

A Tale of Two Counties: The Status of Women in Montgomery County (2018)

A report by the Montgomery County Commission for Women

The *Status of Women in Montgomery County* report describes women’s experiences through quantitative data, both to measure observable progress and trends among women over the past decade and to identify specific obstacles, gaps, and disparities that continue to create challenges for women in the County. This report is compiled every 10 years by the Montgomery County Commission for Women. The intention is to present information that will guide new directions for better policies for women, girls, and families.

The report and this accompanying website is broken up into 9 different sections and in-depth “spotlights,” along with an overview of the report and the Commission for Women. Please select a topic below to view the related statistics and information from the perspective of women in Montgomery County. Note that the report is currently best viewed on a tablet or computer screen; the report sections may not load as intended on a mobile phone. Phone users are recommended to rotate their phones to landscape mode.

<p>Letter from the President</p>  <p>Read More</p>	<p>Intro: Findings and Recommendations</p>  <p>Read an Introduction to the report and a high-level summary of the findings and recommendations.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>County Demographics</p>  <p>Learn about the demographics of women in Montgomery County.</p> <p>Read More</p>
<p>Women and the Economy</p>  <p>Learn about the women in the workplace and their contributions to the economy.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>Women and Education</p>  <p>Learn about the educational attainment and school performance of women and girls.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>Women and Health</p>  <p>Learn about disparities in health outcomes and access.</p> <p>Read More</p>
<p>Women and Politics</p>  <p>Learn about women in elected offices.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>Women and Public Safety</p>  <p>Learn about women and crime, justice, and public safety.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>Spotlight: Women and Poverty</p>  <p>Learn about the rise in County poverty, particularly among women.</p> <p>Read More</p>
<p>Spotlight: Quality of Life Survey</p>  <p>Learn about the results from the 2017 Quality of Life survey.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>Spotlight: 2018 Primary Election</p>  <p>Explore the results from the 2018 primary election from the perspective of gender.</p> <p>Read More</p>	<p>About the Commission</p>  <p>Learn about the Commission for Women and our annual Women's Legislative Briefing.</p> <p>Read More</p>



Letter from the President

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Montgomery County Commission for Women (the "Commission"), I am proud to announce the release of *A Tale of Two Counties: The 2018 Status of Women in Montgomery County Report* (the "Report"). The 2018 Report provides objective data and analysis about the current state of the women in Montgomery County. It covers six main areas:

- Demographics;
- Women and the Economy;
- Women and Education;
- Women and Health;
- Women and Public Safety; and
- Women and Politics.

The Commission presented its last report on the Status of Women in Montgomery County in 2007. This year's Report, the Commission's third iteration of its decennial analysis, includes comparisons with data from the 2007 report. It captures experiences, gains, and challenges of women in the county, enabling us to determine how Montgomery County women have fared over the last decade.

The good news is that there is much to celebrate. Montgomery County women, on average, fared better in educational achievement, pay and employment than women living outside of the county. The Report also highlights areas that need improvement, so that all women and girls in Montgomery County, no matter their race or ethnicity, share equally in the health, prosperity, and overall well-being that so many other county residents enjoy.

As the Commission celebrates its 47th anniversary of promoting the interests of women and girls in Montgomery County, I can think of no more fitting effort than this Report. The Report's data and analysis provide an evidence-based foundation to guide the Commission's policy, advocacy, programming and outreach efforts in the years to come. This data will also help us inform policymakers, employers, advocates, and the public about the needs of women in the County. It is our hope that the Report will provide a blueprint for policy and action that will ultimately lead to a better quality of life for all county residents.

As you read through the report, we hope you can appreciate the tremendous efforts of Dennis Linders, volunteer Pal Doshi, and the rest of the CountyStat team who gathered and analyzed this data in a short period of time. Their expertise has also allowed the data to be delivered in a more interactive and user-friendly online experience than previous efforts. We encourage you to explore the rich content of each of the sections.

The Commission for Women would like to thank the County Executive and the County Council for their support of this project. The Commission also expresses its deep appreciation to the CountyStat team, without whom this report would not have been possible.

Nicole Y. Drew, Esq. – President

Montgomery County Commission for Women

Summary of Findings and Recommendations

Introduction

A Tale of Two Counties: The Status of Women in Montgomery County Report (the "Report") is a decennial publication of the Montgomery County Commission for Women (the "Commission"), produced in collaboration with CountyStat, the performance management and data analytics team within the Office of the County Executive.

The Commission was established by statute in 1972 and is comprised of 15 members from the community who are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Its mission is to advance women's equal and full participation in the benefits, responsibilities, and opportunities of society, and to enable women to participate as equals in the community through the acquisition of skills and competencies, information and resources. To achieve its mission, the Commission examines laws, policies and procedures; supports policies and programs that promote the well-being of women; and advises the County Executive, the County Council, the public, and the agencies of the county, state and federal governments on issues affecting women of Montgomery County.

CountyStat, the Commission's valued partner in producing this Report, is Montgomery County's office that is responsible for analyzing data to monitor, assess, and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of county programs and services.

One goal in producing this Report was to collect and analyze data about how women are faring in Montgomery County across many measures of well-being. We also seek to educate the public and stakeholders on our findings to help inform appropriate remedies and policies. Last published in 2007, this Report updates many of the same areas of focus as the last report and supplements it with new findings. Specifically, the Report focuses on the following areas:



The sections of the report entitled "Spotlights" include more detailed analysis of county gender trends and dynamics. This includes an overview of the results from the "Quality of Life" survey, a 2017 representative sample survey that surveyed more than 1,000 county residents on various livability indicators.

Key Findings

Overall

Women in Montgomery County continue to make material gains in education, employment, earnings, political representation, and other key indicators of well-being, often outpacing national averages.

However, the Commission's analysis also revealed several developments that cause concern and warrant further attention and study. These include significant increases in the number of women living in poverty; stark racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates and other adverse health outcomes; rising rates of sexually-transmitted infections; more than 4,000 women and girls who qualify as "disconnected youth"; and a doubling of domestic violence reports over a three-year period.

In some instances, the Report's data trends echo concerns expressed by Montgomery County women during a recent statewide listening tour directed by the Maryland Commission for Women. The listening tour gathered feedback from 1,400 Maryland women.

<http://dhr.maryland.gov/maryland-commission-women/programs/voices-maryland-listening-tour/>

Demographics

Women make up a little over half, or 51.7 percent, of Montgomery County residents. Since the last report in 2007, the largest increases in the female population are among women between the ages of 60 and 74. Those numbers grew by more than 25,000. Not surprisingly, given that women tend to live longer than men on average, women make up 65 percent of county residents over the age of 84.

Another notable development since the last report is that Montgomery County has become a majority minority county. Fifty-six percent of women identify as an ethnic minority. Hispanic and African-American women are virtually tied as the largest ethnic group, accounting for more than 100,000 women each. The number of women who identify as white, non-Hispanic has dropped by 11 percent, from 55 percent to 44 percent since 2006. Hispanic women grew at the fastest rate, by five percentage points. Montgomery County is home to over a third of the state's Hispanic women and more than four in ten of the state's Asian-American women.

Immigrants account for 33 percent of women and girls in the county, up four percent since 2006. Forty percent of adult women in our county are immigrants. Overall, 38 percent of the state's immigrant women live in Montgomery County and 37 percent of the states' immigrants in total.

Labor Force

Women in Montgomery County earn 82 percent of their male counterparts' wages, which is a few percentage points better than the national average. Significant racial and ethnic disparities widen the pay gap for minority women.

Women account for 44 percent of the full-time civilian workforce living in Montgomery County, marginally lower than the national average of 46.8 percent. Women and men have nearly even labor force participation up to age 25, after which a roughly 12 percentage point gap persists from ages 30 until 60. Note, however, that female labor force participation remains over 80 percent during these years, higher than national averages which cluster closer to 75 percent.

The Montgomery County government (not including Montgomery County Public Schools) employed more than 3,750 women in regular/permanent positions in 2017, accounting for 40.5 percent of all employees.

Education

Women in Montgomery County hold graduate degrees at almost triple the national rate -- and six percentage points higher than the DC metro region average. Earnings for women with a graduate or professional degree in Montgomery County are the fourth highest in the nation, among mid and large-sized counties (i.e. those with at least 150,000 residents).

In terms of dropout rates and disconnection, women are 40 percent less likely to drop out of high school than boys. The dropout rate was 4.5 percent for females versus 7.7 percent for males among the class of 2017. Women and girls account for half of all disconnected youth (defined as residents between the ages of 16-24 who are neither enrolled in school nor employed -- i.e. unemployed or not looking for a job), with an estimated 4,800 women and girls not active in school or work. This number drops to 4,200 when excluding the 15 percent of women and girls who live with their own child and who may be stay-at-home mothers.

For school-age girls, information from the Montgomery County Public Schools Data Dashboards (2017) also shows that girls outperform boys in both literacy and math, across grades and time (with the one exception of second grade math). Further, girls are 10 percent more likely than boys to be enrolled in at least one AP or IB course.

Poverty

Rising poverty rates among women in Montgomery County are one of the Report's most significant and troubling trends over the last decade.

The number of women living in poverty increased by 66 percent between 2007 and 2017 – with more than 16,500 women joining the ranks of those living below the poverty level. In almost every age category (except for children under eighteen), women comprised a significant majority of the residents living in poverty. Poverty rates rose in almost every other age category.

Moreover, median incomes were lowest among single-parent households headed by a woman. This demographic also had the highest concentration of families living below the self-sufficiency standard.

Women of color experience higher rates of poverty than their white counterparts. African American and Hispanic women represent almost 60 percent of the women living in poverty in the county.

Public Health

The report revealed marked positive and negative shifts in several key public health indicators.

Birth rates in the county declined overall, and encouragingly, the birth rate among adolescents fell almost by half since 2010. All mothers in Montgomery County delayed having their first child longer than the national average, regardless of their marital status and educational attainment.

Infant mortality in the county declined between 2008 and 2014 but increased in the last two years of available data (2015 and 2016), driven in part by rising mortality rates among African American infants. African American mothers are 65 percent more likely than other women to suffer the loss of an infant.

While the age-adjusted mortality rates for female breast cancer in our county are about 20 percent below the national rate, African American women experience notably higher breast cancer deaths (22.1 vs. 17.7 per 100,000). Similarly, while cervical cancer rates declined among county women since the last Report, African American and Hispanic women are nearly twice as likely as white and Asian women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer.

The county rate of sexually transmitted infections has risen dramatically, reaching its highest level in a decade. The increases in Montgomery County occurred at roughly twice the rate of the state increase in 2017. Women experienced much higher rates of chlamydia than men and higher rates of HIV infection.

Women are somewhat more likely than men to have health insurance, with women making up 45 percent of the uninsured. Overall, the rate of the uninsured has dropped by nearly half, from 11.5 percent in 2009 to 6.5 percent in 2016, a trend observed in roughly equal measure between women and men. Almost 15 percent of women receive Medicaid, roughly on par with 13.6 percent of men.

Women and Politics

In 2006, Maryland was first in the nation in terms of the number of women in the state legislature, dropping to eighth in the intervening years. Following the 2018 general election, 71 of the 188 state legislators will be women, 21 of whom were elected for the first time. However, none of the county's congressional delegation are women and, as of the 2018 election, only one of the nine County Council members are women. Moreover, Maryland remains among the 20 states that have yet to elect a female governor.

Women hold all eight Board of Education seats, including the recently elected Student Member. Women also hold a majority (four of seven) of the elected Circuit Court judgeships and the Clerk of Circuit Court office.

Montgomery County women vote more than men and more often than women nationally. Sixty-eight percent of female citizens and 64 percent of male citizens voted (61 percent of all women and 57 percent of all men when including non-citizens).

Crime and Safety

Crime in Montgomery County has fallen dramatically over the past two decades on a per capita basis -- by a third between 1996 - 2006 and by over 40 percent in the last decade.

Even so, between 2014 and 2016, total reports of domestic violence increased by 38 percent, from 2,203 to 3,040. MCPD statistics also show a 28 percent increase in rape cases between 2016 and 2017, from 309 to 397, continuing an upward trend. MCPD attributes this increase in part to media coverage of high profile incidents, which has encouraged more victims to come forward and report.

Twenty-nine percent of Montgomery County law enforcement employees are women. Within Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Police Department leads the way with a 31 percent share.

Recommendations

Women and Poverty

The Commission recommends that the County Executive, the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with other chambers, WorkSource Montgomery, and other groups collaborate to develop incentives to encourage employers in Montgomery County to adopt more family- friendly labor practices, including flexible schedules, telecommuting options, paid sick leave, paid sick leave for dependent care, and retirement plans.

The Commission recommends that the Maryland General Assembly pass legislation to raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour statewide for most workers by 2023. However, before passing any new laws, the legislature should take into consideration any economic impact on employers that a new minimum wage might have and consult with the business community. The Commission believes that Maryland can achieve the goal of helping low-wage workers achieve economic stability while balancing the needs of the business community.

- The cost of living in Maryland is so high that minimum wage workers cannot afford necessities like rent, child care, food, water, gas, electricity and transportation without working multiple jobs. Even then, they just scrape by. Women comprise 55 percent of the minimum wage workers, and most are women of color.
- Many minimum wage workers are the main source of income for their families and 14 percent of minimum wage workers are single mothers. In addition to pay discrimination, many working mothers, especially single working mothers, are left to bear the burden of early child care and education costs. State and county legislators must see child care as a community problem, not just the problem of the low -income working mother. The view that child care is a problem for women only, and especially low-income women, restricts the resources made available for quality child care and limits work and other opportunities for low-income working mothers and their children.

The Commission recommends that the Maryland General Assembly pass legislation similar to last session's H.B. 512, the Labor and Employment – Pay Scales and History bill to prevent employers from asking job candidates for their current salary or salary history and requiring employers to publish salary ranges for jobs.

- Women in Montgomery County overall still earn only 82 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts, while African American women earn 69 cents and Latinas earn 47 cents. Asking job applicants for their current salary or salary history perpetuates gender disparities in pay as employers' use of this information in the hiring process forces women, especially women of color, to carry lower earnings and pay discrimination with them from job to job throughout their careers.

The Commission recommends that the Maryland General Assembly pass legislation to establish a private sector family and medical leave insurance fund (similar to unemployment insurance) to provide partial wage replacement for employees who take unpaid leave to care for a new child, a family member with a serious health condition, their own serious medical condition, or a family member's military deployment.

- While current law protects the jobs of employees who take up to 12 weeks of leave for their own illness, to care for a family member or for the birth or adoption of a child, this leave is unpaid. This creates extreme stress and financial insecurity for families already experiencing illness or family transitions. Only 13 percent of the workforce has access to paid maternity leave and an even smaller percentage can access paid caregiving leave. The lack of a paid family and medical leave system leads to economic instability for women. It's also a major contributor to the wage gap between women and men and to women's financial vulnerability as they age.

The Commission recommends the reintroduction and passage of the Maryland REDEEM (Record Expungement Designed to Enhance Employment Act of 2019) to comprehensively streamline existing expungement and shielding laws. The REDEEM Act will 1) Repeal the unit rule; 2) Automatically expunge non-convictions; 3) Allow nonviolent misdemeanor and felony convictions to be eligible for expungement at five and seven years, respectively, after the completion of the individual's sentence and any mandatory supervision; and 4) Provide clarification on the expungement eligibility of arrest warrants/invalidated warrants.

- A criminal record can serve as the cause and consequence of poverty, limiting access to economic mobility and stability by making it harder for those with such records to secure jobs and housing.
- Under current Maryland law, criminal records with charges that did not result in a conviction are eligible for expungement. However, Maryland's unit rule permanently prohibits expungement of eligible charges if all charges within a unit are not eligible for expungement. This means that acquittals and other favorable dispositions become ineligible for expungement if a conviction is also contained within a unit.

The Commission recommends the introduction and passage of legislation to 1) prohibit the suspension of a driver's license due to unpaid fees and allow for the statewide use of community-based alternative payment methods, such as job skills training or adult education; 2) require the state or local jurisdictions to cover the costs of GPS monitoring for indigent defendants being held in pretrial detention; 3) require the state to establish a process to ensure that pretrial defendants are not denied access to voting.

- When individuals are arrested, charged and/or imprisoned because they lack the financial means to satisfy the demands of the law, that is defined as the criminalization of poverty. This criminalization includes the "cash bail" system, where low-income defendants are often held in jail due to their inability to pay bail, not because they are an actual threat to the community. While in jail, they also lack access to critical services and resources.

The Commission supports the aim of the County's Equity Policy Framework

(https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/res/2018/20180424_18-1095.pdf) to advance the equal and full participation of women in the benefits, responsibilities and opportunities of society, and to enable women to participate as full equals in the community through the acquisition of skills and competencies, information and resources. The Framework also calls for work to improve equity and reduce discrimination. As women of color are disproportionately impacted by poverty, the Commission supports the recommendations of the September 2018 Office of Legislative Oversight Report, "Racial Equity in Government Decision-Making: Lessons from the Field" and feels strongly that to make progress in reducing poverty among women, efforts must include data tracking by gender.

Women and Health/Health Disparities

The Commission recommends that Montgomery County increase efforts to educate women about their increased risk for, and unique warning signs of, heart disease.

The Commission recommends that Montgomery County increase efforts to educate the public on the risks of cervical and breast cancer, and especially for women over 50, the importance of a mammogram. For breast cancer, the focus for African-American women must be both access to screening and to health care post-diagnosis. With cervical cancer education, there should be a special focus on African-American and Hispanic populations.

The Commission recognizes Montgomery County's efforts to provide education and resources to prevent unintended pregnancies and decrease the rates of sexually transmitted infections. The Commission recommends that Montgomery County strengthen public education programs on the dangers of unprotected sex, especially by targeting teens and women ages 15-34.

The Commission recommends that Montgomery County dedicate and/or increase funds to community organizations to ensure adequate resources are available to provide high quality and accessible programs for prenatal, maternity, and post-natal care to decrease the rates of African American infant mortality.

The Commission recognizes Montgomery County's efforts to raise awareness around mental health and substance abuse as well as provide resources support prevention efforts. The Commission recommends greater outreach programs for suicide assessment and prevention for women and girls.

Women, Politics and Leadership

Maryland has no women in its federal congressional delegation. Additionally, since 2007, Maryland dropped from first to eighth place in national rankings for the number of elected women in the state legislature. At the local level, Montgomery County is represented by only one female council member out of nine elected to the current County Council. The recommendations below are aimed at remedying Maryland's current lack of gender parity among elected officials.

The Commission recommends that local political parties and political action committees work with organizations and institutions that promote the leadership of women and girls to:

- Identify barriers preventing women from running for office so that those obstacles can be effectively addressed; and
- Establish targets for female candidate recruitment to run for office at the local, state, and federal levels (including judiciary seats).

The Commission urges civic engagement groups, community organizations, and government agencies (including the Montgomery County Council, Board of Elections, and County Executive) to:

- Educate the public about the voting and election process;
- Inform residents of upcoming open federal, state, and local public office positions well in advance of the primary and general election; and;
- Study the benefits of ranked-choice voting systems to increase women and girls' participation in politics.

Advancing women's leadership potential in their careers and in the community can assist in building a pipeline of women candidates. The Commission advises state and local government offices, political parties, political action committees, non-profit organizations, as well as private businesses and corporations, to share, exchange, and disseminate best practices, information, tools, resources, and programs focused on advancing women's leadership. This includes a commitment by the County Executive and Governor of Maryland to make administrative appointments that reflect the diverse population, including women residents, of Montgomery County.

Women and Safety

Since most female victims of sex offenses, human trafficking, domestic violence as well as women involved in the criminal justice system are survivors of some form of trauma, the Commission recommends that we provide comprehensive services for them that take this trauma into account. We must also develop strategies for integrating services at both the clinical/individual and service system levels.

The Commission recommends that domestic violence and sexual assault prevention efforts begin early. It is important to use the public-school system to educate girls and boys with age-appropriate messages about the harmful effects of domestic violence and the signs that such violence is occurring.

While Montgomery County Department of Corrections does an excellent job addressing substance abuse, cognitive behavior skills, job readiness skills, and other issues facing of justice-involved women, the Commission recommends that, upon release, justice-involved women receive trauma-specific services, adequate substance abuse services and effective resource coordination so they can continue working on reentry into the community.

Domestic Violence

The Commission recommends continued promotion of county programs and services to raise awareness of their offerings. Promotion may be done through brochures, pocket cards, or county-wide public outreach campaigns. Outreach efforts should also be made to justice-involved women in coordination with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Collaboration with the Commission, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, and the County's Office of Intergovernmental Relations should continue in earnest. County organizations, in consultation with other domestic violence prevention entities, should monitor and promote legislation that supports reducing and preventing domestic violence.

The Commission recommends that regular data gathering to monitor domestic violence incidents should continue. In addition, yearly statistical "mappings" should take place so that prevention and response organizations can track trends in domestic violence incidents and use the data to steer targeting, outreach and education.

The Commission recommends we make it a priority to ensure safe, transitional housing for domestic violence victims so they can become self-sufficient survivors

Sexual Assault

The Commission recommends that support for the Montgomery County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) be bolstered so that its members can continue educating the community about sexual assault. This support should include:

- Dedicated, part-time staff;
- Funding for a community awareness campaign;
- Ensuring rape kits are tested in a timely manner and in accordance with best practices.

The Commission recommends that the SART continue working with advocacy organizations to monitor, promote, and support legislation that reduces and prevents sexual assault.

Human Trafficking

The Commission recommends that the Montgomery County Human Trafficking Prevention Committee(MCHTPC) collect statistics on the incidence of human trafficking annually from all its members.

The Commission recommends that the MCHTOC continue its collaboration with the Maryland Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force to monitor, support and promote legislation related to human trafficking prevention.

The Commission recommends that the county work with other counties and the state to find safe and affordable transitional housing for trafficking victims.

The Commission works closely with and supports the recommendations of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, the Victim Assistance Advisory Board, and the Montgomery County Prevention Committee. Recommendations from these entities can be found on their websites.

Disconnected Youth

The Commission recommends that the County Executive create a task force (consisting of appropriate county agencies and community organizations) charged with:

- Understanding why 4,800 girls and young women in Montgomery County are disconnected from education or the workforce; and
- Identifying and implementing successful programs to reengage this population.

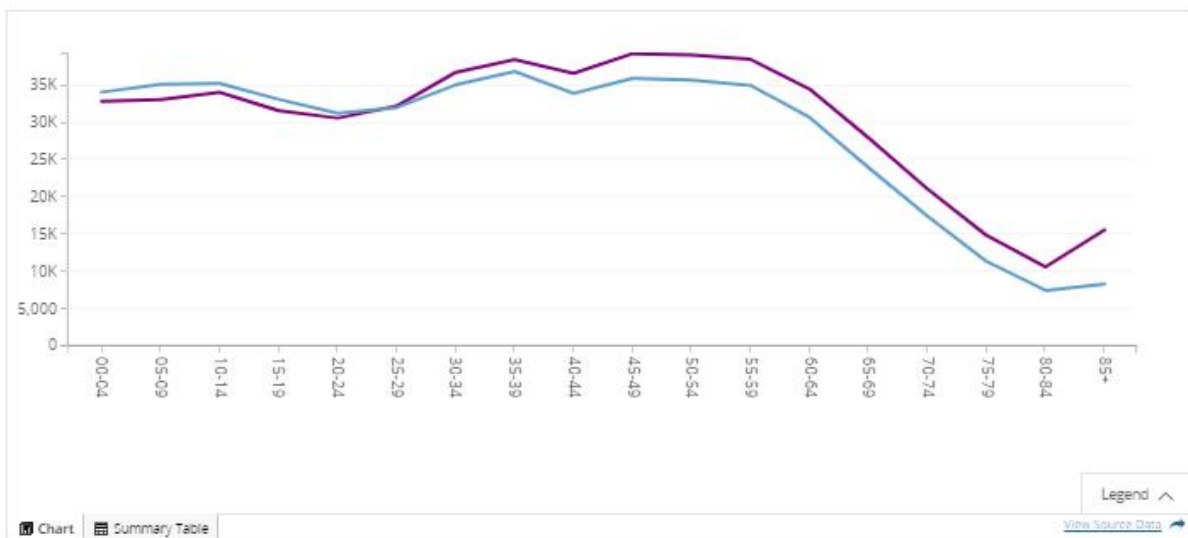


Women in Montgomery County

Montgomery County, Maryland is home to 1,058,810 residents according to the latest estimates from the US Census Bureau (July 1, 2017), making it the largest jurisdiction in the State of Maryland. The county counts 547,028 women among its population, accounting for 51.7 percent of all county residents and for 17.5 percent of all women in the State of Maryland. Unless otherwise noted, the statistics in this section originate from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

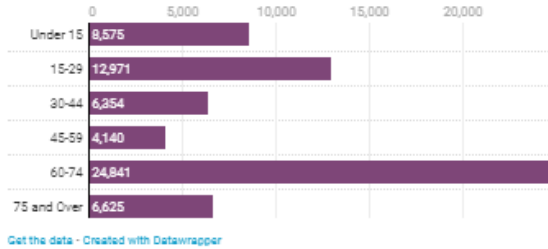
Age Groups

Women have a median age of **40.6 years**, 2.9 years older than men. This is primarily due to longer life expectancy, with women making up 65 percent of county residents over the age of 84. Women also slightly outnumber men in the working adult age range of 18-64, representing 51.4 percent of the total population in this cohort. Girls (under 18) account for 22.1 percent of females; 16.4 percent of county women are 65 years old or older; and the remaining 61.5 percent of county women are between the age of 18 and 64.



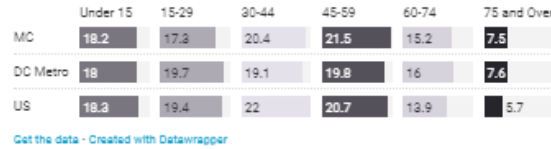
The 60-74 age range saw the largest increase among county women, nearly double the growth than the second fastest growing age group of 15-29.

Increase in Women by Age Group, 2007-2017



Compared to the DC metro region and the nation, the county is home to a relatively small share of women between the age of 15-29 (in part due to the limited number of universities). Compared to the nation, the county has a higher share of women in the 60+ age ranges.

