



Status of Women in Western Massachusetts

A Report on Women in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties



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Executive Summary

A Report on Women in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties

This report provides current data on women and girls living in the four western counties of Massachusetts. It is a source of information covering a wide range of indicators at the local and state level including demographics, economic security, educational attainment, health and wellness, political participation, and gerontology.

The genesis of this report was a combination of the Women's Fund's foresight concerning the need to update baseline, county-specific data provided in the 2006 State of Women report as a means to inform its social change philanthropy and the author, a long-time advocate of women's rights and gender equality, who likewise acknowledged the importance of this effort. Like the 2006 report, the Status of Women in Western Massachusetts report utilizes the same research method and format found in the "The Status of Women by County" research guide created by the National Institute for Women's Policy Research.

Key Findings Regarding Women Living in the Four Western Counties

1. Basic Demographics – Women in the western counties constitute 13% of all women in the state and are predominately White, older and married. Two counties have twice the number of same sex households compared with the state wide average.

2. Education – Women graduate high school at lower rates than the state average, graduate in larger numbers than men and receive more GEDs than for women on average at the state level. They attend college in greater numbers than men and attend community colleges and state universities at a slightly greater rate than the state average for women. They hold more associates degrees than the state average for women yet, earn fewer Bachelor's and Master's degrees overall.

3. Health and Wellness – In terms of the US Center for Disease Control leading causes of death, western MA women present a mixed picture of health concerns. All four counties have higher mortality rates due to influenza and pneumonia than the state average. They have pap tests and mammograms at about the same rate as women across the state.

4. Reproductive Health – Female adolescents in three out of four of western MA counties have considerably higher rates of births than the state average and a significant percentage of them smoke during pregnancy. Two counties reported a higher rate of inadequate prenatal care than the state average. Infant mortality rates for all four counties are higher than the state average, and women in three out of four counties have higher rates of pre-term births and low weight births than the state average.

5. Employment and Earnings – Like the state profile, three quarters of women are in the labor force. They earn less than women do on average across the state, and they earn less than men. During 2006-11, earnings statewide for women rose by 15%. Women in two counties saw their earnings rise nearly the same, one by 14.5% and the other by 12%; women in the other two lagged behind with 4% and 6.5%. Race plays a role, with Hispanic women in Hampshire county having the highest median income for full time work in the region.

6. Poverty and Self-Sufficiency – For women in 3 out of 4 counties the poverty rate is higher than the state average. Female-headed households are more likely to live below the poverty line. The income necessary for self-sufficiency for an individual in western MA is \$20,106, lower than state average of \$27,084. The income necessary for a woman with two children, one in pre-school and one in elementary school to be self-sufficient is \$49,267, typically more than women's earnings.

7. Gerontology – Three out of four counties report a greater percentage of women age 65+ than the state average of 15.5%. They are predominately White and have lower rates of marriage compared with the state average. The rate at which they work is comparable to the state average and decreases as the worker ages. The number of working women between the ages of 70 and 74 is just over half the number of working women ages 65-69. They have lower rates of poverty than the state average for women in the same category.

8. Political Participation and Representation – They have higher voter registration and turnout rates than men of the same age group (18-64); however for women age 65+ the opposite is true. The number of women registered to vote is greater than the state average. There continues to be a significant gap between the number of women in the general population and their representation in government.

The data in this report provides a comprehensive and fairly nuanced picture of the current status of women in western Massachusetts. By presenting follow-on data from 2008-2013, the report also provides an excellent opportunity to observe significant trends and changes. Like most raw data, however, it often leaves the reader with more questions than answers. Why do a greater number of women in western Massachusetts earn associate degrees than their counterparts in the eastern part of the state, yet fewer bachelor degrees? Why is the birthrate to adolescents higher in the western four counties?

While progress is being made in western Massachusetts with regard to empowering women and realizing gender equality, the questions implicitly raised in this report indicate that we have more to learn and more to do before achieving our desired end goal.

About the Author: Debbie U. Oppermann has a keen interest in women's issues and is a long-time supporter of women's rights. In addition to serving as a senior administrator in the government and the non-profit sectors, she also offers consultant services to private, public and nonprofit organizations. Her expertise includes organizational/strategy development, project management, marketing, research, and grant/proposal writing. She credits her intellectual curiosity for her professional edge.



Basic Demographics

Berkshire

Franklin
Hampden
Hampshire
Adams
Alford
Becket
Cheshire
Clarksburg
Dalton
Egremont
Florida
Gt. Barrington
Hancock
Hinsdale
Lanesborough
Lee
Lenox
Monterey
Mount Washington
New Ashford
New Marlborough
North Adams
Otis
Peru
Pittsfield
Richmond
Sandisfield
Savoy
Sheffield
Stockbridge
Tyringham
Washington
West Stockbridge
Williamstown
Windsor

Franklin

Ashfield
Bernardston
Buckland
Charlemont
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Erving
Gill
Greenfield
Hawley
Heath
Leverett
Leyden
Monroe
Montague
New Salem
Northfield
Orange
Rowe
Shelburne
Shutesbury
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately

Hampden

Agawam
Blandford
Brimfield
Chester
Chicopee
East Longmeadow
Granville
Hampden
Holland
Holyoke
Longmeadow
Ludlow
Monson
Montgomery
Palmer
Russell
Southwick
Springfield
Tolland
Wales
West Springfield
Westfield
Wilbraham

Hampshire

Amherst
Blechertown
Chesterfield
Cummington
Easthampton
Goshen
Granby
Hadley
Hatfield
Huntington
Middlefield
Northampton
Pelham
Plainfield
South Hadley
Southampton
Ware
Westhampton
Williamsburg
Worthington



Basic Demographics

Total Population

- 13% of all women living in MA reside in the four western counties. Fifty six percent of those women reside in Hampden County, the most populated county, whereas only eight and a half percent live in Franklin County, the least populated county.
- Hampden and Hampshire County female populations have increased, 1% and 3% respectively since the 2000 Census. Berkshire county female population has decreased by 3%. Franklin has remained nearly the same.

Race

- The vast majority of women identify themselves as white with Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire counties reporting higher percentages of white women than the state average of 77%.
- The second largest group identify themselves as Hispanic with Hampden County reporting 20.5% of its women as Hispanic, considerably higher than the state average of 9%. The percentage of Hispanic women in Hampden County is just over 4 and a half times higher than the rate of the next largest female Hispanic population in the four western counties, 4.6% in Hampshire County.
- The largest percentage of African American women, 8.6, resides in Hampden County, a rate higher than the state average of 6.6.
- The largest female Asian population, 4.9 %, lives in Hampshire County. While higher than the other three counties, the female Asian population in Hampshire is slightly lower than the state average of 5.3%.
- Hampden County is the most racially diverse county; Franklin is the least.

Age

- Age distribution data for the four western counties closely resembles that of the Commonwealth's.
- Hampshire County has the lowest number of female children under the age of 5 at 3.5% of the total county population compared with the State's average of 5.3%.
- Berkshire County has the greatest number of females between the ages of 70 and 84, 11.7%, compared with the state average of 8.6% for the same category.

