



1.5 | Women in development

	Female population	Life expectancy at birth		Pregnant women receiving prenatal care	Literacy gender parity index	Labor force gender parity index		Maternity leave benefits	Women in decision-making positions	
	% of total 2000	Male years 2000	Female years 2000	% 1996	ages 15-24 2000	1990	2000	% of wages paid in covered period 1998	% at ministerial level	
									1994	1998
Afghanistan	48.4	43	43	..	..	0.5	0.6	..	..	..
Albania	48.9	72	76	..	1.0	0.7	0.7	..	0	11
Algeria	49.3	69	73	58	0.9	0.3	0.4	100	4	0
Angola	50.5	45	48	25	..	0.9	0.9	100	7	14
Argentina	51.0	70	77	..	1.0	0.4	0.5	100	0	8
Armenia	51.6	71	77	95	1.0	0.9	0.9	..	3	0
Australia	50.2	76	82	..	..	0.7	0.8	0	13	14
Austria	51.2	75	81	..	..	0.7	0.7	100	16	20
Azerbaijan	50.8	68	75	95	..	0.8	0.8	..	5	10
Bangladesh	48.4	61	62	23	0.7	0.7	0.7	100	8	5
Belarus	53.4	62	74	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	100	3	3
Belgium	51.0	75	81	..	..	0.7	0.7	82 ^a	11	3
Benin	50.7	51	55	60	0.5	0.9	0.9	100	10	13
Bolivia	50.2	61	64	52	1.0	0.6	0.6	70 ^b	0	6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	50.5	71	76	..	..	0.6	0.6	..	0	6
Botswana	51.0	39	39	92	1.1	0.9	0.8	25	6	14
Brazil	50.6	64	72	74	1.0	0.5	0.6	100	5	4
Bulgaria	51.4	68	75	..	1.0	0.9	0.9	100	0	..
Burkina Faso	51.7	44	45	59	0.5	0.9	0.9	100	7	10
Burundi	51.4	41	43	88	0.9	1.0	0.9	50	7	8
Cambodia	51.2	52	55	52	0.9	1.2	1.1	50	0	..
Cameroon	50.2	49	51	73	1.0	0.6	0.6	100	3	6
Canada	50.5	76	82	..	..	0.8	0.8	55 ^c	14	..
Central African Republic	51.3	43	44	67	0.8	..	..	50	5	4
Chad	50.5	47	50	30	0.8	0.8	0.8	50	5	0
Chile	50.5	73	79	91	1.0	0.4	0.5	100	13	13
China	48.6	69	72	79	1.0	0.8	0.8	100	6	..
Hong Kong, China	49.1	77	82	100	1.0	0.6	0.6	..	..	..
Colombia	50.6	68	75	83	1.0	0.6	0.6	100	11	18
Congo, Dem. Rep.	50.4	45	46	66	0.8	0.8	0.8	67	6	..
Congo, Rep.	51.0	49	53	55	1.0	0.8	0.8	100	6	6
Costa Rica	49.3	75	80	95	1.0	0.4	0.5	100	10	15
Côte d'Ivoire	48.8	45	46	83	0.8	0.5	0.5	100	8	3
Croatia	51.6	69	78	..	1.0	0.7	0.8	..	4	12
Cuba	49.9	75	78	100	1.0	0.6	0.7	100	0	5
Czech Republic	51.4	72	78	..	..	0.9	0.9	..	0	17
Denmark	50.5	74	79	..	..	0.9	0.9	100 ^e	29	41
Dominican Republic	49.2	65	70	97	1.0	0.4	0.4	100	4	10
Ecuador	49.8	68	71	75	1.0	0.3	0.4	100	6	20
Egypt, Arab Rep.	49.4	66	69	53	0.8	0.4	0.4	100	4	6
El Salvador	50.9	67	73	69	1.0	0.5	0.6	75	10	6
Eritrea	50.3	51	53	19	0.8	0.9	0.9	..	7	5
Estonia	53.4	65	76	..	..	1.0	1.0	..	15	12
Ethiopia	50.3	41	43	20	0.8	0.7	0.7	100	10	5
Finland	51.2	74	81	..	..	0.9	0.9	80	39	29
France	51.3	75	83	..	..	0.8	0.8	100	7	12
Gabon	50.5	51	54	86	..	0.8	0.8	100	7	3
Gambia, The	50.5	52	55	91	0.7	0.8	0.8	100	0	29
Georgia	52.3	69	77	95	..	0.9	0.9	..	0	4
Germany	51.0	74	81	..	..	0.7	0.7	100	16	8
Ghana	50.2	56	58	86	0.9	1.0	1.0	50	11	9
Greece	50.7	75	81	..	1.0	0.5	0.6	75	4	5
Guatemala	49.6	62	68	53	0.9	0.3	0.4	100	19	0
Guinea	49.7	46	47	59	..	0.9	0.9	100	9	8
Guinea-Bissau	50.7	43	46	50	0.6	0.7	0.7	100	4	18
Haiti	51.0	51	56	68	1.0	0.8	0.8	100 ^e	13	0
Honduras	49.7	63	69	73	1.0	0.4	0.5	100 ^f	11	11



