

Briefing Paper



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The Well-Being of Women in Utah: An Overview

The well-being of women is integral to the economic vitality and overall health of Utah. Nearly one million women live in the state; when they thrive, so do their families and communities.

Initiatives in Utah to strengthen women's overall well-being must address complex realities. On the one hand, Utah's women have made significant progress in recent decades. They are active in the workforce, make important economic contributions to their families and communities, have experienced a narrowing of the gender wage gap, and are more likely to have a college degree than two decades ago. On the other hand, Utah's women face persistent challenges. They continue to earn less than men—even when their educational levels are higher. They are also more likely than men to be poor and to experience intimate partner violence. In addition, women in Utah, as in the United States overall, are underrepresented in political leadership and face racial and ethnic disparities.¹ These challenges must be addressed for the state as a whole to thrive.

This briefing paper provides an overview of how women in Utah fare in key dimensions of their lives: earnings, education, and economic security; physical and emotional health and safety; and political leadership and participation. While it lies beyond the scope of the paper to address other key aspects of women's overall well-being—such as faith and spirituality, family and friendships, civic and community involvement, and sports and fitness—the data provided here identify important areas of progress and challenges for Utah women and suggest policy directions that would benefit the state as a whole.

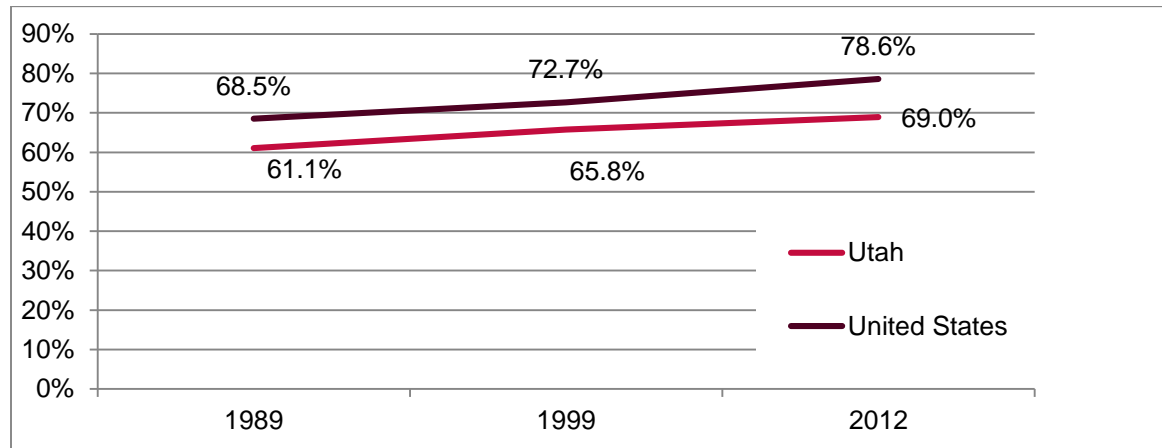
Utah Women and Work: Strong Labor Force Participation, Large Gender Wage Gap

Women have made great strides in Utah's workforce in recent decades. Although women's labor force participation rate did not increase between 1995 (when it was 61.2 percent; IWPR 1998) and 2012 (when it was 61.6 percent; Appendix Table A), the population and workforce of Utah have become more educated and more likely to work in professional and managerial occupations (IWPR 1998; Appendix Table A). On the whole, women's labor force participation in Utah is relatively strong: Utah ranks 17th in the nation for its female labor force participation rate and has a higher share of women in the workforce than the nation overall (58.8 percent). Like the nation as a whole, however, women's labor force participation rate in Utah is much lower than men's (76.1 percent; Appendix Table A).

In Utah, as in all states in the nation, women who work full-time, year-round earn less than men. In 2012, median annual earnings for Utah women were \$33,100 compared with \$48,000 for men (Appendix Table A). Among the largest racial and ethnic groups, earnings vary considerably. Non-Hispanic white women and men in 2009–2011 had the highest median earnings (\$32,525 for women and \$48,787 for men), followed by non-Hispanic minority women and men (\$28,298 for women and \$34,105 for men). Hispanic women and men had the lowest median earnings (\$23,276 and \$29,000; Appendix Table B and IWPR 2014a).

On the whole, women’s median annual earnings in Utah are less than those of women nationwide, while men’s are slightly higher than in the United States overall. These earnings differences result in a larger gender wage gap in Utah than in the nation as a whole. In Utah, women who work full-time and year-round earn 69.0 cents on the dollar compared with men; in the nation, women’s median earnings are 78.6 percent of men’s.² Although Utah has made progress in closing the wage gap over the last two decades, this gap has remained larger than in the nation overall (Figure 1). In 2012, Utah ranked 47th among all states and the District of Columbia on this indicator of women’s status (Appendix Table A).

