INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

Fact Sheet

IWPR Publication #R288 November 2004

# The Status of Women in Utah, 2004: Highlights

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

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

The advances women have made are not experienced equally by all women. Persistent inequalities evident in Chart 2 mean that many women of color experience disparities in their economic, political, social, and health status. Utah can improve the status of women of color by addressing ongoing racial and ethnic disparities in the state.

**Chart 1.**
**How Utah Ranks on Key Indicators**

| Indicators | National Rank* | Regional Rank* | Grade |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Composite Political Participation Index** | **33** | **7** | **D+** |
| Women's Voter Registration, 1998 and 2000 (61.6% registered) | 45 | 6 | |
| Women's Voter Turnout, 1998 and 2000 (49.7% voted) | 33 | 6 | |
| Women in Elected Office Composite Index, 2004 | 25 | 7 | |
| Women's Institutional Resources, 2004 | 31 | 2 | |
| **Composite Employment and Earnings Index** | **37** | **3** | **D** |
| Women's Median Annual Earnings, 2002 ($27,000) | 33 | 4 | |
| Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings, 2002 (70.3%) | 46 | 7 | |
| Women's Labor Force Participation, 2002 (62.5% of women are in the labor force) | 15 | 3 | |
| Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations, 2001 (30.0%) | 41 | 5 | |
| **Composite Social and Economic Autonomy Index** | **24** | **2** | **C** |
| Percent with Health Insurance Among Nonelderly Women, 2001-02 (85.2%) | 24 | 1 | |
| Educational Attainment: Percent of Women with Four or More Years of College, 2000 (22.3%) | 25 | 3 | |
| Women's Business Ownership, 1997 (24.8% of businesses are owned by women) | 29 | 5 | |
| Percent of Women Above the Poverty Level, 2002 (89.7%) | 18 | 4 | |
| **Composite Reproductive Rights Index** | **37** | **7** | **D** |
| **Composite Health and Well-Being Index** | **1** | **1** | **A-** |

Notes:

See Appendix II of *The Status of Women in Utah* for a detailed description of the methodology and sources used for the indices presented here.

* The national rankings are of a possible 51, referring to the 50 states and the District of Columbia, except for the Political Participation indicators, which do not include the District of Columbia. The regional rankings are of a maximum of eight and refer to the states in the Mountain West region (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, UT, and WY).

**Calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.**

## Chart 2.
## Overview of the Status of Women of Color in Utah

| | White Women | African American Women | Hispanic Women | Asian American Women | Native American Women |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Political Participation** | | | | | |
| Number of Women in Elected Statewide Executive Office, 2004 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of Women in U.S. Congress, 2004 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Employment and Earnings** | | | | | |
| Median Annual Earnings (for full-time, year-round employed women), 1999 (in 2003 dollars) | $27,600 | $26,500 | $20,200 | $26,500 | $23,200 |
| Earnings Ratio Between Women and White Men, 1999 | 63.9% | 61.4% | 46.8% | 61.4% | 53.7% |
| Women's Labor Force Participation, 2000 | 61.9% | 67.5% | 62.0% | 60.1% | 55.9% |
| Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations, 2000 | 33.8% | 29.7% | 19.0% | 30.7% | 23.5% |
| **Social and Economic Autonomy** | | | | | |
| Percent of Women with College Education (two- or four-year degree or higher), 2000 | 31.8% | 31.9% | 13.0% | 37.9% | 19.8% |
| Percent of Women Above the Poverty Level, 1999 | 90.9% | 74.5% | 79.6% | 84.8% | 66.3% |
| **Reproductive Rights** | | | | | |
| Percent of Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy, 2001 | 84% | 62% | 61% | 66% | 56% |
| Infant Mortality Rate (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births), 2001 | 4.6 | N/A | 6.8 | N/A | N/A |
| Percent of Babies with Low Birth Weight, 2001 | 6.2% | 11.1% | 7.4% | 7.0% | 5.1% |
| **Health and Well-Being** | | | | | |
| Female Heart Disease Mortality, per 100,000, 1999-2001 | 159.7 | N/A | 109.9 | 90.5 | N/A |
| Average Annual Incidence Rate of AIDS Among Women (per 100,000 adolescents and adults), 1999 | 1.1 | N/A | 11.9 | N/A | N/A |

Notes:

N/A = Not Available.

Hispanics may be of any race or two or more races. Racial categories (Whites, African Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans) do not include Hispanics.

See *The Status of Women in Utah* for sources and a description of how race and ethnicity are defined for the economic data presented here.

**Compiled by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.**

*This fact sheet is excerpted from* The Status of Women in Utah *(2004) report, edited by Dr. Amy Caiazza and April Shaw at the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR). The report was produced with support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Levi Strauss Foundation, the Otto Bremer Foundation, and the Rockefeller Family Fund. This publication is one in a series of* Status of Women in the States *reports by IWPR.* The Status of Women in the States *project is designed to inform citizens about the progress of women in their state relative to women in other states, to men, and to the nation as a whole.*

For more information on IWPR reports or membership, please call (202) 785-5100 or e-mail iwpr@iwpr.org

IWPR is a scientific research organization dedicated to informing and stimulating the debate on public policy issues of critical importance to women and their families. 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 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 corporation. Members and affiliates of IWPR's Information Network receive reports and information on a regular basis. 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.

1707 L Street NW, Suite 750 ✧ Washington, DC 20036 ✧ Tel: 202/785-5100 ✧ Fax: 202/833-4362 ✧ www.iwpr.org