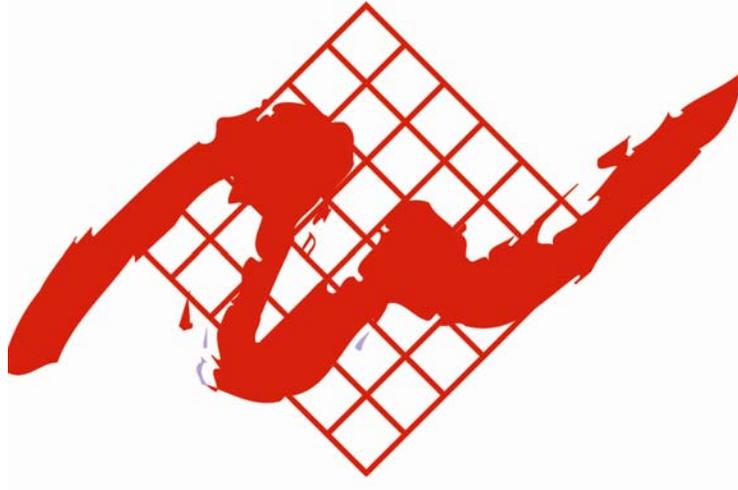


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**Assessing the Status of Women at the County Level:
A Manual for Researchers and Advocates**

by Misha Werschkul, Barbara Gault, and Heidi Hartmann

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About This Report

This report was prepared by Misha Werschkul, Barbara Gault, and Heidi Hartmann of the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) and funded by the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation.

About the Institute for Women's Policy Research

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) is a scientific research organization dedicated to informing and stimulating debate on public policy issues of critical importance to women and their families. IWPR focuses on issues of poverty and welfare, employment and earnings, work and family issues, the economic and social aspects of health care and safety, and women's civic and political participation. The Institute works with policymakers, scholars, and public interest groups to design, execute, and disseminate research and to build a network of individuals and organizations that conduct and use women-oriented policy research.

IWPR, an independent, nonprofit organization, also works in affiliation with the graduate programs in public policy and women's studies at The George Washington University. 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.

About the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation

Primarily serving Michigan's Jackson and Washtenaw counties, the James A. & Faith Knight Foundation is dedicated to improving communities by providing grant support to qualified nonprofit organizations including, but not limited to, those that address the needs of women and girls; animals and the natural world; and internal capacity.

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Introduction

Policymakers, researchers, and advocates need reliable data about women and the issues affecting their lives to advance policies and programs that promote gender equity. Recognizing this need, the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) initiated a series of reports on *The Status of Women in the States* in 1996. Over the past ten years, IWPR has released reports on each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The reports have been widely utilized to improve state policies that affect women's status.

Just as state-level analysis has informed state policies and programs, community indicators can inform local policy by identifying areas of need and providing a context for local policy agendas. County-level analyses are becoming more common, due in part to greater availability of local data in some areas. This allows community leaders to strategically target initiatives to account for variation between counties and cities within a single state.

A number of groups, including the Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004), the Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003), and the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women (Grant, Asrat, and Jackson 2003), have released reports on the status of women in specific counties, a set of counties, or for all of the counties in a state (see resource list on page X). Other organizations, including the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois at Chicago (2000), have published reports on the status of women in particular cities. These reports have made important contributions and are well worth replicating.

This manual provides instructions for analyzing the status of women at the county level. The manual allows advocates, researchers, and others within each state to assess women's status at the local level, rank counties, and make cross-county comparisons, by ranking and grading each county on a set of indicators. Such analyses can be conducted for an entire state, a portion of a state, or a region including portions of several states.

There are a series of steps involved in preparing a report on the status of women in a set of counties:

- Step 1: Planning the Report
- Step 2: Collecting Data on Indicators of Women’s Status
- Step 3: Interpreting and Analyzing the Data
- Step 4: Writing the Report Narrative
- Step 5: Presenting the Data
- Step 6: Disseminating and Using the Report

In this manual, we provide general instructions on each step and make suggestions on where to go for help.

Step 1: Planning the Report

Creating an Advisory Committee

Whenever possible it is helpful to form a diverse advisory committee in the earliest planning stages, to help ensure high quality, to make sure that the report is designed to tackle key issues for the region, and to begin gathering resources that will be drawn upon during data collection, outreach, and dissemination. Advisory committees can include some or all of the following: researchers/statisticians, policy experts, communications professionals, advocates dealing with issues covered in the report, representatives of government, and members of key communities discussed in the reports. Involving your state or county commission on the status of women (if you have one) early in the process can be helpful in all areas of the report, including research and outreach. A strong advisory committee can be especially helpful in developing useful and relevant policy recommendations.

Finding Funding

Securing adequate funding is an important element of any research project. One option for funding a county-level status of women report is to partner with another organization that could use the data for their advocacy, grantwriting, or other work. Some potential funding sources

include community and local foundations, state agencies (for example, commissions or task forces on the status of women), private donors and foundations, local businesses, and county governments.

Developing a Timeline and Workplan

For those who are less accustomed to the research process it is critical to go through the exercise of breaking down the project into specific steps and assessing who will complete each task by when. Those who are new to quantitative research may find that the process is a bit more involved than one might expect, depending on the scope of the project. Scheduling time for consultation with data experts can help groups answer technical questions and to assess whether they will need the assistance of paid consultants. It is worthwhile to invest time at the beginning of the project to set up a file organization system for collecting and organizing data and other information in a simple and manageable way.

Developing the Structure and Organization of the Report

As with IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* reports, county-level reports can compile existing data on a range of measures of women's status into a single comprehensive publication. IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* reports utilize an organizational scheme that presents data in each of the following five areas:

- political participation
- employment and earnings
- social and economic autonomy
- reproductive rights
- health and well-being

The same organizing principle can be used for a county-level report, although specific indicators used will depend on data availability and the specific purposes of the report.¹ Within

¹ Of course groups may elect to adopt a different structure or organizing principle for their report. There are many possible ways of combining indicators into categories, but for the sake of simplicity, we are providing instructions assuming an organization similar to that of the *Status of Women in the States* reports. This could be modified fairly easily.

each topical category, indicators are ranked and graded to provide a picture of how each county is doing relative to other counties.