Figure 1. Ratio of Women's to Men's Full-Time, Year-Round Median Annual Earnings, Aged 16 and Older, Utah and the United States, 1989, 1999, and 2012



Source: IWPR 1996, IWPR 2002, and IWPR analysis of 2012 IPUMS American Community Survey microdata (Ruggles et al. 2010).

Occupational segregation—the concentration of women in one set of jobs and men in another—is one factor that contributes to the gender wage gap. At every skill level—low, medium, and high—median earnings are highest in male-dominated occupations and lowest in female-dominated occupations (Hegewisch et al. 2010). In Utah, a substantial proportion of employed women work in several lower-paid occupational groups. Nearly one in four women (24.0 percent) work in office and administrative support occupations (compared with 8.6 percent of employed men), and nearly one in five (18.8 percent) work in a service occupation (compared with 12.5 percent of employed men). Employed men in Utah are much more likely than women to work in natural resources, production, and transportation occupations (32.4 percent compared with 7.4 percent). They are also more likely to work in management, business, or financial occupations (17.0 percent compared with 12.0 percent; IWPR 2014b).

Education: Completing College Is Key to Utah Women’s Well-Being

Education is a key to women’s overall well-being. Adults with higher levels of education consistently earn more than those with lower levels of education and are less likely to live in poverty (Gornick and Jänti 2010). Education also provides women and men with other benefits, such as a stronger sense of self-worth and a greater ability to help their children succeed academically in school (Madsen 2011).

Women in Utah, like women across the nation, have experienced rising levels of education in recent years. In 2012, 28.4 percent of women in the state held a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with 17.5 percent in 1989 (Figure 2; IWPR 1996).

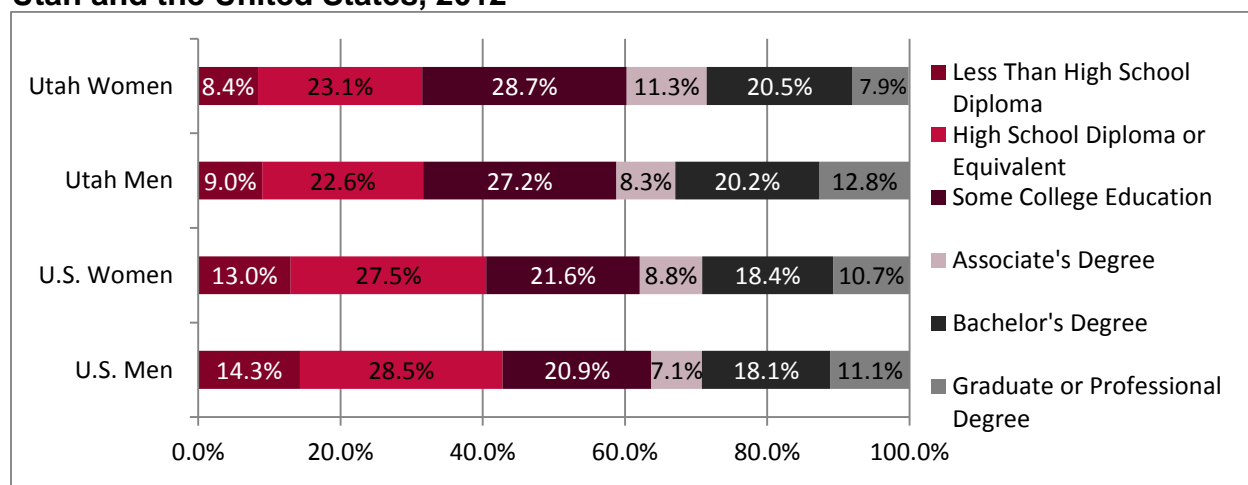
Women’s rate of educational progress in Utah, however, has been slower than in the nation overall. Prior to 2000, the share of women in Utah with a bachelor’s degree or higher was larger than in the United States; in the years following, this pattern changed (Utah Foundation 2009). As Figure 2 shows, the proportion of women in Utah with a bachelor’s degree or higher in 2012 was slightly smaller than in the nation overall (29.1 percent). This difference stemmed from the smaller proportion of women in the state with graduate or professional degrees (7.9 percent compared with 10.7 percent nationally).

Women in Utah are also less likely than their male counterparts to have a bachelor’s degree or higher (Figure 2). The 4.6 percentage point difference between Utah’s women and men at this level of education represents the largest gender gap on this indicator among all states in the nation (IWPR 2014b). Like the difference between women in Utah and the nation as a whole, this gap stems from the larger share of Utah men who hold graduate or professional degrees. Approximately one in eight men (12.8 percent) in the state hold this level of education, compared with one in thirteen women (7.9 percent; Figure 2).

While women in Utah are less likely than men in the state and women nationwide to hold a graduate or professional degree, they are as likely as men in Utah—and more likely than women in the United States as a whole—to have at least a high school diploma or the equivalent (Figure 2). Approximately 91.6 percent of women in Utah have a high school diploma, compared with 91.0 percent of men in the state and 87.0 percent of women in the nation as a whole. Women in Utah are also more likely than men in the state and women in the nation overall to have some college education or an associate’s degree (40.0 percent, compared with 35.5 percent and 30.4 percent, respectively; Figure 2).

Research indicates that the graduation rate for women in Utah at public four-year institutions is 49.0 percent, nearly ten percentage points lower than the rate for women in the nation as a whole (58.5 percent; Chronicle of Higher Education 2012). According to IWPR analysis of American Community Survey data, nearly one in three women aged 25 and older in Utah (28.7 percent) has some college education but no degree, compared with slightly more than one in five women (21.6 percent) nationally (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Educational Attainment of Women and Men, Aged 25 Years and Older, Utah and the United States, 2012



Source: IWPR analysis of 2012 IPUMS American Community Survey microdata (Ruggles et al. 2010).

The failure to complete a college education has important economic implications, especially for women. In Utah, median annual earnings for women with a bachelor’s degree are \$41,800, compared with \$30,000 for women with a high school diploma or the equivalent and \$22,000 for those with less than a high school diploma (Table 1). Men’s access to better paying jobs depends less on educational

qualifications than women's: in Utah, men with a high school diploma earn more than women with some college education or an associate's degree, and men with some college education or an associate's degree earn more than women with a bachelor's degree. As these earnings data indicate, having lower levels of education significantly increases the risk of poverty for women (and men): 27.3 percent of women in Utah aged 25 years and older with less than a high school diploma live in poverty, compared with only 5.0 percent of those with a bachelor's degree (IWPR 2014b).

Among Utah women, education levels vary across the largest racial/ethnic groups. In 2009–2011, the share of Hispanic women with a bachelor's degree or higher was less than half the shares of women from all other minority groups combined and non-Hispanic white women (Appendix Table B).

Table 1. Median Annual Earnings and Earnings Ratio for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers Aged 25 and Older by Educational Attainment, Utah and the United States, 2012

	Utah			United States		
	Women	Men	Earnings Ratio	Women	Men	Earnings Ratio
Less Than High School Diploma	\$22,000	\$30,000	73.3%	\$20,500	\$28,000	73.2%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	\$30,000	\$41,000	73.2%	\$29,000	\$39,000	74.4%
Some College Education	\$31,200	\$48,000	65.0%	\$34,000	\$45,100	75.4%
Associate's Degree	\$38,000	\$49,000	77.6%	\$40,000	\$50,000	80.0%
Bachelor's Degree	\$41,800	\$65,000	64.3%	\$50,000	\$68,000	73.5%
Graduate Degree	\$56,000	\$80,000	70.0%	\$64,000	\$92,000	69.6%

Source: IWPR analysis of 2012 IPUMS American Community Survey microdata (Ruggles et al. 2010).

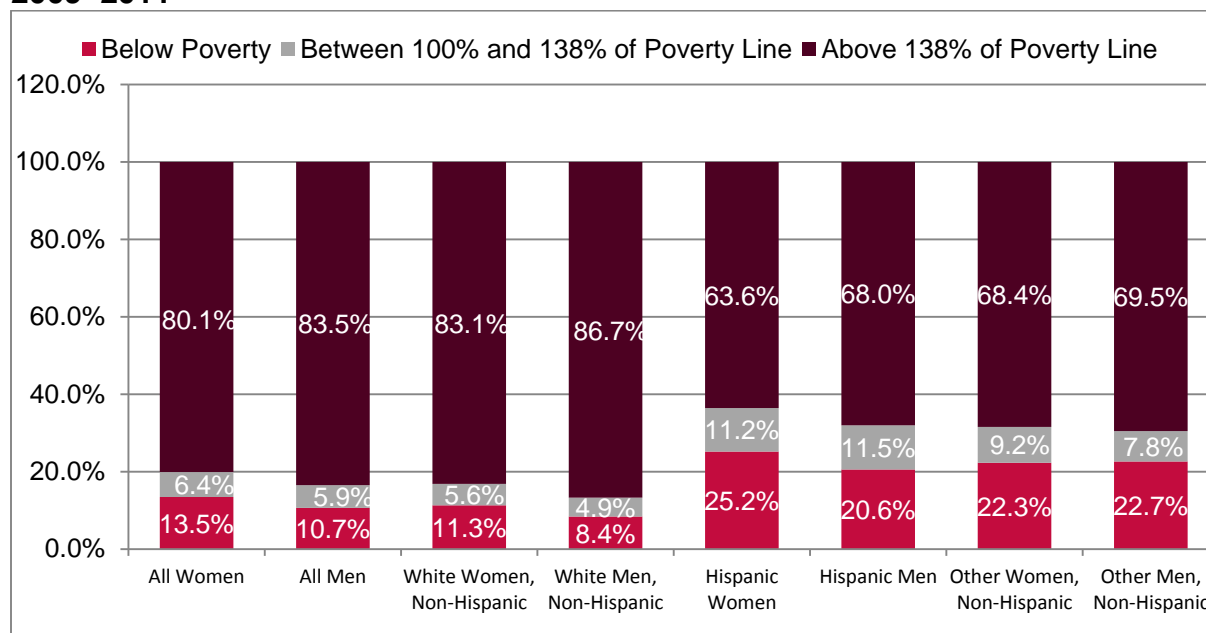
Economic Security: Poverty Rates Lower for Utah Women Than U.S. Women Overall, But Single Moms and Women of Color Disproportionately at Risk

The economic security of women and families depends on having enough income and financial resources to cover their expenses and save for retirement. In Utah in 2012, 12.6 percent of all women—an estimated 122,648—and 10.0 percent of all men aged 18 and older lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty line, which in 2012 was \$18,498 for a single person with two children (U.S. Department of Commerce 2014). An additional 7.3 percent of women and 6.6 percent of men had family incomes between 100 and 138 percent of the poverty line (IWPR 2014b).³ Among women, poverty rates vary considerably across the largest racial and ethnic groups. In 2009–2011, Hispanic women were more than twice as likely as white women to be poor (25.2 percent compared with 11.3 percent; Figure 3).

In 2010–2012, nearly four in ten families (37.2 percent) in Utah headed by single women with children were poor, compared with one in five (20.2 percent) families headed by comparable men and fewer than one in ten (8.6 percent) families headed by married couples with children (IWPR 2014c).

Women's higher poverty rates stem from multiple factors. Lower lifetime earnings due to the gender wage gap, family caregiving responsibilities, and occupational segregation contribute to women's economic insecurity, as does the fact that many U.S. workers do not have basic work-family supports such as affordable child care and paid family and medical leave (Hegewisch and Gornick 2011).

Figure 3. Poverty Status by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Aged 18 and Older, Utah, 2009–2011



Note: Hispanics may be of any race or two or more races. “Other” includes those who identify as black or African American, Asian American or Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and with two or more races.
 Source: IWPR analysis of 2009–2011 IPUMS American Community Survey microdata (Ruggles et al. 2010).

Health: Personal Safety and Mental Health Issues Are Concerns for Many Utah Women

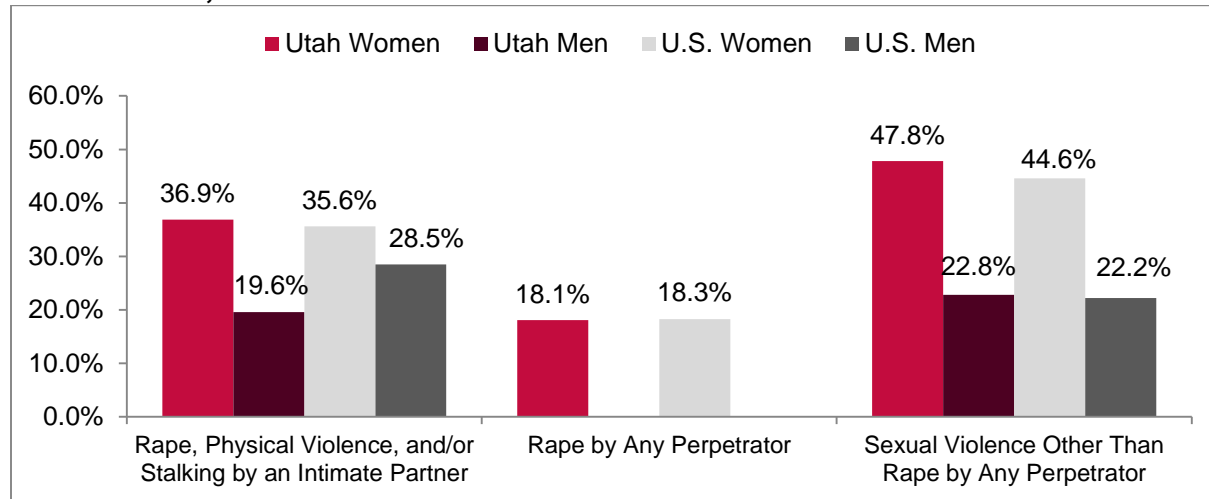
Utah has, in the past, ranked high on some indicators of women’s health compared with other states in the nation (IWPR 2004), which may result partly from Utah’s comparatively young population. Utah has the nation’s lowest median age (State of Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget 2011) and the highest fertility rate among all states (Martin et al. 2013).

Despite Utah’s past overall high rankings on women’s health, many health concerns affect the state’s female population. For example, although the overweight and obesity rate among women aged 18 and older in Utah is lower than the rates among both Utah’s men and women in the nation as a whole (Kaiser Family Foundation n.d.),⁴ the percentage of women in Utah who are overweight or obese has increased over the last decade (IWPR 2014e). The percentage of women experiencing obesity during pregnancy has also increased: in 2010, 17 percent of pregnant women were obese, compared with 12 percent in 1999 (Utah Department of Health 2013b). In addition, the percentage of Utah births to mothers with gestational diabetes has risen substantially, from 1.4 percent of all births in 1990 to 3.7 percent of all births in 2010 (Utah Department of Health 2013a).

Personal safety represents another area of concern for Utah’s women. One survey found that 355,000 women aged 18 and older in the state (36.9 percent) have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime, a slightly higher proportion than in the nation overall (35.6 percent). Men in Utah also experience this violence, although at much lower rates than women: 19.6 percent of men aged 18 and older (187,000) report having experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner (Figure 4; Black et al. 2011).

An estimated 174,000 women aged 18 and older in Utah (18.1 percent) say they have experienced rape (Figure 4). An additional 459,000 women (47.8 percent) report having experienced sexual violence other than rape, which the survey defined to include not only rape and sexual assault but also “expressive psychological aggression and coercive control, and control of reproductive or sexual health” (Black et al. 2011). In the nation as a whole, 18.3 percent of women say they have experienced rape and 44.6 percent say they have experienced sexual violence other than rape at some point in their lifetime. In Utah, 22.8 of men report having experienced sexual violence other than rape (estimates of rape among men are not available due to small sample sizes; Figure 4).

Figure 4. Lifetime Prevalence of Violence by Type of Violence and Gender, Aged 18 and Older, 2010



Source: IWPR compilation of data from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (Black et al. 2011). Rates of rape by any perpetrator for men in Utah and the United States are not available.

Trauma from gender-based violence—along with other gender-specific circumstances, such as higher rates of poverty and greater responsibility in caring for children and aging relatives—may contribute to mental health issues among some women (Cannuscio et al. 2002; Heflin and Iceland 2009). In Utah, women report having an average of 4.2 days per month on which their mental health is not good, which is higher than the average number of days reported by men in the state (2.7; Appendix Table A). Utah women have a rate of death by suicide that is lower than Utah’s men but higher than the rate for women in the nation: in 2010, Utah had the ninth highest female suicide rate among all states (McIntosh 2012).

Substance abuse—including the abuse of prescription pain medications—also represents a significant problem for some women in Utah, although the prescription pain medication death rate in the state decreased between 2007 and 2012 (Utah Department of Health 2013c). The rate of prescription pain medication deaths is lower for women than for men in the state (11.5 per 100,000 women compared with 13.8 per 100,000 men; Utah Department of Health 2013c).

Health insurance coverage is critical to women’s access to health care and ability to address physical and mental health issues. In Utah, an estimated 144,812 women aged 18–64 (17.6 percent) lack health insurance coverage (IWPR 2014b). Rates of coverage vary substantially across the largest racial ethnic groups: 13.3 percent of non-Hispanic white women have no health insurance coverage, compared with 21.8 percent of non-Hispanic minority women and 45.3 percent of Hispanic women (IWPR 2014a).

Political Leadership and Participation: Utah Women More Likely than Men to Vote, but Women’s Representation in Government Is Low

By running for office, voting, and serving as leaders in their communities, women can make sure that public policy decisions and debates reflect their priorities. They can help shape laws, policies, and decision making in ways that reflect their interests and needs and those of their families and communities.

In Utah, women’s voter registration and turnout rates are lower than in the nation as a whole. Six in ten women in the state (59.8 percent) registered to vote in 2010 and 36.8 percent voted, compared with 61.5 percent of women who registered and 42.7 percent who voted in the nation as a whole. In 2012, a presidential election year, voting registration and turnout rates were higher, but still lower in Utah for women (and men) than in the nation as a whole (Table 2).⁵

Table 2. Voter Registration and Turnout for Women and Men in Utah and the United States, 2010 and 2012

	Utah		United States	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
2012 Voter Registration				
Women	60.9%	595,000	67.0%	81,743,000
Men	57.8%	543,000	63.1%	71,414,000
2012 Voter Turnout				
Women	54.0%	528,000	58.5%	71,379,000
Men	52.6%	494,000	54.4%	61,551,000
2010 Voter Registration				
Women	59.8%	581,000	61.5%	72,926,000
Men	53.7%	514,000	57.9%	64,337,000
2010 Voter Turnout				
Women	36.8%	357,000	42.7%	50,595,000
Men	35.2%	338,000	40.9%	45,392,000

Note: Percent of all women and men aged 18 and older who reported registering and voting based on the November 2010 and 2012 Supplements of the Current Population Survey.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce 2013a and 2013b. Compiled by the Institute for Women’s Policy Research.

In Utah’s state legislature, women hold 5 of 29 seats in the Senate and 12 of 75 seats in the House of Representatives (Center for American Women and Politics or CAWP 2014b), or 16.3 percent of all elected seats. Utah ranks 45th among the 50 states and District of Columbia for its proportion of women in the state legislature, which is well below the national rate for female representation at this level of government (Appendix Table A). The 16.3 percent of seats held by women in Utah’s state legislature has not changed since 2012 and represents the lowest rate of women’s representation in the legislature since 1997 and 1998, when women also held 16.3 percent of all seats (CAWP 2014a).

As of March 2014, women held none of Utah’s five statewide elective executive positions (Appendix Table A). Only two Utah women have served in these positions: Olene S. Walker (Lieutenant Governor from 1993–2003 and Governor from 2003–2005), and Jan Graham (Attorney General from 1993–2001; CAWP 2014a). In the United States as a whole, women held 72 of 318 elective executive positions in March 2014 (23.3 percent; Appendix Table A).

Conclusion

Many women in Utah are thriving, yet areas for improvement remain, including educational attainment, health and personal safety, the gender wage gap, and economic security. Policy recommendations to strengthen the well-being of women and girls include:

- Ensure access to quality, affordable health care, including mental health services, for Utah women and girls at all stages of their lives.
- Strengthen Utah’s efforts to prevent violence against women and girls, provide effective intervention if violence occurs, and hold offenders accountable for their actions.
- Promote the importance of higher education for Utah women and increase supports to help them finish their degrees.
- Educate Utah’s employers about the impact of the gender wage gap on women’s economic security and urge them to recruit, hire, and promote women and pay them equally to men.
- Strengthen essential work-family supports so that Utah’s working women—especially single mothers and women of color—can take care of their families.
- Support the efforts of Utah organizations that provide networking and training to prepare women for leadership roles and increase their political participation.

Ensuring that women in Utah are safe, healthy, educated, economically secure, and able to influence key decisions in public life will strengthen Utah’s families, communities, and the state as a whole.

Appendix 1: Overview Tables

Table A. Status of Women and Men in Utah and the United States

	Utah		Rankings		United States	
	Women	Men	National Rank for Utah Women (out of 51)	Regional Rank for Utah Women (out of 8)	Women	Men
Employment and Earnings						
Labor Force Participation, Aged 16 and Older, 2012 ^a	61.6%	76.1%	17	3	58.8%	69.3%
Percent of Employed Workers in Managerial or Professional Occupations, Aged 16 and Older, 2012 ^a	37.7%	35.7%	32	5	39.6%	32.6%
Median Annual Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers, Aged 16 and Older, 2012 ^a	\$33,100	\$48,000	35	5	\$37,000	\$47,100
Earnings Ratio Between Women and Men Employed Full-Time, Year-Round, Aged 16 and Older, 2012 ^a	69.0%		47	7	78.6%	
Education and Economic Security						
Percent of Women with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Aged 25 and Older, 2012 ^a	28.4%	33.0%	26	3	29.2%	29.2%
Percent of Women and Men with a High School Diploma or Less, Aged 25 and Older, 2012 ^a	31.4%	31.6%	N/A	N/A	40.5%	42.8%
Percent of Women and Men Above Poverty, Aged 18 and Older, 2012 ^a	87.4%	90.0%	12	1	84.5%	88.1%
Health and Safety						
Percent of Women and Men with Health Insurance Coverage, Aged 18–64, 2012 ^a	82.4%	79.9%	27	2	81.4%	76.6%
Average Number of Days per Month on which Mental Health is Not Good, Aged 18 and Older, 2012 ^b	4.2	2.7	N/A	N/A	4.4	3.3
Suicide Rates by Gender (crude rate per 100,000), 2010 ^c	7.1	27.0	41	3	5.2	20.0
Political Leadership						
Number of Women and Men in Statewide Executive Office, 2014 ^d	0	5	N/A	N/A	72	246
Number of State Legislators by Gender, 2014 ^e	17	87	45	7	1,787	5,596
Number of Women and Men in U.S. Congress, 2014 ^f	0	6	N/A	N/A	99	436

Notes: Regional rankings include Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. N/A=data not analyzed. National ranking for suicide rate is from McIntosh 2012; ranking direction has been reversed to be consistent with rankings for other indicators. Suicide ranking does not include the District of Columbia.

Sources: ^a2012 IPUMS American Community Survey microdata (Ruggles et al. 2010); ^b2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System microdata (CDC); ^cMcIntosh 2012; ^dCAWP 2014a, 2014c; ^eCAWP 2014b; ^fCAWP 2014i, 2014j. Calculated and compiled by IWPR.

Table B. Status of Women in Utah from the Largest Racial/Ethnic Groups

	All Women	White, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Other, Non-Hispanic
Employment and Earnings				
Women's Labor Force Participation, Aged 16 and Older, 2009–2011 ^a	60.6%	60.0%	64.2%	62.5%
Median Annual Earnings for Full-Time, Year-Round Workers, Aged 16 and Older, 2009–2011 ^a	\$31,156	\$32,525	\$23,276	\$28,298
Earnings Ratio Between Women and White Men Employed Full-Time, Year-Round, Aged 16 and Older, 2009–2011 ^a	63.9%	66.7%	47.7%	58.0%
Education and Economic Security				
Percent of Women with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Aged 25 and Older, 2009–2011 ^a	26.1%	27.7%	12.4%	27.1%
Percent of Women with a High School Diploma or Less, Aged 25 and Older, 2009–2011 ^a	34.4%	30.5%	63.0%	39.7%
Percent of Women Above Poverty, Aged 18 and Older, 2009–2011 ^a	86.5%	88.7%	74.8%	77.7%
Health and Safety				
Percent of Women with Health Insurance Coverage, Aged 18–64, 2009–2011 ^a	82.3%	86.7%	54.7%	78.2%
Average Number of Days per Month on which Mental Health is Not Good, Aged 18 and Older, 2012 ^b	4.2	4.1	4.0	5.0
Suicide Rates (crude rate per 100,000), 2010 ^c	7.1	7.8	N/A	N/A
Political Leadership				
Number of Women in Statewide Executive Office, 2014 ^d	0	0	0	0
Number of State Legislators Who Are Women, 2014 ^e	17	14	3	0
Number of Women in U.S. Congress, 2014 ^f	0	0	0	0

Notes: Hispanics may be of any race or two or more races. "Other" includes those who identify as black or African American, Asian American or Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and with two or more races. N/A=not available. Median annual earnings are in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Sources: ^a2009–2011 IPUMS American Community Survey microdata (Ruggles et al. 2010); ^b2012 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System microdata (CDC); ^cWeb-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (CDC); ^dCAWP 2014c, CAWP 2014d, CAWP 2014e, CAWP 2014f, CAWP 2014g, CAWP 2014h; ^eCAWP 2014b, CAWP 2014d, CAWP 2014e, CAWP 2014f, CAWP 2014g, CAWP 2014h; ^fCAWP 2014d, CAWP 2014e, CAWP 2014f, CAWP 2014g, CAWP 2014h, CAWP 2014i. Calculated and compiled by IWPR.

Appendix II: Methodology

IWPR selected indicators that prior research and experience have shown to illuminate issues that are integral to women's lives and that allow, for the most part, for comparisons between the state and the United States as a whole. The data come from several sources, which are noted in the text. Many of the figures rely on analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) from the Minnesota Population Center's Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS). The ACS is a large annual survey of a representative sample of the entire resident population in the United States, including both households and group quarter (GQ) facilities. GQ facilities include places such as college residence halls, residential treatment centers, skilled nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, workers' dormitories, and facilities for people experiencing homelessness.⁶

Most tables and figures in this briefing paper present data for individuals, often disaggregated by race and ethnicity. In general, race and ethnicity are self-identified; the person providing the information on the survey form determines the group to which he or she (and other household members) belongs. People defining themselves as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race; to prevent double counting, racial categories are defined as exclusive from Hispanics or Latinos. To ensure sufficient sample sizes for Utah, which has small non-Hispanic minority groups, IWPR did not report separate estimates for those who identify as black or African American, Asian American, or Native American, but instead reported estimates for these groups combined.

When analyzing state- and national-level ACS microdata, IWPR used 2012 estimates, the most recent available data. In some instances, IWPR combined three years of data (2009–2011) to ensure sufficient sample sizes. Data on earnings are not presented if the unweighted sample size is less than 100 for any cell; data on other indicators are not presented if the unweighted sample size is less than 100 for the category total or less than 30 for any cell or subcategory. IWPR used personal weights to obtain nationally representative statistics for person-level analyses, and household-level weights for household analysis. Weights included with the IPUMS ACS for the household and person-level data adjust for the mixed geographic sampling rates, non-response adjustments, and individual sampling probabilities. Estimates from the IPUMS ACS samples may not be consistent with summary table ACS estimates due to the additional sampling error and the fact that over time, the Census Bureau changes the definitions and classifications for some variables. The IPUMS project provides harmonized data with the goal of maximizing comparability over time; regular updates and corrections to the microdata released by the U.S. Census Bureau and IPUMS may result in minor variation in future analyses.

IWPR calculations based on microdata from the American Community Survey may differ slightly from published estimates that are available through the U.S. Census Bureau's American Fact Finder. In some instances, IWPR classifies respondents in a different way from the Census Bureau (e.g., race and ethnicity). In other cases, the Census Bureau employs different estimation procedures for calculating estimates. In some cases, the differences reflected in the data between women and men, different groups of women, or Utah and the nation as a whole are statistically significant (they are unlikely to have occurred by chance and probably represent a true difference between the groups being compared). In other cases, these differences are too small to be statistically significant and are likely to have occurred by chance. IWPR did not calculate or report measures of statistical significance; generally, the larger a difference between two values (for any given sample size), the more likely it is that the difference will be statistically significant. Sample sizes differ among the indicators analyzed.

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Notes

¹ Among the state’s female population aged 18 and older, 82.3 percent are non-Hispanic whites, 11.2 percent are Hispanic, and 6.5 percent are non-Hispanic minorities (IWPR 2014b).

² Because these estimates are based on the American Community Survey, they are not strictly comparable to IWPR’s standard calculation of the gender wage gap, which is based on the Current Population Survey (CPS). In 2012, the national earnings gap for full-time, year-round workers based on the CPS was 23.5 percent (Hegewisch, Williams, Hartmann, and Keller 2014). The estimates in this fact sheet, which are based on the 2012 IPUMS ACS microdata, also differ slightly from the ACS estimates of median annual earnings for full-time workers that are officially published through American Fact Finder. Officially published ACS estimates for the nation show a wage ratio of 78.8 percent for 2012 (based on an estimate of median annual earnings of \$37,412 for women and \$47,473 for men in the nation as a whole; IWPR 2014d).

³ The second level of poverty status analyzed here—between 100 and 138 percent of the federal poverty line—reflects the income eligibility level for the Medicaid expansion included in the 2010 Affordable Care Act. To extend Medicaid coverage to nearly all low-income adults, the Affordable Care Act essentially set a minimum income eligibility level of 138 percent of poverty. While this expansion was originally intended to be national in scope, a 2012 Supreme Court ruling made it optional for states (Kaiser 2013). As of March 2014, lawmakers and others in Utah were continuing to debate whether to opt in to the expansion.

⁴ In 2012, 50.1 percent of women and 65.0 percent of men in Utah were overweight or obese (defined to include those who reported having a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 25.0 kg/meters squared; Kaiser Family Foundation 2014).

⁵ These data are self-reports and tend to overstate actual voter registration and turnout (File 2013).

⁶ GQ types that are excluded from ACS sampling and data collection include domestic violence shelters, soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile vans, targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations, commercial maritime vessels, natural disaster shelters, and dangerous encampments.

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About the Institute for Women's Policy Research

The Institute for Women's Policy Research conducts rigorous research and disseminates its findings to address the needs of women, promote public dialogue, and strengthen families, communities, and societies. The Institute works with policymakers, scholars, and public interest groups around the country to design, execute, and disseminate research that illuminates economics and social policy issues affecting women and families, and to build a network of individuals and organizations that conduct and use women-oriented policy research. IWPR, an independent, non-profit, research organization also works in affiliation with the graduate programs in women's studies and public policy and public administration at The George Washington University.

About the YWCA Utah

The YWCA Utah is a nonprofit women's membership organization dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all. Since 1906 the YWCA has reached out to Utah women with friendship, life-changing programs, and opportunities to learn, lead, and influence the world around them. The YWCA's enduring belief is that better lives for women – all women – lead to stronger families and communities. Current programs include the oldest, largest, and most comprehensive nonprofit family violence services in the state as well as programming “for every woman” through member affinity groups, women's leadership development, and advocacy and public policy. For more information, visit www.ywca.com.