	Female population % of total 2000	Life expectancy at birth		Pregnant women receiving prenatal care % 1996	Literacy gender parity index ages 15-24 2000	Labor force gender parity index		Maternity leave benefits % of wages paid in covered period 1998	Women in decision-making positions % at ministerial level	
		Male years 2000	Female years 2000			1990	2000		1994	1998
Hungary	52.3	67	76	..	1.0	0.8	0.8	100	0	5
India	48.4	62	63	62	0.8	0.5	0.5	100	3	..
Indonesia	49.8	64	68	82	1.0	0.6	0.7	100	6	3
Iran, Islamic Rep.	48.8	68	70	62	1.0	0.3	0.4	67	0	0
Iraq	49.2	60	62	59	0.9	0.2	0.2	100	0	0
Ireland	50.3	74	79	..	..	0.5	0.5	70 ^d	16	21
Israel	50.7	76	80	90	1.0	0.6	0.7	75	4	0
Italy	51.5	76	82	..	1.0	0.6	0.6	80	12	13
Jamaica	50.7	73	77	98	1.1	0.9	0.9	100 ^g	5	12
Japan	51.1	78	84	..	..	0.7	0.7	60	6	0
Jordan	48.0	70	73	80	1.0	0.2	0.3	100	3	2
Kazakhstan	51.5	60	71	92	..	0.9	0.9	..	6	5
Kenya	50.2	47	47	95	1.0	0.8	0.9	100	0	0
Korea, Dem. Rep.	49.8	59	62	100	..	0.8	0.8	..	0	..
Korea, Rep.	49.7	70	77	96	1.0	0.6	0.7	100	4	..
Kuwait	41.8	75	79	99	1.0	0.3	0.5	100	0	0
Kyrgyz Republic	51.0	63	72	90	..	0.9	0.9	..	0	4
Lao PDR	50.1	53	55	25	0.7	..	..	100	0	0
Latvia	53.9	65	76	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	..	0	7
Lebanon	51.1	69	72	85	1.0	0.4	0.4	100	0	0
Lesotho	50.4	44	44	91	1.2	0.6	0.6	0	6	6
Liberia	49.7	46	48	0	0.6	0.6	0.7	0	0	0
Libya	48.2	69	73	100	0.9	0.2	0.3	50	0	7
Lithuania	52.8	68	78	..	1.0	0.9	0.9	..	0	6
Macedonia, FYR	50.0	71	75	..	..	0.7	0.7	..	8	9
Madagascar	50.3	53	56	78	0.9	0.8	0.8	100 ^d	0	19
Malawi	50.3	39	39	90	0.8	1.0	0.9	..	9	4
Malaysia	49.3	70	75	90	1.0	0.6	0.6	100	7	16
Mali	50.5	41	44	25	0.8	0.9	0.9	100	10	21
Mauritania	50.4	50	53	49	0.7	0.8	0.8	100	0	4
Mauritius	50.2	68	76	99	1.0	0.4	0.5	100	3	..
Mexico	50.5	70	76	71	1.0	0.4	0.5	100	5	5
Moldova	52.2	64	72	..	1.0	0.9	0.9	..	0	0
Mongolia	49.9	65	69	90	..	0.9	0.9	..	0	0
Morocco	49.9	66	69	45	0.8	0.5	0.5	100	0	0
Mozambique	50.6	41	44	54	0.6	0.9	0.9	100	4	0
Myanmar	50.3	54	59	80	1.0	0.8	0.8	67	0	0
Namibia	50.6	47	47	88	1.0	0.7	0.7	..	10	8
Nepal	48.7	59	59	15	0.6	0.7	0.7	100	0	3
Netherlands	50.4	75	81	..	..	0.6	0.7	100	31	28
New Zealand	50.7	76	81	..	..	0.8	0.8	0	8	8
Nicaragua	50.2	67	71	71	1.0	0.5	0.6	60	10	5
Niger	49.6	44	48	30	0.4	0.8	0.8	50	5	10
Nigeria	49.6	46	48	60	0.9	0.5	0.6	50	3	6
Norway	50.5	76	81	..	..	0.8	0.9	100	35	20
Oman	46.9	72	75	98	1.0	0.1	0.2	..	0	0
Pakistan	48.6	62	64	27	0.6	0.3	0.4	100	4	7
Panama	49.5	72	77	72	1.0	0.5	0.5	100	13	6
Papua New Guinea	47.9	58	59	70	0.9	0.7	0.7	0	0	0
Paraguay	49.6	68	73	83	1.0	0.4	0.4	50 ^h	0	7
Peru	50.4	67	72	64	1.0	0.4	0.5	100	6	10
Philippines	49.6	67	71	83	1.0	0.6	0.6	100	8	10
Poland	51.4	69	78	..	1.0	0.8	0.9	100	17	12
Portugal	51.9	72	79	..	1.0	0.7	0.8	100	10	10
Puerto Rico	51.9	72	81	99	1.0	0.5	0.6	..	..	..
Romania	51.1	66	74	..	1.0	0.8	0.8	50-94	0	8
Russian Federation	53.2	59	72	..	1.0	0.9	1.0	100	0	8



