

Fact Sheet



The Status of Women in Rhode Island: Highlights

Rhode Island reflects both the advances and limited progress achieved by women in the United States. Women in Rhode Island 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 Rhode Island 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 the chart below 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 Rhode Island with women in each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. In addition, they were used to evaluate women's status in Rhode Island in comparison with women's ideal status, as reflected in the state's grades.

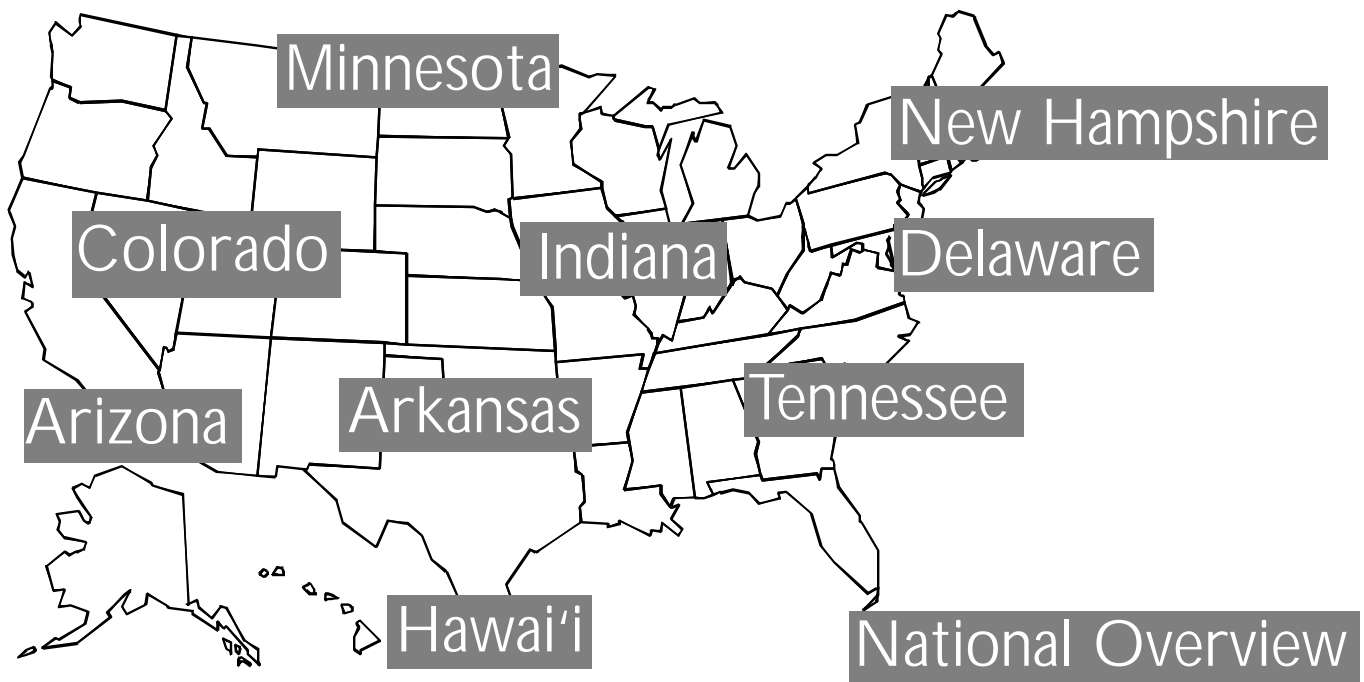
Chart I: How Rhode Island Ranks on Key Indicators

Indicators	National Rank*	Regional Rank*	Grade
Composite Political Participation Index	33	6	D+
Women's Voter Registration, 1992-96	23	4	
Women's Voter Turnout, 1992-96	20	4	
Women in Elected Office Composite Index, 2000	39	6	
Women's Institutional Resources, 2000	1	1	
Composite Employment and Earnings Index	23	5	C
Women's Median Annual Earnings, 1997	13	3	
Ratio of Women's to Men's Earnings, 1997	44	6	
Women's Labor Force Participation, 1998	30	6	
Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations, 1998	20	6	
Composite Economic Autonomy Index	22	5	C+
Percent with Health Insurance Among Nonelderly Women, 1997	4	1	
Educational Attainment: Percent of Women with Four or More Years of College, 1990	20	5	
Women's Business Ownership, 1992	45	6	
Percent of Women above the Poverty Level, 1997	26	6	
Composite Reproductive Rights Index	18	5	C+
Composite Health and Well-Being Index	30	6	C

See Appendix II in *The Status of Women in the States* 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 six and refer to the states in the New England Region (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT).

Calculated by the Institute for Women's Policy Research.



The Institute for Women's Policy Research presents The Status of Women in the States 2000

The Status of Women in the States is part of an ongoing research project conducted by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) to establish baseline measures of the status of women in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The effort is part of a larger IWPR Economic Policy Education Program, funded by the Ford Foundation, intended to improve the ability of advocates and policymakers at the state level to address women's economic issues. The data used in each report come from a variety of sources, primarily government agencies, although other organizations also provided data where relevant.

The first two series of reports were released in 1996 and 1998 and included a summary national report and 24 state reports. This third series includes nine states as well as an update of the national report. For more information, contact IWPR at (202) 785-5100 or visit our website at www.iwpr.org.

About the Institute for Women's Policy Research

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) is a public policy research organization dedicated to informing and stimulating the debate on public policy issues of critical importance to women and their families. IWPR focuses on issues that affect women's daily lives, including employment, earnings, and economic change; democracy and society; poverty, welfare, and income security; work and family policies; and health and violence. IWPR also works in affiliation with the George Washington University's graduate programs in public policy and women's studies.

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