



The Status of Women in Milwaukee County 2006

**Wisconsin Women's Council
Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee**

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About this Report

This report was developed as a follow-up to the 21st annual Catherine Conroy Legislative Breakfast co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Women's Network and the League of Women Voters of Milwaukee County and held in February 2006 at Alverno College in Milwaukee. Named for Catherine Conroy – a leader in Wisconsin's labor movement and founder of the National Organization for Women and the Wisconsin Women's Network – the event provides a lively forum for Milwaukee-area legislators and the public to share views on important issues for women and the community. The 2006 topic "Rich Women / Poor Women" focused on women's economic self-sufficiency issues and highlighted the significant disparities among women from different racial and ethnic groups in Milwaukee County. For more information: <http://www.wiwomensnetwork.org>
<http://www.milwaukee-voters.org>

As a companion to the Status of Women in Wisconsin Report (2004), this report provides information about women in Milwaukee County relative to women statewide in Wisconsin and compared to each other by major racial and ethnic groups. This report is designed to serve as a resource to the public, elected representatives and other community advocates to better understand and develop policy solutions to advance the status of women locally. It also offers a new baseline for measuring and continuing to monitor women's progress in Milwaukee County.

The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee

The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee's mission is to advance access, equity, and social justice through woman-focused philanthropy, grantmaking, and advocacy. The twenty year old Fund is the oldest and largest permanent source of grant funding in Wisconsin dedicated to women's and girls' programs. The Women's Fund co-published the 2002 and 2004 Status of Women in Wisconsin Reports with the Institute for Women's Policy Research in Washington, D.C. <http://www.womensfund.com>

The Wisconsin Women's Council

The Women's Council is Wisconsin's statutory commission on the status of women and girls. With a bi-partisan governing board appointed by the Governor and Legislative Leaders, the Women's Council works to identify barriers that prevent women in Wisconsin from participating fully and equally in all aspects of life, and works closely with public, private and not-for-profit groups to develop long-term solutions to those inequities. The Women's Council is an independent, state government agency. <http://www.womenscouncil.wi.gov>

Overview

Status of Women in Milwaukee County

	White	African American	Hispanic	Native American	Asian American	Asian American Hmong only
Basic Demographics						
Women in the Population, 2000	62.2%	25.1%	7.9%	0.8%	1.5%*	0.8%
Female Median Age, 2000	41.4	27.6	23.1	28.9	25.5	16.6
Percent of Women with a Disability, 2000	14.3%	31.3%	24.9%	29.6%	14.4%*	27.7%
Percent of All Households that are Single-Mother Households with Children, 2000	29.4%	58.2%	8.7%	1.5%	0.7%	na
Employment & Earnings						
Median Annual Earnings (full-time, year-round), 1999	\$29,480	\$24,433	\$22,030	\$22,214	\$24,722	\$17,843
Earnings Ratio Between Women and White Men, 1999	73.8%	61.1%	55.1%	55.6%	61.9%	44.6%
Labor Force Participation	61.8%	60.1%	57.2%	62.4%	58.8%*	53.7%
Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations	39.0%	26.0%	23.6%	26.0%	41.4%*	6.5%
Social & Economic Autonomy						
Percent of Women, age 25 and over, with a College Education (four-year degree or higher), 2000	27.3%	10.3%	9.9%	14.6%	43.7%*	3.4%
Percent of Women, age 25 and over, with Less Than a High School Diploma, 2000	13.6%	31.9%	47.0%	24.9%	21.7%*	70.1%
Percent of Women Above the Poverty Level, 1999	92.5%	69.7%	74.3%	76.5%	84.9%*	79.8%
Percent of Single-Mother Families Living Below the Poverty Line, 1999	18.9%	47.4%	46.4%	48.9%	42.2%	53.2%
Health & Well-Being						
Female Heart Disease Mortality, per 100,000 (2000-2002)	200.1	235.1	62.9	141.1	99.3	na
Female Lung Cancer Mortality, per 100,000 (2000-2002)	42.1	50.7	11.3	na	na	na
Female Breast Cancer Mortality, per 100,000 (2000-2002)	26.3	29.0	na	na	na	na
Percent of Mothers Beginning Care in the First Trimester of Pregnancy (2000-2004)	90%	72%	71%	77%	na	61%**
Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies (less than 5 lbs, 8 oz.) (2000-2004)	6.3%	13.6%	6.3%	8.2%	na	7.2%**
Infant Mortality (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births) (2000-2004)	6.0	17.5	7.0	10.8	na	9.6**

Notes:

*Asian American women, not including Hmong women.

**Pregnancy-related health statistics for Asian American women in Milwaukee County are for Laotian/Hmong women only.

na = not available

Hispanics maybe of any race or two or more races. Other racial categories (white, African American, Asian American, Native American) do not include Hispanics.

For most of the topics covered in this report, Census 2000 data based on years 1999 and 2000 are the most current data available.

Compiled by the Wisconsin Women's Council. The full Status of Women in Milwaukee County report is available online at: www.womensfund.com and www.womenscouncil.wi.gov.

Introduction

“There is now overwhelming evidence that women’s empowerment through schooling, employment opportunities and economic development has the most far-reaching effect in improving the lives of all... men, women and children.”

*Amartya Sen
Nobel Laureate and Economist*

Publication of the 2002 and 2004 Status of Women in Wisconsin reports and the grade of "C" for Wisconsin's women opened our eyes and motivated women across the state to take action toward a better future for women and girls. Although few of the individual facts came as a surprise, brought together, the report told a disappointing story about the status of Wisconsin women and the persistent disparities endured by women of color. As a result, the Status reports have become a focal point for action and the framework for benchmarking women's progress and advancing the status of women in Wisconsin.

The purpose of a Milwaukee County report is to provide a similar framework for analyzing and responding to issues on a local and regional level. The report presents statistical data from existing sources, such as the 2000 Census and other public databases, to establish clear benchmarks and a better picture of barriers and concerns for Milwaukee-area women and families.

Milwaukee County's racial and ethnic population mix is unique in Wisconsin – much closer to the national picture. Statewide, for example, only one out of ten women is a woman of color, compared to nearly 40% of women in Milwaukee County. Similarly, statewide, about one-third of women live in non-metropolitan areas. By contrast, Milwaukee County is over 99% urban. As a result, the information in the statewide status reports is not able to tell the whole story for Milwaukee County women. Indeed, as one student researcher on the project noted about the data on Milwaukee County's African American women, "I never would have believed those statistics if I hadn't done the research myself."

Better data on the status of women in the economically and socially diverse population of Milwaukee County will turn up the volume on conversations about strengths and challenges and give policy makers, service providers, and the public the information they need to identify, address and target the key issues facing women and their families. We encourage women's organizations, community groups and stakeholders to use the information in this report as a starting point to develop issues raised here and build the context needed to have further debate and take action.

In closing, it is our hope that readers will make the connection between the well-being of women and community prosperity. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, emphasizes this message – the same message noted above by Nobel Prize winning economist Amartya Sen – saying that: “When women are fully involved, the benefits can be seen immediately; families are healthier; they are better fed; their income, savings, and reinvestment go up. And what is true of families is true of communities, and eventually, of whole countries.” It is time to apply the lessons learned internationally here at home in our own communities. Our women and girls are a good investment.

Sincerely,

Christine Lidbury

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Executive Director
Wisconsin Women's Council

Elaine Maly

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Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee

Credits And Acknowledgements

The Status of Women in Milwaukee County report is based on original research and reports developed by the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) through the Status of Women in the States Project (<http://www.iwpr.org/States2004>). This Milwaukee County report is designed to complement the Status of Women in Wisconsin report (2004) published by IWPR and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee.

We were excited to have developed this Milwaukee County report under a unique partnership with a class of Alverno College seniors during Spring 2006. As part of a Senior Seminar class taught by Associate Professor Jeana Abromeit, seven students undertook research projects on specific sections of this report. Through the Senior Seminar class, students in the disciplines of community leadership and development, political science, and sociology work together, with each student synthesizing the abilities and knowledge she has acquired through the courses of her undergraduate education and completes an independent research project to demonstrate advanced-level issue analysis. This report greatly benefited from their skills, creativity, enthusiasm and hard work.

We both immediately felt excitement to be able to contribute to issues that are important to both of us and we felt that it was a good way to end our senior year by doing a research paper on women, something we care about being women and wanting to see other women succeed.

**Alverno College
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The final report was compiled by the Wisconsin Women's Council and the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee and final responsibility for this report, including errors or omissions, is ours.

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1. Basic Demographics

This section provides some basic demographic data on women in Milwaukee County based on the 2000 U.S. Census. Demographic information is important because it presents a profile of the state's female population and can be used to provide insight on the other issues related to the status of women. Basic demographic data include: percentage of the population that is female; racial/ethnic makeup of the female population; age of the female population; percent of women with a disability; marital status of women; and types of family households that comprise the community.

Women in the Population*

Females (all ages) make up about 51% of the total population of the U.S and Wisconsin, with a marginally higher rate of 52.1% in Milwaukee County. See Table 1.

Looking only at adult women (age 18 and above), Milwaukee County has a slightly higher percentage of women in the general population (53.2%) than in the U.S. or Wisconsin as a whole (51.8% and 51.3%, respectively).

Female Population by Race

While 18% of all women in Wisconsin live in Milwaukee County, more than half (55%) of women from racial and ethnic minority groups in Wisconsin live in Milwaukee County.

Milwaukee County is home to 80% of Wisconsin's African American female population, nearly half of the state's Hispanic female population, and more than one-quarter of its Asian American female population. See Table 2.

Milwaukee County's racial profile is much closer to the national profile than the statewide profile.

White females account for about 62% of the female population in Milwaukee County, which is slightly below the nationwide rate of 69.3% and much lower than the Wisconsin statewide rate of 87.6% -- statewide, 9 of 10 women are white, compared to 6 of 10 women the County.

African American females account for about 25% of the female population in Milwaukee County. This is twice the nationwide rate of 12.4% and four times the Wisconsin statewide rate of 5.7%.

Table 1				
Women in the Population, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and U.S.				
by Race and Ethnicity (2000)				
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
Females as a Share of the Total Population				
Females, All Ages	52.1%	490,039	50.6%	51.0%
Females, Age 18+	53.2%	368,682	51.3%	51.8%
Females, Age 65+	61.2%	74,285	58.5%	58.9%
Females by Race and Ethnicity (all ages)				
White	62.2%	305,022	87.6%	69.3%
African American	25.1%	122,967	5.7%	12.4%
Hispanic (any race)	7.9%	38,561	3.2%	12.0%
Native American	0.8%	3,690	0.9%	0.7%
Asian American	2.3%	11,295	1.6%	3.6%
Other / Two or More	1.7%	8,504	1.1%	2.0%
Source: Census 2000, Summary File (SF) 4, PCT3: Sex by Age.				

*Note: This report does not provide data on lesbian women. We acknowledge that being a lesbian in Milwaukee adds another significant layer of disparity to the picture. Indeed, the lack of available data itself is witness to how little we know about the health and well-being of lesbian women.

Hispanic females (any race) account for about 8% of the female population in Milwaukee County, which is below the nationwide rate of 12%, but more than double the Wisconsin statewide rate of 3.2%. The County's Hispanic female population is about 58% Mexican and 28% Puerto Rican.

Asian American females account for 2.3% of the female population in Milwaukee county, which is below the nationwide rate of 3.8%, but higher than the Wisconsin statewide rate of 1.6%.

In Milwaukee County, and Wisconsin as a whole, the Asian American population is about one-third Hmong, compared to less than 2% in the U.S. as a whole.

Native American females account for 0.8% of the female population in Milwaukee County, which is between the US rate of 0.7% and the Wisconsin statewide rate of 0.9%.

Table 2			
Share of Wisconsin's Female Population Located in Milwaukee County, by Race and Ethnicity, All Ages, 2000			
	Wisconsin	Milwaukee County	Percent of State Population in Milwaukee County
All Women	2,715,312	490,039	18.0%
White	2,378,775	305,022	12.8%
Racial & Ethnic Minority Women	336,537	185,017	55.0%
African American	153,750	122,967	80.0%
Hispanic	86,925	38,561	44.4%
Native American	23,444	3,690	15.7%
Asian American (all)	42,405	11,295	26.6%
<i>Hmong Only</i>	15,444	3,775	24.4%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT3: Sex by Age.

Women's Median Age

The median age for females in Milwaukee County is 35.3 years, slightly younger than the overall Wisconsin female median age of 37.1 years and the national median age of 36.6 years old.

This average, however, masks a large difference in the age distribution between white females and females from ethnic and racial minority populations. While this difference occurs both in Milwaukee County and statewide, the difference is larger for Milwaukee County.

In Milwaukee County, white females have a median age of 41.4 years, compared to much younger median ages in the mid- to late-20s for African American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian American females. See Table 3.

Hmong females have the youngest median age among the groups reported at 16.6 years.

Compared to national rates, females in ethnic and racial minority groups are younger in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County than their counterparts nationally – nearly 5 years younger for African American females and nearly 10 years for Asian American females.

Table 3			
Female Median Age			
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and U.S. by Race and Ethnicity (2000)			
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
All Females	35.3	37.1	36.6
White	41.4	38.8	39.8
African American	27.6	27.2	32.1
Hispanic	23.1	22.7	26.6
Native American	28.9	28.7	30.3
Asian American (all)	25.5	24.3	34.2
Hmong only	16.6	15.9	16.4

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT4: Median Age by Sex.

