



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT DENVER WOMEN?

by
 Kate Reid, Intern

It is easy to be buried in statistics. But often people wonder, "What is happening in my own city, to my own neighbors?" Below we have compiled statistical data specific to women who live in the City and County of Denver. Some of these statistics appear for the first time in this collection, compiled just for this report.

We welcome your comments and feedback. Please direct them to Chaer Robert, Denver Women's Commission Director, at the address above.

Calls for Help

What do Denver women need most?

The resource and referral system run by Mile High United Way -- #211 -- made 14,147 referrals to Denver County women from October 2003 -- July 2004. Requests were as follows:

Rental Assistance	26%	Support Groups	2%
Utility Assistance	17%	Child Care	1%
Food	11%	Seasonal	1%
Transitional Housing	10%	Senior Services	1%
Financial Assistance	6%	Vouchers	1%
Medical/Dental	3%	Volunteer opportunities	1%
Housing/Counseling	3%	Other needs	17%

Economics:

What is the average wage earned by Denver women? How does that compare to the average wage of Denver men?

The average wage for Denver women with a full time, year round job is \$30,768. The average wage men earn is about \$3,500 more. Men make \$34,232 for a full-time, year-round job. The median earnings for all women are \$22,253 while the same statistic for men shows a median earning of \$26,769. (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>, Summary File 3, table P85/PCT47, 1999 data)

How much money does a women need to be self-sufficient in Denver County?

To meet her basic needs without public or private assistance, a single women needs to earn \$18,732 per year. A single parent with one preschooler would need to earn \$34,918. A single parent with one preschooler and one school age child would need to earn \$41,652. Two adults with a preschooler and a school age child would need to have a combined income of \$48,065 (Self-Sufficiency Standard :A Family Needs Budget, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute,2004.)

What percent of Denver women live below the Federal Poverty Level?

Citywide, 13.1% of Denverites live in poverty. 32.6% of female single-mother-families (with kids under 18) live below the poverty level in Denver County. 15% of single-father-families (with kids under 18) live below the poverty level in Denver County. 18.7% of single women in Denver County live below the poverty level. This is larger than the 17.5% of single men in Denver who live below the poverty level. (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>, people, Denver County, poverty status—Individual, Census

2000 Data) Federal poverty level varies by family size. For example, a mother with 2 children who earns less than \$15,670 per year is considered in poverty.

What percentage of Denver women are in the Labor Force (the population that is 16 years old and older)? What is the unemployment rate for Denver women?

61.4% of women are in the labor force in Denver County, compared to 73.9% of men. 3.5 percent of women are unemployed compared to 4.2% of men in Denver County.

(http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFPeople?_sse=on, Census 2000 data)

The number of Denver women in the labor force is greater than the national average (56.8%) which means that the need for child-care services is particularly important for Denver women.

Is child-care affordable in Denver County?

1998 data shows that the average annual cost per child for child care in Denver is \$4,364. To pay this cost, individuals with low incomes may have to set aside up to 30% of their income. In fact, child care for a single child is affordable only for families who make a salary of \$50,000 or more according to the target share of 10% of family income. (Colorado Office of Resource and Referral Agencies: Child Care: An Investment that Works for Colorado, 1998, www.corra.org/InfSta/Content/Data_Report_Complete.PDF)

More recent data shows that the current average cost of child care is about \$145.74 for children under a year, \$141.39 for 1-2yr old, \$127.43 for 2-5 yr. old, \$122.60 for 5-6yr old, and between \$115.02-\$80.90 for 6yrs and up (www.corra.org July 2004)

What percent of Denver businesses are led by women?

In Denver County, 26.4% of all firms are women-run. (http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFPeople?_sse=on, Census 2000 Data)

There are 15,060 women-owned firms; 2,743 of these firms have paid employees.

(<http://www.census.gov/epcd/mwb97/co/CO031.html>. From 1997 data.)

Commute

How long is the commute for Denver women?

According to the 2000 Census, 125,466 Denver women work outside the home. The mean commute time for those who do commute is 11.2 minutes. About 45% of Denver women commuters have less than a 20-minute commute to work.

How do women get to work?

Using Census 2000 data, 82% of Denver women by car, 9% use public transportation, 4% walk to work, and 4% work from their home.

Family

Of the households in Denver, what percent have children under 18?