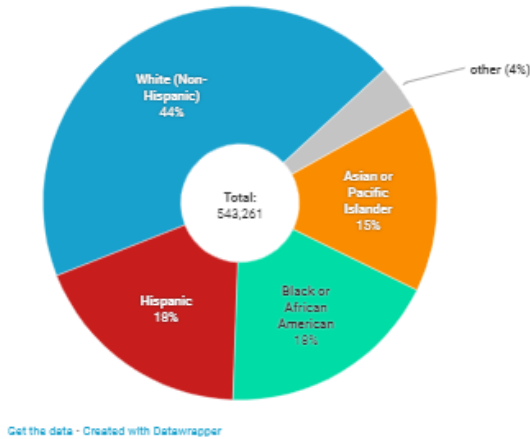
Age Groups as Share of All Women by Region, 2017



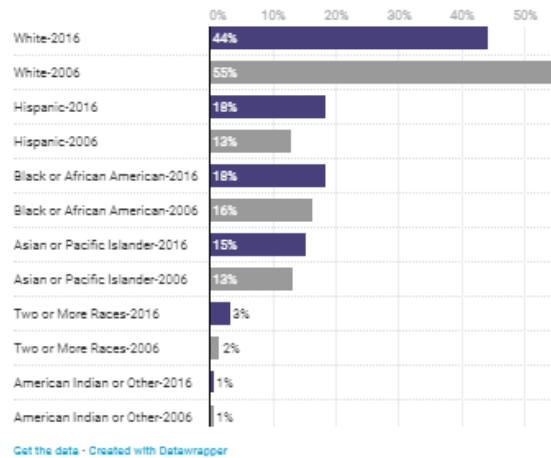
Diversity

Montgomery County is a majority-minority community, with **56 percent** of women identifying as an ethnic minority in 2016, up from 45 percent in 2006. Hispanic and Black/African American women are virtually tied as the largest ethnic group, accounting for more than 100,000 women and girls each.

Women by Race/Ethnicity (%), 2016

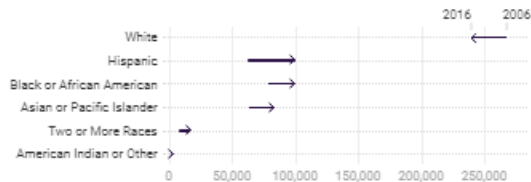


Women by Race/Ethnicity (%), 2016 vs. 2006



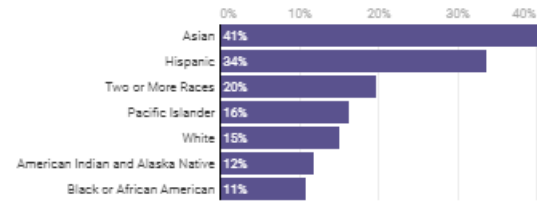
As the charts below show, Montgomery County is home to over a third of the State's Hispanic women and more than 4 in 10 of the State's Asian women. The percent of women who identify as White non-Hispanic has dropped by 11 percentage points, from 55 percent to 44 percent since 2006, with Hispanic women growing at the fastest rate (+5 percentage points).

Change in the Number of Women by Ethnicity, 2006 to 2016



[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

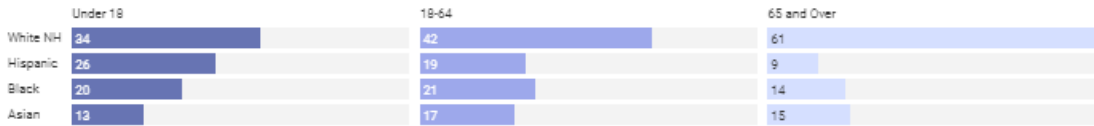
Women by Ethnicity - County Share of State Total



[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

The racial and ethnic makeup of county women and girls differs dramatically by age. For instance, White Non-Hispanic residents make up 34 percent of girls under the age of 18 compared to 61 percent of women aged 65 and over.

% Race / Ethnicity by Age for County Women and Girls

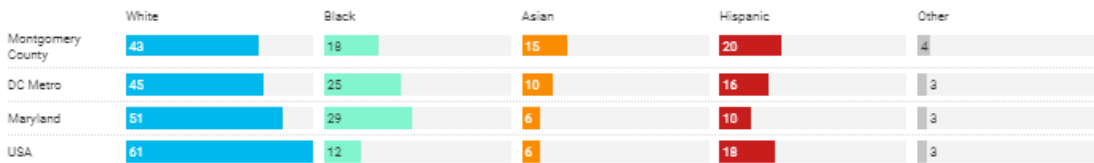


Black and Asian percentages may overlap slightly with the statistics for Hispanic residents.

[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

Compared to the nation, Montgomery County has a much higher share of Black/African American and Asian residents and a much lower share of White non-Hispanic residents. The chart below compares the county's ethnic make-up (both male and female) to the DC metro region, the State of Maryland, and the country as a whole.

Race and Ethnicity Breakdown by Region, 2017

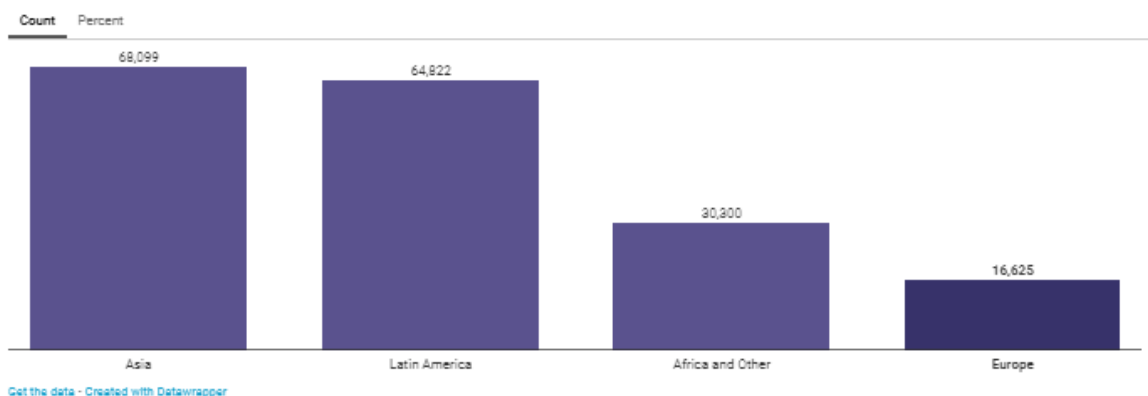


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Immigration

Immigrants account for 33 percent of women and girls in Montgomery County (up 4 percentage points since 2006) and for 40 percent of adult women. The county's immigrant share of the population is more than double the rate observed for the State of Maryland. 55 percent of women immigrants are naturalized US citizens (up 8 percentage points from 2006). Montgomery County accounts for 37 percent of the State's immigrants and 38 percent of the State's immigrant women. Asia is the largest source of immigrant women, followed by Latin America. These statistics largely align with the statistics for male immigrants. Across genders, the largest countries of origin for county immigrants are -- in order -- El Salvador, China, India, Ethiopia, and Korea.

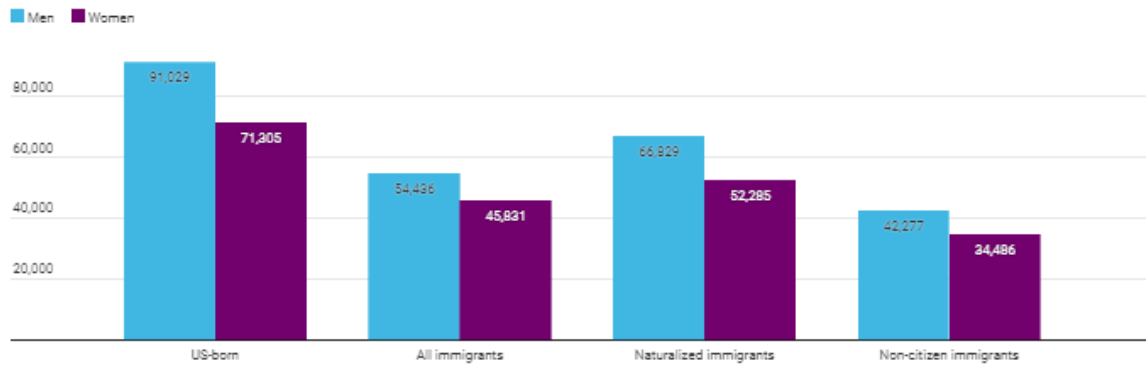
Region of Origin for Immigrant Women in the County



In line with the general population's high levels of education attainment, over 48 percent of county immigrants aged 25 and older hold a college degree (in comparison, 67 percent of US-born residents hold a college degree). Immigrant families live in slightly larger families (3.6 members vs. 3.2 for US-born residents) and households (3.3 members vs. 2.5 for US-born residents).

Among full-time workers, immigrant women have a median income of \$46,000 vs. \$54,000 for immigrant men and \$71,000 for US-born women. Immigrant women without US citizenship earn only \$34,000. (Note that these figures have a margin of error of as much as \$4,000).

Median Earnings for Full-time Work



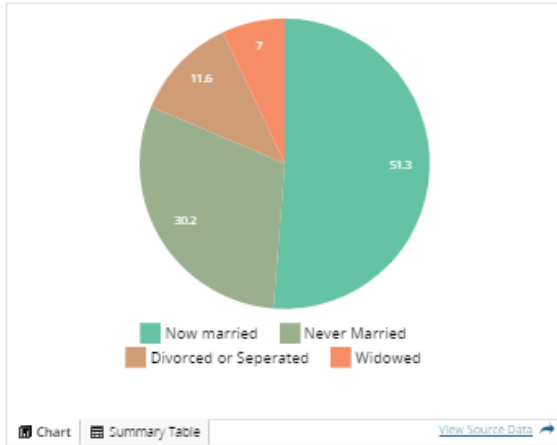
[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Census data from 2016 shows that 37 percent of immigrant residents (equal to 14 percent of the total population) have limited English proficiency. Overall, 41 percent of County residents speak a language other than English at home -- up 5 percentage points since 2006. The most spoken language after English is Spanish, spoken at home by 17 percent of county residents (and by roughly half of all residents with limited English proficiency). A distant second is Chinese, followed by French, Amharic and other Afro-Asiatic languages, Korean, Vietnamese, Western African languages, Persian, Russian, and Hindi. The county is home to 24,400 households, equal to 6.5 percent of the total, that are language-isolated, meaning that no one in the household over the age of 13 speaks English very well.

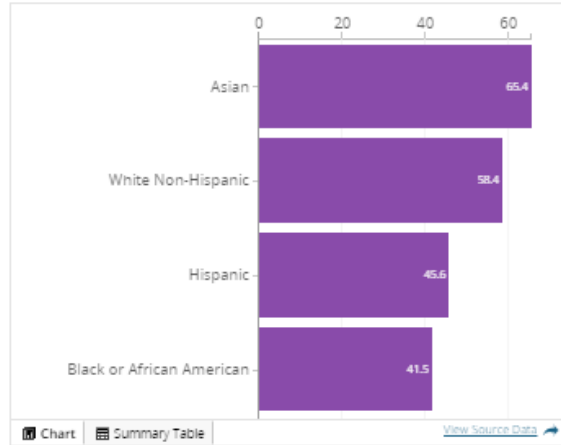
Household Composition and Marital Status

51 percent of county women over the age of 15 are married, while 30 percent have never been married (compared to 34 percent for men). 12 percent of county women are divorced. These statistics are largely consistent with national statistics.

Marital Status for Women



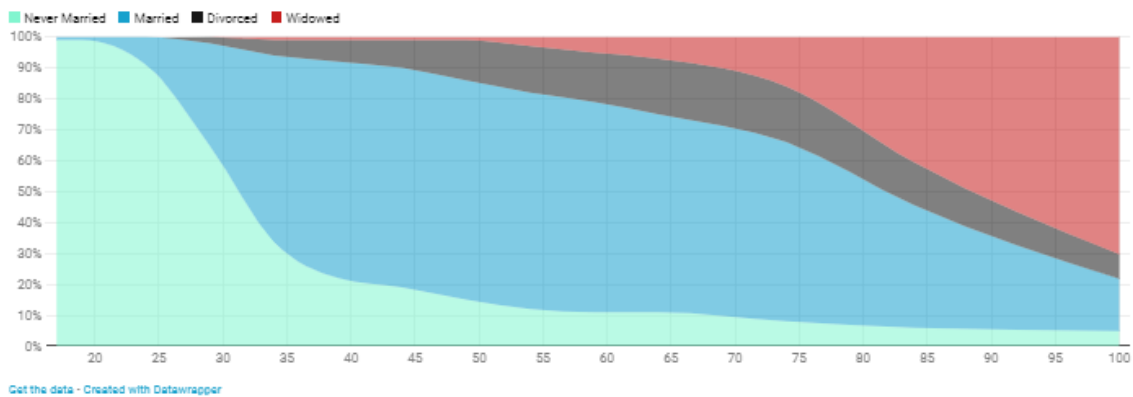
% of Women Married by Ethnicity



Marital Status by Age

The chart below tracks the marital status of women as they age, from 15 to 100. Among women aged 65 and over, 29 percent are widowed (compared to 8 percent among men).

Marital Status of Women by Age in Montgomery County

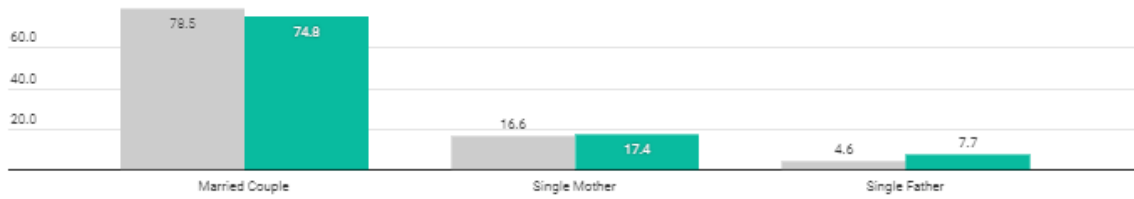


Single Parent Families

Single parent households have become slightly more common over the past 10 years, with 25 percent of children living with a single parent in 2016 -- up 4 percentage points since 2006. The share of children living with a single mother has stayed mostly the same at 17 percent, with almost all of the growth occurring among children living with single fathers which today stands at 8 percent of all children. In total, 61,200 children in the county live in a single-parent household (up from 48,400 in 2006), including 42,400 who live with a single mother (up from 38,000 in 2006).

% of Children by Family Type

■ 2006 ■ 2016

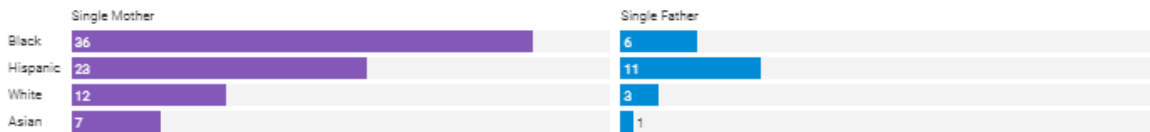


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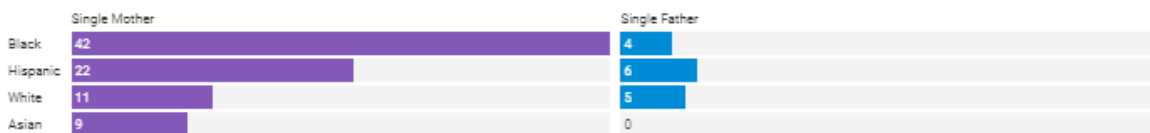
Among families with own children under 18, Black or African American families are most likely to be headed by a single mother (36 percent) -- three times the rate observed among White residents. Single motherhood among Black or African American families, however, has notably decreased over the past decade, dropping 6 percentage points between 2007 and 2017, while the rate for other races has remained largely within the margin of error.

Single Parent Families as Share of Total

2017



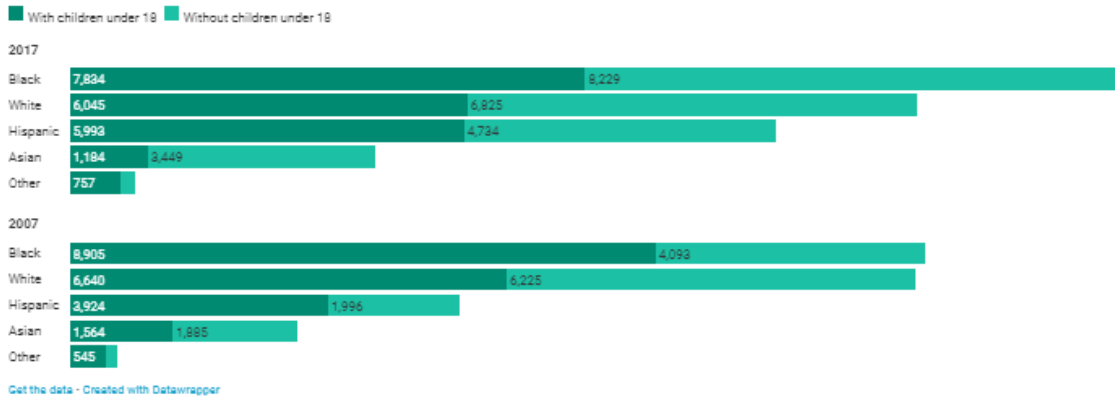
2007



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Even accounting for population growth, the decreasing rate among Black or African American single mothers has resulted in a decline in their absolute numbers from 8,900 in 2007 to 7,800 in 2017. Due to macro demographic changes over this time period, the number of White single mothers with own children under 18 has also dropped (by 600), while the number of Hispanic single mothers has increased from 3,900 to 6,000.

Families Headed by a Woman without a Husband



Same-Sex Households

While data on gay and lesbian households is [often incomplete](#), the [Williams Institute](#) of the UCLA School of Law used Census Bureau data to estimate that there are 2,184 same-sex couples in Montgomery County, of which 1,161 (53 percent) are lesbian couples. In the State of Maryland, only Baltimore City has more lesbian couples (as well as more gay and lesbian couples).

The share of gay and lesbian households in Montgomery County represents a slightly higher share of all households (6.1 per 1,000) than the State of Maryland (5.8) and the nation (5.6), but a smaller share than Baltimore City (10.7) and Prince George's (6.3) in Maryland -- and below Washington, DC (18.1). 73 percent of the county's gay and lesbian households are White, 11 percent are Hispanic, 8 percent are African American or Black, and 5 percent are Asian. 20 percent of the county's gay and lesbian households are raising children, compared to 22 percent in Baltimore City, 28 percent in Prince George's, and 9 percent in Washington, DC. Overall, the State of Maryland ranks 19th for the share of gay and lesbian households and 14th for the share of lesbian households.

The Williams Institute used a different dataset based on Gallup Survey data -- available only at the State level -- to estimate that 3.7 percent of the State of Maryland's population is LGBT, 26 percent of whom are raising children. The State ranks 29th on the share of the population that is LGBT; Washington, DC ranks first at 10.8 percent.



Women and the Economy

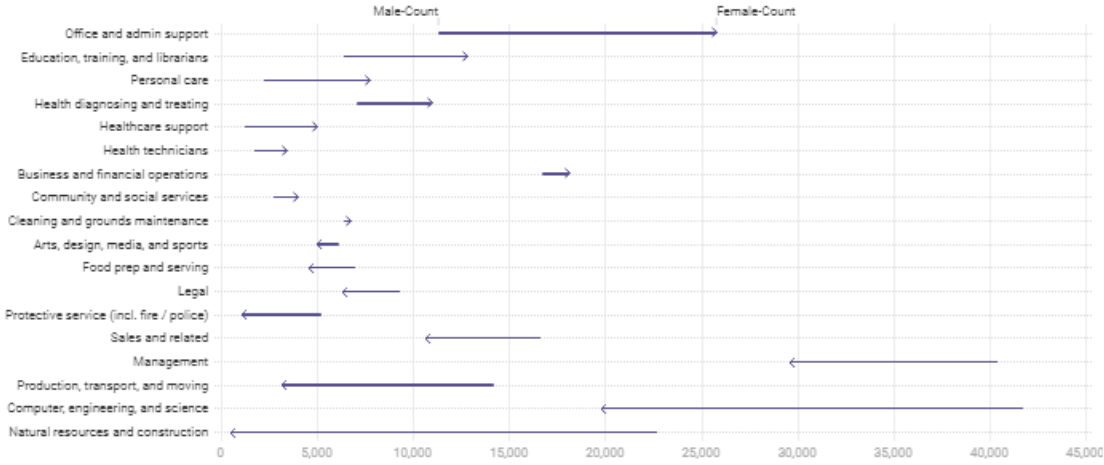
Workforce Participation and Occupations

Women account for 44 percent of the full-time civilian workforce living in Montgomery County. Using 5 years of data collected by the US Census (2012-2016), the chart below shows the number of women vs. men working in select occupational categories. Arrows pointing right indicate more female workers, while arrows pointing left indicate more male workers. The most common occupational category for women is management, followed by office and admin support, while the category of computer, engineering, and science ranks first for men, followed by management.

Women dominate healthcare support occupations (80 percent); education, training, and library occupations (66 percent); and health technologists and technicians occupations (65 percent). However, women are highly underrepresented in construction (2 percent); protective service occupations like police officers (20 percent); production, transportation, and moving occupations (20 percent); and computer, engineering, and science occupations (32 percent). Men and women have roughly equal representation in business and financial operations (52 percent) and in cleaning and grounds maintenance (53 percent).

Women vs. Men in Select Occupational Categories

Worker Counts by Gender, 2012-2016 Data



[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

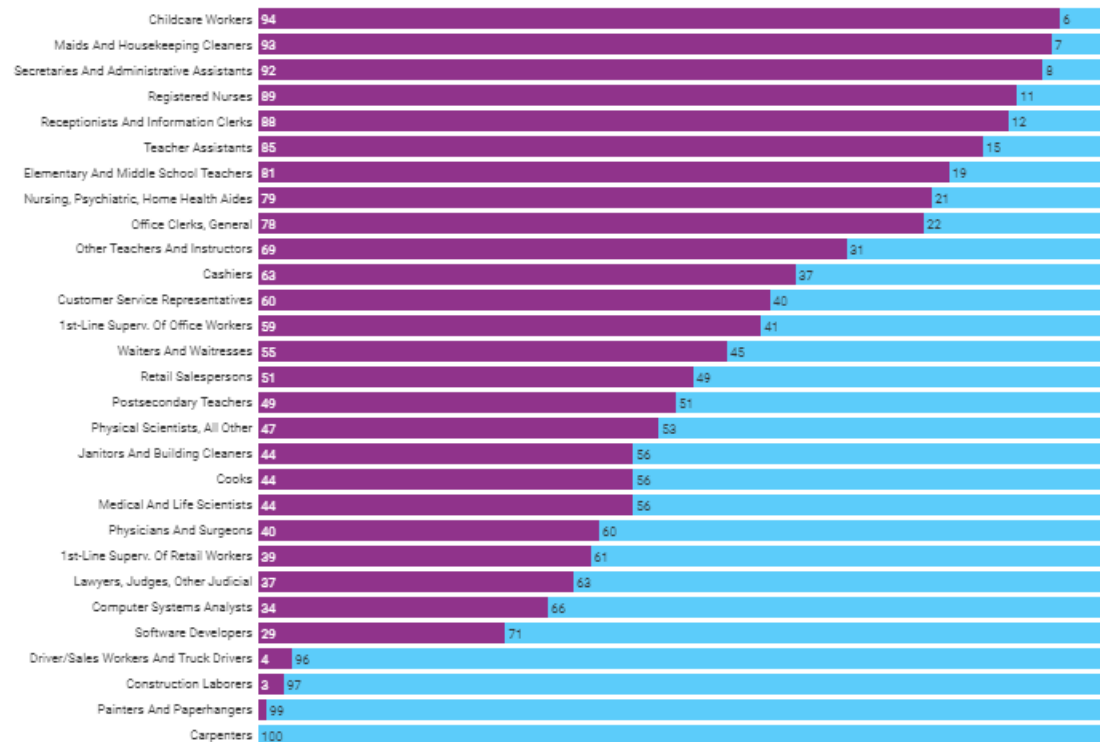
Female Share of Workforce in Popular Occupations

The chart below, based on the Public Use Micro-dataset of the Census American Community Survey (2011-2015), provides a more granular look at specific occupations by showing the same information for the most commonly held jobs in Montgomery County. Childcare workers, maids, administrative assistants, and registered nurses are the most female-dominated occupations in the county. Certain construction jobs (such as painters and carpenters) and truck drivers are the most male-dominated. Of note, software developers (29 percent) and computer systems analysts (34 percent) also rank near the bottom with a low share of women in these occupations.

