

**THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DALLAS COUNTY:
PRELIMINARY DATA FROM THE 2000 CENSUS**

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December 2001

In late November, the U.S. Bureau of the Census released some initial demographic and economic data for Dallas County from the 2000 Census. The following narrative and tables highlight those data that refer specifically to women and girls.

In the year 2000, Dallas County's population totaled 2,185,429 with slightly more females than males in the population (see Table 1). But among county residents 65 years and over, women outnumbered men by about 1.5 to 1. About half of the 836,625 women in Dallas County aged 15 years and over are currently married, and 86 percent of married women report a spouse present in the household (see Table 2). The other 14 percent report no spouse present, either as a result of separation or other factors, such as imprisonment. 71,681 widows and 115,602 divorcees reside in Dallas County. In the 12 months prior to the Census, 42,533 Dallas County women bore children. Thirty percent of these births were to unmarried women.

Table 1.
Dallas County General Population Characteristics, 2000

	Female	Male	Total
Total Population	1,096,001	1,089,428	2,185,429
Population 65 years +	101,143	69,684	170,827

Source: 2000 Census

Table 2.
Marital Status and Fertility of Women in Dallas County, 2000
 (15 years and older)

TOTAL FEMALE POPULATION AGE 15+	836,625
Never married	229,291
Now married	420,051
Spouse present	360,715
Spouse absent	59,336
Separated	34,279
Other	25,057
Widowed	71,681
Divorced	115,602
FERTILITY	
Number of women 15-50 giving birth in previous 12 months	42,533
Unmarried women giving birth in previous 12 months	12,787

Source: 2000 Census

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 under 18 years.

Table 3.
Dallas County Household Characteristics, 2000

HOUSEHOLDS BY TYPE	
Total households	792,805
Family households (families)	510,458
With own children under 18 years	267,555
Married-couple families	339,704
With own children under 18 years	171,906
Female householder, no husband present	119,839
With own children under 18 years	73,423
Nonfamily households	282,347
Householder living alone	232,419
65 years and over	49,097
Households with one or more people under 18 years	304,073
Households with one or more people 65 years and over	127,505
Average household size	2.76
Average family size	3.49

Source: 2000 Census

More than 43 percent of the county's adult female population is currently working (see Table 4). The adult male participation rate is, not surprisingly, higher at 57 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.

Table 4.
Dallas County Working Population by Sex, 2000
 (16 years and over)

	Number	Percent of 16+ Population
Female	479,350	43.3%
Male	628,365	56.7

Source: 2000 Census

Table 5.
Dallas County Selected Occupations By Sex, 2000
 (16 years and over)

	Females	Males
Wholesale and retail	71,861	114,126
Information and communications	25,186	31,739
Financial Services	63,730	38,922
Professional and management	60,064	68,842
Educational services	42,505	16,381
Health and social services	63,883	24,339
Public administration	10,022	16,823

Source: 2000 Census

Table 6.
Dallas County Median Earnings for Population, 2000
 (16 Years and Over)

Total	\$24,902
Male	\$27,052
Female	\$21,623

Source: 2000 Census

About 13 percent of the county’s population—some 279,486 individuals—were determined to be in poverty by the 2000 Census (see Table 7). Females represent about 54 percent of this poverty population. Nearly 53,000 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). Ninety percent of female-headed poverty households included children under 18.

Table 7.
Dallas County Poverty Status, 2000

Total Population	2,177,891
Poverty Population	279,486
Males in poverty	128,954
Females in poverty	150,532

Source: 2000 Census

Table 8.
Dallas County Family Poverty, 2000

NUMBER BELOW POVERTY LEVEL IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS	
Families	52,972
With related children under 18 years	42,832
With related children under 5 years only	10,587
Families with female householder, no husband present	30,005
With related children under 18 years	26,940
With related children under 5 years only	5,531

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 virtually the same—about 26 percent. However, among the

dropout population, a higher proportion of women than men have had at least some high school education. What's more, a higher percentage of women (43.4 %) have had some college education than men (41%). But when it comes to graduate and professional degrees, Dallas County women lag far behind their male counterparts. Table 10 presents a detailed accounting of educational attainment by age, sex, and level of schooling.

Table 9.
Educational Attainment by Sex for Dallas County
 (18 Years and over)

	Female	Male
Less than 9th grade	85,274 (10.8%)	95,107 (12.4%)
9 th to 12th grade, no diploma	121,813 (15.4%)	106,970 (13.9%)
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	197,131 (24.9%)	181,353 (23.6%)
Some college, no degree	170,468 (21.5%)	147,208 (19.1%)
Associate degree	40,567 (5.1%)	33,648 (4.4%)
Bachelor's degree	135,389 (17.1%)	135,032 (17.5%)
Graduate or professional degree	41,115 (5.2%)	70,707 (9.2%)

Source: 2000 Census

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 9th grade	11,801	10.88%	18,309	16.92%
9th to 12th 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 9th grade	21,112	11.02%	21,036	10.23%
9th to 12th 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 9th grade	18,885	10.76%	26,581	14.17%
9th to 12th 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 9th grade	19,219	8.94%	19,438	9.78%
9th to 12th 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 9th grade	14,257	14.10%	9,743	13.98%
9th to 12th 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. In grades 1-4, girls outnumber boys while in grades 5-8, boys outnumber girls. This is also true at the high school level, suggesting a large number of girls are dropping out of grades 8 through 12. On the other hand, 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.

Table 11.
Dallas County School Enrollment by Sex, 2000
 (3 years and over)

	Female	Male
Nursery	17,058	14,045
Kindergarten	23,715	27,401
Grades 1-4	69,533	63,552
Grades 5-8	65,631	72,129
Grades 9-12	55,845	58,595
College undergraduate	41,203	31,637
Graduate or professional school	11,170	9,687
Total Enrollments	284,155	277,046

Source: 2000 Census