Women and Disabilities

Nationwide, over 18% of women, age 21 to 64, are reported to have one or more disabilities, compared to 19.5% in Milwaukee County and 14% for Wisconsin as a whole.

Milwaukee County's average rate of 19.5% is much lower than the rates for the county's African American (31%), Native American (30%), Hmong (28%) and Hispanic (25%) women.

The high rate for African American women (31%) is more than twice the rate for white women (14%) and higher than the rates for the county's men and women in all other categories, including African American men, and compared to women statewide and nationally. See Table 4.

Disability status is defined by the U.S. Census

When we look at the high rate of disabilities for women in some minority communities, I think you have to ask yourself about the kind of work people do and the toll that takes on their body and health.

Alverno College Student Researcher

Bureau as including long-term conditions such as severe vision or hearing impairment, employment and self-care disabilities, or a physical, emotional or mental condition lasting six months or more that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities, such as walking, climbing stairs, reaching, or lifting.

Marital Status

Women in Milwaukee County (age 18 and over), overall, are less likely than women statewide or nationally to be married with a spouse present. In Milwaukee County, 41% of women are married with a

**Table 4
Percent of Women (Age 21-64) with a Disability
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and U.S.
by Race and Ethnicity, 2000, Census**

	Milwaukee County		Wisconsin	United States
	Female	Male	Female	Female
All Women	19.5%	19.7%	14.1%	18.2%
White	14.3%	15.9%	12.6%	15.7%
African American	31.3%	29.1%	30.7%	27.2%
Hispanic	24.9%	28.1%	22.0%	23.4%
Native American	29.6%	26.7%	25.3%	27.7%
Asian (Hmong)	27.7%	30.1%	36.1%	34.6%
Asian (Other)	14.4%	15.1%	13.3%	16.3%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT69: Sex by Age by Types of Disability for the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population 5 Years and Over.

spouse present, compared to 55% statewide and about 52% nationwide. See Tables 5 and 6.

Women in Milwaukee County are more likely to have never been married (30%) compared to women statewide (20%) and nationally (20%). Across racial and ethnic groups, however, trends vary significantly. In Milwaukee County:

Never Married. Nearly half (45%) of African American women have never been married, followed by Native American (35%), Hispanic (32%), Asian American Other (28%), white (25%) and Hmong (17%) women. For all groups, except Hmong women, "never married" rates exceed both state and national averages for their respective groups.

**Table 5
Marital Status for Women Age 18 and Over,
Milwaukee County, by Race and Ethnicity (2000)**

	Never Married	Married spouse present	Married spouse absent	Widowed	Divorced
	All Women	29.7%	41.3%	5.2%	11.5%
White	24.5%	46.4%	3.4%	13.6%	12.0%
African American	45.3%	22.9%	10.1%	7.8%	14.0%
Hispanic	31.7%	44.9%	8.1%	4.5%	10.9%
Native American	35.4%	30.6%	7.8%	6.2%	20.0%
Asian (Hmong)	16.7%	64.7%	4.2%	11.7%	2.6%
Asian (other)	27.6%	57.5%	5.2%	4.8%	4.9%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT35: Sex by Marital Status by Age for the Population 15 Years and Over.

Married Spouse Present. Hmong women are the most likely to be married with a spouse present (65%), followed by other Asian American (58%), white (46%), Hispanic (45%), Native American (31%) and African American (23%) women. For all except Asian American Hmong women rates of marriage with spouse present are below state and national averages.

Divorce. Native American women experience the highest divorce rates (20%), followed by African American (14%), white (12%), Hispanic (11%), other Asian American (5%) and Hmong (3%) women. Divorce rates are generally on par with state and national averages, except for Native American women where the Milwaukee County and Wisconsin rates are slightly above the national average and Hmong women's rates which are slightly below both the state and national averages.

Household Types

Household types are reviewed using two sets of figures. First, the overall distribution of household types reported on family-households, one-person households and non-family households across the population. Second, among families, more detailed statistics are given on single-mother families versus married-couple families with minor children.

Households and Families

There are differences in the distribution of family types among racial and ethnic groups and between Milwaukee County and Wisconsin and the U.S. as a whole.

Milwaukee County has fewer family-type households and more single-person households as a share of all households than occur statewide and nationally. See Tables 7 and Appendix 1, Table 1.

Table 6			
Marital Status for Women Age 18 and over			
Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and United States			
by race and ethnicity (2000)			
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
Total Population			
Never Married	29.7%	20.0%	20.2%
Married spouse present	41.3%	55.3%	52.1%
Married spouse absent	5.2%	3.7%	5.3%
Widowed	11.5%	10.7%	11.0%
Divorced	12.3%	10.2%	11.4%
White			
Never Married	24.5%	18.2%	16.6%
Married spouse present	46.4%	57.4%	56.0%
Married spouse absent	3.4%	3.2%	3.8%
Widowed	13.6%	11.2%	12.0%
Divorced	12.0%	10.0%	11.5%
African American			
Never Married	45.3%	44.5%	35.9%
Married spouse present	22.9%	23.5%	29.2%
Married spouse absent	10.1%	10.8%	10.1%
Widowed	7.8%	7.7%	11.1%
Divorced	14.0%	13.6%	13.6%
Hispanic (any race)			
Never Married	31.7%	29.0%	25.0%
Married spouse present	44.9%	49.3%	49.6%
Married spouse absent	8.1%	7.6%	9.9%
Widowed	4.5%	4.0%	6.0%
Divorced	10.9%	10.1%	9.5%
Native American			
Never Married	35.4%	31.6%	26.1%
Married spouse present	30.6%	36.4%	43.1%
Married spouse absent	7.8%	6.8%	7.1%
Widowed	6.2%	7.3%	8.3%
Divorced	20.0%	17.9%	15.3%
Asian American (Hmong)			
Never Married	16.7%	17.1%	18.9%
Married spouse present	64.7%	61.3%	62.2%
Married spouse absent	4.2%	6.7%	6.2%
Widowed	11.7%	11.1%	9.0%
Divorced	2.6%	3.8%	3.8%
Asian American (other)			
Never Married	27.6%	24.8%	22.2%
Married spouse present	57.5%	60.8%	58.6%
Married spouse absent	5.2%	5.4%	6.6%
Widowed	4.8%	4.3%	7.3%
Divorced	4.9%	4.6%	5.3%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT35: Sex by Marital Status by Age for the Population 15 Years and Over.

In Milwaukee County, 60% of households are "family households"*, and one-third are "non-family" single-person households. By comparison, for Wisconsin and the U.S. as a whole, the distribution is about two-thirds for family households and one-quarter for non-family, one-person households.

Among family households, the U.S. Census further breaks households into three categories: married-couple, female-headed and male-headed households.

Married-couple families make up about 40% of all households in Milwaukee County, compared to 54% statewide and 53% nationally.

Female-headed family households make up 16% of households in Milwaukee County compared to 9% in Wisconsin and 12% in the U.S. as a whole.

Male-headed family households make up 4% of all households, on par with the U.S. average and Wisconsin statewide average.

Households by Race and Ethnicity

Married Couple Households. The share of all families that are married couple families range from: Hmong (80%), Hispanic (47%), white (44%), Native American (34%), and African American (24%) households. Milwaukee County's lower incidence of married-couple families holds true across all the major racial and ethnic groups reported except Hmong. See Appendix 1, Table 1.

Among female-headed family households, there are significant differences between racial and ethnic groups. For example, 10% of Hmong family households are female-headed (slightly below state and national rates) compared to 39% for African American households (nearly 10% above the national rate).

Non-Family Households. The higher rate of non-family, one-person households in Milwaukee County compared to state and national rates is driven by the white population (male and female). More than 20% of all white households in Milwaukee are one-person female households.

Table 7 Distribution of Households by Type as a Percent of All Households, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and United States, Ethnicity, 2000			
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
TOTAL POPULATION			
Family Households (with and without own children)	60.0%	66.9%	68.5%
Married Couple	39.9%	54.0%	52.5%
Male Householders	4.2%	3.6%	4.1%
Female Householders	15.9%	9.2%	11.8%
Non-Family: 1-person Households	33.0%	26.7%	25.8%
Male Householder	14.1%	11.5%	11.0%
Female Householder	18.8%	15.2%	14.8%
Non-Family: Other Households	7.1%	6.4%	5.8%
Male Householder	4.0%	3.8%	3.4%
Female Householder	3.1%	2.6%	2.4%
Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT10: Household Size by Household Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years.			

*Note: The U.S. Census Bureau defines "Family Household" as: a householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family in census tabulations. A householder is the person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented.

Households with Children

This sections looks only at families with minor children (under age 18), which includes both own children (biological and adopted) and other children living in the household.

Statewide, about 74% of Wisconsin families with minor children are in married-couple families and about 19% in single-mother families. Nationally, the trend is similar with 71% married-couple families and 23% single-mother families. See Appendix 1, Table 2.

The picture is different in Milwaukee County, with married-couple families accounting for 57% of families with children, while single-mothers account for 36% – nearly double the statewide rate for female-headed families with minor children. See Figure 1.

Single-mothers as a share of families with children is higher than the nationwide rates for white, African American, Hispanic and Native American women.

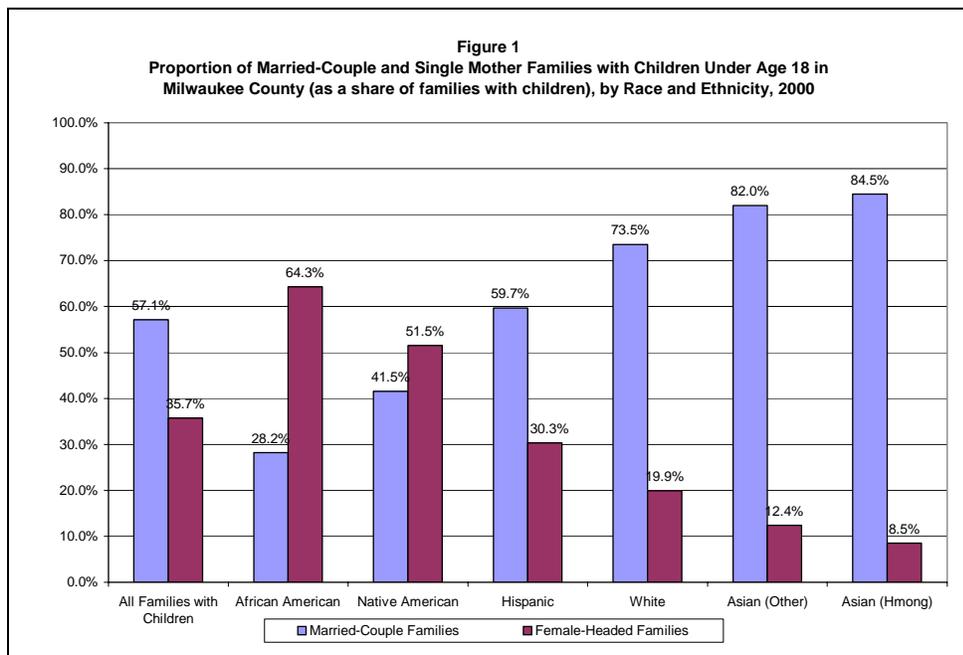
Among African American women in Milwaukee County, 64% of all family households with children are female-headed. African American children are twice as likely as Hispanic children to live in a female-headed household and three times as likely as white children.

Table 8 Women as a Percent of the Total Population versus as a Percent of Female-Headed Families with Children Under 18, Milwaukee County, 2000			
	Women in the Population	Female-Headed (Single-Mother) Families	
	Percent	Percent	Number
Total Population	100.0%	100.0%	44,229
White	62.2%	29.4%	13,023
African American	25.1%	58.2%	25,760
Hispanic	7.9%	8.7%	3,865
Native American	0.8%	1.5%	657
Asian American (all)	2.3%	0.7%	317

Source: Census 2000, SF 4, PCT3: Sex by Age and SF4, PCT11: Households by Presence of People Under 18 Years by Household Type

Female-headed households account for about half of Native American families with minor children, 30% of Hispanic families, 20% of white families, 12% of Asian American (except Hmong) families, and 9% of Asian American Hmong families.

Looking at these figures another way, while African American women account for about 25% of all Milwaukee County women, they account for nearly 60% of the county's all female-headed (single-mother) families— almost the opposite ratio as for white women. See Table 8.



Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 11: Households by Presence of People Under 18 Years by Household Type

2. Political Participation

Political participation allows women to influence policies that affect their lives. By voting, running for office, and taking advantage of other avenues of participation, women can make their concerns, experiences and priorities visible in policy decisions (IWPR, 2004).

Voting Behavior

Nationally, Wisconsin ranks 8th for women's voter registration and 5th for the percent of women who voted in 1998 and 2000.

County-level information on voter registration and turnout by gender is not currently available in Wisconsin or through Census data.

Elected Officials

Wisconsin ranks 19th among all states for the share of women in state and national elected office.

A study by the Wisconsin Women's Council found comparatively lower percentages, however, for women holding many local government offices. Milwaukee County is generally above statewide averages for women holding elected office. Overall, 31% of offices are held by women, including 33% of leadership positions (largely driven by School Boards). See Table 9.

There are two main exceptions. Women hold only 14% of city council (aldermanic) seats, compared to 20% statewide. The City of Milwaukee has no women on its 15-member Common Council. County constitutional offices, which are held entirely by men in Milwaukee County, are elected

offices that are generally dominated by women officeholders in other parts of the state.