Households

- Berkshire County reports a significantly higher percentage of female households (no husband present) with children under the age of 6 than the other three western MA counties and the state average. In addition, Berkshire County also reports a lower than average number of female households (no husband present) with children between the ages of 6 and 17 than either of the other three western counties or the state average.
- Franklin and Hampshire Counties have twice the number of same sex unmarried partner households as the state average.

Marital Status

- Hampshire County reports a higher percentage of women who never married (41.9%) compared with the state average (32%) and the other three counties (average 29.5%).
- ranklin County reports the greatest number of divorces among the four western counties.
- The largest percentage of widows (12.5) is located in Berkshire County, also higher than the state average (9.3).



Basic Demographics

Basic Demographics									
	Massachusetts		Berkshire		Franklin		Hampden		Hampshire
Female Population Total	3,362,116		68,167		36,529		240,353		83,894
By Race ⁺		% of state		% of county		% of county		% of county	
Black	223,175	6.6	1,736	2.5	312	0.85	20,817	8.6	1,996
American Indian/Alaskan Native	6,233	0.19	113	0.2	99	0.27	787	0.33	106
Asian	179,565	5.3	958	1.4	479	1.3	4,605	1.9	4,077
Pacific Islander	1,072	--	46	--	0	0	12	--	18
Hispanic	308,121	9.2	2,135	3.1	1,081	3	49,229	20.5	3,844
White	2,588,098	77	62,130	91	34,003	93	163,591	68.1	72,174
By Age ⁺		% of total		% of total		% of total		% of total	
Under 5 years	179,520	5.3	2,996	4.4	1,610	4.4	13,566	5.6	2,975
5 to 14	387,911	11.5	7,127	10.5	3,782	10.4	30,053	12.5	7,614
15 to 24	463,941	13.8	8,657	12.7	4,237	11.6	34,370	14.3	21,889
25 to 49	1,151,569	34.3	20,063	29.4	11,535	31.6	77,042	32.1	23,581
50 to 69	717,060	21.3	18,618	27.3	10,828	29.6	56,036	23.3	19,319
70 to 84	288,992	8.6	7,975	11.7	3,409	9.3	21,347	8.8	6,330
85+	98,023	3	2,729	0.04	1,128	3.1	7,939	3.3	2,186
Total Households ⁺	2,522,409		55,793	% households	30,362	% household	177,954	% households	58,921
Female Householder, no husband present	309,899		6,682	12	3,640	12	30,436	17.2	5,996
Fem House no husband- with children under 18	175,539		3,970	7.1	2,284	7.5	18,592	10.5	3,459
with children under 6 years only		19.4		29.3		17.7		19.3	
with children under 6 years and 6 to 17 yrs		16.4		12		16.9		19.6	
Fem House no husband -with children 6 to 17 only		64.2		58.7		65.3		61.1	
Unmarried Partner Households - Same Sex		0.8		0.4		1.6		0.5	
Marital Status Females 15+									
Female Population age 15+ ⁺	2,794,685		58,044	% 15+ Females	31,137	% 15+ Females	196,734	% 15+ Females	73,305
never married ⁺	905,341	32	16,435	28.3	8,469	27.2	64,789	32.9	30,750
married ⁺	1,332,169	48	26,288	45.3	15,096	48.5	87,428	44.4	29,289
divorced ⁺	296,682	11	8,072	13.9	4,657	15	24,036	12.2	7,162
widowed ⁺	260,493	9.3	7,249	12.5	2,915	9.4	20,481	10.4	6,104
Unmarried Female householder									
With Female partner - can't find									
With Male partner - can't find									

ACS S0101 or B01001

ACS 2011 5YR, B01001 Sex & Age

ACS 2011 5YR B12001 Sex by Marital Status age 15+

ACS 2011 5YR, B01001B(AfrAm), B01001C(AmIn&AlNa), B01001D(Asian), B01001E (PacIsl), B01001I(Lat), B01001H(Wh)

ACS 2011 5YR, S1101, Households & Families (under People, Household Relationships)



Education

- *High School Graduation* – Berkshire County has the highest percentage of female high school graduates at 85.9% in the four western counties, followed by Hampshire County at 84.4%. Both counties' female graduation rates are lower however than the state's overall average for female graduates at 86.5. Graduation rates for women are higher than men's in all four western counties.
- *GED* – Berkshire county has the highest percentage of females receiving a GED (4.2%) considerably higher than the state average for women at 1.5%. All four counties have higher rates of people receiving a GED than the state average.
- *Drop-out* – The average drop-out rate for females in the four western counties is 6.9%, higher than the state average for females, 6%. The highest drop-out rate for females is in Hampden County (7.37%), the lowest, Hampshire County at 6.4%. The highest drop-out rate among males is in Franklin County at 11%, with the lowest in Hampshire County at 5.35%.
- *Attending College / University* – In the four western counties females attend college/university (75.5%) at greater rates than males (67%), which parallels the state data where 79.5% of women attend college/university compared with 69.8 of men. The highest rate of attendance by women is in Hampden County at 84.3%, the lowest is Franklin County at 65.4%.
- *Attending Private 4 year College / University* – People in the four western counties attend private 4 year colleges and universities less than the state average overall. Women attend at a rate of 31% compared with the state average for women at 39.3%, while 25.4% of men attend compared with the state average for men of 35.1%. More women attend private 4 year colleges and universities (31%) than men (25.4%) in the four western counties. Hampshire and Berkshire County have the highest rates of women attending private 4 year colleges /universities at 36.3% for each.
- *Attending a MA Community College* – People in the four western counties attend community colleges at a considerably higher rate (34.4%) than the state average at 28%. Men attend at slightly higher rates (45.9%) than women, at 41.7%. The county with the highest proportion of women attending community colleges is Franklin at 55.6%.
- *Attending a MA State University* – People in the four western counties attending MA State Universities at a slightly higher rate than the overall state average. Women attend at a rate of 12.25% whereas men attend at a rate of 9.83%.
- *Attending the University of Massachusetts* – There are fewer people from the four western counties attending the University of Massachusetts (9.5%) than the overall state average (14.2%). The percentage of men from the four western counties attending (11.6%) outnumbers women from the same region (7.69%). Berkshire County sends the greatest percentage of women to UMASS at 9.16%; Franklin sends the smallest at 4.37%.
- *No High School Diploma* – Hampden County stands out among the four western counties with the highest rate of women who hold no high school diploma at 16.2%. The state average for women is 10.8. Similarly, men in Hampden County have the highest rate of no high school diploma overall in the four western counties at 17% (state avg for men 11.5%). Rates for all other counties, female and male, are lower than the state averages.
- *Associates Degree* – People in the four western counties hold associate's degrees at a rate greater than the rest of the state with the greatest percentages belonging to women in each of the four counties. Eleven percent of women in Franklin County have associates degrees compared with the state average of 8.8%
- *Bachelor's Degree* – People in the four western counties earn fewer bachelor's degrees on average than the rest of the state. Women earn slightly more, with an average of 18.58% compared with men at 17.1%.
- *Master's Degree* – Overall the percentage of people in the four western counties earning Master's degrees is lower than the state average. Hampshire County is the only county wherein people earn more master's degrees than the state average. The average for Hampshire county women is 16.5 compared with the state average for women at 12.4
- *Professional Degree* – The rate at which people earn professional degrees in the four western counties is about the same as people do on average across the state. Women in Franklin County have the smallest percentage of professional degrees, less than 1%, and women in Hampshire County have the largest at 2%.
- *Doctorate Degree* – Residents of Hampden County earn the smallest percentage of Doctorate degrees compared with the other three western Massachusetts counties, less than one percent for both women and men. Hampshire County earns the highest, with 5.2% for men and 3.3 percent for women. State averages are 2.9% for men and 1.6% for women.
- *No Schooling completed* – There are 3,510 women over the age of 25 living in the four western counties who have not complete any schooling (1.2%). The vast majority of these women live in Hampden County.