Women as Share of All Employees - Top 30 Occupations

Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey

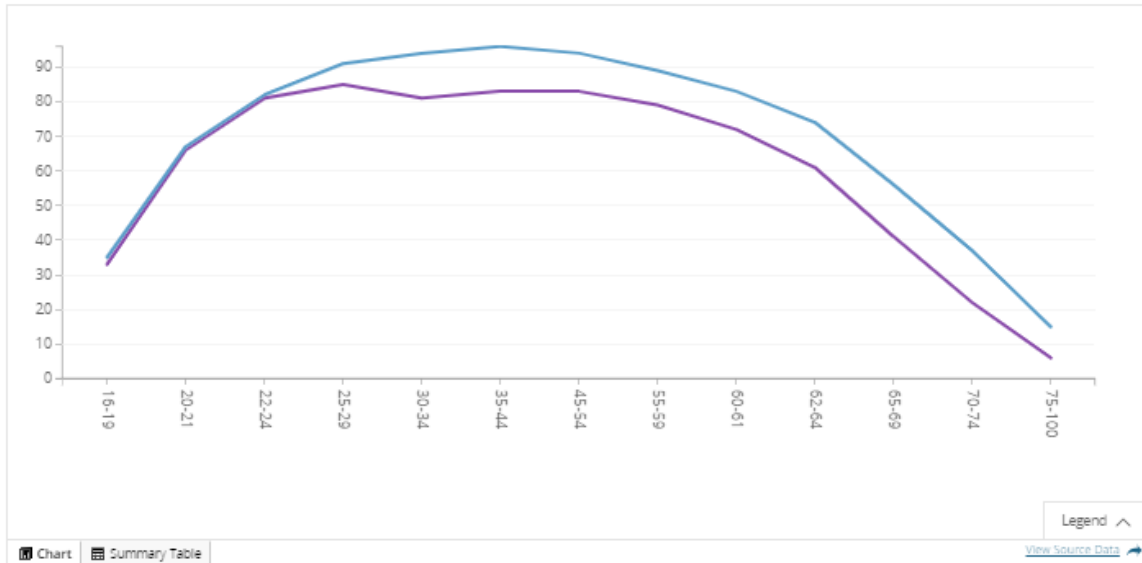
Female Share Male Share



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Labor Force Participation by Age

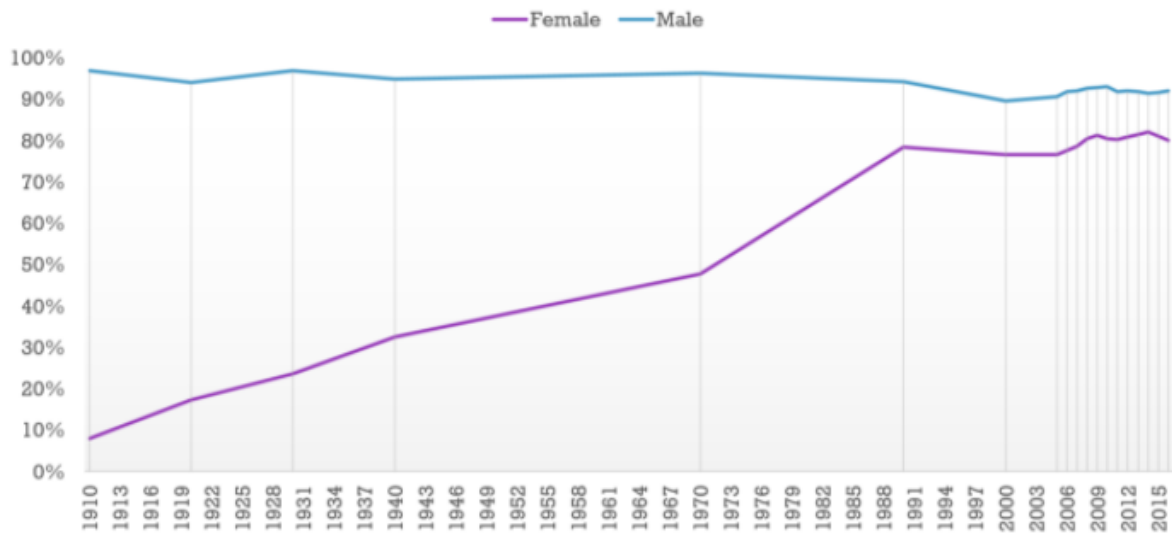
Estimates from the 2016 Census American Community Survey show women and men have nearly even labor force participation up to the age of 25, after which a roughly 12 percentage point gap persists between the ages of 30 until the age of 60. Note, however, that female labor force participation remains over 80 percent during these years. The gap in labor force participation widens slightly after 60 (peaking at a 16 percentage points gap during age 70-74).



- Estimate - Percent - Female
- Estimate - Percent - Male

Labor Force Participation Over Time

The figure below shows the rapid growth in labor force participation among women, from 1910 to 1990. The participation rate has continued to grow in the last decade. This data is based on historic iPUMS data (Integrated Public Use Micro-data Sets) drawn from the Census American Community Survey (for later years) and Decennial Census (for earlier years). The most recent data from the Census American Community Survey 2016 shows that, among residents aged 20-64, 80 percent of women were in the labor force, compared to 90 percent of men in Montgomery County. This rate of female labor force participation is 8 percent higher than the national rate, 2 percent higher than the state rate, and 1 percent higher than the Washington, DC metro rate. Montgomery County also has a higher rate of labor participation for working mothers -- i.e. with children under 18 -- standing at 80 percent vs. 73 percent nationally. Additionally, 74 percent of women with children under 6 participate in the labor force, compared to a national average of 71 percent.



Pay Gap

The Census American Community Survey (2012-2016) reports that women in Montgomery County earn 82 cents on the dollar compared to their male counterparts (looking only at civilian residents who are employed full-time and year-round). This figure compares favorably to the 72 cents on the dollar paid to women nationally and the 77 cents paid to women in the state of Maryland.

Women in Montgomery County make more than men only in the occupational categories: community and social services and protective service (which has very few women workers). The largest pay gaps are present in cleaning and grounds maintenance (72 cents) and in health diagnosis and treatment (54 cents) which covers a diverse range of occupations with different gender distributions. Of note, [research](#) shows that women who earn more than their male partners tend to underreport their personal income, even on US Census forms.

Women vs. Men Median Salary: Cents on the Dollar

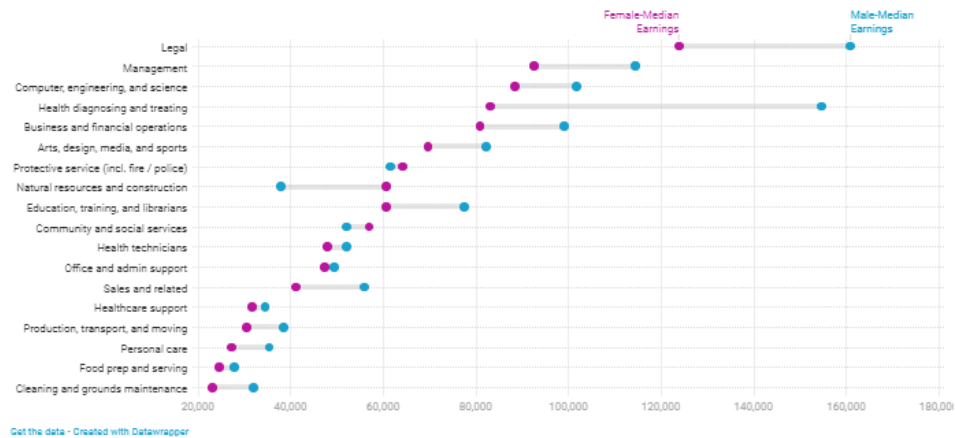
2012-2016 Data



The chart below shows the actual dollar wages for men and women (based on the median). Women make most in legal occupations, followed by management. Management, however, has a much smaller gender pay differential.

Median Earnings for Men vs. Women in Select Occupations

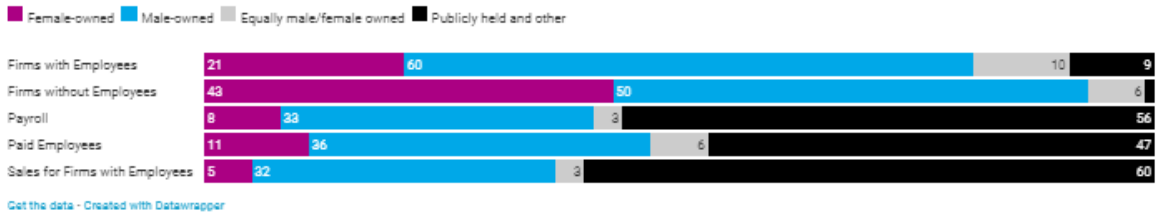
2012-2016 Data



Women-owned Businesses

According to the 2012 Economic Census (the latest available) women owned 4,499 of all county firms with employees, accounting for 21 percent of the total (roughly a third of the number of male-owned firms). This number is up from 4,121 in 2007. Women-owned firms in the county accounted for 11 percent of paid employees, 8 percent of payroll, and 5 percent of total sales. In total, women-owned firms employed 45,622 employees (up from 41,842 in 2007) who produced \$5.8 billion in sales (up from \$4.4 billion in 2007) on a combined payroll of \$2.0 billion (up from \$1.6 billion in 2007). Women also operated 43 percent of the firms without employees in 2012 (41,906 in 2012, up from 33,279 in 2007), which includes self-employed residents and those working in the "gig" economy.

% Female-owned vs. Other Categories



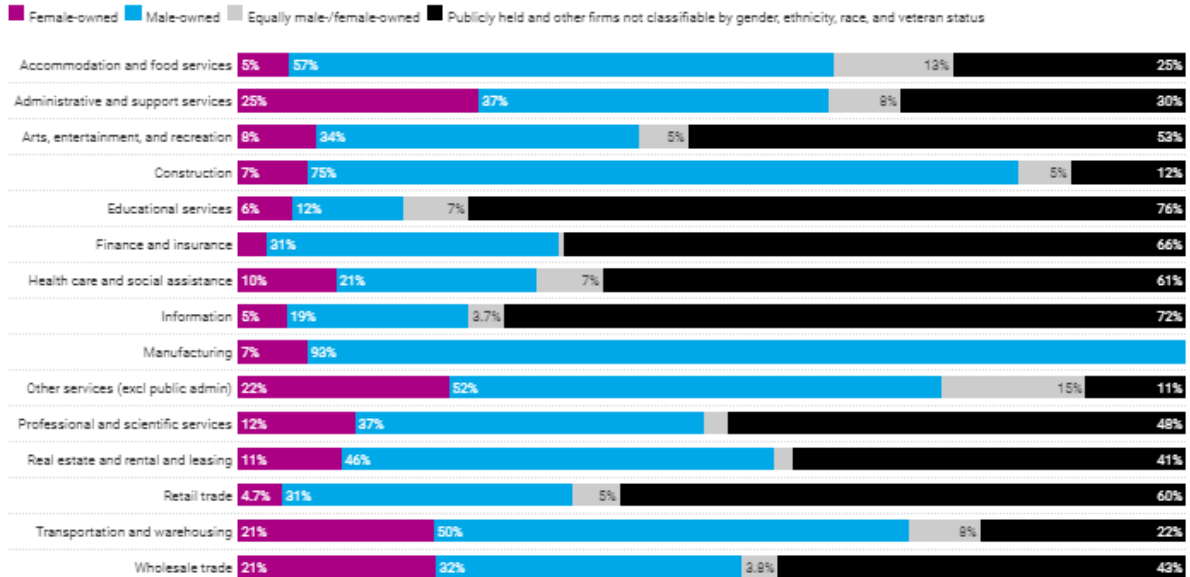
Between 2007 and 2012, women-owned firms increased their share of sales, payroll, and businesses relative to male-owned firms, as shown in the chart below.

Ratio of Women-owned Businesses to Male-owned Businesses



The chart below shows the share of employees held by women-owned businesses in select industries, with administrative and support services leading the way.

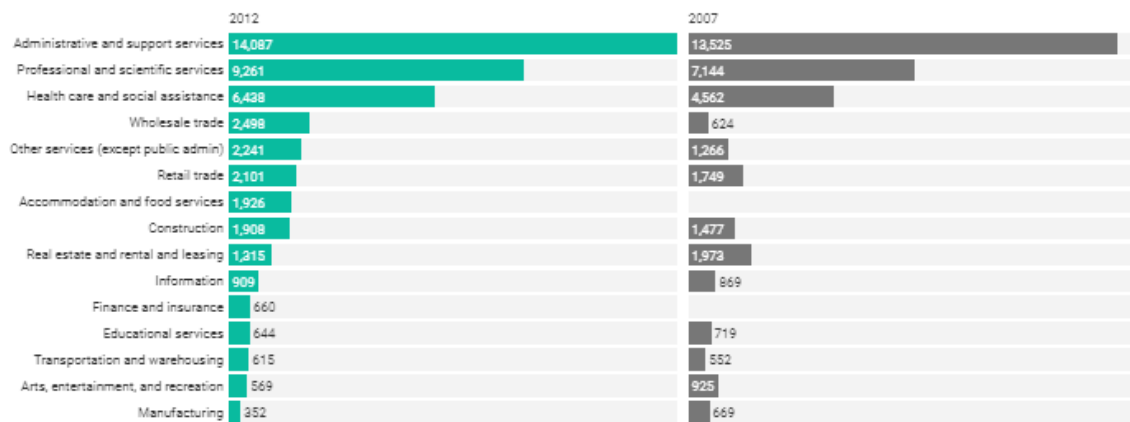
County Employees by Business Ownership



Data for manufacturing is missing the equally and publicly held statistics.
[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

The chart below shows the total counts of employees for women-owned businesses by industry.

Employees at Women-Owned Businesses by Industry

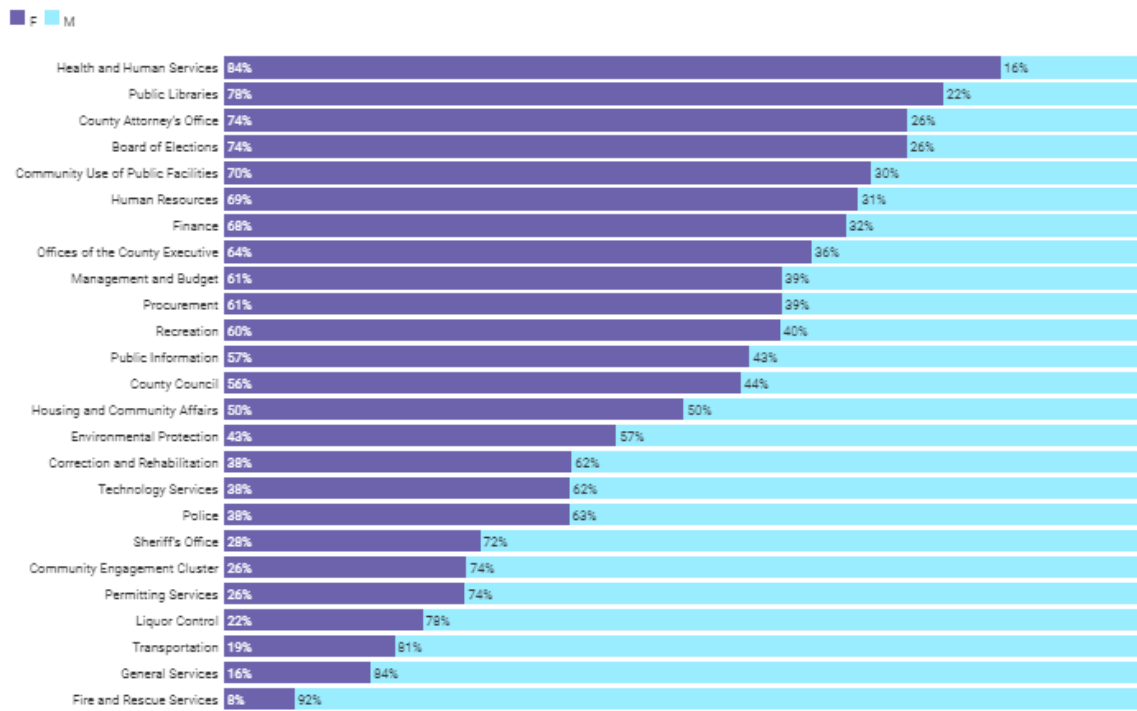


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County Government Workforce

In 2017, the Montgomery County Government (not including Montgomery County Public Schools) employed more than 3,750 women in regular/permanent positions, accounting for 40.5 percent of all employees (analysis based on 2017 [salary dataset](#) released on dataMontgomery). The share of women employees differs tremendously across departments, from 84 percent in the Department of Health and Human Services to 8 percent in Fire and Rescue Services. The chart below shows the 2017 distribution for all county departments and offices with 20 or more staff. Of note, two-thirds of staff in the Office of the County Executive were women in the final year of the Leggett administration, including all three Assistant Chief Administrative Officers and two of three Special Assistants.

Full-Time Employees by Department and Gender



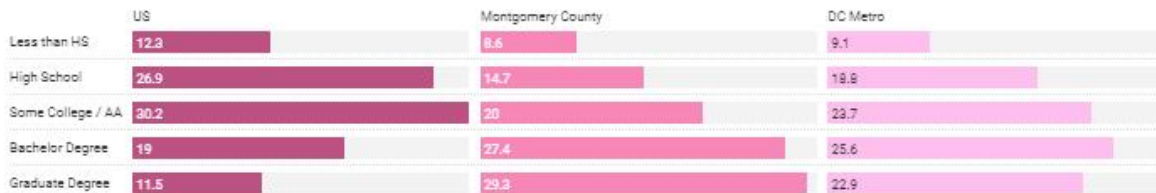
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Educational Attainment

Among county residents aged 25 and over, 57 percent of women have at least a bachelors degree, compared to 60 percent of county men. Benchmarking, based on the most recent five-year estimates provided by the Census American Community Survey, shows the extraordinarily high level of educational attainment among women (aged 25 and over) in Montgomery County, with county women holding graduate degrees at almost triple the national rate, and six percentage points higher than the DC metro region average.

Educational Attainment of Women (25+) by Region, 2012-16

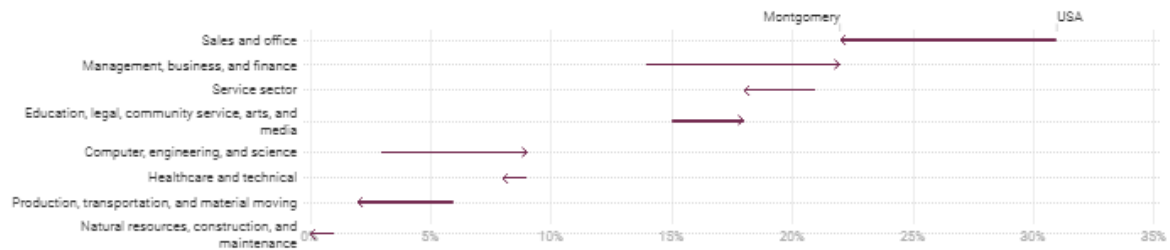


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Professional women in Montgomery County are much more likely than the national average to hold jobs in management, business, and finance occupations as well as computer, engineering, and science occupations. Working women in the county are much less likely than the national average to work in a service, production, sales, or office support occupation.

Distribution of Women Job Holders by Occupation

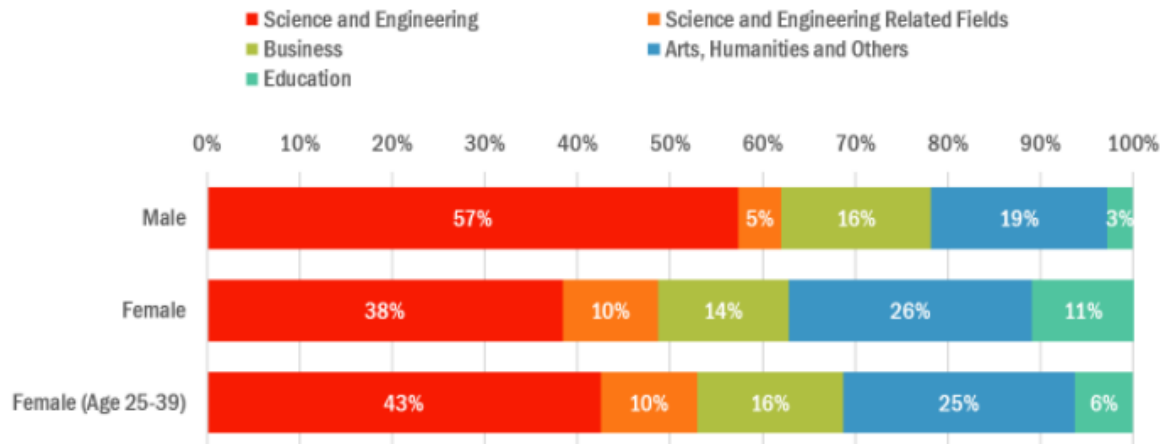
Montgomery County women vs. National average, 2012-2016



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Fields of Study

Historically, county men and women have specialized in different fields as measured by college degree held, but there are signs of convergence over time. Today, only 38 percent of women degree holders specialized in a science or engineering field, compared to 57 percent of their male counter parts. However, among younger professionals (25-39), the share of women who hold a degree specializing in such fields grows by 5 percentage points.



Benchmarking: Highly Skilled and Educated Women in the Workforce

In preparation for the county's Amazon HQ2 bid, CountyStat conducted a benchmarking exercise to examine how the county's female workforce compares to other jurisdictions. The exercise used data from the Census American Community Survey Public Use Micro-Dataset for 2011-2015. The county's female workforce stands out on a number of important metrics, including:

- Montgomery County has the **4th most female PhD's** among all counties in the United States despite placing only 40th in total population. Positions first through third go to New York County (Manhattan), Middlesex County (Cambridge MA), and Los Angeles County -- each of which has at least one and a half times the population (ten times as many residents in the case of LA County). Regionally, Montgomery County has **more female PhDs than Fairfax County and the District of Columbia combined** (and twice as many as either individually), with 16,831 female PhD holders.
- Montgomery County has the **highest percentage of women with a PhD** among mid and large-sized counties (i.e. those with at least 150,000 residents). Four and a half percent of all women in Montgomery County who are 25 years or older have a PhD.
- Earnings for women in Montgomery County with a graduate or professional degree are the **fourth highest in the nation** among mid and large sized counties (i.e. those with at least 150,000 residents). Santa Clara and San Mateo counties in California (i.e. Silicon Valley) and Alexandria VA rank first, second, and third. By contrast, the earnings of males in the county with a graduate or professional degree rank only fourteenth on this same metric.
- Forty-three percent of college-educated women in Montgomery County between the age of 25 and 39 have a science or engineering degree. This is high by national standards and places the county eighteenth among mid and large-sized counties. Montgomery County has **more women working in computer, engineering, and science occupations than Fairfax County**, despite having 100,000 fewer residents.

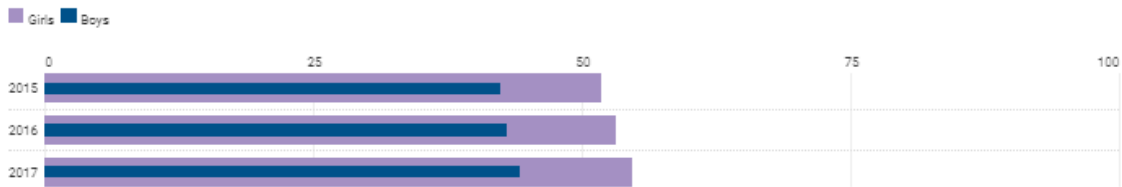
Montgomery County Public Schools: Performance of Girls

Girls account for 85% of students in the county who attend public school between grades one through 12, the same share as for boys. Girls account for 48.5% of enrollment in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), based on 2016 enrollment figures.

AP and IB Courses

Girls in the public school system have an Advanced Placement (AP) exam pass rate of 74 percent, slightly below the 77 percent for boys. However, girls take far more AP exams: 10,045 vs. 8,423 taken by boys. In fact, girls are 10 percentage points more likely than boys to be enrolled in at least one AP or International Baccalaureate (IB) course (see chart below).

High School Students Enrolled in AP/IB Course

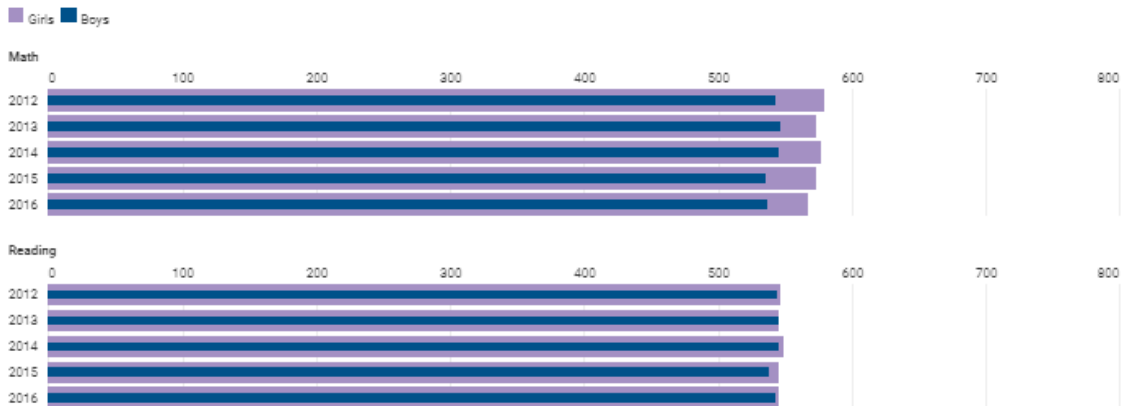


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SAT Scores

Girls and boys in Montgomery County perform roughly the same on the SAT reading section, with girls scoring an average of 546 and boys scoring an average of 543 in 2016. Girls in the county outperform boys on the math section, scoring an average of 1113 vs. an average of 1080 for boys in 2016. Math scores have decreased slightly over time.

SAT Performance by Gender Over Time

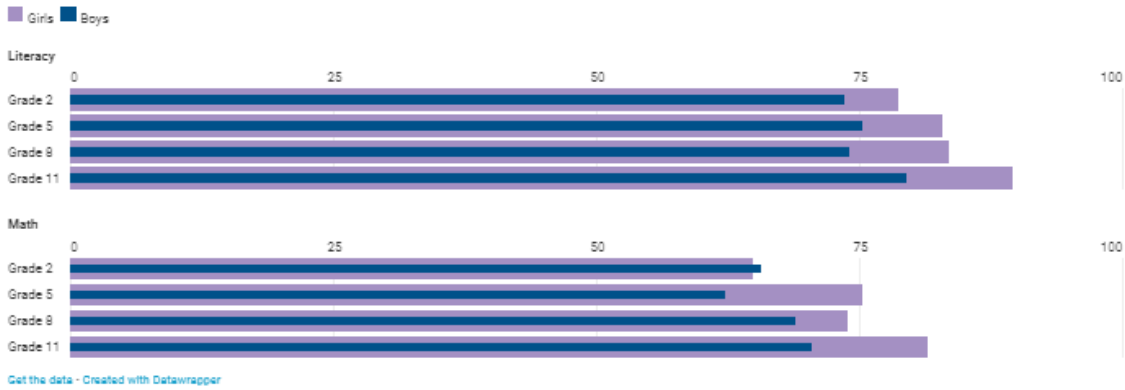


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Evidence of Learning

Information from the Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) [Data Dashboards](#) (2017) also show that girls outperform boys in both literacy and math across grades and time, with the exception of second grade math). This data is collected by MCPS's student achievement monitoring system. A student shows "Evidence of Learning" by attaining success on at least two measurement types (classroom, district, and/or external).