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		Male years 2000	Female years 2000			1990	2000		1994	1998
Rwanda	50.5	39	40	94	1.0	1.0	1.0	67	9	5
Saudi Arabia	46.6	71	74	87	1.0	0.1	0.2	50-100	0	0
Senegal	50.1	51	54	74	0.7	0.7	0.7	100	7	7
Sierra Leone	50.8	38	41	30	..	0.6	0.6	..	0	10
Singapore	49.6	76	80	100	1.0	0.6	0.6	100	0	0
Slovak Republic	51.4	69	77	..	..	0.9	0.9	..	5	19
Slovenia	51.4	72	79	..	1.0	0.9	0.9	..	5	0
Somalia	50.4	47	50	0	..	0.8	0.8	0	0	0
South Africa	50.8	47	49	89	1.0	0.6	0.6	45	6	..
Spain	51.1	75	82	..	1.0	0.5	0.6	100	14	18
Sri Lanka	48.6	71	76	100	1.0	0.5	0.6	100	3	13
Sudan	49.7	55	58	54	0.9	0.4	0.4	100	0	0
Swaziland	50.7	45	46	0	1.0	0.6	0.6	0	0	0
Sweden	50.5	77	82	..	..	0.9	0.9	75	30	43
Switzerland	50.5	77	83	..	..	0.6	0.7	100	17	17
Syrian Arab Republic	49.3	67	72	33	0.8	0.3	0.4	100	7	8
Tajikistan	50.2	66	72	90	1.0	0.7	0.8	..	3	6
Tanzania	50.4	44	45	92	0.9	1.0	1.0	100	13	13
Thailand	50.5	67	71	77	1.0	0.9	0.9	100 ⁱ	0	4
Togo	50.3	48	50	43	0.7	0.7	0.7	100	5	9
Trinidad and Tobago	50.3	70	75	98	1.0	0.5	0.5	60-100	19	14
Tunisia	49.5	70	74	71	0.9	0.4	0.5	67	4	3
Turkey	49.5	67	72	62	1.0	0.5	0.6	67	5	5
Turkmenistan	50.5	63	70	90	..	0.8	0.8	..	3	4
Uganda	50.1	42	42	87	0.8	0.9	0.9	100 ^j	10	13
Ukraine	53.6	63	74	..	1.0	1.0	1.0	100	0	5
United Arab Emirates	33.9	74	77	95	1.1	0.1	0.2	100	0	0
United Kingdom	50.8	75	80	..	..	0.7	0.8	90 ^k	9	24
United States	50.7	74	80	..	..	0.8	0.9	0	14	26
Uruguay	51.5	71	78	80	1.0	0.6	0.7	100	0	7
Uzbekistan	50.3	67	73	90	1.0	0.8	0.9	..	3	3
Venezuela, RB	49.7	71	76	74	1.0	0.5	0.5	100	11	3
Vietnam	50.2	67	72	78	1.0	1.0	1.0	100	5	0
West Bank and Gaza	49.3	70	74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Yemen, Rep.	50.2	56	57	26	0.6	0.4	0.4	100	0	0
Yugoslavia, Fed. Rep.	50.3	70	75	..	..	0.7	0.8	..	..	5
Zambia	49.8	38	38	92	0.9	0.8	0.8	100	5	3
Zimbabwe	50.0	40	40	93	1.0	0.8	0.8	60-75	3	12
World	49.4 w	65 w	69 w	70 w	.. w	0.7 w	0.7 w		6 w	.. w
Low income	49.3	58	60	62	0.8	0.6	0.6		4	..
Middle income	49.5	67	72	77	1.0	0.7	0.7		5	..
Lower middle income	49.2	67	72	76	1.0	0.8	0.8		5	..
Upper middle income	50.2	67	73	80	1.0	0.5	0.6		6	6
Low & middle income	49.4	63	66	70	0.9	0.7	0.7		5	..
East Asia & Pacific	49.0	67	71	80	1.0	0.8	0.8		5	..
Europe & Central Asia	51.8	64	74	..	1.0	0.8	0.9		3	7
Latin America & Carib.	50.4	67	74	75	1.0	0.5	0.5		6	7
Middle East & N. Africa	48.6	66	69	58	0.9	0.3	0.4		2	2
South Asia	48.5	62	63	55	0.8	0.5	0.5		4	..
Sub-Saharan Africa	50.1	46	47	65	0.9	0.7	0.7		6	7
High income	49.5	75	81	..	..	0.7	0.8		12	16
Europe EMU	51.2	75	81	..	..	0.7	0.7		14	13

