

Minnesota Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have updated the following historical information on women in public office on our website:

Women in the Minnesota Legislature by Session

Women in the Minnesota Legislature by Years Elected

Number of Women Elected to the Minnesota Legislature, 1922-2000

We have also updated the Labor Force Participation of U.S. Mothers fact sheet. To receive a copy of this fact sheet please check our website or contact the Commission office.

Fact Sheet

WOMEN IN THE MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

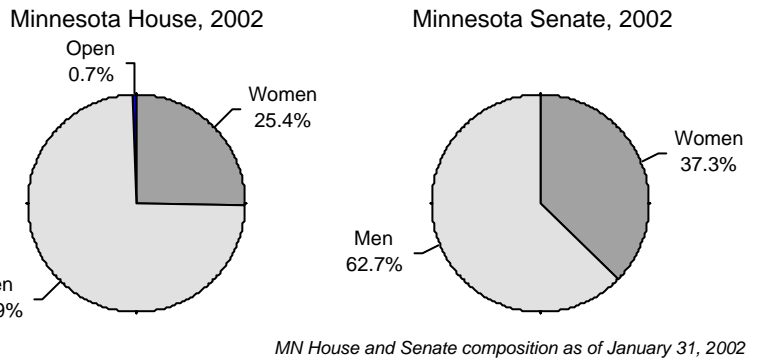
Women in the Minnesota Legislature, 2002

There are currently 59 women serving in the Minnesota Legislature. This is a gain of one since the 2000 general election. Since that time two women were elected to the legislature in special elections and one woman died while in office. The historic high of women in the Legislature has been 62.

Women hold 34 (25.4%) of the 134 seats in the House. There is currently one open House seat due to the death of Representative Darlene Luther. Historically, the highest number of women serving in the House has been 40 (29.9%). Thirty-nine women were elected to the House in the general election of 1996 (the highest number of women elected to the House in a general election), one woman was elected by a special election in November 1997, one woman died in December of 1997 and another woman was elected by special election in January of 1998.

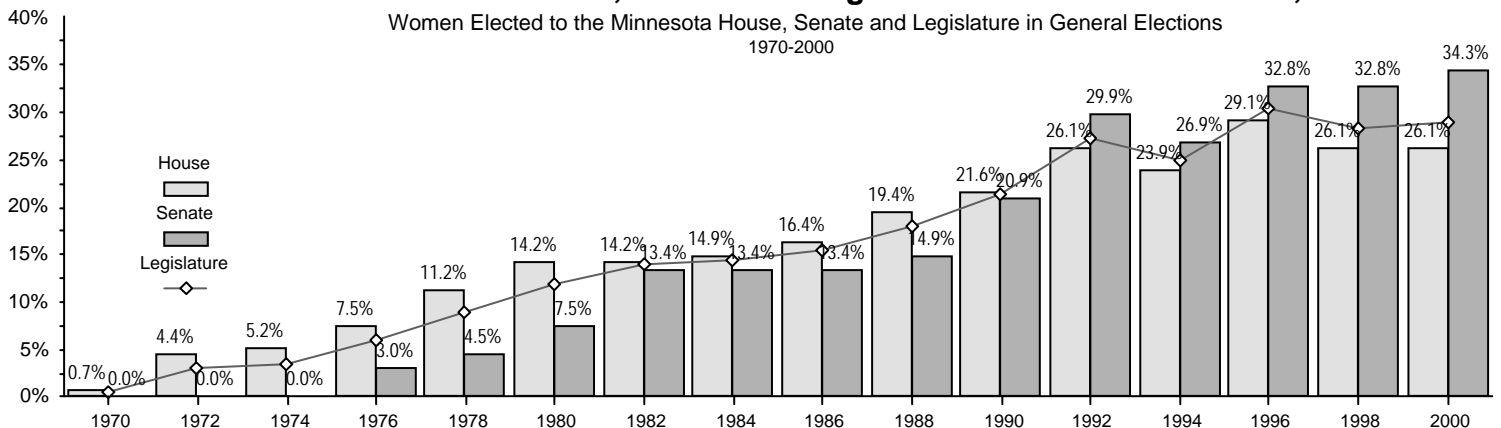
In the Senate, women hold 25 (37.3%) of the 67 seats. This is a gain of two seats from the 2000 general election and is the highest number of seats ever held by women in the Senate. The previous record high of women in the Senate was 23 (34.3%) after the 2000 general election.