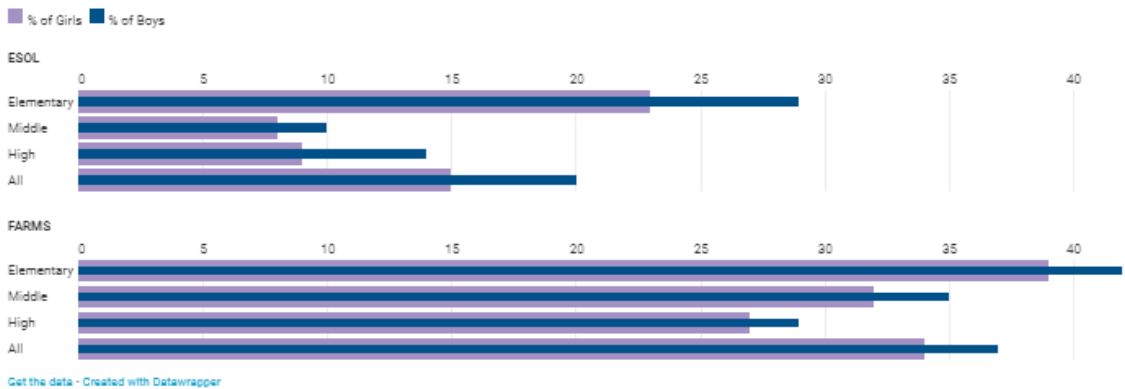
Evidence of Learning by Grade



Indicators of Student Vulnerability

The *MCPS At a Glance* report for the 2017-2018 school year shows that girls are slightly less likely to receive free or reduced meals (FARMS) and to require English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training (see chart below). In addition, boys account for 71 percent of students at County Special Schools and Alternative Programs.

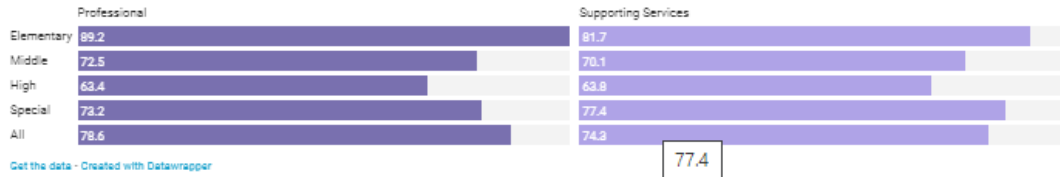
ESOL and FARMS Students



MCPS Teachers and Staff Gender Breakdown

Women dominate the MCPS workforce, accounting for 79 percent of all MCPS professional staff and 74 percent of supporting services staff.

Women as % of MCPS Staff



Dropout Rates and Disconnected Youth

Women are 40 percent less likely to drop out of high school than boys, with a drop out rate of **4.5 percent vs. 7.7 percent** for boys among the class of 2017 (data from the Maryland Report Card). There were 455 boys dropping out compared to 249 girls.

Disconnected youth are defined as residents between the ages of 16-24 who are neither enrolled in school nor employed (i.e. unemployed or not looking for a job). Estimates by the [Aspen Institute](#) show that, nation-wide, 1 in 8 youth in America fall into this category. In Montgomery County, 9 percent of county residents in this age range classify as "disconnected," according to a 2017 study conducted by CountyStat and the Department of Health and Human Services using 2011-2015 US Census American Community Survey data. Women and girls account for half of all disconnected youth, with an estimated 4,800 women and girls not active in school or work. This number drops to 4,200 when excluding the 15 percent of the women and girls in this group who live with their own child and who may therefore be working as a stay-at-home mother.



In 2018, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services released a first-of-its-kind *Status of Health in Montgomery County* Report. This report, together with the [HealthMontgomery portal](#), served as the main source of information for this section.

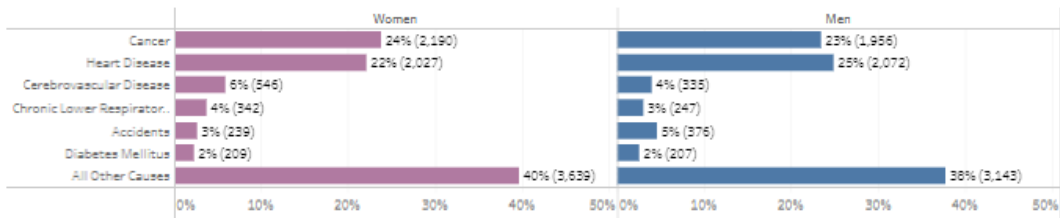
The report notes that Montgomery County overall has significantly lower morbidity and mortality rates than both the state and the nation. However, this positive performance disguises notable disparities in outcomes and access across gender, race/ethnicity, and geography. This section will explore these disparities in detail

Leading Causes of Death

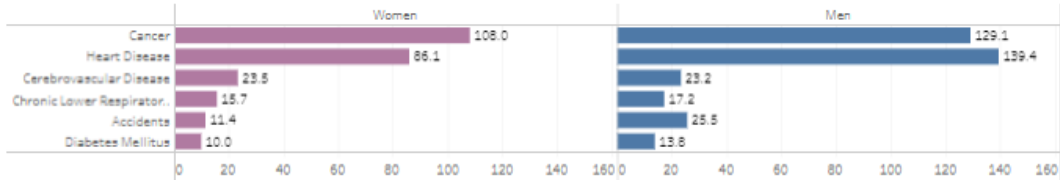
Cancer remains the leading killer of women in Montgomery County, accounting for nearly a quarter of total deaths, followed closely by heart disease, which is responsible for 22 percent of deaths among women. Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, at 25 percent of deaths. Among the starkest differences by gender is the accident rate: men are more than twice as likely to die of accidents as women. Overall, the age-adjusted mortality rate for all causes of death is significantly below the national and state average (at roughly two-thirds the national and state rate). This trend largely persists across individual causes of death, except where noted below.

The chart below documents the leading causes of death, the age-adjusted mortality rates, and the reasons for hospital and ER visits by gender (viewers can use the "share of" dropdown to select either hospital visits or ER visits).

Leading Causes of Death % of total (2014-2016)

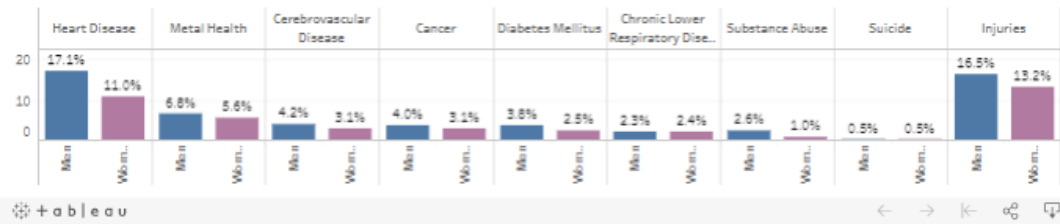


Mortality Rates age-adjusted, per 100,000 (2014-2016)

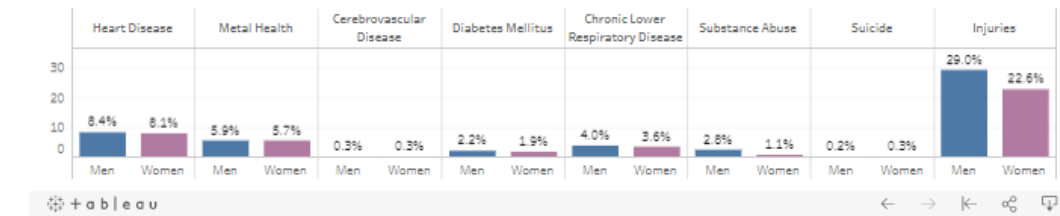


Share of:

Share of Hospitalization % of total (2012-2016)



Share of ER Visits % of total (2012-2016)



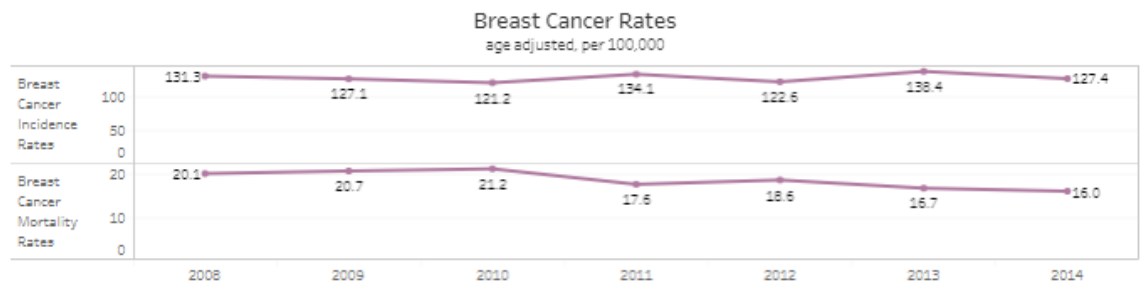
Cancer

This section provides more detailed breakdowns on county women's experience with breast and cervical cancer. Note that the age-adjusted mortality rate for cancer for Montgomery County (both sexes) is about 70 percent the national and state averages.

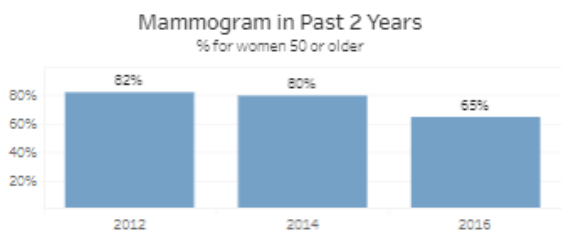
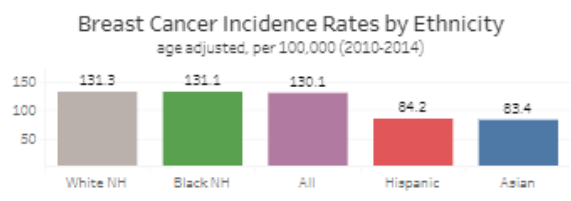
Breast Cancer

The incidents of breast cancer have fluctuated over the past few years without a notable change. Breast cancer mortality rates, however, do appear to have fallen since 2010. Discouragingly, the percent of women over 50 who have received a mammogram in the past two years declined sharply from 80 percent in 2014 to 65 percent in 2016. The age-adjusted mortality rates for female breast cancer are about 20 percent below national rates.

It is important to note the sharp disparities in cancer incidents and mortality by race and ethnicity. Using data from HealthyMontgomery.org, Hispanic and Asian women in the county have a one-third less chance of an incident than non-Hispanic White and African American women. But while African American and White women have nearly the same rates of incidences, African American women have a notably higher rate of mortality (22.1 vs. 17.7 per 100,000).

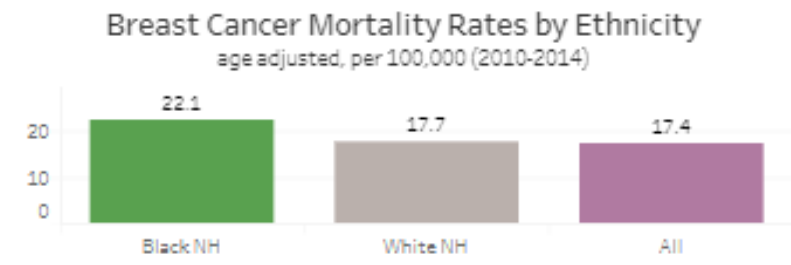


Breakdown:



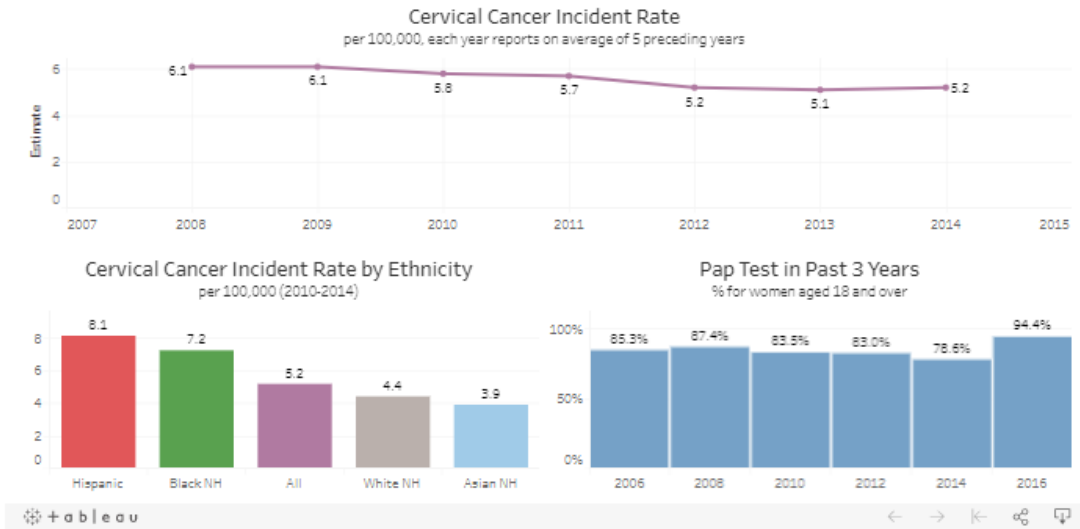
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Breakdown:



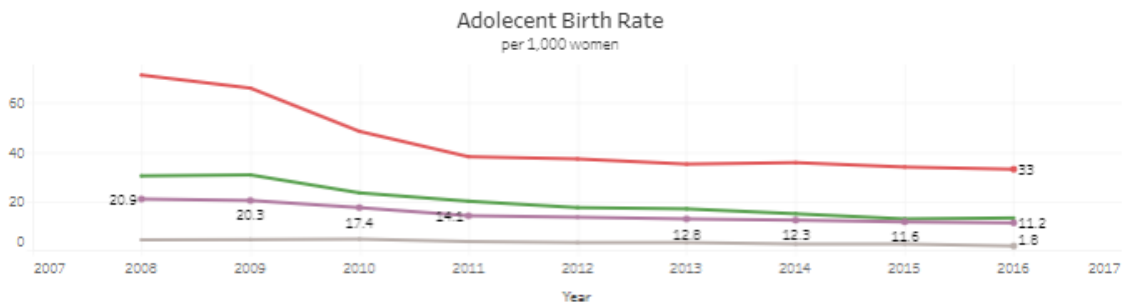
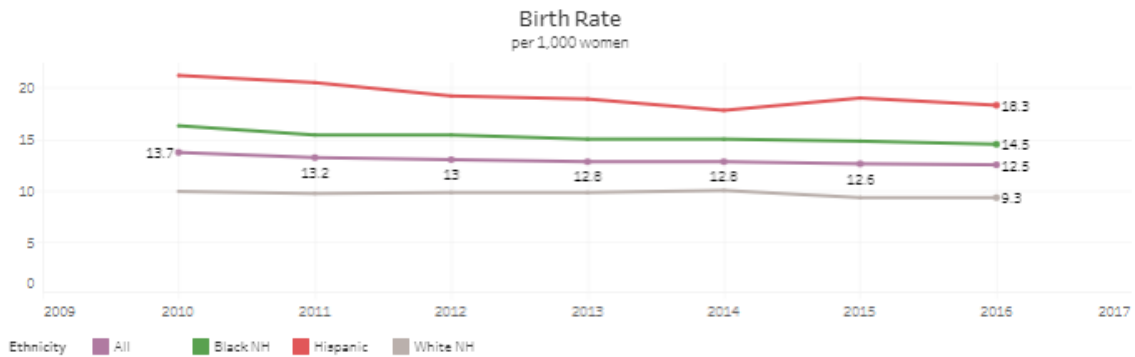
Cervical Cancer

Using data from HealthyMontgomery.org, rates for cervical cancer incidents also appear to be on the decline among county women, while the share of adult women who have received a Pap smear test in the past three years increased sharply to 94 percent in 2016. However, the data again shows sharp disparities by race and ethnicity, with African American and Hispanic women being nearly twice as likely as White and Asian women to experience an incident.

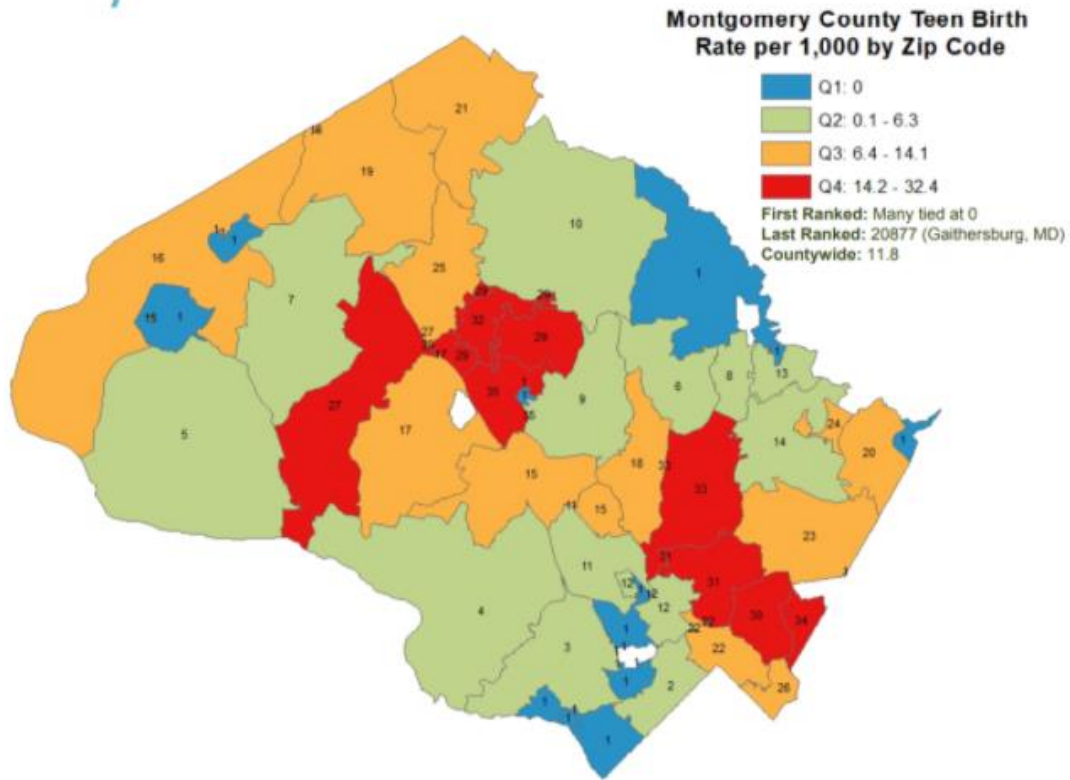


Child Birth

The birth rate in Montgomery County has continued to decline, from 13.7 per 1,000 women in 2010 to 12.5 in 2016 -- slightly above the US and state average. Hispanic residents have nearly double the birth rate of White residents (18.3 vs. 9.3 per 1,000), with the rate for African American women slightly above the average (14.5 per 1,000). Meanwhile, the birth rate among adolescents ("teen births") has fallen almost by half since 2010, from 20.9 to 11.2 per 1,000, with a particularly sharp decline among Hispanic residents. The adolescent birth rate differs dramatically by race and ethnicity, with the rate for Hispanic residents being more than 18 times the rate of White residents, while African American residents are six times more likely than White residents to have an adolescent birth. As a whole, the adolescent birth rate in Montgomery County is nearly half the national average and two-thirds the state average.



The map below, produced by the Montgomery County Chief Epidemiologist, shows the teen birth rate by zip code.

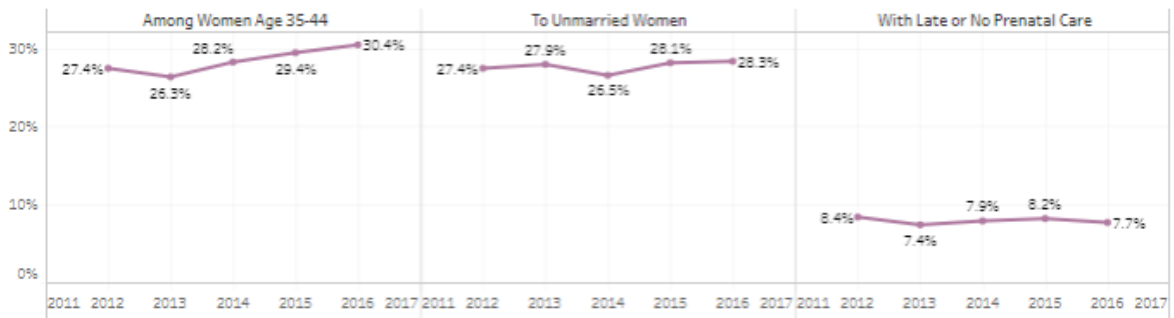


Mothers in Montgomery County delay the birth of their first child longer than the national average. Research covered in the [New York Times](#) shows that mothers in our county had their first child on average at the age of 29.2, three years later than the national average of 26.3. Married mothers in the county have their first child at 30.9 on average (vs. 28.8 nationally), while mothers with college degrees have their first child at 31.6 on average (compared to 30.3 nationally).

Accordingly, the percent of all county births attributed to women aged 35-44 has grown over the years, with 30.4 percent of births today falling into this category. Birth rates to this age cohort are highest among Asian and White women.

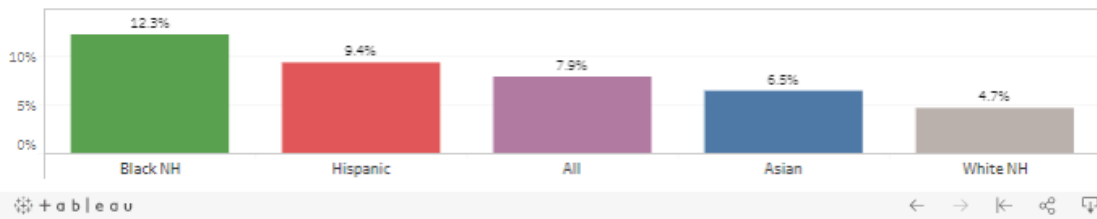
The share of births to unmarried women has not increased much. The share of births with late or no prenatal care has declined slightly. Both rates show significant disparities by race and ethnicity (use the "breakdown" dropdown in the chart below to alternative between the three categories). However, unmarried mothers account for a majority of births (51.5 percent) among Hispanics, while only 6.5 percent of Asian residents who give birth are unmarried. Births to African American mothers are 2.5 times more likely to occur with late or no prenatal care than births to White mothers. The percent of births to unmarried women in Montgomery County is around 70 percent of the national and state average, while the percent of births with late or no prenatal care is only slightly below the state average.

Percent of Births...



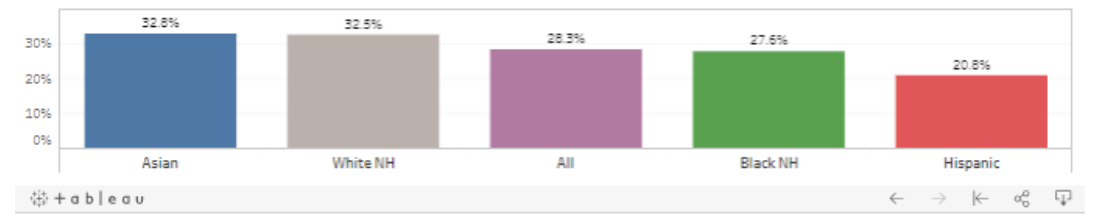
Breakdown:

Breakdown: Percent Birth with Late or No Prenatal Care by Ethnicity (2012-2016)



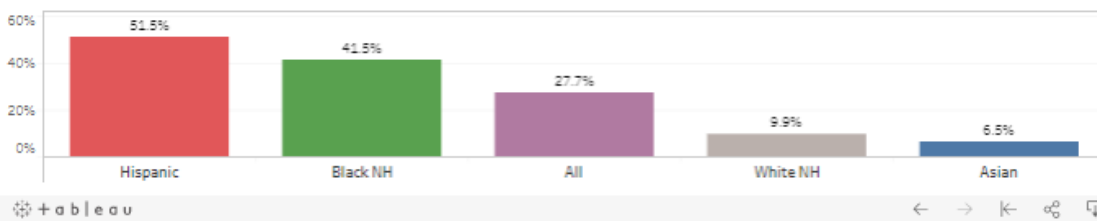
Breakdown:

Breakdown: Percent Births among Women Age 35-44 by Ethnicity (2012-2016)



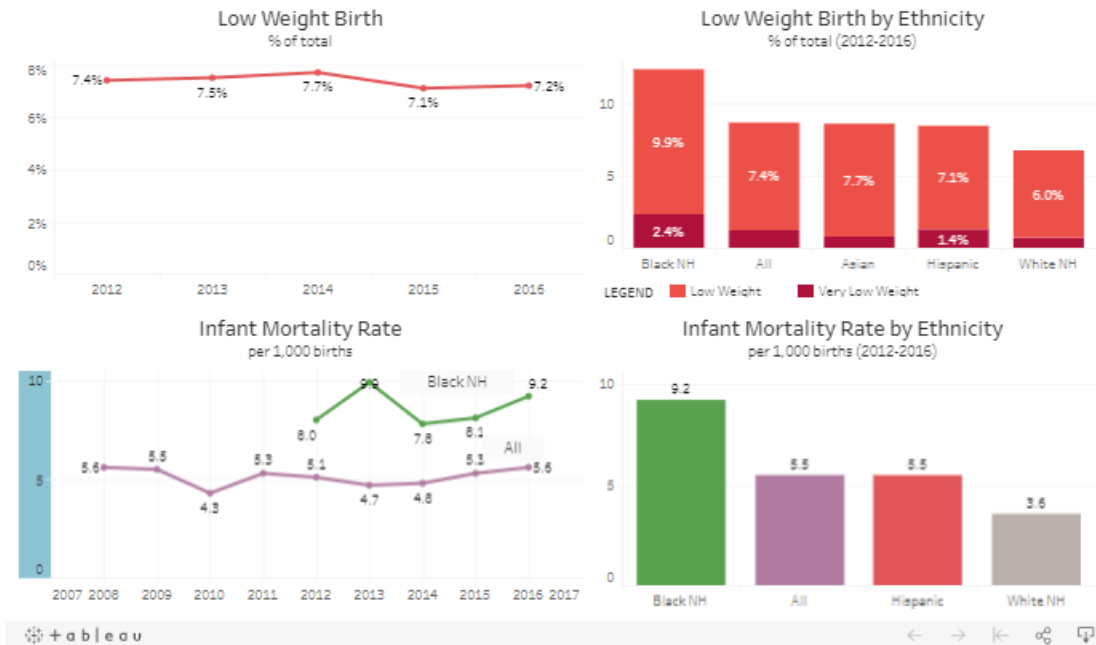
Breakdown:

Breakdown: Percent Births to Unmarried Women by Ethnicity (2012-2016)



The share of births that are low weight births has remained largely consistent (2012-2016). African American mothers have a notably higher rate of very low weight (2.4 percent vs. 1.3 percent county average) and low weight births (9.9 percent vs. 7.4 percent county average). The county rate compares favorably to the national rate, which is slightly above 8 percent. The state of Maryland as a whole performs slightly worse than the nation.

