

The Report ON THE Status OF Women and Girls IN CALIFORNIA™

2017

OVERVIEW

PREPARED BY

Mount 
Saint Mary's
University
LOS ANGELES

The Report ON THE Status OF Women and Girls IN CALIFORNIA™ 2017



OVERVIEW

Mount Saint Mary's University is the only women's university in Los Angeles and it established the first women's leadership program in the western United States. The University is a leading researcher on gender issues throughout California and is recognized nationally for its data-driven approach to gender equity. Mount Saint Mary's produces the annual Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™, now in its sixth year, as well as similar reports for cities, counties, women's commissions and community organizations throughout the state. In addition, Mount Saint Mary's plays a critical role as a convener for leadership training and discussions for timely issues affecting women and girls. The University hosts three annual women's events: The Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ research release, the Women's Leadership Conference and Ready to Run™, a nonpartisan campaign training for women.

The Center for the Advancement of Women at Mount Saint Mary's University was launched in 2016 to build upon these initiatives. The Center provides Mount Saint Mary's with vital data and training to support advocacy and action that improve the lives of women, girls and families in diverse communities throughout the state.

Many of the statistics highlighted here are indicators of gender equity. Looking back over the past five years, we note where conditions for women have remained the same, become better or become worse.

SAME ➡

BETTER ↑

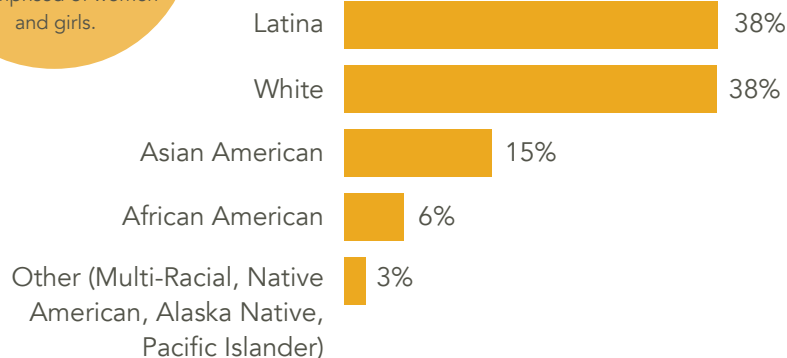
WORSE ↓

DEMOGRAPHICS

50%

of California's population is comprised of women and girls.

19.7 MILLION
women and girls in California



Nearly two-thirds of California women were employed in 2015.

7%

of California women in the labor force were unemployed in 2015, slightly higher than the national rate of 5.8%.

38% of California's immigrant female population is from Mexico.

5%

of California's population is comprised of male and female veterans.

165,000

Number of female veterans in California.

10%

Female veterans living in poverty nationwide.

Human trafficking is a growing problem in California.

1,012

human trafficking cases in California as of Sept. 30, 2016. In the previous calendar year there were 979 cases. ↓

16% of California women and girls live in poverty, which equates to roughly

3 million ↑

READ THE FULL REPORT: The complete 2017 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ is available at msmu.edu/statusofwomen.

EDUCATION & ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Education is one indicator of progress toward gender equity. When women finish their high school and college education, they are more likely to be empowered, employed and earn higher wages. They break the cycle of poverty.



1 in 3

California women over the age of 25 have a bachelor's or advanced degree. ↑

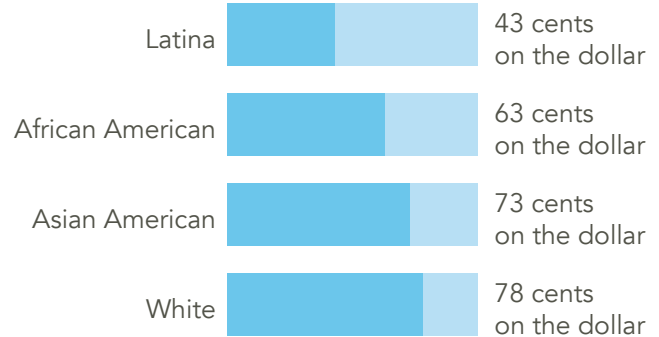
1 in 5

degrees earned by women nationwide in 2014–15 were in computer science (18%) and engineering (20%). ↑

86
cents on the dollar

Gender wage gap for full-time, year-round workers in California. Women earn about \$7,000 a year less than men. ↑

Gender earnings gap by race/ethnicity ↑



Note: Women's earnings compared to White males' earnings.