City Council and Mayoral Seats

Ten cities located (all or in part) in Milwaukee County: Cudahy, Franklin, Glendale, Greenfield, Milwaukee, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, St. Francis, Wauwatosa, and West Allis.

Table 9 Women in Public Office: Milwaukee County (2006)				
	Percent of Seats Held by Women	Seats Held by Women	Total Seats	Statewide Average (2005)
State and Local Governing Bodies and Constitutional Offices				
School Board Members	52%	59	114	37%
Village Trustees	24%	15	63	19%
City Council Members	14%	12	83	20%
Mayors	20%	2	10	10%
County Board Supervisors	25%	5	19	19%
Constitutional Offices:				
Clerk of the Courts	0%	0	1	89%
County Clerk	0%	0	1	74%
County Executive	0%	0	1	20%
District Attorney	0%	0	1	18%
Register of Deeds	0%	0	1	74%
Sheriff	0%	0	1	3%
Treasurer	0%	0	1	82%
State Assembly	30%	7	23	26%
State Senate	43%	3	7	24%
U.S. House	33%	1	3	25%
TOTAL	31%	103	329	20%
Local Government Leadership				
School Board President	50%	9	18	30%
Village Board President	22%	2	9	9%
City Mayor	20%	2	10	10%
County Board Chair	0%	0	1	11%
County Executive	0%	0	1	20%
TOTAL	33%	13	39	10%
Sources: WI Women's Council, 2006. Gender for local elected officials was determined from the information posted on official local government web sites as of May 25, 2006.				

Women outnumber men as far as population, number registered to vote and number that vote. So why aren't there more women in elected positions?

**Alverno College
Student Researcher**

Among these cities there are 83 city council seats, with 12 seats (14%) held by women. Two of 10 Mayoral seats are held by women (Wauwatosa and West Allis). The cities of Milwaukee and Franklin, have women on their Common Council. See Figure 2.

Village Boards

Nine Villages located (all or in part) in Milwaukee County: Bayside, Brown Deer, Fox Point, Greendale, Hales Corner, River Hills, Shorewood, West Milwaukee and Whitefish Bay.

Among these villages there are 63 Village Trustee seats, of which 15 (24%) are held by women. Women serve as Village President in the Villages of Brown Deer and Whitefish Bay. Only Bayside has no women on the Village Board.

County Officials

All of the elected "constitutional" offices in Milwaukee County are held by men (County Executive, County Clerk, Clerk of the Courts, District Attorney, County Treasurer, County Sheriff, and County Register of Deeds).

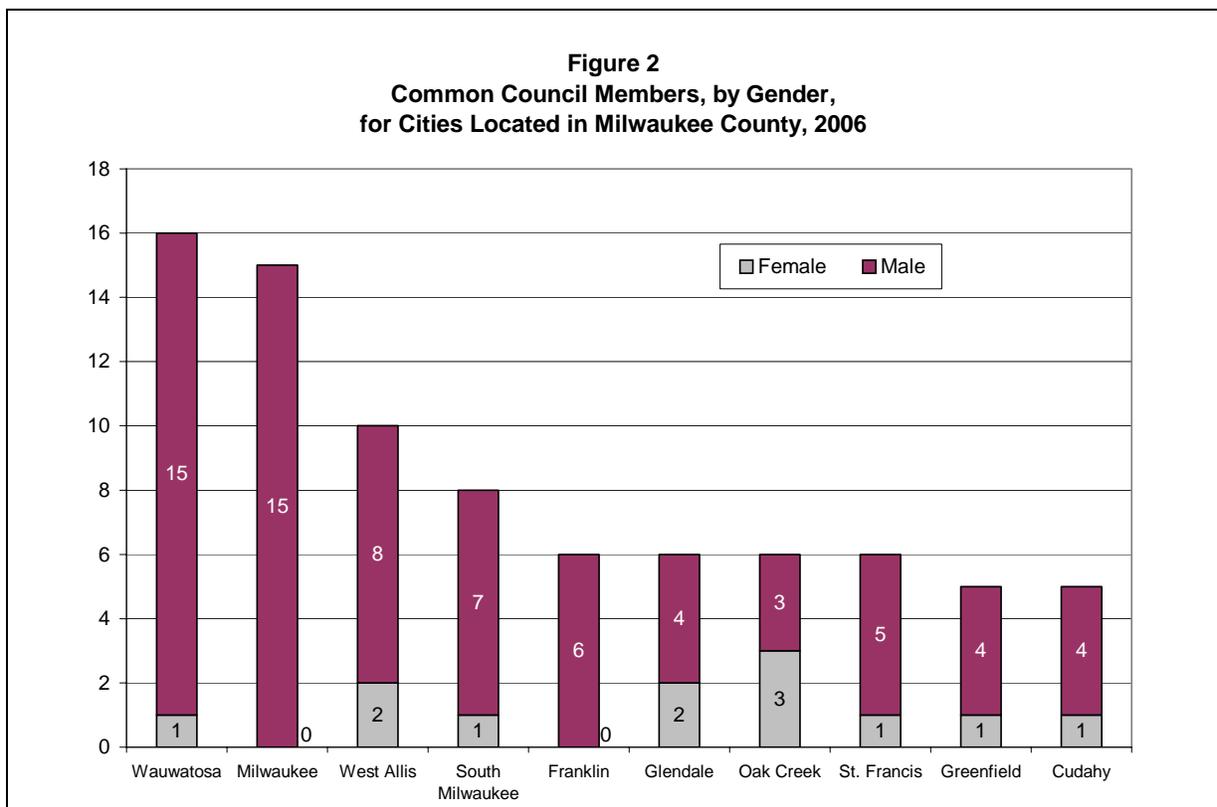
The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors has 19 seats, with 5 held by women (25%).

School Districts

Milwaukee County has 18 School Districts with 114 School Board seats, of which 59 are held by women (52%). Women serve as School Board Presidents in 9 of 18 districts (50%).

State Legislature and U.S. Congress

Milwaukee County is represented by 7 State Senate Districts with 3 seats (43%) held by women; 23 State Assembly Districts, with 7 seats (30%) held by women; and 3 Congressional (U.S. House) Districts, with one seat held by a woman (the second woman and first African American woman sent to Congress from Wisconsin).



3. Employment and Earnings

This section looks at aspects of women's economic status, such as women's earnings, wage gaps, labor force participation, and representation in professional and managerial occupations.

Because earnings are the largest component of income for most families, earnings and economic well-being are closely linked. Ensuring women's economic rights is an important element of improving access to employment, eliminating occupational segregation and employment discrimination, and helping balance work and family responsibilities (IWPR, 2004).

Women's Earnings

Wisconsin ranks 26th among all states for women's median annual earnings for full-time work.

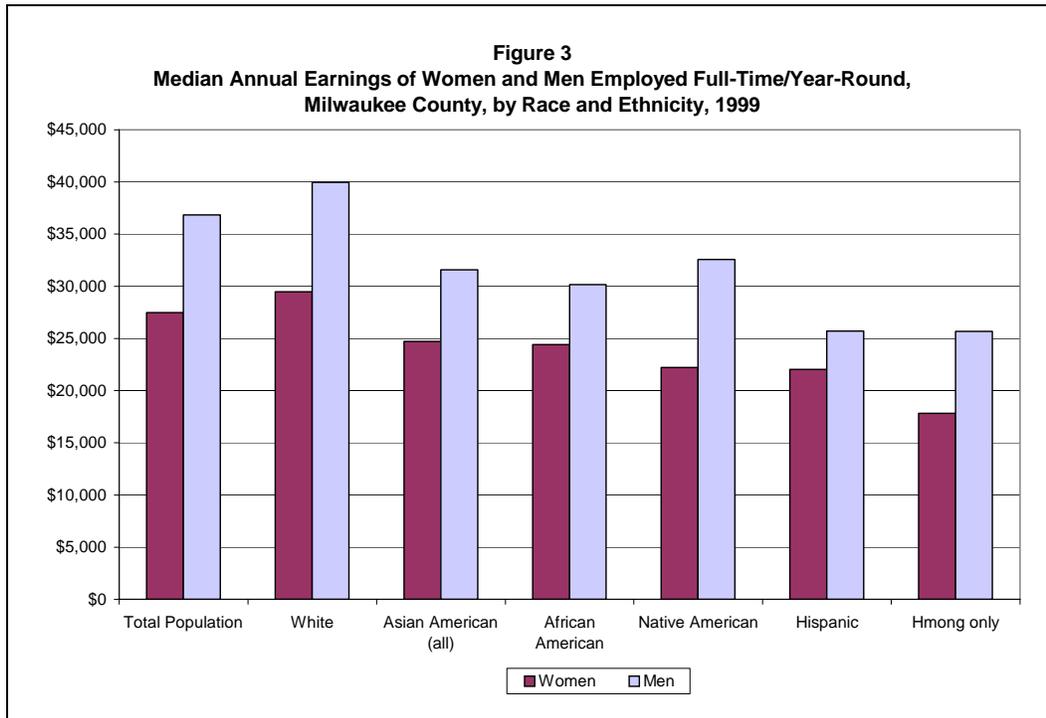
Milwaukee County women working full-time, year-round in 1999 had median annual earnings of \$27,463—higher than women statewide and slightly higher than women in the U.S. as a whole. This average masks considerable variability in earnings by race and ethnicity. See Figure 3.

When we looked at the gap between the highest and lowest paid women, we thought about how this means a difference between women who could potentially afford health care coverage and women who must go without health care coverage.
Alverno College Student Researchers

In Milwaukee County, the median earnings for women in racial and ethnic minorities is, on average, 28% less than for white women. White women had median earnings of \$29,480, compared to Asian American Hmong (\$17,843), Hispanic (\$22,030), Native American (\$22,214), and African American (\$24,433) women.

Median annual earnings for minorities are lower across county, state and national groups, with the exception of Asian American women who have the highest median earnings nationally—a trend which does not hold in Wisconsin.

It might be expected that the state's largest economic center would provide higher wages.



Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT139: Median Earnings In 1999 (Dollars) By Work Experience In 1999 By Sex For The Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In 1999.

Only white women, however, benefit from an "urban" effect, whereas other racial and ethnic groups have only marginal increases or even lower median earnings than their counterparts statewide. See Table 10.

Comparing the major racial/ethnic groups (white, African American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian American (all), the difference between women's highest and lowest median annual earnings—an earnings gap—in Milwaukee County (\$7,240) is nearly double the statewide gap (\$3,908).

There is an even larger earnings gap of \$9,435 for women in the U.S. as a whole, between the highest and lowest median annual earnings.

Wage Gap

Wisconsin ranks 36th for its wage gap—a measure of women's earnings relative to men's.

According to the 2004 Status report, women earned about 71.1% of what white men earned in 2002, compared to 76.2% nationally. In other words, Wisconsin's women earned 71 cents for every dollar earned by Wisconsin's white men.

Table 11 Earnings Ratio (Wage Gap) for Full-time, Full-year Work in 1999, Milwaukee County and Wisconsin, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999		
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin
All Women	68.7%	68.6%
White	73.8%	69.1%
African American	61.1%	64.7%
Hispanic	55.1%	58.7%
Native American	55.6%	59.9%
Asian (All)	61.9%	63.6%
Asian (Hmong only)	44.6%	50.0%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT139: Median Earnings in 1999 (dollars) by Work Experience in 1999 for the Population 16 Years and Over with Earnings.

Note: The "wage gap" refers to the difference between median annual earnings for women in each racial/ethnic group compared to those of white men.

Table 10 Women's Median Annual Earnings for Full-time, Full-year Work in 1999, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999			
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
All Women	\$27,463	\$25,865	\$27,194
White	\$29,480	\$26,062	\$28,265
African American	\$24,433	\$24,412	\$25,601
Hispanic	\$22,030	\$22,154	\$21,634
Native American	\$22,214	\$22,598	\$23,051
Asian (All)	\$24,722	\$23,994	\$31,069
Asian (Hmong only)	\$17,843	\$18,870	\$20,237

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT139: Median Earnings In 1999 (Dollars) By Work Experience In 1999 By Sex For The Population 16 Years And Over With Earnings In 1999.

Note: Median earnings divide the earnings distribution into two equal groups, half having wages above the median, and other having wages below the median.

The earnings ratio, or wage gap, is difficult to calculate due to limits on earnings data at the county level. The 2004 Status report uses unpublished data that we are not able to replicate. This report uses 1999 median earnings data (the most recent data available) from existing Census tables, which are similar to but not directly comparable to findings in the 2004 Status report.

According to the Census data, Wisconsin women earned only about 69 cents for every dollar earned by a white man. This wage gap is about the same in Milwaukee County as statewide. See Table 11.

In Milwaukee County, wage gap inequalities are particularly striking among women in racial and ethnic minorities groups where women earn between 45 cents and 62 cents for every dollar earned by white men. See Table 11.

Equally striking perhaps is the contrast in wage gap trends between white women and women in racial and ethnic minority groups. While the wage gap for white women in Milwaukee County is smaller than for white women in Wisconsin as a whole (74 cents on the dollar compared to 69 cents statewide), the wage gaps are larger in Milwaukee County for all other racial and ethnic groups than are found for their racial and ethnic groups statewide.

This is due, in part, to higher median earnings for white men in Milwaukee County (\$39,967) compared to men in Wisconsin as a whole (\$37,719), while median earnings for women in racial and ethnic minority groups are not higher than those for the state as a whole. See Table 10.

