

The Oregon Commission for Women

The Status of Women in Oregon and 2012 Activities Report

February 11, 2013

SHE FLIES
WITH HER
**OWN
WINGS**



Table of Contents

The Oregon Commission for Women	2
Mission Statement.....	2
About the Commission.....	2
The Status of Women in Oregon	3
Demographics.....	3
Population Fast Facts	3
Household Composition.....	4
Women and the Economy	4
Education	5
Poverty.....	8
Poverty: Urban vs. Rural.....	10
Women and Health	10
Women’s Health Report Card	10
Policy indicators	11
Status Indicators.....	13
Access to Health Care.....	14
Wellness Screening and Prevention.....	15
Pap Smears (F)	15
Mammograms (S)	16
Colorectal cancer screening (S)	16
Cholesterol screening (U)	16

Oregon Commission for Women

Physical Activity (S)16

Obesity (U).....16

Eating Right (F)16

Additional Health Indicators17

 Hunger17

 Obesity17

 Maternal Health.....17

 Alcohol, Smoking, and Exercise18

 Baby-friendly hospital initiative.....19

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking19

Women and the Criminal Justice System21

 Facilities and Population21

 Type of Crime.....22

 Substance Use.....23

 Education23

 Employment24

 Children of Incarcerated Women.....24

Women’s Political Participation25

 Voting and Registration25

 Women in Office25

Commission Activities.....26

 Advocacy and Outreach.....26

 Proposed Legislation26

Oregon Commission for Women

Testimony	26
Day at the Legislature	27
Presentation to AAUW State Convention	27
The Status of Oregon Women Report 2013 with Expanded Statistics on Women of Color in Oregon	27
Leadership	28
Women of Achievement Awards	28
Women Leaders in Oregon Poster	29
100th Anniversary of Suffrage in the Portland Rose Parade	30
Co-Sponsorship of the Century of Action Roadshow	31
Internship	31
Partnership	32
Work with the Joint Oregon Advocacy Commissions	32
The 2013 Policy Playbook for Women and Communities of Color for the Oregon Legislative Session	32
Fundraising Training	32
Inter-Agency Collaborations	33
Community Partnerships	33
Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women	33
Commission Goals.....	34
Assessment of 2012 Goals.....	34
2013 Goals	36
Advocacy.....	36
Outreach.....	36
Education	36

Key Performance Measures.....37

 KPM #1: Interaction with other agencies and organizations.....37

 KPM #2: Customer Service.....37

Current Commission Members.....38

Oregon Commission for Women

Dear Governor Kitzhaber, Senators and Representatives, and Supporters of the Oregon Commission for Women,

We are pleased to submit our 2012 report for the Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW). This report provides a brief review of what we've done this past year and what we look forward to accomplishing in 2013.

We are also excited to include our biannual report on the status of women in Oregon. We believe that we are the only agency that collects statistics on women in Oregon and puts them in one place. We hope that the Governor's office and Oregon legislators will find the information useful as they develop policies that affect women.

The OCFW found 2012 to be a year of change and collaboration. Former Chair Sunny Petit and Vice Chair Jenny Greenleaf both decided not to seek re-election, resulting in a wholly new leadership team; Commissioners Mee Seon Kwon and Karen Shimada left the Commission; and Commissioners Jeanne Burch and Cynthia Scheines came on. We have been recruiting new members and we hope to be back to a full complement after appointments are made in early 2013. In addition, in 2012 we significantly increased our outreach to and collaboration with the other Advocacy Commissions, other state agencies, and other nonprofit and community organizations in support of our mission, which we believe will enable the Commission to be even more effective in the future.

During the Legislature's mini-session in February, we submitted testimony, worked with other state agencies and nonprofits to support or oppose several bills, and co-sponsored a day at the legislature for women. We intend to continue to be part of the legislative process as advocates for Oregon women in 2013.

All year, individual Commissioners participated in a number of events relating to the Commission's mission and/or commemorating the centennial of women's suffrage in Oregon.

In October, we recognized four outstanding Oregon women. The 2012 Women of Achievement awards, presented by Governor Kitzhaber, honored women of diverse and impressive accomplishment who have made things better for women, children, and families in Oregon.

Then, in November, we met to engage in strategic planning and to identify appropriate goals and objectives for 2013 and beyond.

We are privileged to serve the women of Oregon, and we look forward to a productive 2013.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Vardavas
Chair, Oregon Commission for Women

The Oregon Commission for Women

Vision

We serve the people of Oregon to empower and support women through our special role as policy advisors to Oregon State government. The OCFW is a catalyst that empowers partnerships between governments and communities to ensure equality and strives to achieve and maintain a safe and healthy environment for women and girls throughout the state of Oregon.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Oregon Commission for Women is to work for the implementation and establishment of economic, social, legal, and political equality for women and to maintain a continuing assessment of the issues and needs confronting women in Oregon.

About the Commission

In 1964 Governor Mark Hatfield established the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women to advise him of the needs and concerns of women in Oregon. In 1983, Governor Victor Atiyeh gave the Commission independent agency status with a directive to continue its mission and the Legislature created the Oregon Commission for Women to work for the implementation and establishment of economic, legal, political, and social equality of women, and to continually assess the needs and issues of women and girls.

We achieve our mission of advocating for women's equality by providing information, education, and advocacy to the Governor, the Legislature, community leaders, and members of the public on issues important to the lives of Oregon's women. We produce a biannual report on the status of women in Oregon featuring the latest available statistics.

The Commission performs research and provides information and referrals for citizens with questions or problems. The Commission serves in advisory and informational capacities to public officials and non-profit organizations in Oregon and other states in order to benefit women and girls throughout the country.

The Commission often receives invitations to speak at conferences, workshops, businesses, organizations, and educational institutions on matters related to health, legal rights, domestic violence and the economic status of women. We communicate through electronic newsletters and social media. We celebrate the accomplishments of women in Oregon through our annual Women of Achievement Awards.

The Status of Women in Oregon

For 2012, the Commission focused on creating a Status of Oregon women report for use by the Oregon Legislature and Governor Kitzhaber’s office. We hope that the information and analysis included in this report will be helpful for developing laws and policies that assist and empower the women of Oregon. The Commission was fortunate to have the services of three public policy interns who helped compile the data for this report: Megan Rasmussen, Carrie Haddad, and Jean Laubinger.

You may notice some variation in numbers. We used a variety of sources for data, and they do not always match exactly. For example, there are small variations in race/ethnicity data as different studies count them different ways. We have tried to provide a link to source material where practical.

Demographics

This section of the report presents basic demographic data about women in Oregon. Data for this section comes from the U.S. Census Bureau and is based on the [2010 U.S. Census and the American Community Survey](#).¹

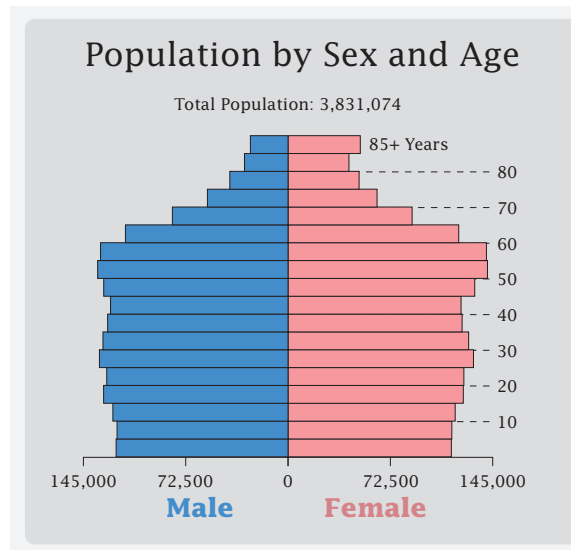
Population Fast Facts

Of the 3,831,074 residents of Oregon, according to the 2010 US Census, women make up 1,934,692, or approximately 50.5 percent.

The median age of Oregon females is 39.3 years, compared to 37.2 years for males. This graph, taken from the U.S. Census’ [Oregon profile map](#), shows age distribution by sex in Oregon.

Marital status (age 15 and over):

- Married (excludes separated): 49.5 percent
- Widowed: 8.4 percent
- Divorced: 14.1 percent
- Separated: 1.6 percent
- Never married: 26 percent



About 31 percent of live births were to unmarried women.

¹ The American Community Survey (ACS) is a smaller survey that the Census Bureau uses to estimate population characteristics. ACS produces tables using 1-, 3-, and 5-year estimates, which accounts for some differences in the actual numbers. Where possible, we have used 3- or 5-year estimates, as they are considered more accurate.

Race/ethnicity: 81.8 percent white, 2.0 percent black, 1.4 percent American Indian/Alaskan Native, 4.5 percent Asian/Pacific Islander, 10.3 percent Hispanic/Latina.

About 22,000 female veterans live in Oregon.

Of foreign-born residents of Oregon, 49.6 percent are female. Of naturalized U.S. citizens, 55.2 percent are female, while of non-citizens, 46.3 percent are female.

In Oregon, 258,423 female residents are disabled, about 13 percent of the population. The [Health Care Report Card](#) estimates that 6.8 percent (82,406) of women have disabilities that prevent them from participating in the workforce.

Household Composition

[This chart](#) comes from the Population Research Center at PSU; data is from the 2010 U.S. Census. It shows the current breakdown of household types, as well as changes in household makeup between 2000 and 2010.

