

Report on Illinois Poverty



"Women and gender minorities still fare worse than men on almost every indicator of well-being."

- Katie Buitrago, Director of Research

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THE GENDER DISADVANTAGE: WHY INEQUITY PERSISTS

Heartland Alliance's Newest Report On Illinois Poverty

Poverty and inequity uniquely harm women and gender minorities. The 2019 Report on Illinois Poverty, ["The Gender Disadvantage: Why Inequity Persists,"](#) argues that improving the well-being of women—particularly women of color—would deliver the greatest impact in the fight to reduce poverty and boost Illinois's economy.

"This Women's History Month, it's important to celebrate the progress towards gender equity—women are excelling in the educational realm, are represented at historic rates in Congress, and Chicago is on the cusp of electing its first black woman mayor. But, against that backdrop of progress, stark gender disparities persist. Women and gender minorities still

fare worse than men on almost every indicator of well-being.” - Katie Buitrago, Director of Research at Heartland Alliance.

[The Gender Disadvantage](#) shows how gender, gender identity, and gender norms shape experiences of poverty for women and gender minorities—and women who have other marginalized identities experience even more inequity.

Here are more of our key findings:

- **Women of color fare worse than white women on almost every domain:** they’re paid less, have less wealth, are more likely to be low-wage workers in jobs, have poorer health outcomes, higher incarceration rates, experience domestic violence, and more.
- **Women experience high rates of wage inequities and wage violations.**
- **Single mothers are deeply and uniquely impacted by poverty.**
- **Workplace discrimination and harassment are key drivers of economic gender inequities.**
- **The unequal distribution of unpaid care seeds many other disparities.**
- **Gender discrimination and disparity extends beyond the gender binary.**

[The Gender Disadvantage](#) also calls for a number of solutions in order to address the gender poverty and wealth gap. These solutions tackle inequities for people of color, immigrants, low-wage workers, LGBTQ people, and others.

[Read the Full Report Today to See All Our Findings and Learn More.](#)

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