In this edition of Gender Matters, we’re looking at the 2016 American Community Survey data about poverty released by the United States Census Bureau in September.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE HAS THE LOWEST POVERTY RATE IN THE COUNTRY**

- **US**: 14%
- **ME**: 12.5%
- **VT**: 11.9%
- **MA**: 10.4%
- **NH**: 7.3%

Poverty peaked at 10% in 2012, when approximately 128,000 people lived in poverty.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE POVERTY IS NEAR PRE-RECESSION LEVEL**

- **2007**: 5.91%
- **2012**: 5.75%
- **2016**: 5.81%

Poverty is female:

- **WASHINGTON DC**: 58.1%
- **NEW JERSEY**: 40.9%
- **MICHIGAN**: 42.5%
- **OHIO**: 41.9%

**NEARLY 3 IN 5 ADULTS LIVING IN POVERTY IS A WOMAN.**

Women make up a much higher share of adults living in poverty.

**US**: 41.9%

**WASHINGTON DC**: 58.1%
POVERTY HITS SINGLE MOMS HARDEST

MORE THAN 1 IN 5 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN HEADED BY A SINGLE WOMAN LIVE IN POVERTY.

That’s nearly 2 times the rate of poverty for families with children headed by a single man – and 10 times the rate for married couples with children.

POVERTY GENDER GAP BY COUNTY

In every county in New Hampshire, the poverty rate for women and girls exceeds the poverty rate for men and boys, but the gap is narrowest in Sullivan County and widest in Cheshire.

NEARLY 2 IN 3 FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO ARE LIVING IN POVERTY ARE HEADED BY A SINGLE WOMAN.

WE NEED MORE DATA ABOUT STATE ASSISTANCE

The Department of Health and Human Services\(^2\) keeps gender data about the people who apply for assistance for a household, but not about all of the people in the household. As a result, we don’t know how many assistance program participants are men and how many are women. And the Department doesn’t keep any gender data at all for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).

FOOTNOTES

1.) In this report, “with children” means the presence of 1 or 2 related children under 18.
2.) Department of Health and Human Services data is as of August 2017, and provided courtesy of the agency.

MEDICAID

In Medicaid, only 30.6 percent of households are headed by a man.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES (CASH ASSISTANCE)

In Financial Assistance to Needy Families (cash assistance), only 86 of 1,199 households are headed by a man.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Department does not maintain gender data in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).