a. For 30 days, 75 percent thereafter. b. Benefit is 70 percent of wages above the minimum wage, 100 percent of national minimum wage. c. For 15 weeks. d. Up to a ceiling. e. For 6 weeks. f. For 84 days. g. For 8 weeks. h. For 9 weeks. i. Benefit is 100 percent for the first 45 days, then 50 percent for 15 days. j. For 1 month. k. For 6 weeks; flat rate thereafter.



About the data

Despite considerable progress in recent decades, gender inequalities remain pervasive in many dimensions of life—worldwide. But while disparities exist throughout the world, they are most prevalent in poor developing countries. The differences in outcomes between men and women—and between boys and girls—are a consequence of differences in the opportunities and resources available to them. Inequalities in the allocation of resources such as education, health care, and nutrition matter because of the strong association of these resources with well-being, productivity, and growth. This pattern of inequality begins at an early age, with boys routinely receiving a larger share of education and health spending than girls do, for example.

Life expectancy has increased for both men and women in all regions, but female morbidity and mortality rates sometimes exceed male rates, particularly during early childhood and the reproductive years. In high-income countries women tend to outlive men by four to eight years on average, while in low-income countries the difference is narrower—about two to three years. The female disadvantage is best reflected in differences in child mortality rates (see table 2.20). Child mortality captures the effect of preferences for boys because adequate nutrition and medical interventions are particularly important for the age group 1–5. Because of the natural female biological advantage, when female child mortality is as high as or higher than male child mortality, there is good reason to believe that girls are discriminated against.

