

## SOCIAL DETERMINANTS

An individual's health and patterns of health care use are influenced by numerous factors beyond whether or not they have health coverage. While much of the policy focus has been on personal behaviors (e.g., smoking, diet, nutrition, help seeking), there is growing evidence that social factors (e.g., early life experiences, psychosocial work environment, neighborhoods, and housing) can have a direct or indirect influence on health outcomes.

One of the largest social determinants of health and health care use is socioeconomic status, or social class, which is often measured by income, education, and occupation. Women are more likely to live in poverty than men, and women of color are more likely than either White men or White women to live below the poverty line. These differences are related in part to the fact that women continue to shoulder the major responsibility for raising children. Socioeconomic disadvantage, whether defined by income, education, or occupation, is associated with high risk health behaviors, worse access to health care, and poorer health outcomes.

Neighborhood and housing characteristics also have an important impact on health, and more than ever, researchers are focusing their efforts on understanding the relationship between the two. Factors such as crime, the availability of healthy foods, the availability of parks and other athletic facilities, homeownership, and segregation have all been shown to affect health. Neighborhoods that are racially segregated, especially those with a high proportion of African Americans, Latinos, and American Indian and Alaska Natives, tend to have higher concentrations of poverty.<sup>48</sup> Residential segregation has been associated with infant and adult mortality<sup>49</sup> as well as limits on availability of care.<sup>50</sup> Segregated neighborhoods also affect the economic and educational opportunities of their residents.

For some of the social determinants of health and health care use, good state-level and population-based data remain elusive. In the absence of more refined measures, researchers often use proxies to assess their impact on health. For example, the percentage of women living in single-parent households headed by women is a proxy for social support, and for the children of those households, a proxy measure of their early life experiences.

The tables that follow present the indicators that capture some of the social determinants of health and are used to calculate state disparity scores. The indicators included in this dimension are:

1. Percent of Women in Poverty
2. Median Household Income
3. Gender Wage Gap
4. Percent of Women with No High School Diploma
5. Percent of Women Living in Single-Parent, Female-Headed Households
6. Residential Segregation: Index of Dissimilation



TABLE 3.0. Social Determinants Dimension Scores, by State

	State	Dimension Score	State	Dimension Score	
<b>Better than Average</b>	New Hampshire	-1.73	Alabama	0.66	
	Hawaii	-1.50	Alaska	-0.56	
	Vermont	-1.46	Arizona	0.25	
	Washington	-0.85	Arkansas	0.36	
	Delaware	-0.82	California	-0.26	
	Virginia	-0.80	Colorado	0.06	
	Oklahoma	-0.61	Connecticut	-0.03	
	Alaska	-0.56	Delaware	-0.82	
	Maryland	-0.55	District of Columbia	0.69	
	West Virginia	-0.53	Florida	-0.21	
	Nevada	-0.37	Georgia	-0.14	
	New Jersey	-0.37	Hawaii	-1.50	
	Utah	-0.27	Idaho	0.22	
	California	-0.26	Illinois	-0.19	
	Kansas	-0.25	Indiana	0.43	
	Florida	-0.21	Iowa	0.51	
	Illinois	-0.19	Kansas	-0.25	
	Georgia	-0.14	Kentucky	0.18	
	<b>Average</b>	Maine	-0.15	Louisiana	1.37
Oregon		-0.11	Maine	-0.15	
Nebraska		-0.10	Maryland	-0.55	
South Carolina		-0.07	Massachusetts	0.13	
Wyoming		-0.04	Michigan	-0.04	
Michigan		-0.04	Minnesota	-0.03	
Minnesota		-0.03	Mississippi	0.90	
Connecticut		-0.03	Missouri	0.13	
North Carolina		0.04	Montana	1.28	
New Mexico		0.05	Nebraska	-0.10	
Colorado		0.06	Nevada	-0.37	
<b>Worse than Average</b>		Massachusetts	0.13	New Hampshire	-1.73
		Missouri	0.13	New Jersey	-0.37
	Ohio	0.14	New Mexico	0.05	
	Kentucky	0.18	New York	0.41	
	Idaho	0.22	North Carolina	0.04	
	Arizona	0.25	North Dakota	0.46	
	Arkansas	0.36	Ohio	0.14	
	Pennsylvania	0.39	Oklahoma	-0.61	
	New York	0.41	Oregon	-0.11	
	Indiana	0.43	Pennsylvania	0.39	
	North Dakota	0.46	Rhode Island	1.01	
	Texas	0.50	South Carolina	-0.07	
	Iowa	0.51	South Dakota	0.91	
	Wisconsin	0.55	Tennessee	0.56	
	Tennessee	0.56	Texas	0.50	
	Alabama	0.66	Utah	-0.27	
	District of Columbia	0.69	Vermont	-1.46	
	Mississippi	0.90	Virginia	-0.80	
	South Dakota	0.91	Washington	-0.85	
Rhode Island	1.01	West Virginia	-0.53		
Montana	1.28	Wisconsin	0.55		
Louisiana	1.37	Wyoming	-0.04		

--- Best state in column  
 — Worst state in column

## POVERTY

The link between income and health is well established.<sup>51,52</sup> Poor individuals are less likely to have access to health coverage, less likely to have a usual source of care, and less likely to have routine screenings and checkups. Poor access is associated with a higher risk of delays in care and potentially poorer health outcomes.<sup>53</sup> Poverty also indirectly affects health through factors such as nutrition and stress. The poverty rates presented here are generated from the Current Population Survey conducted by the Census Bureau. According to poverty guidelines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2005, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$19,350.<sup>54</sup>

### Highlights

- In the U.S., 16.4% of nonelderly adult women had household incomes below the federal poverty threshold (Table 3.1). Women of color lived in poverty at more than twice the rate of White women (25.8% vs. 11.9%). Of all groups, American Indian and Alaska Native women experienced the highest poverty rates (32.8%), followed by Black (28.5%) and Hispanic (27.4%) women. White women had the lowest poverty rate.
- Women in Southern states, such as Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama, had higher poverty rates than women in any other region of the country. Women in parts of New England, such as Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut had lower poverty rates than women in other regions.
- The U.S. disparity score for poverty rate was 2.18. State disparity scores for poverty ranged from a low of 1.41 in West Virginia to a high of 4.09 in South Dakota, meaning that women of color in South Dakota lived in poverty at four times the rate of White women.
- Poverty rates for women of color were higher than those for White women in all states, which resulted in all states having disparity scores above 1.00.
- States with large proportions of American Indian and Alaska Native women, such as North Dakota and South Dakota, had some of the highest disparity scores, largely because poverty rates among American Indian and Alaska Native women were substantially higher than those of White women.
- West Virginia had the lowest disparity score (1.41) in the nation, though this low score was largely attributable to White women in West Virginia experiencing the highest poverty rate of all White women in the country (19.3%), which narrowed the gap between them and women of color.
- Virginia and Kentucky tied for the second-lowest disparity score (1.65). Here, one in three nonelderly women was a racial and ethnic minority, and the poverty rate was below the national average for each racial and ethnic group.
- Though Kentucky and Virginia had the same disparity score (1.65), Kentucky was located at the far right of the upper right quadrant of Figure 3.1. White women in Kentucky had the second-highest poverty rate of all White women (17.5%)—nearly six percentage points higher than White women nationally—which narrowed the disparity between them and women of color, and resulted in one of the lowest disparity scores on this indicator.

