

# The Status of Women in Florida by County: Poverty & Opportunity

In Florida and across the country, women are making great strides. More women are earning bachelor's degrees and women's entrepreneurship is growing rapidly. Yet, too many women and girls live in poverty with limited access to education, health care, and other important supports that would allow them to achieve economic stability. *The Status of Women in Florida by County: Poverty & Opportunity* is the first in a series produced by the Institute for Women's Policy Research and commissioned by Florida Women's Funding Alliance, an affinity group of Florida Philanthropic Network. This research aims to provide critical data that can help to build economic security and overall well-being among the state's women and girls.

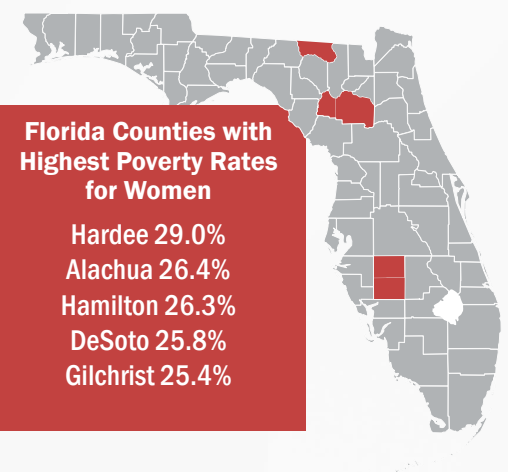
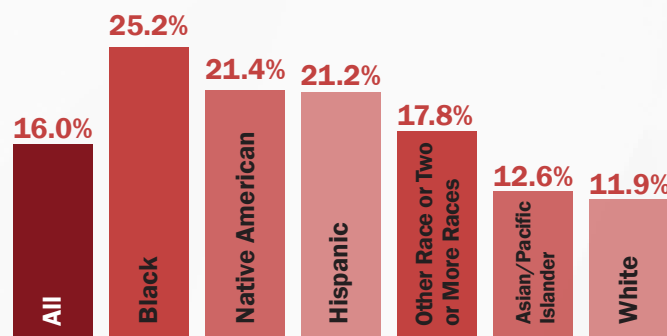
## Key Findings

**D+** Since the 2004 publication of *The Status of Women in the States*, Florida's grade of D+ on the Poverty & Opportunity Composite Index has remained unchanged. Florida currently ranks 33rd out of the 50 states plus D.C.

### Poverty

In Florida, 15.4 percent of women aged 18 and older live in poverty, placing the state among the bottom third in the country. More than one in four women live in poverty in five Florida counties.

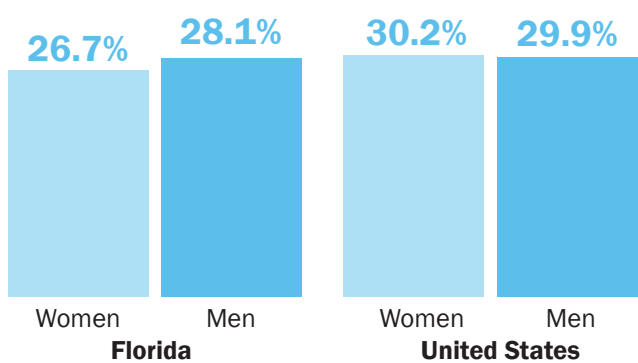
#### Poverty for Women in Florida by Race and Ethnicity, 2014



### Higher Education

More than one in four Florida women aged 25 and older has a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 28.1 percent of Florida men. Women's lower educational attainment in Florida differs from the pattern nationally, where women aged 25 and older are slightly more likely than their male counterparts to hold at least a bachelor's degree. Florida ranks in the bottom third of the nation for the percent of women with a bachelor's degree or higher.

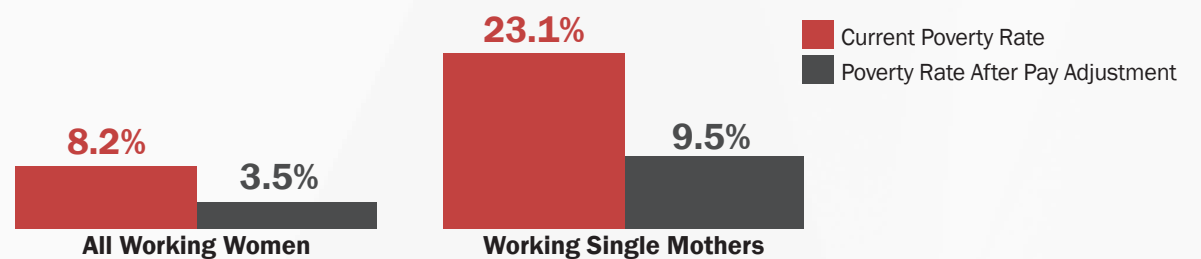
#### % of residents aged 25 and older with bachelor's degree or higher, 2014



