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

In Florida and across the country, women are making great strides. More women are earning bachelor’s degrees and women’s entrepreneurship is growing rapidly. Yet, too many women and girls live in poverty with limited access to education, health care, and other important supports that would allow them to achieve economic stability. 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

Poverty

In Florida, 15.4 percent of women aged 18 and older live in poverty, placing the state among the bottom third in the country. More than one in four women live in poverty in five Florida counties.

Poverty & the Gender Wage Gap

If working women in Florida aged 18 and older were paid the same as comparable men, the poverty rate among all working women would fall by more than half, from 8.2 percent to 3.5 percent.

Health Insurance

Florida’s women and girls are less likely to have health insurance than men. Florida has the second-highest health insurance coverage gap among states.

Public Assistance & Social Security

Nearly one in five Floridians, or 19.5 percent, participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps), compared with nearly one in seven, or 14.5 percent of the U.S. population.

Women’s Business Ownership

Florida ranks fifth in the nation for women-owned businesses. Women are driving economic growth and innovation in the state.

Women-owned businesses are growing rapidly in Florida, and they play a vital role in the state’s economy. More women are earning bachelor’s degrees and women’s entrepreneurship is growing rapidly. Yet, too many women and girls live in poverty with limited access to education, health care, and other important supports that would allow them to achieve economic stability.