

# GENDER MATTERS

from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation

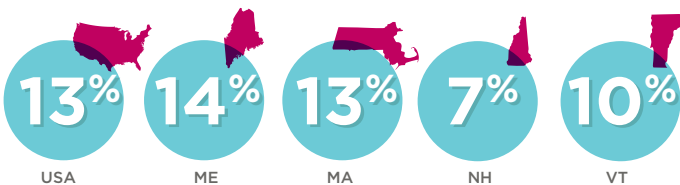
A Look at Gender Statistics from New Hampshire and Beyond  
Compiled by the New Hampshire Women's Foundation

SEPTEMBER 2016 REPORT

Women in Poverty: Need for a Livable Wage

In this analysis, we use data from the American Community Survey to assess poverty rates for women in New Hampshire.

Figure 1: Poverty Rates in Northern New England



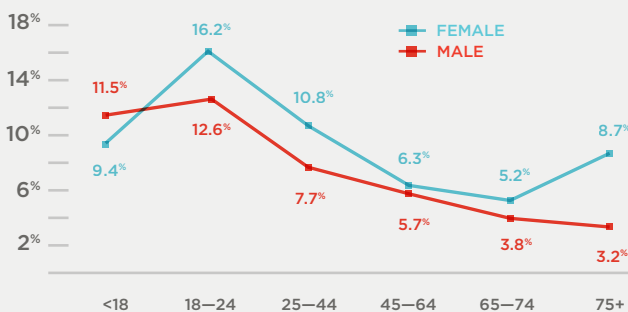
**New Hampshire's poverty rate was the lowest in the country.** Rates of poverty vary according to family size and composition. In 2014 the poverty rate was \$24,008 for a family of two adults and two children. New Hampshire has historically experienced relatively low rates of poverty. The poverty rate for adults in NH in 2014 was 7 percent, almost half the rate for the rest of the country, and well below the other northern New England states.

Figure 2: Poverty Rate for New Hampshire Adults by Gender—2014



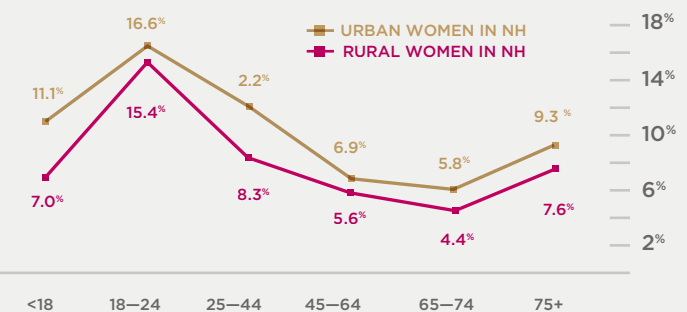
**Women are more likely to be poor than men.** Only 8 percent of the adult male population in New Hampshire have incomes below the poverty line, compared to 9 percent of adult women.

Figure 3: Poverty Rates (5 Years 2014 ACS)



**Age and Geography Matter.** Poverty among women and girls varies considerably by age. Poverty rates for male and female children were roughly the same. Women of working age experience slightly higher rates of poverty than their male counterparts. The number of older women living in poverty—those over the age of 75—is more than double the rate of older men who are poor, due both to women's greater longevity and lower lifetime income than men.

Figure 4: Female Poverty Rates (5 Years 2014 ACS)



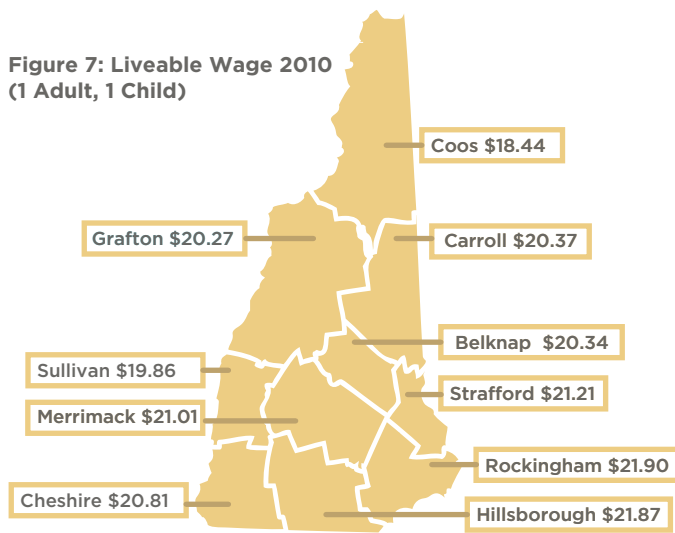
And as shown above in Figure 4, across all age groups, women and girls living in urban areas experience higher rates of poverty than their rural counterparts. The difference in rates of poverty among women is greatest for those under the age of 18, and those 25-44.

While rates of poverty are highest among the 18-24 group, the age cohorts with the highest number of individuals living in poverty are those 25-44 and 45-64 (Figure 5, below). These two groups account for almost half of the women living in poverty—in New Hampshire.

