

STILL BEHIND: DESPITE SUPERIOR EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, YOUNG WOMEN HAVE LOWER INCOMES, WAGE RATES, AND EMPLOYMENT RATES AND HIGHER POVERTY RATES THAN YOUNG MEN (2013 Update)

Young women now surpass young men in educational attainment. In 2013, 41% of women age 21 to 30 had an Associate (11%) or Bachelor's (30%) degree, and only 8% had not graduated high school.¹ Among men in this age group, only 32% had an Associate (8%) or Bachelor's (24%) degree, and 11% had not graduated high school.

Nevertheless, young men still have superior levels of economic wellbeing. Table 1 compares young women to young men on eight measures of economic wellbeing. The last column gives the ratio of the figure for men to the figure for women.

Table 1. ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF WOMEN AND MEN AGE 21-30 (2012 & 2013)			
	WOMEN	MEN	ratio men figure to women figure
EMPLOYMENT			
Employed on survey date (2013)	65%	71%	1.09
Ever employed in 2012	72%	81%	1.13
Employed full-time year-round in 2012	37%	50%	1.35
INCOME AND EARNINGS			
Median income in 2012	\$15,000	\$20,200	1.35
Median earnings full-time year-round earners in 2012	\$30,000	\$33,592	1.12
POVERTY			
Poor in 2012	21%	15%	0.71
Extremely poor in 2012	11%	7%	0.64

Young men do better than young women on all eight measures. They have higher scores on the employment, income, and earnings measures, and lower scores on the poverty and extreme poverty measures. Young men have higher employment rates, a substantially higher rate of full-time year-round employment, and a substantially higher median income. Young women are much more likely to be poor than young men, and also much more likely to be “extremely poor,” meaning with an income less than half the poverty level.

Among full-time year-round jobholders in 2012, median annual earnings were 12% higher for young men (\$33,592) than for young women (\$30,000). However, holding educational attainment constant, the gender pay gap was significantly greater. As shown in

Table 2. MEDIAN ANNUAL EARNINGS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT FOR WOMEN AND MEN AGE 21-30 EMPLOYED FULL-TIME YEAR-ROUND IN 2012			
Educational Attainment	Women's Earnings	Men's Earnings	ratio men's earning to women's earnings
All Levels	\$30,000	\$33,592	1.12
Not HS Grad	\$17,300	\$23,000	1.33
HS Grad, no college	\$23,000	\$29,000	1.26
Associate degree only	\$28,000	\$35,000	1.25
Bachelor's degree or more	\$42,000	\$50,000	1.19

Table 2, for young women and men with the same level of educational attainment, young men's earnings were at least 19% greater at each level of educational attainment. These figures suggest that the pay gap favoring men will continue unless the educational gap favoring women grows larger.

(December 2013) (Contact Timothy Casey, tcasey@legalmomentum.org, for further information.)

¹ All the figures cited in this report were derived by Legal Momentum using the U.S. Census Bureau CPS (Current Population Survey) Table Creator found at <http://www.census.gov/cps/data/cpstablecreator.html>.