INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

Fact Sheet

IWPR #R336 2007

The Economic Status of Women in Indiana: Highlights
Differences by Race & Ethnicity

This fact sheet was produced with support from the Indiana Commission for Women.

Indiana reflects both the advances and limited progress achieved by women in the United States. Women in Indiana and the United States as a whole are seeing important changes in their lives and in their access to political, economic, and social rights. They by no means enjoy equality with men, however, and they still lack many of the legal guarantees that would allow them to achieve that equality. Women in Indiana and the nation would benefit from stronger enforcement of equal opportunity laws, adequate and affordable child care, improved access to health care, and other policies that would bolster their economic progress.

The rankings and grades for each of the composite indices in Chart 1 were calculated by combining data on four indicators of women's status in each of two areas. These data were used to compare women in Indiana with women in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, they were used to evaluate women's economic status in Indiana in comparison with women's ideal status, as reflected in the state's grades.

Chart 1.
How Indiana Ranks on Key Economic Indicators

	National Rank*	Regional Rank*	Grade
Composite Employment and Earnings	38	5	D+
Women's Median Annual Earnings, 2005 ($30,000)	29	5	
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings, 2005 (72.6%)	38	4	
Labor Force Participation, 2004 (61.0%)	23	2	
Percent in Managerial/Professional Occupations, 2002 (30.9%)	40	4	
Composite Social and Economic Autonomy Index	34	5	D+
Percent of Women with Health Insurance, 2005 (82.6%)	30	5	
Percent of Women 25 and Older with a Four-Year College Degree or More, 2005 (21.2%)	45	5	
Women's Business Ownership, 2002 (27.4%)	21	4	
Percent of Women Above the Poverty Line, 2005 (88.1%)	27	4	

Notes: *The national rankings are of a possible 51, referring to the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The regional rankings are a maximum of 5 and refer to the states in the East North Central region (IL, IN, MI, OH, and WI).
See Appendix II of *The Best and Worst State Economies for Women* for a detailed description of the methodology and sources used for the indices presented here.
Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

The advances women have made are not experienced equally by all women. In Indiana, as in the rest of the nation, persistent inequalities evident in Chart 2 demonstrate that many women of color experience disparities in their socioeconomic status. Indiana can improve the economic status of women of color by addressing ongoing racial and ethnic disparities in the state.

Chart 2.
Overview of the Economic Status of Women of Color in Indiana

	All Women	White, Non-Hispanic Women	African American Women	Asian American Women	Native American Women	Hispanic Women
Employment and Earnings						
Median Annual Earnings (for full-time, year-round employed women), 2005[a]	$29,900	$30,100	$29,900	N/A	N/A	$22,500
Earnings Ratio Between Women and White Men, 2005[a]	70.5%	71.0%	70.5%	N/A	N/A	53.1%
Women's Labor Force Participation, 2005[a]	60.7%	60.7%	64.1%	56.1%	N/A	55.8%
Women Workers in Managerial and Professional Occupations, 2005[a]	33.0%	33.6%	29.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Social and Economic Autonomy						
Percent of Women with a College Education, 2005[a]	20.2%	20.7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent of Women Above the Poverty Level, 2005[a]	87.3%	89.1%	74.0%	85.8%	N/A	77.1%
Percent of Women with Health Insurance, 2005[b]	82.6%	83.6%	77.8%	84.6%	N/A	N/A

Notes: N/A = Not Available due to small sample sizes.
Hispanics may be of any race or two or more races.
Data for women's business ownership are not available by race and ethnicity
Source: a) U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006 b) See Appendix II of *The Best and Worst State Economies for Women* for a detailed description of the methodology and source used for the percent of women with health insurance.
Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.

About the IWPR Status of Women in the States Series

This fact sheet is part of the 2006 edition of IWPR's long-running series of reports that measures and tracks the status of women across the United States. Produced as part of an on-going IWPR research project that seeks to provide policy makers, business leaders, philanthropists, and community activists with the information they need to address women's concerns at the state level, this fact sheet focuses on the economic factors that affect women's well-being in Indiana. Since 1996 IWPR has released national updates on women's status every two years, and between 1996 and 2004 IWPR released at least one full-length report (approximately 100 pages each) on each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

All IWPR states products are available at www.iwpr.org. Data are available at www.femstats.net.

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The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) 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 to design, execute, and disseminate research that illuminates economic and social policy issues affecting women and their families, and to build a network of individuals and organizations that conduct and use women-oriented policy research. 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 that also works in affiliation with the women's studies and public policy programs at The George Washington University.