FIGURE 3.1. State-Level Disparity Scores and Rates of Poverty for White Women Ages 18–64

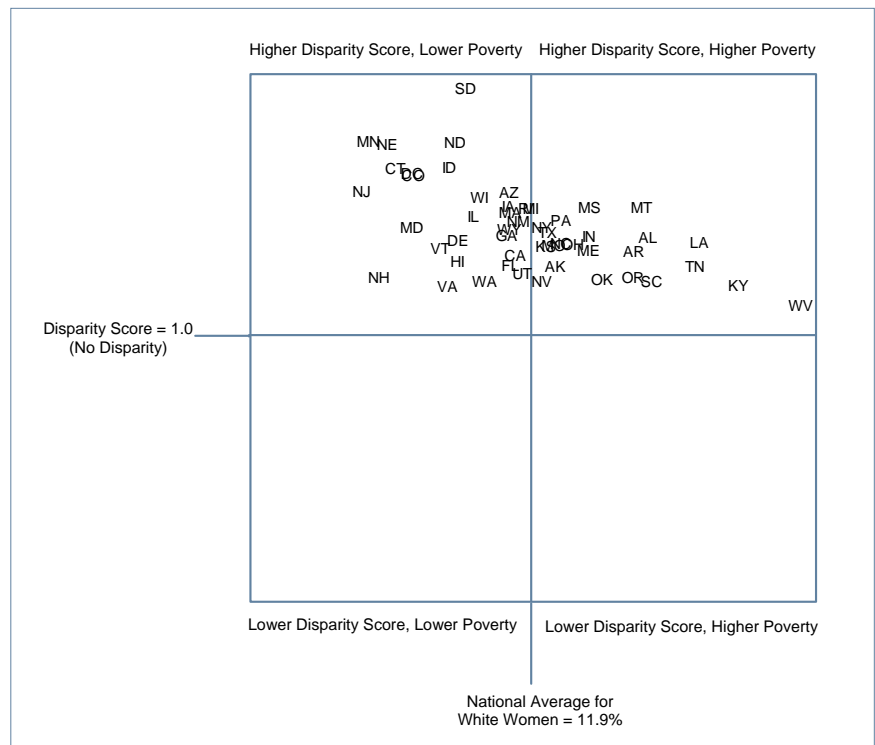


TABLE 3.1. Poverty, by State and Race/Ethnicity

State	Disparity Score	Prevalence						
		All Women	White	All Minority*	Black	Hispanic	Asian and NHPI	American Indian/ Alaska Native
<b>All States</b>	<b>2.18</b>	<b>16.4%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>28.5%</b>	<b>27.4%</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>32.8%</b>
Alabama	2.24	21.0%	15.1%	33.8%	35.0%			
Alaska	1.89	15.7%	12.5%	23.7%		20.4%	17.3%	31.4%
Arizona	2.80	19.3%	11.3%	31.5%	25.8%	32.1%		40.1%
Arkansas	2.07	18.3%	14.7%	30.3%	32.8%	25.1%		
California	2.01	17.8%	11.4%	23.0%	26.1%	25.9%	15.2%	
Colorado	3.01	12.9%	8.6%	26.0%	23.0%	28.5%	10.5%	
Connecticut	3.09	12.3%	8.1%	25.2%	18.4%	35.2%	14.2%	
Delaware	2.21	13.6%	9.9%	21.8%	19.6%	32.9%	20.7%	
District of Columbia	3.03	19.9%	8.6%	26.1%	27.2%	21.6%		
Florida	1.91	15.3%	11.3%	21.6%	25.7%	20.0%	8.0%	
Georgia	2.26	16.9%	11.2%	25.3%	25.8%	28.7%	13.5%	
Hawaii	1.94	17.2%	9.8%	19.1%		22.4%	16.9%	
Idaho	3.11	12.2%	9.6%	29.9%	44.5%	31.0%		
Illinois	2.51	15.3%	10.3%	25.8%	32.6%	25.0%	8.4%	
Indiana	2.26	15.9%	13.4%	30.4%	33.2%	31.1%		
Iowa	2.62	12.9%	11.2%	29.5%		32.5%		
Kansas	2.14	14.6%	12.3%	26.3%	30.0%	29.0%		
Kentucky	1.65	18.7%	17.5%	28.9%	29.6%			
Louisiana	2.18	23.7%	16.5%	36.0%	37.4%			
Maine	2.08	14.1%	13.4%	27.9%				
Maryland	2.36	13.6%	8.6%	20.4%	22.1%	16.5%	16.4%	
Massachusetts	2.55	14.9%	11.3%	28.8%	26.9%	36.5%	22.7%	
Michigan	2.60	16.1%	11.8%	30.8%	36.6%	25.4%	9.0%	
Minnesota	3.43	9.7%	7.4%	25.5%	36.6%	25.7%	17.8%	
Mississippi	2.61	22.5%	13.5%	35.2%	35.8%			
Missouri	2.15	14.9%	12.5%	26.9%	28.7%	27.0%		
Montana	2.61	16.9%	14.9%	38.8%				48.3%
Nebraska	3.40	11.0%	7.9%	26.9%	32.2%	26.7%		
Nevada	1.70	15.4%	12.2%	20.6%	29.5%	21.0%	14.0%	
New Hampshire	1.75	8.0%	7.7%	13.4%				
New Jersey	2.81	12.2%	7.2%	20.3%	22.9%	25.1%	8.1%	
New Mexico	2.44	20.8%	11.5%	28.1%		26.3%		40.7%
New York	2.38	18.9%	12.1%	28.9%	29.9%	33.3%	18.4%	
North Carolina	2.17	17.6%	12.7%	27.5%	28.0%	29.2%	20.4%	30.7%
North Dakota	3.42	12.3%	9.8%	33.4%				37.3%
Ohio	2.16	15.5%	13.0%	28.1%	32.5%	23.7%		
Oklahoma	1.72	16.5%	13.8%	23.8%	24.8%	29.3%		30.9%
Oregon	1.74	16.4%	14.6%	25.5%		32.8%	14.0%	
Pennsylvania	2.46	15.9%	12.7%	31.2%	34.6%	28.0%	18.0%	
Rhode Island	2.59	15.2%	11.7%	30.3%	22.2%	37.1%	25.1%	
South Carolina	1.71	19.0%	15.2%	25.9%	26.5%	24.3%		
South Dakota	4.09	13.4%	10.1%	41.1%				52.0%
Tennessee	1.89	19.7%	16.3%	30.8%	31.0%	36.1%		
Texas	2.30	20.6%	12.3%	28.4%	26.6%	30.6%	14.7%	
Utah	1.80	13.1%	11.6%	20.8%		21.8%	16.2%	
Vermont	2.11	9.9%	9.4%	19.8%				
Virginia	1.65	11.5%	9.6%	15.8%	16.4%	19.7%	9.0%	
Washington	1.70	12.2%	10.6%	18.0%		21.1%	11.4%	
West Virginia	1.41	19.7%	19.3%	27.2%				
Wisconsin	2.74	12.8%	10.5%	28.7%	27.0%	28.4%		
Wyoming	2.33	12.8%	11.2%	26.2%		26.4%		