Education

Education																									
2011	% Grad All	Male	Fem	GED All	Male	Female	Drop Out All	Male	Female	% Att Coll/Uni	% M Att Coll/Uni	% F Att Coll/Uni	Prv 4 yr All	Prv 4 Yr Male	Prv 4 Yr Female	MA Com Coll All	MA Com Coll Male	MA Com Coll Female	MA State Univ All	MA State Univ Male	MA State Univ Female	Umass All	Umass Male	UMASS Female	
Statewide	83.4	80.5	86.5	1.7	1.9	1.5	7.2	8.3	6	74.7	69.8	79.5	37.4	35.1	39.3	28	29.6	26.6	10.5	9.5	11.3	14.2	15.8	12.8	
County / School District																									
Berkshire																									
Adams Cheshire	75.9	75	76.8	5.4	1.8	8.9	8	8.9	7.1	78.5	75.5	81.8	30.1	29.7	30.6	31.5	43.2	19.4	20.5	13.5	27.8	12.3	10.8	13.9	
Berkshire Hills	95.3	96.1	94.4	0	0	0	0.7	0	1.4	75.7	69.4	82.1	40.6	37.3	43.5	25	23.7	26.1	10.2	15.3	5.8	9.4	8.5	10.1	
Central Berkshire	87.2	84.4	90.2	2.9	4.4	1.2	8.1	8.9	7.3	75.5	71.4	80.6	29.3	21.5	37.9	45.5	53.8	36.2	8.9	7.7	10.3	8.9	7.7	10.3	
Lee Middle/HS	88.2	92.9	81.1	2.2	0	5.4	7.5	5.4	10.8	67.2	60	71.8	14	13.3	14.3	48.8	53.3	46.4	18.6	6.7	25	11.6	13.3	10.7	
Lenox Memorial HS	95.5	97.1	93.5	1.5	0	3.2	1.5	0	3.2	79.7	70.6	88.6	50.9	50	51.6	23.6	25.5	20.8	1.8	0	3.2	14.5	20.8	9.7	
Mt. Greylock	93.8	88.2	97.8	1.3	0	2.2	2.5	5.9	0	78	42	36	60.3	66.7	52.8	26.9	19	36.1	6.4	4.8	8.3	6.4	9.5	2.8	
North Adams	73.3	69.4	77.6	4.2	1.6	6.9	15	21	8.6	69.4	66.2	73.2	27.4	20.9	34.1	29.8	30.2	29.3	25	25.6	24.4	7.1	7	7.3	
Northern Berkshire	96.8	100	92.7	0.8	0	1.8	2.4	0	5.5	49.5	42.4	57.7	29.1	20	36.7	38.2	44	33.3	20	16	23.3	5.5	4	6.7	
Pittsfield	74.1	73.7	74.5	5.7	5.6	5.7	12.1	11.7	12.5	71.8	67.7	75.9	23.8	17.6	29.2	49.3	52.9	46.1	8.6	8.8	8.4	10.3	9.6	11	
Southern Berkshire	78.1	76.5	80	6.3	5.9	6.7	9.4	8.8	10	40	64.3	71	32.5	33.3	31.8	25	27.8	22.7	25	22.2	27.3	10	11.1	9.1	
	85.82	85.33	85.86	3.03	1.93	4.2	6.72	7.06	6.64	68.53	62.95	71.87	33.8	31.03	36.25	34.36	37.34	31.64	14.5	12.06	16.38	9.6	10.23	9.16	
Franklin																									
Greenfield HS	76.6	69.4	85.7	2.7	3.2	2	9	12.9	4.1	71	40	31	14.1	10	19.4	57.7	55	61.3	8.5	7.5	9.7	15.5	22.5	6.5	
Franklin County Tech HS	92.9	92.3	94.1	0	0	0	2.7	3.8	0	38.9	30	60.6	0	0	0	86.4	91.7	80	2.3	0	5	2.3	0	5	
Frontier Regional	89.5	85.7	92.3	1.8	2	1.5	5.3	8.2	3.1	83.2	81	72.2	24.7	18.8	28.1	44.9	34.4	50.9	2.2	3.1	1.8	14.6	25	8.8	
Mohawk Trail Regional	76.1	71.4	80.4	5.7	7.1	4.3	11.4	11.9	10.9	72.2	71.8	72.5	31.6	32.1	31	40.4	32.1	48.3	5.3	7.1	3.4	15.8	21.4	10.3	
Pioneer Valley Regional	81.1	79.4	82.5	1.4	2.9	0	8.1	5.9	10	77.3	77.8	77.1	25.9	19	29.7	36.2	42.9	32.4	13.8	4.8	18.9	5.2	14.3	0	
Ralph C. Mahar	62.1	53.9	71.3	8.3	10.1	6.3	11.2	12.4	10	68.5	68.1	68.9	14.3	18.8	9.7	49.2	50	48.4	23.8	18.8	29	3.2	6.3	0	
Gill Montague	67.1	59.4	73.2	2.7	3.1	2.4	16.4	21.9	12.2	80	85.7	75.7	13.5	12.5	14.3	67.3	66.7	67.9	9.6	4.2	14.3	5.8	12.5	0	
	77.91	73.07	82.79	3.229	4.057	2.357	9.157	11	7.186	70.16	64.91	65.43	17.73	15.89	18.89	54.59	53.26	55.6	9.357	6.5	11.73	8.914	14.57	4.371	
Hampden																									
Agawam	89.5	86.4	92.9	2.4	2.8	1.9	3.3	5.1	1.3	85.1	82.6	87.7	23.3	25.2	21.5	47.1	48.7	45.5	11.7	11.8	11.6	12.5	10.1	14.9	
Chicopee	69.7	66.6	73	4.7	5.7	3.7	16.2	18.4	13.8	71.3	62.1	80.2	31.4	30.1	32.3	50.4	51.4	49.7	7.9	6.8	8.7	7.9	8.9	7.2	
East Longmeadow	93.3	90.6	96	0.8	1.6	0	2	2.3	1.6	87.1	78.3	96.4	37.2	41.1	34	28.1	30	26.4	9.7	6.7	12.3	16.8	16.7	17	
Hampden Wilbraham	92.1	89.1	95.8	0.6	0.6	0.7	3.5	5.7	0.7	89.5	84.3	94.9	37.9	37.3	38.5	31	33.1	29.2	12.9	11.9	13.8	8.5	8.5	8.5	
Holyoke	49.5	45.9	53	3.1	1.6	4.5	26.9	27.9	25.9	71.5	64.4	78.3	14.6	6.4	21	70	73.4	67.2	8.5	9.6	7.6	3.8	6.4	1.7	
Longmeadow	96	97	94.8	0.4	0	0.9	2	1.5	2.6	88.8	86.1	91.2	54.7	49.5	58.9	13	19.2	8.1	7.6	5.1	9.7	10.8	12.1	9.7	
Ludlow	88.4	85.2	91.8	0	0	0	3.1	3.5	2.7	79.6	76.4	83.7	25.1	19.6	31.7	53.1	58.8	46.3	10.6	9.3	12.2	9.5	11.3	7.3	
Monson	86	82.5	89.1	3.3	3.5	3.1	4.1	3.5	4.7	83.3	70.3	95.1	23.1	11.5	30.8	30.8	46.2	20.5	13.8	15.4	12.8	20	19.2	20.5	
Palmer HS	70.8	64.4	77	5	5.1	4.9	16.7	20.3	13.1	78.9	72.7	85.2	30.2	25	34.8	39.5	40	39.1	15.1	12.5	17.4	10.5	15	6.5	
Pathfinder Tech	86.2	84.7	88.7	1.4	2.4	0	2.9	3.5	1.9	43.5	34.1	57.6	17.2	13.3	20.6	70.3	80	61.8	4.7	0	8.8	4.7	6.7	2.9	
Southwick Tolland	90.4	90	90.8	1.5	1.4	1.5	5.9	7.1	4.6	78.8	70.7	84.8	30.6	26.8	32.8	38	39	37.3	14.8	19.5	11.9	10.2	9.8	10.4	
Springfield	52.1	48.1	56.1	2.3	2.3	2.2	25.7	29.5	21.9	69.8	65.6	73.6	19.8	16.3	22.6	65.9	66.6	65.3	4.7	5.8	3.9	4.9	5.2	4.6	
Sabis	90.8	88.1	92.7	2.8	1.7	3.7	0.7	1.7	0	87.1	80	92.5	42.6	25	54.1	39.3	45.8	35.1	6.6	12.5	2.7	8.2	16.7	2.7	
West Springfield	83.8	82.6	85.1	2.1	2.4	1.7	8.3	8.7	7.9	78.7	72.7	84.1	23.9	16.7	29.5	55.5	65.6	47.5	10.1	9.4	10.7	6.9	6.3	7.4	
Westfield - District	83.8	82.6	85.1	2.1	2.4	1.7	8.3	8.7	7.9	74.6	69.3	79.7	24.3	19.9	28.2	46.3	48.1	44.8	13.9	14.1	13.8	8.3	10.9	6.1	
	81.49	78.92	84.13	2.167	2.233	2.033	8.64	9.827	7.373	77.84	71.31	84.33	29.06	24.25	32.75	45.22	49.73	41.59	10.17	10.03	10.53	9.567	10.92	8.493	
Hampshire																									
Amherst Pelham	90.3	91.1	89.6	0.7	0	1.4	2.4	2.1	2.8	81.4	79.9	82.8	56.9	51.4	61.6	22	24.3	20	1.7	0.9	2.4	14.7	18.7	11.2	
Belchertown	89.4	86.7	92.6	2.9	3.5	2.1	2.9	2.7	3.2	82.2	78	86.4	34.3	29.7	38.6	36.3	40.6	32.9	7.5	7.8	7.1	14.2	14.1	14.3	
Easthampton	74.4	72.5	76.8	6.4	4.3	8.9	6.4	8.7	3.6	69.5	73.6	65.4	27.4	28.2	26.5	47.9	38.5	58.8	9.6	10.3	8.8	15.1	23.1	5.9	
Gateway	85.1	84.4	85.7	6.8	6.3	7.1	2.7	3.1	2.4	71.1	65.2	78.4	16.9	10	24.1	59.3	60	58.6	22	26.7	17.2	1.7	3.3	0	
Granby	91	87	95.7	1	0	2.2	1	1.9	0	85.9	73.5	95.5	19.4	8	26.2	67.2	88	54.8	3	0	4.8	9	4	11.9	
Hadley	97.8	100	95.8	0	0	0	2.2	0	4.2	91.3	81.8	100	45.2	50	41.7	21.4	22.2	20.8	4.8	0	8.3	16.7	16.7	16.7	
Hampshire Regional HS wst	89.9	87.1	92.1	2.2	3.2	1.3	5.1	4.8	5.3	69.2	63.3	74.5	33.3	22.6	41.5	30.6	41.9	22	18.1	19.4	17.1	9.7	6.5	12.2	
Hatfield	80	92.3	66.7	0	0	0	16	7.7	25	76.9	73.3	79.2	43.3	27.3	52.6	20	27.3	15.8	16.7	18.2	15.8	13.3	18.2	10.5	
Northampton HS	89.2	85	93.2	2.3	3.1	1.5	5.4	6.3	4.5	83.6	83.2	84.1	48	47.6	48.4	26.3	27.4	25.3	7.8	6	9.5	8.9	10.7	7.4	
Northampton Smith Voc Ac	81.9	87.3	70.6	3.8	1.4	8.8	7.6	5.6	11.8	26.															