Figure 5: Estimates of the Number of Females in Poverty in New Hampshire (5 Year 2014 ACS)



**Figure 7: Liveable Wage 2010**  
(1 Adult, 1 Child)



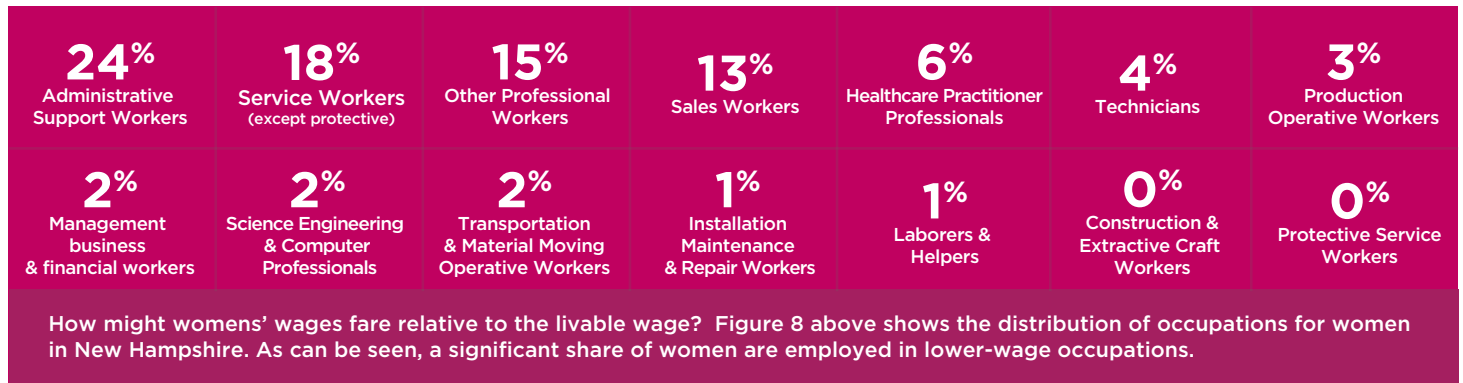
## Female Occupations & The Livable Wage

An alternative measure of an individual family's ability to thrive economically is the degree to which income meets a 'livable wage.' The living wage is the hourly pay rate that an individual would need to earn to support his or her family working full time. Figure 7 (left) shows an estimate of the cost of living in each county using a set of expenses for each location, including food, child care, healthcare, housing, transportation and taxes, among other things (Glasmeier, 2014). As you can see, there is significant geographic variation in the costs of living in New Hampshire, from a low of \$18.44 per hour in Coos County, to a high of almost \$22.00 per hour in Rockingham.

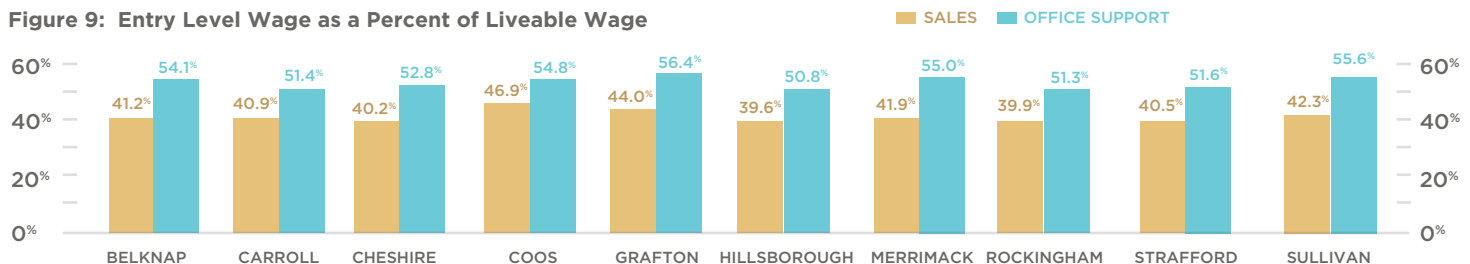
Average Cost of  
Living in NH



**Figure 8: Working Women & the Livable Wage 2006–2010**



**Figure 9: Entry Level Wage as a Percent of Liveable Wage**



How do wages for those occupations most likely held by women compare to the livable wage? Figure 9 shows the entry level wages for office and administrative support workers and sales workers as a share of the livable wage for a single worker with a child.<sup>1</sup> Entry level sales workers—which includes supervisors of sales workers, as well as cashiers, and retail salespersons among others—received wages of \$8.58 per hour, which represented slightly more than 40 percent of the livable wage in the state. In Hillsborough and Rockingham, sales workers received less than 40 percent of the livable wage for a single worker with a child. Office and administrative workers' wages were slightly higher, but were still only 53 percent of the livable wage for a single worker with a child.

### Resources

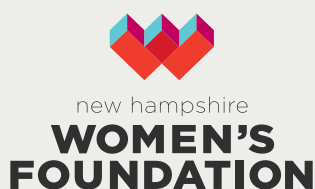
1) NH Employment and Labor Market Information. (<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/products/2015-oct/Counties/toc000.htm>)

Fig. 1, Fig. 2) 2014 American Community Survey, Single Year File

Fig. 3, Fig. 4, Fig. 5, Fig. 8) 2014 American Community Survey, Five Year File

Fig. 6) Geographic Variation in the Livable Wage in 2010

Fig. 9) New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, 2015 New Hampshire Occupational Employment and Wages and Amy Glasmeier Amy, 2015 living wage data: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>



Our mission is to promote opportunity & equality for women & girls in New Hampshire through research, education, philanthropy & advocacy.



P.O. Box 3502 Concord, NH [nhwomensfoundation.org](http://nhwomensfoundation.org)

Brought to you with support from



Additional support provided by