Note: Among women ages 18–64.

The federal poverty level in 2005 was \$19,350 for a family of four.

\*All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.

Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity score less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicates that minority and White women are doing the same.

Source: CPS, 2004–2006.

— — — Best state in column

————— Worst state in column

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median household income is an important indicator of resources available to women and their families. Individuals in lower-income households have fewer resources available to address health issues and are more likely to experience cost-related barriers to care. A lack of resources has a direct impact on health, as poor people are more sensitive to price changes than wealthier people. For example, a change in medication price, even a modest one, can result in people choosing to forgo their medication, or to cut down on how often they take it and how much they take.<sup>55</sup> Research has also demonstrated that individuals living in poorer neighborhoods are more likely to have poor health behaviors<sup>56</sup> and are more likely to experience higher rates of mental illness<sup>57</sup> and cardiovascular disease<sup>58</sup> than those living in neighborhoods with greater resources. The data presented here are derived from the Current Population Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, and to keep the interpretation consistent with other indicators, the disparity score for median household income was calculated as the ratio of White women to minority women.

### Highlights

- Nationally, the median household income for women was \$45,000, and ranged from a low of \$24,000 for American Indian and Alaska Native women, to \$26,681 for Black, \$27,748 for Hispanic, \$52,669 for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and \$54,536 for White women (Table 3.2). Household incomes tended to be lowest in the South and highest in New England and some Mid-Atlantic states.
- Within racial and ethnic groups, there was variation across states in median household income levels. Among American Indian and Alaska Native women, the median household income in Alaska (\$32,017) was more than twice that in Montana (\$12,480). For Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander women, the median household income in New Jersey (\$85,000) was more than twice that in Rhode Island (\$33,928).
- Nationally, the disparity score was 1.82, and ranged from 1.14 in New Hampshire to 2.58 in Montana. This meant that in all states White women had greater median household incomes than women of color, resulting in all states being located in the upper quadrants of Figure 3.2. In 18 states and the District of Columbia, the disparity score was 2.00 or higher, indicating that the median household income for White women was more than double that for women of color.
- More than 30 states were located in the upper right quadrant of Figure 3.2, which meant that even though White women in those states had median household incomes that were below those of White women nationally, there was still a disparity between White women and women of color. White women in states such as Montana, Kentucky, and West Virginia (found at the far right of the upper right quadrant) had median household incomes well below the national average for White women.
- Montana's disparity score (2.68) was an outlier because the median household income of minority women, mostly American Indian and Alaska Native women, was only \$16,200, which was less than 40% of the median household income of White women in the state.
- New Jersey, at the far left of the upper left quadrant, stood out because the median household income of White women (\$80,324) was the highest in the country. While the median household income of minority women was also higher than the national average for minority women, it was still less than half that of White women in the state (\$38,420).
- In New Hampshire, another outlier, the median household income of White women (\$62,550) was higher than the national average for White women, and the difference between it and that of minority women in the state was relatively small.

FIGURE 3.2. State-Level Disparity Scores and Median Household Income for White Women Ages 18–64