Data source for all high school : DOE Public School Districts, Graduation Rate, Cohort 2011, 4 year graduation rate - under statewide reports - 2011 most recent data available when report begun - now 2012 available but not used

Data source for graduates attending institutions of higher education - all colleges and universities- DOE 2010 (most recent available)



Health and Wellness

- Hampden County women have the highest mortality rates for cancer and kidney disease in the region, rates that were also higher than the State's rate for the same.
- Hampshire County women are reported to have the highest mortality rates in the region for heart disease; the lowest for stroke and chronic respiratory disease. And while Hampshire County reported the lowest rates of mortality for cancer in the 45-64 age category, the rate rose significantly for women age 65+.
- Franklin County has the greatest number of incidences data classified as "statistically reliable". It also has the greatest number of deaths in the region from stroke, unintentional injuries and influenza & pneumonia, rates that are also higher than the state average for the same.
- Berkshire County women have the highest rates of death due to chronic respiratory disease, Alzheimer's disease and diabetes, rates that are also higher than the state average for the same. This county also has the highest rate of women who currently smoke at 21.8% compared with the state average of 13.4%.
- Women living in Berkshire, Franklin and Hampden Counties have higher mortality rates due to stroke and chronic respiratory disease than the average for women in Massachusetts.
- All four western counties have higher mortality rates due to influenza and pneumonia than the average for women in Massachusetts.
- The rates at which women have mammograms and pap tests are similar from county to county and to the state average.