HOUSEHOLDS	2000		2010		Change	
Total households	1,333,723	100.0%	1,518,938	100.0%	185,215	13.9%
Family households (families) ⁴	877,671	65.8%	963,467	63.4%	85,796	9.8%
With own children under 18 years	410,803	30.8%	414,160	27.3%	3,357	0.8%
Husband-wife family	692,532	51.9%	733,741	48.3%	41,209	6.0%
With own children under 18 years	296,404	22.2%	283,674	18.7%	-12,730	-4.3%
Male householder, no wife present	54,357	4.1%	70,921	4.7%	16,564	30.5%
With own children under 18 years	31,268	2.3%	37,840	2.5%	6,572	21.0%
Female householder, no husband present	130,782	9.8%	158,805	10.5%	28,023	21.4%
With own children under 18 years	83,131	6.2%	92,646	6.1%	9,515	11.4%
Nonfamily households ⁴	456,052	34.2%	555,471	36.6%	99,419	21.8%
Householder living alone	347,624	26.1%	416,747	27.4%	69,123	19.9%
Male	152,305	11.4%	185,048	12.2%	32,743	21.5%
65 years and over	30,173	2.3%	43,703	2.9%	13,530	44.8%
Female	195,319	14.6%	231,699	15.3%	36,380	18.6%
65 years and over	91,027	6.8%	104,295	6.9%	13,268	14.6%

Women and the Economy

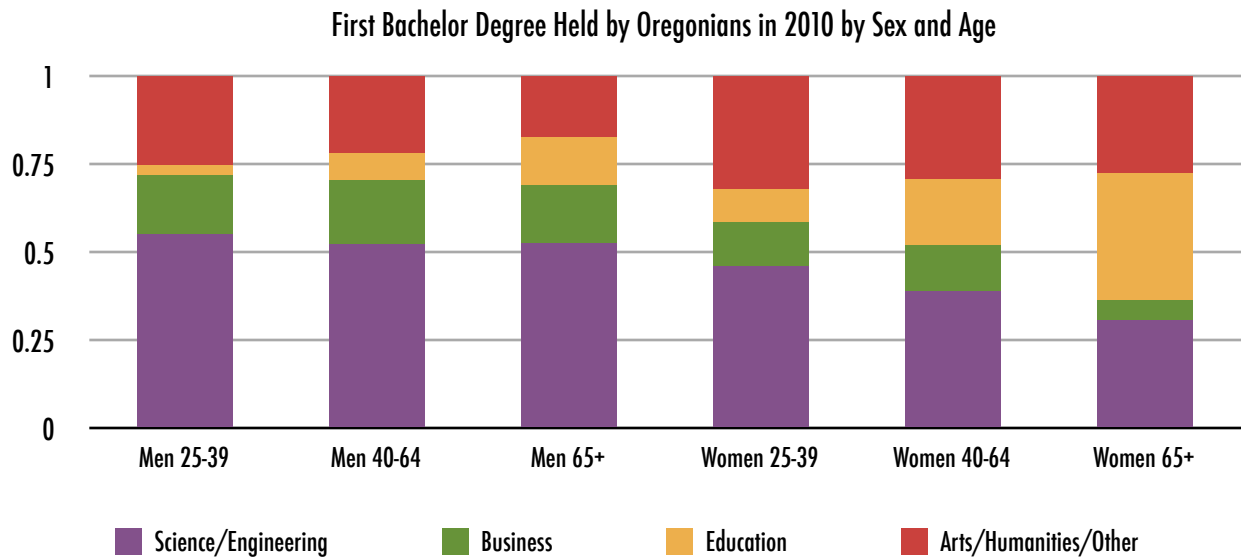
Women’s economic status is tightly tied to their educational achievement and employment status. We continue to see a pervasive wage gap between men and women of the same educational achievement. We also see more women concentrated in lower-wage industries. Poverty is more common among women, often due to their role as primary or sole child caregiver. We also find that women in rural areas experience higher rates of poverty than women in urban areas.

Except where noted, data in this section of the report comes from the [2010 US Census](#).

Education

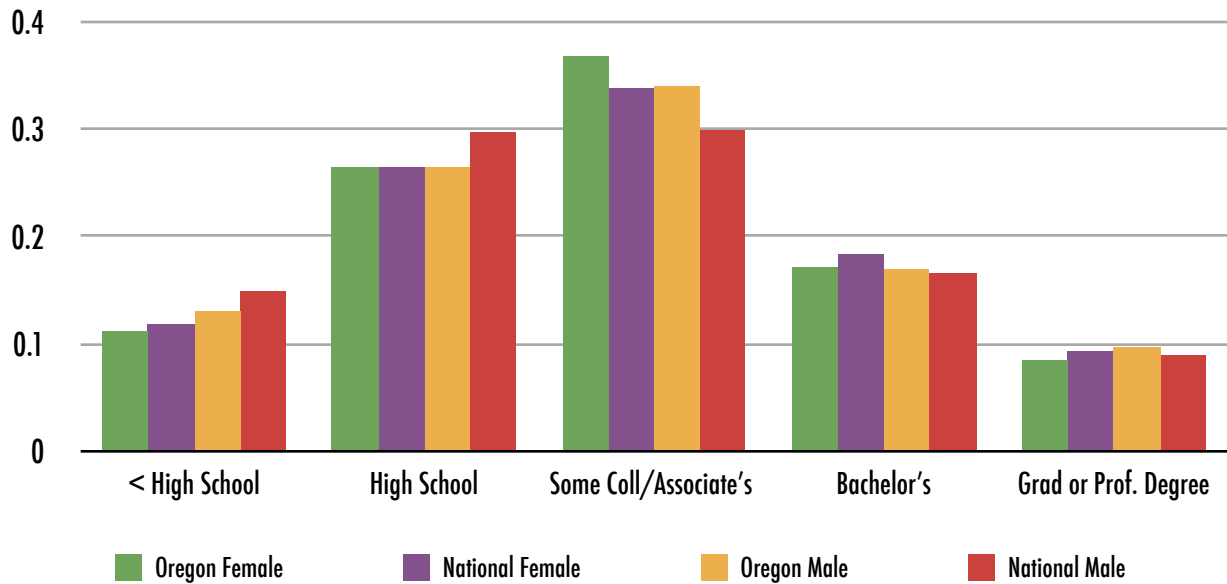
In recent years, women have been making great strides in education, earning more degrees and entering higher-paying fields. According to the [National Science Foundation's Science and Engineering Indicators 2010](#), women's share of bachelor's degrees in computer science has declined in recent years, but women earned half or more of the degrees in psychology, biological sciences, social sciences, agricultural sciences, and chemistry. Women have earned 58 percent of all bachelor's degrees since 2000.

The graph below shows the changes in the types of first bachelor degrees held by Oregonians by sex and age. It is interesting to note the generational changes, as more women enter science-related fields and more men pursue degrees in arts and humanities. The chart also shows the drastic decline of women (and men) who are entering the field of education. (**Note:** The Y axis indicates percentages, with 1 = 100.)



We also note that Oregon is keeping pace with national trends in educational attainment. Slightly more women than men are attaining associate's and bachelor's degrees, while slightly fewer Oregon women than men attain graduate or professional degrees. Nationally, slightly more women than men obtain graduate or professional degrees. (**Note:** The Y axis indicates percentages, with 0.4 = 40 percent.)

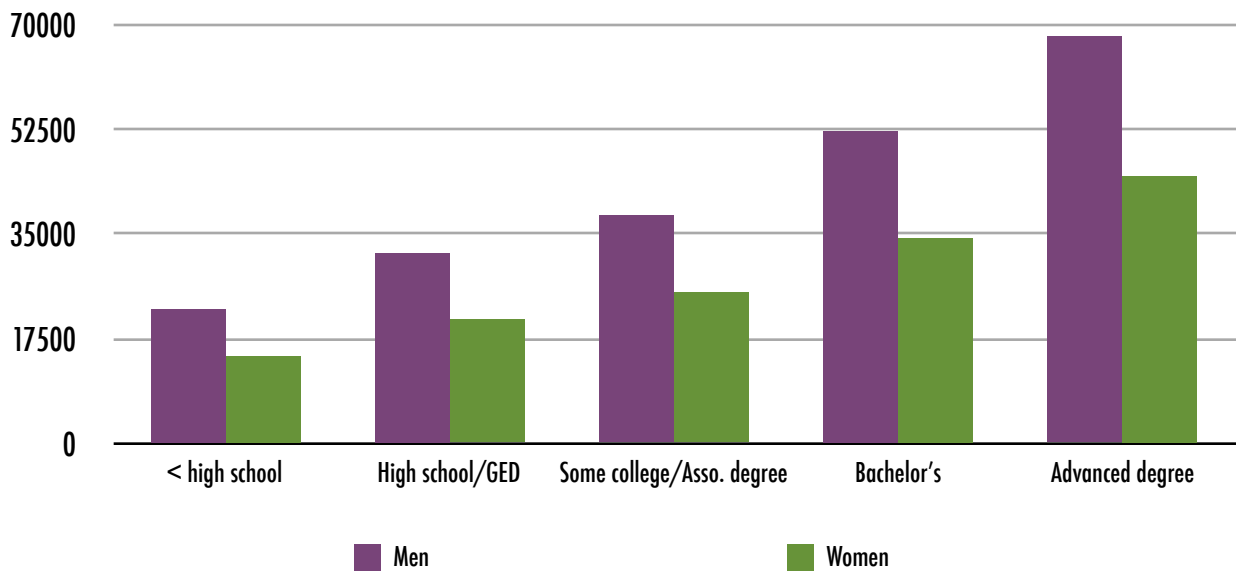
Educational Attainment by Sex in 2010: Oregon Versus National Trends



Employment

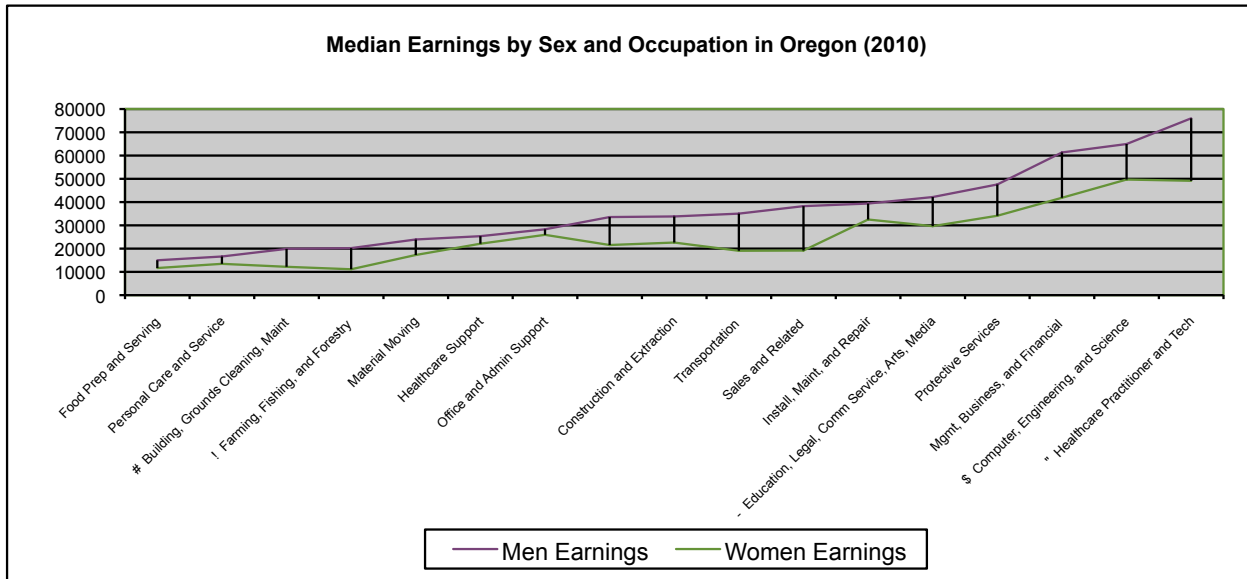
We still see wage disparities between women and men with similar educational attainment. While some of the wage gap can be explained by the types of fields women choose and by career interruption to take care of children or elderly family members, some of the gap is cannot be explained. The American Association of University Women has studied this phenomenon extensively and ranks Oregon 24th in the nation. On average, [Oregon women earned 78 percent](#) of what their male counterparts earned in 2011. Please see AAUW's [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap, 2012 Edition](#) for a thorough analysis of the wage gap.

