

**THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DALLAS COUNTY:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS FROM THE 2000 CENSUS**

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October 2002

The U.S. Bureau of the Census has been slowly rolling out the results of the 2002 Census of Population. While detailed tract and block data have not yet been released, a significant amount of county-level information is now available. The following narrative and tables highlight those data that refer specifically to women and girls in Dallas County as of the census date. Data are also presented for the United States as a whole and five other central counties of large urban areas so that comparisons can be made with Dallas County. The selected counties are Cook (Chicago), Miami-Dade (Miami), New York (New York City), Los Angeles (Los Angeles) and Harris (Houston).

In the year 2000, Dallas County's population totaled 2,185,429 with a 50-50 breakdown in the female-male ratio (see Table 1). In the U.S., 51 percent of the total population is female. The female/male ratio does not vary significantly among the comparison counties, with the exception of New York where 53 percent of residents are female. But among Dallas County residents 65 years and over, women outnumber men by about 1.5 to 1. For the U.S, the ratio is about 1.4 to one. Los Angeles has the lowest ratio of elderly females to males at 1.37 while New York has the highest at 1.52.

About half of the 856,126 women in Dallas County aged 15 years and over are currently married, and 87.5 percent of married women report a spouse present in the household (see Table 2). The other 12.5 percent report no spouse present, either as a result of separation or other factors, such as imprisonment. For the U.S. overall, 54.6

percent of the 15+ female population is married with 90.6 percent reporting a spouse present while 9.4 percent report a spouse absent. Among the comparison counties, only Harris County has a higher percentage of married females. In the other counties, the percentage is considerably lower, with New York coming in at only 37 percent. Compared to the U.S. norm, a married woman in Dallas County is more likely to have an absent spouse. However, the “absent spouse” rate is not out-of-line with those of other urban core counties and is well below the 25.3 percent rate in New York.

69,817 widows and 107,510 divorcees reside in Dallas County. About 12.6 percent of women 15+ in Dallas County are divorced compared with a national average of 10.8 percent. Dallas’ divorce rate is also higher than that of comparison counties, with only Miami-Dade County’s divorce rate (13.3%) being higher than Dallas County’s. In the 12 months prior to the Census, 42,533 Dallas County women bore children. Thirty percent of these births were to unmarried women compared with 29 percent for the U.S. The percentage of births to unmarried women was lower in Dallas County than all the comparison counties except Harris, where the rate was 29 percent. Births to unmarried accounted for 41 percent of the total in New York.

Table 1. General population characteristics, selected counties, 2000

	Total and Percent of Total Population			Population 65 years + and Percent of Population 65+		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
Dallas County	1,096,001 50.2%	1,089,428 49.8%	2,185,429	101,143 59.2%	69,684 40.8%	170,827
Cook County	2,728,220 51.6%	2,554,904 48.4%	5,283,124	356,290 59.9%	238,433 40.1%	594,723
Miami-Dade County	1,146,625 51.9%	1,060,766 48.1%	2,207,391	168,753 58.4%	120,401 41.6%	289,154
New York County	778,199 52.7%	699,159 47.3%	1,477,358	110,221 60.4%	72,423 39.6%	182,644
Los Angeles County	4,736,598 50.7%	4,607,488 49.3%	9,344,086	509,131 57.8%	372,298 42.2%	881,429
Harris County	1,690,775 50.3%	1,667,669 49.7%	3,358,444	140,384 58.1%	101,087 41.9%	241,471
United States	140,091,913 51.2%	133,551,361 48.8%	273,643,274	19,189,729 57.9%	13,923,605 42.1%	33,113,334

Source: 2000 Census

Table 2. Marital status and fertility of women, selected counties, 2000
(15 years and older)

	Dallas County	Cook County	Miami-Dade County	New York County	Los Angeles County	Harris County	United States
TOTAL FEMALE POPULATION AGE 15+	856,126	2,201,986	939,638	703,412	3,720,053	1,304,495	114,121,266
Never married <i>(% of total population)</i>	224,766 26.3%	695,647 31.6%	238,097 25.3%	302,375 43.0%	1,133,997 30.5%	332,992 25.5%	27,531,993 24.1%
Now married: <i>(% of total population)</i>	454,033 53.0%	1,043,936 47.4%	473,906 50.4%	260,353 37.0%	1,894,519 50.9%	724,236 55.5%	62,308,654 54.6%
Married, spouse present <i>(% of now married)</i>	397,390 87.5%	914,558 87.6%	397,389 83.9%	194,510 74.7%	1,604,042 84.7%	641,097 88.5%	56,475,170 90.6%
Married, spouse absent: <i>(% of now married)</i>	56,643 12.5%	129,378 12.4%	76,517 16.1%	65,843 25.3%	290,477 15.3%	83,139 11.5%	5,833,484 9.4%
Separated <i>(% of now married)</i>	30,762 6.8%	62,788 6.0%	38,387 8.1%	31,227 12.0%	139,199 7.3%	45,648 6.3%	2,798,097 4.5%
Other <i>(% of now married)</i>	25,881 5.7%	66,590 6.4%	38,130 8.0%	34,616 13.3%	151,278 8.0%	37,491 5.2%	3,035,387 4.9%
Widowed	69,817	246,214	102,796	66,717	325,375	100,562	11,975,325
Divorced <i>(% of total population)</i>	107,510 12.6%	216,189 9.8%	124,839 13.3%	73,967 10.5%	366,162 9.8%	146,705 11.2%	12,305,294 10.8%
FERTILITY							
Number of women 15-50 giving birth in previous 12 months <i>(% of total female pop.)</i>	42,533 5%	96,259 4%	33,240 4%	138,945 21%	169,907 5%	66,535 5%	4,285,414 4%
Unmarried women giving birth in previous 12 months <i>(% of women giving birth)</i>	12,787 30%	30,881 32%	11,612 35%	56,876 41%	55,984 33%	19,537 29%	1,253,718 29%

➤ Source: 2000 Census Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data (Table P18; Retrieved on 10/24/02 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTGeoSearchByListServlet?ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&_lang=en&_ts=53542425927)

Dallas County's population is grouped into nearly 800,000 households (see Table 3) with an average household size of 2.76 and an average family size of 3.49. Family households comprise 64 percent of the total. Dallas County is home to 119,839 female-headed households with no husband present, and nearly two-thirds of these households include children less than 18 years. Dallas County's 15 percent female-headed household rate is higher than the U.S. norm of 13 percent but comparable to the percentages in other large urban counties. Miami-Dade is somewhat higher while New York is somewhat lower.

Table 3. Household characteristics, selected counties, 2000

HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE	Dallas County	Cook County	Miami-Dade County	New York County	Los Angeles County	Harris County	United States
Total households	792,805	1,946,621	759,352	764,561	3,079,803	1,185,521	106,905,819
Family households (families)	510,458	1,261,261	524,426	322,782	2,094,662	813,912	72,457,708
With own children under 18 years	267,555	609,283	234,162	142,630	1,120,730	439,259	34,727,897
Married-couple families	339,704	848,534	346,310	192,431	1,419,004	569,764	54,392,698
With own children under 18 years	171,906	409,738	154,089	71,002	749,644	298,916	24,413,034
Female householder, no husband present	119,839 (15%)	314,857 (16%)	131,084 (17%)	99,091 (13%)	477,938 (16%)	176,254 (15%)	13,388,000 (13%)
With own children under 18 years	73,423 (9%)	165,494 (9%)	63,678 (8%)	60,709 (8%)	283,937 (9%)	112,707 (10%)	8,141,439 (8%)
Nonfamily households	282,347	685,360	234,926	441,779	985,141	371,609	34,448,111
Householder living alone	232,419	567,732	188,429	376,128	782,049	300,802	28,110,529
65 years and over	49,097	181,974	68,555	85,940	226,361	59,257	9,945,536
Households with one or more people under 18 years	304,073	711,972	276,968	165,206	1,259,188	492,093	38,470,443
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	127,505	451,267	210,400	156,676	644,325	177,130	24,820,924
Average household size	2.76	2.71	2.91	1.93	3.03	2.83	2.56
Average family size	3.49	3.42	3.49	2.91	3.69	3.45	3.11

Source: 2000 Census

About 43 percent of the county's adult female population is currently working (see Table 4). The adult male participation rate, not surprisingly, is higher at 57 percent. Dallas County's female participation rate is well below the national rate of 52 percent and is the lowest among the comparison urban counties. New York County reports the highest participation rate at 53.3 percent.

Dallas' women work in a wide range of occupations, in some cases outnumbering their male counterparts by a wide margin (see Table 5). This is especially true in financial services, educational services, and health/social services. In professional and management occupations, the number of women is only 14 percent less than the number of men. Still, wide disparities exist between male and female incomes (see Table 6). In 2000, median earnings in Dallas County totaled \$24,902. But the female median income of \$21,623 was well below the male median of \$27,052. Even so, the disparities in earnings between males and females in Dallas are considerable less than the national gap of \$11,154. And among the comparison urban counties, only New York reports a significantly lower differential between male and female earnings.

Working women in Dallas County earn more than their counterparts in Los Angeles, Miami-Dade, and Harris counties and also report earnings above the U.S. average. Cook and New York counties show higher median earnings for working women, but these two areas also have much higher living costs.

Table 4. Working population by sex, selected counties, 2000
(16 years and over)

	Number		Percent of 16+ Population	
	Female	Male	Female	Male
Dallas County	479,350	628,365	43.3%	56.7%
Cook County	1,168,359	1,329,863	46.8%	53.2%
Miami-Dade County	459,276	544,501	44.1%	55.9%
New York County	657,423	575,445	53.3%	46.7%
Los Angeles	1,987,905	2,508,494	44.2%	55.8%
Harris County	759,489	968,582	43.9%	56.1%
United States	108,808,052	100,846,785	51.9%	48.1%

Source: 2000 Census

Table 5. Selected occupations, by occupation and sex, 2000
(16 years and over)

	Dallas County		Cook County		Miami-Dade County		New York County		Los Angeles County		Harris County		United States	
	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males
Wholesale and retail	71,861	114,126	170,185	186,088	112,381	81,939	32,163	48,747	207,280	250,992	88,984	100,419	9,077,582	11,429,930
Information and communications	25,186	31,739	39,514	51,141	15,275	10,902	31,616	37,299	61,807	97,763	11,884	15,016	1,807,722	2,248,708
Financial Services	63,730	38,922	115,201	91,342	42,137	40,457	39,464	75,111	99,264	85,275	39,934	35,591	5,187,972	3,773,261
Professional and management	60,064	68,842	144,204	155,450	67,159	53,420	59,938	66,688	797,619	910,815	301,969	371,720	5,367,951	6,725,263
Educational services	42,505	16,381	122,354	54,537	21,860	44,795	35,959	45,852	154,661	61,611	59,024	19,881	7,297,804	3,303,059
Health and social services	63,883	24,339	201,961	65,160	24,440	74,318	888,418	276,774	1,093,366	350,594	66,353	19,474	11,387,177	3,021,451
Public administration	10,022	16,823	47,273	60,372	18,924	21,677	14,610	13,054	59,068	58,341	17,676	18,845	2,743,488	3,426,028

Source: 2000 Census

Table 6. Median earnings for population, selected counties, 2000
(16 Years and Over)

	Total	Male	Female
Dallas County	\$24,902	\$27,052	\$21,623
Cook County	26,735	31,631	22,917
Miami-Dade County	20,417	22,737	16,567
New York County	36,589	39,067	35,363
Los Angeles County	22,520	25,264	20,019
Harris County	23,901	27,063	20,180
United States	24,105	30,132	18,978

Source: 2000 Census

About 13 percent of Dallas County’s population—some 279,486 individuals—were determined to be in poverty by the 2000 Census (see Table 7). Seven percent of females in Dallas County are in a poverty status compared with 6 percent of males. However, the Dallas female poverty rate is no higher than the national average and is the lowest among the comparison urban counties.

Nearly 53,000 Dallas County families were found to be in poverty in 2000, and 57 percent of these families were headed by females with no husband present (see Table 8). By contrast, women headed only 52 percent of the nation’s poverty families. What’s more, the Dallas County percentage of female-headed poverty families was greater than in all the comparison urban counties, with the exception of New York. Ninety percent of Dallas County female-headed poverty households included children under 18, which was exactly equal to the national percentage.

Table 7. Poverty status, selected counties, 2000

	Total Population	Poverty Population (% of total)	Males in poverty (% of total)	Females in poverty (% of total)
Dallas County	2,177,891	279,486 (13%)	128,954 (6%)	150,532 (7%)
Cook County	5,260,526	686,063 (13%)	290,852 (6%)	395,211 (8%)
Miami-Dade County	2,196,381	428,632 (20%)	189,214 (9%)	239,418 (11%)
New York County	1,476,074	302,288 (20%)	129,162 (9%)	173,126 (12%)
Los Angeles County	9,344,086	1,613,242 (17%)	711,346 (8%)	901,896 (10%)
Harris County	3,358,444	439,097 (13%)	201,507 (6%)	237,590 (7%)
United States	272,453,541	34,077,004 (13%)	14,601,461 (5%)	19,475,543 (7%)

Source: 2000 Census

Table 8. Family poverty, selected counties, 2000
 (Number below poverty level in the past 12 months.)

	Dallas County	Cook County	Miami-Dade County	New York County	Los Angeles	Harris County	United States
Families	52,972	136,357	80,281	63,164	309,470	88,482	6,976,950
With related children under 18 years	42,832	105,986	56,612	47,691	263,470	71,804	5,414,494
With related children under 5 years only	10,587	21,612	10,999	8,901	47,608	13,323	1,146,632
Families with female householder, no husband present	30,005 (57%)	77,747 (57%)	36,369 (45%)	39,519 (63%)	145,599 (47%)	41,353 (47%)	3,652,620 (52%)
With related children under 18 years	26,940 (90%)	66,970 (86%)	28,665 (79%)	35,245 (89%)	130,694 (90%)	36,511 (88%)	3,307,057 (90%)
With related children under 5 years only	5,531	13,082	4,502	6,026	21,285	7,174	701,983

Source: 2000 Census

The level of educational attainment differs considerably between women and men in Dallas County (see Table 9). The percentage of females and males who have not completed high school is very close—25.2 percent and 29.7 percent, respectively. However, among the dropout population, a slightly higher proportion of men than women have had at least some high school education. In contrast, a higher percentage of women (44.2%) have had some college education than men (40.8%). But when it comes to graduate and professional degrees, Dallas County women lag behind their male counterparts.

Female educational attainment in Dallas County contrasts starkly with the national pattern. Compared with Dallas' 25.2 percent, females nationwide report a 19.6 percent high school dropout rate. On the other hand, while 23.9 percent of Dallas women terminated their formal education with a high school diploma, nationally 29.2 percent of the female population stopped with high school. Among the other urban counties examined in this report, Dallas County's female dropout rate is the third-lowest, with only Cook County (22.2%) and New York County (21.4%) having lower rates.. In terms of resident women who have attained a bachelor's degree or higher, Dallas County leads the U.S. at 22.8 percent to 21.2 percent. And compared with other large urban counties, Dallas is in the middle of the pack—higher than Harris, Miami-Dade, and Los Angeles Counties but lower than New York and Cook Counties.

Table 10 presents a detailed accounting of educational attainment by age, sex, and level of schooling.

Table 9. Educational attainment by sex, selected counties
(18 Years and over)

		Less than 9 th grade	9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	High school graduate ¹	Some college, no degree	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
Dallas County	Female	84,394	119,882	194,210	187,942	39,586	130,377	54,550
		10.4%	14.8%	23.9%	23.2%	4.9%	16.1%	6.7%
Dallas County	Male	108,217	126,710	163,851	155,641	34,409	132,310	69,399
		13.7%	16.0%	20.7%	19.7%	4.4%	16.7%	8.8%
Cook County	Female	187,329	277,875	524,403	465,727	114,588	343,869	181,374
		8.9%	13.3%	25.0%	22.2%	5.5%	16.4%	8.7%
Cook County	Male	176,966	273,270	449,634	393,929	85,759	313,069	196,175
		9.4%	14.5%	23.8%	20.9%	4.5%	16.6%	10.4%
Miami-Dade County	Female	125,591	157,115	210,496	173,778	59,889	101,762	65,041
		14.1%	17.6%	23.6%	19.4%	6.7%	11.4%	7.3%
Miami-Dade County	Male	102,039	155,881	179,900	148,454	45,693	94,094	76,207
		12.7%	19.4%	22.4%	18.5%	5.7%	11.7%	9.5%
New York County	Female	70,008	76,672	97,199	103,494	27,212	178,351	131,570
		10.2%	11.2%	14.2%	15.1%	4.0%	26.1%	19.2%
New York County	Male	53,853	73,750	82,447	80,730	16,815	154,003	135,493
		9.0%	12.4%	13.8%	13.5%	2.8%	25.8%	22.7%
Los Angeles County	Female	546,897	517,484	718,331	782,663	221,559	514,244	229,716
		15.5%	14.7%	20.3%	22.2%	6.3%	14.6%	6.5%
Los Angeles County	Male	496,086	535,761	634,206	692,189	182,331	495,438	292,631
		14.9%	16.1%	19.1%	20.8%	5.5%	14.9%	8.8%
Harris County	Female	136,470	182,437	292,298	287,861	57,585	191,627	82,304
		11.1%	14.8%	23.8%	23.4%	4.7%	15.6%	6.7%
Harris County	Male	147,408	192,315	249,072	244,030	48,471	200,497	106,063
		12.4%	16.2%	21.0%	20.5%	4.1%	16.9%	8.9%
United States	Female	7,497,115	13,772,149	31,694,883	25,363,950	7,069,245	15,434,947	7,537,588
		6.9%	12.7%	29.2%	23.4%	6.5%	14.2%	7.0%
United States	Male	7,338,038	13,942,950	28,211,869	22,272,543	5,539,281	14,846,954	8,757,637
		7.3%	13.8%	28.0%	22.1%	5.5%	14.7%	8.7%

Source: 2000 Census Summary File 3 (SF 3) Sample Data (Table PCT25; Retrieved on 10/24/02 from http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DTGeoSearchByListServlet?ds_name=DEC_2000_SF3_U&_lang=en&_ts=53542425927)

¹Included equivalency.

Table 10. Dallas County educational attainment by age, sex, and level, 2000
(18 years and older)

	Female		Male	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Age 18 – 24	108,512		108,184	
Less than 9 th grade	11,801	10.88%	18,309	16.92%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	32,534	29.98%	25,646	23.71%
High School graduate (Includes equivalency)	26,328	24.26%	33,458	30.93%
Some college, no degree	23,345	21.51%	19,648	18.16%
Associate degree	3,067	2.83%	2,350	2.17%
Bachelor's Degree	10,472	9.65%	8,561	7.91%
Graduate or Professional degree	965	0.89%	212	0.20%
Age 25 – 34	191,535		205,689	
Less than 9 th grade	21,112	11.02%	21,036	10.23%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	26,094	13.62%	36,442	17.72%
High School graduate (Includes equivalency)	42,592	22.24%	48,513	23.59%
Some college, no degree	40,924	21.37%	35,173	17.10%
Associate degree	8,819	4.60%	7,395	3.60%
Bachelor's Degree	42,193	22.03%	40,636	19.76%
Graduate or Professional degree	9,801	5.12%	16,494	8.02%
Age 35 - 44	175,557		187,652	
Less than 9 th grade	18,885	10.76%	26,581	14.17%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	22,582	12.86%	22,328	11.90%
High School graduate (Includes equivalency)	38,175	21.75%	40,412	21.54%
Some college, no degree	37,271	21.23%	38,323	20.42%
Associate degree	14,822	8.44%	12,715	6.78%
Bachelor's Degree	33,399	19.02%	31,495	16.78%
Graduate or Professional degree	10,423	5.94%	15,798	8.42%
Age 45 - 64	215,010		198,816	
Less than 9 th grade	19,219	8.94%	19,438	9.78%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	23,600	10.98%	14,193	7.14%
High School graduate (Includes equivalency)	56,944	26.48%	43,981	22.12%
Some college, no degree	46,985	21.85%	40,646	20.44%
Associate degree	11,410	5.31%	10,349	5.21%
Bachelor's Degree	39,719	18.47%	39,777	20.01%
Graduate or Professional degree	17,133	7.97%	30,432	15.31%
Age 65 +	101,143		69,684	
Less than 9 th grade	14,257	14.10%	9,743	13.98%
9 th to 12 th grade, no diploma	17,003	16.81%	8,361	12.00%
High School graduate (Includes equivalency)	33,092	32.72%	14,989	21.51%
Some college, no degree	21,943	21.70%	13,418	19.26%
Associate degree	2,449	2.42%	839	1.20%
Bachelor's Degree	9,606	9.50%	14,563	20.90%
Graduate or Professional degree	2,793	2.76%	7,771	11.15%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 11 shows the number of Dallas County residents currently in school by sex and level of education. According to the Census, more females than males are currently in school. But enrollments vary by level. More girls than boys are enrolled in nursery school while more boys than girls are enrolled in kindergarten. This is also the case for Cook, Miami-Dade, New York, and Los Angeles counties. However in Harris County and the U.S. overall, the reverse prevails with more boys than girls enrolled. In grades 1-4, Dallas County girls outnumber boys while in grades 5-8, boys outnumber girls. For the U.S., more boys than girls are enrolled at both the 1-4 and 5-8 grade levels.