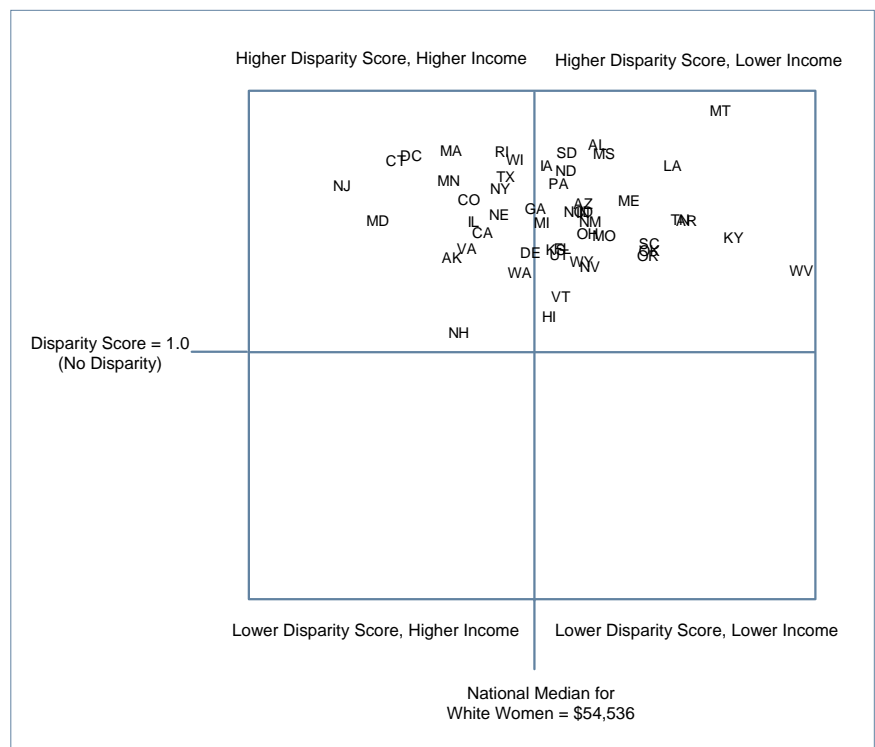


TABLE 3.2. Median Household Income, by State and Race/Ethnicity

State	Disparity Score	Median Income						
		All Women	White	All Minority*	Black	Hispanic	Asian and NHPI	American Indian/ Alaska Native
<b>All States</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>	<b>\$54,536</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	<b>\$26,681</b>	<b>\$27,748</b>	<b>\$52,669</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>
Alabama	2.36	\$38,200	\$49,460	\$21,000	\$20,000			
Alaska	1.62	\$54,431	\$63,319	\$39,029		\$42,002	\$45,000	\$32,017
Arizona	1.98	\$39,031	\$50,615	\$25,614	\$29,000	\$25,062		\$21,810
Arkansas	1.86	\$37,010	\$43,600	\$23,400	\$21,345	\$28,103		
California	1.78	\$43,000	\$59,765	\$33,500	\$32,000	\$29,349	\$54,000	
Colorado	2.00	\$52,015	\$61,366	\$30,742	\$36,286	\$28,000	\$48,112	
Connecticut	2.26	\$60,086	\$71,086	\$31,520	\$34,650	\$23,360	\$66,407	
Delaware	1.65	\$47,812	\$55,000	\$33,250	\$33,000	\$25,866	\$52,722	
District of Columbia	2.29	\$39,573	\$68,747	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000		
Florida	1.68	\$42,003	\$52,209	\$31,051	\$26,681	\$32,640	\$52,017	
Georgia	1.95	\$42,000	\$54,536	\$28,017	\$28,000	\$25,600	\$50,253	
Hawaii	1.24	\$45,052	\$53,378	\$43,100		\$37,383	\$46,890	
Idaho	1.92	\$46,990	\$50,264	\$26,148		\$25,614		
Illinois	1.85	\$50,000	\$60,862	\$32,879	\$25,842	\$30,000	\$74,050	
Indiana	1.92	\$46,958	\$50,610	\$26,400	\$23,026	\$25,000		
Iowa	2.22	\$50,510	\$53,575	\$24,087		\$24,404		
Kansas	1.68	\$47,840	\$52,739	\$31,483	\$22,984	\$33,084		
Kentucky	1.75	\$39,880	\$41,084	\$23,478	\$22,435			
Louisiana	2.22	\$33,000	\$44,420	\$20,000	\$18,000			
Maine	2.00	\$46,012	\$47,217	\$23,666				
Maryland	1.86	\$56,892	\$73,788	\$39,599	\$37,200	\$39,500	\$48,560	
Massachusetts	2.32	\$53,700	\$63,382	\$27,321	\$32,017	\$20,948	\$41,700	
Michigan	1.85	\$48,025	\$54,081	\$29,295	\$22,000	\$35,000	\$73,656	
Minnesota	2.13	\$59,000	\$63,800	\$30,000	\$23,000	\$25,000	\$48,000	
Mississippi	2.30	\$34,472	\$49,000	\$21,288	\$20,800			
Missouri	1.77	\$44,000	\$49,000	\$27,748	\$25,500	\$30,020		
Montana	2.58	\$39,807	\$41,794	\$16,200				\$12,480
Nebraska	1.90	\$52,983	\$58,078	\$30,500	\$24,000	\$29,882		
Nevada	1.56	\$41,000	\$50,000	\$32,017	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$48,025	
New Hampshire	1.14	\$62,100	\$62,550	\$54,953				
New Jersey	2.09	\$61,096	\$80,324	\$38,420	\$32,018	\$30,000	\$85,000	
New Mexico	1.85	\$35,000	\$50,020	\$27,000		\$28,815		\$17,076
New York	2.07	\$43,080	\$58,000	\$28,005	\$28,200	\$24,000	\$38,538	
North Carolina	1.92	\$41,365	\$51,227	\$26,681	\$26,000	\$24,333	\$45,908	\$30,250
North Dakota	2.19	\$49,093	\$51,891	\$23,735				\$20,832
Ohio	1.78	\$46,097	\$50,261	\$28,296	\$24,691	\$28,922		
Oklahoma	1.67	\$41,500	\$45,891	\$27,554	\$28,010	\$24,546		\$22,088
Oregon	1.64	\$42,010	\$46,000	\$28,080		\$23,400	\$52,800	
Pennsylvania	2.10	\$47,655	\$52,500	\$25,002	\$22,198	\$27,748	\$55,000	
Rhode Island	2.32	\$48,835	\$57,883	\$25,000	\$27,562	\$20,149	\$33,928	
South Carolina	1.72	\$37,000	\$45,860	\$26,718	\$26,000	\$26,112		
South Dakota	2.31	\$48,645	\$51,862	\$22,471				\$14,560
Tennessee	1.87	\$38,892	\$44,000	\$23,479	\$23,479	\$18,143		
Texas	2.15	\$39,084	\$57,360	\$26,681	\$26,830	\$25,113	\$52,935	
Utah	1.64	\$49,199	\$52,509	\$32,000		\$29,200	\$37,405	
Vermont	1.37	\$52,020	\$52,356	\$38,152				
Virginia	1.68	\$52,615	\$61,576	\$36,640	\$33,207	\$32,000	\$61,979	
Washington	1.52	\$52,324	\$56,030	\$36,764		\$31,000	\$54,000	
West Virginia	1.54	\$37,353	\$37,862	\$24,585				
Wisconsin	2.26	\$52,030	\$56,589	\$25,080	\$24,034	\$26,000		
Wyoming	1.60	\$48,645	\$50,700	\$31,751		\$29,904		

Note: Among women ages 18–64.

\*All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.

Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity score less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicates that minority and White women are doing the same.

Source: CPS, 2004–2006.

— — Best state in column

———— Worst state in column





**TABLE 3.3. Gender Wage Gap for Women Who Are Full-Time Year-Round Workers Compared to Non-Hispanic White Men, by State and Race/Ethnicity**