Median Income for Families with Children Under Age 18

There is a large disparity in median family income between married-couple families with children and single mothers with children. See Table 12.

Single-mother families across racial and ethnic groups have median annual family incomes at about one-third or less of the median incomes for married-couple families with minor children.

This trend holds across Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and the United States. These low median income levels set the stage for high levels of poverty among single-mother families.

Overall, single-mothers in Milwaukee County have a median family income of \$18,800, which is about 10% lower than single-mothers income in the U.S. as a whole and nearly 20% lower than for single mothers in Wisconsin as a whole.

In Milwaukee County, Asian American single-mothers have the lowest median family income at \$14,400, which is only about half that of Asian American women in the U.S. as a whole.

White single mothers in Milwaukee County have the highest median income at \$26,800, which is nearly twice that of African American and Hispanic single-mother households, and higher than for white single-mother households in Wisconsin and the U.S. as a whole.

Among the married-couple families in Milwaukee County, there is also disparity in income levels between racial and ethnic groups. For example, the \$67,900 median income for white married-couple families is about 75% greater than the Hispanic married-couple income of \$38,900.

White, Native American and Hmong families have median incomes above the state and national figures, while African American, Hispanic and Asian American (all) married couple families have median incomes below state and national figures.

Table 12 Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars) for Married-Couple and Single Mother Families with Own Children Under 18 Years						
	Milwaukee County		Wisconsin		United States	
	Married Couple	Single Mother	Married Couple	Single Mother	Married Couple	Single Mother
Total Population	\$61,300	\$18,800	\$61,800	\$22,100	\$59,500	\$20,300
White	\$67,900	\$26,800	\$63,100	\$24,800	\$63,800	\$23,500
African American	\$49,300	\$15,900	\$50,100	\$15,800	\$51,900	\$17,100
Hispanic	\$38,900	\$15,900	\$41,700	\$16,800	\$39,300	\$16,400
Native American	\$55,000	\$18,100	\$49,900	\$18,600	\$42,700	\$15,800
Asian American (all)	\$44,800	\$14,400	\$47,400	\$16,300	\$63,800	\$25,400
Asian (Hmong only)	\$41,300	\$16,000	\$41,100	\$15,000	\$35,900	\$14,900

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT123: Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars) by Family Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years. (Figures are rounded to nearest hundred dollars.)

Labor Force Participation

Wisconsin women's labor force participation rates are higher than the rates for women in the U.S. as a whole—ranking Wisconsin 5th in the nation for the percent of women in the labor force.

Nationally, 58% of women age 16 and over are in the labor force, compared to 64% for Wisconsin women statewide and 61% for women in Milwaukee County.

The higher percentage for Wisconsin and Milwaukee County women extends across racial and ethnic groups.

Statewide, labor force participation ranges from 55% for Hmong women to more than 66% for Native American women.

In Milwaukee County, as for Wisconsin as a whole, Native American women have the highest participation rate followed by white women (about 62% each), African American (60%), Asian (non-Hmong) (59%), Hispanic (57%) and Hmong (54%) women. See Table 13.

Women with children, even young children, participate in the labor force at high rates. This is particularly the case in Wisconsin where about 79% of women with children under age 18 and 72% of women with children under age 6 are in the labor force. See Table 14.

In Milwaukee County, nearly three-quarters of women with children under age 18 are in the labor force, including 68% of women with children

	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
All women	61.0%	64.1%	57.5%
White	61.8%	64.5%	57.9%
African American	60.1%	60.6%	59.7%
Hispanic	57.2%	60.4%	53.0%
Native American	62.4%	66.4%	57.1%
Asian (Hmong only)	53.7%	54.6%	46.5%
Asian (Other)	58.8%	60.4%	56.5%

Source: 2000 Census, PCT 79: Sex by Age by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over.

under age 6. These figures are slightly lower than Wisconsin's statewide rate, but still well above the national rates for women with children.

Managerial and Professional Occupations

Women in Wisconsin are less likely to work in managerial and professional specialty occupations than are women in the U.S. (34% versus 36%). Wisconsin ranks 43rd among all states for the percent of women employed in managerial and professional occupations. See Table 15.

Milwaukee County women are slightly more likely than are women statewide to hold these occupations, and at a rate closer to the national average for women (35% versus 36%).

	Milwaukee County		Wisconsin		United States	
	Number of Women in Labor Force	Percent in Labor Force	Number of Women in Labor Force	Percent in Labor Force	Number of Women in Labor Force	Percent in Labor Force
With Children ...						
Under Age 18	81,783	73.4%	513,182	78.8%	24,150,847	69.1%
Under Age 6	34,927	67.7%	200,992	72.1%	9,651,610	61.9%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 80: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Age of Own Children by Employment Status for Females 16 Years and Over.

Note: Labor force participation includes women age 16 and over. Children under age 6 are also included in the totals for children under age 18. See Appendix 1, Table 3 for rates broken out by racial and ethnic group.

In Wisconsin and Milwaukee County, women of all racial and ethnic minorities, except Asian (non-Hmong) women are less likely than white women to be employed in managerial and professional occupations. See Table 15 and Figure 4.

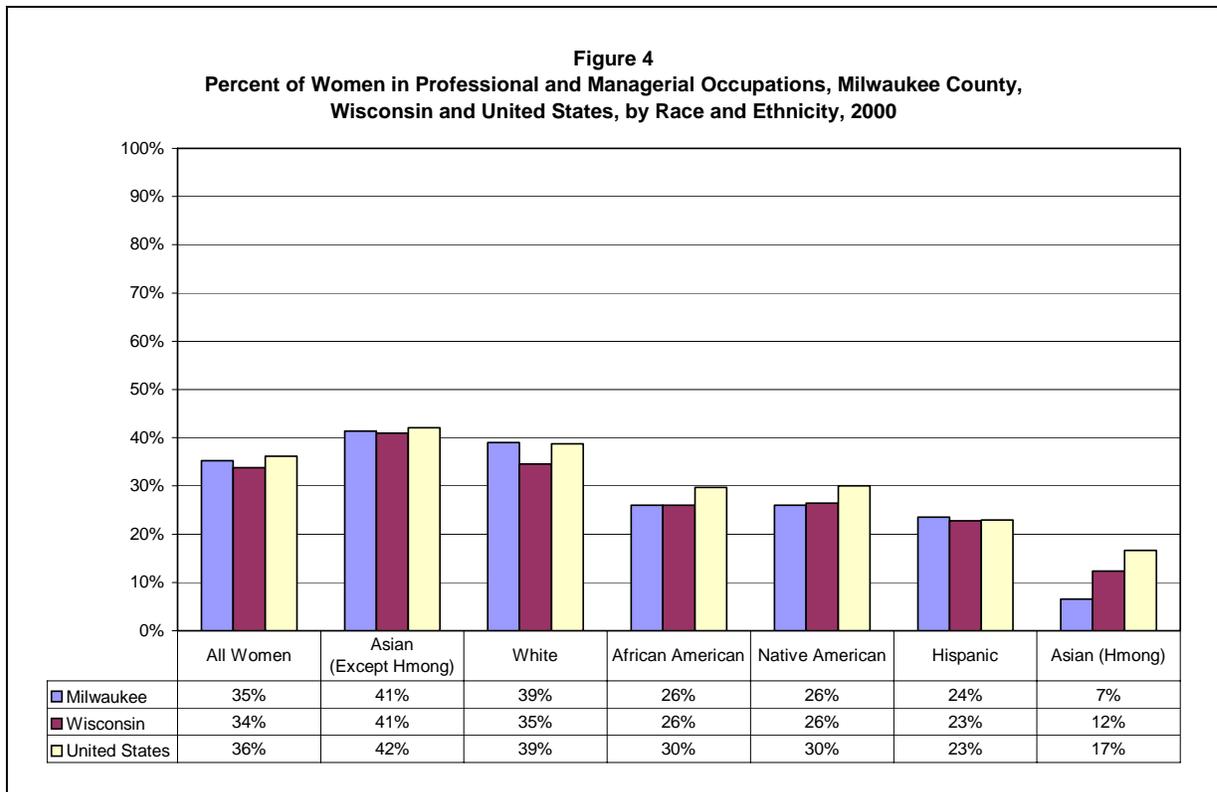
White and Hispanic women exceed both the state and national rates for women in their respective groups. Nonetheless, Hispanic women remain among the least likely to be employed in managerial and professional occupations nationally, statewide and in Milwaukee County. However, it is Hmong women that have the lowest rates, with rates for Milwaukee County well below their counterparts statewide and nationally.

African American, Native American, and Asian American women are employed in managerial and professional occupations at rates about on par with women statewide, but below – sometimes well below – rates for their counterparts nationwide.

Overall in Milwaukee County, about one-third of women in the labor force are employed in managerial and professional occupations, with Asian (non-Hmong) women most likely to hold such positions (41%), followed by white (39%), African American and Native American (26%), Hispanic (24%) and Hmong (7%) women.

Table 15			
Percent of Women Employed in Managerial and Professional Occupations, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and U.S. by Race and Ethnicity, 2000			
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
All women	35.2%	33.8%	36.2%
White	39.0%	34.5%	38.7%
African American	26.0%	26.1%	29.7%
Hispanic	23.6%	22.8%	22.9%
Native American	26.0%	26.4%	30.0%
Asian (Hmong)	6.5%	12.4%	16.7%
Asian (Other)	41.4%	40.9%	42.0%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 86: Sex by Occupation for the Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over.



Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 86: Sex by Occupation for the Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over.

4. Social and Economic Autonomy

While labor force participation and earnings are critical to women's financial security, many additional resources and opportunities affect women's ability to act independently, exercise choice, and control their lives (IWPR, 2004).

This section highlights several topics important to women's social and economic autonomy: poverty, health insurance coverage, educational attainment, and business ownership.

Access to Health Insurance

In the 2004 Status report, Wisconsin ranked 2nd in the nation for the proportion of women with health insurance.

A new report from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicates that, statewide, Wisconsin is losing ground on women's health insurance coverage. County-level data are not available. (Research by the Kaiser Family Foundation was the source for health insurance data in the 2004 Status report.)

All Women: In 2001-2002, among women age 18 to 64, 83% of Wisconsin women had private or other (non-Medicaid) insurance, 8% had Medicaid, and 9% were uninsured (compared to 18% uninsured nationally).

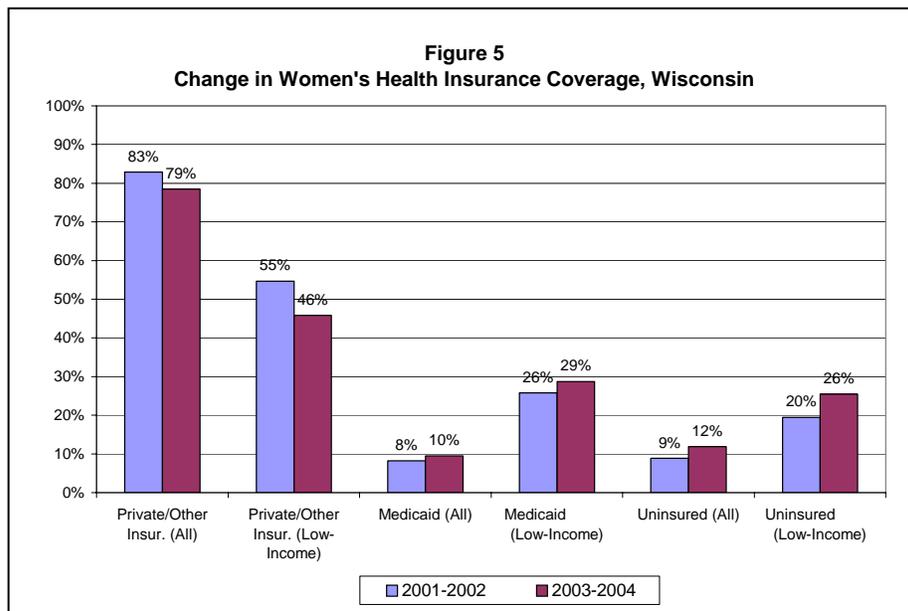
In 2003-2004, the number of women with private/other health insurance declined to 79%, with 10% receiving Medicaid and 12% uninsured (compared to 19% uninsured nationally).

While Wisconsin remains below the national average for insured women, the decrease in women with private health insurance was offset primarily by an increase in uninsured women.

Low Income Women: In 2001-2002, among low-income (<200% federal poverty level) women age 18 to 64, 55% had private or other (non-Medicaid) insurance, 26% received Medicaid, and 20% were uninsured (compared to a national uninsured rate of 35%).

In 2003-2004, the share of low-income women with private or other health insurance declined to 46%, with 29% receiving Medicaid and 26% uninsured (compared to 36% uninsured nationally).

While Wisconsin is still below the national rates for uninsured low-income women, the 9% reduction in the share of women with private/other insurance translated into only a 3% increase in women insured through Medicaid compared to a 6% increase uninsured women.



Source: Kaiser, 2006, Women's Health Insurance Coverage Fact Sheet.

Education

Wisconsin ranks 29th among all states for the proportion of the female population with four or more years of college in year 2000 (the most current year for which U.S. Census data are available).

Statewide, in 2000, 22% of women in Wisconsin had completed a four-year college education or beyond—slightly below the rate for the U.S. as a whole. The proportion of women 25 and older in Wisconsin without high school diplomas was 14%, well below the nationwide rate of 19%.

