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## About WFM

The Women's Foundation of Montana builds resources and leads change to advance the economic self-sufficiency of women and create a brighter future for girls.

The WFM raises money to fund and support organizations that help women and girls, while acting as a statewide multi-sector convener and a source of expertise.

Our goal is to build an endowment that will provide a permanent source of grants to invest in the women and girls of Montana. **We believe that when women and girls prosper, communities flourish.**

## How You Can Help

- The Wage Project helps women learn how to negotiate for the pay they deserve. Visit [www.wageproject.org](http://www.wageproject.org) to learn more, and pass the skills on to the women and girls in your life.
- The National Committee on Pay Equity has a ten-step process for employers to conduct a gender equity audit. Visit [www.pay-equity.org](http://www.pay-equity.org) to learn more.
- Educate the men in your life and help change boys' attitudes about sexual and domestic violence. Futures Without Violence has more information at [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org).
- Support organizations that provide access to comprehensive health and reproductive care for all women and girls.
- Leadership starts with you! Run for elected office, go for that promotion, or join a corporate or nonprofit board.
- When their beliefs match your own, support women running for elected office.
- Invest in organizations that build power and leadership for all women and girls in Montana.

## About the Report

This fact sheet aims to provide a snapshot of the status of women in Montana, with a special focus on economics, safety, health, and leadership. Although great strides have been made in the last hundred years, much more remains to be done, as women still fare worse than men, on average, on a variety of measures. It is our hope that this report will inspire advocates, non-profit organizations, policymakers, educators and citizens to demand fairness and equality for all Montanans.

The data in our report are taken from a variety of sources. For a list of sources, download the complete 2012 Status of Women in Montana Report on our website, [www.wfmontana.org](http://www.wfmontana.org).



# 2012

## Status of Women in Montana

### Economics

Montana women's earnings are the **4th** lowest in the nation.

On average, a Montana woman, working full-time, year-round, earns 74% of a man's salary.



Montana women earn \$31,067 per year on average, compared to \$41,635 for men, a gap of \$10,568 per year.

At 47%, women comprise almost one-half of the total labor force participation.

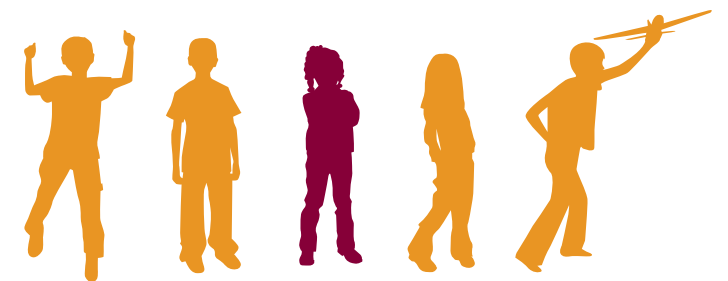


Montana women obtain higher education at higher rates than men, with 21% obtaining a bachelor's degree compared with 18.6% of men.

However, the wage gap persists across all education levels, with the exception of a Ph.D.



42.5% of female-headed households with children live in poverty.



1 in 5 Montana children live in poverty.