Infant mortality in the county declined between 2008 and 2014, but has unfortunately increased in the last two years of available data (2015 and 2016). Disparities by race and ethnicity again persist, with African American mothers being 65% more likely than the average to suffer the anguish of infant mortality. The county's rate is slightly below the state rate and catching up with the national rate.



Data reported in Bethesda Magazine suggests that 64% of births to Montgomery County residents occur at Holy Cross Hospital, while 11% of Montgomery County babies are born in Washington, DC-based hospitals.

Injuries, Drugs, Mental Health, and Suicide

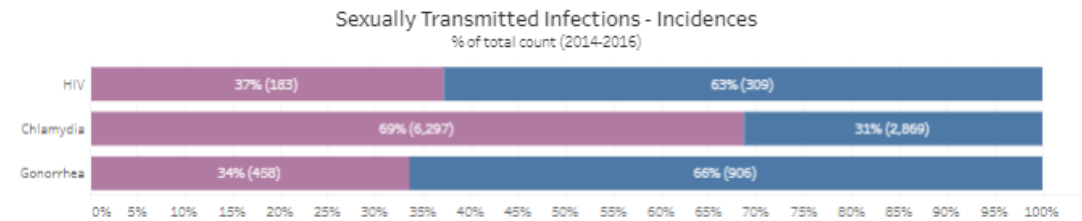
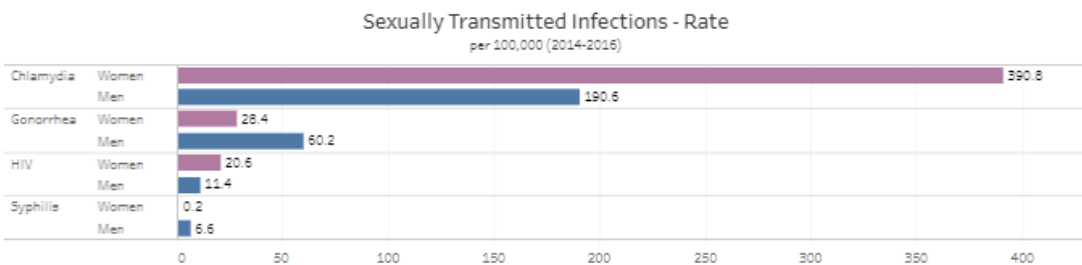
Women in Montgomery County die of suicide at 28 percent the rate of men, die of injuries at 38 percent the rate of men, and die of drug-related events at 42 percent the rate of men. However, women are nearly 65 percent more likely to be hospitalized and more than twice as likely to visit the emergency room (ER) for incidences related to suicide attempts. Women are also 18 percent more likely than men to visit the ER for mental health-related issues. Overall, the county rate of suicide-related hospitalizations and ER visits are much below the state average.

Sexually Transmitted Infections

In August of 2018, the Montgomery County Public Health Officer [declared](#) a public health crisis due to rising rates of sexually transmitted infections, particularly for chlamydia and gonorrhea -- with rates reaching their highest levels in a decade. STIs can lead to long-term health consequences, including infertility. While these increases are in line with national and state trends, the increases in Montgomery County occurred at roughly twice the rate of the state's increase in 2017.

STI rates in Montgomery County differ quite dramatically by gender. Women are more than twice as likely as men to have a documented chlamydia infection -- in part due to much higher rates of screening -- while men are more than twice as likely to have a documented gonorrhea infection. The county's incidence rates for chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis are nevertheless sharply below state and national averages.

Of particular concern, women experience nearly double the age-adjusted rate of HIV infections compared to men. As a whole, the county's HIV incidence rate sits between the rates for the state (which is higher, but on a downward trend) and the rate for the nation (which is lower and trending steady -- at 11 per 100,000 for the nation vs. 15 per 100,000 for the county).



Disabilities

The US Census reports that 2 percent of girls under eighteen, 5 percent of women aged 18 and 64, and 31 percent of women aged 65 and over had at least one disability in 2017. Among residents 65 and over, women have a higher rate of disabilities (31 percent vs. 25 percent), likely partly because they live longer on average. Men have a slightly higher rate of disabilities between the ages of 18 and 64, but this difference is within the margin of error.

Health Insurance

According to the US Census American Community Survey of 2016, women are more likely than men to have health insurance, with women accounting for 45 percent of residents without health insurance, or 30,100 out of the 67,350 residents without health insurance. An estimated 5.6 percent of women are without health insurance, compared to 7.5 percent of men. Overall, the rate of the uninsured has dropped by nearly half, from 11.5 percent in 2009 to 6.5 percent in 2016, a trend observed in roughly equal measure between women and men.

Among age groups, 25-44 year-olds are most likely to lack health insurance, accounting for half of all residents without insurance. Hispanic residents account for 56 percent of residents without health insurance. Immigrants account for 72 percent of residents without health insurance, particularly immigrants without citizenship, who account for 58 percent of the total. Residents without health insurance are most likely to work in service or construction/maintenance occupations, accounting for 61 percent of the total.



Women and Politics

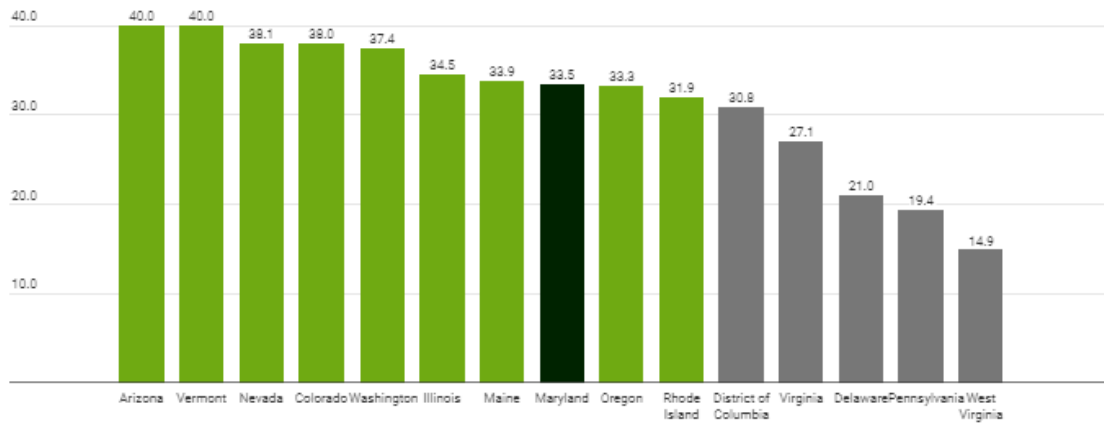
Maryland State Politics

In November of 2018, 13 of 47 state Senators were women, as were 50 of 141 State House members. Maryland remains among the 20 states that have yet to elect a female governor (Kathleen Kennedy Townsend was the only female Lt. Governor in Maryland's history, over 15 years ago). Currently, only six states have female governors nationwide.

Maryland is ranked 8th among all states for the proportion of women in the state legislature according to the Rutgers Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). Overall, women represent nearly 34 percent of all state level offices, below the 2006 peak of nearly 36 percent. This ratio is far better than neighboring states: Virginia is ranked 22nd, West Virginia 46th, and Pennsylvania and Delaware are tied for 37th. It is roughly equal to the District of Columbia (31 percent).

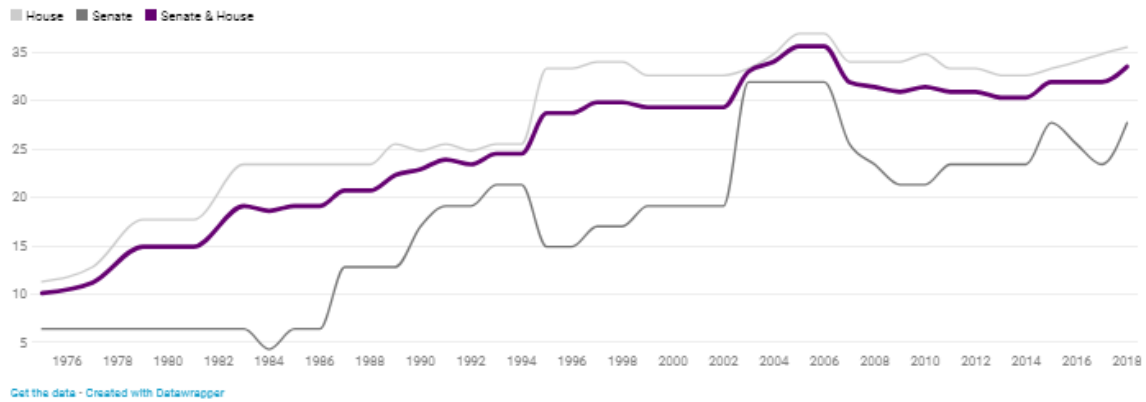
But Maryland performs below national leaders like Vermont and Arizona who are tied for first at 40 percent) and Nevada, which ranked third with 38 percent. Nationwide, only 25 percent of state delegates are women, which is nevertheless a historic high. Of note, Maryland does rank fourth highest for the percentage of women committee chairs (at 41 percent, vs. 48 percent for Nevada in first place) -- based on a [2017 analysis](#) by CAWP. But of the eight leadership positions in the State House and Senate, only the Speaker Pro Tempore is a woman -- based on a [2018 analysis](#) by CAWP. These statistics are expected to improve in 2019, with women holding three key leadership positions in the house and senate: Kathleen Dumais as Majority Leader in the House, Kathy Klausmeier as President Pro Tem in the Senate, and Adrienne Jones as Speaker Pro Tem in the House.

Women as % of State Legislatures (Top 10 and Neighbors)



[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Women as Percent of MD State Representatives



Notably, Maryland used to be ranked first in the nation for women representation in both 2005 and 2006. The state's ranking has dropped a number of places since then, fluctuating between 7th and 10th among all states. The chart below tracks Maryland's ranking among the fifty states across time with regard to the share of state representatives who are women.



In the Montgomery County state delegation elected in 2014, women accounted for three of the eight state Senators (37.5 percent) and nine of 24 state delegates (37.5 percent as well)—both slightly above the state average. The 2018 election led to an increase in the representation of women among the county's state delegates, with women now accounting for exactly half (12) of the county's 24 state delegates.

Statewide, the 2018 general election had a record high 105 women candidates for state offices. This is up from 91 females who ran in 2014, 60 of whom won their election.

Congressional Politics

Maryland is one of only 11 states without female representation in its Congressional delegation, even though women account for the largest share of Congressional representatives in our nation's history (1 in 5). Since 1789, Maryland has selected eight women to represent the state in the House of Representatives, most recently Donna Edwards (CD-4). Recently retired US Senator Barbara Mikulski is the only woman to have held this office from the State of Maryland. Montgomery County has selected three female members of the House of Representatives in its history. They were Democrats Katharine Edgar Byron (CD-6, 1941-43) and her daughter Beverly B. Byron (CD-6, 1979-1993)—both of whom took over the seats of deceased husbands—and most recently Republican Constance A. Morella (CD-8, 1987-2003), a founding member of the Montgomery County Commission for Women.

Montgomery County Politics

As of the 2018 general election, only one of the nine incoming County Council members is female: incumbent Nancy Navarro. The prior County Council had two female members, which included Nancy Navarro and Nancy Floreen, who was prevented from running again by term limits and was replaced by a male representative after the 2018 general election. Women hold all eight Board of Education seats (up from seven before the 2018 election), including the recently elected Student Member. Women also hold a majority (four of seven) of the elected circuit court judges and the Clerk of Circuit Court office. However, women hold no other countywide office -- and a woman has yet to serve as County Executive (Nancy Floreen unsuccessfully ran as an independent for the County Executive seat in the 2018 general election). Nationwide, 21 percent of the most populous 100 cities in the United States have a woman mayor -- including neighboring Washington, DC and Baltimore, MD.

Voter Registration

The Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (Nov 2016) reports that 69 percent of women are registered to vote in Maryland, in comparison to 66 percent of men -- including 76 percent of women who are citizens (versus 74 percent of men). These registration rates are slightly higher than the national average.

The Census reports that 68 percent of female citizens and 64 percent of male citizens voted (or 61 percent of all women and 57 percent of all men when including non-citizens). These numbers also exceed the national average by a few percentage points. Both in Maryland and nationally, Asian and Hispanic citizens have notably lower voter turnout rates than other races (55 percent and 59 percent respectively vs. an average of 66 percent for all races).

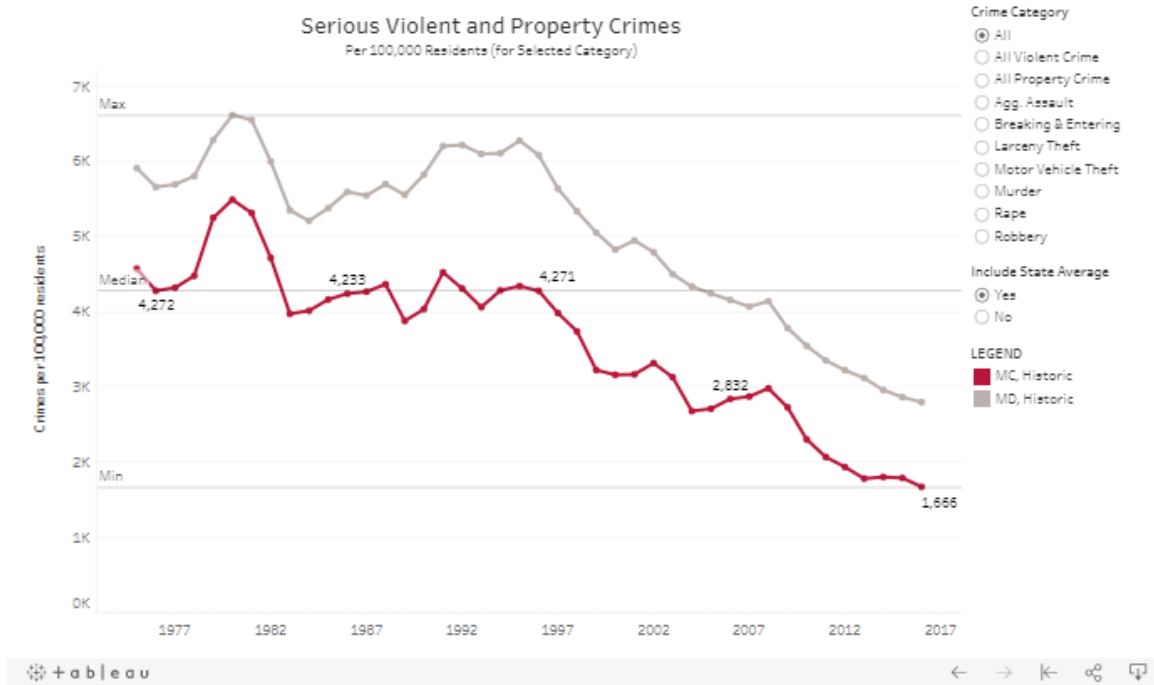
Women and Public Safety



Crime

Overall, the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) [reports](#) that Montgomery County has a very low rate of violent crime for a jurisdiction of our geographic size and population. MCPD responded to 233,065 calls for service in 2016, a slight decrease over the preceding year. Overall crime increased by 0.9 percent between 2016 and 2017, including an increase of 2.6 percent of serious crimes. Over this time period, MCPD statistics show a small drop in crimes against persons of -0.4 percent, a 2.7 percent increase in crimes against property, and a 4.6 percent increase in crimes against society (which includes drug-related offenses). Homicides increased from 16 in 2016 to 23 in 2017, of which 35 percent were domestic-related.

The Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention provides a [historic database](#) of serious violent and property crimes by County. This dataset provides an overview of how crime trends have changed over time, covering the years from 1975 to 2016. The chart below shows the data for Montgomery County. Viewers can also view the rate for the state by clicking on the "Yes" option under "Include State Average" (note that the Maryland state totals exclude the relatively small number of crimes reported by statewide agencies). Viewers can explore the rates for different crime categories by changing the selection on the right. Note that virtually all categories show a similar downward trajectory over the last decade, with the exception of rape due in part to the adoption of a new, broader definition adopted in 2015 by the FBI (data before 2015 is therefore not directly comparable to data from 2015 and onward).



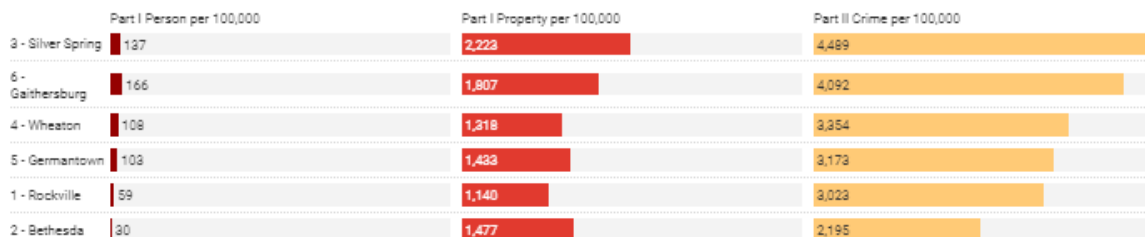
The data for Montgomery County shows that, on a per capita basis, serious crimes have fallen dramatically over the past two decades, with such crime incidences declining by a third between 1996 and 2006 and by over 40 percent over the last decade. In fact, 2016 had the lowest level of per capita crime in the four decades covered by the data. In the past decade, only two years (2008 and 2014) saw an increase in the overall serious crime rate over the preceding year.

At the state-level, law enforcement cleared an average of 24 percent of all crimes and 46 percent of Part I crime in 2016 (equal to the rates observed in the year prior). In Montgomery County, law enforcement cleared 27 percent of all crimes reported in 2016.

Crime by Police District

The chart below shows the per capita crime rates for serious ("Part I") crimes against person and property and for lesser Part II crimes for each of the six police districts in Montgomery County.

2016 Crime Rates by Police District



[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Sex Offenses

MCPD statistics show a 28 percent increase in rape cases between 2016 and 2017, from 309 to 397, continuing an upward trend. MCPD attributes this increase in part to media coverage of high profile incidents, which has encouraged more victims to come forward and report. MCPD notes that a quarter (23 percent) of reported incidences in 2017 were reported over a year after the incident occurred -- demonstrating that victims of sex offenses struggle with the decision to report but that, in the MCPD's words, "victims increasingly are feeling they don't need to suffer in silence." In line with this observation, 41.4 percent of victims in 2017 reported the incident within 24 hours, up from 23 percent in 2016.

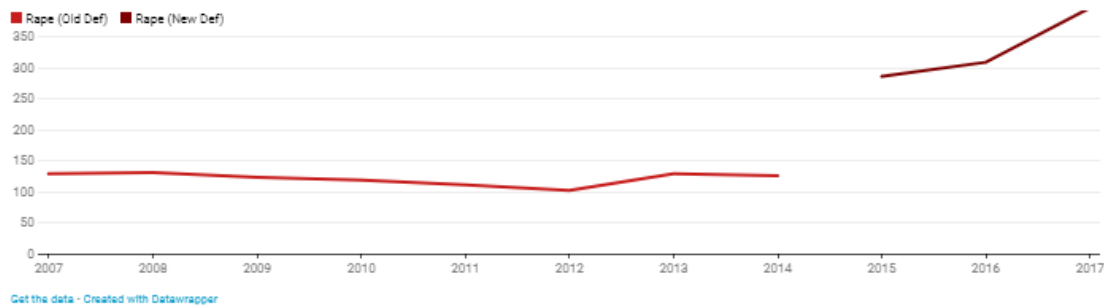
Of note, 2016 MPCD statistics show that 97 percent of the victims of rape knew their attacker. The share of victims who choose not to cooperate during the investigation is increasing, with 30 percent of victims in 2016 declining to pursue the investigation.

At the state level, rape by force accounted for 91 percent of all rape incidences in 2016, with attempted rape accounting for the remainder. Of the 444 persons arrested for rape state-wide, 98 percent were male, 19 percent were juvenile, 53 percent were Black, and 44 percent were White (including Hispanic White). State-wide, four murders involved rape.

State-wide, among all crime categories, rape has the highest rate of being determined to be "unfounded" by police investigation, with 15 percent of reported rape crimes being classified as such versus an average of 1 percent for all crimes reported. Unfounded in this context means that the police did not find enough evidence for the state's attorney's office to prosecute. Recent [state legislation](#) is intended to lower this rate by removing a centuries-old requirement that rape victims demonstrate they tried to physically resist their assailants.

The chart below shows the number of rape cases reported by MCPD, with the 2015-2017 data points recorded in a darker color to indicate a change in definition; reporting on changes and trends over time is constrained by the fact that the official FBI classification for rape was broadened in 2015. As a result, data from years prior is not comparable to the statistics collected for 2015 and later. Analysis at the state level shows that this definition change resulted in a 60 percent increase in the number of crime incidences classified as rape.

Rape Cases in Montgomery County



The chart below shows a breakdown of rape cases in each of the six police districts adjusted for population. The distribution of rape cases has changed over time, with the share of cases reported in the Gaithersburg and Rockville police districts decreasing between 2006 and 2016 from a combined 47 percent to a combined 33 percent, while the share reported in Wheaton increased from 18 percent to 24 percent and in Bethesda from 4 percent to 8 percent.

2016 Rape Cases per 100,000 Residents



[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

MCPD reported 353 fondling offenses (including forcible) in 2017, down 16 percent from 421 in 2016.

Human Trafficking

The County reported 13 human trafficking cases, all of which took the form of commercial sex acts. This is up from one incident reported in 2016. The state crime statistics also include information on crimes related to human trafficking, with 13 arrests for commercial sex acts (1 of whom was a woman) and 6 arrests for involuntary servitude (all male) in 2016. Note that this data does not provide a full picture of trafficking in the county, as it does not include trafficking prosecutions or the numbers served by non-profits, health care providers, or other county agencies.

Arrests

State-wide, women accounted for 25 percent of all arrests in 2016 and for a majority of arrests in only 3 of the 32 reporting categories: prostitution (60 percent), runaways (56 percent), and drunkenness (54 percent, based on only 13 total arrests).

Women as Share of Maryland Arrests

2016 Arrests by Type of Offense

ALL

ALL ARRESTS

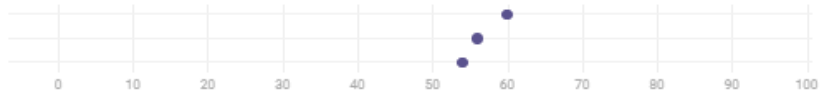


Women Majority

Prostitution & commercialized vice

Runaways

Drunkenness



Male Majority

Embezzlement

Larceny-theft

Fraud

Other assaults

Offenses against family and children

Forgery & counterfeiting

Vagrancy

Liquor laws

Curfew & loitering law violations

Driving under the influence

Felonious assault

All other offenses (except traffic)

Disorderly conduct

Suspicion

Vandalism

Arson

Drug abuse violations

Stolen property; buying, receiving, possessing

Manslaughter by negligence

Breaking or entering

Motor vehicle theft

Robbery

Weapons; carrying, possessing, etc.