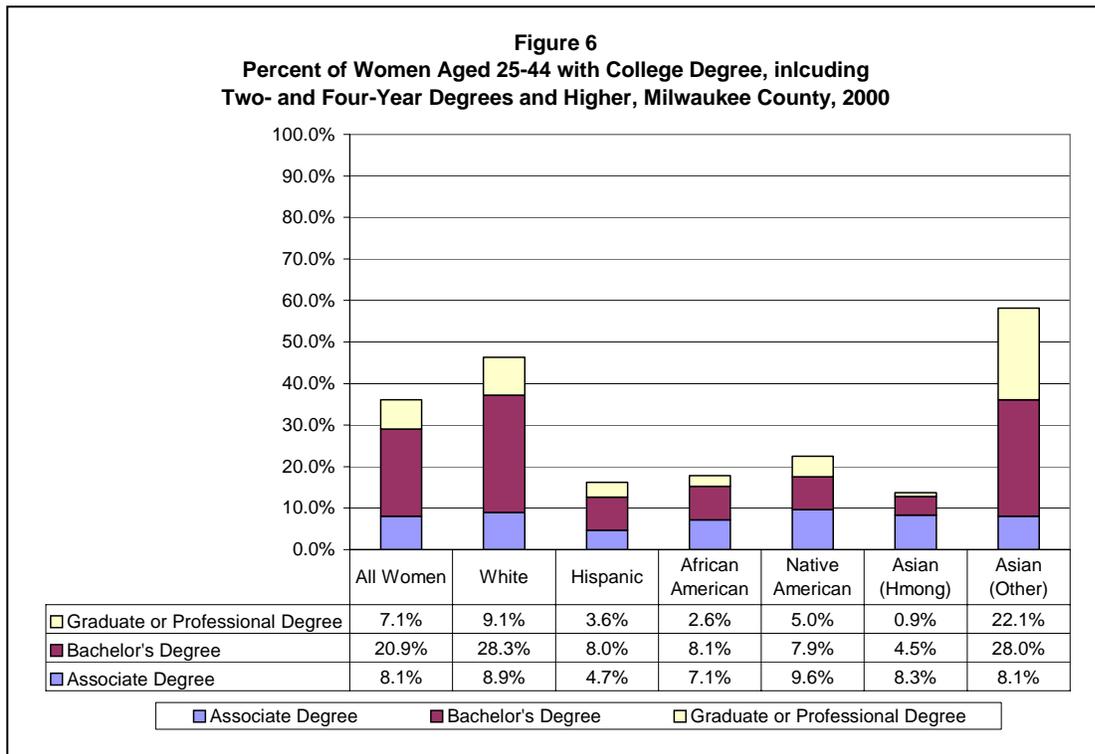
In Milwaukee County, 23% of all women, aged 25 and older, had completed a four-year degree or beyond, the same as the nationwide rate. However, nearly as many (20%) were without a high school diploma, only marginally higher than the U.S. rate. These figures, however, mask considerable variation in educational attainment between racial and ethnic groups. See Tables 16 to 18.

College Education

In Milwaukee County, Asian American women are the most likely to have a college degree (35%). Within the Asian American group, however, it is important to note the striking disparity in attainment between Hmong women,

	Milwaukee County		Wisconsin	United States
	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
All Women	22.8%	72,536	21.7%	22.8%
White	27.3%	61,045	22.4%	24.8%
African American	10.3%	6,808	10.8%	15.2%
Hispanic	9.9%	1,752	12.5%	10.7%
Native American	14.6%	305	11.6%	12.0%
Asian American	35.1%	2,028	38.5%	40.5%
<i>Hmong</i>	3.4%	42	4.6%	4.8%
<i>Asian (Other)</i>	43.7%	1,986	49.2%	40.8%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT64: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over



where only about 3% of women have a college degree, compared to other Asian American women where nearly half (44%) have at least a four-year degree. See Table 16.

Among the other racial/ethnic groups the shares of women with a 4-year college degree or more are: white (27%), Native American (15%), and African American and Hispanic (10%) women.

In Milwaukee County, African American and Hispanic women are less than half as likely as white women to have a four-year college education. All groups are significantly less likely than Asian American (non-Hmong) women to have a college degree.

African American women in Milwaukee County are less likely than their counterparts in the U.S. as a whole to have a four-year degree—10% in Milwaukee County compared to 15% nationally.

Hispanic, African American, Native American and Hmong women (age 25 and over) in Milwaukee County are also much less likely to hold a graduate or professional degree (3.3%, 3.3%, 5.6%, 0.6%, respectively), compared to white and Asian (non-Hmong) women (8.4% and 19.3%, respectively).

Looking only at women between the ages of 25 and 44, the rates of college attainment for a 4-year degree or beyond increase for white, Asian American and, to a lesser degree for Hispanic women. However, the rate changes little for African American women (10% to 11%) and even declines for Native American women (15% to 13%). See Figure 6.

High School Diploma

In Milwaukee County, among women aged 25 and older, about 25% have a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment. This share is relatively consistent across racial and ethnic groups, with the exception of Asian American women where only 15% top out at a high school education. See Table 18.

Less than High School

Perhaps most striking in the comparative data on educational attainment are the percentages of women with less than a high school education. See Table 17 and Figure 7. (Note that Table 17 refer to women age 25 and older, while Figure 7 refers to women only ages 25 to 44.)

Hispanic. Among Hispanic women in Milwaukee County, a stunning 47% have less than a high school education—a figure on par with a national rate of 46%. Narrowing the focus to women aged 25 to 44 the figure falls to only 41%.

For Hispanic women aged 25 to 44, more than three-quarters have a high school diploma or less as their highest level of educational attainment.

Hispanic women with less than a high school diploma, by age:

Age	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	47.4%	44.5%	40.0%
25-34	39.8%	38.3%	39.5%
35-44	43.6%	39.2%	40.9%
45-64	71.8%	64.3%	69.7%

African American. Nearly one-third (32%) of African American women in Milwaukee County have less than a high school education, higher than the rate of 27% for African American women in the United States as a whole.

	Milwaukee County		Wisconsin	United States
	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
All Women	19.8%	62,966	14.4%	19.3%
White	13.6%	30,434	12.6%	14.5%
African American	31.9%	21,033	31.2%	26.5%
Hispanic	47.0%	8,337	42.7%	46.0%
Native American	24.9%	522	21.7%	26.2%
Asian American	32.0%	1,848	31.8%	22.1%
<i>Hmong</i>	70.1%	860	73.0%	71.9%
<i>Asian (Other)</i>	21.7%	988	18.7%	21.7%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT64: Sex by Educational Attainment for the Population 25 Years and Over

For African American women aged 25 to 44, more than half have a high school diploma or less as their highest level of educational attainment.

African American women in Milwaukee County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	38.1%	36.5%	26.7%
25-34	23.4%	22.8%	16.6%
35-44	29.2%	28.7%	17.8%
45-64	60.0%	59.8%	57.1%

Across age groups in Milwaukee County, the rates for women without a high school education are significantly higher than those for African American women in the U.S. as a whole.

Asian American. About 70% of Hmong women have less than a high school education, the highest rate among all racial and ethnic group, and more than three times the rate for Asian women from other ethnic groups. Among younger women (ages 18-34), Hmong women are still significantly less likely than other Asian American women in these age groups to have a high school diploma.

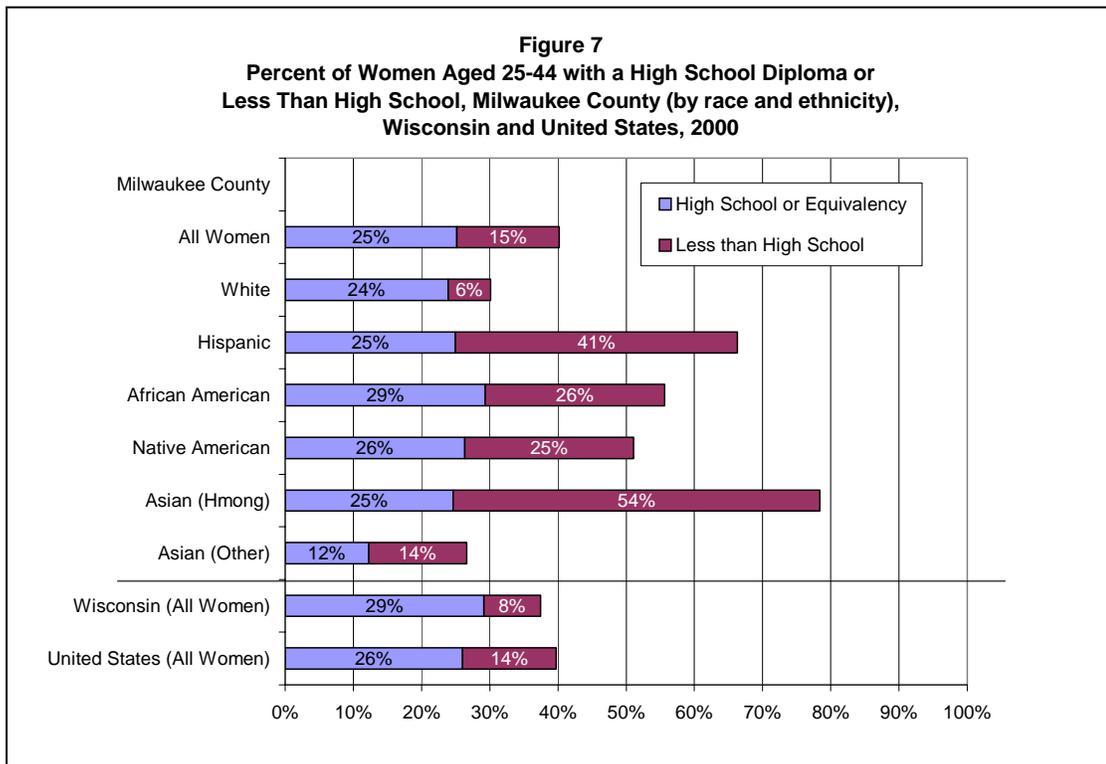
Asian American Hmong women in Milwaukee County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	33.0%	31.2%	30.8%
25-34	46.6%	51.9%	47.3%
35-44	74.4%	80.3%	81.2%
45-64	100.0%	94.8%	93.0%

Asian American women (except Hmong) in Milwaukee County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	17.5%	15.1%	12.9%
25-34	9.3%	9.0%	10.0%
35-44	22.4%	16.0%	16.2%
45-64	36.9%	41.5%	48.7%

The high rates of less than high school education indicate a sharp dichotomy within the Asian American community between Hmong women and other Asian women.



Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT65: Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the Population 18 Yrs and Over.

Hmong women aged 18-24 are about twice as likely to have less than a high school education than other Asian woman in their age group. Other Asian women (except Hmong) also have comparatively high rates of having less than a high school education relative to state and national figures.

Native American. One-quarter of Native American women in Milwaukee County have less than a high school education, higher than the rate of 22% statewide and slightly lower than the rate of 26% for the U.S. as a whole.

For Native American women in the age group 25 to 44, about half have only a high school diploma or less as their highest level of educational attainment.

Native American women in Milwaukee County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	36.8%	32.9%	30.2%
25-34	27.0%	18.6%	18.7%
35-44	22.8%	17.0%	20.2%
45-64	45.8%	45.7%	57.1%

Among women 18-24, the rates for Milwaukee County are significantly higher than those for Native American women in the U.S. as a whole.

For Native American women age 35 and over without a college degree, the rates for Milwaukee County are closer to those for their counterparts in Wisconsin and the U.S. as a whole.

White. White women are among the least likely of groups to have less than a high school education. The Milwaukee County rate of 14% is slightly higher than statewide rate for white women of 13% and slightly lower than the rate of 15% for white women in the U.S. as a whole.

Among white women between the ages of 25 and 44, the figure is significantly lower with only 6.2% having less than a high school diploma.

Nonetheless, about 30% of white women in Milwaukee County aged 25-44 have a high school diploma or less as their highest level of educational attainment. See Figure 17.

White women in Milwaukee County with less than a high school education, by age:

Age	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
18-24	14.4%	15.3%	16.4%
25-34	5.9%	5.3%	7.7%
35-44	6.5%	5.6%	7.8%
45-64	28.8%	31.1%	30.3%

Some College

Another striking figure in the data on educational attainment is the relatively high percentage of women across racial and ethnic groups with some college experience, but no college degree.

In Milwaukee County, 24% of all women aged 25 to 44, have some college that did not result in a degree. See Table 18.

Table 18 Educational Attainment for Women Aged 25 to 44, Milwaukee County, 2000							
	All Women	White	Hispanic	African American	Native American	Asian American Hmong	Other Asian
Less than High School	15.0%	6.2%	41.3%	26.3%	24.8%	53.8%	14.4%
High School or Equivalency	25.2%	23.9%	25.0%	29.3%	26.3%	24.6%	12.3%
Some College, No Degree	23.7%	23.5%	17.5%	26.6%	26.4%	7.9%	15.2%
Associate Degree	8.1%	8.9%	4.7%	7.1%	9.6%	8.3%	8.1%
Bachelor's Degree	20.9%	28.3%	8.0%	8.1%	7.9%	4.5%	28.0%
Graduate/Professional Degree	7.1%	9.1%	3.6%	2.6%	5.0%	0.9%	22.1%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT65: Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the Population 18 Yrs and Over.

