



## OFFICE ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

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### PRESS ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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#### **OFFICE ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN RELEASES REPORT ON HOW MINNESOTA COMPARES TO OTHER STATES AND THE UNITED STATES**

The Office on the Economic Status of Women (OESW) has released a report, "Minnesota Compared to Other States and the United States: Summary of the Status of Women Profile Reports." The report provides a synopsis of the status of women and families in Minnesota using 2000 decennial census data. Findings from the report include:

- ◆ Minnesota mothers with children under 18 years had the fourth highest labor force participation rate in the nation following closely behind our neighboring states of South Dakota, North Dakota and Iowa.
  - Minnesota children under six years had the fifth highest percentage of both parents or their single parent in the labor force.
  - Overall, Minnesota women (including women with and without children) had the highest labor force participation rate in the nation.
- ◆ Minnesota was tied for the second highest percentage of women high school graduates (includes equivalency) or more and had the ninth highest percentage of women with Bachelor's degrees or more.
- ◆ Of families with children, Minnesota had the fourth highest percentage of married-couple families and the sixth lowest percentage of female-headed families in the nation.
- ◆ While Minnesota had very low overall poverty rates compared to other states:
  - the percentage of Minnesota women 65 years and over in poverty was nearly double that of men in the same age group (10.2% vs. 5.5%); and
  - the percentage of families with children under 5 years in poverty in Minnesota was nine times higher for female-headed families than married-couple families (37.9% vs. 4.2%).

Additional data by Minnesota Senate districts, House districts and counties is available on the Status of Women Profiles page on OESW's website: [www.lcesw.leg.mn](http://www.lcesw.leg.mn).