Health and Wellness						
	Mass	Berkshire	Franklin	Hampden	Hampshire	
Leading Causes of Death- Females 2011*						
All data below per 100,000 2008-10						
Heart Disease						
45-64	46.9	62.9	x	68	44.3	
65+	1117.1	1135.9	1088.6	1101	1315	
Cancer -overall						
18-44	14.3	x	x	17.3	x	
45-64	169	177.5	165.6	196.2	143.3	
65+	915.7	887.7	830.2	925.5	915.6	
Stroke						
45-64	10.4	x	x	14.4	x	
65+	295.3	341.2	373.9	315.7	277	
Chronic lower respiratory disease						
45-64	13	x	x	13.4	x	
65+	254.5	331.7	285.9	257.2	233.3	
Alzheimers disease						
45-64						
65+	239.6	381.8	269.4	197.8	303.2	
Unintentional Injuries						
45-64	14.7	x	x	16	x	
65+	74.6	69.2	115.5	46.4	x	
Diabetes						
45-64	8.1	x	x	10.3	x	
65+	78	97.8	x	69.7	75.8	
Influenza & pneumonia						
45-64	4.8	x	x	x	x	
65+	134.3	148	192.4	150.5	163.3	
Kidney disease						
45-64	5.4	x	x	x	x	
65+	119.7	119.3	x	137.6	105	
All data below 2008-10:						
Breast Cancer deaths per 100,000						
45-64	32.8	32.3	39.7	33	36.9	
65+	102.5	105	76.9	98.1	119.5	
Smokers- current % 2010						
	13.4	21.8	14.3	19.9	14.6	
Smokers - never smoked % 2010						
	58	41.3	55.5	52.7	55	
Ovarian cancer - actual numbers MassCHIP						
	503	10	5	32	17	
Uterine cancer - actual numbers MassCHIP						
	1276	29	14	75	30	
Mammogram - age 50+ (in past 2 yrs)%						
	87.8	82.5	85.5	86.1	87.4	
Pap Test (w/in last 3 yrs) %						
	84.9	85.4	79.1	81.6	85.6	

* 2011 US Dept Health & Human Services - Ctr. Disease Control list of leading causes of death for women, cancer = malignant neoplasms, stroke= cerebrovascular disease, diabetes - all are rates per 100,000

Health Indicators Warehouse - Nat'l Ctr for Health Statistics

Heart Disease, etc. + Breast Cancer (2008-2010) Health Indicators

x= Data Statistically Unreliable

2006-2010 Data used, 08-10 data statistically unreliable

Smoker data - MassCHIP 2010-female only

Mammogram - Health Indicators 2008-10



Reproductive Health

- In the state of Massachusetts 5.4% of all births were to adolescent mothers between the ages of 15 and 19. Three out of four western Massachusetts counties, Berkshire, Franklin and Hampden, have much higher percentages of births to adolescents than the state rate with Hampden being the highest at 12%.
- Of these adolescent mothers, 12.5% statewide smoked during pregnancy. In the western region it is a significant problem for Berkshire County, where an average of 32.8% of teen mothers smoked during pregnancy. Hampshire and Franklin Counties nearly tied for the second greatest number of pregnant teens smoking with 23.2% and 20% respectively.
- Smoking is also a significant problem for mothers age 20 and over in Berkshire county with 20% smoking during their pregnancy. This number is nearly three times the average for all mothers age 20 in Massachusetts who smoked during their pregnancy (6.8%).
- In June 2013 MassCHIP reported that 16% of women in Massachusetts did not receive adequate prenatal care in their first trimester. In Hampden County the rate was even higher with 25.3% of women reporting having not received adequate prenatal care. This is in sharp contrast with the 2.9% of women in Hampshire County who reported inadequate prenatal care during their first trimester.
- Infant mortality rates were highest in Berkshire County with a rate of 6.8% compared with 4.4% for the state average. In fact, all four western Massachusetts counties have infant mortality rates greater than the state's with Franklin at 6.3%, Hampden at 6.1% and Hampshire at 5.1%.
- Berkshire, Franklin and Hampden Counties also have higher rates of pre-term births and low birth weights than the state averages.



Reproductive Health	Mass		Berkshire		Franklin		Hampden		Hampshire	
Birth to all women CHIP 2013 IT	72,586		1169		631		5392		1154	
Births to adolescents CHIP 2013 IT	3946	5.4	96	8.2	39	6.1	645	11.9	34	2.9
mothers not receiving prenatal care 1st tri	16.1		16.9		18.1		25.3		17	
mothers with adequate prenatal care	84.9		75		85.9		76.2		87.6	
infants born w/ low birth weight %	7.8		7.2		8.2		8.6		7.2	
infant mortality rate	4.4		6.8		6.3		6.1		5.1	
mothers who smoked during preg *	5116	6.8	232	20	98	15	686	12	102	9.2
females 15-19 who smoked during preg	559	12.5	40	32.8	10	20	76	10.2	13	23.2
Pre term birth <32 weeks gestation 2009	1.7		2		1.8°		2.3		1.3°	
° MASSChip 2008 actual numbers										
° for 2003-2008 data										

Health Indicators Warehouse data , for the National Ctr. for HealthStatistics : infants born with a low birth rate, pre-term gestation,

IT Instant Topic Health Indicator Status Report - MASSChip data - 2010 Vital Record Info - infant mortality rates, prenatal care, births to adolescent mothers,

*smoking data is calculated on older data



Employment and Earnings

The majority of women ages 20 – 64 (76.4%) in the four western counties are in the labor force.

- The percentage of married women (husband present, children under the age of 18) in the labor force is 76.6%
- Women residing in the four western counties of the Commonwealth earn less than the average for women in MA.
- While women in Massachusetts earn on average, 22% less than men for full time work, women in Berkshire County and Hampden County earn roughly 24 % less than their male counterparts. While women in Franklin and Hampshire earn more, they still average 17.5 % less than men there.
- During the period 2006 - 2011 women's median earnings rose, with Berkshire (14.5%) and Hampden (12%) counties rising closest in proportion to the state gain of 15%. While Franklin and Hampshire experienced gains as well, 4% and 6.5% respectively, they were considerably less than the state average.

- Women's median earnings were affected by race. Native American women overall had the lowest median earnings in each of the four counties, Hispanic women had the highest median earnings. Hispanic women in Hampshire County had not only the highest median income in that county for full time work, they had the highest median income for full time work throughout the four counties, and they earned significantly more than Hispanic women working full time in the other three counties. The highest median earnings in Berkshire County belong to Asian-American women, whereas in Franklin and Hampden counties, White women had the highest median earnings. Hampshire county is the only county wherein median earnings based on all work (includes part-time) for African-American, Asian-American and Hispanic women is significantly lower than the same race women working full time only.