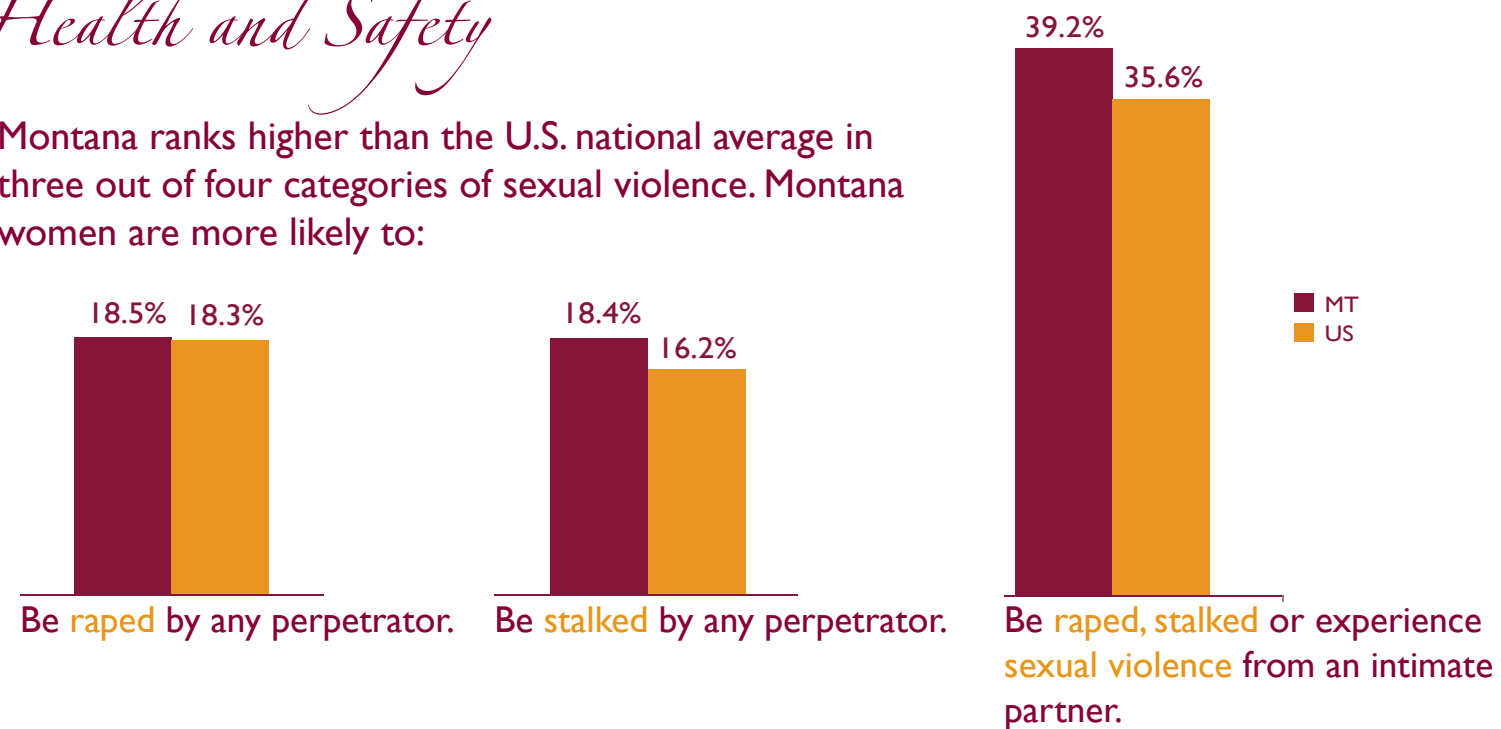
## \$8,000



The average cost of child care for one child in Montana is approximately \$8,000, more than half the poverty threshold for a one-parent, one-child family of \$15,825.

# Health and Safety

Montana ranks higher than the U.S. national average in three out of four categories of sexual violence. Montana women are more likely to:



28.4% of Montana girls report bullying on school property, compared to 23.6% of boys.

11% of both young women and men report they have been abused by a romantic friend, higher than the national rate of 9.4%.

Nearly 37% of young women have had sexual intercourse and of those, 41.4% did not use a condom and 9.1% did not use any method to prevent pregnancy.

13.2% of young women report they have experienced forced sexual intercourse, compared to 8% nationally.



1 in 5 Montana women ages 18-64 do not have health insurance.

“Healthcare is one of the most important issues. Our children don’t have healthcare at this moment and it will be hard for us to have to pay for it--we don’t have the funds. We will be borrowing for whatever we don’t have. We’ve looked at it and it is \$300 or \$400 a month for each child. We don’t have that kind of money!”

- Columbus Focus Group

# American Indian Women in Montana

American Indian women earn only 67% of men’s salaries, and only 93% of the income earned by the total population of Montana women.

32% of American Indian women do not have health insurance.

Nationally, 34% of American Indian women will be raped in their lifetimes. 39% will be subjected to domestic violence.

U.S. Attorneys decline to prosecute nearly 52% of violent crimes that occur on reservations. 67% of these are sexual-abuse related.



88% of violent crimes against American Indian women are committed by non-natives.

“In our economy there is such a barrier to access to capital, so people aren’t opening their business or building homes because you can’t get a mortgage. It is incredibly hard. People outside of a Native American community don’t understand that. They think we choose to look the way our community looks. But with a very limited tax base, and access to capital, we can’t get a loan on our trust land. It holds no value at all so you have no assets.”

- Browning Focus Group

# Leadership

Despite making remarkable gains in the 2012 election, women continue to be underrepresented in positions of power.

Women comprise 20% of the Montana Senate and 32% of the House. Of the 150 Montana legislators, 28% are women, a 4% increase overall in 2013. Out of 66 running candidates, Montana elected 42 women into the 113th Legislature.

42.5% of Montana’s state judgeships are held by women.

However, Montana has elected no female members of Congress since Jeannette Rankin.

Only one woman has served as Governor in Montana’s history, and women comprise only 8% of federal judges in the state.