Step 2: Data Collection on Indicators of Women's Status

A variety of data sources provide reliable information on women's status at the county level. Some national data sources, such as the U.S. Census Bureau's decennial census, provide county-level information. State level sources will vary from state to state and from county to county. Chart 1 presents potential sources for demographic and background information. Charts 2-6 present potential sources for county-level indicators in each of the five topical areas covered in IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* reports. The charts also include examples of existing reports that used each indicator, information on how often the indicators are updated and whether they are available by race and ethnicity, and an example of a data source for one specific county.

One important source of data on women's status at both the national and local level is the United States Census Bureau. Through the Census Bureau's American FactFinder website (<http://factfinder.census.gov>), users can access community data from the 2000 U.S. Census and the American Community Survey.² Basic instructions on the use of American FactFinder are included with this report as Appendix I. These data are most useful for the employment and earnings and social and economic autonomy indicators, and for demographic information.

There are other programs for accessing Census data, including Public Data Query and the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kids Count Data Book Online (see attached resource list). We recommend the use of American FactFinder, because it is a relatively comprehensive and user-friendly program, but some data are not available through this source. For those with more advanced statistical backgrounds or who have the capacity to hire a data analyst, the Public Use

² The American Community Survey (ACS) is a relatively new survey completed every three years for cities, counties, and metropolitan areas of greater than 65,000 people. Because the survey has a short history and does not cover all counties, this manual recommends using the 2000 U.S. Census as the primary source of economic and employment data. For more information on the ACS, please see <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Microsample (PUMS) or the Current Population Survey (CPS) can be downloaded from the Census Bureau website and analyzed in a statistical program such as STATA, SPSS, or SAS. Although it is more labor intensive to analyze the PUMS or CPS, it allows more flexibility in creating detailed breakdowns, for example by age or family structure.

An important local resource for assistance in accessing U.S. Census Bureau data is the Census State Data Centers. These Centers work cooperatively with the U.S. Census Bureau to facilitate access to Census Bureau resources and products in each state, as well as in the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The Centers are generally housed within state agencies, universities, or libraries, and they work with affiliates across each state. Each Center provides technical assistance, answers questions, and can do customized runs of U.S. Census Bureau data free of charge depending on its availability (see resource list for contact information). State legislative commissions on the status of women can also be good resources to help locate data.

Many other government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and research groups provide county-level data that can be useful for county-level reports. As some important indicators are not available at the county level, we suggest that especially relevant state-level indicators be included in the narrative to provide some information for the state as a whole. For example, state laws on parental notification for abortion and sex education may not have comparable indicators at the county level, but they are still important indicators of the reproductive rights of women in a particular county. National averages can also be included to provide added background information. It is critical to provide data disaggregated by race and ethnicity whenever possible.

As mentioned above, local organizations and experts may be included in a paid or unpaid advisory committee, and can help locate and navigate local data sources. For example, a local economist could help collect and interpret economic data, a public health expert could help locate health data, and a reproductive rights advocate could provide additional information on the reproductive rights of women locally.

Demographic Information

Demographic information may include:

- Distribution of Women by Race and Ethnicity
- Median Age of All Women
- Number of Lesbian Unmarried Partner Households
- Proportion of Women Living in Metropolitan Areas
- Fertility Rate (live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44)

Chart 1 provides information on potential indicators and data sources for demographic and background information. A significant portion of the demographic indicators are available from the 2000 U.S. Census. Other sources might include state or county health departments or the State Department of Criminal Justice.

<Insert Chart 1>

Political Participation

Political participation indicators may include:

- Women's Voter Registration (the percentage of women who report being registered to vote)
- Women's Voter Turnout (the percentage of women who report voting)
- Women in Elected Office (the number and proportion of elected county officials who are women)
- Women in Appointed Office (the number and proportion of political appointees who are women).

Chart 2 provides information on potential indicators and data sources for political participation indicators. One useful resource for these data is state and local government websites. Researchers may need to contact members of the state and local government to request information on women in elected office if the data are not available online. State branches of the

Democratic and Republican parties or the Secretary of State's office may have recent statistics on women's voter registration and turnout.

<Insert Chart 2>

Employment and Earnings

Employment and earnings indicators may include:

- Women's Median Annual Earnings (for full-time year-round workers, age 16 and over)
- Ratio of Women's to Men's Median Annual Earnings (for full-time year-round workers age 16 and over)
- The Proportion of Women in the Labor Force (percent of all women, age 16 and over, in the civilian non-institutional population who are either employed or looking for work)
- Percent of Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations (percent of all women, age 16 and older, in managerial or professional specialty occupations)

Chart 3 provides information on potential indicators and data sources for employment and earnings indicators. The U.S. Census Bureau provides detailed data on employment and earnings indicators. Some data may need to be adjusted to current dollars using the Consumer Price Index. State and local government entities may have detailed economic statistics on women's employment and earnings that can supplement the Census Bureau data. For example, some state organizations, such as the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, may have publications with information on demographic or economic characteristics of the local economy. While these data will not be comparable to Census data or data from other national sources, it can add rich detail to the discussion of women's economic status in each county.

<Insert Chart 3>

Social and Economic Autonomy

Social and economic autonomy indicators may include:

- Percent of Women with Health Insurance (among nonelderly women)

- Percent of Women Aged 25 and Older with Four or More Years of College
- The Proportion of Businesses Owned by Women
- Percent of Women Living Above the Poverty Threshold

Chart 4 provides information on potential indicators and data sources for social and economic autonomy indicators. Some indicators of women’s social and economic autonomy are also available from the 2000 U.S. Census. The percent of businesses in each county that are owned by women is available from the Center for Women’s Business Research. One other indicator that is available for many counties is the Self-Sufficiency Standard developed by the nonprofit Wider Opportunities for Women, which offers an alternative to the official poverty line by calculating the amount of money that working adults require in each geographic area to meet their basic needs without subsidies of any kind (Pearce and Brooks 2004).

<Insert Chart 4>

Reproductive Rights

Reproductive rights indicators may include:

- Does the County Health Plan Provide Comprehensive Coverage for Contraceptives for County Employees?
- The Proportion of County Officials who are Pro-Choice
- Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births)
- Percent of Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester
- Percent of Babies who are Low-Birth Weight (less than 5 lbs, 8 oz.)

