

Women's Well-Being Index

Highlights

Greater Milwaukee

In Greater Milwaukee there is a complex portrait of progress alongside entrenched inequality. While women have achieved notable success in educational attainment, economic security tells a different story. A persistent pay gap continues to undermine financial stability, with racial disparities creating an even starker divide in income levels and poverty rates across communities.



These economic challenges intersect with critical gaps in health, safety, and housing that disproportionately impact women of color. Maternal health risks remain excessively high for Black and Latina women, who also face limited access to quality healthcare and increased vulnerability to violence. Meanwhile, housing instability affects women throughout the region, with many struggling under heavy rent burdens, facing eviction threats, or finding homeownership out of reach.

This multifaceted reality demonstrates that true well-being extends far beyond paychecks—it requires safe, affordable housing, protection from violence, and equitable access to healthcare.

State of Wisconsin

Across Wisconsin, women's achievements in education and workforce participation stand in sharp contrast to widening economic disparities. While overall participation rates have grown, gender and racial wage gaps have expanded, leaving Black, Hispanic/Latina, and Indigenous women facing particularly severe economic insecurity. This economic strain connects directly to other well-being challenges throughout the state.



Healthcare access remains inadequate, with many women unable to access and utilize preventive services while facing insurance gaps, compromise their health security. The consequences are most visible in maternal and infant health outcomes, where racial disparities persist at alarming levels. These health challenges compound housing affordability crises that burden lower-income households, creating cascading effects on family stability and economic mobility.

Less visible but equally important are the mental health struggles, social isolation, and safety concerns that affect women statewide—issues that current measurement systems often overlook despite their profound impact on daily life.

To access the data and additional information, visit the Women's Fund website: womensfundmke.org or scan the QR code.

Look for the dotted box shown here, then select your geography, and topic.

Women's Well-Being Index

As an online, interactive tool, the Women's Well-Being Index provides access to publicly available data specific to regional, city, and statewide levels and aggregated for gender and race.



Step 1: Choose Your Geography 📍

Wisconsin Greater Milwaukee Milwaukee County Ozaukee County Washington County Waukesha County City of Milwaukee
City of Waukesha

Step 2: Choose Your Topic 📊

Demographics Education Economic Security Health & Safety Housing