In 2002, two women will serve their first terms in the Senate. Yvonne Prettner Solon was elected to fill the seat of her husband Sam Solon who died in office and Mee Moua was elected to fill the seat vacated by Randy Kelly who resigned. Senator Moua is the first Hmong American to be elected to a state legislature in the United States.



Women in the Minnesota Legislature, 2002*			
	DFL	Republican	Total
House	21	13	34
Senate	14	11	25
Legislature	35	24	59
*House and Senate composition as of January 31, 2002			

Women Elected to the Minnesota House, Senate and Legislature in General Elections, 1970-2000

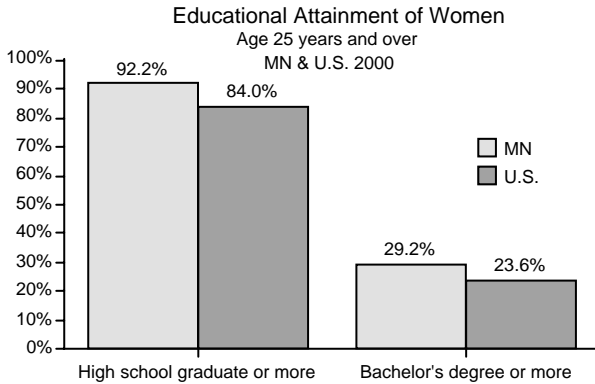


For consistency, data in the above chart are general election results held in specified year (special election data not included). In 1922 women became eligible to vote and run for election to the Minnesota Legislature. From 1922 to 1970, the percent of the legislature comprised by women was very low ranging from zero to 2.5 percent. Over the next twenty years, representation by women increased steadily from 3.0 percent in 1972 to 27.4 percent in 1992. In 1996, a record of 61 women (30.3%) were elected to the Minnesota Legislature. The numbers of women elected in the 1998 and 2000 elections were lower, at 57 (28.4%) and 58 (28.9%), respectively.

Fact Sheet

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF WOMEN MINNESOTA AND U.S.

Educational Attainment of Women in Minnesota and the U.S.

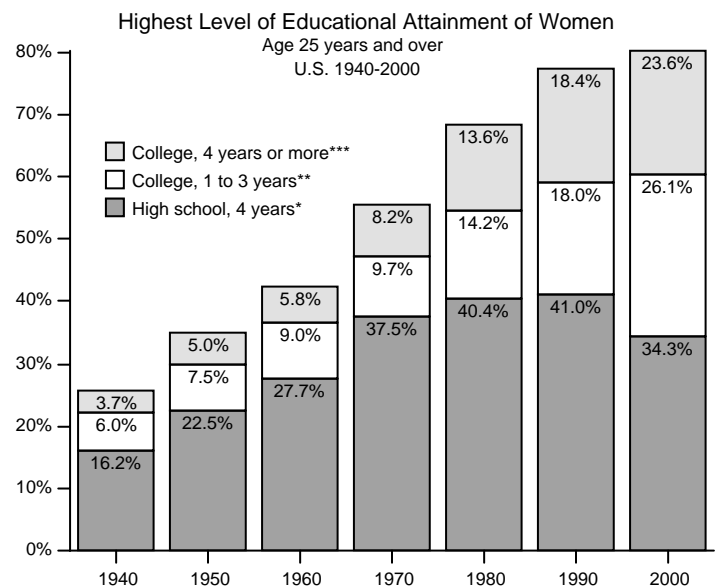


Women in Minnesota have higher levels of educational attainment than the national averages.

- ◆ In Minnesota, more than 9 in 10 (92.2%) women age 25 years and over had at least a high school diploma in 2000.
- ◆ Nearly 3 in 10 (29.2%) Minnesota women age 25 years and over had completed a bachelor's degree or more in 2000.