Median Income by Sex and Education in Oregon (2010)

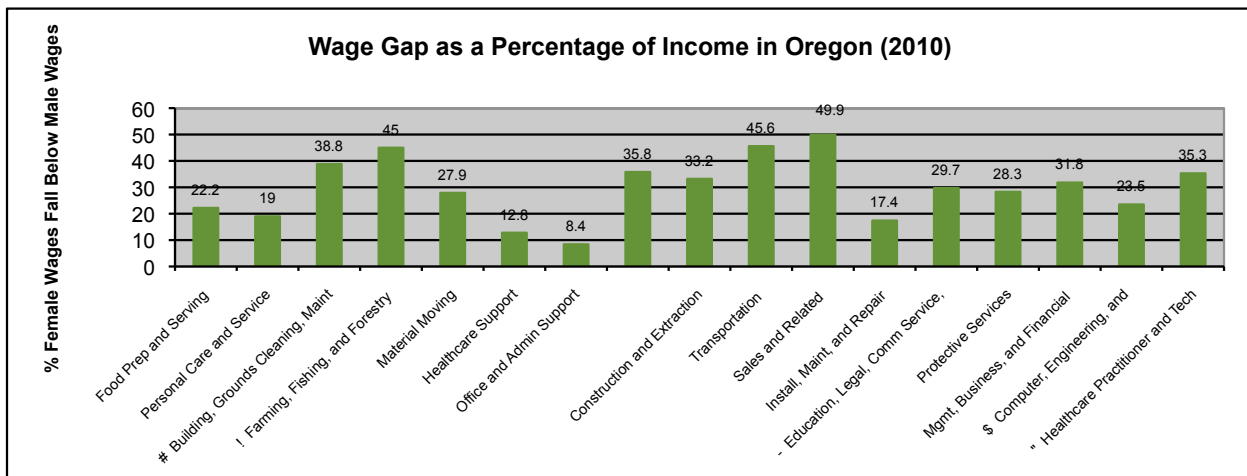


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The amount of the wage gap depends on the industry that women are working in, but it occurs in all industries. The graph below shows median earnings by sex and occupation.



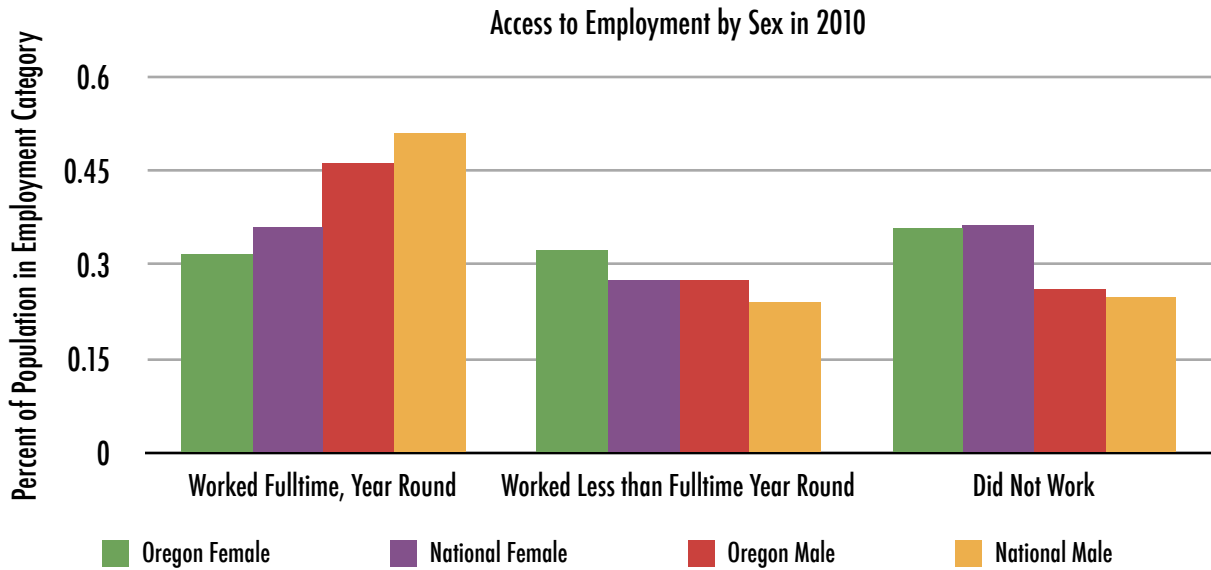
While the wage gap persists across every occupational category, it is more or less pronounced in specific industries. The graph below shows the wage gap as a percentage of income by industry. The three worst occupations for wage equity are Sales and Related; Transportation; and Farming, Fishing, and Forestry. The three occupations that exhibit the greatest wage equity are Office and Admin Support; Healthcare Support; and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair.



Our research showed that when there are more women within a field, inequity decreases, but so do median annual wages for everyone in the group. In terms of absolute presence (number of women), the top three fields for women are Management, Business, and Financial; Education, Legal, Community Service, and Arts; and Office and Administrative Support. As a percentage of the field, the top three fields for women are Office and Administrative Support, Personal Care and Service Occupations, and Healthcare Support Occupations.

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Access to employment generally mirrors national trends. As in the rest of the nation, Oregon women are more likely than men to work less than full time or not at all. (**Note:** The Y axis indicates percentages, with 0.6 = 60 percent.)

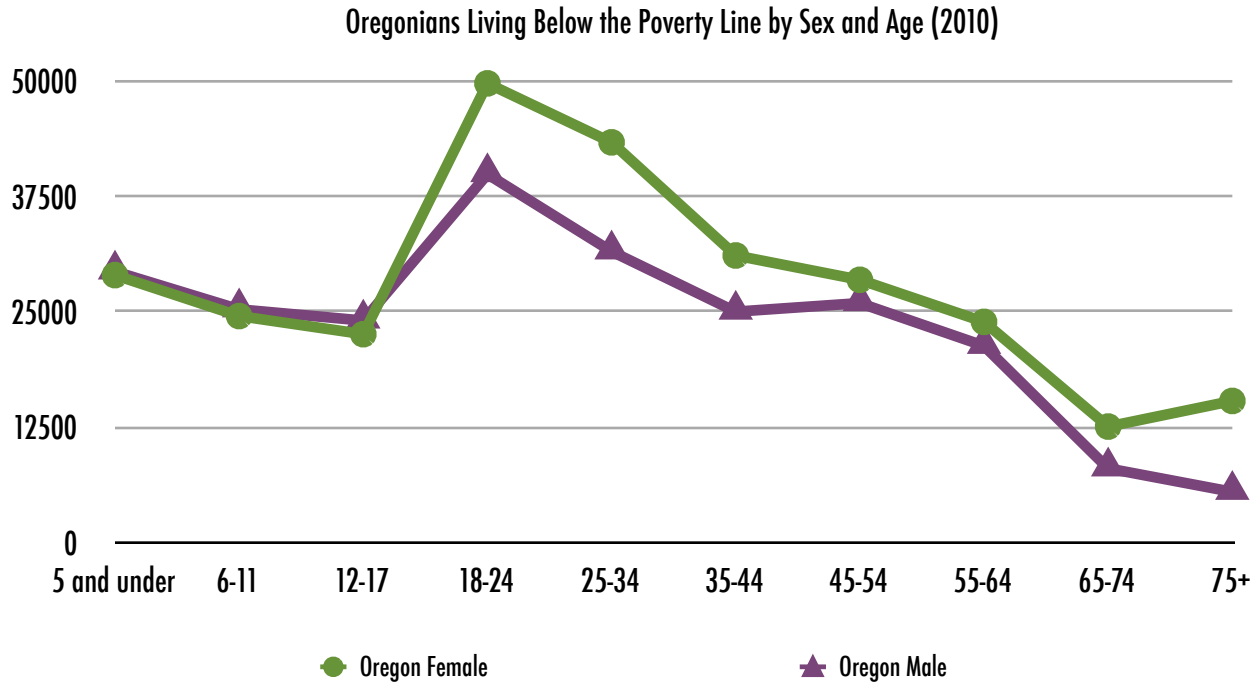


Poverty

The following table shows the percent of male and female Oregonians who live in poverty by age group. After the age of 18, Oregon women are more likely than men to live in poverty, as demonstrated by the graph following the table. While women reach near-parity in their 50s and 60s, women over 75 are significantly more likely than men to live in poverty.

Age	Male	Female
5 and under	0.80%	0.79%
6 to 11	0.69%	0.67%
12 to 17	0.65%	0.61%
18 to 24	1.08%	1.35%
25 to 34	0.85%	1.18%
35 to 44	0.68%	0.84%
45 to 54	0.70%	0.77%
55 to 64	0.58%	0.63%
65 to 74	0.22%	0.34%
75 +	0.15%	0.42%

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Poverty is concentrated among families with children. The [chart below](#), from Oregon Office of Equity and Inclusion (data from the American Community Survey), shows that more than half of all Oregon female-headed households with children under the age of five were living in poverty at some point during the 2008 to 2010 period. The poverty rate varies by race and ethnicity, with women of color experiencing significantly higher rates of poverty than white women. The poverty guideline used in the Census (\$22,000 for family of four) is different than the guideline used federally (\$23,050 for family of four).