State	Gender Wage Gap							
	Disparity Score	All Women	White	All Minority*	Black	Hispanic	Asian and NHPI	American Indian/ Alaska Native
<b>All States</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>69.2%</b>	<b>73.3%</b>	<b>60.8%</b>	<b>61.1%</b>	<b>50.9%</b>	<b>77.4%</b>	<b>56.5%</b>
Alabama	1.31	69.4%	76.2%	58.0%	55.8%			
Alaska	1.32	69.4%	73.9%	56.0%		54.3%	55.5%	50.5%
Arizona	1.54	72.1%	80.5%	52.4%	68.3%	50.0%		64.1%
Arkansas	1.20	71.1%	74.4%	61.8%	62.1%	46.2%		
California	1.41	62.2%	74.8%	53.2%	64.0%	41.9%	69.8%	
Colorado	1.38	69.3%	74.1%	53.8%	59.5%	48.1%	66.3%	
Connecticut	1.38	70.0%	73.8%	53.4%	60.8%	44.4%	66.8%	
Delaware	1.23	72.5%	76.9%	62.3%	66.5%	49.9%	66.6%	
District of Columbia	1.55	53.8%	70.6%	45.5%	45.8%	30.8%		
Florida	1.29	66.7%	73.0%	56.5%	58.3%	52.1%	68.9%	
Georgia	1.21	68.7%	75.5%	62.2%	62.4%	41.6%	72.8%	
Hawaii	1.28	63.9%	79.0%	61.6%		57.8%	61.6%	
Idaho	1.29	70.2%	72.7%	56.3%	29.5%	49.9%		
Illinois	1.15	69.3%	72.7%	63.3%	63.4%	51.4%	85.5%	
Indiana	1.13	71.4%	71.4%	63.0%	66.9%	45.7%		
Iowa	1.33	76.2%	76.4%	57.6%		55.2%		
Kansas	1.16	75.0%	76.2%	65.6%	62.3%	65.0%		
Kentucky	1.16	75.0%	75.3%	65.0%	69.3%			
Louisiana	1.37	63.0%	70.2%	51.4%	51.4%			
Maine	1.18	75.8%	76.5%	65.0%				
Maryland	1.19	69.5%	75.6%	63.3%	64.5%	45.9%	68.0%	
Massachusetts	1.42	66.7%	71.1%	50.0%	56.2%	41.7%	64.5%	
Michigan	1.00	70.0%	70.0%	70.0%	69.2%	57.8%	76.4%	
Minnesota	1.27	74.7%	76.7%	60.2%	65.6%	48.0%	68.3%	
Mississippi	1.46	64.5%	74.4%	51.2%	51.2%			
Missouri	1.10	72.0%	73.1%	66.3%		61.0%		
Montana	1.34	69.1%	70.3%	52.6%	42.1%			47.2%
Nebraska	1.28	74.8%	76.4%	59.6%	67.3%	54.8%		
Nevada	1.38	67.3%	76.2%	55.1%	60.7%	49.0%	71.4%	
New Hampshire	1.05	74.0%	74.2%	70.8%				
New Jersey	1.46	66.4%	75.9%	52.0%	53.2%	41.7%	79.2%	
New Mexico	1.31	60.4%	69.5%	53.0%		54.3%		45.8%
New York	1.33	70.4%	80.0%	60.0%	64.0%	53.3%	66.0%	
North Carolina	1.23	73.4%	76.9%	62.7%	65.3%	46.6%	62.2%	77.5%
North Dakota	1.08	70.0%	70.0%	65.0%				67.0%
Ohio	1.12	74.5%	75.8%	67.7%	67.7%	59.2%		
Oklahoma	1.19	74.9%	77.4%	64.9%	75.0%	49.9%		59.9%
Oregon	1.28	65.6%	68.4%	53.2%		47.2%	66.7%	
Pennsylvania	1.14	71.7%	73.9%	64.9%	64.9%	60.5%	87.7%	
Rhode Island	1.46	71.1%	75.0%	51.2%	57.7%	41.0%	55.8%	
South Carolina	1.14	68.6%	71.5%	62.8%	62.0%	57.1%		
South Dakota	1.12	76.0%	76.0%	67.6%				76.0%
Tennessee	1.18	74.7%	74.7%	63.3%	67.8%	44.8%		
Texas	1.48	63.9%	75.8%	51.2%	59.9%	46.7%	68.2%	
Utah	1.33	61.3%	65.2%	48.9%		44.4%	56.2%	
Vermont	1.08	81.1%	81.2%	75.4%				
Virginia	1.33	66.7%	75.0%	56.3%	56.2%	50.6%	63.0%	
Washington	1.25	68.9%	72.3%	57.7%		55.7%	56.3%	
West Virginia	0.93	76.3%	76.3%	82.1%				
Wisconsin	1.27	71.7%	74.3%	58.7%	60.8%	58.5%		
Wyoming	1.06	57.1%	57.3%	54.1%		53.1%		

Note: Among women ages 18–64.

\*All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.

Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity score less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicates that minority and White women are doing the same.

Source: CPS, 2004–2006.

— — — Best state in column

———— Worst state in column

## WOMEN WITH NO HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

Educational attainment influences health in direct and indirect ways. Education is related to the types of jobs an individual can obtain and to income, both of which affect opportunities for healthier living and the ability to access health care. Individuals with less than a high school education tend to work in lower paying jobs. A woman working full time and year-round with at least a high school education makes almost twice as much as a woman who has not earned her high school diploma.<sup>61</sup> Educational attainment is also correlated with health literacy, which impacts an individual's ability to communicate with health providers, understand and follow instructions, and navigate the health system. Nearly 75% of adults with less than a high school education have basic or below-basic health literacy, meaning they are unable to read a prescription label to determine when to take their medication.<sup>62</sup> Women with less than a high school education also have poorer health outcomes, including higher rates of infant mortality,<sup>63</sup> smoking, and diabetes than women with a high school diploma.<sup>64,65</sup>

### Highlights

- Nearly one in eight (12.4%) nonelderly adult women lacked a high school diploma (Table 3.4). More than one in three Hispanic (35.8%) and one in six American Indian and Alaska Native (18.1%) women had not completed high school, compared to nearly 1 in 15 White women (7.3%).
- In four states (Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Vermont) fewer than 7% of women lacked a high school diploma, while in three states (Arizona, California and Texas), more than 16% of women lacked a high school diploma.
- Among White women, eight states had rates of women without a high school diploma greater than 10%, seven of which were located in the South, and nine states and the District of Columbia had rates below 5%. By comparison, 49 states had rates greater than 10% for all minority women.
- Within racial groups, there was significant variation in high school completion rates. There was nearly a ten-fold difference between White women in Kentucky and those in the District of Columbia, and nearly a six-fold difference between Hispanic women in Iowa and those in Hawaii.

- The national disparity score was 3.11, reflecting that the share of minority women without a high school diploma was slightly more than three times that of White women, but as with prevalence rates, disparities varied greatly across states. In West Virginia and Kentucky, disparity scores were less than 1.00, indicating that White women lacked a high school diploma at a higher rate than women of color. However, in Arizona, Nebraska, Colorado, and the District of Columbia, disparity scores were greater than 6.00, and another eight states had disparity scores between 5.00 and 6.00.

- The majority of states (30) clustered in the upper left quadrant of Figure 3.4, which meant that the percentage of minority women without a high school diploma was greater than the percentage of White

women, but in those states, the percentage of White women who lacked a high school diploma was lower than the national average for White women.

- States in the South tended to cluster in the upper right quadrant because White women living there had lower high school completion rates than the national average for White women. The District of Columbia stood alone at the top of the upper left quadrant, because only 1.5% of White women in the District had not completed high school and, despite being comparable to the national average, the rate for minority women was nearly 12 times that of White women.
- In Kentucky, another outlier state at the far right of the upper right quadrant, though minority women and White women had nearly equal diploma rates, the percentage of White women who lacked a high school diploma was the highest in the nation, just over two times the national average for White women.