Female disadvantage in mortality is carried into adolescence and the reproductive years. Serious health risks for adolescents arise when they become sexually active. And while in high-income countries women have universal access to health care during pregnancy, in developing countries it is estimated that 35 percent of pregnant women—some 45 million each year—receive no care at all (United Nations 2000b). Prenatal care is essential for recognizing, diagnosing, and promptly treating complications that arise during pregnancy.

Girls in many developing countries are allowed less education by their families than boys are—a disparity reflected in lower female primary enrollment (see table 1.2) and higher female illiteracy. As a result, women have fewer employment opportunities, especially in the formal sector. A labor force gender parity index of less than 1.0 shows that women's labor force participation in the formal sector is lower than men's. (A ratio of 1.0 indicates gender equality).

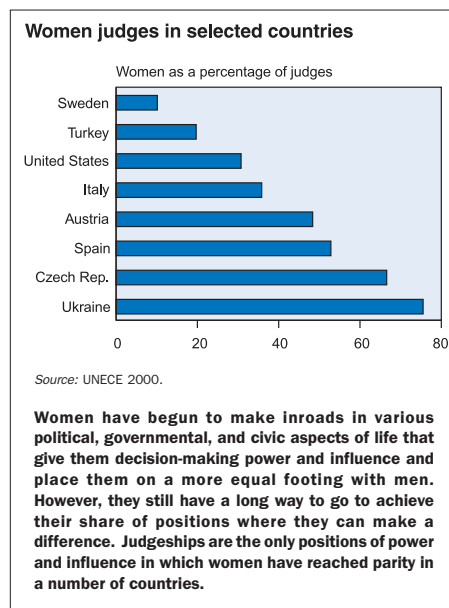
Women who work outside the home continue to bear a disproportionate share of the responsibility for housework and child rearing. They also face discriminatory practices in the workplace, especially relating to equal pay and maternity benefits. The maternity benefits data in the table relate only to legislated benefits and

do not include contractual benefits negotiated through labor union contracts. The benefits generally apply only in the formal sector, leaving out the vast majority of working women in developing countries. As a result, while the situation in the United States is much better than the data indicate, the situation in Thailand is likely to be much worse.

Women are vastly underrepresented in decision-making positions in government, although there is some evidence of recent improvement. While 6 percent of the world's cabinet ministers were women in 1994, 8 percent were in 1998. Without representation at this level, it is difficult for women to influence policy.

For information on other aspects of gender, see tables 1.2 (Millennium Development Goals: eradicating poverty and improving lives), 2.3 (employment by economic activity), 2.4 (unemployment), 2.13 (education efficiency), 2.14 (education outcomes), 2.17 (reproductive health), 2.19 (health: risk factors and future challenges), and 2.20 (mortality).

Figure 1.5



Definitions

- **Female population** is the percentage of the population that is female.
- **Life expectancy at birth** is the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.
- **Pregnant women receiving prenatal care** are the percentage of women attended at least once during pregnancy by skilled health personnel for reasons related to pregnancy.
- **Literacy gender parity index** is the ratio of the female literacy rate to the male rate, for the age group 15–24.
- **Labor force gender parity index** is the ratio of the percentage of women who are economically active to the percentage of men who are. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) definition, the economically active population is all those who supply labor for the production of goods and services during a specified period. It includes both the employed and the unemployed. While national practices vary in the treatment of such groups as the armed forces and seasonal or part-time workers, in general the labor force includes the armed forces, the unemployed, and first-time job seekers, but excludes homemakers and other unpaid caregivers and workers in the informal sector.
- **Maternity leave benefits** refer to the compensation provided to women during maternity leave, as a share of their full wages.
- **Women in decision-making positions** are those in ministerial or equivalent positions in the government.

Data sources

The data are from the World Bank's population database; electronic databases of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); the ILO database Estimates and Projections of the Economically Active Population, 1950–2010; and the United Nations' *World's Women: Trends and Statistics 2000*.