These figures are particularly notable among the African American, Native American and Hispanic populations that otherwise have comparatively low levels of college attainment.

Among African American women, 27% have some college, compared to about 15% with either a two- or four-year college degree.

Among Native American women, 26% have some college, compared to 18% with either a two-or four-year college degree.

Among Hispanic women, 18% have some college, compared to 13% with either a two- or four-year college degrees.

While this analysis does not attempt to address causality, these figures raise questions about the large numbers of women that go on to attempt college and do not complete a degree relative to the number that do complete a degree and the potential barriers that may derail college efforts (e.g., preparedness, support, work/family issues, and cost/financing).

Women Business Owners

Wisconsin ranks 33rd in the country for the proportion of businesses owned by women.

In 1997, 28% of firms in Milwaukee County were women-owned, compared to 24% for Wisconsin and 26% for the U.S. as a whole.

According to a recently released report by the U.S. Census, in Milwaukee County, women owned more than 15,000 businesses in 2002 – about 15% of Wisconsin's 104,000 women-owned businesses counted in the study (see Table 19). Not surprisingly, Milwaukee County leads the state in the number of women-owned businesses, followed by Dane County with 11,000 businesses.

In 2002, women-owned businesses in Milwaukee County employed more than 24,000 people with a \$600 million payroll and generated more than \$2.2 billion in business revenue annually.

Statewide, these Census data show that women's business ownership has increased from 24% of businesses in 1997 to 26% in 2002. (Census has not yet published the county-level data needed to calculate the percentage of women's businesses as a share of all businesses.)

	Women-Owned Businesses				
	Total Businesses	Total Sales and Receipts (in millions)	Number of Employees	Annual Payroll (in millions)	All Businesses
Wisconsin	104,170	\$17,600	149,777	\$3,200	393,243
<u>Counties</u>					
Milwaukee	15,317	\$2,200	24,306	\$572	na
Kenosha	2,478	\$292	3,012	\$66	na
Ozaukee	2,236	\$373	2,442	\$66	na
Racine	2,624	\$2,300	5,048	\$107	na
Walworth	1,854	\$189	1,774	\$32	na
Washington	2,621	\$491	5,133	\$111	na
Waukesha	8,598	\$2,200	15,907	\$409	na
Total	35,728	\$7,900	57,622	\$1,400	
Source: US Census Bureau, 2002 Economic Census, Survey of Business Owners, <i>Women-Owned Firms: 2002</i> , Company Statistics Series, February 2006.					
Note: Census data on women-owned firms do not include 50% male/female ownership companies.					

Women and Poverty

Wisconsin ranks 6th among all states for the proportion of women statewide living below the poverty line. By racial and ethnic group, Wisconsin ranks only 38th for African American women, 37th for Asian American women, 22nd for Hispanic women and 16th for Native American women living below the poverty line.

In Milwaukee County, 86% of women live above the federal poverty line, compared to 91% statewide. As in Wisconsin and the U.S. as a whole, however, women of color of all races and ethnicities are more likely to live in poverty than white women. See Table 20.

In Milwaukee County, 93% of white women live above the poverty line, compared to 70% of African American women, about 75% of Hispanic and Native American women and 80% of Hmong women (well above national rates).

In addition, the proportion of African American, Hispanic and Asian (other) women living above the poverty line is below the national rates for these racial and ethnic groups.

Self-Sufficiency Standard

Federal poverty rates are only part of the story in evaluating social and economic autonomy. Indeed, using only the federal poverty rates to evaluate poverty understates the degree of hardship in the population and for women with children in particular.

The 2004 Status report provides that, "although the poverty line is the federal standard of hardship in the United States, it was created to measure the minimum amount of income needed for survival by calculating minimum food expenditures and multiplying them by three."

"Other alternatives, including those published by the Wider Opportunities Network [and the Wisconsin Women's Network], calculate the cost of every major budget item a family needs – including housing, child care, health care, transportation, food and taxes—based on family composition and where the family resides. ...

Table 20
Percent of Women Age 16 and Over Living Above the Poverty Line, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999

	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
All Women	85.8%	90.9%	87.4%
White	92.5%	92.7%	91.0%
African American	69.7%	70.3%	75.9%
Hispanic	74.3%	78.1%	77.6%
Native American	76.5%	79.6%	74.8%
Asian American	83.6%	82.3%	87.6%
<i>Hmong</i>	79.8%	75.4%	66.6%
<i>Other Asian</i>	84.9%	85.0%	87.9%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT142: Poverty Status in 1999 by Sex by Age.

According to the Economic Policy Institute, more than two and a half times as many people live below its "basic family budget" level than fall below the official poverty level."

According to the Federal poverty guidelines for 2004, a family consisting of one adult and two children would be considered "poor" if this family had a monthly income of \$1,306 (\$15,670) annually or less—regardless of where they live or the age of their children (WWN, 2004).

By comparison, the Wisconsin Self-Sufficiency Standard calculates that for one adult and two children (one preschooler and one school age child), in Milwaukee County the family would need to earn \$3,508 per month (\$42,102 per year) to meet basic needs including items such as food, child care, transportation and housing.

Evaluating poverty in light of both the Federal Poverty Guidelines and the Self-Sufficiency Standards, it is also interesting to look back to median family incomes for Milwaukee County where the median income for a married-couple family of \$61,300 is more than three times the median single-mother household income of \$18,800. See Table 12.

The Wisconsin Women's Network's self-sufficiency calculations for Milwaukee County are provided in Appendix 2.

Poverty & Single-Mother Families

Single-mother families have the highest poverty rates of any household type.

Poverty rates are high among all single-mother families, but they are much higher statewide and in Milwaukee County for African American, Hispanic, Native American and Asian American single mothers where nearly 50% -- one of every two -- of all single-mother families live below the federal poverty line. See Figure 8.

Of the more than 17,000 single-mother families with related minor children in Milwaukee County, more than 70% are African American, 15% are white and 10% are Hispanic. See Appendix 1, Table 4.

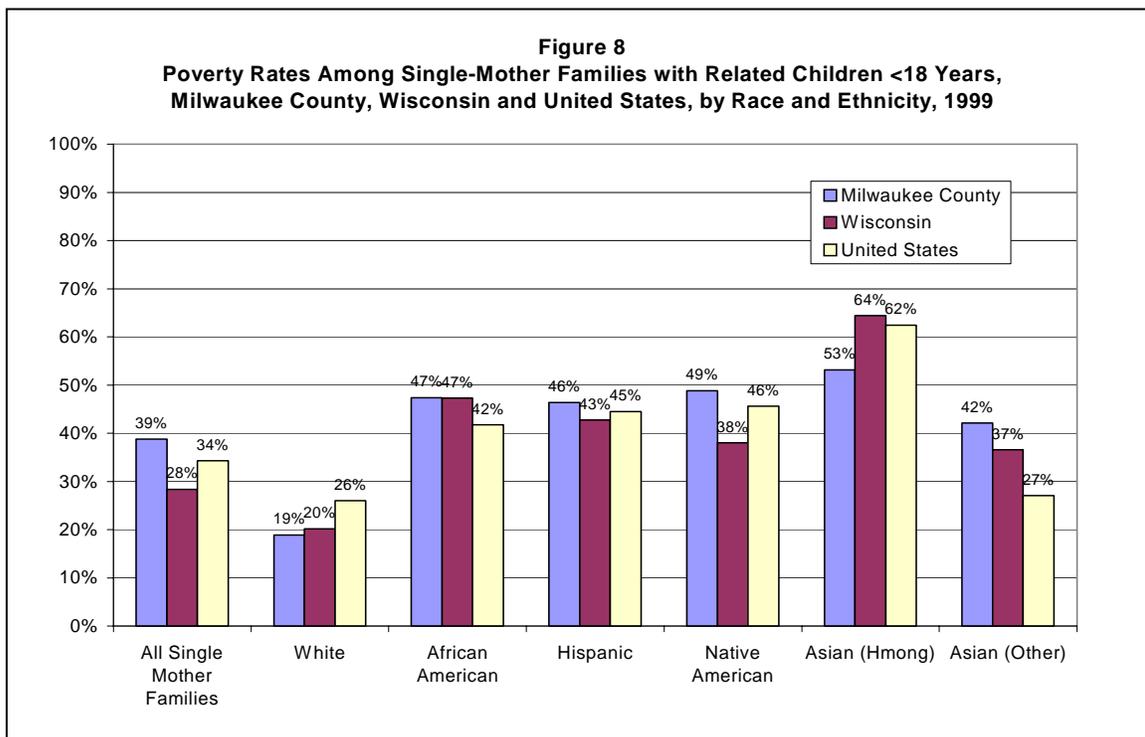
The rates for women of color in Milwaukee County are higher than for their counterparts in the U.S. as a whole, particularly for Asian American (non-Hmong) women.

White single-mothers have a 19% poverty rate, which is less than half the rate for women of other races and ethnicities and below the 26% national rate for white single-mothers.

Single-father families have poverty rates about half those of single mothers, except for African American single-fathers with children where nearly one-third are below the poverty level.

Among married-couple families with related children under age 18, about 6% are below the poverty line for the population as a whole in Milwaukee County. This is higher than the statewide rate of 3% for married-couple families in Wisconsin, but lower than the national rate of 7%.

Rates vary by race with African American (11%), Hispanic (17%) and Hmong (18%) and Other Asian (16%) married-couple families with children much more likely the white (2%) or Native American (5%) families to be below the poverty line.



Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 157: Poverty Status in 1999 of Families by Family Type by Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years by Age of Related Children.

5. Health and Well-Being

Health is a crucial factor in women's overall status. Health problems can seriously impair women's quality of life, as well as their ability to care for themselves and their families. Women's overall health status is closely connected to many of the other indicators in this report, including women's poverty status, access to health insurance, and reproductive health (IWPR 2004).

Women's health and well-being is reviewed in this section by a variety of indicators, including mortality from heart disease, lung cancer and breast cancer, and issues of reproductive health including access to prenatal care and related issues of low-birth-weight infants and infant mortality.

Lack of Comparative Data

It is very difficult to locate county-level information broken out by gender on important health measures such as incidence of diseases such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes and HIV/AIDS. Two large databases, one national and one statewide, provide comparative information on mortality (deaths) from selected diseases.

Data on women's health issues must be drawn from a variety of sources making comparability difficult because the data and findings are often based on different populations, time periods and data collection methods.

It is difficult to envision addressing women's health concerns when little data exists to assess the problem. A key recommendation of the 2004 Status Report was to create a statewide Women's Health Office empowered within state government to lead strategic planning to improve women's well-being regarding a wide variety of health issues and to specifically address disparities in health outcomes for women of color. This issue of measuring and addressing women's health issues, and particularly health disparities for women of color, is a particular concern for the women of Milwaukee County.

Mortality and Incidence of Diseases

Heart disease, lung cancer and breast cancer are the leading causes of death for women in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County. In Milwaukee County and in Wisconsin as a whole, African American women have the highest mortality rates for all three diseases, followed by white women. Comparisons are limited by the lack of available data, in some cases, for Hispanic, Native American and Asian American women.

In Milwaukee County, women are, on average, nearly twice as likely to die from lung cancer as from breast cancer (27 per 100,000 compared to 43 per 100,000). They are nearly five times more likely to die from heart disease (208 per 100,000) than either cancer. See Table 21.

Statistics on disease and mortality are presented as a rate per 100,000 people in the population, unless otherwise noted. For statistics on infants, rates are often presented as a rate per 1,000 live births.

Mortality rates provided for Native American, Asian American and Hispanic women should be viewed with caution. Because there are often few events in a given year, there may be significant annual variations in rates.

Heart Disease

Nationally, mortality rates from heart disease are higher among African American women than among white women (270 compared to 198 per 100,000 of the population). This pattern holds true in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County, although the margin is smaller (235 compared to 200 per 100,000). For both white and African American women, heart disease mortality rates are higher in Milwaukee County than in Wisconsin as a whole. See Table 21.

Nationally, the lowest heart disease rates are for Asian American (111 per 100,000), Native American (131 per 100,000) and Hispanic (156 per 100,000) women.

In Milwaukee County, Hispanic women have the lowest rate of heart disease (63 per 100,000), followed by Asian American (99 per 100,000) and Native American (141 per 100,000) women. As noted earlier, caution should be used in interpreting county-level mortality rates for these population groups.

Among Native American women, the Milwaukee County rate of 141.1 per 100,000 is above the national rate of 130.5, but below the statewide rate of 171.4 for Native American women.

The Big Cities Health Inventory shows a higher rate for City of Milwaukee women at 250 per 100,000. This is above both the big city and U.S. average rates (228 and 223 per 100,000) and ranking City of Milwaukee (women) 14th among 47 cities assessed. (A rank of 1 designates the "worst" performance among the cities and 47 the "best".) See Table 22.

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for Wisconsin women. Nationally, white women are more likely to die from lung cancer than women in other racial and ethnic groups.

In Milwaukee County, as in Wisconsin as a whole, African American women have the highest lung cancer mortality rates at 51 per 100,000, compared to 42 per 100,000 for white women.

Hispanic women have significantly lower lung cancer mortality rates (11 per 100,000 in Milwaukee County).

Due to the small number of events that may occur on an annual basis, reliable county-level rates are not available for Native American and Asian American women.