Chart 5 provides information on potential indicators and data sources for reproductive rights indicators. Most data on reproductive rights on the county level will come from state and local nonprofits and therefore the specific indicators will largely depend on the data available in the state. Reproductive rights are one area where state-level indicators are important to include in order to contextualize the information. Many of the factors that have the largest effects on

reproductive rights are directly related to state legislation, such as sex education or parental notification laws.

<Insert Chart 5>

Health and Well-Being

Health and well-being indicators may include:

- Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Heart Disease (per 100,000)
- Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Lung Cancer (per 100,000)
- Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Breast Cancer (per 100,000)
- Percent of Women Who Have Ever Been Told That They Have Diabetes
- Average Annual Incidence Rate of Chlamydia Among Women (per 100,000)
- Average Annual Incidence Rate of AIDS Among Women (per 100,000)
- Average Number of Days Per Month on Which Women’s Health is Not Good
- Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Suicide (per 100,000)
- Average Number of Days per Month on which Women’s Activities are Limited by Their Health

Chart 6 provides information on potential indicators and data sources for health and well-being indicators. For indicators of women’s health and well-being, state health departments or departments of vital statistics often have detailed statistics on mortality and disease incidence rates online. These statistics are occasionally not available online, so it may be useful to call the specific department to request the data. Another resource is the Centers for Disease Control, whose SMART indicators, measuring a variety of indicators including alcohol consumption, diabetes, and gynecological health, are maintained for 98 select metropolitan areas.

<Insert Chart 6>

Step 3: Data Interpretation and Analysis

The data should be analyzed and comparisons should be made to show how the county is doing relative to other counties, how women are doing relative to men, and/or how the county is performing over time. There are a number of ways to construct these comparisons, such as:

- Compare all counties within a state and rank from best to worst
- Give counties letter grades for their performance
- Compare a single county with the state mean or median
- Compare two or three counties in a metropolitan area
- Measure the historical trend for a single county
- Compare how women in the county are doing compared with men

When comparing data for one county with data for other counties, or with state or national averages, it is important to always compare apples to apples and oranges to oranges. Data are only comparable if they are from the same source, for the same year, and the sample characteristics are the same. If no comparable state or national data are available, one option is to track county-level data over time to see if the county is improving or worsening.

IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* reports use a combination of the above methods depending on the indicators. For key indicators, all states are compared and ranked from best to worst. For other indicators, data are presented but not ranked. Depending on the indicator, the Institute may compare the data with data for men, or provide trend information.

IWPR also creates five “composite indices” (one for each of the major topic areas) and the states are ranked and given letter grades for each of these. These composite indices provide a summary measure of women’s status in each topic area and give the reader concise information to take away from the report. For example, to create a political participation composite index, each of the key indicators within this topic area (voter registration, voter turnout, etc.) are given scores; the scores are standardized and weighted, and are summed to create a single score for the

state on political participation (see Appendix II for information on how to create a composite index).

In a county-level report, authors can create similar rankings and grades, either for individual indicators, for composite indicators, or for both. Rankings show how the county is doing in relation to other counties, and grades can better show how the county is doing compared with an objective standard. In IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* reports, regional rankings are also created to compare each state with neighboring states. The county should be ranked as X out of XX counties on each indicator and it is useful to provide the rankings for all indicators as a table or appendix in the report.

The Status of Women in Minnesota Counties (Women's Foundation of Minnesota 2004) uses rankings and composite indices, drawing on IWPR methodology. The report authors condensed IWPR's five topical categories into four categories: political participation; employment and economic status; reproductive rights; and health and well-being. Condensing or altering the makeup of categories is an option for other groups, either because of limitations or to present a different conceptual framework.

Authors should include detailed information on data sources and methods in the report or in an appendix so that others may replicate the study in another region and discuss how the results were obtained. Members of the press often have specific questions about data sources and analysis techniques, to verify the credibility of the findings. Maintaining careful records of your methodology can also make updating the report much easier.

Step 4: The Report Narrative

The report narrative can vary in length. It may include discussion of the purpose and uses of the report, contextual information about the region, policy and research background on the issues addressed in the report, the significance of the findings, and policy recommendations. The credibility of the report is enhanced by citing all sources carefully and by citing primary, rather

than secondary, sources wherever possible. Many researchers (ourselves included) have difficulty writing accessibly, so public relations or communications experts may be consulted to spice up the writing a bit, and make sure the text is understandable.

Crafting clear and relevant policy recommendations can help your report have the maximum policy impact. Individuals who can help write these recommendations include commissions on the status of women and local program administrators, advocates, and policymakers. IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* reports can also serve as models for developing these recommendations.

Step 5: Data Presentation

It can be quite a challenge to present large quantities of data in a concise and readable fashion. The IWPR *Status of Women in the States* reports use charts, tables, graphs, and maps to organize the data in an understandable way. Some authors of county-level reports, such as the Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003), also highlight or box key statistics and facts to draw attention to especially important challenges for women in each topic area.

IWPR uses Microsoft Excel to prepare charts, tables, and graphs with the data. Charts and graphs can be prepared in a variety of formats to highlight a variety of types of comparisons or trends. For example, the graphs can compare men and women in a county on a given indicator, compare the value for women in the county with the state average, or present a visual representation of trends over time. Examples of IWPR's charts, tables, and graphs can be found in any of IWPR's *Status of Women in the States* reports.

American FactFinder can be used to create county-by-county maps with selected U.S. Census Bureau data. From the American FactFinder Data Sets page, select SF3 or SF4 and select Thematic Maps. Another option is to import basic maps into a publishing program, such as Adobe Illustrator, Quark, or Pagemaker, and then shade and modify the maps as appropriate. Basic state maps showing the county breakdowns for each state are available at:

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/stco_02.htm. Maps can also be created using mapping software such as ArcView or ArcGIS or by hiring a mapping expert to generate customized maps.

Step 6: Disseminating and Using the Report

There are many ways to use a county-level status of women report. The report can serve as a resource for advocates, researchers, educators, grant writers, and policymakers in the state and county, to inform the public, and to motivate action. Similar reports have been used for educational initiatives and outreach, publicity, political participation and legislative activity, institution building, additional research initiatives, grantmaking, and coalition building (Sinzdak 2002). It is critical to assemble key stakeholders during the planning stages of the project, to gather input, discuss possible uses of the report, and begin to build strategic partnerships.