Subject	Hispanic/ Latino	Non-Latino African American	Non-Latino AI/AN	Non-Latino Asian	Non-Latino Multiracial	Non- Latino White
Poverty Rates (among populations for which poverty rate can be determined)						
All families (962,586)	24.8%	25.8%	16.2%	9.2%	16.3%	8.1%
All families with related children under 18 years	29.8%	36.6%	22.7%	9.8%	22.4%	13.7%
All families with related children under 5 years only	28.8%	50.6%	29.4%	11.0%	26.4%	16.7%
Female householder with family, no husband present (157,117)	49.9%	44.8%	30.0%	26.4%	38.5%	26.4%
Female householder...with related children under 18	54.7%	54.6%	37.9%	31.0%	46.6%	35.5%
Female householder...with related children under 5	55.3%	71.6%	48.8%	55.8%	61.6%	49.0%
All people	26.3%	29.7%	24.0%	13.3%	18.3%	12.3%
Under 18 years	32.5%	38.4%	26.1%	12.9%	16.6%	15.2%
18 years and over	22.1%	26.3%	23.1%	13.4%	19.6%	11.7%

Poverty: Urban vs. Rural

According to the 2010 U.S. Census 79.5 percent of women live in urban areas of Oregon. An estimated 17.4 percent, over 267,000, of those women are currently living below 100 percent of the poverty threshold. About 13.2 percent of women living in rural Oregon live below this threshold. It is estimated that 46 percent of urban Oregonians living below the poverty threshold access SNAP (supplemental nutrition assistance program) benefits, compared with 37.5 percent of rural Oregonians living below the poverty threshold.

Women and Health

This section of the report presents information about the state of health and healthcare access for Oregon women. We have used data from the American Community Survey (ACS) from the U.S. Census, from several statewide data self-reported surveys including the [Behavioral Risk Factor Survey](#) (BRFSS) and the [Pregnancy Risk Assessment and Monitoring Survey \(PRAMS\)](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the [Oregon Health Insurance Survey](#) (OHIS), as well as other reports from state and federal agencies.

Women's Health Report Card

The 2010 edition of [Making the Grade on Women's Health: A National and State-by-State Report Card](#) measures women's access to health care, wellness and prevention, living and health status in the United States. This report card, put forth by the National Women's Law Center, evaluates women's health in all 50 states and the District of Columbia every 10 years. The report card is the only comprehensive, specific evaluation of women's health in the United States. It incorporates the Healthy People 2010 goals set forth by the Department of Health and Human Services alongside female-specific health goals.

The Report Card uses data from the U.S. Census, including the American Community Survey and Current Population Survey. Additional data sources include the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey reports from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and reports from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The Affordable Care Act of March 2010 addresses many of the benchmarks used for the Report Card. As the Affordable Care Act phases in over the next few years, we hope to see positive changes in many of the women's healthcare benchmarks. We believe that including this data in our report this year will provide baseline data for evaluating the effect of the Affordable Care Act on Oregon's women.

The *Women's Health Care Report Card* considers both policy and services in its 34 status indicators and 68 policy indicators assessing women's health. These indicators are divided into four categories: Women's access to health care services, addressing wellness and prevention, key health conditions, diseases and causes of death for women, and living in a healthy community.

Policy indicators

The Women's Health Care Report Card rates 68 policy indicators for Women's Health. For each indicator, states are rated on whether they have state policies that meet the criteria established for the indicator. If the policy meets the criteria, it is considered "Meets Policy"; if it meets some criteria, it is rated a "Limited Policy"; and if it meets a small amount of the criteria, it is considered a "Weak Policy." Policies can also be rated as "Harmful" and "No Policy." Areas that do not meet policy should be evaluated for potential changes. We note that policies are subject to change and that the Affordable Care Act, as well as local Oregon legislation and agency rules, may have changed these policies since the National Women's Law Center released the 2010 *Women's Health Care Report Card*.

Meets Policy:

- Comprehensive requirements for providing interpretation/translation services to those with limited English proficiency
- Private insurance: Gender rating prohibited in individual market; required to provide maternity care; required to cover diabetes supplies and education; required to cover breast reconstruction surgery; required to cover Pap smears, cervical cancer screening, mammograms, and colorectal cancer screening; cannot use domestic violence as a disqualifying pre-existing condition
- Managed care programs: must allow direct access to OB/GYN care, must cover cost of clinical trials, and must grant patients the right to external review of decisions
- Public insurance (OHP): No restrictions on the number of prescriptions covered, mail-in application, coverage for women screened under the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (we note that work is being done to include women who fall through cracks in this program or who receive a diagnosis elsewhere), expanded coverage for family planning, covers smoking cessation
- Mental health parity
- Abortion Access: No restrictions on private insurance coverage, no parental consent/notification requirement, no mandatory delays or counseling requirements, public funding
- Receives CDC funds for arthritis programs
- State requires sexuality education, including contraceptive information and STD/STI/HIV education (we note the passage of the 2011 Healthy Teen Relationships Act and look forward to its additions to the curriculum)
- Nutrition: Food stamp outreach program, food stamp nutrition education
- Healthy community: child support pass-through system, state-supplemented SSI grants, minimum wage allows family of three to reach the poverty level, prohibition of employment discrimination on basis of sexual orientation, prohibition of employment or health insurance discrimination on basis of genetic information

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Limited Policies:

- OHP for pregnant women: Eligibility is set between 134 and 200 percent of poverty level for pregnant women
- OHP for childless adults: Program caps enrollment
- No mandate for guaranteed-issue private insurance
- Insurance regulations allow consideration of gender when rating large groups
- State limits eligibility for AIDS Drug Assistance Program to incomes less than 400 percent of the federal poverty level
- Not all health plans are required to cover anorexia, bulimia, and depression
- Religious refusal clauses apply to contraceptive coverage
- Pharmacists cannot dispense emergency contraception without a prescription
- State has passed limited clinic access legislation to protect women and providers from violence and harassment at reproductive health centers
- Pharmacists are allowed to refuse to fill prescriptions based on personal beliefs, but not to obstruct patient access to medication
- Family leave is available, but not paid; however, it is expanded from the federal requirements
- Exercise: Oregon requires less than four years of physical education in high school
- Sales of tobacco products to minors comprise between 10 and 20 percent of sales, and the excise tax for cigarettes is less than \$1.50
- The child support collection rate is between 50 and 60 percent

Weak Policies:

- OHP and CHIP eligibility is set at 134 percent to 200 percent of the federal poverty level for pregnant women (eligibility must be set at 200 or more percent to meet policy)
- State law does not make sure women have access to reproductive health care services when faced with a religious refusal to provide services
- Funding level for tobacco cessation programs is at less than 50 percent of the CDC's recommended minimum

No Policy:

- OHP eligibility not expanded for working parents at more than 74 percent of federal poverty level
- OHP eligibility not expanded for aged and disabled
- OHP presumptive eligibility not provided to pregnant women
- Long-term care ombuds program paid staffing is less than one per 2,000 beds, as recommended by the Institute of Medicine

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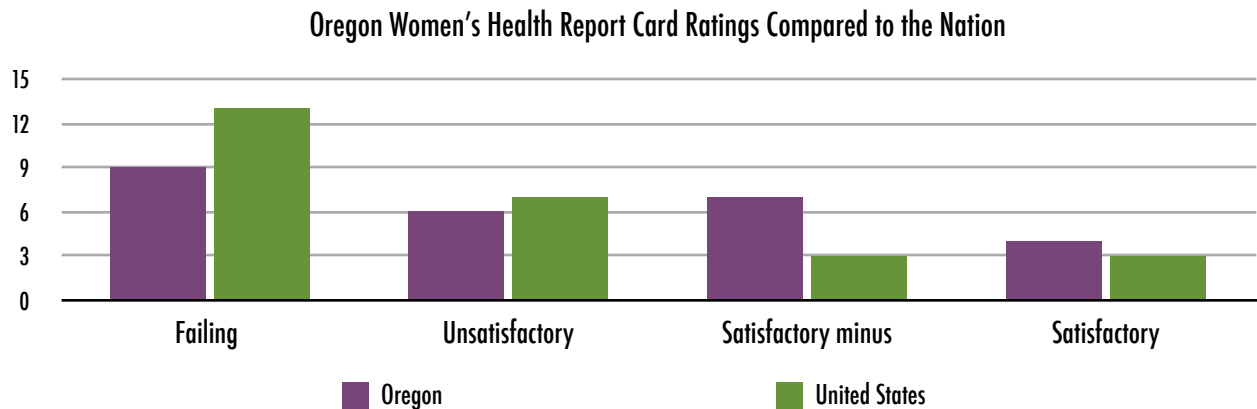
- Oregon uses lowest permitted level of Medicaid spousal impoverishment eligibility rules for nursing home residents
- No hospital length-of-stay protections for mastectomy patients
- No policy regarding infertility treatment coverage for private insurers
- No policies requiring written protocols for identifying and treating domestic violence victims, routine screening for domestic violence abuse, and training to help health care providers and domestic violence victims
- No temporary disability insurance
- Private insurers not required to cover chlamydia or osteoporosis screening
- No maternal mortality review board
- State has not rejected federal Title V funding for abstinence-only sexual health education (note that abstinence-only education prohibits information about proper use of contraceptives or their efficacy in preventing pregnancy or STIs and curriculum promotes gender and relationship stereotypes)
- No policies requiring waiting periods or licensing for handgun purchases
- No policies requiring gun owners to safely store guns away from children or use safety locks
- No policies that limit the carrying of concealed weapons

Harmful Policies:

- State applies asset test for parents for eligibility for OHP
- OHP requires a co-payment of more than \$2 for prescriptions

Status Indicators

For basic healthcare status measures, Oregon ranks tenth from the top among the states with a grade of unsatisfactory. (No state received an overall satisfactory grade; only Vermont and Massachusetts received satisfactory-minus grades.)



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- Oregon received a rating of satisfactory on four measures, including percentage of mammograms, colorectal cancer death rate, leisure-time physical activity, and dental visits.
- Oregon received a rating of satisfactory minus in seven measures, including coronary heart disease rate, breast cancer death rate, AIDS rate, percentage of women with chlamydia, maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, and percentage of high school completion.
- Oregon received a rating of unsatisfactory in six measures, including women in a county without an abortion provider, women undergoing cholesterol screening, percentage of obese women, percentage of women who smoke, percentage of women with high blood pressure, and life expectancy.
- Oregon is failing in nine measures, including women without health insurance, percentage of women obtaining pap smears, women eating sufficient servings of fruit and vegetables, women participating in binge drinking, stroke and lung cancer death rate, percentage of women with diabetes, percentage of women living in poverty, and the wage gap.

Access to Health Care

Access to health care and health insurance is critical for Oregon women, and we look forward to the additional access that will be provided by the Affordable Care Act. This section presents statistics that we can use to measure the improvements.

There are [several sources of data](#) for information about uninsured Oregonians. The [2011 Oregon Health Insurance Survey](#) (OHIS), conducted by the Oregon Health Authority, surveyed 10,000 Oregon residents for insurance status. The [American Community Survey](#), conducted by the U. S. Census Bureau also addresses insurance coverage.

