The Status of Women in Florida by County: Poverty & Opportunity

The Status of Women in Florida by County: Poverty & Opportunity is the first in a series produced by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research and commissioned by Florida Women’s Funding Alliance, an affinity group of Florida Philanthropic Network. This research aims to provide critical data that can help to build economic security and overall well-being among the state’s women and girls.

Key Findings: Higher Education

Florida ranks in the bottom third of the nation for the percent of women with a bachelor’s degree or higher.

In more than half of Florida counties (34 of the 67), the share of women aged 25 and older who have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher is less than 20 percent. In 32 counties, the share of women with at least a bachelor’s degree is larger than the share of similarly educated men.

More than one in four Florida women aged 25 and older has a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with 28.1 percent of Florida men. Women’s lower educational attainment in Florida differs from the pattern nationally, where women aged 25 and older are slightly more likely than their male counterparts to hold at least a bachelor’s degree.

Women’s educational attainment in Florida differs across the state’s counties.

- Levy County has the smallest share of women with a bachelor’s degree or higher at 10.0 percent, and Leon County has the highest share at 44.3 percent.
- In seven Florida counties, the share of women with a bachelor’s degree or higher exceeds the national average of 30.2 percent. In addition to Leon County, the share of women with this level of education is higher than the national average in Alachua (40.1 percent), St. Johns (39.6 percent), Seminole (33.7 percent), Palm Beach (30.9 percent), Orange (30.5 percent) and Monroe counties (30.4 percent).