It is very important to spread the word to local and state media outlets about the release of a new report. This may involve developing state and local media contact lists, writing and distributing press releases and advisories, strategically choosing communications messages, hosting events such as forums or breakfasts prior to the report's release, and holding press conferences or other events at the time of the release. Press events can be especially effective when they are tied to local policy initiatives or are held at strategic times, such as on the eve of a new state legislative session.

The reports can be used in high school and college courses as educational tools and they can be distributed to libraries and resource centers. Reports should also be distributed to state and local policymakers, commissions on the status of women, and national, state, and local women's organizations. The reports can also be used to create women's legislative agendas, to support legislative testimony, or to mobilize women around a specific campaign or piece of legislation. It is important to keep the data up to date, through new reports or through a website, so that the information can continue to be relevant and useful.

Summary and Conclusions

Providing regional data on women's status can create an invaluable resource for public policy and program planning, and for making informed decisions about strategic investments of time and money. It can motivate coalition-building and social change efforts by making a credible case for new initiatives. Writing a county-level status of women report is clearly not a simple task, but we hope that this manual will give you some guidance and a place to start. The IWPR staff are happy to answer any questions that you may have. They can be reached by email at iwpr@iwpr.org or by phone at (202) 785-5100. Good luck!

Resource List: Useful Reports and Examples of County-Level Resources

Selected Local-Level Status of Women reports:

A Portrait of Women & Girls in the Washington Metropolitan Area by the Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003). Available online at: <http://www.wawf.org/facts/index.html>

Facts about Women in Erie County 2003 by Shane Eisen Grant, Sara Asrat, and Bridgette Jackson of the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women (2003). Available online at: <http://csw.erie.gov/Facts12-24-03.pdf>

The Status of Women and Girls - Greater Houston by Beverly McPhail, C. Brene Brown, and Karen A. Holmes of the Women's Resource of Greater Houston (2004). Houston, TX: The Women's Resource of Greater Houston.

The Status of Women in Maryland by the Maryland Commission for Women (2003). Available online at: <http://www.marylandwomen.org/pdf/swmd2000.pdf>

The Status of Women in Minnesota Counties by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004). Available online at: <http://www.wfmn.org>

Understanding the Recession's Effect on Women: Tools for Empowerment by Louise Auerhahn and Sarah Zimmerman (2004). Available online at: <http://www.wpusa.org/publications/index.pl?pub=cardea>.

What Do We Know About Denver Women? by Kate Reid of the Denver Women's Commission (2004). Available online at: <http://www.denvergov.org/Women/template316021.asp>

Year 2000 Status of Women and Girls in Chicago by the Center for Research on Women and Gender at the University of Illinois at Chicago (2000). Available online at: <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/rin/2000rpt/maintoc.html>

U.S. Census Bureau Data:

U.S. Census Bureau American FactFinder:
<http://factfinder.census.gov>

American Community Survey—Data profiles for cities and counties
<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Products/index.htm>

2000 U.S. Census Demographic Profiles County-Level Fact Sheets
http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/SAFFFacts?geo_id=&_geoContext=&_street=&_county=&_cityTown=&_state=&_zip=&_lang=en&_sse=on

Census Bureau's City and County Databook
<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/ccdb.html>

Census State Data Centers
<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/>

State Maps – shows each county within each state

http://www.census.gov/geo/www/maps/stco_02.htm

Kids Count Census Data Online

<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/>

Public Data Query

<http://www.pdq.com>

The Urban Institute's DC Data Warehouse

http://www.urban.org/content/PolicyCenters/Housing_Communities/Projects/DCDataWarehouse/DCDataWarehouse.htm

Census and Statistical Data for Michigan

<http://www.michigan.gov/census>

Utah county demographic data

<http://governor.utah.gov/dea/census/Countiessf3profiles.htm>

Smart Girl Technologies

(offers Local Demographic Analysis Workshops that help individuals use American FactFinder to extract local data)

<http://www.smartgirltechnologies.com>

Other Data Sources:

Center for Policy Alternatives—Links to additional state data sources

<http://www.cfpa.org/states/index.cfm>

Compare Minnesota: Profiles of Minnesota's Economy and Population, 2002-2003

<http://www.dted.state.mn.us/PDFs/c-book.pdf>

Georgia County Guide

<http://www.agecon.uga.edu/~countyguide/>

FedStats

<http://www.fedstats.gov/qf/>

HUD State of the Cities Data System

<http://socds.huduser.org/scripts/odbic.exe/quicklink/screen3.htm?citystring=2717000>

Administration for Children and Families Directory of State Human Services Administrators

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/hs_dir2.htm

IWPR Resources:

The Institute for Women's Policy Research

<http://www.iwpr.org>

iwpr@iwpr.org

(202) 785-5100

The Status of Women in the States project
<http://www.iwpr.org/states>

IWPR's 2002 *Status of Women in the States* reports
<http://www.iwpr.org/states2002/>

IWPR's 2004 *Status of Women in the States* reports
<http://www.iwpr.org/states2004>

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Appendix I: Instructions for Using American FactFinder

The American FactFinder website (<http://factfinder.census.gov>) allows users to access and create tables online using 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census data, the American Community Survey, and the Economic Census. The program enables the user to extract the data for many geographies, including the nation, region, state, county, metropolitan statistical area, and census tract. In the American FactFinder, the 2000 Census data are available in four datasets:

1. Summary File 1 (SF1): “long” form
2. Summary File 2 (SF2): SF1 cross-tabulated by 250 race and ethnic categories. Data is suppressed for geographies/variables with 100 or fewer observations.
3. Summary File 3 (SF3): “short” form
4. Summary File 4 (SF4): SF3 cross-tabulated by 336 race, ethnic, and ancestry categories. Data is suppressed for geographies/variables with 50 or fewer observations.

To access data on the county-level for this type of report, the most user-friendly dataset to use is Summary File 3 (SF3). This dataset is the most commonly used dataset, because it includes data on population, age, gender, race/ethnicity, housing unit data, household relationships, income, education, workforce participation, transportation use, ancestry, institutionalized populations, citizenship, and language. A series of numbered tables are available for each topic. Unfortunately, SF3 only includes limited data breakdowns by race and ethnicity.

