Security is calculated among women 65 and older that reported receiving any income from Social Security. Total retirement income among women aged 65 and older was calculated as the sum of earnings from employment, Social Security, investment income, retirement savings, and Supplemental Security Income. Total retirement income may be negative due to net losses in asset income. For the calculation of the share of older women's retirement income coming from Social Security, women who had negative retirement income were excluded (only 57 observations were omitted in the full sample). Any women whose Social Security income to total retirement income ratio was greater than 100 percent (due to net losses in asset income) were top-coded at 100 percent.

Sources: IWPR analysis of the 2016 American Community Survey microdata (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.0); The Status of Women in the States, 2015 (Hess et al. 2015).

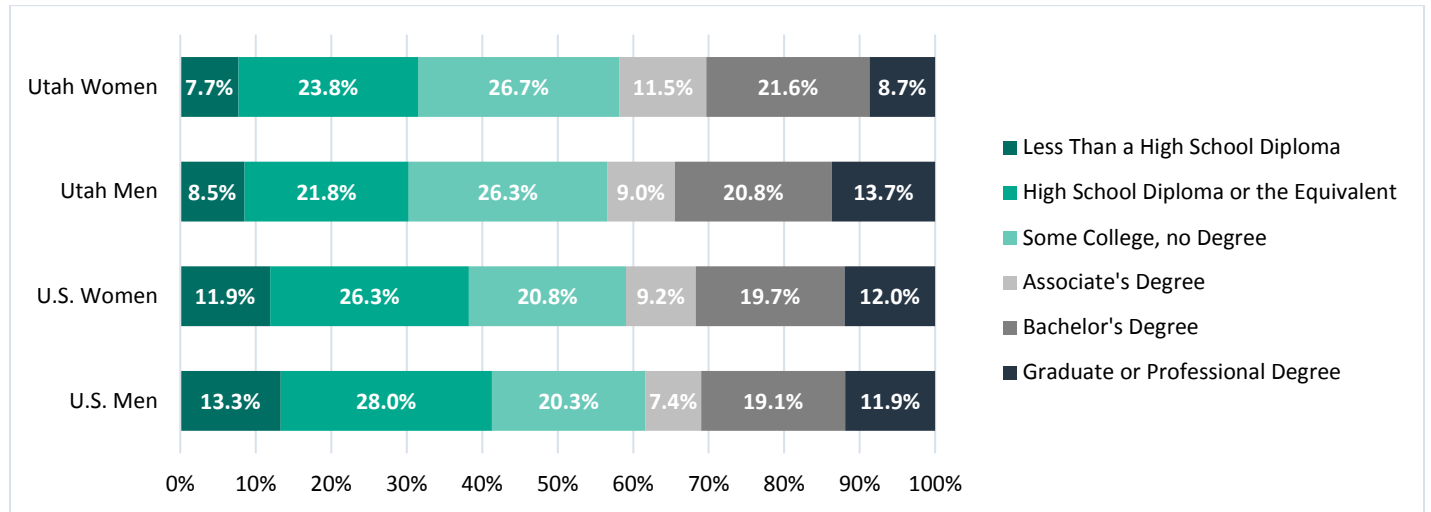
**Table 2. Empowerment and Economic Advancement for Women in Utah by Race and Ethnicity, 2014-2016**

	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Other Race or Two or More Races
Women's Labor Force Participation, Aged 16 and Older	58.5%	64.5%	65.5%	60.7%	54.5%	64.6%
Percent of All Employed Women Working Part-Time, Aged 16 and Older	39.5%	34.0%	36.1%	26.3%	35.2%	40.7%
Women's Median Annual Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers, Aged 16 and Older	\$37,090	\$25,757	n/a	\$31,594	\$28,758	\$30,379
Ratio of Women's to White Men's Earnings, Aged 16 and Older	66.5%	46.2%	n/a	56.7%	51.6%	54.5%
Women's Median Annual Earnings for Part-Time Workers, Aged 16 and Older	\$9,272	\$10,126	n/a	\$10,734	n/a	\$7,088
Percent of All Employed Women in Managerial/Professional Occupations, Aged 16 and Older	41.6%	19.2%	n/a	33.4%	n/a	32.8%
Percent of Women with a Bachelor's Degree, Aged 25 and Older	31.7%	11.1%	n/a	36.9%	14.5%	39.1%
Percent of Businesses Owned by Women, 2012	92.9%	8.0%	0.9%	6.9%	0.9%	3.6%
Percent of Women Above Poverty, Aged 18 to 64	89.2%	78.1%	68.7%	82.9%	70.1%	76.5%
Percent of Women Aged 65 and Older Receiving Social Security Income	88.0%	74.1%	n/a	72.4%	n/a	n/a
Average Annual Income for Women Aged 65 and Older from Social Security	\$11,200	\$9,900	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Percent of Women Aged 65 and Older Who Receive:						
50% or More of Their Income from Social Security	66.3%	77.7%	n/a	65.7%	n/a	n/a
80% or More of Their Income from Social Security	48.5%	64.2%	n/a	59.2%	n/a	n/a
100% of Their Income from Social Security	38.4%	56.7%	n/a	52.2%	n/a	n/a