Murder & nonnegligent manslaughter

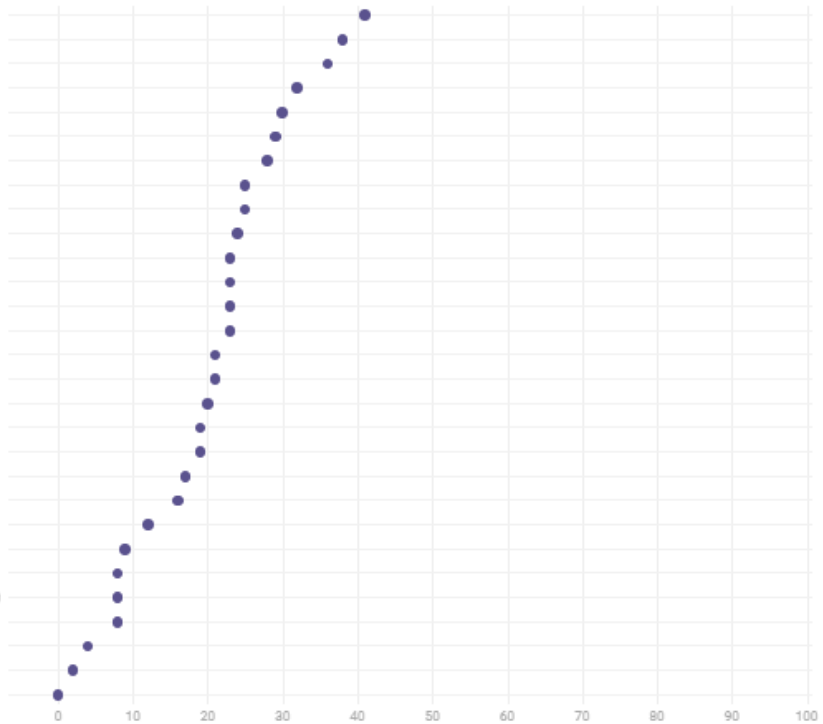
Sex offenses (except forcible rape, prostitution & vice)

Human trafficking - commercial sex acts

Gambling

Forcible rape

Human trafficking - involuntary servitude

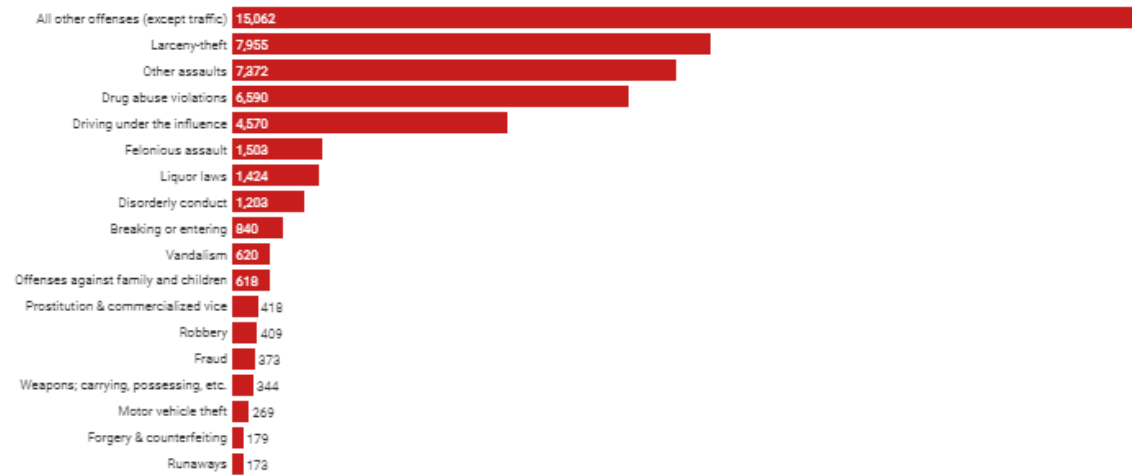


[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

The largest single category for arrests of women in Maryland is larceny-theft (accounting for 16 percent), followed by assaults and drug abuse violations. For men, drug abuse violations ranks first, followed by assaults and driving under the influence.

Maryland Arrests of Women

2016 Arrests by Type of Offense

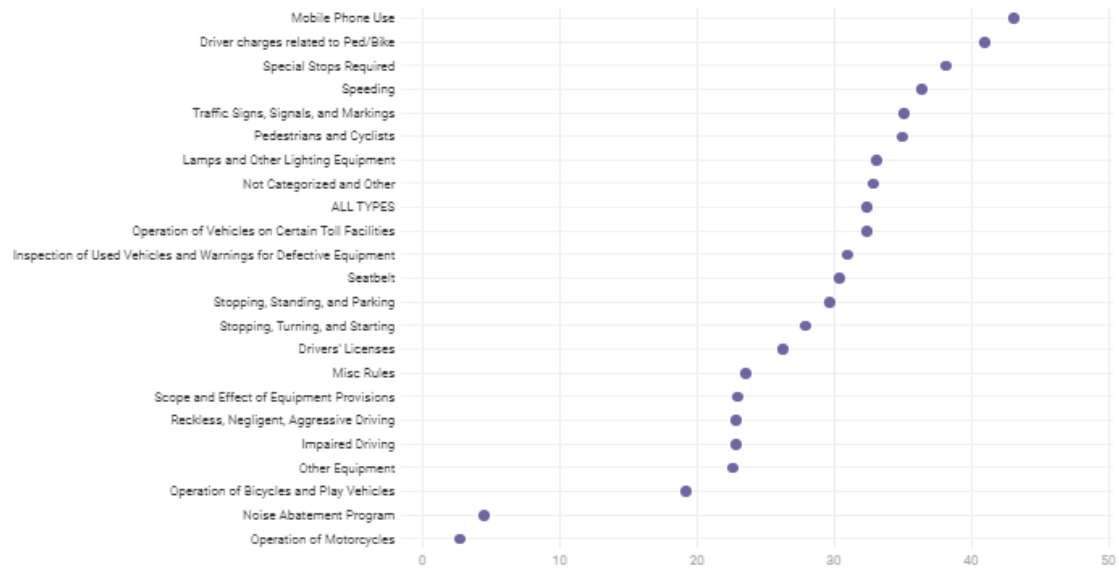


Get the data - Created with Datawrapper

Traffic Violations

Women accounted for less than a third (32 percent) of the traffic citations and warnings issued in 2017 (based on [traffic stop data](#) posted to [data.montgomerycountymd.gov](#)). In particular, women are far less likely than men to be cited for reckless driving (1,101 vs. 3,708) and impaired driving (1,586 vs. 5,347). While still accounting for a lower share than men, women are responsible for a relatively high share of citations for mobile phone use (43 percent) and for car driver charges related to pedestrians and bicycles (41 percent). Speeding, traffic sign, and driver license related citations account for the top 3 categories for both men and women. Across categories, women receive a warning rather than a citation in 60 percent of cases versus 52 percent of cases for men.

Women's Share of Traffic Citations and Warnings



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Incarcerated Women

[Statistics](#) from the State Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services show that the average daily population of the Montgomery County Correctional Facility was 563 in FY16, of which 51 (or 9 percent) were women. This is roughly on par with the statistics reported in FY2006 of an 8 percent share, equal to 57 female inmates. The average daily population of the Montgomery County Detention Center was 62 of which 4 (or 6 percent) were women, which is on par with the 6 percent share (or 10 female inmates) reported in FY2006. Montgomery County's Pre-Release and Entry Services had an average daily population of 130, of which 10 (or 8 percent) were women.

Domestic Violence

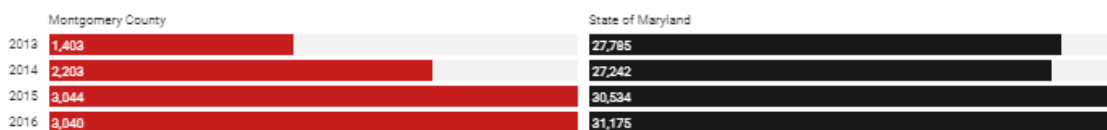
In Montgomery County, domestic violence-related crimes declined very slightly from 3,044 in 2015 to 3,040 in 2016 based on data reported by the State of Maryland. This is up from 2,203 in 2014 and 1,430 in 2013. In 2016, state law enforcement agencies reported 31,175 domestic violence incidences, up 2 percent from 30,534 in 2015. The number of arrests went down slightly from 11,775 to 11,541 between 2015 and 2016, with a slight increase in exceptional clearances (when conditions beyond the police's control prevent an arrest of an identified perpetrator) from 8,318 to 8,860. Overall, 65 percent of all domestically related cases were cleared.

Note that domestic violence statistics are based on incidences reported as other crimes (such as assault) that involve related individuals. The vast majority of domestic violence cases take the form of Assault (84 percent), followed by Offenses Against Family & Children (4 percent) and Larceny Theft (2 percent).

The types of relationships for which domestic violence incidences are reported expanded in 2013 to include non-cohabitant intimate partners, children, parents, siblings, and other relationships. As a result, data from the years before 2013 are not directly comparable to data collected on and after 2014.

The chart below shows the total counts of domestic violence incidences for Montgomery County and, on the second tab, the State of Maryland.

Domestic Violence Incidences

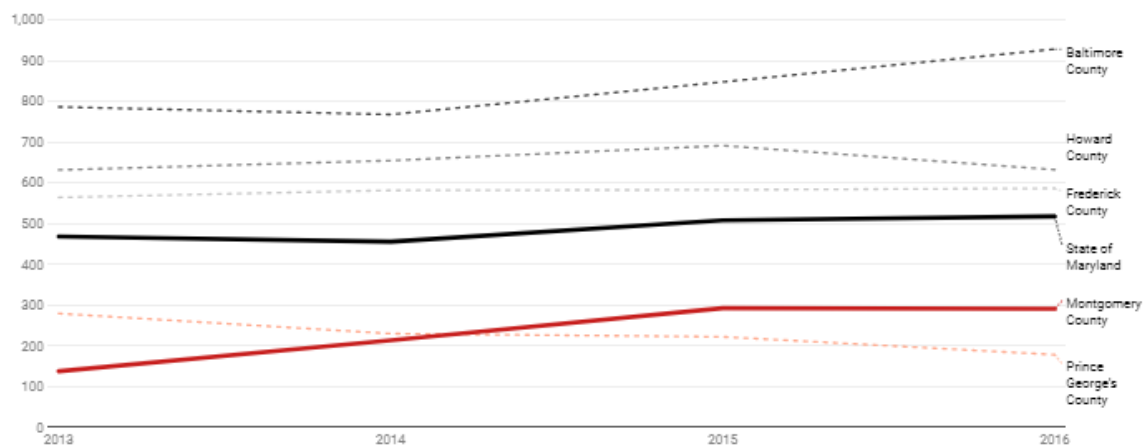


[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

The chart below shows the domestic violence incidences per 100,000 residents in 2016 for Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and other large Maryland Counties for benchmarking purposes.

Domestic Violence Incidences per 100,000 Residents

2016 Incidences by Jurisdiction



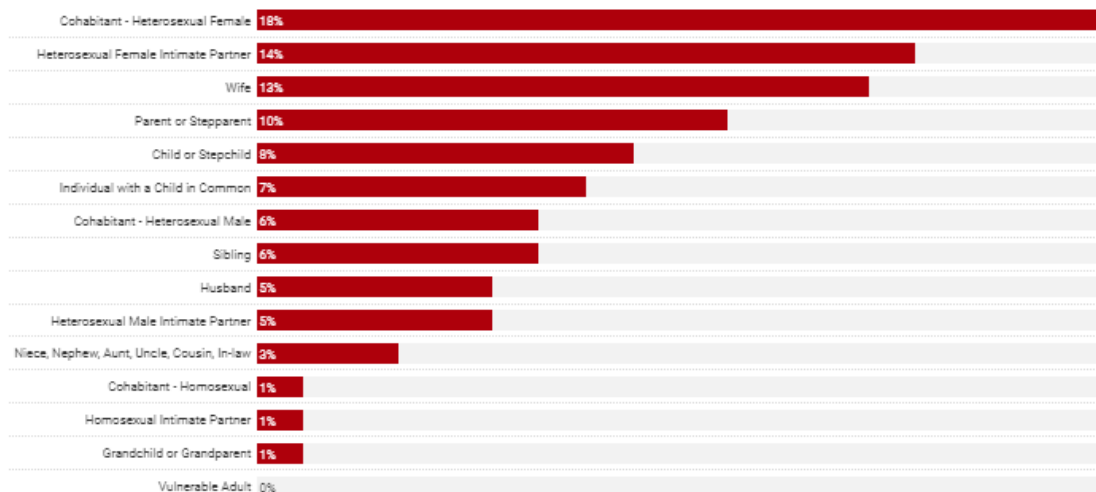
[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

Domestic Violence by Relationship Type

Female cohabitants, female intimate partners, wives, and individuals with a child in common account for 52 percent of all domestic violence victims in the state of Maryland in 2016. Overall, 69 percent of the victims of domestic violence were women. The chart below shows the most common types of relationships recorded for domestic violence incidences (i.e. the relationship of the victim to the offender), based on state-wide data.

Domestic Violence Victim Relationship to Offender

Based on 2016 Maryland State-wide Crime Statistics



[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

In 2016, 48 percent of domestic violence victims in the State of Maryland were Black, while 50 percent were White (including White Hispanic). Sixty percent of incidences occurred among residents that are living together, while in 28 percent of cases they did not (12 percent have an unknown type of cohabitation). Moreover, 42 percent of victims are between the age of 25 and 39, the most common age group. Alcohol is a known factor in 21 percent of incidences.

Domestic violence incidences peaked in the Summer (May-June) and in December. The weekend, particularly Sunday, sees the largest number of incidences. In terms of the time of day, 7-10pm sees the highest rates, peaking at 8pm.

Lives Lost to Domestic Violence

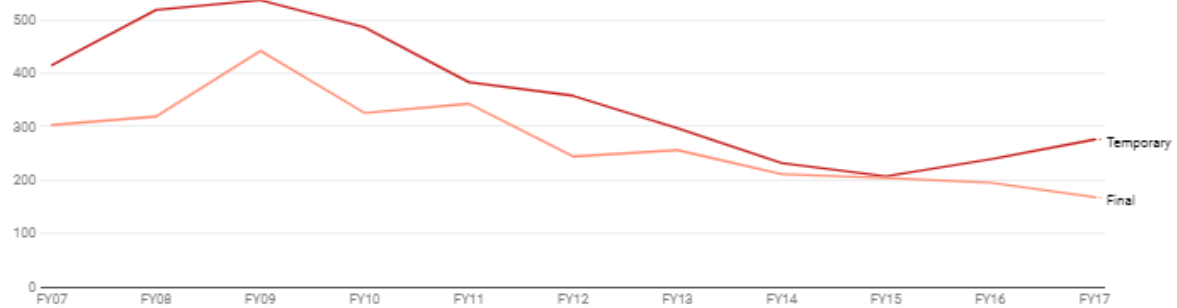
The state reported 65 domestic violence-related homicides, roughly equal to the numbers from 2014 and 2015. 407 domestic violence incidences involved rape, while 191 involved other sex offenses — both increases from 2015 (346 and 149 respectively). In addition, 281 assault incidences involved a fire-arm and 1,114 involved a knife, down from 2015 but up from years prior. Overall, 12 percent of domestic violence related assaults involved a weapon.

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence also [reports annually](#) on the lives lost to domestic violence (using a somewhat different methodology from the state). In FY2017, the Network reported zero deaths due to domestic violence for Montgomery County. This compares to 6 deaths in FY2016 and 3 deaths in each of FY2013, FY2014, and FY2015.

Domestic Violence Protective Orders

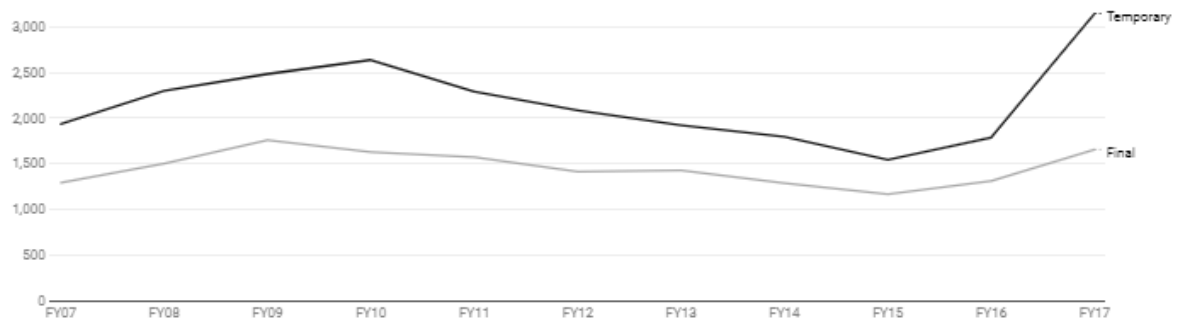
In [FY2017](#), the Sixth Circuit Court granted 276 temporary domestic violence protective orders in Montgomery County and denied 66; the Court issued 168 final domestic violence protective orders in Montgomery County and denied 276. Montgomery County accounted for over 20 percent of the state's domestic violence protective orders up to FY09, but this share has decreased over time. 2017 saw a particularly large spike in the increase in such protective orders in other Counties, bringing the county's share of the state total down to 8.8 percent of all the temporary domestic violence protective orders in the state and 10 percent of all final domestic violence protective orders. The two charts below track the number of protective orders granted over time, at the county and state level.

Montgomery County Domestic Violence Protective Orders



Source: Maryland Judiciary Statistical Abstract - [Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Maryland Domestic Violence Protective Orders

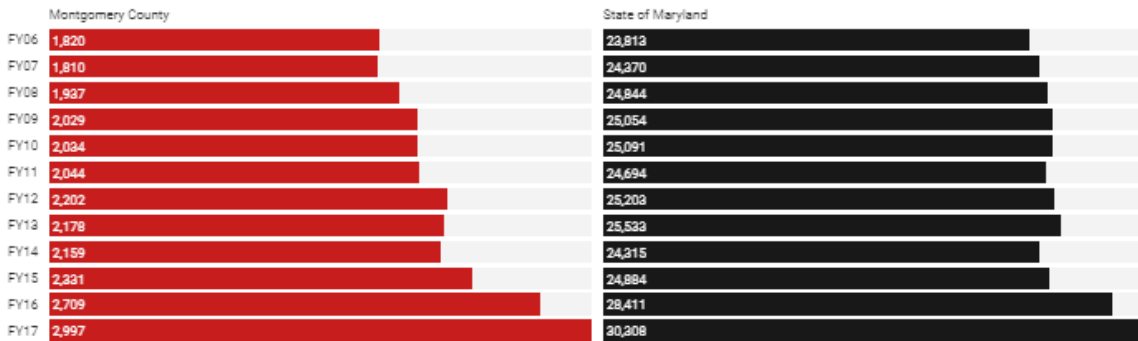


Source: Maryland Judiciary Statistical Abstract - [Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Domestic Violence Court Cases

The Sixth District Court, covering Montgomery County, filed 2,997 domestic violence cases (including child abuse, domestic violence, and vulnerable adult cases) in FY17, up from 2,709 in FY16 and 2,331 in FY15. Montgomery County accounted for 9.9 percent of the total in FY17, up slightly from 9.3 percent in FY15. The chart below shows the increase in domestic violence cases over time based on district court filings.

Domestic Violence Cases Filed in District Court

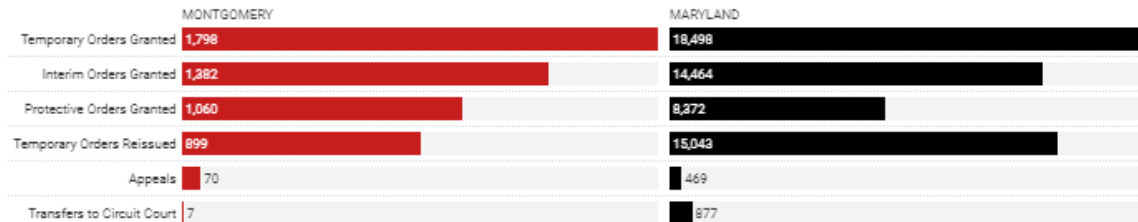


Source: Maryland Judiciary Statistical Abstracts - [Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

The chart below shows the dispositions for these cases in FY17 for both the county and the state.

Domestic Violence Dispositions

District Court FY17



[Get the data](#) - Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Domestic Violence Services

The [12th annual National Census of Domestic Violence Services](#), conducted on September 13 in 2017, reports that domestic violence programs in Maryland (based on data from 21 of the 22 identified service providers) served **926** victims on that day, with 448 receiving emergency shelters or transitional housing and with 478 adults and children receiving non-residential assistance, such as counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups. On this same day, local and state domestic violence hotline staff answered 466, **19 calls per hour** (down from 21 in the preceding year). Nationally, hotline staff receive 14 calls every minute. In addition, 81 residents attended one of the four prevention and education training sessions offered that day. The study reported that 126 victims in Maryland that day had unmet requests for services, ranging from housing to childcare to legal representation.

Services Provided by Maryland Programs

Based on 21 Reporting Domestic Violence Programs in the State



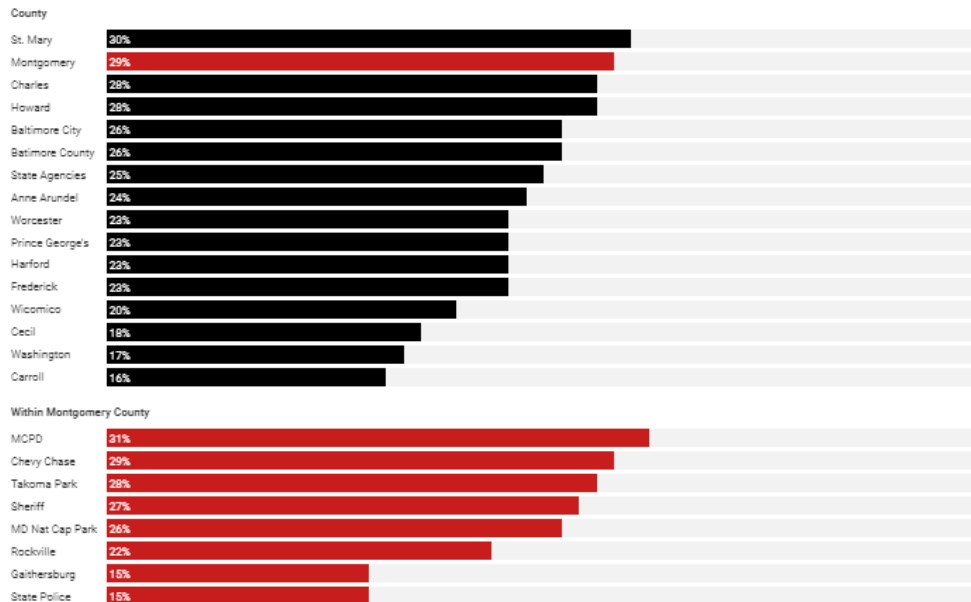
Source: [National Census of Domestic Violence Services](#) - [Get the data](#) - [Created with Datawrapper](#)

Women in Law Enforcement

Montgomery County ranks second among all Maryland counties for the share of its law enforcement employees who are women. 29 percent of Montgomery County law enforcement employees are women. Within Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Police Department leads the way with a 31 percent share. Note that these figures include both civilian and sworn law enforcement employees.

Women as Share of Law Enforcement Employees

2016 Sworn and Civilian Staff for Counties with > 200 Law Enforcement Employees

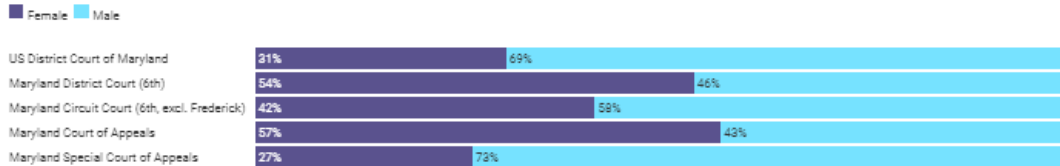


[Get the data](#) - [Created with Datawrapper](#)

Women in the Judiciary

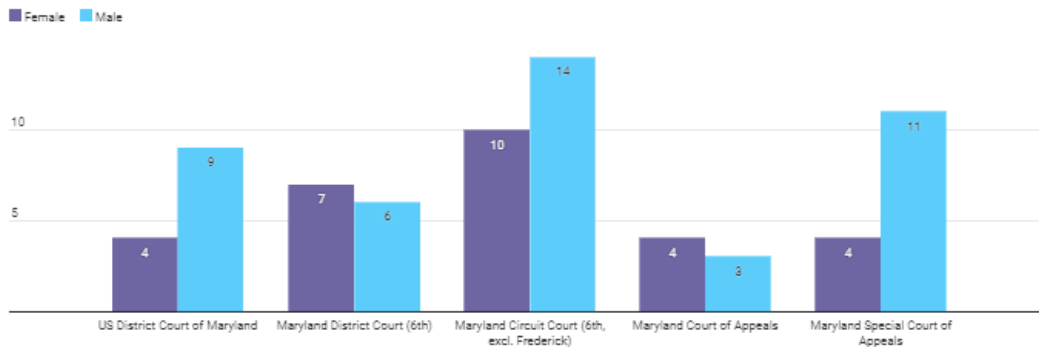
Montgomery County has 37 judges in the Maryland circuit and district courts, 17 (or 46 percent) of whom are women. Women make up a majority (54 percent) of the Montgomery County judges in the Maryland District Court (6th District), doubling the rate from 2006. Women also make up a majority of the judges on the Maryland Court of Appeals (57 percent), a significant improvement from 2006 when women accounted for only 28 percent. Women make up a much smaller share of on the Maryland Special Court of Appeals (27 percent, similar to the share in 2006) as well as the US District Court of Maryland (31 percent -- albeit an increase from 25 percent in 2006).

Women as a Share of Judges by Court



[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

Judges by Gender



[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

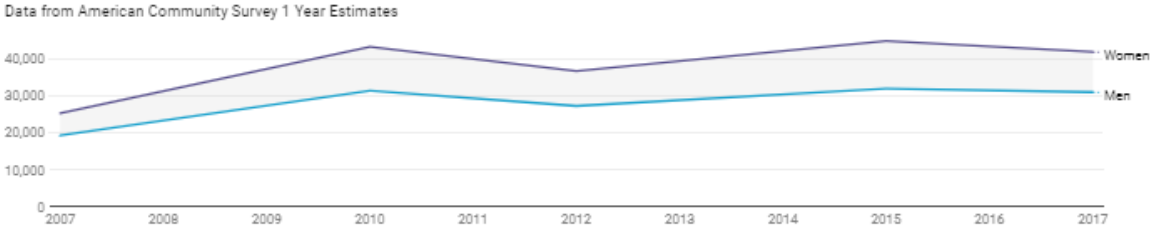


Women in Poverty

In 2017, according to the most recent American Community Survey conducted by the US Census, women in Montgomery County are more likely than men to live in poverty: specifically, **7.7 percent** of county women and girls live in poverty, compared to 6.1 percent of county men and boys. Due to this higher rate of poverty, women and girls account for **57 percent** of all county residents living in poverty, with male residents accounting for the remaining 43 percent.

The number of women living in poverty increased by **66 percent** over the decade between 2007 and 2017 -- or by over 16,500 residents. While the number of men living in poverty also increased at a high rate, women accounted for nearly **60 percent** of the overall increase in poverty over the past decade. Nevertheless, the county continues to experience a low poverty rate by national standards at roughly half the national average.