Employment and Earnings

Employment and Earnings	Mass	Berkshire	Franklin	Hampden	Hampshire
Median Annual Earnings (2011) ^					
Women's earnings for all work	30,507	23,698	25,585	26,401	19,101
Women's earnings for full-time work	46,327	37,103	38,575	38,991	44,058
Men's earnings for all work	43,528	33,305	36,684	37,640	32,298
Men's earnings for full-time work	59,642	48,543	46,280	51,176	53,965
Median Annual Earnings (2006)					
Women for all work	26,662	20,817	22,435	23,216	16,439
Women earnings for full-time work	40,221	32,383	37,037	34,755	41,354
Men for all work	40,907	31,416	35,748	34,541	27,654
Men earnings for full-time work	52,071	42,803	42,429	45,638	45,138
Female Median Annual Earnings by Race (2011)*					
African American					
Median earnings for all work	25,951	12,153	33,911	22,340	5,606
Median earnings for full time work	38,896	32,443	34,948	33,128	46,033
Asian American					
Median earnings for all work	31,392	23,816	10,800	20,917	9,456
Median earnings for full time work	47,628	47,854	36,111	39,583	47,375
Hispanic / Latina					
Median earnings for all work	19,965	18,038	22,083	18,877	8,784
Median earnings for full time work	31,448	28,683	34,167	32,232	50,337
Native American/Alaskan Native					
Median earnings for all work	23,916	16,404	2,500	22,696	40,500
Median earnings for full time work	36,660	22,321	x	24,893	21,250
White / European American					
Median earnings for all work	32,133	24,543	25,876	28,786	21,796
Median earnings for full time work	48,827	37,210	38,673	40,910	43,849
Female Employment Status 20+ years					
Total number women° (ages 20– 64)	2,041,194	39,362	22,803	140,148	51,528
Percentage of women in the labor force	77.1	76.2	79.1	72.5	77.8
Percentage of women who are employed°	72.1	71.4	74.9	66.9	73.2
Percentage of women who are unemployed in labor force°	6.4	6.3	5.2	7.7	5.9
Percentage of men who are unemployed in labor force°	8.2	9.2	8.3	10.4	6.7
Employment of Families (with own children under 18 yrs)					
Married couple both wife and husband in labor force□	72.5	75.4	77.4	73.4	80
Husband in labor force wife not in labor force□	22.9	17.4	18.2	19	15
Female householder no husband present, in labor force□	63.4	64.9	55.2	57.1	66.4
Female householder no husband present, <u>not</u> in labor force□	16.4	11	19.7	22.6	11.5
Source:					
^ACS 2011 5 yr, S2001– MA or County– Inc.Earnings–Median Dollars –also used S2404 for FT figures					
° ACS 2011 5YR ,Employment Status, S2301					
*ACS 2011 5YR Income Earnings Indiv– State– Ethnicity					
=ACS 2011 5YR Emp Characteristics of Fam, S2302					
x computation small					

ACS 2011 5 yr, S2001– MA or County– Inc.Earnings–Median Dollars –also used S2404 for FT figures

ACS 2011 5YR ,Employment Status, S2301

ACS 2011 5YR Income Earnings Indiv– State– Ethnicity

ACS 2011 5YR Emp Characteristics of Fam, S2302

x computation small



Poverty and Self-Sufficiency

- The federal poverty threshold for an individual in 2011 was \$11,484 and a little over \$22,800 for a family of four.
- The poverty rate for people living in the four western counties is higher than the state average of 10.7%. Additionally, women in Berkshire, Franklin and Hampden Counties have higher rates of poverty than not only the overall state average but the state average for women at 11.4%, with Hampshire County the exception at 9.9%.
- Berkshire and Hampden County girls under the age of 5 have a poverty rate twice the state average (16%), 34.8% and 32.3% respectively.
- Franklin County women age 65+ have the highest rate of poverty (13.2%) among the four western counties.
- Like the data for individuals, family poverty rates in Berkshire, Franklin and Hampden counties are higher than the state average with Hampshire, again, the exception. The vast majority of all families living in poverty are families with children under the age of 18.
- Female-headed families with no husband present are much more likely than male-headed families to live below the poverty line. Out of the four western MA counties Hampden County has the highest rate of female headed families living in poverty, nearly 33% compared with the other three counties, averaging 24% and state average of 24.5%. Of note, the same was true of Hampden County in the 2000 report when nearly 32% of female householders lived in poverty. Hampshire County has the lowest rate of poverty among female-headed families in the four western counties.
- The income necessary for self-sufficiency does not vary greatly between the four western counties, with an average of \$20,106 for a single individual (2010 data) which is considerably less than the \$27,084 average for the state overall.
- The income necessary for self-sufficiency depends greatly on whether a woman has children. A single mother with two children - one in pre-school and the other in elementary school - needs \$49,267 to be self-sufficient if living in the four western MA counties. The income necessary for a single mother with children to be self-sufficient is often higher than the average woman's earnings.



Poverty and Self-Sufficiency

Poverty and Self-Sufficiency	Massachusetts		Berkshire		Franklin		Hampden		Hampshire	
Poverty Status ^										
MA pop for whom poverty status is determined	6,288,679		125,881		70,254		446,946		134,122	
Total people living in poverty	673,000	10.7	14,915	11.8	8,333	11.9	74,413	16.6	15,842	11.8
# of women living in poverty (384,689/3,362,11) fro	384,689	11.4	8,743	12.8	4,881	13.4	42,265	17.6	8,306	9.9
# of children under age 5 living in poverty	56,439		1,578		529		8,481		875	
# of girls under age 5 living in poverty (27,970/1	27,970	16	1,043	34.8	307	19	4,387	32.3	424	21.2
# of women age 65+ living in poverty (53,556/52	53,556	10	1,380	9.8	583	13.2	4,440	11.5	1,020	8.9
Total Families in Poverty*										
Families – all ^	1,603,940		32,981		18,773		115,701		34,613	
Families living in poverty*	121,899	7.6	2,737	8.3	1,633	8.7	1,458		2,215	6.4
Families with related children under 18	789,498		14,429		8,432		58,969		15,803	
with related children under age 18 living in poverty ^	93,161	11.8	2,251		1,180		12,207		1,596	
with related children under age 5 ^	19,548		754		213		2,633		388	
with related children 5 to 17 only ^	50,540		811		691		6,316		885	
Families w/Female Householder (no husband) – all	309,899		6,682		3,640		30,436		5,966	
living in poverty	75,925	24.5	1,590	23.8		26.4		32.8		21.8
with related children under age 18	198,091		4,261		2,474		21,077		3,815	
with related children under age 18 living in poverty:	66,360	33.5	1,446	33.9	809	32.7	8,982	42.6	1,099	28.8
under age 5 only, living in poverty ^	13,058		525		182		1,849		251	
under 5 years and 5 to 17 years	16,224		266		187		2,303		168	
with related children 5 to 17 only, liv pov	36,986		655		439		4,830		680	
Self-sufficiency wages (2010)*	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual	Hourly	Annual
Per Adult	\$12.83	27,084	\$9.57	20,217	\$9.47	19,991	\$9.60	20,272	\$9.49	20,034
Per Adult & Preschooler	23.05	49,037	17.83	37,647	17.84	37,675	18.25	38,540	18.1	38,218
Per Adult & Preschooler & Schoolage	29.01	61,618	23.3	49,212	23.14	48,874	23.52	49,673	23.38	49,388
Per Adult & Schoolage & Teenager	22.74	48,315	18.09	38,202	17.85	37,689	18.25	38,553	18.1	38,220
Per Adult & Schoolage & Schoolage	26.8	56,877	21.5	45,417	21.32	45,032	21.67	45,769	21.54	45,485