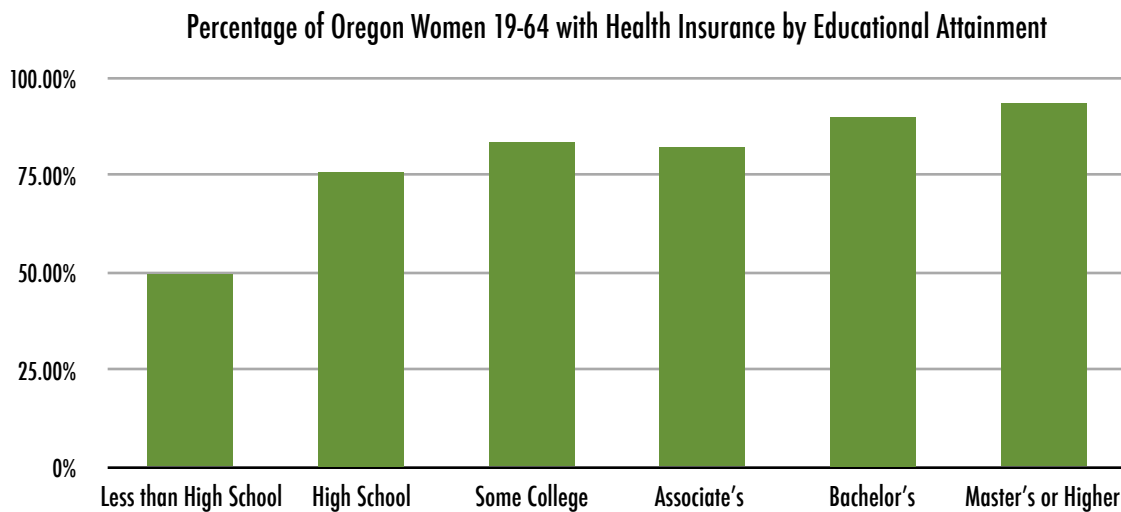
We note that women are slightly less likely to be uninsured than men and that children and those over 65 are much more likely to be insured thanks to the Healthy Kids Plan and Medicare. Here are some facts about Oregon women and insurance coverage:

- Between 13.7 percent and 15.6 percent of Oregon women were uninsured during 2011. This compares to the estimated 22.3 percent of Oregonians who were uninsured at some point during the year.
- The *Women's Health Report Card* graded Oregon with an F for insurance access in 2010. It also estimates that in 2010, the uninsured rates by race and ethnicity were as follows:
 - Latina/Hispanic: 52.2 percent
 - African American: 21.6 percent
 - Asian/Pacific Islander: 20 percent
 - Native American: 58.5
 - White: 17.8 percent
- For women who have insurance, 51.2 percent have a group policy, 29.5 percent use public health insurance, and 5 percent have individual plans.



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- An estimated 55.6 percent of 2011 Oregon Health Plan users were women, compared to 44.4 percent men. The breakdown by race and ethnicity for female Oregon Health Plan users is shown below, along with the demographic makeup of Oregon for comparison. For 7.2 percent of women, race or ethnicity is unknown.
 - Latina/Hispanic: 21 percent (12 percent)
 - African American: 3.9 percent (2 percent)
 - Asian: 1.8 percent (3.9 percent)
 - Native American: 1.8 percent (1.8 percent)
 - White: 62 percent (88.6 percent)
- The percentage of women who have insurance rises with educational attainment.



- According to the *Women's Health Report Card*, about 8.6 percent of Oregonians live in medically underserved areas, meaning that they have reduced access to primary care services. This typically applies to rural Oregon.
- The *Women's Health Report Card* also notes that 26 percent of Oregon women live in a county with no abortion provider.

Wellness Screening and Prevention

The *Women's Health Report Card* (2010) addresses several health screening procedures as well as key indicators for disease prevention. Oregon did very well on some of these measures, but failed in others.

Pap Smears (F)

About 75 percent of women in Oregon have had this test in the past three years, which compares with 83 percent nationally and puts Oregon at a national rank of 42nd. Only 50.6 percent of

women over 65 have had the test in that time period. We are aware that national guidelines for test frequency are changing and that may affect this measure.

Mammograms (S)

Oregon received a Satisfactory rating for mammograms, which measures the number of women over 40 who have had a mammogram in the past two years. Oregon ranked 25th in the nation, with 75.4 percent of women in the target age range receiving mammograms. Unfortunately, Latina/Hispanic women are underserved, with only 67.6 percent reporting that they had received this test. Again, national recommendations are in flux for this measure.

Colorectal cancer screening (S)

Oregon ranks 17th, with 66.2 percent of Oregon women receiving this important test.

Cholesterol screening (U)

Oregon received an unsatisfactory rating and ranked 42nd in the nation with 75.9 percent of women screened for high cholesterol.

Physical Activity (S)

Oregon women rank 3rd in the nation for physical activity behind Minnesota and Colorado. This is one area where we do very well.

Obesity (U)

Although Oregon ranks 6th in the nation, it still receives an unsatisfactory rating for the 23.5 percent of Oregon women who are considered obese. For female Native Americans in Oregon, the obesity rate is 42.1 percent.

Eating Right (F)

In spite of the proliferation of farmer's markets and farm-to-table programs, only 31 percent of Oregon women report eating 5 servings of fruit and vegetables a day. Even ranking 12th in the United States earns an F.



Additional Health Indicators

According to BRFSS (latest data from 2009-10), when asked about their health status, 16.6 percent of Oregon women report fair or poor health. Over the course of a month, 41.7 percent reported poor physical health and 42.6 percent report poor mental health at least one day during that month. Of these women, 46.1 percent reported at least one day a month in which their poor physical or mental health prevented them from engaging in the usual activities including work, self-care, and recreation.

Hunger

The USDA reported 14.7 percent of US households were food insecure in 2009. In 2010, 11.3 percent of women living alone, 14.8 percent of single-female headed households, and 16 percent of Oregon households below 185 percent federal poverty limit had very low food security, according to BRFSS. Low food security is defined as those who were unable to buy enough food, skipped meals, could not afford balanced meals, experienced hunger, or had food that did not last. Most of the women in food-insecure households reported an inability to obtain enough food and skipping meals almost every month (52.4 percent). In 2010, 17.9 percent of Oregon households received food stamps; 44 percent of these were female-headed households.

Obesity

Obesity is measured using body mass index (BMI). BMIs below 18.5 are considered underweight, 18.5-25 as normal weight, 25-30 as overweight, and greater than 30 as obese. Obesity has become an epidemic in the United States with no singular source. In Oregon, 26.6 percent of women self-report as overweight and 26.4 self-report as obese. These numbers mean that over half of Oregon women are at risk for chronic diseases including diabetes and heart disease.

Maternal Health

In 2009 the rate of pregnancy in Oregon was 12.3 per 1000 women of child-bearing age. In 2008, 51.8 percent of mothers reported doing something to prevent pregnancy, and 4.1 percent of women reported problems in obtaining birth control. Almost 20 percent of women did not obtain prenatal care as early as they would have liked with 16.9 percent reporting not having enough



insurance and 6.8 percent reporting inability to make it to a doctors office (latest published data from the [Oregon Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System—PRAMS](#)). 41.7 percent of mothers report using resources provided by the USDA Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

A troubling statistic continues in the areas of low birth weight and infant mortality for African American women. Infant mortality refers to death during the first year of life and low birth weight refers to an infant weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces at birth. While infant mortality has decreased from 5.9 per 1000 in 2007 to 5 in 2012, according to the United Health Foundation, the children of African-American women are at much higher risk of low birth weight or infant mortality. This is not an Oregon-specific issue, although we encourage further research and assistance at the state level to mitigate this. Programs which have been noted to assist in these areas are early prenatal care, cultural proficiency, and expanded healthcare.

The *Women’s Health Report Card* estimated that 79.2 percent of Oregon women reported on their child’s birth certificate that they received first-trimester prenatal care. Hispanic women report first-trimester care at 70.1 percent, African American women at 72.1 percent, and white women at 82.4 percent.

Alcohol, Smoking, and Exercise

The following table presents additional indicators based on BRFSS data.

Alcohol	Smoking	Exercise
19.4% of women report binge drinking at least once in a month. (2010)	15.8% of women currently smoke (2009)	19.3% of women do not engage in exercise (2009)

Baby-friendly hospital initiative

The [Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative](#) (BFHI) is a worldwide program of the World Health Organization and UNICEF, launched in 1991 following the adoption of the Innocenti Declaration on breastfeeding promotion in 1990. The initiative is a global effort for improving the role of maternity services to enable mothers to breastfeed babies for the best start in life. It aims at improving the care of pregnant women, mothers, and newborns at health facilities that provide maternity services for protecting, promoting, and supporting breastfeeding, in accordance with the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes.



The [Lund Report](#) states, "Of the 52 hospitals in Oregon doing births, five have been designated as Baby Friendly: PeaceHealth Nurse Midwifery Birth Center, Three Rivers Community Hospital, Kaiser Sunnyside, Providence Medford Medical Center and Providence Newberg Medical Center. Sacred Heart Medical Center intends to pursue the designation and McKenzie-Willamette Medical Center has expressed interest. Also, Providence Health & Services Oregon and Legacy Health System are pursuing Baby-Friendly status for their facilities."

Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking

The Oregon Department of Human Services defines domestic violence as all forms of physical, sexual, verbal, and emotional abuse used to coerce or control another individual. When this abuse occurs by a partner including (ex-)spouse, (ex-)boyfriend/girlfriend it is called intimate partner violence. Stalking is defined as intentional repeated unwanted contact with a victim that causes reasonable fear. In January of 2012 the FBI's definition of rape was broadened to include forcible oral or anal penetration. This change allows expanded data collection that will include men. While this change in definition will not change legal action, the statistics are expected to increase as they will include more things.

In 2012 the Department of Human Services [reported](#) that intimate partner violence accounted for one in four homicides in Oregon, and 45 percent of homicides of females between 2003 and 2010. From 2005 to 2010, one in ten women reported physical or sexual assault by an intimate partner. From 2003-2009 the Department of Human Services found that the majority of intimate partner violence homicide victims had achieved a high school diploma. The majority of victims were married females. Eighty percent of female homicide victims of domestic violence were killed by intimate partners, and 66 percent of those killed by intimate partners were living with their partners at the time and were killed in their own home.

In 2010, the CDC estimated that 409,000 women, 27.2 percent of Oregon's female population, were victims of rape at least once in their lives. In this same year, the CDC estimated 55.7 percent or 837,000 Oregonian women were victims of sexual assault other than rape during their lifetime.

The CDC also reports that women and men who experience domestic violence and sexual assault are more likely to report poor health, chronic pain, difficulty sleeping, and limitations than those

who do not experience this violence. For women, this violence often takes multiple forms including physical and sexual assault. The CDC also estimates that 80 percent of female victims are victimized before the age of 25.