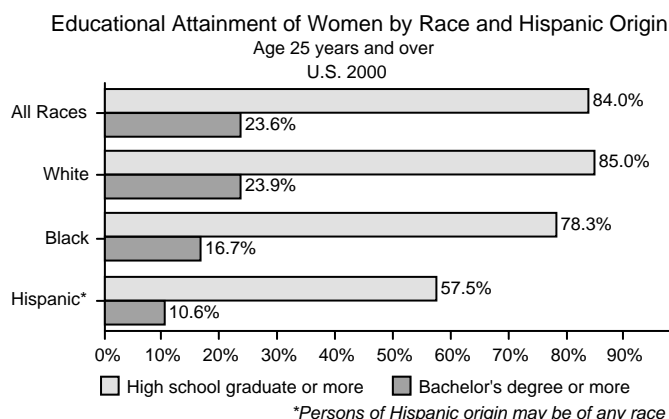
The educational attainment of U.S. women age 25 years and over has steadily increased over the decades.

- ◆ More than 4 in 5 (84.0%) U.S. women age 25 years and over had a high school diploma or more in 2000. In 1940, approximately 1 in 4 (25.9%) women had at least a high school diploma.
- ◆ In 2000, more than 1 in 5 (23.6%) U.S. women had a bachelor's degree or more, greater than a sixfold increase from 1940.
- ◆ Although educational attainment has increased, 16.0 percent of U.S. women age 25 years and over had less than a high school diploma in 2000.
- ◆ Over one quarter (26.1%) of U.S. women had some college or an associate degree in 2000.
- ◆ In 2000, 16.3 percent of U.S. women had a bachelor's degree and 5.7 percent had a master's degree. Less than 2 percent of women had a professional degree (0.9%) or a doctorate degree (0.7%).



Beginning in 1992, educational attainment data is collected by:
 * High school graduate
 ** Some college and Associate degree
 *** Bachelor's, Master's, Doctorate and Professional degrees

Educational Attainment of U.S. Women by Race and Hispanic Origin



Educational attainment of U.S. women age 25 years and over varies by race and Hispanic origin.

- ◆ In 2000, 85.0 percent of White women age 25 years and over had at least a high school diploma. More than three-quarters (78.3%) of Black women and 57.5 percent of Hispanic* women had educational attainment of this level.
- ◆ Twenty-four percent (23.9%) of White women age 25 years and over had completed a bachelor's degree or more in 2000, compared to 16.7 percent of Black women and 10.6 percent of Hispanic women.

*Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race

Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports.

Fact Sheet

PERSONS IN POVERTY MINNESOTA AND U.S.

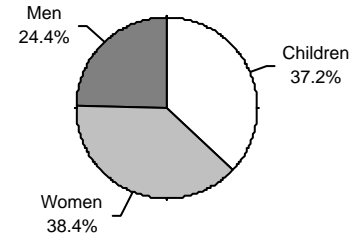
Poverty in Minnesota and the U.S.

Poverty rates are based on the poverty thresholds, the official definition of poverty for statistical use of federal data.

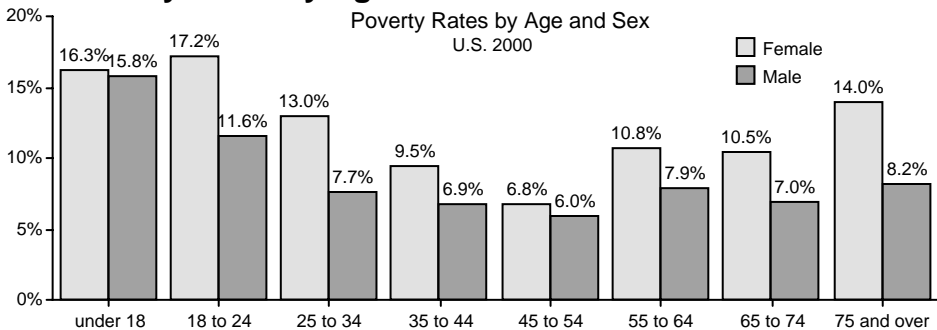
In Minnesota, the 3-year (1998-2000) poverty rate for the total population was 7.8 percent. Minnesota's poverty rate was lower than the comparable U.S. rate of 11.9 percent.

- ◆ In the U.S., women and children were over three-quarters (75.6%) of persons in poverty.
- ◆ Women age 18 years and over represented 3 of 5 (61.1%) adults in poverty.