ACS 2011 5YR, - B17001

In 2011 the poverty threshold for an individual was \$11,484, and a little over \$22,800 for a family of four. MA Budget & Policy Ctr

ACS 2011 5YR, B17010, Poverty, Fam, Age

ACS 2011 5yr, B17001, Poverty Status Sex & Age

calculations under poverty status for counties use data from basic demographics, such as dividing all girls living under the age of 5 in poverty by all girls under age 5, data for gerontology taken from ger chart



Gerontology *(Women ages 65+ only)*

Count

- 15.5% of the female population in Massachusetts is age 65 and older
- Among the four western counties Berkshire County has not only the largest percentage of women age 65 and older (20.7%), but it has the highest percentage of women age 85+, 4% (state avg. 2.9).
- The number of women age 65+ in the four western counties accounts for 13.5% of the total number of women 65+ statewide.
- Women age 85+ (numbering 98,023) constitute 2.9 % of the entire MA female population, a full 18.8% of the female population 65+.

Race

- Hampden County is the most diverse county of the four western MA counties with the smallest White population (90.57%) and largest African-American (5.65%) and Hispanic populations (6.1%). Its Hispanic population is more than double the state average for women age 65+, while its Asian population is less than half the state's average.
- Franklin County is the least diverse county with its percentages of African Americans, Hispanics and Asians noticeably smaller than the other counties.
- Three out of four western MA counties, Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire have significantly more white women age 65+ than the state average.

Marital Status

- The four western counties have lower rates of never married women (5.2 – 6.7%) than the rest of the state (7.6%).
- Franklin County has the greatest percentage of married women 43.6%, nearly 7 percentage points higher than the next two highest counties each at 37%. Franklin's rate is higher even than the state rate at 39.6%.
- Franklin county's percentage of divorced women is not only higher than the other three counties but is noticeably higher than the state average (14.3 compared with the state at 11.6)
- Berkshire, Hampden and Hampshire counties have greater percentages of widowed women than the state average of 41.3%

Employment

- The number of women working decreases the older the worker becomes. The number of women between the ages of 70-74 who work is approximately half (52%) of the number of women between the ages of 65-69 who work. The number of women age 75+ who work is 32% of the number of women between the ages of 70-74 who work.
- Franklin and Hampshire Counties have the greatest number of women age 65+ working, higher even than the state average for that category, while fewer women age 65-69 in Berkshire and Hampden counties work than the state average for the same category.
- Fewer women age 65+ work than men of the same age.

Poverty

- Women age 65+ living in the four western counties have lower rates of poverty than the average for all women age 65+ living in Massachusetts.
- Women age 65-74 living in Hampden County have the lowest rate of poverty among all women in that age category in the four western counties.



Gerontology *(Women ages 65+ only)*

Gerontology															
	Massachusetts			Berkshire			Franklin			Hampden			Hampshire		
Female 65+			%			%			%			%			%
Total female population S0101 or B01001	3,362,116			68,167			36,529			240,353			83,894		
Total female population 65+	521,352	15.5		14,141	20.7		6,097	16.7		38,710	16.1		11,420	13.6	
65-69	134,337	4		3437	5		1560	4.3		9427	3.9		2904	3.5	
70 to 74	106,986	3.2		2877	4.2		1289	3.5		7663	3.2		2288	2.7	
75 to 79	96,204	2.9		2805	4.1		1136	3.1		7082	2.9		2077	2.5	
80 to 84	85,802	2.6		2,293	3.4		984	2.7		6602	2.7		1965	2.3	
85+	98,023	2.9		2,729	4		1128	3.1		7939	3.3		2186	2.6	
Race															
Female Population - age 65+	521,352			14,141	2.7		6097	1.2		38710	7.4		11,420	2.2	
65-74					% wom65+			%wom65+	county		%wom65+	county		%wom65+	county
White B01001A Total White 2,735,733	216,259	41.5	91.6	6,056	43	97	2,768	45.4	97.9	14,983	38.7	90.57	5,061	44.3	96.9
African American B01001B 223,715	11,301	2.2	4	91	0.64	1.35	10	0.16	0.55	1,164	3	5.65	12	0.1	0.74
Hispanic B01001I 308,121	9,516	1.8	3	80	0.57	0.89	0	0	0.34	1,518	3.9	6.1	109	0.95	1.37
Asian B01001D 179,56	7,711	1.5	2.6	69	0.49	0.88	31	0.5	0.28	182	0.47	0.84	24	0.21	0.87
75-84															
White	168,417	32.3		4,954	35		2,074	34		12,426	32		3,863	33.8	33.7
African American	6,210	1.2		49	0.35		24	0.39		814	2.1		73	0.64	0.87
Hispanic	4,458	0.9		30	0.21		21	0.34		640	1.7		22	0.19	0.61
Asian	3,957	0.8		55	0.39		14	0.23		145	0.37		75	0.66	0.41
85+															
White	92,648	17.8		2,673	19		1,128	18.5		7,691	19.87		2,152	18.8	19.04
African American	2,954	0.6		51	0.36		0	0		212	0.55		8	0	0.23
Hispanic	1,491	0.3		16	0.11		0	0		193	0.5		26	0.23	0.21
Asian	1,356	0.3		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0
Marital Status*															
Females age 15+	2,794,685			58,044		%	31,137		%	196,734		%	73305		%
Never Married	905,341	32.4		16,435	28.3	%category	8,469	27.2	%category	64,789	32.9	%category	30,750	41.9	%category
65-74	17,913		2	277		1.7	186		2.2	1,091		1.7	269		
75-84	13,032		1.4	293		1.8	119		1.4	901		1.4	240		
85+	8,492		0.94	168		1	51		0.6	619		1	210		
Married	1,332,169	48		26,288	45.3		15,096	48.5		87,428	44.4		29,289	40	
65-74	120,983		9.1	3,240		11.8	1,656		10.5	8,904		9.2	2,727		
75-84	58,034		4.4	1,691		6.1	793		5	4,314		4.6	1,178		
85+	10,467		0.79	360		1.1	213		1.3	1,247		1	311		
Divorced	296,682	10.61		8,072	13.9		4,657	15		24,036	12.2		7,162	9.8	
65-74	39,418		13.3	1,159		14.4	516		11.1	3,003		12.5	966		
75-84	16,626		5.6	549		6.8	229		5	1,151		4.8	284		
85+	4,430		1.5	133		1.6	125		2.7	315		1.3	102		
Widowed	260,493	9.3		7,249	12.5		2,915	9.4		20,481	10.4		6,104	8.3	
65-74	54,266		20.8	1,638		22.6	491		17	4,092			1,230		
75-84	88,980		34.2	2,565		35.4	979		33.6	7,318			2,340		
85+	71,900		27.6	2,068		28.5	739		25.4	5,758			1,563		
Employment^															
Women 65-69	Total	Working		Total	Working		Total	Working		Total	Working		Total	Working	%
Men 65-69	134,337	42,905		3,437	964		1,560	508		9,427	2,675		2,904	1,031	
Women 70-74	117,282	46,837		2,992	1,072		1,618	712		8,329	2,991		2,743	1,264	
Men 70-74	106,986	16,292		2,877	467		1,289	206		7,663	1,089		2,288	429	
Women 75+	85,699	20,125		2,377	438		973	207		5,837	1,159		1,938	480	
Men 75+	280,029	11,620		7,827	324		3,248	200		21,623	917		6,228	371	
Women 75+	166,970	15,527		4,814	556		2,003	151		12,513	1,001		3,640	283	
Poverty*															
Total persons living in poverty-all persons	673,467			14,915			8,333			74,413			15,842		%
Total Females living below poverty level	384,689	57		8,734	59		4,881	59		42,265	57		8,306	52.4	
Female 65-74 below 100% poverty level	22,328	5.8		466	3.1		249	3		1,723	2.3		428	3	
Female 75+ below 100% poverty level	31228	8.1		914	6.1		334	4		2717	3.7		592	3.7	