Notes: n/a = data not available. Data are for 2014-2016 with the exception of the data on women's business ownership, which utilizes data from 2012. Median annual income from Social Security is calculated among women 65 and older that reported receiving any income from Social Security. Total retirement income among women aged 65 and older was calculated as the sum of earnings from employment, Social Security, investment income, retirement savings, and Supplemental Security Income. Total retirement income may be negative due to net losses in asset income. For the calculation of the share of older women's retirement income coming from Social Security, women who had negative retirement income were excluded (only 57 observations were omitted in the full sample). Any women whose Social Security income to total retirement income ratio was greater than 100 percent (due to net losses in asset income) were top-coded at 100 percent.

Sources: IWPR analysis of the 2014-2016 American Community Survey microdata (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.0).

**Figure 1. Highest Level of Educational Attainment among Women and Men in Utah and the United States, Aged 25 and Older, 2016**



Notes: Includes women aged 25 and older.

Source: IWPR analysis of the 2016 American Community Survey microdata (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.o).

**Table 3. Health and Safety for Women in Utah and the United States**

	Utah, 2015 Report	Utah, 2018 Report	Progress?	United States, 2018 Report	2018 Rankings	
					National Rank	Regional Rank
Percent of Non-Elderly Women with Health Insurance, Aged 18 to 64, 2016	83.0%	89.5%	Yes	89.4%	31	4
Lifetime Prevalence of Contact Sexual Violence, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by an Intimate Partner, Aged 18 and Older, 2010-2012	n/a	33.6%	n/a	37.3%	6	2
Lifetime Prevalence of Contact Sexual Violence, Physical Violence, and/or Stalking by Any Perpetrator, Aged 18 and Older, 2010-2012	n/a	31.1%	n/a	36.3%	4	1
Lifetime Prevalence of Stalking by Any Perpetrator, Aged 18 and Older, 2010-2012	n/a	14.9%	n/a	15.8%	17	1
Average Number of Days per Month on Which Women's Mental Health is Not Good, Aged 18 and Older, 2016	4.2	4.6	No	4.3	34	7
Suicide Rate per 100,000 Women, 2016	9.1	10.1	No	6.2	46	5
Rate of Unintended Pregnancy, 2010	n/a	36%	n/a	45%	1	1

Notes: n/a = data not available. \* = data not ranked. Regional ranks are relative to other states in the Mountain West Census division, which includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Sources: IWPR analysis of the 2016 American Community Survey microdata (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.o); The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010-2012 State Report (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2017); IWPR analysis of the 2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System microdata; IWPR compilation of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's WONDER Online Database; State Facts About Unintended Pregnancy (Guttmacher Institute 2017); The Status of Women in the States, 2015 (Hess et al. 2015).

**Table 4. Health and Safety for Women in Utah by Race and Ethnicity, 2014-2016**

	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Other Race or Two or More Races
Percent of Non-Elderly Women with Health Insurance, Aged 18 to 64	91.1%	65.2%	85.6%	85.9%	62.9%	89.5%
Average Number of Days Per Month on Which Women's Mental Health is Not Good, Aged 18 and Older	4.4	3.9	n/a	3.3	6.3	6.9

Notes: n/a = data not available.

Sources: IWPR analysis of the 2014-2016 American Community Survey microdata (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.0); IWPR analysis of the 2014-2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System microdata.

**Table 5. Political Participation among Women in Utah and the United States**

	Utah, 2015 Report	Utah, 2018 Report	Progress?	United States, 2018 Report	2018 Rankings	
					National Rank	Regional Rank
Percent of Women Registered to Vote, 2014/2016 Averages	60.4%	60.9%	Yes	63.6%	44	6
Percent of Women Who Voted, 2014/2016 Averages	45.4%	47.4%	Yes	48.9%	40	6
Share of State Senators Who Are Women, 2018	20.7%	17.2%	No	22.8%	36	6
Share of State Representatives Who Are Women, 2018	13.3%	20.0%	Yes	26.3%	38	7

Notes: n/a = data not available. Regional ranks are relative to other states in the Mountain West Census division, which includes Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Sources: Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2014 (U.S. Census Bureau 2015); Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2016 (U.S. Census Bureau 2017); Women in State Legislatures 2018 (Center for American Women and Politics 2018); The Status of Women in the States, 2015 (Hess et al. 2015).