### Poverty & the Gender Wage Gap

#### Current Poverty Rate and Estimated Rate if Working Women and Working Single Mothers Earned the Same as Comparable Men

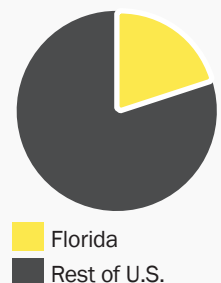
If working women in Florida aged 18 and older were paid the same as comparable men, the poverty rate among all working women would fall by **more than half**, from 8.2 percent to 3.5 percent.



**Comparable = same age, same level of education, working same number of hours, same urban/rural status**

### Health Insurance

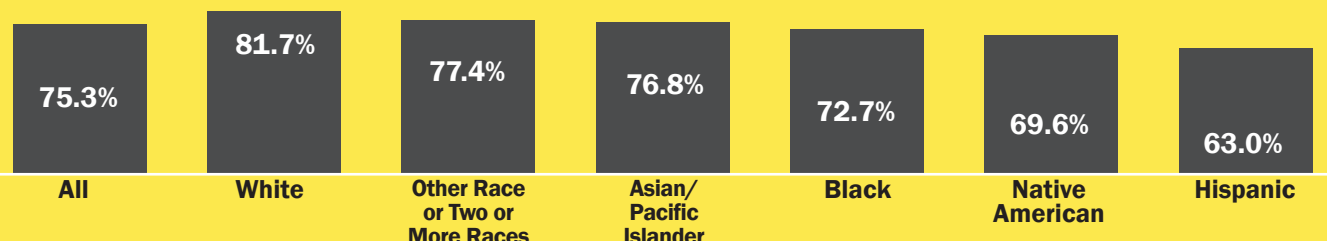
#### 567,000 Adults in Florida Fall in Insurance Coverage Gap



Of the approximately 2.9 million adults in the United States in the insurance coverage gap — those with income between Medicaid eligibility and 100 percent of the federal poverty level — 20 percent, or 567,000, live in Florida.

#### Health Insurance Coverage by Race and Ethnicity, Florida Women Aged 18-64

Women's coverage rates are higher than men's in every racial and ethnic group. Florida ranks 50th in the nation for its share of nonelderly women with health insurance (78.3 percent), well below the national average of 85.4 percent.



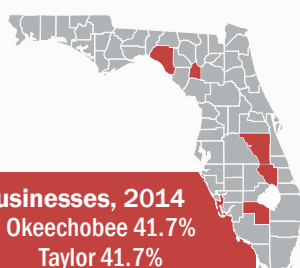
### Women's Business Ownership

Florida is among the states with the largest number of women-owned businesses and the greatest growth in women-owned businesses. In 2012, women owned 38.5 percent of Florida businesses, earning the state a ranking of fifth in the nation.

#### Distribution of Women- and Men-Owned Businesses by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Florida, 2012

	Women-Owned	Men-Owned
Number of Businesses	807,817	1,084,885
White	74.0%	84.4%
Black	18.4%	9.0%
Asian	4.1%	3.7%
Native American	0.7%	0.6%

**5** In 2012, Florida ranked fifth in the nation for women-owned businesses



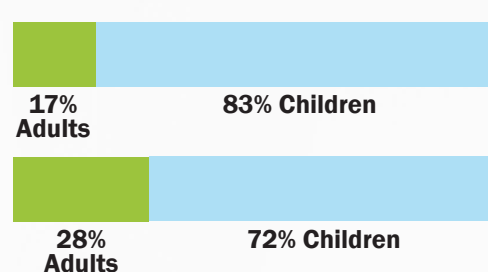
### Public Assistance & Social Security

#### SNAP Participation, Florida and the United States



Nearly one in five Floridians, or 19.5 percent, participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps), compared with nearly one in seven, or 14.5 percent of the U.S. population.

#### TANF Participation, Florida and the United States



In Florida, over 48,000 families with children receive TANF cash assistance. There are about 83,000 individual recipients; of those about 70,000 (or 83 percent) are children and 14,000 (or 17 percent) are adults. In the United States overall, 72 percent of TANF recipients are children and 28 percent are adults.

#### Average Monthly Social Security Benefits in Florida