1.5 million ↑

Number of women-owned businesses in California.

60%

of businesses owned by women in California in 2016 are owned by women of color, up from 45% in 2007. ↑

California is home to the most women-owned businesses of any single state.

LEADERSHIP

Research shows that government bodies and organizations do better (e.g., are more innovative and deliver better results) when women lead or are part of inclusive leadership teams.

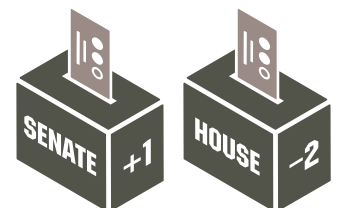


22%

Female representation in the 2017 California State Legislature. Women lost a total of four seats. ↓

19% of the 2017 U.S. Congress is comprised of women. →

10 Number of Latina representatives in the 2017 state legislature, doubling in number. ↑



In 2016, the California delegation maintained its record of two female senators, but lost two seats in the House previously held by women. ↓

Categories where equity has remained the same →, become better ↑, or become worse ↓.

LEADERSHIP *(continued)*

432
out of
3,260 director seats in
California's Fortune
400 companies are
held by women. 

Among the 400 largest
companies headquartered in
California, only

4% 

have a woman serving as CEO.




Percentage of board seats of
Fortune 1,000 companies in the
nation held by women in 2016, a
slight increase from 19% in 2015
and up from 15% in 2011. 

MEDIA

The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount Saint Mary's University is the only research-based organization working directly with media and entertainment companies to improve how girls and women are reflected in media targeting children 11 and under.



2.2:1

For every 2.2
male characters,
there was one
female character
in the 100 top-
grossing films
of 2015. 




Percentage of
women directing the
100 highest-grossing
films in 2015. 

In 2007, only
**3% of the top
100 films were
directed by
women.**

HEALTH

Mount Saint Mary's University is proud to launch a comprehensive wellness movement in 2017 that will empower our community to make healthier decisions. Physical and mental health affect every aspect of life. The happier, safer and healthier girls are, the more prepared they are to reach personal goals and overcome adversity.

Women in California
outlive their male
counterparts with
a life expectancy of

83.5
years. 

Only **17%** of
women in the U.S. get the
recommended amount of
physical activity per day. 



of California women have
only one serving or less of
fruits and vegetables per day.

An estimated **46%** of Californians have an
undiagnosed diabetes or a
prediabetic condition. 

24% of California women
are obese. 

DOWNLOAD THE REPORT

Download the complete 2017 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California™ at msmu.edu/statusofwomen. For more information about this report, please contact Emerald Archer, PhD, director of the Center for the Advancement of Women at Mount Saint Mary's University, at 213.477.2544.

 /MSMUStatusOfWomen

2017 CALIFORNIA OVERVIEW SOURCES

American Express OPEN Report
California State Legislature
Center for American Women and Politics, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film, San Diego State University
Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking
Economic Policy Institute
Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount Saint Mary's University
Los Angeles Times


National Human Trafficking Resource Center
State of California, Department of Education; Department of Justice; Department of Public Health; Department of Veterans; Secretary of State
University of California, Davis, School of Management
UCLA Center for Health Policy Research
USC Media, Diversity and Social Change Initiative
U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Surveys
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
2020 Women On Boards

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ABOUT MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Mount Saint Mary's is the only women's university in Los Angeles and one of the most diverse in the nation. The University is known nationally for its research on gender equity, its innovative health and science programs, and its commitment to community service. As a leading liberal arts institution, Mount Saint Mary's provides year-round, flexible and online programs at the undergraduate and graduate level. Weekend, evening and graduate programs are offered to both women and men. Mount alums are engaged, active, global citizens who use their knowledge and skills to better themselves, their communities and the world. msmu.edu



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