Table 21 Average Annual Mortality Among Women from Heart Disease, Lung Cancer, Breast Cancer and Suicide (Rate per 100,000 of the Population), Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and United States, 2000-2002 (3-year average)						
	All Women	White	African American	Native American	Asian American	Hispanic
Heart Disease						
Milwaukee County	207.6	200.1	235.1	141.1	99.3	62.9
Wisconsin	176.7	174.7	228.1	171.4	89.3	57.7
United States	203.4	198.3	269.6	130.5	110.9	156.2
Lung Cancer						
Milwaukee County	43.2	42.1	50.7	NA	NA	11.3
Wisconsin	37.7	37.2	52.2	50.2	16.1	9.0
United States	41.3	42.3	39.5	26.7	18.5	14.5
Breast Cancer						
Milwaukee County	27.2	26.3	29.0	NA	NA	NA
Wisconsin	25.2	25.0	30.0	14.8	11.3	8.5
United States	26.1	25.6	34.2	13.1	12.6	16.2
Suicide						
Milwaukee County	5.1	5.8	3.0	NA	NA	NA
Wisconsin	4.2	4.3	2.8	3.2	5.6	1.5
United States	4.1	4.5	1.7	4.0	2.9	1.7
Sources: National Women's Health Indicators Database (US HHS). *Notes: 1. Data are age adjusted, three year averages. 2. These data are not directly comparable to the rates calculated in the 2004 Status report which are based on different source data that are not available at the county level. 4. NA = Not available.						

The Big Cities Health Inventory provides a slightly higher lung cancer rate for Milwaukee (city) women at about 44 per 100,000—between the big city and U.S. rates (46 and 42 per 100,000) and ranking City of Milwaukee (women) in the middle at 24th among 47 cities assessed.

Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the mostly commonly diagnosed cancer for Wisconsin women, but ranks second for cancer mortality, following lung cancer.

Nationally, mortality rates from breast cancer are higher among African American women than among white women (34 compared to 26 per 100,000). In Milwaukee County, African American women still have the highest rates, but the margin compared to white women is smaller (29 compared to 26 per 100,000 of the population).

A report by the Wisconsin Division of Public Health (DHFS, 2005) indicates that, statewide, white women had higher breast cancer incidence rates than African American women during the period 1998-2002. However, African American women had higher breast cancer mortality rates.

Due to the small number of events that may occur on an annual basis, reliable county-level rates are not available for Native American, Asian American and Hispanic women.

The Big Cities Health Inventory provides a higher breast cancer rate for City of Milwaukee women at 26 per 100,000, which is below both the big city and U.S. rates (30 and 27 per 100,000) and ranking City of Milwaukee 39th among 47 cities assessed.

Suicide

In Milwaukee County, the suicide rate for women (5 per 100,000) is higher than for Wisconsin or the U.S. as a whole (about 4 per 100,000).

The rate of 6 per 100,000 for white women and 3 for African American women in Milwaukee County are above the respective rates for Wisconsin and the U.S. as a whole.

Due to the small number of events that may occur on an annual basis, reliable county-level rates are not available for Native American, Asian American or Hispanic women.

The Big Cities Health Inventory shows a higher rate for City of Milwaukee women at about 7 per 100,000, which is above both the big city and U.S. rates (5 and 4 per 100,000) and ranking City of Milwaukee (women) 3rd among 13 cities assessed.

Depression and Mental Health

County-specific data are not available for mental health issues such as depression and other psychological disorders. For information about women and depression in Wisconsin, see: *Lieutenant Governor's Task Force on Women and Depression in Wisconsin Report*, May 2006, at: <http://www.ltgov.state.wi.us/>.

	Rate	Avg. City Rates	Avg. US Rate	Big City Rank
Overall Mortality	854.8	822.0	739.1	16 of 47
Heart Disease Mortality (2000)	249.7	228.4	223.1	14 of 47
Lung Cancer Mortality (2000)	43.6	46.0	41.8	24 of 47
Breast Cancer Mortality (2000)	25.6	29.8	27.1	39 of 47
Homicide Mortality (2000)	8.1	6.8	2.8	6 of 17
Suicide (2000)	6.7	5.3	4.0	3 of 13
AIDS Incidence (1997)	7.6	25.5	N/A	22 of 24
Chlamydia Incidence (1997)	1,267.0	719.8	333.3	2 of 33
Gonorrhea Incidence (1997)	533.3	319.2	117.3	5 of 33
Syphilis Incidence (1997)	14.5	16.4	2.8	7 of 16

Source: Big Cities Health Inventory, 2003

HIV/AIDS

Wisconsin has historically had low rates of HIV/AIDS infection compared to other states. The Big Cities Health Inventory provides a rate of about 8 per 100,000 (1997) for the City of Milwaukee, compared to an average of 26 per 100,000 for large U.S. cities and ranking City of Milwaukee (women) 22nd out of 24 cities measured.

While HIV occurs among all racial groups in Wisconsin, there is a very high degree of racial disparity – with the racial disparity even greater among females than males. HIV infection is reported in all 72 Wisconsin counties, with nearly half of all reported cases (48%) in Milwaukee County (DHFS, 2006).

In 2005, statewide, about three-quarters of all females reported with HIV infection were from racial and ethnic minority groups. African American females had reported cases at 36 times the rates of white females and Hispanic females had rates 16 times higher than white females.

While the median age for cases reported statewide in Wisconsin in 2005 was 36 years old, it is estimated that most people are infected at much younger ages. The CDC estimates that at least half of those infected with HIV in the United States, acquired the disease before age 25.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Data for incidence rates for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) by gender do not appear to be readily available at the county-level.

According to CDC data, in 2003, Milwaukee ranked 10th out of 63 selected large cities for the combined rate for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis (men and women). Two-thirds of men and women with reportable STDs were in the age group 15 to 24. (See DHFS, 2004)

The Big Cities Health Inventory ranks City of Milwaukee (women) 2nd of 33 cities assessed for women diagnosed with chlamydia (1,267 compared to 333 per 100,000) and 5th of 33 for gonorrhea (533 compare to 117 per 100,000).

Of particular note are high rates of STD infection for chlamydia and gonorrhea for Milwaukee (city) women compared to rates for Wisconsin as a whole and at rates four times higher than the big cities average for women. See Table 22.

According to the literature, chlamydia and gonorrhea may result in pelvic inflammatory disease, a major cause of infertility, ectopic pregnancy, and chronic pelvic pain. As with other inflammatory STDs, chlamydia and gonorrhea can also facilitate the transmission of HIV infection. In addition, pregnant women that are infected can pass the disease to their infants during delivery, resulting in a variety of serious neonatal complications.

Diabetes

An estimated 9% of Milwaukee County's total adult population have diabetes, which is higher than the statewide rate for all adults of 8% (DHFS, 2005). Gender-specific data on diabetes are not reported.

There are large racial disparities in incidence of diabetes. Native Americans, in particular, are reported to have a staggering 46% of the adult population with diabetes (male and female).

According to the 2004 Status report, statewide in Wisconsin, women face diabetes at a rate of 5%, which is below the national average of 6%. African American and Hispanic women are about twice as likely as white women to have non-pregnancy related diabetes (IWPR, 2004).

Pregnancy & Infant Health

Prenatal Care

Public health assessments of "adequate prenatal care" are determined in part by prenatal care beginning within the first trimester of pregnancy.

In Milwaukee County, in 2001, about 79% of all women began prenatal care in the first trimester. By racial and ethnic group, these rates varied from 90% for white women to 60% for Laotian/Hmong women. See Table 23 and Figure 9.

Milwaukee County's rates for prenatal care in the first trimester are somewhat below the percentages for women in the U.S. as a whole for African American and Hispanic women. Rates for Milwaukee County's Laotian/Hmong women are above those for Laotian/Hmong women statewide in Wisconsin, but well below the national average for all Asian American women.

Among African American women in Milwaukee County, 69% begin prenatal care in the first trimester, 23% in the second trimester, and 9% in the third trimester or not at all.

Among Hispanic women, 72% begin prenatal care in the first trimester, 22% in the second trimester and 5% in the third trimester or not at all.

Among Native American women, 78% begin care in the first trimester, 16% in the second trimester and 5% to 7% in the third trimester or not at all.

Among Laotian/Hmong women, about 60% begin care in the first trimester, 37% in the second trimester, and 2% to 3% in the third trimester or not at all. While the rate for women receiving first trimester prenatal care is low, it is nearly double the 1990 rate of 34% among the county's Laotian/Hmong women. See Figure 10.

Among white women, 90% begin care in the first trimester, 7% in the second trimester and 2% in the third trimester or not at all.

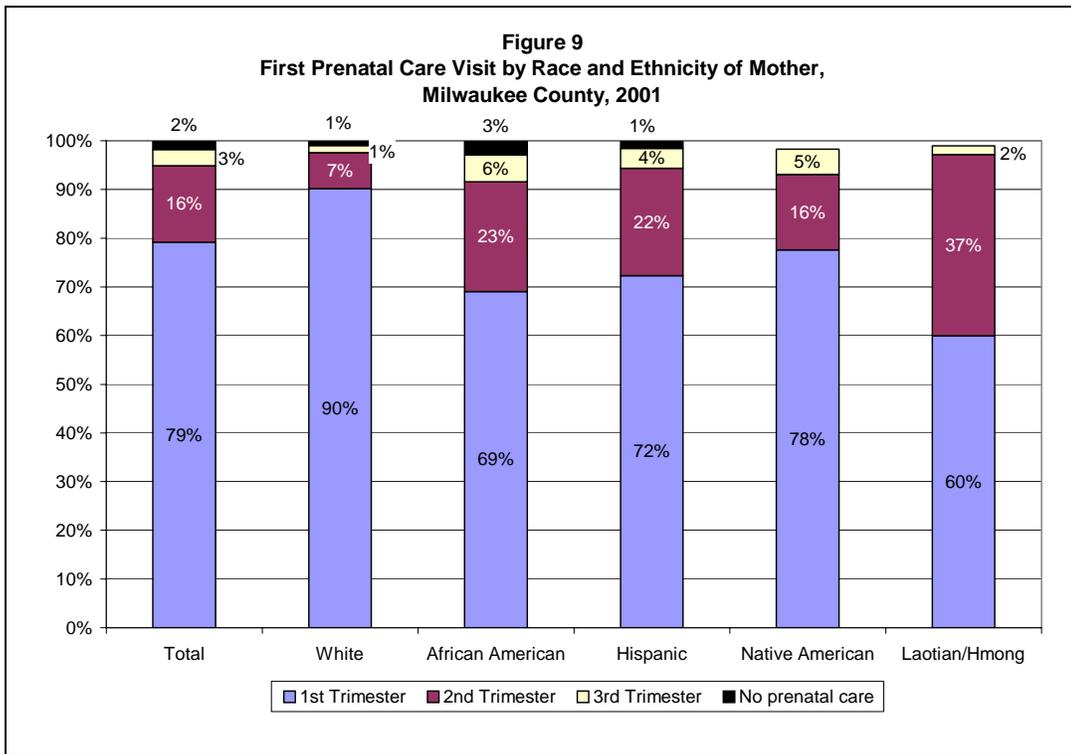
Since 1990, the percentages of African American, Native American and Laotian/Hmong women in Milwaukee County receiving first trimester prenatal care have increased. For example, in 1990 only 59% of African American women began prenatal care in the first trimester. See Figure 10.

Among Hispanic women, however, rates of first trimester prenatal care have increased only slightly, from 65% in 1990 to 68% in 2002.

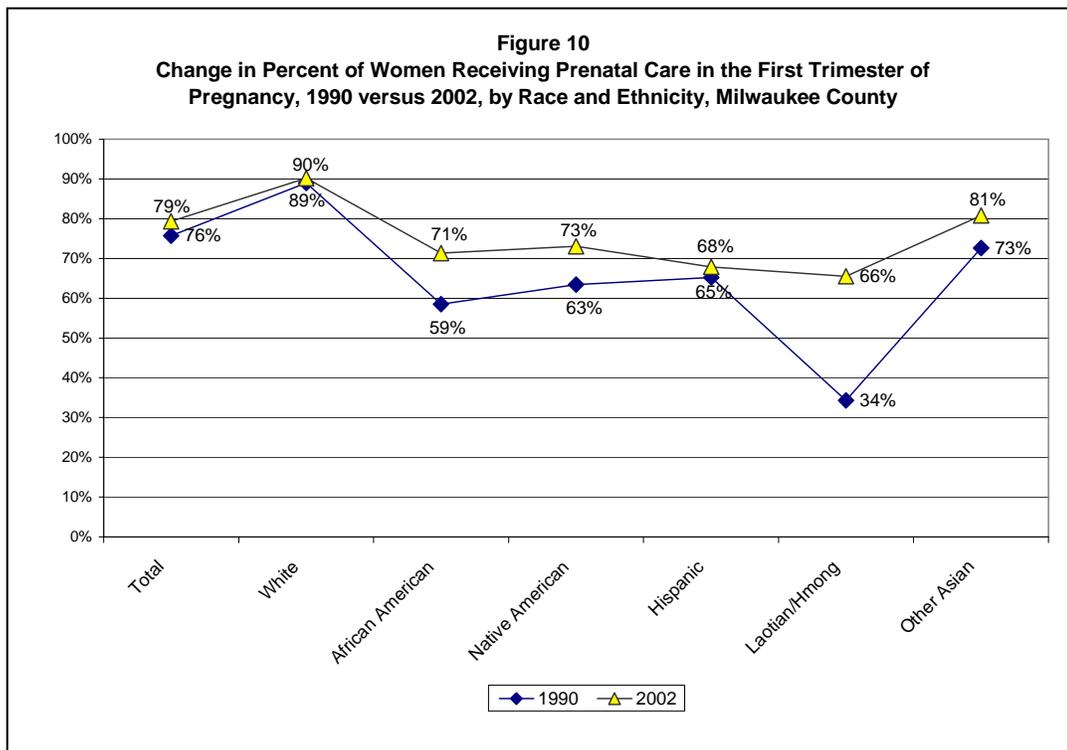
In Milwaukee County, African American and Hispanic women are at least three times more likely to begin care in the second trimester or later compared to white women. Native American women are twice as likely compared to white women and Laotian/Hmong women are four times more likely to begin care in the second trimester.