32.6 percent of child protective cases had domestic violence as family stress indicator. ([DHS](#))

These numbers indicate need for closer inspection and closer tracking of domestic violence leading to murder. Some of the organizations do not include perpetrators in the number of domestic violence/intimate partner violence in their definition, accounting for some variation in numbers cited. In 2005, the Oregon legislature passed SB 1047 authorizing the formation of a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, codified later in ORS 418.714 and ORS 418.718. This statute gives the Department of Human Services the authority to form a statewide interdisciplinary team to meet semi-annually and review domestic violence cases. Some counties also have a Domestic Violence Review Board. These review teams are helpful in highlighting stress factors, identifying areas of potential assistance, and raising awareness of intimate partner violence.

According to the April 2012 report [Striving to Meet the Need: Summary of Services Provided by Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs in Oregon](#) prepared by DHS Child Welfare Programs, over 175,000 calls for help were made to Oregon domestic and sexual violence programs in 2011—a 4 percent increase over 2010. Unfortunately, 20,681 requests for shelter could not be met (although this number does not take into consideration people calling multiple shelters looking for assistance.) Yet, this is a 9 percent decrease over the unmet calls from 2010. In 2011, 44 percent of those in shelter were under 18 years of age.

The 2012 report did not include statistics on domestic violence fatalities; however, a similar report for 2010 noted that 55 victims, including 4 minors, were killed, while 14 perpetrators were killed.

[The National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) reported that in 2011, 191 calls were made regarding human trafficking in Oregon. Human trafficking is defined as an illegal trade of human either for commercial sex or forced labor. The [Polaris Project](#) notes that anyone can become a victim, but persons most vulnerable to trafficking include undocumented migrants, runaway or homeless youth, and oppressed marginalized or impoverished groups or individuals. Much of human trafficking goes unreported and many victims do not seek help immediately due to shame or lack of trust of authority. Of these calls, 29 referenced trafficking situations, 13 were potential victims of trafficking and 10 referenced minors in trafficking situations. Human trafficking involves individuals in the sex trade, domestic work or labor against their will. 2011 Legislature passed a slate of bills to deal with HT, including outreach through voluntary National Trafficking Hotline stickers in restaurants and bars, stronger punishments for coercing prostitution, and higher fines.

Women and the Criminal Justice System

The number of incarcerated women in Oregon has been increasing and with the discussions around budgeting for prisons vs. schools, it is important to understand this population as policies are developed. Data in this section was compiled by our public policy intern, Megan Rasmussen, who is working on a M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Portland State University. She was graciously assisted by Jeff Duncan from the [Oregon Department of Corrections](#). Data is from the November 2012 Current Offender information.



Facilities and Population

Oregon operates one main facility for female prisoners. The Coffee Creek Correctional Facility in Wilsonville, Oregon, houses both a medium-security prison (CCCF) and a minimum-security prison (CCCM). As of November 2012, 621 women were incarcerated at CCCF and 582 women at CCCM. The following table shows the breakdown of ages in both facilities.

Age	CCCF	CCCM
17 and under	0	0
18 to 24	88	57
25 to 30	130	108
31 to 45	262	276
46 to 60	127	124
61 and older	14	17

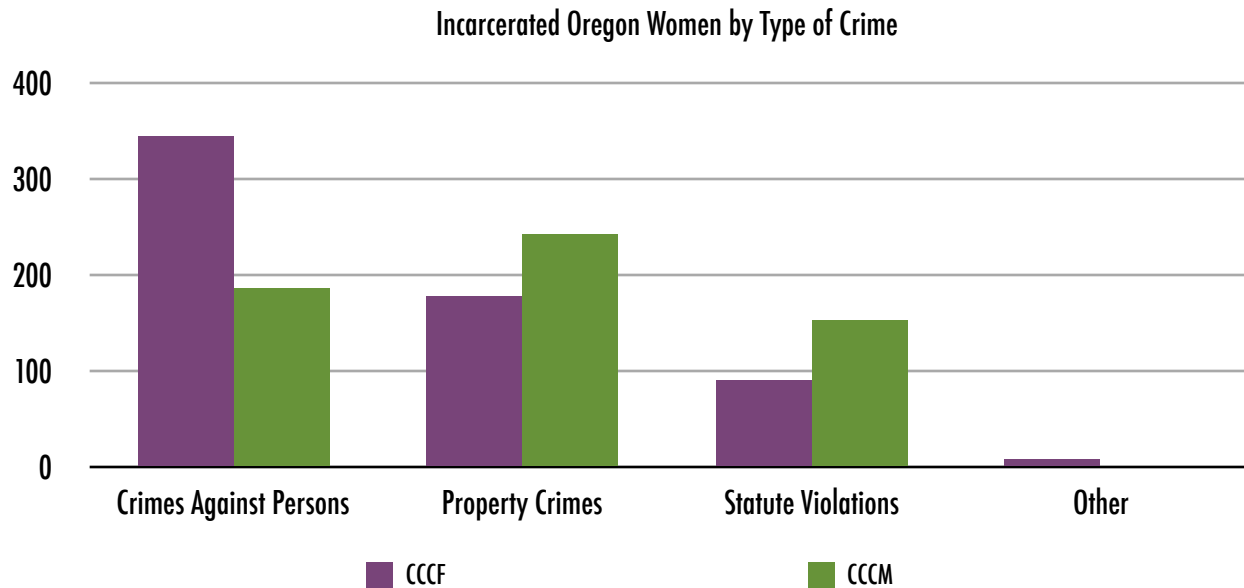
Oregon Commission for Women

This table shows the race and ethnicity of the inmates at the two facilities. For comparison, we have included general demographic percentages for Oregon. From this data, we observe that African American and Native American women are incarcerated at higher rate than their percentage of the Oregon population.

Race/Ethnicity	CCCF	CCCM	Oregon %
Asian	8 (1%)	7 (1%)	4.5%
African American	53 (9%)	36 (6%)	2%
Latina/Hispanic	28 (5%)	12 (2%)	10.3%
Native American	27 (4%)	14 (2%)	1.4%
White	505 (81%)	513 (88%)	81.8%

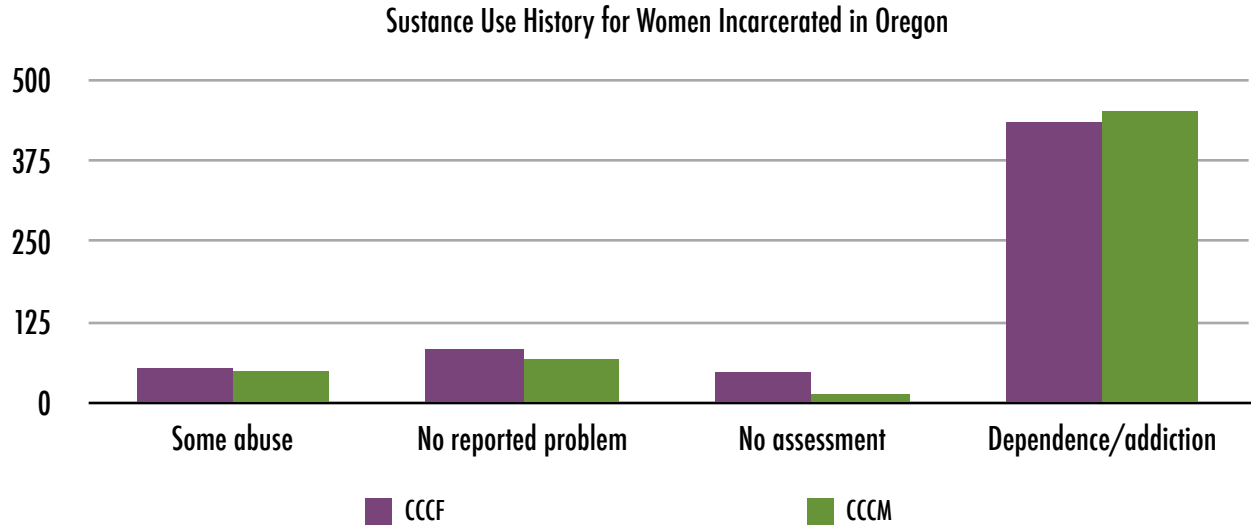
Type of Crime

Oregon women are incarcerated primarily for person and property crimes. The following chart shows the types of crimes for which women were incarcerated as of November 2012.



Substance Use

The following graph addresses substance use history in incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facilities. It is startling how many of the women in our correctional institutions struggle with addiction issues. Data are reported for November 2012.



Education

The lack of education correlates highly with incarceration. The table below shows the amount and type of education that would be needed before the inmate would be eligible for any extracurricular and education classes within the prison.

	CCCF	CCCM
GED program needed	31	38
Adult basic education required	81	56
English as a second language	14	2
No need—training eligible	126	162
Need skill upgrade	278	266
Adult basic education needed	70	58
Not assessed	21	

Employment

Employment is also included in the data that the Department of Corrections tracks. This data is from the intake survey presented to current inmates. The intake survey can provide some important information but it should be noted that not all of the questions are answered and the answers are not verified. The current inmates at the CCCF/CCCM facility (as of November 2012) reported the following information about their employment prior to incarceration during intake:

- Working: 302
 - Working full time: 170
 - Working part time: 132
- Unemployed: 750
 - Unemployed 6 months or less: 157
 - Unemployed 7–12 months: 109
 - Unemployed 1–2 years: 149
 - Unemployed more than 2 years: 335
- For those working, length of employment:
 - 6 months or less: 60
 - 7–12 months: 39
 - 1–5 years: 117
 - 6–10 years: 30
 - 11 or more years: 54

Children of Incarcerated Women

The intake survey is also able to provide data on those inmates who have children. Each of the current inmates were asked, “Do you have children who are less than 18 years of age (biological, step, adopted, foster child, other)?” A total of 649 answered yes and 355 said no. Another question each current inmate was asked is “Are you or your partner, now pregnant with a child?” There were a total of 966 who answered no and 33 who answered yes. *Nearly two-thirds of women incarcerated in Oregon have children under 18 or are pregnant.*

Women's Political Participation

Voting and Registration

According to the 2010 US Census Bureau Population Survey November Supplement, 68.6 percent of Oregon's women are registered to vote, and men are registered at a slightly lower rate, 66.1 percent. The total population is registered at 67.4 percent. In the November 2010 election, 56.2 percent of women citizens voted and 53.5 percent of all women in Oregon voted.

