

Nebraska Equal Pay Day Analysis Shows Terrible Toll

An [analysis](#) released for Equal Pay Day tomorrow reveals the size of the gender wage gap and its detrimental effects on the spending power of Nebraska women. Women employed full time, year-round in Nebraska are paid just 79 cents for every dollar paid to men, amounting to a yearly gap of \$9,929. That means Nebraska women lose a combined total of nearly \$5 billion every year – money that could strengthen the state economy and is especially significant for the nearly 71,000 Nebraska households headed by women, 30 percent of which are in poverty.

The new analysis was conducted by the National Partnership for Women & Families using data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The full set of findings for Nebraska, which has the [23rd largest](#) cents-on-the-dollar gap in the nation, is available [here](#). The National Partnership also analyzed the wage gap in Nebraska's [congressional districts](#). All of these findings and similar findings for all 50 states and the District of Columbia can be found at NationalPartnership.org/Gap.

“Equal Pay Day is a painful reminder that women in this country have had to work more than three months into this year just to catch up with what men were paid last year,” said Debra L. Ness, president of the National Partnership. “This analysis shows just how damaging that lost income can be for women and their families, as well as the economy and the businesses that depend on women’s purchasing power. Entire communities, states and our country suffer because lawmakers have not done nearly enough to end wage discrimination or to advance the fair and family friendly workplace policies that would help erase the wage gap.”

According to the analysis, if the gap between women’s and men’s wages in Nebraska were eliminated, a woman in the state who holds a full-time, year-round job would have enough money for more than one more year of food, nearly eight more months of mortgage and utilities payments, more than 13 additional months of rent, 15 more months of child care, 1.3 additional years of tuition and fees at a four-year public university, or the full cost of tuition and fees for a two-year community college.

Nationally, women who hold full-time, year-round jobs in the United States are paid 80 cents for every dollar paid to men. Black women are paid 63 cents and Latinas just 54 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men. White, non-Hispanic women are paid 75 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men. Asian women are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men, although some ethnic subgroups of Asian women fare much worse. And mothers with full-time, year-round jobs are paid 70 cents for every dollar paid to fathers.

Nebraska is not the only state with a wage gap. In fact, every state and [94 percent](#) of the country’s congressional districts have one. The National Partnership finds that the largest cents-on-the-dollar differences in the country are in Wyoming, Louisiana, West Virginia, Utah and North Dakota. The smallest cents-on-the-dollar differences are in New York, Delaware and Florida. A ranking of all 50 states and the District of Columbia can be found [here](#).

“Numerous studies show that the wage gap persists regardless of occupation, industry, education level or perceived personal choices,” Ness continued. “That is why we need a set of public policies that ensure women have access to good and decent-paying jobs, the support they need to stay and advance in their careers, and fair and nondiscriminatory treatment wherever they work and whatever jobs they hold. That means fair pay and practices, family friendly workplace standards, full funding for federal agencies that investigate and enforce fair pay, and comprehensive reproductive health care.”

Tomorrow, members of Congress are expected to reintroduce the [Paycheck Fairness Act](#), which would help break harmful patterns of pay discrimination and establish stronger workplace protections for women. National Partnership experts say the bill would help close the wage gap, along with policies like the [Healthy Families Act](#), which would guarantee paid sick days; the Family And Medical Insurance Leave [\(FAMILY\) Act](#), which would create a comprehensive paid family and medical leave program; and measures that would increase the minimum wage and strengthen [pregnant worker protections](#).

The National Partnership's analysis of the wage gap was released in advance of Equal Pay Day, which is April 4 this year. Equal Pay Day marks how far into the new year women must work in order to catch up with what men were paid in the year before. The findings for all states are available in map form at [NationalPartnership.org/Gap](#), in addition to analyses of the wage gap at the [national level](#), in the 20 states with the largest numbers of [Black women](#) and [Latinas](#) who work full time, in more than [20 major metropolitan areas](#), and in all [435 congressional districts](#).