The Big Cities Health Inventory ranks City of Milwaukee 30th of 47 cities assessed for women receiving "adequate" prenatal care at 66% overall, compared to a big cities average of 72%.

Table 23 Prenatal Care, Low Birth Weight and Infant Mortality, by Race and Ethnicity, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and United States, 2001				
	Milwaukee County 2001	Wisconsin 2001	United States 2001	
Percent of Mothers Beginning Prenatal Care in the First Trimester				
All Women	79%	80%	84%	83%
White	90%	90%	88%	89%
African American	69%	72%	69%	74%
Hispanic	72%	71%	70%	76%
Native American	78%	77%	72%	69%
Asian (Hmong)	60%*	61%*	49%*	84%
Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies (less than 5 lbs, 8 oz.)				
All Women	9.0%	9.0%	6.6%	7.7%
White	6.7%	6.3%	5.9%	6.8%
African American	13.2%	13.6%	13.3%	13.1%
Hispanic	6.0%	6.3%	6.2%	6.5%
Native American	6.9%	8.2%	6.6%	7.3%
Asian (Hmong)	8.2%*	7.2%*	5.8%*	7.5%
Infant Mortality (deaths of infants under age one per 1,000 live births)				
All Women	10.0	10.2	7.1	6.8
White	6.4	6.0	5.7	5.7
African American	16.6	17.5	18.7	13.5
Hispanic	6.8	7.0	7.0	5.4
Native American	N/A	10.8	17.5	9.7
Asian (Hmong)	N/A	9.6*	6.7*	4.7
Sources: Milwaukee County and Wisconsin: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), DHFS. United States: IWPR (2004). Note: Asian American data for Milwaukee County and Wisconsin are for Laotian/Hmong women only. Data for 2000-2004 are based on a 5-year average providing a large enough sample to provide local rates for Asian American and Native American women for some data.				



Sources: WI DHFS, Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) database.



Sources: WI DHFS, Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) database.

Low Birth Weight

In Milwaukee County, about one in ten infants is low birth weight, which is above both the state and U.S. percentages. By racial and ethnic group, however, the share of low-birth weight infants is largely on par with national averages.

Milwaukee County's African American women are most likely to have low birth weight infants, at rates nearly double those of white, Hispanic and Native American women. See Table 23.

The Big Cities Health Inventory ranks City of Milwaukee 11th of 47 cities at about 10% overall, compared to a big cities average of 9%.

Infant Mortality

While low birth weight statistics in Milwaukee County are largely on par with national averages, infant mortality rates are higher for all racial and ethnic groups. See Table 23.

Over the 5-year period 2000-2004, 750 babies in Milwaukee County died before their first birthday – and average of 150 per year. The county's 2001 infant mortality rate of 10 per 1,000 live births is 30% higher than for Wisconsin or the U.S.

Among women that do not receive prenatal care, infant mortality rates are three to 12 times higher than for women that begin prenatal care in the first or second trimester of pregnancy.

African American women in Milwaukee County have the highest infant mortality rate at 18 per 1,000 live births, higher than for the U.S. as a whole. In Milwaukee County these rates are nearly three times higher than for white and Hispanic women (6 and 7 per 1,000) and nearly double the rates for Asian American and Native American women (10 and 11 per 1,000).

Even among women receiving prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy, infant mortality

rates for African American women are twice the rate for all women and nearly three times the rate for any other racial or ethnic group. See Table 24.

Laotian/Hmong women in Milwaukee County have infant mortality rates higher than their counterparts statewide (about 10 compared to 7 per 1,000) and more than twice the national rate for all Asian American women (5 per 1,000).

In addition, among Milwaukee County's Laotian/Hmong women there is a four-fold increase in infant mortality between women who begin prenatal care in the first trimester compared to those who begin care the second trimester.

The Big Cities Health Inventory ranks City of Milwaukee 6th of 47 cities assessed for infant mortality, with an overall rate of 11 compared to a big cities average of 8 per 1,000 live births.

Teen Pregnancy

The City of Milwaukee has the second highest percentage of total births to mothers less than 20 years old among the 50 largest cities in the United States. (Baltimore, Maryland, ranks first.)

For a comprehensive report on Milwaukee's teen pregnancy rates and the economic and social impact of teen pregnancy, see: *If Truth Be Told: Teen Pregnancy, Public Health and the Cycle of Poverty*, United Way of Greater Milwaukee, 2006. The report is available online at: <http://www.unitedwaymilwaukee.org/>.

Table 24
Infant Mortality Rate by Trimester Prenatal Care Began,
by Race and Ethnicity of Mother, Milwaukee County, 2000-2004
(<365 days, per 1,000 Live Births)

	All	1-3 months (1 st trimester)	4-6 months (2 nd trimester)	No Prenatal Care
All Women	10.2	9.3	11.2	46.6
White	6.0	5.6	6.0	19.4
African American	17.5	17.2	15.3	53.9
Hispanic	7.0	6.4	7.3	50.4
Native American	10.8	6.0	9.1	125.0
Hmong/Laotian	9.6	4.9	15.6	76.9

Source: Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH), DHFS.

Appendix 1: Supplemental Tables

Appendix 1, Table 1. Distribution of Households by Type, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 2000			
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
WHITE			
Family Households (with and without own children)	55.7%	66.4%	66.8%
Married Couple	43.6%	55.8%	55.2%
Female Householders	8.7%	7.4%	8.4%
Non-Family: 1-person Households	36.5%	27.2%	27.3%
Female Householder	21.4%	15.6%	16.0%
Non-Family Households: Other	7.8%	6.4%	5.9%
Female Householder	3.5%	2.6%	2.5%
AFRICAN AMERICAN			
Family Households (with and without own children)	68.9%	68.7%	68.2%
Married Couple	24.3%	25.7%	32.1%
Female Householders	39.0%	37.4%	30.5%
Non-Family: 1-person Households	26.7%	26.4%	27.2%
Female Householder	14.8%	14.4%	15.4%
Non-Family Households: Other	4.3%	4.9%	4.5%
Female Householder	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%
HISPANIC			
Family Households (with and without own children)	77.2%	77.5%	80.7%
Married Couple	46.9%	51.1%	55.1%
Female Householders	20.8%	16.5%	17.3%
Non-Family: 1-person Households	16.5%	15.0%	13.9%
Female Householder	6.6%	6.1%	6.8%
Non-Family Households: Other	6.3%	7.5%	5.4%
Female Householder	1.9%	2.3%	1.8%
NATIVE AMERICAN			
Family Households (with and without own children)	69.1%	71.4%	72.3%
Married Couple	34.2%	36.4%	44.3%
Female Householders	29.7%	26.4%	20.8%
Non-Family: 1-person Households	20.5%	20.9%	21.5%
Female Householder	12.2%	10.4%	10.4%
Non-Family Households: Other	10.4%	7.7%	6.1%
Female Householder	4.8%	3.0%	2.7%
ASIAN AMERICAN – HMONG ONLY			
Family Households (with and without own children)	96.7%	93.2%	94.0%
Married Couple	79.6%	74.1%	78.1%
Female Householders	9.9%	13.1%	10.5%
Non-Family: 1-person Households	2.9%	4.9%	4.3%
Female Householder	0.8%	2.4%	2.2%
Non-Family Households: Other	0.5%	1.9%	1.7%
Female Householder	0.0%	1.0%	0.8%
Source: Census 2000, PCT10: Household Size by Household Type by Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years.			

Appendix 1: Supplemental Tables

Appendix 1, Table 2 Proportion of Married-Couple Families and Female-Headed Families with Children Under Age 18 (Related and Not Related Children) Milwaukee County, Wisconsin and United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 2000								
	Married-Couple Families				Female-Headed Families			
	Milwaukee County		Wisconsin	United States	Milwaukee County		Wisconsin	United States
	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent
All Households (w/ Minor Children)	57.1%	70,773	74.2%	70.7%	35.7%	44,229	19.3%	22.6%
White	73.5%	48,069	78.7%	77.4%	19.9%	13,023	15.2%	16.6%
African American	28.2%	11,312	30.0%	40.8%	64.3%	25,760	62.2%	51.4%
Hispanic	59.7%	7,619	64.9%	67.9%	30.3%	3,865	24.4%	22.9%
Native American	41.5%	529	45.6%	55.5%	51.5%	657	42.3%	33.9%
Asian (Hmong)	84.5%	939	81.1%	84.0%	8.5%	94	13.7%	10.9%
Asian (Other)	82.0%	1,481	86.5%	84.7%	12.4%	223	9.2%	11.0%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 11: Households by Presence of People Under 18 Years by Household Type.
FN: Family vs. non-family Household definition from Census

Appendix 1, Table 3 Labor Force Participation of Women with Children, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and U.S., by Race and Ethnicity, 2000						
	Women with Children Under Age 18			Women with Children Under Age 6		
	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States	Milwaukee County	Wisconsin	United States
All women	73.4%	78.8%	69.1%	67.7%	72.1%	61.9%
White	78.3%	80.6%	71.7%	71.1%	73.7%	63.6%
African American	71.0%	71.9%	73.6%	68.8%	69.6%	71.5%
Hispanic	58.7%	61.0%	56.2%	53.5%	55.0%	50.2%
Asian American	63.1%	62.1%	62.4%	58.4%	58.5%	55.3%
Native American	65.7%	76.0%	66.1%	68.9%	74.9%	61.3%
Other/Two or More	66.1%	72.0%	65.3%	63.4%	67.5%	59.3%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT79: Sex by Age by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over; SF4, PCT80: Presence of Own Children Under 18 Years by Age of Own Children by Employment Status for Females 16 Years and Over.
Notes: Women age 16 and over. Children under age 6 are also included in the totals for those under age 18.

Appendix 1: Supplemental Tables

Appendix 1, Table 4 Poverty Among Single-Mother Families with Related Children Under Age 18, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, and United States, by Race and Ethnicity, 1999					
	Milwaukee County			Wisconsin	United States
	Percent	Number		Percent	Percent
All Families	38.8%	17,068	100%	28.4%	34.3%
White	18.9%	2,447	14.3%	20.1%	26.0%
African American	47.4%	12,138	71.1%	47.3%	41.7%
Hispanic	46.4%	1,790	10.5%	42.7%	44.5%
Native American	48.9%	321	1.9%	38.0%	45.6%
Asian (Hmong)	53.2%	50	0.3%	64.4%	62.4%
Asian (Other)	42.2%	94	0.6%	36.6%	27.1%

Source: Census 2000, SF4, PCT 157: Poverty Status in 1999 of Families by Family Type by Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years by Age of Related Children.

Appendix 2. Self-Sufficiency Standard

How Much is Enough in Wisconsin?

Table 1
The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Selected Family Types*
Milwaukee County, WI, 2004
 Monthly Expenses and Shares of Total Budgets

Monthly Costs	One Adult		One Adult, One Preschooler		One Adult, One Preschooler, One School Age		Two Adults, One Preschooler, One School Age	
	Costs	% of total	Costs	% of total	Costs	% of total	Costs	% of total
Housing	\$523	42	\$658	24	\$658	19	\$658	17
Child Care	\$0	0	\$751	27	\$1,212	35	\$1,212	31
Food	\$182	15	\$276	10	\$411	12	\$565	14
Transportation	\$214	17	\$219	8	\$216	6	\$422	11
Health Care	\$110	9	\$240	9	\$258	7	\$299	8
Miscellaneous	\$103	8	\$214	8	\$276	8	\$316	8
Taxes	\$121	10	\$554	20	\$747	21	\$768	19
Earned Income Tax Credit (-)	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0
Child Care Tax Credit (-)	\$0	0	-\$63	-2	-\$105	-3	-\$100	-3
Child Tax Credit (-)	\$0	0	-\$83	-3	-\$167	-5	-\$167	-4
Total Percent	—	100	—	100	—	100	—	100
Self-Sufficiency Wage - Hourly**	\$7.12		\$15.72		\$19.93		\$11.28	per adult***
Monthly	\$1,253		\$2,767		\$3,508		\$3,972	
Annual	\$15,035		\$33,209		\$42,102		\$47,667	

* The Standard is calculated by adding expenses and taxes and subtracting tax credits. Taxes include federal and state income taxes (including state tax credits except state EITC and CTC) and payroll taxes.

** The hourly wage is calculated by dividing the monthly wage by 176 hours (8 hours per day times 22 days per month).

*** The hourly wage for families with two adults represents the hourly wage that each adult would need to earn, while the monthly and annual wages represent both parents' wages combined. Note: Totals may not add exactly due to rounding.

Reprinted from *The Self-Sufficiency Standard for Wisconsin 2004* with permission from Wisconsin Women's Network. The complete report, including detailed information about how the Standard is calculated and tables for all 72 Wisconsin Counties can be found at: <http://www.wiwomensnetwork.org/selfsuffstd.html>.

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