County Residents in Poverty: Women vs. Men



[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

County Poverty Rate: Women vs. Men Over Time



Source: American Community Survey 2007 and 2017 - [Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

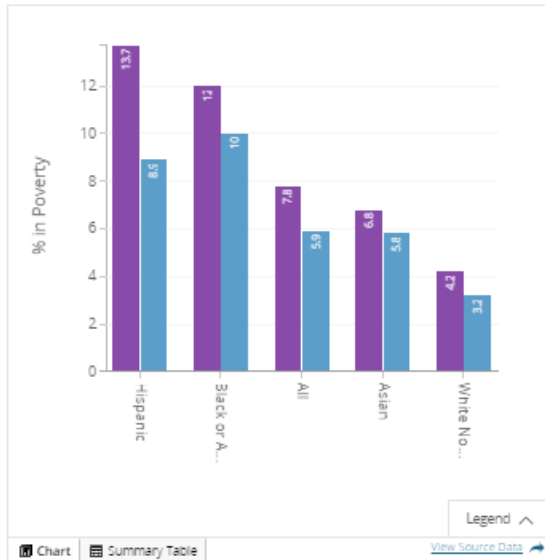
% of Women in Poverty by Region - 2017



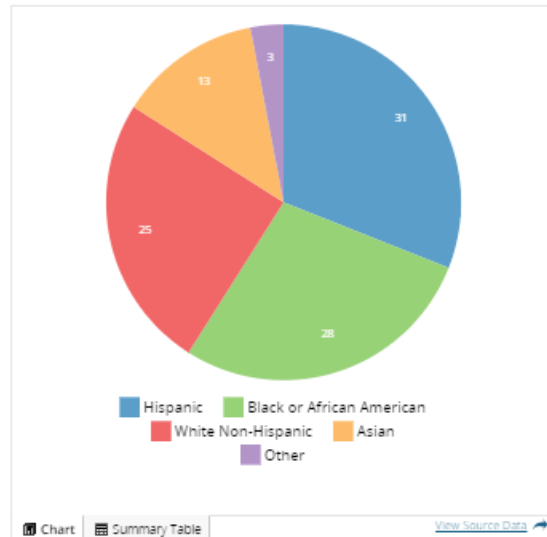
Source: Census American Community Survey 2017 - [Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

The poverty rates in Montgomery County show sharp disparities by race and ethnicity. For instance, 13.7 percent of Hispanic women in Montgomery County live in poverty, compared to 4.2 percent of White, Non-Hispanic women, based on the most recent five-year estimates from the American Community Survey (2012-2016). Note: the five-year estimates are used for these statistics in favor of the one-year estimates used above to reduce margin of error when comparing smaller groups. Hispanic and Black or African American women make up a combined 59 percent of county women living in poverty.

Poverty Rate by Race and Ethnicity



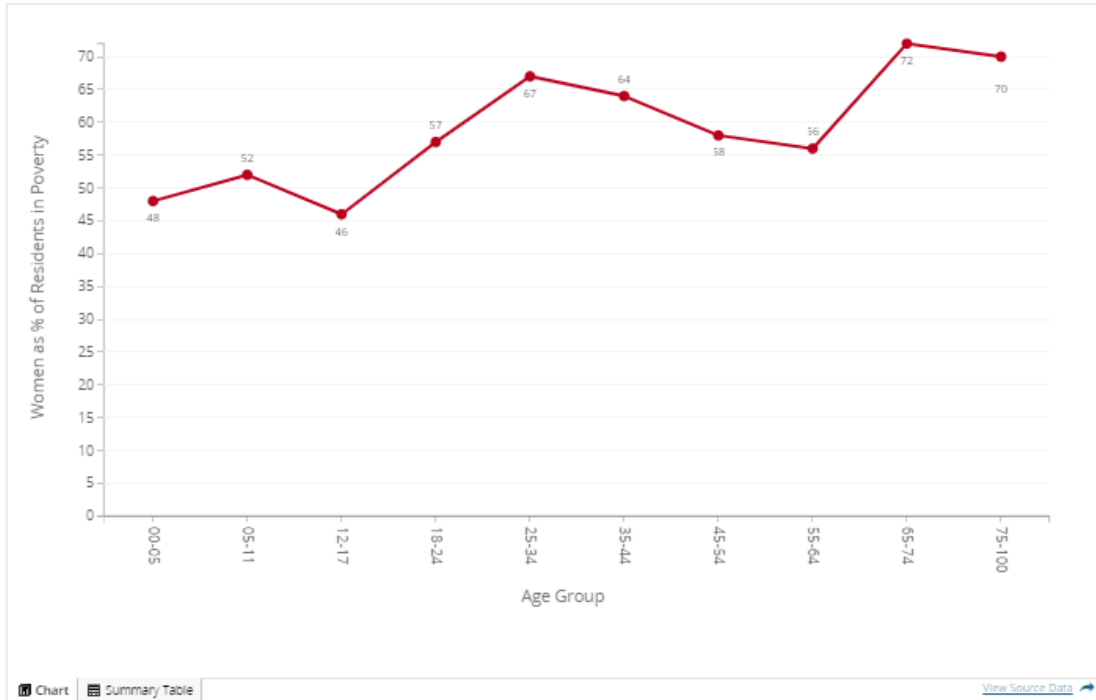
Distribution of Women in Poverty by Race and Ethnicity



- Estimate - Percent - Female
- Estimate - Percent - Male

Women as Share of Residents in Poverty by Age

Women make up a rapidly growing share of county residents in poverty between the ages of 18 and 35 (i.e. women in the primary childbearing years). Among older women, the number spikes as well. This spike is due, in part, to a larger share of older female residents living in poverty because of longer lifespans, widowhood, and more limited fixed incomes.



Differences by Family Type

Single mother households have far higher rates of poverty than households headed by a married couple. The poverty rate is particularly high among households headed by single mothers with a child under the age of five, where 30 percent of such families live in poverty. Notably, the number of poor single mother households fell slightly between 2006 and 2016 despite the overall increase in poverty over this period.

Poverty Rate by Family Type

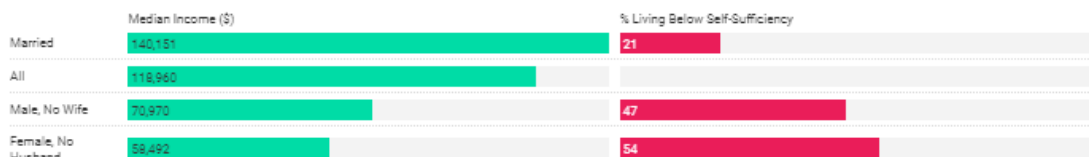
Source: American Community Survey 2016



[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

Families consisting of a female head of household without a husband present in the household receive a median household income of \$58,500, which is only 40 percent of the income of the median household income of married-couples. As a result, 54 percent of female-headed households without a husband present live below the self-sufficiency standard, compared to only 21 percent of married couple households.

Income and Self-Sufficiency by Family Type



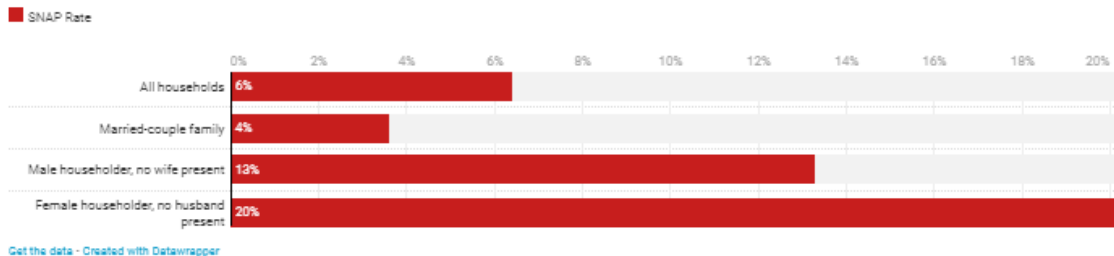
[Get the data](#) - Created with Datawrapper

Public Assistance

Families headed by a woman without a husband present are five times more likely than married couples to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (formerly known as food stamps). In fact, while there are five times as many married couple families in the county, families headed by a woman without a husband actually account for more SNAP recipients (8,400 vs. 7,200).

Percent of Households Receiving SNAP by Family Type

Source: American Community Survey, 2012-2016



In addition to SNAP/Food stamps, over 30,000 county residents utilize the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) nutrition and healthcare federal support program for pregnant women, new mothers, and their young children, based on Maryland Hunger Solutions statistics from [2014](#).

Within the [State of Maryland](#), 47,696 adults and children received Temporary Assistance for Needy Family (TANF), 398,000 households qualified for the Earned Income Tax Credit, 8,500 families received child care subsidies, 94,000 received federal rental assistance, 611,835 children were enrolled in Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and 10,069 children participated in Head Start programs (note: data for these programs do not appear to be available at the county-level). Montgomery County offers 34 HeadStart classes throughout the county to 648 three- and four-year old children, 60 of whom are three-year olds.

Lastly, 6.8 percent of county women in 2017 did not have health insurance, compared to 7.5 percent of county men.

Homelessness

The county's [chronic homelessness dashboard](#) reports that women make up 35 percent of the county's homeless population, representing 139 residents. Black or African Americans make up 55 percent of the county's homeless population. The highest prevalence among women is in the 35-39 and 50-64 age range, a trend that mirrors men. Women have notably lower rates of homelessness in the 25-34 age range relative to men. While historical data broken down by gender is not readily available, the Washington Metro Council of Governments conducts an annual "Point-in-Time" survey that shows a decrease in overall homelessness counts. The survey shows a decline of 126 homeless residents per 100,000 in 2006 to 94 homeless residents per 100,000 in 2016.

Spotlight: Quality of Life

Background

In 2017, the Montgomery County Government's CountyStat Office and Office of Public Information commissioned the National Research Center (NRC), a survey firm, to conduct its standardized "National Citizen Survey" in Montgomery County. The purpose was to seek Montgomery County residents' views on the county's overall livability, the quality of the county's public services, residents' levels of participation in civic life, and their priorities for government action. Each respondent provided feedback on over 200 questions and topics across 8 main themes:



The survey results are drawn from a representative sample of 1,075 residents aged 18 and over who were randomly selected to participate. Respondents were asked to provide feedback for their household. Women responded to the survey at a higher rate than men, representing 58 percent of all responses compared with their 53 percent share of the adult population. NRC corrected for demographic imbalances in the sample by reweighting the responses to better match the county's on various measures: race/ethnicity, home ownership rate, housing type, age, gender, and home regional service center area. This reweighting rebalanced the responses to the county norm for all factors except for Hispanic residents, due to a particularly low response rate (8 percent in sample, reweighted to 12 percent, vs. a county norm of 16 percent).

The findings and charts below are based on a comparison of the results received from women and men. This data splitting results in a higher margin of error since the number of respondents for each subgroup is smaller. Based on a 95 percent confidence interval, the estimated margin of error for the responses from women is roughly 4 percent, while for men the margin of error is roughly 5 percent (vs. 3 percent for county-wide figures). For this reason, CountyStat will focus on responses that show a significant difference in the responses, equal to 8 percent or more. Also, note that men were overrepresented among Asian respondents (22 percent share vs. 14 percent among women) while women were overrepresented among Black/ African American respondents (16 percent vs. 9 percent). Men were also overrepresented among high-income brackets (53 percent vs. 43 percent) and households containing children (40 percent vs. 31 percent).

Comparing Responses for Women and Men

While responses are often remarkably consistent across female and male respondents—from employment opportunities to air quality—the survey results do show notable differences in the following areas:



Civic Engagement and Participation

Women generally report higher levels of advocacy and civic engagement; higher satisfaction with opportunities for participating in community matters; and higher levels of keeping up with local news than men:

- Women are more likely to campaign or advocate for an issue (31 percent vs. 19 percent), to contact Montgomery County (51 percent vs. 42 percent), to volunteer (45 percent vs. 40 percent), and to attend a local public meeting (26 percent vs. 22 percent) or watch it remotely (28 percent vs. 23 percent).
- Building on this finding, women generally report higher satisfaction with opportunities for community engagement, including opportunities to volunteer (65 percent vs. 55 percent “Excellent” or “Good”), opportunities to participate in community matters (59 percent vs. 52 percent “Excellent” or “Good”), and social events and activities (22 percent vs. 11 percent “Excellent”).
- Women are also more likely to “always” vote in local elections (53 percent vs. 43 percent), “always” read or watch local news (43 percent vs. 30 percent), and “always” recycle (77 percent vs. 73 percent).
- Women are also more frequent users of civic association newsletters and community list serves (59 percent vs. 52 percent) as well as Nextdoor (33 percent vs. 28 percent) and are more intense consumers of local TV stations (34 percent vs. 23 percent “major source”).
- Women report higher levels of satisfaction with county-sponsored special events (74 percent vs. 63 percent “excellent” or “good,” excluding “don’t know”).
- Indicative of this higher level of engagement, women had a higher response rate to the survey itself, representing 58 percent of all responses vs. their 53 percent share of the adult population.

Government Priorities

Women generally place higher importance on government’s role in addressing community issues than do men:

- Women are more likely to suggest that the government make a “high effort” to improving social services for those in need (55 percent vs. 40 percent), to improving the environment (53 percent vs. 40 percent), to jobs and business growth (46 percent vs. 37 percent), and to addressing crime (65 percent vs. 57 percent).
- Women are also more likely to rate the following as “essential”: health and wellness opportunities (39 percent vs. 25 percent), economic health of the county (50 percent vs. 41 percent), and opportunities for education and enrichment (46 percent vs. 39 percent).



Government Services

Women generally reported higher levels of satisfaction with government services, the county government's customer service, and their ability to work with government to resolve issues:

- Women rate customer service by Montgomery County employees more highly than men (75 percent vs. 66 percent "excellent" or "good", excluding "don't know").
- Women are much more likely to report that it is "very easy" for them to communicate their issue or problem to county government (45 percent vs. 24 percent) and to resolve their issue or problem (30 percent vs. 16 percent).
- Women report higher levels of strong satisfaction with Montgomery County government (25 percent "Excellent" vs. 17 percent), but lower overall satisfaction with the federal government (40 percent vs. 48 percent "Excellent" or "Good").
- Women report higher satisfaction with Montgomery County Recreation programs or classes (82 percent vs. 76 percent when excluding "don't know"). Ratings for libraries were largely consistent across men and women.



Quality of Life

While women and men often provided similar rates of positive feedback on the county's quality of life, women reported higher rates of strong positive feedback (as indicated by an "Excellent" rating) whereas men more often provided the lower positive rating of "Good":

- Women are more likely to see Montgomery County as an "Excellent" place to live (39 percent vs. 33 percent) and an "Excellent" place to raise children (37 percent vs. 31 percent) than are men. Women are also more likely to report that they are "very likely" to recommend living in Montgomery County to someone who asks (49 percent vs. 40 percent).
- Women are more likely than men to rate shopping opportunities as "Excellent" (37 percent vs. 26 percent) and to rate the county's vibrant downtowns and commercial areas as "Excellent" or "Good" (69 percent vs. 60 percent).
- Women are more likely to report that the overall appearance of Montgomery County is "Excellent" (23 percent vs. 15 percent), with "Excellent" levels of overall cleanliness (24 percent vs. 16 percent) and "Excellent" public places where people want to spend time than are men (22 percent vs. 15 percent).



Public Security and Economic Security

Women report somewhat higher levels of safety in their neighborhood than men, but slightly lower satisfaction with police. They report crime to the police less frequently than men do. Women are also more concerned about the impact of the economy than men are:

- Women report higher degrees of safety, particularly in their neighborhood during the day (72 percent feeling “very safe” vs. 65 percent among men).
- Women report slightly higher levels of dissatisfaction with police services (18 percent vs. 12 percent report “Poor” or “Fair”, excluding “Don’t know”) than do men.
- Women are less likely to have reported a crime to the police than men are (15 percent vs. 22 percent) and are more likely to have no opinion on crime prevention (32 percent vs. 21 percent).
- Women are more likely than men to be concerned about the impact of the economy on their family over the next 6 months (18 percent vs. 9 percent “very” or “somewhat negative”).
- Women are more likely than men to have no opinions on permitting services (63 percent vs. 49 percent) and economic development (33 percent vs. 20 percent).



Personal Health and Emergency Preparedness

Women report living healthier lifestyles and appear to be more prepared for an emergency than men are:

- Women appear to live a healthier lifestyle than men, particularly in terms of eating 5 portions of fruits and vegetables per day (65 percent vs. 51 percent “always” or “usually”) and participating in moderate or vigorous physical activity (58 percent vs. 52 percent “always” or “usually”).
- Women are more likely than men to use Alert Montgomery (58 percent vs. 46 percent) and are somewhat more likely to have stocked supplies in preparation for an emergency (38 percent vs. 33 percent).
- Women report higher dissatisfaction than men with electric and gas utilities (29 percent vs. 22 percent “fair” or “poor”, excluding “don’t know”) and drinking water (28 percent vs. 20 percent).



Mobility

Women report somewhat higher levels of satisfaction with public transportation overall than men, but give lower ratings or hold no opinions on walking and bicycling:

- Women report slightly higher satisfaction with public transportation (39 percent positive vs. 34 percent) than men, but are less satisfied with the ease of walking (48 percent vs. 54 percent).
- Possibly indicating lower usage, women more frequently have no opinion on bus and transit services than men (32 percent vs. 22 percent) and particularly the ease of travel by bicycle (46 percent vs. 31 percent).
- Women report lower levels of satisfaction than men with snow removal (53 percent vs. 61 percent “Excellent” or “Good”) and sidewalk maintenance (48 percent vs. 55 percent “Excellent” or “Good”).



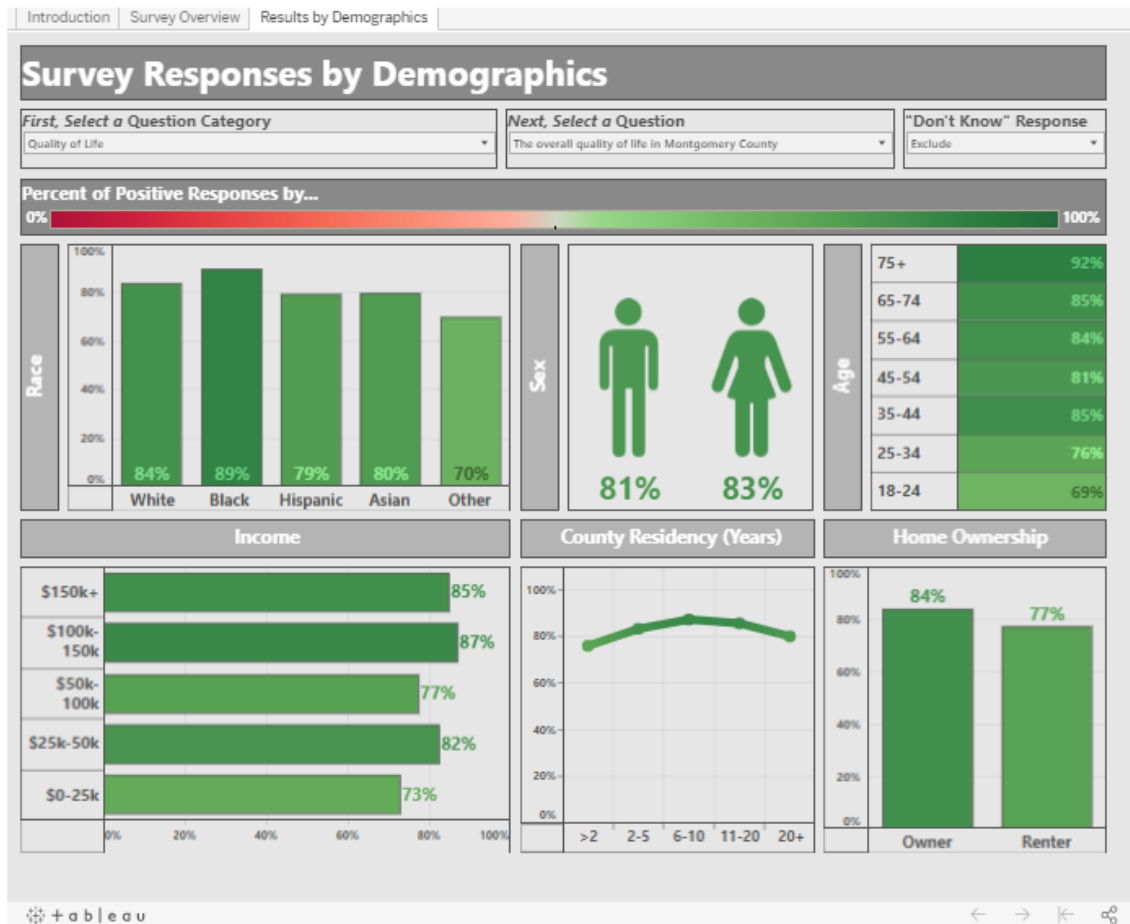
Schools

Women reported higher levels of overall satisfaction with the K-12 school system, but rated school facilities and class sizes lower compared to from men:

- Women report higher levels of satisfaction with overall education at K-12 public schools (80 percent vs. 71 percent “excellent” or “good” excluding “don’t know”).
- However, women report lower levels of satisfaction with school facilities than men (34 percent vs. 36 percent “Poor” or “Fair,” excluding “Don’t know”) and, similarly, with class sizes (50 percent vs. 44 percent).

Interactive Dashboard with Full Results

CountyStat has developed an interactive dashboard that compares responses by age, gender, income, and other characteristics for every question on the survey. This tool is best viewed in full-screen by going to the following link: bit.ly/mc-qol-dashboard (or can be viewed embedded on this page below).



Finally, to view the other survey reports, please visit: montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/survey2017.html

2018 Primary Results

2018 Primary Winners

This spotlight presents a deep-dive on the 2018 primary election. *Bethesda Beat* reports that this election "was not the year of the woman in Montgomery County," noting, for instance, that incumbent Nancy Navarro was the only woman democrat to win a race for the nine-seat county council (June 28, 2018). The *Washington Post*, too, noted that the election results "by almost any measure" reflected the diversity of the county except for one: gender (June 27, 2018).

The dashboard below shows the number of primary election winners by gender for county, state, federal, and party positions based on manual data collection. Users can filter down to a particular party by using the checkboxes on the right.

Names of Primary Winners									
County		State		Federal		Party			
Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Party	
D. Mark Popson	D. Rayco	A. Phillip	J. J. Wang	J. Raskin	A. Hooper	A. Phillip	J. J. Wang	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (All)	
J. Hoang	P. Muzzer	K. Donnan	F. Panati	S. Cardin	S. L. Cooper	K. Donnan	F. Panati	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Democratic	
J. M. Griffin	N. Navarro	M. Alzona	L. Williams	J. Sarbanes	D. Pate	M. Alzona	L. Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-partisan	
J. McCarty	S. H. Malachukin	D. Pate	M. Sosaen	C. Johnson	A. Miller	D. Pate	D. Pate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Republican	
K. Senach	P. O'Neill	A. E. Marinas, Jr.	A. Reed Phelan	T. Campbell		A. Edmunds	M. Schwan		
K. Oyer	J. Kelley	S. Day	C. C. Kagan			S. St. Amvro	A. Houboulos		
R. Piquar		S. E. Pison	D. L. Dwyer			S. Cuse	C. Clough		
S. Szymko		S. K. Rumpford	L. Halverson			S. Decker	S. Lambert		
C. P. Potts, Jr.		S. Kramer	N. J. King			S. Halvors	J. Sneed		
C. L. Rice		C. J. Zuber	S. C. Lee			J. Philis Capare	J. Morel		
T. Hucker		C. Vair	V. Gibbs Watson			M. Sarre	L. K. Foley		
S. A. Katz		D. Patti	A. R. Karzer			R. Hansen	M. Hazzeman		
Z. Amstutz		D. Tolson	J. E. Chip			S. Panati	P. Francine Luckett		
H. Kamen		G. Ivan Hernandez	J. Reid Cummins			W. Sharon Kitchburg	K. Raju Sarinonda		
W. Javando		L. Hagan	H. Domantoli			K. Sullivan	J. Alexandra Tuttle		
B. Glass		P. Franzosi	P. Quisen			C. Thoma	S. L. Conan		
G. Alderson		R. Draz	M. Marie Schwaiblmair			H. Burnett	S. Vileco		
M. Bruen		W. Strick	J. Perakovich Carr			A. K. Somers	L. Gissard		
A. Praxson		H. Jessis	J. Wilkins			D. Lehman	L. Jaffe		
		M. A. Duffell	K. Dumala			J. P. Gillin	M. Salzman		
		M. A. King	A. Kelly			L. Lessor	A. Guthrie Hingston		
		B. J. Padman	L. J. Laska			P. B. Hadd	L. Kubny		
		J. A. Sanfent	B. Curlier			A. Alan Bush	M. Tignorin		
		D. Mean	S. Lawe			J. Brown	M. Kathleen Mapp		
		K. S. Hessler	S. Shetty			M. Higgs	S. Vivas		
		B. Ludlow	L. Charaloutian			P. Spauling	L. Henderson		
		D. W. Leese	L. Qi			V. Fernando DeCam	S. Williams Hagan		
		K. P. Berke	C. Crutcherfield			D. Irvine	J. Gorman Hagan		
		M. Herman	S. Turnbull			A. M. Kaufman	S. Jones		
		A. Carr				S. Davis			
		J. Givhrit				D. Spant-Haley			
		G. Anselmo				T. Puck			
		K. Reznik				J. Miguel Cardenas			
		J. Solomon				S. E. Goldberg			
		D. Prasen-Hodge				J. Cooper			
		V. Stawert				D. Torres			
		J. Waldbracher				G. Spruiel			
		S. Weibus				M. Lee			
						H. N. Diamond			

The results indicate the following:

- At the federal level, a number of incumbent men won re-election on the democratic side, while Amie Hoeber was able to successfully repeat her primary nomination for congressional District 6 to become the sole woman candidate running for federal office in the general election from either party. Montgomery County produced more favorable results for women in congressional races in comparison to the overall vote, with Democrat Aruna Miller receiving more votes in Montgomery County than winner David Trone (Congressional District 6) and with Republican Bridgette Cooper receiving more county votes than the eventual winner, John Walsh (congressional District 8). Both, however, were out-voted by enough voters in other jurisdictions to lose their respective elections.
- At the state level, the results were closer to parity among Democrats, with Democratic women candidates winning 17 seats to 19 seats for men (when considering the Lt. Governor race distinct from Governor). Women also won a majority of the State Court elections (4 to 3). The results were more skewed within the Republican primary, with 8 women winning their primary elections as compared to 16 men.
- At the county level, the results showed a very notable gender disparity despite a large number of open seats. Democrats and Republicans each elected only one female candidate to the nine-seat county council, and both voted for a male candidate to represent them in the County Executive race, a position which has yet to be held by a woman. Women candidates were far more successful in the nonpartisan school board elections, winning all positions.
- At the party level, Democrats elected equal numbers of men and women to party positions, since party positions are designated by gender to ensure a fifty-fifty balance by design. Republicans elected 17 women and 27 men to party positions, with women winning slightly less than 40 percent of the positions.