Women in Office

In the 2011 legislative session, women made up 27.8 percent of the legislature (25 out of 90 seats). In 2012, women made up 28.9 percent of the legislature (26 out of 90 seats). Oregon ranks 15th in the country for the percentage of women in the legislature. Colorado, with 41 percent women in its legislature, ranks first.

The November 2012 election heralded some firsts for Oregon women: Oregon elected its first female Attorney General, Ellen Rosenblum; Representative Jessica Vega Pederson became the first Latina elected to the state House; and Representative Tina Kotek became the first openly gay person to be elected speaker in any state legislature. Oregon also added a woman to its Congressional delegation in a special election in early 2012, Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici, representing Oregon's First Congressional District.

Commission Activities

This section of the report details activities of the OCFW. The past year was a very active one for the Commission on several fronts.

Advocacy and Outreach

Proposed Legislation

2012 marks the first time the OCFW has proposed its own legislation. Commissioners worked with the governor's office, the Office of Legislative Counsel, Oregon Judicial Department, the Department of Justice and multiple other stakeholders to submit HB2226, Confidential Name Change for DV Survivors for the 2013 legislative session.

Currently, a person seeking to change their name in Oregon must publish notice of the proposed change and the court file is a public record subject to disclosure to anyone who requests it. Domestic violence victims seeking to start over after surviving abuse are often fearful of seeking a name change because they may be fleeing from an abuser who may be able to learn their location and new name. HB2226 utilizes the DOJ's previously existing Address Confidentiality Program for domestic violence victims established under ORS 192.826. Once a person qualifies for that program, she is eligible in the Circuit Court for a waiver of the notice provisions required by ORS 33.420, and may apply to the court to have the file sealed after the name change is granted.

The OCFW hopes that Oregon will join multiple other states and the Social Security Administration in recognizing that domestic violence survivors need the protection of the laws to assist them in starting over with new names and identification numbers, free from the fear that they will be tracked down repeatedly and subjected to further abuse.



Testimony

During the 2012 legislative session, the OCFW submitted testimony on several bills. You can read the actual testimony by clicking the links.

[HB4077](#), the Healthy Teen Relationships Act, directing school boards to adopt policy regarding teen dating violence, as strong evidence shows that domestic violence prevention efforts are most effective in the teen years when behavior patterns are not yet ingrained.

Oregon Commission for Women

SB1567, The Senior Farm Direct Nutrition Program, expanding the number of vouchers for fresh produce available for seniors living in poverty, a disproportionate number of whom are women.

HB4146, which proposed to allow juveniles with prostitution-related arrests and adjudications to expunge their records without a waiting period when they reach age 18, as many of these young women are victims of sex trafficking and juvenile criminal records prevent constructive employment and healthy adult lives after they escape control of those who have profited from them.

HB4160, appropriating money to assist families during their transition away from TANF.

HB4162, providing civil rights and sexual harassment protections to interns.

OCFW worked with other agencies and women's organizations in order to support several other bills, including:

HB4124, allowing unpaid, job-protected leave for death of a family member.

HB3311, requiring Oregon Health Authority to explore using doulas to improve birth outcome for high-risk pregnancies.

SCR204, Commemorating the Centennial of Women's Suffrage in Oregon;

SCR205, Resolution in Memoriam of Betty Roberts.

Day at the Legislature

The OCFW co-sponsored 2012 Legislative Advocacy Day with the League of Women Voters, and the American Association of University Women. About 90 participants heard from Governor John Kitzhaber and Secretary of State Kate Brown. OCFW presented a short summary of its legislative agenda. Stephanie Vardavas, Sunny Petit, and Jenny Greenleaf then visited many legislators, dropping off copies of the OCFW legislative agenda.



Presentation to AAUW State Convention

Commissioners Petit and Greenleaf presented preliminary data from the Status of Women report to the American Association of University Women's convention in Pendleton, OR. From this effort, we developed a presentation available for use by other commissioners, as well as a two-page handout listing relevant statistics about women in Oregon.

The Status of Oregon Women Report 2013 with Expanded Statistics on Women of Color in Oregon

The Statute that authorizes the Oregon Commission for Women states that one of the duties of the Commission is to analyze and report on the status of women in Oregon each biennium. As the advocacy commissions were defunded, the ability to produce such a report was limited. Although

limited funding has been restored, it is not sufficient to cover the costs of creating a scholarly report. This year, the Commission created several public policy internships to help us gather data without using financial resources.

Where possible, we have presented statistics that break out data by both race/ethnicity and sex. It is obvious that women of color are under-represented in the economy, education, and other arenas of life.

It is not always easy or possible to find data that specifically calls out both race/ethnicity and sex. We urge Oregon agencies to collect and make this data available for future evaluations.

Leadership

Women of Achievement Awards

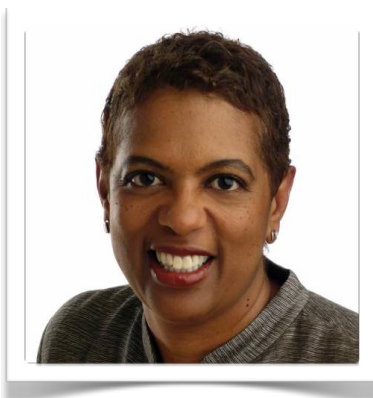
Every year, the OCFW recognizes outstanding Oregon women and celebrates their achievements and their contributions to Oregon. The OCFW's 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, The Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women, planned and executed the 2012 Women of Achievement celebration, held at the Capitol in Salem. Gov. John Kitzhaber handed out the awards with assistance from Commission legislative liaison and Oregon State Representative Betty Komp. Oregon First District Representative Suzanne Bonamici also spoke at the event. This year, we honored four outstanding women.



Robin Morris Collin

Norma J. Paulus Professor of Law
Willamette University College of Law
Salem, Oregon

Ms. Morris Collin has a long record of environmental stewardship, whose leadership as Chair of the Environmental Justice Task Force was reflected through its national recognition for its work. Morris Collin has the honor of also being one of the first American law professors to teach sustainability.



Gina Warren

VP of Diversity and Inclusion
Nike, Inc.
Beaverton, Oregon

Ms. Warren served as an executive at AT&T, Levi Strauss, and currently leads the Office of Global Diversity at Nike, where she founded the Nike Women's Global Leadership Council.

Oregon Commission for Women



Jane O'Keeffe
O'Keeffe Ranch
Adel, OR

Ms. O'Keeffe is a fourth-generation rancher and was instrumental in founding the Lakeview Stewardship Group, which brought together Lake County's timber industry, residents, environmentalists, scientists and U.S. Forest Service officials to create sustainable forest ecosystem management.



Serena Stoudamire Wesley
Portland, Oregon

Ms. Stoudamire Wesley is a deeply respected advocate whose work at the Tri-County Coordinated Care Organization Health Care Delivery, SEI, and Communities of Color has focused on reducing disparities for communities of color.

Women Leaders in Oregon Poster

The OCFW believes that little girls and young women need to see what they can be. The media are full of images that don't truly express the wide range of careers and opportunities available to women. In 2012, the OCFW co-sponsored design and printing of a poster of Women Leaders of Oregon in partnership with the PSU Center for Women, Politics & Policy.

The poster was provided to all schools in Oregon as a resource for teachers in all grades along with the Center's new curriculum on women's leadership. The poster has been well received by the Oregon schools and is the focus of OCFW's joint celebration of Women's History Month 2013 with Dr. Rudy Crew (Oregon Education Officer), the Center for Women Politics and Policy, and community partners.



100th Anniversary of Suffrage in the Portland Rose Parade

The OCFW co-sponsored a parade entry celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Women Suffrage with the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women in the Portland Rose Festival Parade.



Oregon Commission for Women

The OCFW helped organize 100 women representing all Judicial, Executive, and Legislative branches of state government, Congress, the Governor's Office, Oregon business, educators, the trades and other leading women. The marchers, dressed in turn-of-the-last-century garb, elicited a moving standing ovation among the parade watchers along the five-mile route as families cheered and parents lifted their children to see Oregon's finest leaders honor civic engagement and suffrage as living history. Secretary of State Kate Brown and Cheryl Myers, Oregon Director of Economic and Business Equity, joined in the parade.

Co-Sponsorship of the Century of Action Roadshow

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Oregon, the [Oregon Women's History Consortium](#) (OWHC) developed a traveling museum exhibit, "Votes for Women! The Oregon Story." In addition, they created a mock town hall debate, "What's Suffrage Got To Do with It," on the question of women's suffrage. This entertaining and educational presentation, performed in full period costume, was presented at several venues throughout the state. The Commission was honored to provide financial co-sponsorship to cover travel costs as the OWHC delivered this engaging performance and museum exhibit to enthusiastic audiences in many Oregon locations.



Internship

In 2011-12 the OCFW hosted three public policy interns at the master's level. They provided data for this report and for presentations made by Commission members.

The public policy internships provide an opportunity for emerging young leaders graduating with their master's degrees in health, political science, urban planning, criminal justice, public administration, and other fields to share their research with the commissioners, OCFW legislators who serve as mentors for the interns, community partners, state agency leadership, and the governor's office.

Our interns in 2012 were:

Carrie Haddad, who focused on wage equity. Her work was key to the [Women and the Economy](#) section of this report.

Jean Laubinger, whose work is reflected in the [Women and Health](#) section of the report. Ms. Laubinger was also the primary author of [Resources for Women](#), a compilation of quick links to state agencies and other resources for Oregon women which we host on our website.

Megan Rasmussen investigated [Women in the Criminal Justice System](#) and developed the data that appears in that section of the report.

Partnership

With limited funding and resources, the Commission believes it can best accomplish its goals by working in partnership with our sister advocacy commissions, other state agencies, community partners, and our adjunct 501(c)3 organization.

Work with the Joint Oregon Advocacy Commissions

The OCFW partners with the other Oregon Advocacy Commissions: the Commissions on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OCAPIA), Black Affairs (OCBA), and Hispanic Affairs (OCHA) to host forums and develop resources that support public policy of benefit to women and communities of color statewide. In addition to regular joint commission meetings, in 2011-12 this work has included several other initiatives.

The 2013 Policy Playbook for Women and Communities of Color for the Oregon Legislative Session

In preparation for the 2013 legislative session, the OCFW, OCAPIA, OCBA and OCHA hosted a Joint legislative forum with invitations to state agency leadership and community partners to share upcoming legislative issues being addressed in the 2013 session that have the potential to impact the success of women and Oregonians of Color. The forum covered areas of strategic importance to the Commissions:

- Education (OEIB invited to report)
- Stable Families and Housing (DHS invited to report)
- Justice, Safety and Civil Rights (DOJ invited to report)
- Health and Health access (OHA, and Latino Health Coalition invited to report)
- Jobs, economy and wages (BOLI and Governor's Office invited to report)
- Civic engagement (Secretary of State's Office invited to report)

Out of that forum and with additions from the Commission's community partners, the Oregon Advocacy Commissions are working on a policy playbook for Oregon Women and Communities of Color in the 2013 Legislative Session. It will be a resource for policy makers, legislators, and community groups to identify and follow the progress of policy making by the 2013 legislature of importance to historically under-represented groups.