FIGURE 3.4. State-Level Disparity Scores and Percent of White Women Ages 18–64 with No High School Diploma

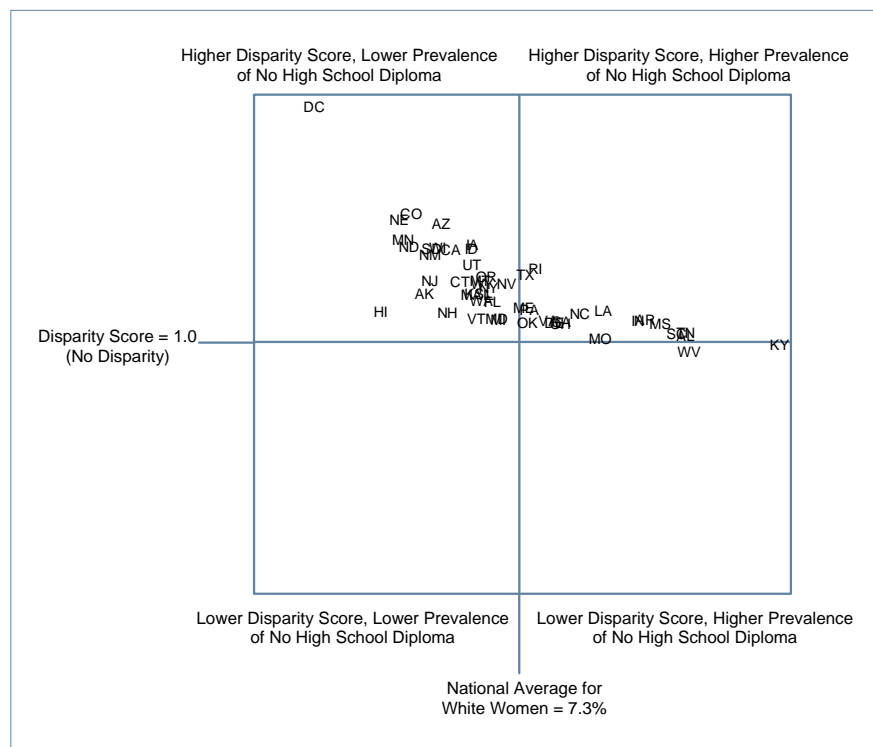


TABLE 3.4. Women with No High School Diploma, by State and Race/Ethnicity

State	Disparity Score	Prevalence						
		All Women	White	All Minority*	Black	Hispanic	Asian and NHPI	American Indian/ Alaska Native
<b>All States</b>	<b>3.11</b>	<b>12.4%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>	<b>22.8%</b>	<b>14.9%</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	<b>18.1%</b>
Alabama	1.34	13.3%	12.0%	16.1%	16.5%			
Alaska	3.23	7.5%	4.6%	14.9%		17.8%	19.2%	16.7%
Arizona	6.43	16.1%	5.1%	32.7%	13.1%	39.8%		17.9%
Arkansas	2.09	13.7%	10.9%	22.7%	18.3%	43.7%		
California	5.24	17.8%	5.4%	28.1%	9.6%	40.1%	10.1%	
Colorado	6.91	10.4%	4.2%	29.2%	11.9%	36.9%	11.8%	
Connecticut	3.79	9.5%	5.6%	21.2%	11.5%	32.9%	13.5%	
Delaware	1.92	10.7%	8.3%	15.9%	11.1	41.3%	8.4%	
District of Columbia	11.76	11.6%	1.5%	17.2%	14.4%	42.5%		
Florida	2.85	11.2%	6.5%	18.6%	17.9%	20.5%	10.2%	
Georgia	1.98	11.8%	8.5%	16.7%	14.2%	33.5%	8.6%	
Hawaii	2.40	7.1%	3.3%	8.0%		9.1%	9.0%	
Idaho	5.29	9.2%	5.9%	31.4%		42.2%		
Illinois	3.20	11.0%	6.4%	20.6%	14.4%	36.9%	5.8%	
Indiana	2.02	12.2%	10.7%	21.6%	15.9%	42.9%		
Iowa	5.48	8.4%	6.0%	32.6%		50.7%		
Kansas	3.22	8.3%	6.0%	19.4%	16.0%	30.4%		
Kentucky	0.93	14.6%	14.7%	13.7%	12.2%			
Louisiana	2.50	15.1%	9.7%	24.3%	24.8%			
Maine	2.63	8.0%	7.4%	19.6%				
Maryland	2.12	9.8%	6.6%	14.1%	11.1%	34.5%	11.2%	
Massachusetts	3.21	8.6%	5.9%	19.1%	11.0%	31.8%	13.5%	
Michigan	2.09	8.3%	6.7%	14.0%	13.3%	22.6%	8.1%	
Minnesota	5.72	6.3%	4.0%	22.7%	18.9%	41.9%	14.4%	
Mississippi	1.90	15.6%	11.3%	21.5%	20.7%			
Missouri	1.21	10.0%	9.6%	11.6%	11.0%	19.0%		
Montana	3.83	7.7%	6.2%	23.7%				29.8%
Nebraska	6.62	7.4%	3.9%	25.6%	10.9%	41.6%		
Nevada	3.68	14.1%	6.9%	25.5%	16.2%	38.3%	5.4%	
New Hampshire	2.39	5.6%	5.2%	12.5%				
New Jersey	3.87	10.0%	4.8%	18.4%	14.1%	28.8%	7.0%	
New Mexico	5.00	15.3%	4.8%	23.8%		26.4%		21.8%
New York	3.52	12.9%	6.4%	22.6%	16.9%	31.2%	18.0%	
North Carolina	2.33	13.0%	9.0%	21.0%	16.5%	45.7%	12.9%	18.3%
North Dakota	5.39	6.1%	4.2%	22.5%				23.0%
Ohio	1.90	9.7%	8.5%	16.1%	15.1%	28.8%		
Oklahoma	1.93	9.4%	7.5%	14.6%	11.7%	29.5%		10.8%
Oregon	4.03	9.6%	6.4%	25.6%		41.3%	12.3%	
Pennsylvania	2.55	9.6%	7.6%	19.3%	17.3%	29.8%	12.2%	
Rhode Island	4.37	12.7%	7.7%	33.9%	25.6%	44.3%	18.7%	
South Carolina	1.42	13.6%	11.8%	16.8%	15.9%	26.5%		
South Dakota	5.29	7.0%	4.8%	25.3%				26.5%
Tennessee	1.47	13.3%	12.0%	17.7%	12.7%	47.7%		
Texas	4.11	19.4%	7.5%	30.7%	12.0%	40.2%	9.1%	
Utah	4.59	9.4%	5.9%	27.2%		35.6%	12.3%	
Vermont	2.13	6.4%	6.1%	12.9%				
Virginia	2.04	10.7%	8.1%	16.6%	13.2%	38.5%	7.9%	
Washington	2.93	8.8%	6.2%	18.2%		34.3%	12.8%	
West Virginia	0.63	11.9%	12.1%	7.6%				
Wisconsin	5.32	7.7%	5.0%	26.4%	20.0%	35.2%		
Wyoming	3.70	7.9%	6.2%	23.0%		30.3%		

Note: Among women ages 18–64.