Distribution of Persons in Poverty
U.S. 2000



U.S. Poverty Rates by Age and Sex



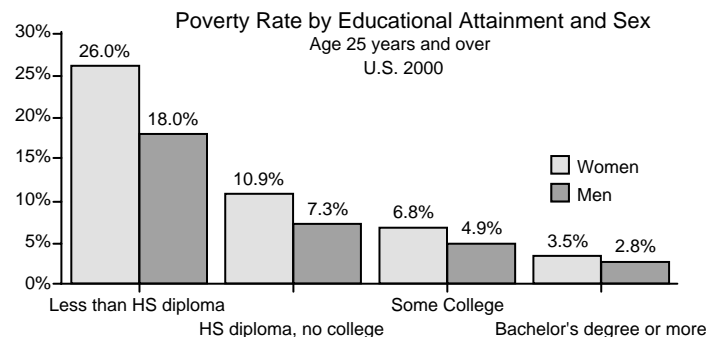
Poverty rates differ by age and sex. Women have higher rates of poverty than men in all age groups.

- ◆ In 2000, over 1 in 6 U.S. women age 18 to 24 years were in poverty, the highest rate of all age groups.
- ◆ Poverty rates of both women and men were lowest for those age 45 to 54 years.
- ◆ The disparity in poverty rates between women and men was greatest for those age 25 to 34 years and those age 75 years and over. In 2000, poverty rates of women in these age groups were 1.7 times higher than the rates of their male counterparts.
- ◆ The disparity in poverty rates between the sexes was smallest for those under age 18 years and for those age 45 to 54 years.

U.S. Poverty Rates by Educational Attainment and Sex

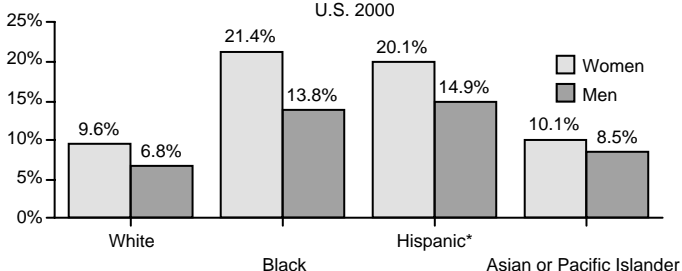
Poverty rates decrease as educational attainment increases.

- ◆ Over one-quarter (26.0%) of U.S. women age 25 years and over with educational attainment of less than a high school diploma were in poverty in 2000. The rate dropped by more than one-half for women with a high school diploma (10.9%).
- ◆ Women with no high school diploma had a poverty rate that was 8 percentage points higher than their male counterparts.
- ◆ Poverty rates were low and similar for women and men with a bachelor's degree or more (3.5% and 2.8%, respectively).



U.S. Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin and Sex

Poverty Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin and Sex
Age 18 years and over
U.S. 2000



Poverty rates vary by race and ethnic origin. Women had higher poverty rates than men in all racial and ethnic groups.

- ◆ More than 1 in 5 Black and Hispanic* women were in poverty in 2000. The poverty rates of Black and Hispanic women were more than double the poverty rates of White women.

*Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race.

Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau (Current Population Survey data)

Fact Sheet

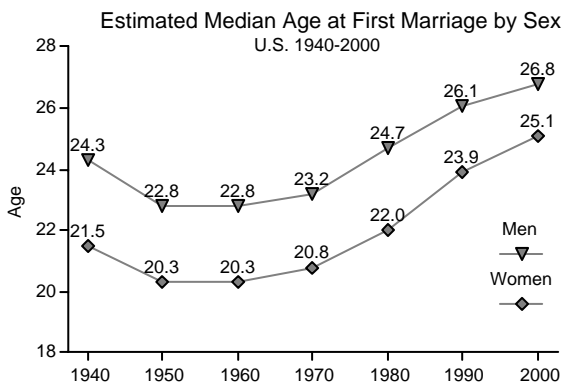
MARITAL STATUS OF U.S. WOMEN

Marital Status of Women

The proportion of U.S. women age 15 years and over who are married, single (never married), widowed or divorced has varied over the decades.

- ◆ The highest levels of married and the lowest levels of never married women occurred in 1950 and 1960.
- ◆ Divorce has become more widespread. Ten percent (10.2%) of women were divorced in 2000, compared to less than 2 percent (1.7%) in 1940.
- ◆ Larger proportions of women were widowed than men. In 2000, the percent of women who were widowed was 4 times higher than the percent of men who were widowed (10.0% vs. 2.5%).