**Table 6. Women of Color in Elected Office in Utah, 2018**

	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Other Race or Two or More Races
Share of State Senators Who Are Women, 2018	3	1	0	1	0	0
Share of State Representatives Who Are Women, 2018	11	2	1	1	0	0

Source: Women in State Legislatures 2018 (Center for American Women and Politics 2018).

**Table 7. Basic Demographic Statistics for Utah, 2016**

	Utah	United States
Total Population	3,051,217	323,127,515
Number of Women and Girls, All Ages	1,511,732	164,066,655
Share of Women, Aged 15 and Older, Who Are:		
Married	55.2%	46.0%
Separated, Divorced, or Widowed	17.6%	23.4%
Never Married	27.2%	30.6%
Proportion of Women Who Are 65 and Older	11.4%	16.7%
Proportion of Women Who Are Immigrants	8.5%	13.7%
Number of Female Same-Sex Partner Households	2,979	430,445
Percent of All Households Headed by Single Mothers with Children Under 18	4.3%	5.9%

Notes: Estimates of the immigrant population include those who are in the country both legally and illegally as well as those who are in the country as refugees.

Source: IWPR analysis of the 2016 American Community Survey microdata (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.0).

**Table 8. Basic Demographic Statistics for Utah by Race and Ethnicity, 2014-2016**

	White	Hispanic	Black	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Native American	Other Race or Two or More Races
Total Population	2,365,478	408,874	31,727	92,814	28,269	69,539
Number of Women and Girls, All Ages	1,179,555	199,781	12,879	46,489	13,777	34,425
Share of Women, Aged 15 and Older, Who Are:						
Married	56.8%	48.0%	n/a	59.0%	37.9%	41.2%
Separated, Divorced, or Widowed	18.4%	17.3%	n/a	15.1%	16.9%	8.8%
Never Married	24.8%	34.7%	n/a	25.9%	45.2%	50.1%
Proportion of Women Who Are 65 and Older	12.7%	4.5%	3.9%	8.4%	7.0%	2.4%
Proportion of Women and Girls Who Are Immigrants	2.0%	34.9%	27.8%	60.3%	2.3%	6.3%

Notes: Estimates of the immigrant population include those who are in the country both legally and illegally as well as those who are in the country as refugees.

Source: IWPR analysis of the 2014-2016 American Community Survey microdata (Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Version 6.0).

## About the Institute for Women's Policy Research

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The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) conducts and communicates research to inspire public dialogue, shape policy, and improve the lives and opportunities of women of diverse backgrounds, circumstances, and experiences. The Institute's research strives to give voice to the needs of women from diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds across the income spectrum and to ensure that their perspectives enter the public debate on ending discrimination and inequality, improving opportunity, and increasing economic security for women and families. The Institute works with policymakers, scholars, and public interest groups to design, execute, and disseminate research and to build a diverse network of individuals and organizations that conduct and use women-oriented policy research. IWPR's work is supported by foundation grants, government grants and contracts, donations from individuals, and contributions from organizations and corporations. IWPR is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that also works in affiliation with the Program on Gender Analysis in Economics at American University. [www.iwpr.org](http://www.iwpr.org)

## About YWCA Utah

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The YWCA advances the well-being of Utah women through safety, opportunity, and advocacy. Since 1906 YWCA Utah has designed its work to encourage women's aspirations, protect and promote their rights, and meet their changing needs. The YWCA's enduring belief has been that better lives for all women lead to stronger families, communities, and societies. Current direct programming focuses on violence against women, early childhood education, and women's leadership development. Research, issue education, and public policy advocacy efforts focus on developing the Utah Women's Well-Being Initiative. [www.ywcautah.org](http://www.ywcautah.org)

## About The Status of Women in the States

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STATUS OF WOMEN  
IN THE STATES



This Fact Sheet is a part of the Institute for Women's Policy Research's series on the status of women across the United States, begun in 1996. The Status of Women in the States project uses data from U.S. government and other sources to analyze women's status in each state and the United States overall, rank and grade states on a set of indicators for six topical areas, and provide additional data on women's status in states across the nation. The Institute for Women's Policy Research has published individual reports on the status of women since 1996 in each state and the District of Columbia. The reports have been used to highlight women's progress and the obstacles they continue to face and to encourage policy and programmatic changes that can improve women's opportunities. [www.statusofwomendata.org](http://www.statusofwomendata.org)