B12002 Sex by marital status by age, ACS 2011 5yr - age 15+

B23001 Sex by Age by Employment Status, ACS 2011 5yr

B17001 Poverty Status in the past 12 months by sex by age ACS 2011 5yr

Total pop= 6,288,679, total p below poverty 673,467, tot males below poverty 288,778, tot females 384,689

Race: B01001A Sex by Age (white alone), etc.for ea race

Living arrangements and disability deleted after conversation with Carla

Race by county first reflects each county by race by age bracket - so 43 represents 43% of all women 65+ in Berk are white. Next column 97 represents the overall % of whites for Berk women 65+

Race: under "by age group", means looking at age groups by race, for instance age 85+ by white pop - what % of women age 85+ are white



Political Participation and Representation

- Voter registration and turnout for women ages 18-64 is greater than for men of the same age group. For people over the age of 65, though, the percentage of men registering to vote and voting is higher than the percentage of women. Both reflect the same pattern in state average comparisons.
- The percentage of women registered to vote and turning out to vote increases with age.
- Franklin County has the highest percentage of women ages 18-24 registered to vote (66.3%) while Hampshire County has the highest percentage of women registered to vote ages 25+.
- Hampden County has lower percentages of women registered to vote and women turning out to vote than Berkshire, Franklin and Hampshire.
- The vast majority of women in the four western counties are registered to vote at rates greater than the state average for women. The same is true for women who turned out to vote in 2012 with the exception of women in Hampden County.
- Overall, there is a significant gap between women's numbers in the population and their representation in government.
- Currently there is one Massachusetts woman serving as a United States Senator and one serving in the United States House of Representatives. Neither of these women hails from any of the four western counties.
- Of the 40 Massachusetts State Senators, 12 or 30% are women, one of which is from western Massachusetts, Hampden County.
- The Massachusetts House of Representatives is 24% female. Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties have each elected one female representative to the House while Berkshire County currently has elected two.



Political Participation																
2012																
Voter Registration		tot/age grp	Mass	%	tot/age grp	Berkshire	%	tot/age grp	Franklin	%	tot/age grp	Hampden	%	tot/age grp	Hampshire	%
Female																
18 to 24 years		342,837	188301	54.9	6,241	3,805	61	2,719	1,802	66.3	24,726	14,498	58.6	20,388	8,379	41
25 to 44		887,329	596782	67.3	13,824	9,980	72.2	8,390	5,978	71.3	57,892	40,150	69.4	17,018	12,886	75.7
45 to 64		957,521	773024	80.7	20,646	17,218	83.4	12,377	10,298	83.2	66,337	52,625	79.3	22,920	19,999	87.3
65 and over		552,921	466467	84.4	14,533	12,784	88	6,558	5,895	90	40,156	33,869	84.3	12,474	11,447	91.8
Male																
18 to 24 years		342,724	174523	50.9	6,318	3,519	55.7	3,073	1,782	58	25,800	13,294	51.5	16,029	7,057	44
25 to 44		888,279	514363	57.9	13,505	8,865	65.6	8,154	5,241	64.3	53,808	34,037	63.3	16,075	10,794	67.1
45 to 64		897,545	683836	76.2	19,523	15,366	78.7	11,577	8,992	77.7	61,339	46,631	76	20,439	16,923	82.8
65 and over		405,573	352389	86.9	11,050	10,093	91.3	5,217	4,903	94	28,610	24,974	87.3	9,357	8,917	95.3
Voter Turnout																
Female																
18 to 24 years			104118	30.4		2,233	35.8		1,086	40		5,299	36.5		6,239	30.6
25 to 44			398866	45		7,049	51		4,566	54.4		17,806	30.8		10,443	61.3
45 to 64			605065	63.2		13,792	66.8		8,842	71.4		30,675	46.2		17,647	77
65 and over			357146	64.6		10,074	69.3		4,938	75.3		16,696	41.6		9,823	78.7
Male																
18 to 24 years			90193	26.3		1,897	29.7		998	32.5		4,798	18.6		4,888	30.5
25 to 44			326855	36.8		5,664	41.9		3,731	45.8		14,788	27.5		8,106	50.4
45 to 64			522367	58.2		11,751	60.2		7,363	63.6		26,997	44		14,377	70.3
65 and over			277817	68.5		8,181	74		4,198	80.4		13,791	48.2		7,860	84

Voter registration & turnout data = UMASS PoliSci Dept.

tot/age grp ACS 2012 estimates



Data Sources

Data sources for the State of Women: A Report on Women and Girls in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire Counties

- American Community Survey – 2011- limited 2012 (www.census.gov/acs)
- MA Department of Education, Public School Districts 2011 (www.doe.mass.edu)
- US Department of Health & Human Services – Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov)
- National Center for Health Statistics – Health Indicators Warehouse (www.cdc.gov)
- Massachusetts CHIP – Instant Topic Health Indicator Status Report (www.mass.gov/eohhs/researcher/community-health/masschip)
- University of Massachusetts – Political Science Department (polsci.umass.edu/)
- Crittendon Women’s Union – Massachusetts Economic Independent Index 2010 (www.liveworkthrive)
- Massachusetts Budget & Policy Center (www.massbudget.org)
- Massachusetts Legislature (malegislature.gov/people/house)
- Massachusetts Senate (malegislature.gov/people/senate)





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