Median Age of First Marriage by Sex



U.S. women have a lower median age at first marriage than men.

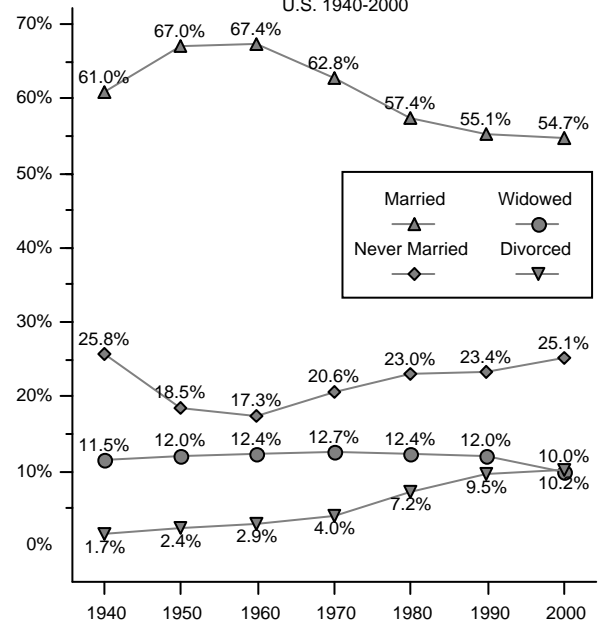
- ◆ Median age of first marriage decreased significantly after 1940 and was lowest in 1950 and 1960.
- ◆ Since 1960, median age of first marriage has increased for both sexes. In 2000, the age was 25.1 years for women and 26.8 years for men.

Marital Status of Women by Age

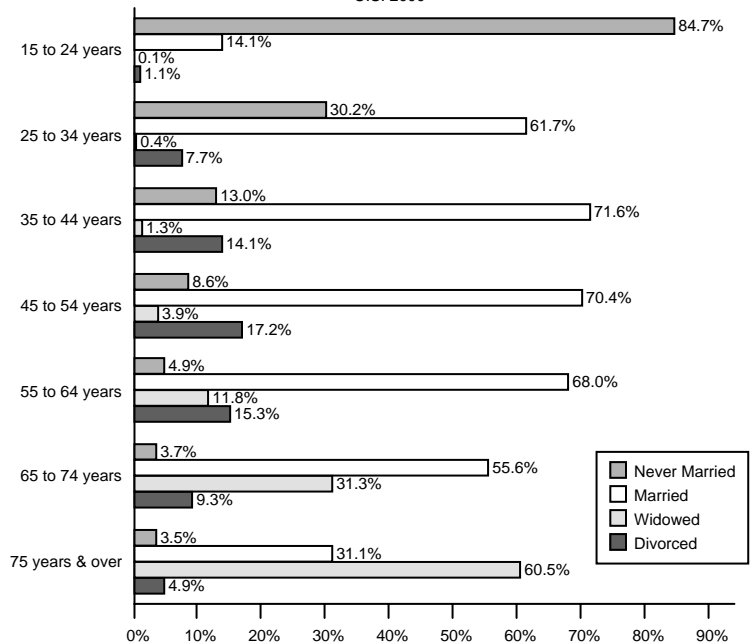
The marital status of U.S. women varies widely by age.

- ◆ In 2000, 84.7 percent of women age 15 to 24 years were never married. In comparison, 13.0 percent of women age 35 to 44 years were never married. The percentage of women who were never married decreases as age increases and remains relatively constant for those age 55 years and over.
- ◆ In 2000, the proportion of women who were married was highest for women age 35 to 44 years. Similar proportions of women age 45 to 54 years and age 55 to 64 years were married. In 2000, approximately 7 in 10 women age 35 to 64 years were married.
- ◆ In 2000, over 3 in 10 women age 65 to 74 years and 6 in 10 women age 75 years and over were widowed. The proportion of women who were widowed increased significantly after age 45 to 54 years.
- ◆ In 2000, 17.2 percent of women age 45 to 54 years were divorced, the highest proportion of divorced women in all age groups.

Marital Status of Women
Age 15 years and over
U.S. 1940-2000



Marital Status of Women by Age
U.S. 2000



Data compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports.