

WOMEN & GIRLS OF ORANGE COUNTY

On March 12, 2024, the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Board) established the Orange County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (Commission) restoring a dedicated advisory body tasked to provide annual reports and ongoing support for the first time since the original Commission was dissolved in 1991.

The 2026 inaugural report on Women and Girls of Orange County (report) aims to provide an overview and is the first comprehensive assessment on the status and conditions of women and girls in Orange County (OC) in over three decades.



The report was led by the Commission and was produced by the County Executive Office. This report establishes a countywide baseline based on the most current data to inform future reporting and deepen understanding of how conditions uniquely affect women and girls over time across all ages, backgrounds and lived experiences.

The data included within the report allows for evaluation of the condition of women and girls in OC and, when possible, enables state and gender comparisons to provide context. The report provides decision-makers and community members the insight to identify gaps, effectively allocate resources, and measure progress over time.

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

STRENGTHS | **WEAKNESSES** OC Women and girls show key differences among the categories below set by the Commission.

ECONOMIC EQUITY & FINANCIAL SECURITY

OC WOMEN MAKE

\$3,492 MORE
ON AVERAGE THAN CA WOMEN



4% OF OC WOMEN ARE
UNEMPLOYED
COMPARED TO 5.5% OF CA WOMEN

87% OF OC MEN'S WAGES ARE
EARNED BY OC WOMEN
AND 88% OF CA MEN'S WAGES ARE
EARNED BY CA WOMEN

WOMEN & GIRLS EDUCATION



44% OF OC WOMEN
HAVE AT LEAST A
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
COMPARED TO 39% OF CA WOMEN

82% OF OC GIRLS
ENROLL IN COLLEGE
WITHIN 12 MONTHS OF GRADUATION
COMPARED TO 74.4% OF BOYS

MORE OC SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE
SLIGHTLY HIGHER RATES OF GIRLS
MISSING 10% OR MORE
SCHOOL DAYS



LEADERSHIP & REPRESENTATION

OC WOMEN REPRESENT

OVER 50%
OF **SALES & OFFICE** AND
SERVICE OCCUPATIONS



AT ONLY 6.6%,
OC WOMEN SHOW THE LEAST AMOUNT OF REPRESENTATION IN
**NATURAL RESOURCES, CONSTRUCTION
& MAINTENANCE OCCUPATIONS**

DATA HIGHLIGHTS (Cont.)



STRENGTHS | WEAKNESSES

MENTAL HEALTH

18.6% OF OC WOMEN REPORTED EVER SERIOUSLY THOUGHT OF COMMITTING SUICIDE WHICH IS LESS THAN 2023



MEMORY LOSS, ANXIETY, & DEPRESSION ARE THE TOP THREE REPORTED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONCERNS FOR OC WOMEN 55+

ALTHOUGH TRENDING DOWN IN THE PAST YEAR, OC GIRLS REPORT HIGHER **CHRONIC SADNESS & SUICIDE IDEATION** COMPARED TO BOYS

HEALTHCARE



OC & CA WOMEN RECEIVE **EQUAL COVERAGE**



1 in 10

OC WOMEN AGES 26-34 ARE MOST FREQUENTLY UNINSURED

HOUSING & HOUSEHOLDS



THOSE PAYING 35% OR GREATER OF THEIR GROSS INCOME ON THEIR MORTGAGE

32% OF RESIDENTS **31%** OF RESIDENTS

11% OF OC HOUSEHOLDS ARE HEADED BY WOMEN AND **40.9% HAVE CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS OLD**

CHILD & DEPENDENT CARE



74% OF CAREGIVERS REPORT THEIR

ROLES TO BE DIFFICULT FOLLOWED BY **OVER HALF** REPORTING FINANCIAL & PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES



\$13,156-\$24,284

IS THE YEARLY AVERAGE CHILDCARE COST IN OC. THIS EQUATES TO **24% OF AN OC WOMAN'S AVERAGE INCOME**

VIOLENCE & DOMESTIC ABUSE



4,524 WEAPON-RELATED DOMESTIC ABUSE CASES IN OC, WHICH HAS **MORE THAN DOUBLED** SINCE 2015



9% OF UNHOUSED OC WOMEN ARE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE WHICH HAS INCREASED SINCE 2019

KEY FINDINGS

Overall, women and girls in OC fare comparatively well across several key indicators when measured against statewide benchmarks, with notable strengths in employment, earnings, and educational attainment. Still, within OC's high cost of living - where median rent is 20% higher than CA, and 69% higher than the US - financial pressure can deepen existing disparities.

For instance, OC women are:

- More concentrated in lower-wage industries;
- Head households with children at a higher rate (40.9%) than the overall population (30%); and
- Earn 87 cents for every dollar earned by men.

Childcare costs consume nearly one-quarter of the median income for women without additional support, underscoring how even moderate economic pressures can strain working families.

These findings reflect both the unique strengths of women and girls in OC and the real pressures that shape their daily lives. The Commission will continue to use these findings to inform recommendations that advance the well-being of women and girls.



TO VIEW THE FULL REPORT SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT THE FOLLOWING LINK: [HTTPS://BIT.LY/OCCSWG](https://bit.ly/OCCSWG)