With SF3, American FactFinder will display output for all geographies and groups regardless of the sample sizes. Because some counties may be small and certain variables will have small sample sizes, users should set a cutoff of 50 observations or less for which data will not be reported.

To access detailed data by race and ethnicity, the user has two options. First, a few of the detailed tables with SF3 are disaggregated by race and ethnicity. For example, in SF3, table P90 (the poverty status in 1999 of families by family type, by presence of related children under 18 years of age, by age of related children) is not disaggregated by race or ethnicity. However, tables P160A through P160I in SF3 have this same information for major racial and ethnic groups.

A second option for accessing data with racial and ethnic breakdowns is to use SF4. SF4 is slightly more complicated to work with, because each table is cross-tabulated by 336 race, ethnic, and ancestry categories. While the tables are similar in SF3 and SF4, the numbering is different. In order to access these cross tabulations, the user must decide how to define the major racial and ethnic categories. While there are many options for how to construct these categories, IWPR grouped people of “two or more races” with the “other” category, so that other racial groups refer only to people who indicated one race alone. IWPR also decided to treat Hispanics as a distinct group, and therefore other racial groups (whites, African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and other/two or more races) do not include Hispanics.³ With SF4, data are suppressed for geographies and variables with 50 observations or less when cross-tabulated with any racial/ethnic classification. Due to the limits of this manual, we provide step-by-step instructions for using SF3 only.

To use American FactFinder:

1. From the American FactFinder main page (<http://factfinder.census.gov>), click on the Data Sets button on the left hand side of the page.
2. Select Census 2000 SF3 and choose the Detailed Tables option.
3. Select Multiple Geographies from the drop down list, clicking Add after each selection. Then click Next.
4. Select tables by Subject or Keyword, or Show All Tables.
5. Add as many tables as needed. Then, click Show Result.
6. The tables will display on your screen. From the drop down Print/Download menu on the top right-hand side of the screen, you can download your results, print results, or load or save a query.

³ For more information on the racial and ethnic groups in the 2000 U.S. Census, please see U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census (2001).

7. When calculating percentages from the tables, always use the total population figure as presented in the table because the sample may vary from table to table.

Note: American FactFinder Summary File 3 will display output for all geographies and groups regardless of the sample sizes. Because some counties may be small and certain variables will have small sample sizes, users should set a cutoff of 50 observations or less for which data will not be reported.

Appendix II: Example of Creating a County-Level Composite Index

Creating a composite index is one of the more complex, but also one of the most important, parts of writing a county-level status of women report. A composite index is a great way to give an overall picture of women’s status in a specific area. This Appendix walks the reader through the construction of a composite political participation index for a fictitious state known as State X. In State X, we assume that there are 50 counties, one of which is called Western County. The values for Western County on five selected indicators of women’s political participation are shown below:

Appendix II, Chart 1: Creating a Composite Political Participation Index for Western County							
	Western County Value	State Mean	State Standard Deviation	Standardized Western County Value	Indicator Weight	Component Indicator Score	Composite Score
Women in Elected Office	25%	31%	0.04	-1.5	2	-3	
Women in Appointed Office	10%	25%	0.08	-1.88	1	-1.88	
Women’s Institutional Resources	0	0.6	0.5	-1.2	1	-1.2	
Women’s Voter Registration	75%	66%	0.05	1.8	1	1.8	
Women’s Voter Turnout	61%	62%	0.03	-0.33	1	-0.33	
Political Participation Composite							-4.61

In the political participation section of the report, the author could first cite these statistics and provide rankings on each individual indicator. For example, Western County might rank 3rd out of 50 counties for women’s voter registration and 33rd out of 50 counties for women’s voter turnout. Then, to provide an overall picture of the political participation of women in Western County, the author would construct a political participation composite index as follows:

Step 1: For each indicator, calculate the state mean and standard deviation. Then, standardize each indicator by subtracting the state mean from the county value and then dividing the difference by the state standard deviation.

Step 2: Next, determine a weight for each indicator based on the indicator's relative importance. Multiply the standardized value for each indicator by the weight, generating the component indicator score.

Step 3: Then, sum all of the component indicator scores to create a composite political participation index score for Western County. In this example, Western County has a composite political participation score of -4.61 .

Step 4: Finally, rank the composite index scores for all of the counties. From this ranking, the author can determine whether Western County ranks high, medium, or low compared to other counties in State X. When compared to the other 49 counties in State X, Western County might rank low, at 45th for women's political participation.

Appendix III: *The Status of Women in Minnesota Counties*

[Report by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota will be attached as an additional reference]

Appendix IV: *The Status of Women in Your County: A Community Research Tool*

[Tool will be attached]

Chart 1: Possible Indicators and Data Sources on Women's Basic Demographics at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Total Population	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P1: Total Population	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Number of Women, All Ages	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P8: Sex by Age	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Sex Ratio (women to men, aged 18 and older)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P8: Sex by Age (User must calculate ratio)	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Distribution of Women by Race and Ethnicity, All Ages	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P145 A-I: Sex by Age	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Reid (2004)
Median Age of All Women	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF4) PCT4: Median Age by Sex	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Proportion of Women Over Age 65	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P8: Sex by Age	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Number of Lesbian Unmarried Partner Households	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) PCT1: Unmarried Partner Households by Sex of Partner	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Proportion of Women Age 21-64 With a Disability	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) PCT26: Sex by Age by Types of Disability	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Proportion of Women Who are Foreign-Born	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) PCT43: Sex by Place of Birth by Citizenship Status	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Proportion of Women Living in Metropolitan Areas	Can be calculated from CPS or PUMS; State or county government	May be available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Fertility Rate (live births per 1,000 women aged 15-44)	State or County Health Departments	May be available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)

Chart 1: Possible Indicators and Data Sources on Women’s Basic Demographics at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Percent of Federal and State Prison Population Who Are Women	State Department of Criminal Justice	May not available for counties	Periodically	May be available, depending on source		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Percent of Families with Children Under Age 18 Headed by Women	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P15: Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years of Age by Age of Own Children	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002); Reid (2004)
Distribution of Women Aged 15 and Older by Marital Status	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P18: Sex by Marital Status for the Population 15+ Years	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Female Homicide Mortality Rate (number of reported female homicides per 1,000)	County Health Departments, Police Departments, State Department of Vital Statistics	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	Marquette County: http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/cr/Homicide.asp	McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)

Note: ¹Data is suppressed for geographies/variables with 50 observations or less when cross-tabulated with any racial/ethnic population.