Fundraising Training

OCFW participated in a fundraising training for all of the advocacy commissions. Commissioner Greenleaf prepared information and presented on different methods of fundraising.

Inter-Agency Collaborations

The OCFW public policy internships are also done in partnership with other key State agencies who use the data and research to improve policy in areas of importance to women statewide. Agency partners include:

- BOLI on wage equity internship
- OHSU on health resources for women

Commissioner Stephenson represents the commission on the [Environmental Justice Task Force](#) and the [Oregon Health Equity Alliance](#).

Individual commissioners have also met with Dr. Bruce Goldberg, Oregon Health Authority; Ben Cannon, education policy advisor to Gov. Kitzhaber; Dr. Rudy Crew, Chief Education Officer; and Margaret Carter, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Human Services.

With the help of intern Jean Laubinger, the Commission developed a [resource guide for women](#), primarily focusing on state agencies. We host this resource guide on our website, providing clickable access to state agencies and other programs useful to women.

Community Partnerships

The OCFW partners each year with several community partners:

- The [Oregon League of Women Voters](#) for advocacy training, issue analysis, position development, and community involvement.
- The [American Association of University Women](#) for legislative days, legislative advocacy, and community involvement. The Commission presented at the AAUW 2012 state convention.

This year the OCFW has also added a partnership with PSU's [Center for Women, Politics & Policy](#) to collaborate on a number of leadership and policy development efforts.

Individual commissioners have reached out to other organizations, such as [Girls, Inc.](#), to discuss opportunities for working together and have spoken at various events.

Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women

The OCFW is fortunate to have The Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women as their partners and adjunct 501(c)3 organization. The Friends, reorganized this year under President Jodi Ballard-Beach, planned and managed the Women of Achievement celebration in Salem. They also provided funding for the Women Leaders in Oregon poster, the Century of Action roadshow, and the parade fees for the Portland Rose Parade suffrage entry. In addition, Ms. Ballard-Beach volunteered her facilitation talents for a Commission strategic planning session.

Friends President Jodi Ballard-Beach submitted the following report on Friends activities for 2012.

In 2012, The Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women welcomed a new Board President, Jodi Ballard-Beach, and the re-establishment of The Friends Board with Kelly DuLong as Treasurer and Kimberly Goddard as Secretary. The first part

of the year the Board's efforts were focused on recovering assets and historical documents from previous Board Members. This work provided us with a better understanding of how the organization was originally structured as well as highlighting changes that are necessary to make in order to keep The Friends relevant to both the Commission and women of Oregon. The latter part of the year was spent coordinating and hosting the Women of Achievement event. In November, the Commission invited The Friends' President to facilitate the strategic planning session for 2013 and beyond. The Commission's strategic plan was used as an input into The Friends planning session. Looking forward, The Friends will focus on generating a revenue stream, establishing a coalition of women's organizations that will act as an informational pipeline into the Commission, and supporting the Commission's legislative efforts.

The Commission is deeply grateful for the efforts of The Friends this year.

Commission Goals

The Commission believes in holding itself accountable. Though we are a diverse group of volunteers who meet only six times per year, we feel strongly about our mission and strive to do as much as we can with the limited resources available. In this section of the report, we address how we met our goals for 2012 and introduce our goals for 2013.

Assessment of 2012 Goals

Commissioners agreed to several ambitious goals in 2012, and we had a very productive year. Our longest-serving member of the Commission, Megan Jacquot, said that it was the most active and productive year in the time she had served on the Commission.

2012 legislative testimony. We plan to track and testify on several bills during the short February session. We will be looking at bills to keep Employment Related Daycare and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families at current levels. Other pieces of legislation of interest include teen dating violence prevention and a Betty Roberts memorial. We will support the "history bill" celebrating Women's 100 Years of Suffrage to be introduced by Senators Ferrioli and Rosenbaum.

Assessment: The Commission provided direct testimony on five bills and worked with other agencies to support four others during the abbreviated session.

Day at the Legislature. We will again co-sponsor a day at the Legislature with the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women.

Assessment: Completed

Housing discrimination. We are investigating how to address housing discrimination, especially Section 8 housing, affecting single-mother-led families.

Assessment: Commissioners have had several discussions about this issue which disproportionately affects low-income women with children. House Speaker Tina Kotek is introducing a bill in the 2013 session to address Section 8 discrimination.

Sexual assault and domestic violence. We will be highlighting the latest sexual assault and domestic violence statistics from the Centers for Disease Control. This study ranks Oregon as having a sexual violence rate that is second highest in the nation, and recent studies show black women have an extremely high rate of domestic violence and rape.

Assessment: We have compiled the latest data we have available in the [Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Trafficking](#) section of this report.

Website resources. We are updating the resources section on the website. We have had an intern compile a list of useful resources. We will be adding this to our website after the state websites transition to SharePoint.

Assessment: [Resources for Oregon Women](#) is available on our website.

Reporting. We will write a robust 2012 Status of Women in Oregon report using the latest available data. The report will provide a comprehensive picture of the current status of women and will be available for use by the Governor's office and Legislature in early 2013.

Assessment: This is the most comprehensive report on the status of women that has been done for many years. We hope you find it valuable.

Outreach. OCFW will present a workshop at the AAUW state convention in Pendleton in April. We hope to convene a meeting of women's organizations from across the state and will continue to work for gender parity for women on boards and commissions and in executive appointments.

Assessment: Commissioners Greenleaf and Petit presented preliminary data from our research on women and health care and women and the economy at the AAUW state convention. Chair Vardavas and Commissioner Sunny Petit have worked with the Governor's office to address gender parity on boards and commissions. (Note: Women currently make up about 57 percent of the members of boards and commissions, but board/commission composition is highly variable, and many boards/commissions do not contain roughly equal numbers of men and women.)

Visibility. We hope to have a presence in one of the parades of the Portland Rose Festival to celebrate the 2012 centennial of women's suffrage in Oregon. It depends on whether partner organizations can successfully raise funds to pay entry fees.

Assessment: One hundred women donned period costumes for the parade. We also raised our visibility by co-sponsoring the Century of Action Roadshow and the printing of the Oregon Women Firsts poster.

Education. We will continue to work with with Ben Cannon, the Governor's Education Advisor, on education policies.

Assessment: Commission members have met with Ben Cannon and Dr. Rudy Crew.

2013 legislation. We will work to develop a bill for the 2013 session relating to confidential name changes for survivors of domestic violence.

Assessment: The bill, primarily authored by Commissioner Megan Jacquot, will be introduced this session.

2013 Goals

The Commission has goals in several areas for 2013.

Advocacy

2013 legislation. We have developed a bill for the 2013 session relating to confidential name changes for survivors of domestic violence, and will be working with our legislative liaisons to secure passage.

2013 legislative testimony. We will identify other pending bills of special interest to women and provide informed testimony to the legislature.

Legislative Process Day. We will again co-sponsor a day at the Legislature with the League of Women Voters, the American Association of University Women, and the National Organization for Women.

Outreach

Resources for girls. In cooperation with the other Advocacy Commissions, we will compile an online database for girls and their teachers, counselors, parents, and other advocates, to link them with resources in mentorship, leadership development, entrepreneurship development, and nontraditional careers.

Fundraising and collaboration with the Friends of the Commission. We will work with the Friends of the Oregon Commission for Women to develop a sustainable fundraising strategy that can enable the Commission to carry out more activities in support of its statutory mission without being crippled by state budget issues.

Collaboration. Beyond the other Advocacy Commissions, we will identify additional organizations whose missions are well aligned with the OCFW's mission, and seek opportunities to collaborate with them in furtherance of shared objectives. We will participate in the Oregon Women's Health and Welfare Alliance, the Oregon Health Equity Alliance, the National Association of Commissions for Women, the Environmental Justice Task Force, and similar organizations.

Commitment to gender parity. We will continue to work for gender parity on all Oregon state boards and commissions.

Education

Cooperation. Along with the other Advocacy Commissions, we will continue to cooperate with Oregon's Chief Education Officer, Dr. Rudy Crew, and other education officials, to support their efforts to better meet the needs of Oregon students.

Key Performance Measures

The OCFW addresses programs/services either directly through a specific Key Performance Measure (KPM); or through indirect influence on the output and outcome of a specific Key Performance Measure.

KPM #1: Interaction with other agencies and organizations.

Goals: (1) To increase the number of stakeholders and community partners who collaborate with Oregon Commission for Women to meet its statutory responsibilities. (2) To increase the number of external partners who are supporters of the OCFW's mission. (3) To promote positive outcomes for OCFW constituency-base across Oregon.

How Are We Doing: During the reporting period between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, there were 54 contacts made by outside community members, agencies and organizations to Oregon Commission for Women. Of these 54 contacts, 76 percent were related to the following areas: collaborating/partnering, attendance or support of an event, development/analysis of public policy, and advocacy issues.

The top four ranking areas that the contacts believe that the Commission should enlist as highest importance and focus our work on are: (1) Partnering with other community organizations; (2) Making recommendations to the Governor and Legislature; (3) Providing legislative strategy advice; and (4) Researching issues.

KPM #2: Customer Service

Goal: To increase viability, visibility, and public knowledge of Oregon Commission for Women through increased local and statewide outreach from a service-oriented perspective.

How Are We Doing: During the reporting period between July 1, 2011 and June 3, 2012, OCFW surveyed contacts and requested them to rate the Commission performance as Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor in six key areas of customer service. The results of the survey show that the respondents rated the Commission as having provided Excellent, Good, and Fair service. The combined percentages and six key areas are as follows: Timeliness 83 percent, Accuracy 79 percent, Helpfulness 79 percent, Expertise 83 percent, Availability of Information 82 percent, and Overall Quality 82 percent.

Data Source: Oregon Office of Transformation and Allegiance Survey Software.

Current Commission Members

The OCFW currently has seven commissioners and two legislative liaisons:

- Stephanie Vardavas, Chair
- Jeanne Burch, Vice-Chair
- Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson
- Representative Betty Komp
- Megan Jacquot
- Mariahm Stephenson
- Sunny Petit
- Jenny Greenleaf
- Dr. Cynthia Scheines

More information about Commission members is available [on our website](#).