

## Women and Men, 2000

### Women in the United States outnumber men, but they are hampered by higher poverty rates and lower earnings.

Statistics on women and men are clearly valuable to manufacturers and advertisers selling everything from automobiles to zinc oxide. However, these facts may be even more essential to health care planners and agencies supplying social services. As each generation comes of age, the roles of women and men change, creating a need to continually reexamine the numbers. Every year, new information on education, occupation, living arrangements, poverty status, and a variety of other topics comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.<sup>1</sup>

In 2000, the female population in the United States (140 million) was 6 million higher than the male population (134 million). Yet, among the group under age 20, there were 105 boys for every 100 girls. This male-to-female ratio declined as age increased. For men and women aged 20 to 44, the ratio was 98. But among the group aged 85 and older, there were only 50 men for every 100 women. In 2000, the projected average life expectancy at birth for women was 79 years, compared with 74 years for men.<sup>2</sup>

### Education, employment, and occupation reflect important differences between men and women.

Among the population aged 25 and older in 2000, 84 percent of both men and women were high school graduates. Still, men this age were more likely than women to have graduated from college, 28 percent

<sup>1</sup> Estimates in this chapter are calculated using sample data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), weighted by population controls based on the 1990 decennial census. The population universe for the March CPS is the civilian noninstitutional population plus armed forces living off base or with their families on post. As a result, these estimates will differ from population estimates computed from either the intercensal estimates program or the 2000 decennial census.

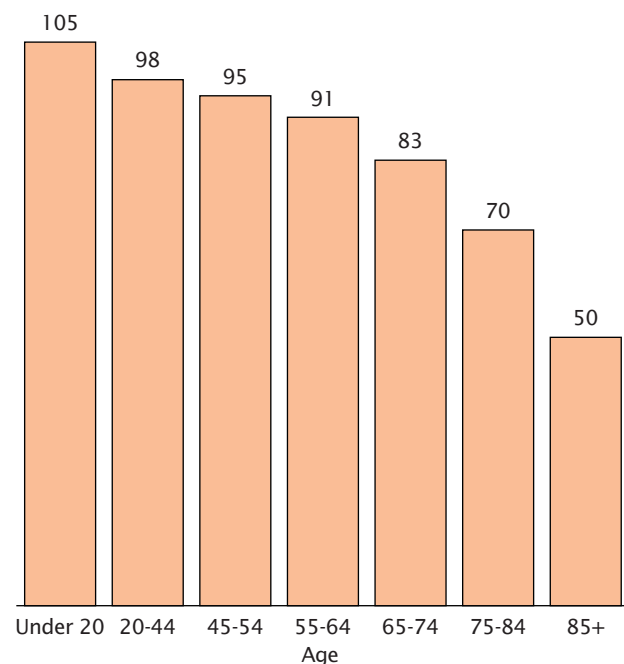
<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. National Center for Health Statistics, *Vital Statistics of the United States*, annual, and *National Vital Statistics Reports* (NVSR).

compared with 24 percent, respectively. On the other hand, young women were typically better educated than young men. Eighty-nine percent of women aged 25 to 29 were high school graduates in 2000, compared with 87 percent of men this age. Within this age group, 30 percent of women held a bachelor's degree or better, compared with 28 percent of men. Women have been the majority of college students since 1979.

In 2000, 61 percent of women aged 16 and older were working or looking for work, compared with 74 percent of men. Earnings were lower for women than for men. The 1999 median earnings for women aged 15 and older who worked full time, year-round was \$26,300, compared with \$36,500 for men in this category.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Information on income was collected in the March 2000 Current Population Survey and reflects incomes in the previous calendar year.

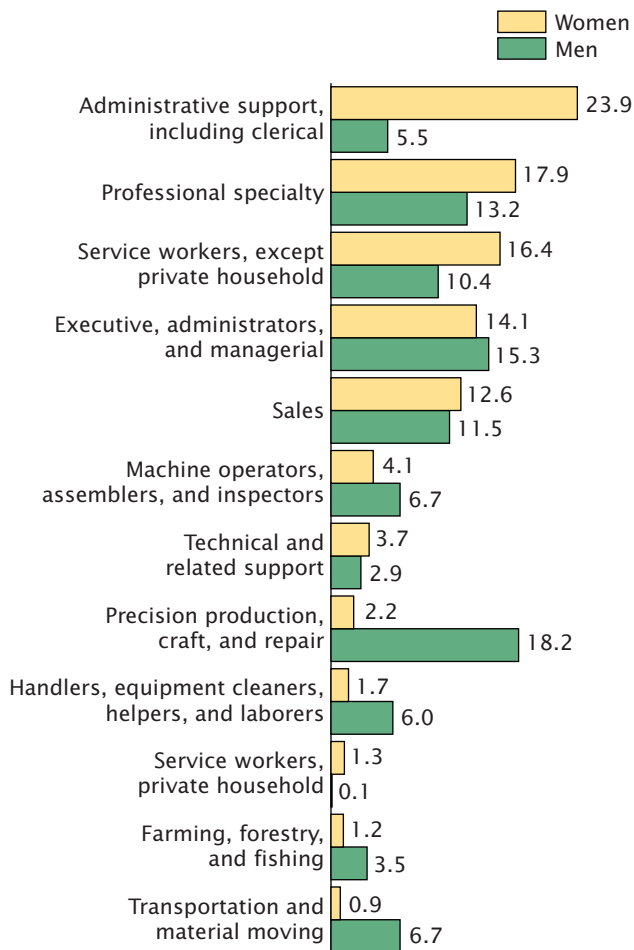
Figure 20-1.  
Number of Men per 100 Women  
by Age Group: 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

Figure 20-2.  
Detailed Occupation Groups of the  
Employed Civilian Population  
by Sex: March 2000

(Percent of employed civilians aged 16 and older)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 2000.

In 2000, 58 percent of women aged 16 and older worked in just three occupational categories. Twenty-four percent worked in administrative support, including clerical. Another 18 percent worked in professional specialty jobs, and 16 percent worked as service workers (excluding private household service workers). Men's occupations were less concentrated. The largest occupational category for men was precision production, craft and repair, accounting for 18 percent of employed men in the civilian labor force.

Men are somewhat more likely to be married and living with their spouse than women, but are also somewhat more likely to have never been married.

In 2000, 51 percent of women aged 15 and older were currently married and living with their spouse, compared with 55 percent of men. And even though 25 percent of women this age had never been married, 31 percent of men never had. About 2 percent of both men and women were separated. However, women were more likely than men to be divorced, 10 percent compared with 8 percent. Although 10 percent of women were widowed, only 3 percent of men were.<sup>4</sup>

In 1999, 13 percent of females and 10 percent of males lived in poverty. However the poverty rate was particularly high when women without spouses present maintained families. The 1999 rate for families maintained by a woman with no spouse present was 28 percent, compared with 12 percent for families maintained by a man with no spouse present. The rate for married-couple families was just 5 percent.

<sup>4</sup> The difference between the shares of divorced women and widowed women was not significant and the difference between the shares of separated women and widowed men was not significant.

## The Census Bureau Can Tell You More

- Look for detailed tables on the Census Bureau's World Wide Web site ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)). Click on "W" and select "Women." Under reports find PPL-121, "Women in the United States: March 2000."
- Contact the Special Populations Staff of the U.S. Census Bureau at 301-457-2378 or e-mail [pop@census.gov](mailto:pop@census.gov).
- For information on publications and other resources, see Appendix A.