\*All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.

Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity score less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicates that minority and White women are doing the same.

Source: CPS, 2004–2006.

— — — Best state in column

———— Worst state in column

## WOMEN IN FEMALE-HEADED HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

In 2006, nearly 13 million households were headed by single parents, and the overwhelming majority (10.4 million), were headed by single women.<sup>66</sup> Households headed by single women are more likely to be poor, which impacts the physical, mental, and educational outcomes of the children raised in these homes. Parents with limited economic resources face many obstacles to healthy living and opportunities for learning. The effects of living in a single-parent household go beyond the children; the mothers are also affected. Single mothers report higher levels of psychological distress,<sup>67</sup> lower levels of perceived social support,<sup>68</sup> and poorer eating habits,<sup>69</sup> all of which affect their ability to parent.

### Highlights

- Approximately 22% of nonelderly adult women lived in a female-headed household (Table 3.5). In Utah, 13.9% of women lived in female-headed households, while at the other end of the spectrum, 41.6% of women in the District of Columbia did.
- Higher shares of African American (45%) and American Indian and Alaska Native (32.9%) women lived in a female-headed household, whereas fewer Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (9.2%) and White (17.4%) women lived in this household arrangement.
- African American women living in single-parent households ranged from 36.7% in Virginia to 62.3% in Kansas. Among Hispanic women the percentage ranged from a low of 14.9% in Nebraska to a high of 49.7% in West Virginia.
- The national disparity score was 1.70, and ranged from a low of 0.82 in New Hampshire to a high of 4.79 in the District of Columbia. In addition to New Hampshire, disparity scores were either below or equal to 1.00 in Vermont (0.94) and Oregon (1.00), reflecting the fact that White women lived in single-parent households at similar rates to minority women.
- Minority women in the District of Columbia, 81% of whom were African American, lived in a female-headed household at nearly five times the rate of White women. The disparity score in the District of Columbia, aside from being the highest in the nation, is also 1.5 times higher than that of Alabama, the state with the second-highest disparity score.
- States appear equally distributed across the upper two quadrants of Figure 3.5. Most states in the upper left quadrant clustered near the national average for White women, with the exception of New Jersey, the District of Columbia, Mississippi, Connecticut, Utah, Hawaii, and Alabama, where the percentage of White women who lived in female-headed households was noticeably lower than the national average for White women.
- States in the upper right quadrant were less clustered. Outliers in this quadrant included Kentucky and Nevada, where the percentage of White women in female-headed households was 1.4 and 1.3 times the national average for White women, respectively.

FIGURE 3.5. State-Level Disparity Scores and Percent of White Women Ages 18–64 in Female-Headed Households with Children



TABLE 3.5. Women in Female-Headed Households with Children, by State and Race/Ethnicity

State	Prevalence							
	Disparity Score	All Women	White	All Minority*	Black	Hispanic	Asian and NHPI	American Indian/ Alaska Native
All States	1.70	22.1%	17.4%	29.6%	45.0%	23.0%	9.2%	32.9%
Alabama	3.17	25.5%	14.5%	45.8%	49.5%			
Alaska	1.77	20.0%	16.0%	28.2%		23.5%	11.3%	39.4%
Arizona	1.34	22.9%	19.6%	26.4%		23.6%		
Arkansas	1.70	22.2%	18.5%	31.6%	39.4%			
California	1.11	19.9%	18.5%	20.7%	42.1%	19.4%	12.1%	
Colorado	1.58	17.7%	14.8%	23.5%		21.9%		
Connecticut	2.98	21.8%	13.6%	40.6%	42.2%	47.1%		
Delaware	1.86	22.4%	17.1%	31.8%	40.0%	24.2%		
District of Columbia	4.79	41.6%	10.4%	49.9%	55.2%	24.0%		
Florida	1.54	23.5%	18.8%	28.9%	43.3%	20.0%	6.8%	
Georgia	2.19	25.5%	16.7%	36.6%	44.0%	20.8%		
Hawaii	1.21	15.1%	12.8%	15.5%		28.4%	11.9%	
Idaho	1.55	16.6%	15.2%	23.6%		18.9%		
Illinois	1.88	20.2%	15.2%	28.5%	46.2%	19.4%	3.0%	
Indiana	2.06	23.7%	20.0%	41.3%	54.8%	26.2%		
Iowa	1.61	19.7%	18.4%	29.7%		19.5%		
Kansas	1.80	21.2%	18.2%	32.8%	62.3%	28.8%		
Kentucky	1.64	26.5%	24.6%	40.2%	52.7%			
Louisiana	2.57	25.7%	15.6%	40.2%	42.8%			
Maine	1.81	21.4%	20.6%	37.2%				
Maryland	1.82	22.9%	16.5%	30.2%	37.9%	16.5%	2.0%	
Massachusetts	1.80	20.0%	16.8%	30.2%		38.5%	11.0%	
Michigan	2.55	23.3%	16.8%	42.7%	53.8%	31.9%		
Minnesota	2.23	17.9%	14.9%	33.2%	54.6%		11.7%	
Mississippi	3.05	25.4%	12.6%	38.6%	41.0%			
Missouri	2.30	26.1%	21.1%	48.3%	58.8%			
Montana	1.61	21.1%	19.8%	31.9%		28.8%		
Nebraska	1.37	17.9%	16.7%	22.8%		14.9%		
Nevada	1.20	24.6%	22.4%	27.0%	58.1%	21.8%	10.2%	
New Hampshire	0.82	17.9%	18.2%	14.9%				
New Jersey	2.69	17.8%	10.3%	27.6%	37.5%	30.5%	6.8%	
New Mexico	1.51	26.5%	20.2%	30.4%		30.3%		35.5%
New York	2.08	25.1%	16.8%	34.9%	47.0%	35.5%	6.2%	
North Carolina	2.30	23.8%	15.9%	36.6%	45.1%	20.1%		
North Dakota	2.09	21.9%	18.9%	39.5%				41.1%
Ohio	2.53	24.7%	19.0%	48.0%	57.5%			
Oklahoma	1.81	21.1%	16.8%	30.4%	40.8%	15.0%		
Oregon	1.00	20.0%	20.0%	20.0%		24.4%		
Pennsylvania	2.25	22.3%	18.0%	40.5%	45.7%	40.8%		
Rhode Island	1.94	26.7%	21.7%	42.1%		45.0%		
South Carolina	2.33	25.6%	16.7%	38.9%	42.1%			
South Dakota	2.07	21.5%	18.7%	38.7%				47.1%
Tennessee	2.37	24.4%	17.8%	42.3%	49.0%			
Texas	1.60	21.0%	15.5%	24.8%	41.7%	21.6%	4.9%	
Utah	1.39	13.9%	12.9%	17.9%		18.3%		
Vermont	0.94	20.6%	20.7%	19.5%				
Virginia	1.61	20.7%	17.1%	27.4%	36.7%	19.0%	8.7%	
Washington	1.09	20.3%	19.8%	21.6%		19.5%	10.5%	
West Virginia	1.78	22.2%	21.4%	38.1%		49.7%		
Wisconsin	1.91	20.5%	17.8%	34.0%	46.4%	23.6%		
Wyoming	1.82	18.7%	16.9%	30.7%		30.0%		

Note: Among women ages 18–64.