Chart 2: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women’s Political Participation Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Women in Elected Office (percent of county elected officeholders [county clerks, county commissioners, county sheriffs, and county prosecutors] who are women)*	County Government websites, Municipal Clerks Office, Directory of Public Officials, or County Legislative Directory. If it is difficult to find this online, call your county office to ask.	Definitely available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source	For example, in Clinton County, Michigan, this data can be found on the county government websites (http://www.co.clinton.mi.us/clerk/clerk.htm ; http://www.co.clinton.mi.us/board/board.htm ; http://www.co.clinton.mi.us/prosattny/pros_attorney.htm ; http://www.co.clinton.mi.us/Sheriff/sheriff_office.htm).	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Women’s Institutional Resources (number of institutional resources [county women's commissions, taskforces, etc] available for women in the county)*	County Government websites	Definitely available	Periodically	N/A	See the Ingham County Women’s Commission (http://www.ingham.org/bc/women); Mecklenburg County Women's Commission: http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Womens+Commission/Home.htm ; Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women: http://www.sonoma-county.org/ooc/csw.htm).	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Women’s Voter Registration (percent of women 18 and older who reported being registered to vote in a given year)*	State Democratic and Republican Headquarters, Qualified Voter Files, Office of the Secretary of State	May be available	Every two years	May be available, depending on source	Minnesota DFL and GOP	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Women’s Voter Turnout (percent of women 18 and older who reported voting in a given year)*	State Democratic and Republican Headquarters, Qualified Voter Files, Office of the Secretary of State	May be available	Every two years	May be available, depending on source	Minnesota DFL and GOP	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Women in Appointed Office (percent of county appointed officeholders who are women)	County Government websites	Definitely available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source	For Marquette County: http://www.co.marquette.mi.us/countyboard/county3.htm	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Women in the Judiciary (percent of county district, circuit, and probate court judges who are women)	County Government websites	Definitely available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source	Sonoma County Superior Court Officials: http://www.sonomasuperiorcourt.com/Pages/officers.php	Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Women on School Boards (percent of school board members who are female)	School District websites and District Administrative Offices	May be available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)

Chart 3: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women's Employment and Earnings Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Women's Median Annual Earnings (for full-time year-round workers, aged 16 and over)*	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) PCT47: Median Earnings in 1999 (dollars) by Work Experience in 1999 by Sex for the Population 16 Years and Over with Earnings in 1999	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003); Women's Foundation of Minnesota
Ratio of Men's to Women's Earnings (median annual earnings of full-time year-round women and men workers aged 16 and older)*	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) PCT47: Median Earnings in 1999 (dollars) by Work Experience in 1999 by Sex for the Population 16 Years and Over with Earnings in 1999 (User needs to calculate ratio). The wage gap can be calculated by subtracting the wage ratio from 100.	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003); Women's Foundation of Minnesota
Women's Earnings and the Earnings Ratio by Race and Ethnicity (for full-time year-round workers, aged 16 and over)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF4) PCT139: Median Earnings in 1999 (dollars) by Work Experience in 1999 by Sex for the Population 16 Years and Over with Earnings in 1999 (User needs to calculate ratio)	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Women's Earnings and the Earnings Ratio by Educational Attainment (for full-time year-round employed women aged 16 and over)	Public Education Agencies or Universities; can be calculated from Census or CPS using PDQ or other data extraction program	Definitely available	Periodically	May be available		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Percent of Employed Women in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations (percent of all women, aged 16 and older, in management, professional, or related occupations)*	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P50: Sex by Occupation for the Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Weinstein (2002)
Women's Labor Force Participation (percent of all women, aged 16 and older, in the civilian non-institutional population who are either employed or looking for work)*	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P43: Sex by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)

Chart 3: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women's Employment and Earnings Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Labor Force Participation of Women by Race and Ethnicity (percent of all women, aged 16 and older, in the civilian non-institutional population who are either employed or looking for work)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF4)	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Labor Force Participation of Women with Children (percent of all women, aged 16 and older, in the civilian non-institutional population who have children under age 18 or age 6 and who are either employed or looking for work)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P45. Presence of Own Children under 18 Years by Age of Own Children by Employment Status for Females 16 Years of Age and Over	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Labor Force Participation of Women by Age (percent of all women, aged 16 and older, in the civilian non-institutional population who are either employed or looking for work for five year age groups)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) QT-P24: Employment Status by Sex	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Distribution of Women Across Occupations (percent of employed women, aged 16 and over, in each of six major occupational categories)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P50: Sex by Occupation for the Employed Civilian Population 16 years and over	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Distribution of Women Across Industries (percent of employed women, aged 16 and over, in each of eight major industrial categories)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P49: Sex by Industry for the Employed Population 16 Years and Over	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Unemployment Rates for Women and Men (percent of women and men aged 16 and older in the civilian non-institutional labor force who are unemployed)	State Department of Labor; Public Universities	May be available	Periodically	May be available		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)

Chart 3: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women's Employment and Earnings Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Full-Time, Part-Time, and Unemployment Rates for Women and Men (percent of women and men employed full-time, percent employed part-time, and percent unemployed)	State Department of Labor	May be available	Periodically	May be available		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Percent of Women in Top Executive Positions in Large Companies	Local business groups; compilations from annual reports of large businesses in each county	May be available	Periodically	May be available	Crain's 2000 Edition; Washington Business Journal's Book of Lists	Center for Research on Women and Gender (2000); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)

Note: ¹Data is suppressed for geographies/variables with 50 observations or less when cross-tabulated with any racial/ethnic population.

Chart 4: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women's Social and Economic Autonomy Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Percent of Women with Health Insurance (among nonelderly women)*	CDC SMART (Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas Risk Trends BRFSS for 98 selected metropolitan areas); State or County Health Departments; can be calculated from the CPS using PDQ or other data extraction program	May be available	Annually	May be available		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Educational Attainment (percent of women aged 25 and older with four or more years of college)*	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P37: Sex by Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Older	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Women's Business Ownership (percent of all firms owned by women)*	1997 Census Bureau Report on Women-Owned Businesses (http://www.census.gov/prod/ec97/e97cs-2.pdf); Center for Women's Business Research has 2002 data for 50 metropolitan areas (http://www.nfwbo.org/metronumbers.html)	1997 data is available for counties with 100 or more women-owned businesses; 2002 data is available for 50 metropolitan areas.	5 years	No		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Percent of Women Above Poverty (percent of women living above the poverty threshold)*	American Factfinder – 2000 Census (SF3) PCT49: Poverty Status in 1999 by Sex by Age	Definitely available	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Percent of Women with a College Education, by Race and Ethnicity (percent of women aged 25 and older with four or more years of college)	American FactFinder – 2000 (SF3) Census P148A-I Sex by Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Percent of Women Above Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity (percent of women living above the poverty threshold)	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P75 A-I: Poverty Status by Sex by Age	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)

Chart 4: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women’s Social and Economic Autonomy Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Percent of Women Above Poverty, by Family Type (percent of women living above the poverty threshold for the following family types: married couples with children, married couples without children, single women with children, single men with children, single women, and	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P89: Poverty Status by Age by Household Type	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Poverty Rates for Selected Family Types (married couples with children, married couples without children, single women with children, single men with children) and Single Women and Men	American FactFinder - 2000 Census (SF3) P160A-P160I: Poverty Status in 1999 of Families by Family Type by Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years of Age	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Distribution of Women-Owned Firms Across Industries (major industrial categories)	1997 Census Bureau Report on Women-Owned Businesses (http://www.census.gov/prod/ec97/e97cs-2.pdf)	Available for counties with 100 or more women owned businesses	5 years	No		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Median Annual Income for Selected Family Types (married couples with children, married couples without children, single women with children, single men with children) and Single Women and Men	American Factfinder – 2000 Census (SF3) PCT40: Median Family Income by Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18	Available if sample size is sufficient	10 years	Yes, using SF4 ¹		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Percent of Women Aged 50 and Older Living Below the Poverty Threshold	American Factfinder - 2000 Census (SF3) PCT49: Poverty Status in 1999 by Sex by Age	Definitely available	10 years	Yes		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Percent of Eligible Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies	State Department of Health or Human Services; State Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	May be available	Periodically	May be available		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Percent of Unemployed Women and Men with Unemployment Insurance	State Department of Labor; can be calculated from CPS	May be available	Periodically	May be available		Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2002)
Percent of Homeless who are Female	State or County Commission on the Homeless	May be available	Periodically			Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003)
Percent of High School Students in Computer Science Classes who are Female	County Public Schools	May be available	Periodically	May be available		Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)

Chart 4: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women's Social and Economic Autonomy Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Number of Accredited Child Care Providers in County	State Nonprofits, State Department of Health or Human Services	May be available	Periodically	No	Michigan's Family Independence Agency, http://www.cis.state.mi.us/brs_cd/sr_lfl.asp	Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003)
County Self-Sufficiency Standard for a Single Mother with Two Children (monthly and annual expenses)	Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) Self-Sufficiency Standard	WOW Self-Sufficiency Standards are available for counties in 34 states and the District of Columbia	Periodically	N/A	The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wisconsin, 2004 is available at: http://www.sixstrategies.org/files/WI%20Full%20Report%20FINAL%204-15-04%20.pdf	Auerhahn and Zimmerman (2004); Center for Research on Women and Gender (2000); Reid (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Number of WIC Participants (number of participants and percent of eligible who are unserved)	County Health Departments; State WIC Program	May be available	Annually	Yes	For Michigan, http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/wicenroll/Default.htm	McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Number of Females in Chamber of Commerce	County Chamber of Commerce Websites and Offices	May be available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source	In Michigan's Marquette County, http://www.marquette.org	N/A
AFDC/TANF Caseloads (number of participants)	State Nonprofits; State Department of Health or Human Services	May be available	Periodically	May be available	Illinois KidsCount; Michigan Family Independence Agency, http://www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5461---,00.html	Center for Research on Women and Gender (2000); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Food Stamp Participants (number of participants)	State Department of Health or Human Services	May be available	Periodically	May be available	California Department of Health Services, http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/cdic/cpns/research/download/binder_02/Food%20Stamp%20Eligible.xls ; Michigan Family Independence Agency, http://www.michigan.gov/fia/0,1607,7-124-5461---,00.html	McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Number of Female Attorneys (percent of attorneys in county who are female)	State Bar Association	May be available	Periodically	May be available, depending on source	State Bar of Texas	McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Percent of Affordable Homes for Single-Women Families (at median income)	State Housing Agency	May be available	Periodically	N/A		Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Number of Children Receiving Free/Reduced Lunches	County Health Departments	May be available	Periodically	May be available	For Marquette County: http://www.marquette.localhealth.net/PDFStore/PrimaryHealthCareMqtCo.pdf	N/A

Chart 4: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women’s Social and Economic Autonomy Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Number of Children on a Waiting List for Subsidized Child Care	State Department of Health or Human Services	May be available	Periodically	May be available	Office of Early Childhood Development, DC	Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)

Note: ¹Data is suppressed for geographies/variables with 50 observations or less when cross-tabulated with any racial/ethnic population.

Chart 5: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women's Reproductive Rights Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR <i>Status of Women in the States</i> Composite Indices						
Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Mandatory Parental Notification/Consent for Abortion Services*	N/A	Not available for counties—state law	Periodically	N/A		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Waiting Period for Abortion Services*	N/A	Not available for counties—state law	Periodically	N/A		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Public Funding for Abortions Under Any or Most Circumstances if Woman is Eligible*	N/A	Not available for counties—state law	Periodically	N/A		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Health Insurers Required to Provide Comprehensive Coverage for Contraceptives*	County health plans for county civil service employees	May be available	Periodically	N/A	In Michigan, see http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Employees_Book_58654_7.pdf	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Pro-Choice County Officials*	County Government websites, Municipal Clerks Office, Directory of Public Officials, or County Legislative Directory If you are having trouble finding this data, try contacting the state NARAL or call the county office.	May be available	Periodically	N/A		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Health Insurers Required to Provide Coverage for Infertility Treatments*	County health plans for county civil service employees	May be available	Periodically	N/A	In Michigan, see http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Employees_Book_58654_7.pdf	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Allows Non-Legal Parent in a Gay/Lesbian Couple to Adopt His/Her Partner's Child*	N/A	Not available for counties—state law	Periodically	N/A		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Schools Provide Mandatory Sex Education*	Local School Boards	May be available	Periodically	N/A		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Number of Abortion Providers in County*	State NARAL, State and Local Non Profits	May be available	Periodically	No	Minnesota NARAL	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births)	State Department of Vital Statistics	Generally available	Annually	Yes	In Michigan, see http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/InDxMain/Tab3.asp	Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)

