

OVERVIEW

The 2019 City of Santa Monica Report on the Status of Women and Girls was commissioned by the City of Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) and prepared by the Center for the Advancement of Women at Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles. The data included in this report, generated from the 2017 American Community Survey and other relevant reports, provide a portrait of the wellbeing and standing of women and girls in the City of Santa Monica using a variety of economic and social indicators.

COSW produced a 2015 Report on the Status of Women and Girls in the City of Santa Monica, which identified a number of positive trends as well as persistent challenges facing women and girls there. Several trends reported in 2015 continue moving in a positive direction:

- **The racial composition among women in Santa Monica has become more diverse.** For example, African-American women make up 4% of the population compared to 2% reported in 2015 Asian-American women make up 11% of the female population compared to 6% reported in 2015.
- **The number of women-owned businesses in Santa Monica has increased** by 6% since reporting in 2015.
- **The gender wage gap has shrunk** between 2013 and 2017. Santa Monica's full-time, year-round working women (16 years and older) now earn 78 cents for every dollar earned by men. Comparatively, Santa Monica women earned 72 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2013.

Nevertheless, women and girls in the City of Santa Monica continue to experience significant hardships and gender disparities persist:

- **Women comprise 53% of the full-time workforce in service occupations**, but 31% of the workforce in technology occupations (e.g., computer and mathematical).
- **Twenty three percent of Santa Monica's homeless population are women.** Two percent of the homeless population identified as transgender.
- In the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) 2017-18 classes, **8% of students in each grade 7, 9, and 11 reported being harassed** one or more times because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. Eight percent of SMMUSD high school students (grades 9, 11) also report having been forced to have sexual intercourse over their lifetime.

This report reveals a scarcity of data in Santa Monica concerning people of all gender identities, and especially transgender and non-binary Santa Monica residents, as well as sexual orientation-related data. This data collection must be improved.

We encourage you to read and share this 2019 report in order to advocate for women and girls in Santa Monica more effectively. For more information and to access the full City of Santa Monica Report on the Status of Women and Girls, visit smgov.net/cosw.



City of
Santa Monica[®]

CITY OF SANTA MONICA COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN REPORT ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

In 1981, the Commission on the Status of Women (COSW) was founded to promote equal access to and equity in many areas including health care, economic development, and educational opportunities for women and girls. Over the past thirty-eight years, the COSW has worked diligently in areas such as human rights, discrimination, domestic and sexual violence prevention, campaign measures to increase the number of women candidates in public office, pay equity, homelessness, legislation, and mentoring local high school girls.

For more information, visit SMGOV.NET/COSW or call 310.458.8701 or TTY 310.458.8696 or email COSW@smgov.net.

COMMISSIONERS

Sylvia Ghazarian, *Chair*; Melissa Goodman, *Vice Chair*; Joni Byun; Elena Christopoulos; Diane Miller; Kelsey O'Hara; Nancy Pierandozzi; Ty-Juana Taylor; and Jenny Vazquez-Newsum



The Center for the Advancement of Women at Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles is a hub for gender equity research, advocacy and leadership development. Its vision is to find solutions to persistent gender inequities and work with partners to eradicate those inequities in our lifetime. That goal includes eliminating obstacles that women face in the workplace, in their communities, in the media and beyond to make a positive difference in the lives of women and girls in California and our nation. The Center also creates public programming, research guides and training opportunities to engage more partners in its work. MSMU.EDU/CAW

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. MSMU.EDU

2019

City of Santa Monica Commission on the Status of Women Report on the Status of Women and Girls

COMMISSIONED BY:

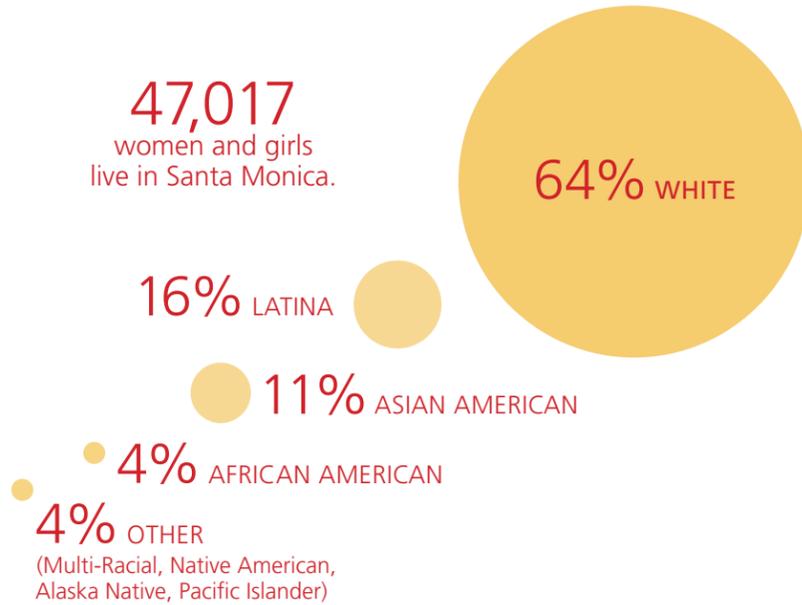


PREPARED BY
THE CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN
AT MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY



DEMOGRAPHICS

Fifty-two percent of Santa Monica's population is comprised of women and girls. While the majority (64%) of Santa Monica's women and girls are white, 35% are women of color.



3 in 10 women and girls in Santa Monica were born outside the United States.



Less than 1% of households in Santa Monica have reported as same-sex unmarried partner households over the past five years.



65% of Santa Monica women 25 years and older have a bachelor's or advanced degree.

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Economic freedom refers to the opportunities available for women to work, earn a living, and reach their personal and professional goals.

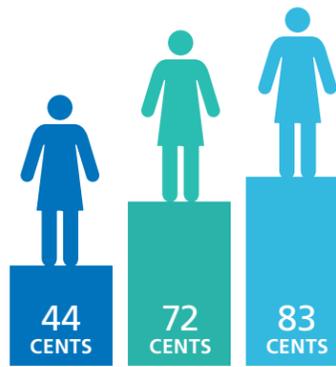
Santa Monica women who work full-time, year-round make **78 cents** compared to every dollar earned by Santa Monica men. The gender wage gap is significantly worse for women of color.

Santa Monica women earn 69 cents on the dollar compared to only their white male counterparts, who are paid some of the highest salaries.



SANTA MONICA WOMEN

Gender earnings gap by race/ethnicity in Santa Monica
Note: Santa Monica's African-American population size is too small to calculate a reliable wage gap.



Women comprise **53%** of the full-time workforce in service occupations, but **31%** of the workforce in technology (e.g., computer and mathematical) occupations.



\$1.26 billion The annual revenue generated by Santa Monica's **7,900** women-owned businesses.

Nearly **75%** of Santa Monica women, ages 20-64, were employed in 2017. **6%** of Santa Monica women in the labor force were unemployed in the same year.

WELLBEING

Physical and mental health affect every aspect of life. The happier, safer, and healthier women and girls are, the more prepared they are to reach their goals and overcome adversity.

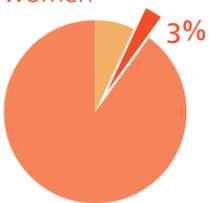


\$1,170,000

The median value of a house in Santa Monica. Affordable housing in the city is an obstacle for many residents.

957 The number of homeless persons counted in Santa Monica in 2018. **23%** of the homeless population are women.

In 2017, **3%** of Santa Monica women lived in poverty compared to 7% of men. From 2013-2017, the poverty rate of women varied from 7% to 14%, depending on the zip code in which they lived.



8% of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students in each grade—7, 9, and 11—report harassment because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation.



The City of Santa Monica is **1 of 11** California cities to receive a score of **100** on the **Municipal Equality Index scorecard**, indicating the City's attention to improving equality for LGBTQ individuals.