\*All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.

Disparity score greater than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing worse than White women. Disparity score less than 1.00 indicates that minority women are doing better than White women. Disparity score equal to 1.00 indicates that minority and White women are doing the same.

Source: CPS, 2004–2006.

— — — Best state in column

———— Worst state in column

## RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION: INDEX OF DISSIMILATION

The socioeconomic and racial segregation of neighborhoods can have strong effects on both neighborhood conditions and the health of residents living there. Individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups are more likely than Whites to live in socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods. Residents of such neighborhoods often have reduced access to public resources and spending, fewer employment opportunities, and greater exposure to hazardous health conditions, like poor air and water quality.<sup>70</sup> Individuals living in racially segregated neighborhoods (e.g., high concentrations of African Americans) are more likely to rate their health as fair or poor,<sup>71</sup> and are more likely to deliver low-birthweight infants than individuals living in less segregated neighborhoods.<sup>72</sup>

The index of dissimilation is a commonly used measure of neighborhood segregation. It is a ratio of the proportion of a given population to the reference group, in this case non-Hispanic White men and women. The resulting number corresponds to the proportion of the Whites that would need to move in order for the neighborhood to no longer be segregated. As the index of dissimilarity is already a ratio, a calculation of a disparity score using the same methodology as other indicators is not possible.

### Highlights

- Across the United States, nearly one in three Whites needed to move in order for the population to be fully integrated.
- People of color in Arizona, Delaware, and Vermont lived in the least segregated states, while people of color in the District of Columbia, Louisiana, New York, and Tennessee lived in the most segregated states.
- The index of dissimilarity for the District of Columbia was the highest, and was 1.5 times that of Louisiana, the next highest state, and more than nine times that of Arizona, the lowest state.
- African Americans tended to live in the most segregated neighborhoods, followed by Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders and Hispanics.
- African Americans in the District of Columbia and Wisconsin lived in the most segregated communities, whereas African Americans in Delaware and Arizona lived in the least segregated. The index of dissimilarity in the District of Columbia was eight times that of Delaware.
- For Asians, Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders, Connecticut and Arizona were the least segregated states, and New York and Virginia were the most segregated.
- Hispanics in Hawaii were the least segregated of all Hispanics, while they were most segregated in the District of Columbia.
- The indices of dissimilarity comparing Hispanics to Whites varied the most of all groups. Residential segregation for Hispanics in the District of Columbia was 15 times that of Hawaii.

TABLE 3.6. Neighborhood Segregation: Index of Dissimilation

State	All Minority* - White Dissimilarity	Black-White Dissimilarity	Hispanic-White Dissimilarity	Asian and NHPI - White Dissimilarity
<b>All States</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.29</b>	<b>0.31</b>
Alabama	0.31	0.36	0.22	0.36
Alaska	0.25	0.34	0.22	0.32
Arizona	0.08	0.13	0.09	0.13
Arkansas	0.37	0.56	0.37	0.37
California	0.21	0.33	0.26	0.29
Colorado	0.27	0.47	0.32	0.25
Connecticut	0.17	0.20	0.19	0.11
Delaware	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.23
District of Columbia†	0.75	0.82	0.60	0.31
Florida	0.35	0.32	0.46	0.26
Georgia	0.30	0.36	0.36	0.42
Hawaii	0.14	0.32	0.04	0.17
Idaho	0.23	0.31	0.34	0.26
Illinois	0.37	0.46	0.40	0.38
Indiana	0.39	0.51	0.39	0.33
Iowa	0.30	0.43	0.36	0.37
Kansas	0.31	0.41	0.38	0.35
Kentucky	0.38	0.45	0.31	0.40
Louisiana	0.49	0.26	0.28	0.35
Maine	0.14	0.31	0.12	0.18
Maryland	0.41	0.49	0.47	0.42
Massachusetts	0.22	0.36	0.34	0.31
Michigan	0.34	0.48	0.28	0.36
Minnesota	0.30	0.46	0.29	0.36
Mississippi	0.32	0.35	0.21	0.35
Missouri	0.42	0.55	0.32	0.35
Montana	0.35	0.31	0.17	0.21
Nebraska	0.31	0.52	0.33	0.34
Nevada	0.17	0.29	0.15	0.19
New Hampshire	0.21	0.24	0.29	0.20
New Jersey	0.30	0.37	0.35	0.32
New Mexico	0.16	0.22	0.16	0.24
New York	0.46	0.45	0.49	0.49
North Carolina	0.28	0.32	0.23	0.39
North Dakota	0.33	0.39	0.22	0.31
Ohio	0.36	0.44	0.33	0.34
Oklahoma	0.18	0.38	0.29	0.35
Oregon	0.23	0.45	0.25	0.34
Pennsylvania	0.39	0.52	0.44	0.38
Rhode Island	0.32	0.34	0.39	0.20
South Carolina	0.29	0.34	0.25	0.25
South Dakota	0.42	0.39	0.30	0.27
Tennessee	0.46	0.54	0.34	0.39
Texas	0.34	0.32	0.40	0.36
Utah	0.19	0.26	0.20	0.26
Vermont	0.13	0.23	0.12	0.30
Virginia	0.21	0.25	0.35	0.43
Washington	0.21	0.36	0.30	0.32
West Virginia	0.29	0.38	0.23	0.30
Wisconsin	0.42	0.65	0.39	0.32
Wyoming	0.24	0.43	0.23	0.29

**Note:** \*All Minority women includes Black, Hispanic, Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native women, and women of two or more races.  
† For DC Data, W. Frey and D. Myers' analysis of Census 2000; and the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN).  
**Data:** SC-EST2007-alldata6: Annual State Population Estimates by Demographic Characteristics with 6 Race Groups (5 Race Alone Groups and One Group with Two or more Race Groups): April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2007.  
**Source:** Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau. <http://www.census.gov/popest/datasets.html>

— — — Best state in column  
————— Worst state in column