Chart 5: Possible Indicators and Data Sources to Track Women's Reproductive Rights Status at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR <i>Status of Women in the States</i> Composite Indices						
Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies (less than 5 lbs, 8 oz.)	State Department of Vital Statistics	Generally available	Annually	Yes	Michigan Department of Community Health: http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/chi/births/frame.html	Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Percent of Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy	State Department of Vital Statistics	Generally available	Annually	Yes	Michigan Department of Community Health: http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/chi/births/frame.html	Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Number of Family Planning Clinics in County	The Alan Guttmacher Institute has data on the number of publically funded family planning clinics for all counties in 1995. State groups working on reproductive rights may have more recent data.	Definitely available	Periodically	N/A	Minnesota State Family Planning Hotline	Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Number of Emergency Contraception Providers in County	State NARAL	May be available	Periodically	N/A	Minnesota NARAL	Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004)
Number of Reported Abortions in County	State Department of Vital Statistics, State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	May be available	Michigan Department of Community Health: http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/chi/births/frame.html ; http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/abortion/Tab_1.asp	McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Teenage Pregnancy Rate (live births per 1,000 for girls age 15-17)	State or County Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics, or Department of Community Health	May be available	Annually	May be available	Michigan Department of Community Health: http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/chi/births/frame.html	Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)

Chart 6: Possible Indicators and Data Sources on Women's Health and Well-Being at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR *Status of Women in the States* Composite Indices

Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Heart Disease (per 100,000)*	State or County Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics	Generally available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	Michigan Department of Community Health: Leading Causes of Death by Gender: http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/chi/Deaths/frame.html	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Lung Cancer (per 100,000)*	State or County Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics	Generally available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	In Minnesota, see Mortality Table 4a of the 2003 Minnesota County Health Tables: http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2003/C_Mortality.pdf	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Breast Cancer (per 100,000)*	State or County Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics	Generally available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	In Minnesota, see Mortality Table 4a of the 2003 Minnesota County Health Tables: http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/countytables/profiles2003/C_Mortality.pdf	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Reid (2004)
Percent of Women Who Have Ever Been Told They Have Diabetes*	State or County Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Average Annual Incidence Rate of Chlamydia Among Women (per 100,000)*	State Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Average Annual Incidence Rate of AIDS Among Women (per 100,000)*	State or County Health Department, Department of Vital Statistics	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source		Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Average Number of Days per Month on Which Women's Mental Health Is Not Good*	CDC SMART (Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas Risk Trends BRFSS for 98 selected metropolitan areas); State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	Not available from CDC	In Michigan, data are available for the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Area and the Warren-Farmington Hills-Troy Metropolitan Division	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Average Annual Mortality Rate Among Women from Suicide (per 100,000)*	CDC SMART (Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas Risk Trends BRFSS for 98 selected metropolitan areas); State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	Not available from CDC	In Michigan, data are available for the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Area and the Warren-Farmington Hills-Troy Metropolitan Division	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)

Chart 6: Possible Indicators and Data Sources on Women's Health and Well-Being at the County Level

*Comparable indicator is included in 2004 IWPR <i>Status of Women in the States</i> Composite Indices						
Indicator	County-Level Source	Certainty of Availability	Update Schedule	Possible by Race/Ethnicity	Example	Precedent
Average Number of Days per Month on Which Women's Activities Are Limited by Their Health*	CDC SMART (Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas Risk Trends BRFSS for 98 selected metropolitan areas); State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	Not available from CDC	In Michigan, data are available for the Detroit-Livonia-Dearborn Metropolitan Area and the Warren-Farmington Hills-Troy Metropolitan Division	Institute for Women's Policy Research (2004)
Number of Reported Rape Crimes	State Nonprofits, Police Departments, Local Public Health Centers, Fedstats (http://www.fedstats.gov/qf)	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	MN Planning Agency; Metropolitan Washington Public Health Assessment Center	Grant, Asrat, and Jackson (2003); McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004); Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Number of Domestic Violence Shelters	State Nonprofits, Local Shelters	May be available	Varies	N/A	MN Coalition of Battered Women	Women's Foundation of Minnesota (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Domestic Violence Statistics (number of reported incidences of domestic violence)	State Central Records Division, Police Departments; State or County Human Services	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	Maryland Uniform Crime Report	Reid (2004); Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Presence of Domestic Violence Advocacy Group in County	National Coalition Against Domestic Violence 2003-2004 National Directory of Domestic Violence Programs	May be available	Periodically	N/A		N/A
Number of Civil-Protection Orders Filed and Percent Filed by Women	State Courts	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	DC Superior Court, Domestic Violence Unit	Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)
Percent of Women Who Smoke	CDC SMART (Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas Risk Trends BRFSS for 98 selected metropolitan areas); State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	Not available from CDC		McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Percent of Women Who Have Ever Had a Mammogram	CDC SMART (Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas Risk Trends BRFSS for 98 selected metropolitan areas); State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	Not available from CDC	Marquette County: http://www.marquette.localhealth.net/CritHlthIndicators/mammogra.htm	McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Percent of Women who are Overweight or Obese (percent of women with a Body Mass Index greater than or equal to 25)	CDC SMART (Selected Metropolitan/Micropolitan Areas Risk Trends BRFSS for 98 selected metropolitan areas); State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	Not available from CDC		McPhail, Brown, and Holmes (2004)
Alcohol Use (percent of women who drink five or more drinks on one or more occasions)/Number of Alcohol-Related Deaths	State or County Health Departments	May be available	Annually	May be available, depending on source	Marquette County: http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/cr/Alcohol.asp	Washington Area Women's Foundation (2003)