By the high school years, grades 9-12, male enrollments significantly outnumber female enrollments in Dallas County, indicating a large number of girls are dropping out. This is also the case for the U.S. and for Miami-Dade, Los Angeles, and Harris Counties. By contrast, in Cook County and New York County, more females than males are enrolled in high school, suggesting a high dropout rate for boys.

Dallas County women are significantly outpacing men at the college and graduate levels. 10,000 more Dallas County women than men were enrolled in colleges in 2000 while the number of female graduate students was about 1,500 more than male graduate students. For the U.S. overall, more women than men are enrolled in college and graduate programs, and the same is true at the undergraduate level for each of the comparison urban counties. Cook and Harris counties report more men in graduate programs than women.

Table 11. Dallas County school enrollment by sex, 2000
(3 years and over)

		Nursery	Kindergarten	Grades 1-4	Grades 5-8	Grades 9-12	College	Graduate or	Total
							Undergraduate	Professional School	
Dallas County	Female	17,058	23,715	69,533	65,631	55,845	41,203	11,170	284,155
	Male	14,045	27,401	63,552	72,129	58,595	31,637	9,687	277,046
Cook County	Female	54,165	35,721	156,556	147,195	156,382	137,018	50,093	737,130
	Male	50,561	33,733	167,206	152,249	133,576	121,437	63,085	721,847
Miami-Dade County	Female	20,322	7,859	69,691	59,065	62,213	76,639	14,215	310,004
	Male	16,928	17,630	68,109	59,310	72,109	59,709	8,763	302,558
New York County	Female	14,680	4,822	29,776	30,750	25,786	30,574	23,135	159,523
	Male	13,231	8,706	25,919	32,212	22,662	27,814	17,061	147,605
Los Angeles County	Female	73,172	86,701	303,991	290,927	274,973	313,030	71,851	1,414,645
	Male	71,988	83,298	322,069	282,111	311,264	256,079	49,500	1,376,309
Harris County	Female	28,416	30,409	110,637	103,800	100,927	75,968	17,714	467,871
	Male	31,022	24,944	128,217	107,289	103,632	63,828	20,995	479,927
United States	Female	2,104,697	1,973,596	8,061,973	7,931,526	7,830,897	6,951,765	1,762,168	36,616,622
	Male	2,208,942	2,062,476	8,510,964	8,411,657	8,022,909	5,551,163	1,337,882	36,105,993

Source: 2000 Census

In sum, women in Dallas County appear to broadly reflect the urban norms for a variety of social, economic, and educational indicators—with a few exceptions. For example, the female workforce participation rate is much lower in Dallas County than in comparable urban counties or the U.S. as a whole. On the other hand, women who are working earn salaries higher than is the case for many other urban counties and for the U.S. overall.

Fifty-seven percent of Dallas County’s poverty families are headed by women, a figure that is five percentage points higher than the national norm and also higher than the comparison urban counties. While more Dallas women than men have attained college degrees, and more women than men are currently enrolled in higher educational institutions, the high school dropout rate for girls in Dallas County is disturbingly high.