

WASHINGTON STATE WOMEN'S COMMISSION



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INTRODUCTION

Our Mission:

Improving the life of every woman and girl by ensuring equitable opportunities and removing systemic barriers through advocacy, engagement and public policy.

Our Vision:

Every women and girl is healthy, safe, prosperous and empowered to achieve their full potential.

OUR HISTORY



On March 15, 2018, House Bill 2759 was signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee, establishing the Washington State Women's Commission.

THE 3 PILLARS

Health

- Reproductive Health access
- Health Disparities
- Maternal and Child Health Disparities
- Mental health access

Safety

- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Sexual Harassment
- Trafficking
- Gun Violence

Economic Security & Opportunity

- Pay Equity
- Living Wage Career Pathways
- Digital Equity
- Alternative Workplace Options
- Leadership and Mentorship Opportunities
- Poverty
- Childcare Access and Affordability
- Affordable Housing



WASHINGTON WOMEN

Ina Phillips Williams

- First women elected to the State Legislature – 1916

Bertha Knight Landes

- Elected Mayor of Seattle in 1926, making her the first woman mayor of a major U.S city

Marjorie Pitter King

- First Black woman to serve in the State Legislature – 1965

Senator Patty Murray

- First woman Senator to serve Washington State

HISTORIC STRIDES FOR WASHINGTON WOMEN

Voting Women★

- 1910 – voters in Washington approved Amendment 6 to the State Constitution granting women the right to vote.
- State became the 5th in the nation to enfranchise women
- 1st on the Pacific coast.

Reproductive Rights

- 1970 – Voters pass Referendum 20 ahead of *Roe v Wade decision*
- 1991 – WA Reproductive Act solidifies a woman's right to privacy in health care decisions

STATUS OF WOMEN IN WASHINGTON



HEALTH

Findings from DOH cumulative data 2014-2020:

- 15.9 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000, compared to the US rate of 18.6 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000
- 80% of pregnancy-related deaths were preventable through averse means, meaning if the contributing clinical or social factor had been different
- Women over 30 have a greater risk of pregnancy-related death
- Native women experience the higher mortality rates than other race/ethnic groups.
- Leading underlying causes:
 - 32% - Behavioral health conditions, predominantly suicide or overdose
 - 12% - Hemorrhage
 - 9% - Infection

SAFETY

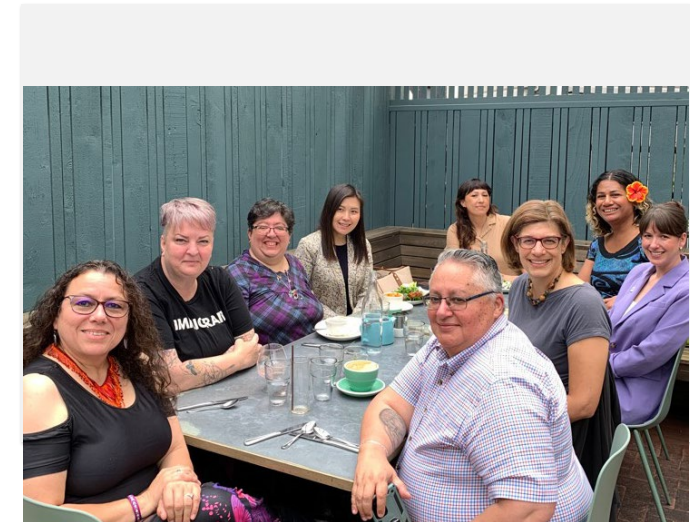
- Domestic violence fatalities increased 18% in 2020.
 - Domestic violence survivors who received "housing first" services reported lower rates of economic abuse than those who received services as usual.
 - 56% of intimate partner homicides in WA are carried out with a firearm.
 - Women account for 87% of intimate partner homicide victims in WA
- 89% sex trafficking victims in WA reported they were a juvenile at the time they were first trafficked.
- WA ranks 2nd in the nation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person Cases
 - CDC estimates murder as the 6th leading cause of death for Native women

ECONOMIC

- Due to the Motherhood penalty, mothers make 73 cents for every dollar paid to fathers.
- The gender wage gap in WA, at its current rate of progress, is estimated to close in the year 2070.
- In Washington State, it's estimated that over 300K families with children aged birth-5 **need childcare**.
 - As of March of 2021, only 34% of those children are enrolled in licensed childcare or preschool.
 - Due to unreasonably high costs of childcare, many women are pushed out of the workforce, particularly those working low-wage jobs.
- Food stamp use in Washington state grew 12% during the pandemic, with a majority of those participants being women and children.

LEARNING FROM WOMEN THROUGH LISTENING

- COVID- 19 Listening Forum
- Civil Protection Orders Listening Forum
- Washington State Patrol 30x30 Initiative
- Young Women Listening Forum
- LGBTQ Lunch & Listen



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

What issues matter to you as state employed women?

WSWC.WA.GOV

 @wa_womenscommission

 Washington State Women's Commission

