



2014 POVERTY RATES

WASHINGTON REGION



Women Disproportionately Affected by Poverty

An analysis of the 2014 American Community Survey by The Women's Foundation finds that women continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty in the Washington Region,¹ and that among women, single women with children and women of color are more likely to live below the poverty threshold—\$19,790 for a family of three in 2014.

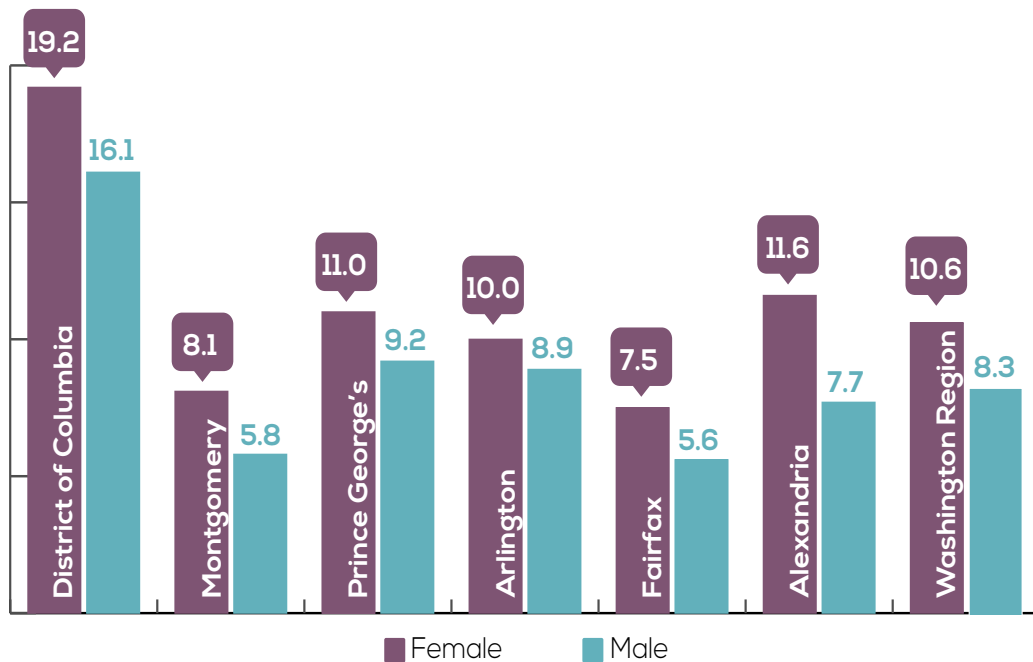


Fig 1. Poverty Rates by Sex and Jurisdiction in the Washington Region, 2014

The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2014



Women's Poverty on the Rise

Roughly 381,890 inhabitants of our region struggled with poverty during 2014. More than half (219,840) were women and girls. This figure translates to a poverty rate of 10.6 percent, four percentage points higher than the previous year (10.2 percent). While women's poverty grew, the poverty rate remained the same for men and boys at 8.3 percent.

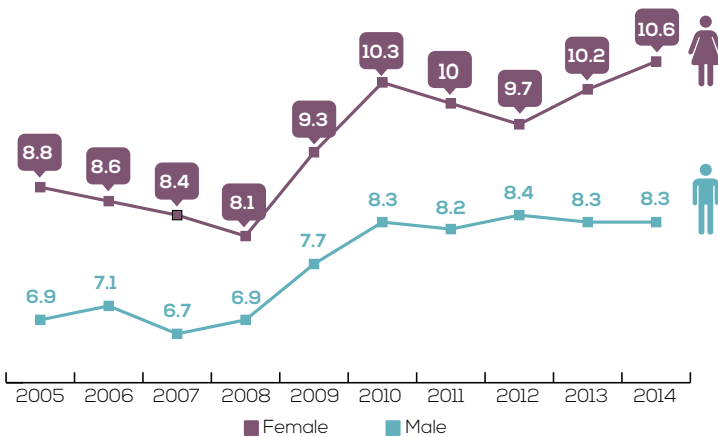


Fig 2. Poverty Rates in the Washington Region, 2005-2014
The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2005-2014

Women's Poverty Across Racial and Ethnic Groups

Women of color experience disproportionate levels of poverty across racial and ethnic groups and have a greater probability of falling below the poverty threshold than men or their White female counterparts.

Black and Latina women face particularly high rates of poverty in the Washington region; 15.0 percent of Black women and 13.2 percent of Latinas live below the poverty level, considerably higher than the 5.2 percent rate for White, non-Hispanic women.

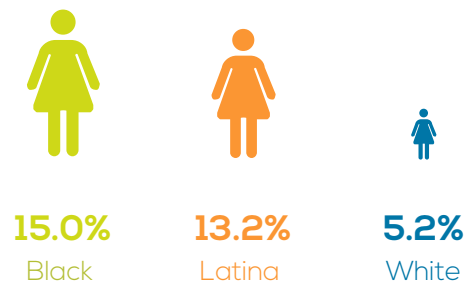


Fig 4. Poverty Rates by Race and Ethnicity, 2014
The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2014

Women Raising Families on Their Own

An estimated 46,800 families with children under 18 had incomes below the poverty level in 2014. Single parent families—especially female-headed households—are more likely to live in poverty.

About three in five poor families in the region (63.3 percent) were headed by single women. Female-headed households with children reached a poverty rate of 25.1 percent while only four percent of married-couple families in a comparable group lived below poverty.

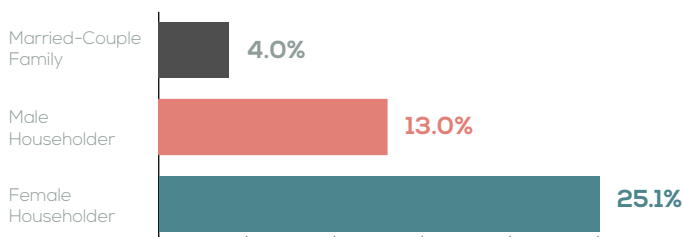


Fig 3. Poverty Rates for Families with Children under 18, 2014
The Women's Foundation's analysis of the American Community Survey, 2014

DEFINING POVERTY

A family of three was considered to live below the poverty line in 2014 if their total pre-tax annual income was \$19,790 or less.

Living with an income of \$39,580 for a family of three—twice the poverty level income—was still insufficient to make ends meet in our region during 2014.

¹ Estimates for the Washington region include data from: Washington, DC; Montgomery County, MD; Prince George's County, MD; Arlington County, VA; Alexandria City, VA; and Fairfax County, VA.

This Fact Sheet was prepared by Claudia Williams, Research and Evaluation Program Officer at the Washington Area Women's Foundation. To obtain more related data on the status of women and girls in the Washington region and details on the methodology to obtain such data please consult our issue briefs available at <https://thewomensfoundation.org/resources/>