25.8% of Denver households have children under 18 (61,722 households with kids divided by 239,235 total number of households). (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>, people, Denver County, households and families chart, Census 2000 data)

How many households consist of women living alone?

20.6% of all households in Denver are single women living alone. (<http://factfinder.census.gov/>, people, Denver County, households and families chart, Census 2000 data)

What percent of Denver families with children under 18 does a female single parent head?

A female single parent heads 27.4% of Denver families with children under eighteen. Women also head homes where they care for related children (e.g., siblings). In Denver County there are 4,710 grandparents raising grandchildren; this accounts for 7% of households with children under 18 years old.

(<http://factfinder.census.gov/>, people, Denver County, Households and Families—female householder/. Also, www.census.gov, data sets, Summary file 3, Poverty status of families by family type by age and presence of dependent children. 1999 data)

What is the teen birth rate for Denver County?

Denver County has a teen (15-17 years old) birth rate of 65.8 births per 1000 girls age 15-17. This is considerably higher than the Colorado rate of 26.8 births per 1000 girls age 15-17. (Maternal and Child

Health County Profile 2004—<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/> website) The teen birth rate for 15-19 year olds is 82.2 births for every 1,000 girls age 15-19. (Piton Foundation, 2002 www.piton.org/default.asp?nav_id=4&postback=2&neighborhood=Denver&login=yes&data_type=1)

How many mothers (of all ages) have completed high school?

61.9% of mothers in 2002 had completed high school. (Denver County Births and Deaths 2002, <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/vs/2002/Denver2002.pdf>)

What percentage of children are born to unmarried women?

34.9% of live births are to unmarried women in Denver County (Denver County Births and Deaths 2002, <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/vs/2002/Denver2002.pdf>)

Health

What percent of Denver women have no health insurance?

In the years 2000-2001, the Colorado Health Information Data sheet estimated that 20.5% of women in Denver County had no health insurance and that 21.8% of men had no health insurance. (www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid/ Behavioral risk factors, Health Care Access, 2000-2001)

What is the leading cause of death for women in Denver County? What is the leading cause for women under 65?

Heart disease was the leading cause of death in 2002: heart disease had a crude death rate of 174.7 deaths per 100,000 women compared to cancer's crude death rate of 169.3 deaths for every 100,000 women (of all ages) in Denver County. For women under 65, cancer was the leading cause of death with a crude rate of 55.9 deaths for every 100,000 women compared to the 20.2 deaths for 100,000 women attributed to heart disease. (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid/>—death statistics Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Health Statistics)

How many Denver women die of lung cancer, breast cancer and colon cancer each year?

In 2002, 112 women died of trachea, bronchus and lung cancer; 74 women died of breast cancer and 49 died of colon cancer in Denver County. This is equal to a crude death rate of 40.3, 26.6 and 17.6 (per 100,000) respectively. (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/scripts/htmsql.exe/cohid/mortalityPub.hsql>)

What percent of pregnant Denver women receive prenatal care later than their first trimester of pregnancy?

29% of women (3,216 women) receive late or no prenatal care in Denver County. 1.6% of women (180 women) in Denver County receive no prenatal care at all. Prenatal care that starts in the first trimester greatly increases the chance of a healthy birth. (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hs/vs/2002/Denver2002.pdf>)

Social Services

How many women currently receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (welfare)?

1,850 Denver women currently receive TANF for themselves and their children. The maximum payment for a single parent and one child is \$280/ month. The maximum payment for a single parent and 2 children is \$356/ month. (Denver Human Services, 2004)

How many beds for homeless women exist in Denver?

There are 253 beds available to women and their families in Denver; 109 beds for women alone, 124 beds for women and children and 20 beds/rooms are available for two-parent families. (Denver of Human Services, 2004.)

How many beds are available for victims of domestic violence? What other services can they receive?

There are 28 beds available at SafeHouse for women and children who are victims of domestic violence. In 2003, 375 women and children received 9,828 nights of shelter at SafeHouse Denver. 1,413 women and children received individual or group counseling. 2,000 women received emergency legal advocacy with civil restraining orders. (Denver Human Services, 2004).

Crime

How many Denver women are sexually assaulted each year? How many report being sexually assaulted? How many of the assaults are forcible rape cases?

Denver Police neighborhood crime statistics show that citywide there were 1,200 cases of reported sexual assault in 2003. (from the Denver Police R&D site: <http://www.denvergov.org/Statistics/template313819.asp>) The Rape Assistance and Awareness Program estimates that this number only represents 16% of the total incidents of sexual violence, which suggests that 7,500 incidents of sexual violence occurred in Denver in 2003. In 2003, there were 306 reported cases of forcible rape of female victims. 82 adults and four juveniles were arrested for forcible rape that year. (<http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/agencydetail.asp?ID=66>).

How many arrests for prostitution are made in Denver County?

In 2003 there were 604 arrests of adults on the charge of prostitution and six arrests of juveniles for the same crime. The Denver PD reported this statistic to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations. (<http://cbi.state.co.us/dr/cic2k3/agencydetail.asp?ID=66>).

How many incidents of domestic violence occur in Denver each year? In what percent of cases is a child present?

Domestic violence cases are divided into two categories: City ordinance violations, (handled by the City Attorney’s Office) and felonies and misdemeanors, which are handled by the District Attorney. In 2003, 3,780 domestic violence cases were prosecuted by the City Attorney’s Office and the District Attorney handled 900 domestic violence cases. (Denver Domestic Violence Task Force)

How many women are killed in Denver County each year? What % by partner versus stranger?

In 2003, there were 21 female homicide cases in Denver. One homicide was committed by a stranger, two by a boyfriend/girlfriend and one by a spouse. 14 of the remaining crimes were committed by an acquaintance and in three cases the relationship was unknown. (Denver Police Department, Crimes Against Persons Bureau). In 2002, ten women were victims of homicide in Denver County. (<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/cohid>) From Jan-June 2004 six adult females were killed. (Denver Police Department)

Diversity

What is the racial and ethnic make-up of women in Denver?

32.5% of Denver women are Hispanic/Latino. 51.1% of Denver women are non-Hispanic/Latino White women, 11.2% are non-Hispanic/Latino Black women, 0.7% are non-Hispanic/Latino American Indian/Alaska Native women, 3% are non-Hispanic/Latino Asian women, 0.1% are non-Hispanic/Latino Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander women, and 1.4% are non-Hispanic/Latino mixed race women. There are a total of 277,013 women in Denver County.

	White	Black	American Indian Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	More than one race	Total Population
Total Number	225,073	33,040	4275	8,832	464	5,329	277,013
*percent	81.3%	11.9%	1.5%	3.2%	0.2%	1.9%	100%
Non-Hispanic or Latino	141,474	31,063	2,033	8,368	327	3,807	187,072
*percent	51.1%	11.2%	0.7%	3.0%	0.1%	1.4%	67.5%
Hispanic or Latino	83,599	1,977	2,242	464	137	1,522	89,941
*percent	30.2%	0.7%	0.8%	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	32.5%

*percent of total number of Denver women
(2000 US census, with help from Karen Thompson, pop@census.gov)

VOTING

How many Denver women are registered to vote?

As of May 14, 177,803 women are registered to vote in Denver County. 162,240 men are registered in Denver County. (From Colorado Secretary of State's office, elections division)

EDUCATION

What percent of Denver women have a high school diploma?

According to a study by the Urban Institute, 46.8% of females in Denver Public Schools graduate. Only 34.9% of males graduate from DPS. This yields a 11.9% gender gap.

Exhibit 1: 2001 CPI Graduation Rates for the Denver Public Schools Reported by Race, Gender, and for Race-by-Gender Subgroups

	Total	Male	Female	Gender Gap Male – Female
All Students	40.5	34.9	46.8	-11.9
<i>Race-Ethnicity</i> ^a				
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>	26.4	30.3	---	---
<i>Asian/Pacific Islander</i>	69.9	62.6	78.0	-15.4
<i>Hispanic</i>	30.5	25.8	36.0	-10.2
<i>Black (not Hispanic)</i>	38.6	32.5	45.3	-12.8
<i>White (not Hispanic)</i>	61.0	54.5	67.9	-13.4

Source: Unpublished analysis by the Urban Institute. Data are obtained from the Common Core of Data Local Educational Agency and School Surveys, National Center for Education Statistics.

^a These racial-ethnic categories correspond to the terminology used in the original data collection instruments, the Common Core of Data surveys.

It is important to note that the US Census Bureau shows that women can earn an extra \$300,000 throughout their lifetime if they have a high school diploma and an extra \$900,000 if they have completed an undergraduate college degree. (from Colo Women's Agenda, Legislative Scorecard, 2003 using US Census data)