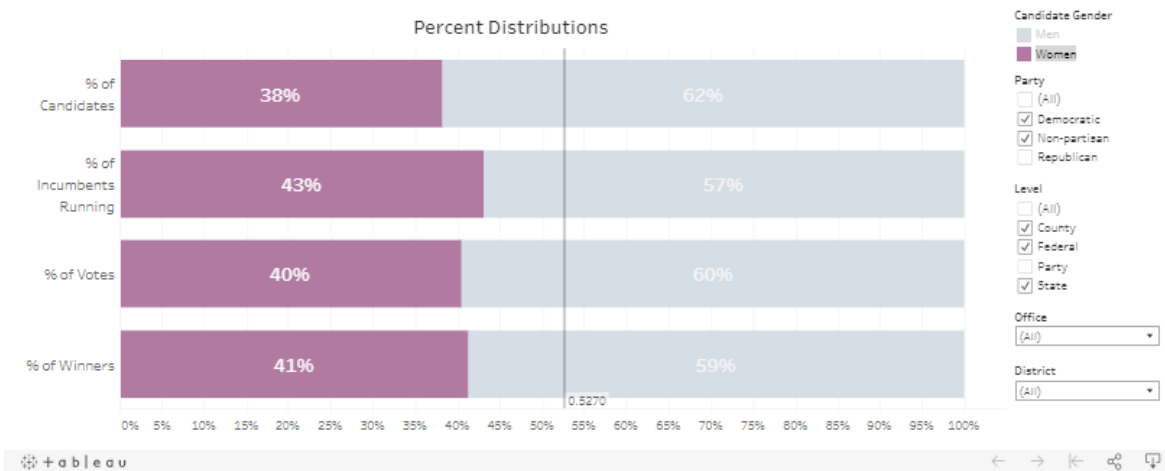
The charts below provide visualizations of the election results to offer additional insights.

Distribution of Votes and Winners by Gender

The dashboard below provides a summary of the election results. Users can select different parties, levels, and offices using the filter on the right.

In the democrat primary, women represented a roughly equal share of candidates, incumbents, and winners (36-37 percent) -- but underperformed in the percent of total votes received (29 percent), potentially indicating participation in more competitive races. Women account for 53 percent of voter-age eligible residents, meaning that women are underrepresented among Democratic candidates by 32 percent and among Democratic votes received by 45 percent. These differences are particularly sharp in the Democratic primary for county council, where women made up 36 percent of the candidates and received a nearly equivalent 34 percent of the vote, but won only 11 percent of the available seats.

In the Republican primary, women out-performed their share of candidates and incumbents, winning 29 percent of the vote and 32 percent of elections despite accounting for only 25 percent of the candidates. In the nonpartisan elections for judges and School Board, women accounted for a majority of candidates (58 percent) and received more than two-thirds of the votes (70%) to win two-thirds of the available seats.



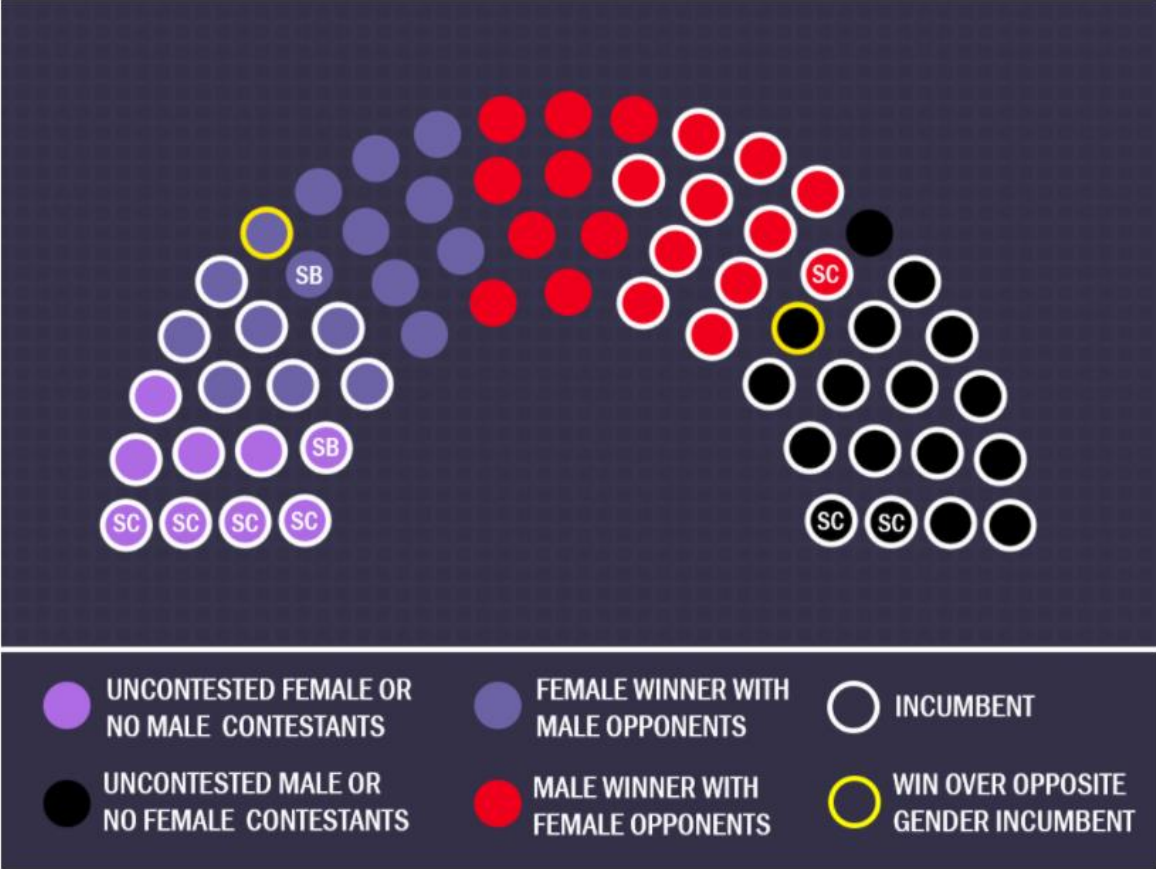
Election Characteristics: Competitiveness and Incumbency

When analyzing election results, it is important to consider the broader context of the race. Incumbents, for example, typically have an easy time of winning their primaries; this year, only two incumbents lost their primary election in Montgomery County, both for state House positions. To provide context, this report looked to a visualization technique developed for the [Women Candidate Tracker](#) by Politico (in partnership with the Center for American Women and Politics and the Women in Public Service Project). A tailored version of their 'parliament chart' shows what share of the winners faced an opponent of the opposite sex and which of the races was won (or lost) by an incumbent. Parliament charts for the Democratic and Republican primaries are included below. Both include the non-partisan positions that appeared on both the Democratic and Republican primary ballots (these positions are marked as "SB" for School Board and "SC" for state court). The interactive dashboard in the middle provides drill-down capabilities of this same information.

For multi-seat elections, the number of competitive seats for each gender is determined by the total number of candidates running from the opposite gender. For example, a state House race with three available seats, three male candidates, and two female candidates is considered to provide one uncontested seat for men, since men are guaranteed to win at least one seat. Uncontested seats were assigned first to incumbents.

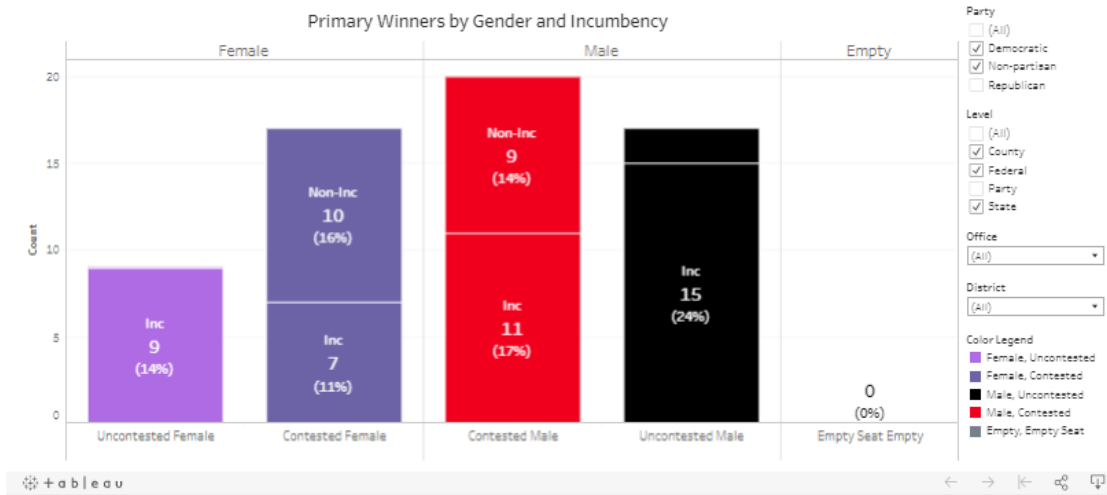
Democrat and Non-Partisan Chart

Women did not contest 17 of the Democratic primary elections, all but one of which (state Senate District 19) was held by an incumbent. Women challenged 11 male incumbents (or 40 percent of all male incumbents), without success. Men challenged seven female incumbents (or 41 percent of female incumbents), also without success. Out of the 18 open seats contested by both male and female candidates, women won 8 (or about 44 percent). This suggests that the gender disparities in election outcomes may be in part be a result of the incumbency advantage held by men, with males account for 64 percent of incumbents running for Democratic seats.



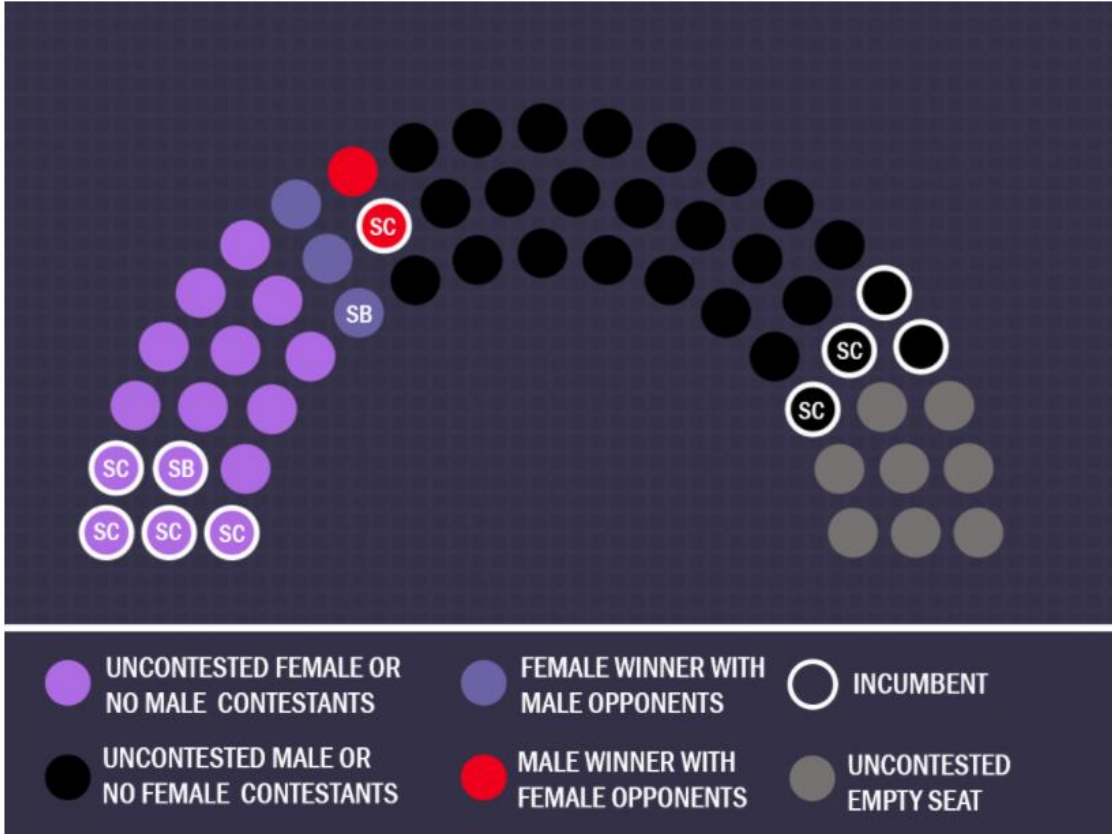
Interactive Dashboard

The dashboard below provides the same data in a simple bar chart. Users can examine the election characteristics by party, level, and office by using the filters on the right.



Republican and Non-Partisan Chart

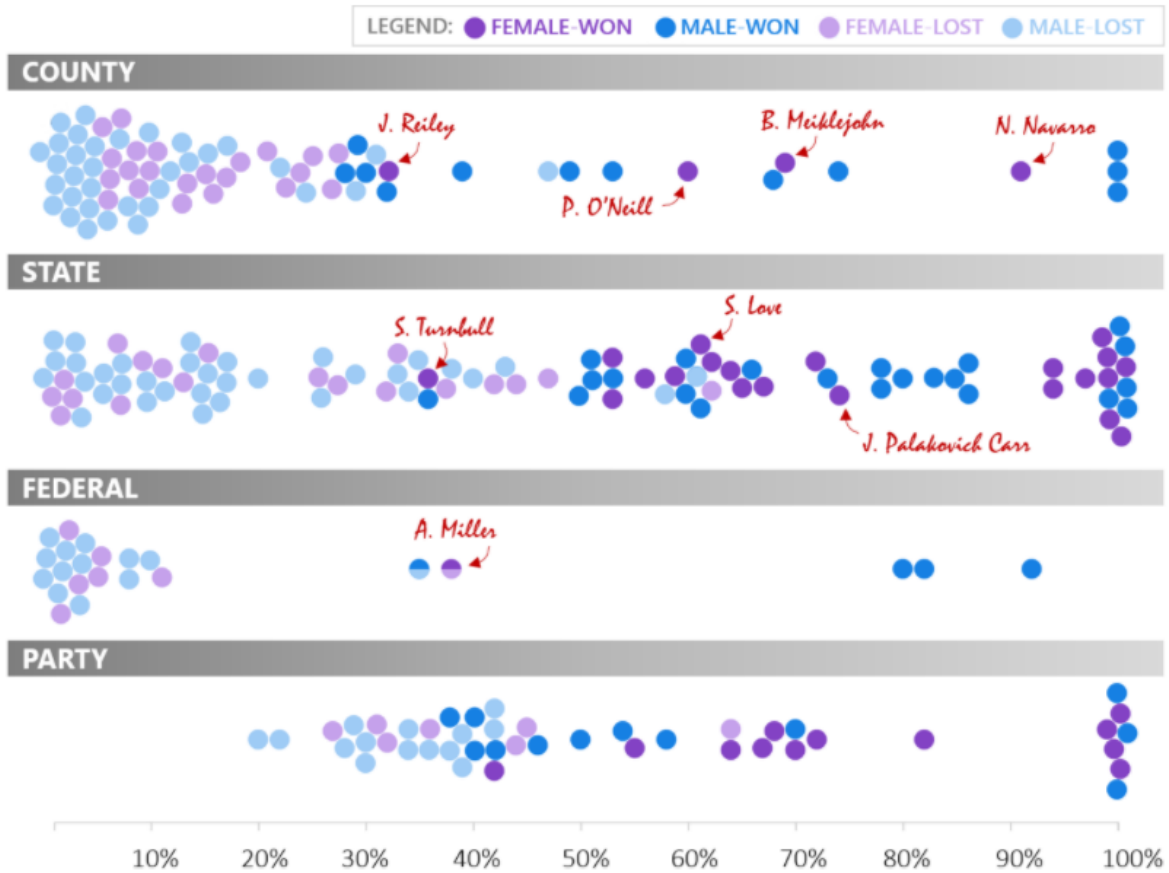
Within the Republican primary, far fewer candidates had the benefit of incumbency (i.e. the Governor and Lt. Governor). Regardless of gender, Republicans also did not have a contest for a number of seats; there were no candidates competing for eight open positions. Only five of the races had male and female candidates compete against one another; and only three when excluding non-partisan positions. Women won one out of three of these competitive elections (or 33 percent).



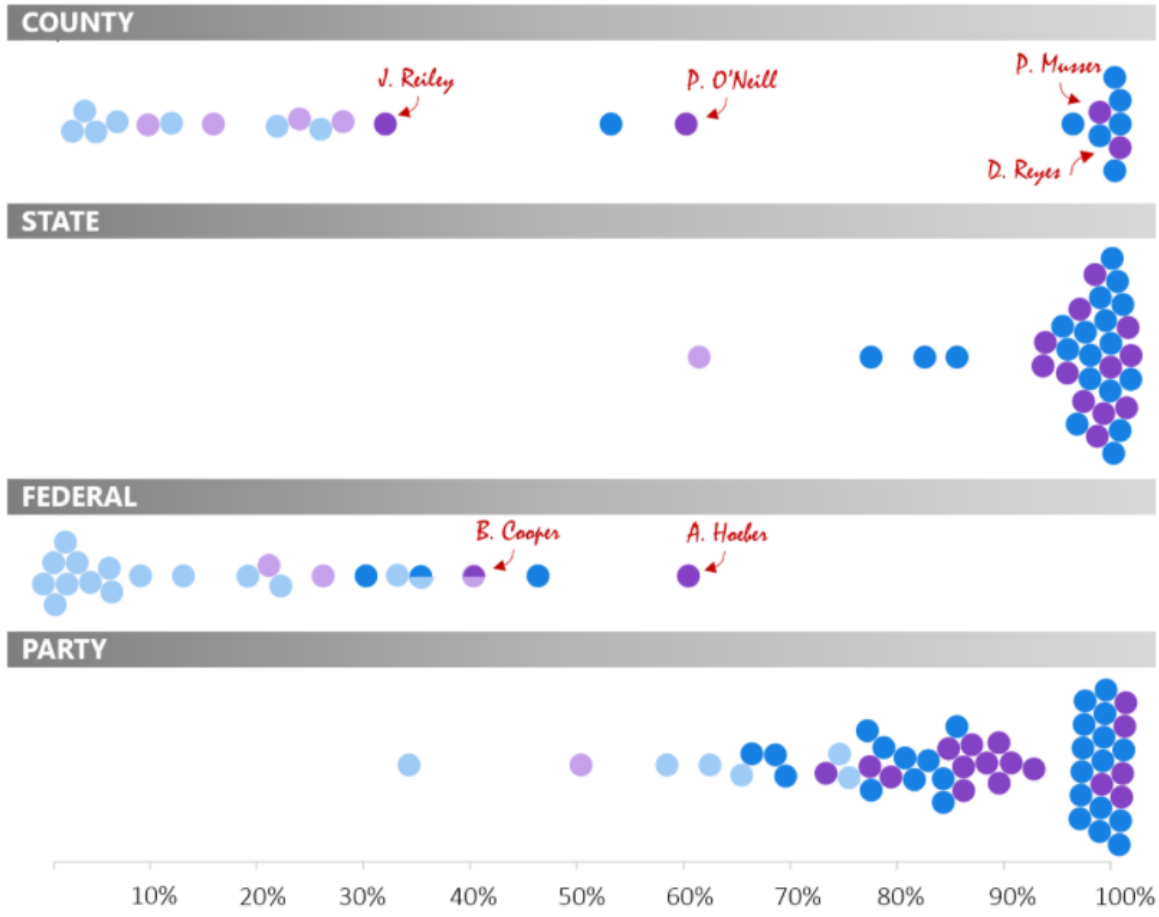
Appendix: Individual Primary Results by Gender

The charts below use a "beeswarm" visualization to show the distribution of votes received by male (blue) and female (purple) candidates, both winners (darker color) and losers (lighter color). Red annotations show the names of select candidates. The first two charts below show the results grouped by level (i.e. federal, state, county), first for the Democratic and then for the Republican primary ballot. The next set of charts shows the results broken down further by office (elections without much competition are excluded for space considerations). Candidates that have a half dark and half light shade are those who won the most county votes but still lost the election when including votes from other counties, or vice versa.

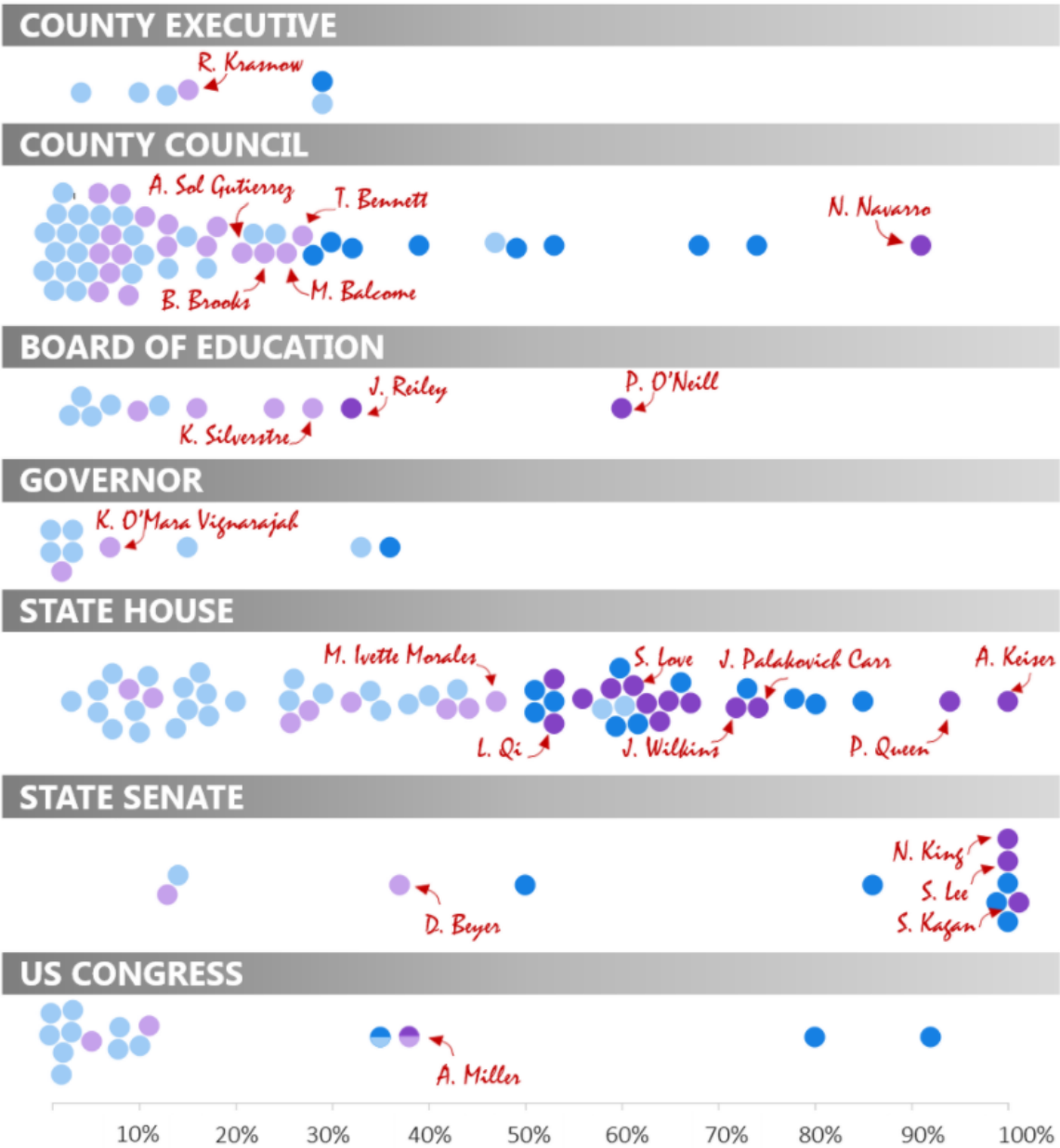
Democratic Primary and Non-Partisan Elections - by Level



Republican Primary and Non-Partisan Elections - by Level



Democratic Primary and Non-Partisan Elections - by Office



Republican Primary and Non-Partisan Elections - by Office

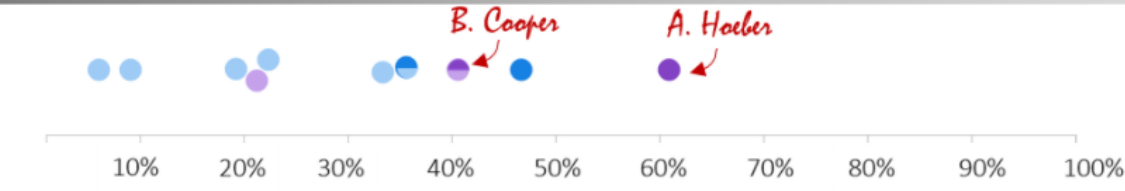
COUNTY COUNCIL



US SENATE



US CONGRESS





The Montgomery County Commission for Women is both an advisory board to, and a department of, county government. The Commission was established under law in 1972. The mandate of the Commission is to advise the County Executive, the County Council, the public, and agencies of the county, state and federal governments on issues concerning women in Montgomery County. The Commission's primary focus is to improve women's lives through:

1. Identifying inequities in laws, policies, practices and procedures and;
2. Providing recommendations that promote remedies.

The Commission is staffed by an Executive Director who works with a 15-member citizen advisory panel. Commissioners are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council to serve three-year terms, without compensation.

Each year, the Commission organizes the Women's Legislative Briefing (WLB) to inform Marylanders about state and federal legislative proposals of concern to women and families and to build strong advocacy on these issues. Enter its 39th year, the next WLB will be held in early 2019.

For more information, visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw>