

# WOMEN in WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## FACT SHEET

5TH EDITION

NOVEMBER 2000



WOMEN'S POLICY  
OFFICE

All of the information in this Fact Sheet refers to females in Western Australia, unless otherwise specified. The term 'women' refers to females aged 15 years and over.

Note: Some data from the 4th Edition have not been repeated in this Fact Sheet as updates are not yet available.

Copies of previous Fact Sheets are available from the Women's Policy Office or from its website [www.wa.gov.au/wpdo](http://www.wa.gov.au/wpdo)

## THE POPULATION

There were 923,995 females in Western Australia representing 49.7% of the population.

There were 9,526,290 females in Australia representing 50.2% of the population.

Estimated Resident Population of WA at 30 June 1999 (Preliminary).

Source: *Australian Demographic Statistics* (ABS Cat. no. 3101.0).

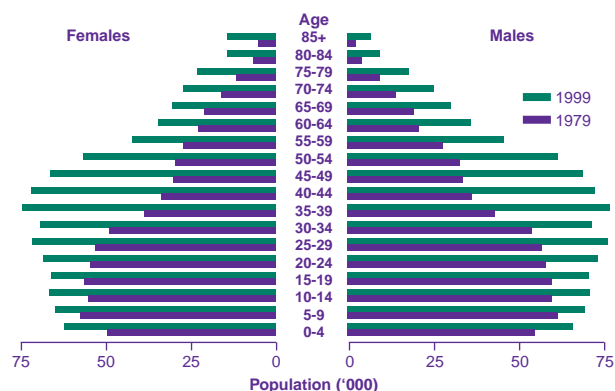
### AGE GROUPS

		'000	%
Girls	(0-14 years)	193.4	20.9
Young women	(15-24 years)	134.5	14.6
Women	(25-64 years)	487.2	52.7
Older women	(65 and over)	108.9	11.8

Estimated Resident Population of WA at 30 June 1999 (Preliminary).

Source: *Population by Age and Sex, WA, 1999* (ABS Cat. no. 3235.5).

### Population 1979 & 1999



Source: *Population by Age and Sex, WA, 1999*. (ABS Cat. no. 3235.5).

## HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

### FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

	'000	%
Aerobics	104.8	16.0
Cycling	44.9	6.9
Netball	48.3	7.4
Swimming	128.0	19.5
Tennis	40.2	6.1
Walking	217.3	33.2

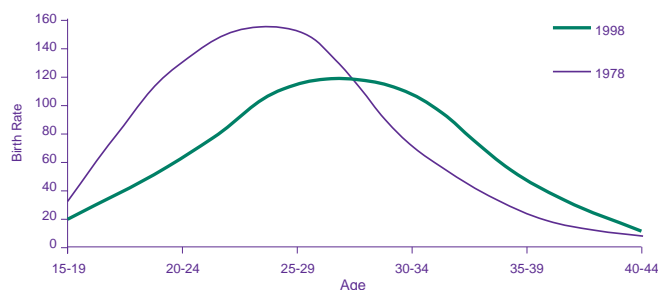
Source: *Participation in Sport and Physical Activities, 1998-99* (ABS Cat. no. 4177.0).

## LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

<b>Females</b>	<b>81.9 years</b>
<b>Males</b>	<b>76.1 years</b>
<b>Indigenous Females (Aust)</b>	<b>61.7 years</b>
<b>Indigenous Males (Aust)</b>	<b>56.9 years</b>

Source: *Demography*, WA, 1998.  
(ABS Cat. no. 3311.5).

## Age Specific Birth Rates 1978 and 1998



Birth rate is the number of births registered per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June.

Source: *Demography*, WA, 1978 (ABS Cat. no. 3101.5),  
*Demography*, WA, 1998 (ABS Cat. no. 3311.5).

## FAMILY FORMATION

	<b>1978</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Median age of women at first marriage (years)</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>26.2</b>

	<b>per 1,000</b>	<b>per 1,000</b>
<b>Birth rates for women aged 15–19 years</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>20.9</b>
<b>aged 20–24 years</b>	<b>129.6</b>	<b>61.1</b>
<b>aged 25–29 years</b>	<b>150.8</b>	<b>113.5</b>
<b>aged 30–34 years</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>105.5</b>
<b>aged 35–39 years</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>44.0</b>
<b>aged 40–44 years</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>7.3</b>
<b>aged 45–49 years</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>

## SMOKING AND ALCOHOL USE

### Trends in Prevalence of Smoking and Regular Drinking by Adults

<b>Substance</b>		<b>1991</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>1998</b>
<b>Nicotine</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>25.6%</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>27.3%</b>	<b>29.8%</b>	<b>29.3%</b>
<b>Alcohol</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>55.2%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>	<b>43.6%</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>76.0%</b>	<b>54.6%</b>	<b>62.2%</b>

Source: *Summary of Drug Use by West Australians*,  
[www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus](http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus), 2000.

### Prevalence of 'at risk' drinking by 12-17 year olds

<b>Age group</b>		<b>1984</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1996</b>
<b>12-15 years</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>5.5%</b>
<b>16-17 years</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>22.4%</b>	<b>26.0%</b>	<b>33.9%</b>
	<b>Males</b>	<b>20.6%</b>	<b>22.1%</b>	<b>27.9%</b>

Note: At risk drinking defined as 5 or more drinks in a day (males) and 3 or more drinks in a day (females)

Source: *Summary of Drug Use by West Australians*,  
[www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus](http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus), 2000.

## Women in Western Australia, November 2000

## Prevalence of Smoking by 16-17 year olds, 1996

	<b>Females</b>	<b>Males</b>
<b>Smoked in last 12 months</b>	<b>51.7%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>
<b>Smoked in last month</b>	<b>35.3%</b>	<b>29.1%</b>
<b>Smoked in last week (current smoker)</b>	<b>29.2%</b>	<b>24.5%</b>

Source: *Summary of Drug Use by West Australians*,  
[www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus](http://www.wa.gov.au/drugwestaus), 2000.

## LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH AMONG FEMALES

	<b>Indigenous %</b>	<b>All %</b>
<b>Heart Disease</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>19.3</b>
<b>Cancer</b>	<b>14.2</b>	<b>26.1</b>
<b>Cerebrovascular disease</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>11.6</b>
<b>Respiratory disease</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>9.1</b>
<b>Diabetes</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>2.5</b>
<b>Accidents, poisonings &amp; violence</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>4.9</b>

Source: *Causes of Death*, 1998,  
(ABS Cat. no. 3303.0).

## ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

### LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION

	<b>1980</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>All women</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>All men</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>75%</b>

Percentage of the civilian population aged 15 years and over who were working or looking for work.

<b>15–24 year-olds</b>	<b>1980</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>women</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>men</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>73%</b>

Percentage of 15–24 year-olds in the civilian population who were working or looking for work.

<b>Lone parents</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>women</b>	<b>57.5%</b>
<b>men</b>	<b>67.6%</b>

Percentage of lone parents in the civilian population who were working or looking for work.

Source: Labour Force Survey, August 1980 and 2000 (unpublished data), *Labour Force*, August 2000 (ABS Cat. no. 6202.0).

### HOURS WORKED

	<b>Women</b>	<b>Men</b>
<b>Average Hours Worked per Week</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>40.1</b>

Source: *Labour Force*, August 2000 (Unpublished data).

### SUPERANNUATION

In the years between 1988 and 1995, the proportion of women aged 35 to 44 covered by superannuation doubled, from 28% to 56%.

Source: *Women in Australia*, 1999, Commonwealth Office of the Status of Women.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Employers and Self Employed

3.2% of employed women (12,900) and 5.3% of employed men (28,000) are employers.  
6.6% of employed women (26,600) and 13.2% of employed men (69,400) are self-employed.

Source: Labour Force Survey, August 2000 (unpublished data).

### Percentage of employed persons

	Full-time	Part-time
All women	49.1%	45.8%
All men	81.0%	12.3%

Employed persons as a percentage of the labour force.  
Full-time employment is more than 35 hours per week.

15-24 year-olds	Full-time	Part-time
women	39.1%	50.0%
men	57.7%	30.8%

Employed persons aged 15-24 years as a percentage of the labour force.

Lone parents	Full-time	Part-time
women	39.2%	42.8%
men	67.1%	9.2%

Employed lone parents as a percentage of the labour force.  
Source: *Labour Force*, August 1999 (ABS Cat. no. 6202.0),  
Labour Force Survey, August 2000 (unpublished data).

## UNEMPLOYMENT

	Women	Men
Looking for full-time work	2.6%	5.5%
Looking for part-time work	2.6%	1.2%

Unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force.  
Source: *Labour Force*, August 2000 (ABS Cat. no. 6202.0).

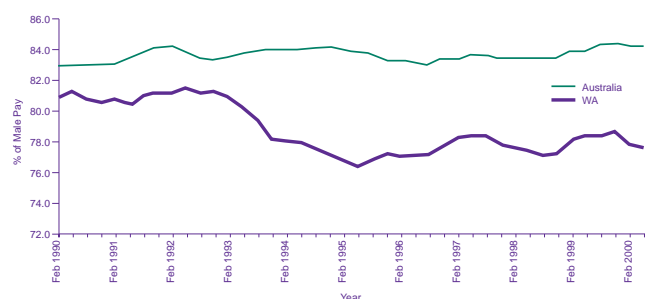
## AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS

Full-time adult ordinary time earnings:  
women \$687.20  
(78.2% of men's earnings of \$878.70)

All employees total earnings:  
women \$451.50  
(58.0% of men's earnings of \$778.40)

Original Series Average Weekly Earnings.  
Source: *Average Weekly Earnings*, August 2000  
(ABS Cat. no. 6302.0).

### Female-Male Pay Ratios 1990 - 2000



Source: Original graph produced by Dr Alison Preston  
Curtin University, 2000 based on *Average Weekly Earnings*  
(ABS Cat. no. 6302.0).

## PERSONAL SAFETY

### OFFENCES REPORTED

Homicide: 38.5 % of victims were female  
Assault: 41.4 % of victims were female  
Sexual assault: 84.5 % of victims were female

For offences reported to the police, the percentage of victims of each type of offence who were females (all ages).

Homicide includes murder, attempted murder and manslaughter.

Source: *Recorded Crime*, 1999 (ABS Cat. no. 4510.0).

### REPORTED OFFENCES - VICTIMS

Age group	Females	Males	Total
<b>Home Invasion</b>			
0-29 years	134	107	241
30-59 years	144	138	282
Over 60 years	37	23	60
All ages	315	268	583

Sexual Assault	Females	Males	Total
0-29 years	689	128	817
30-59 years	175	20	195
Over 60 years	4	2	6
All ages	868	150	1,018

Assault	Females	Males	Total
0-29 years	3,247	4,219	7,466
30-59 years	2,412	2,678	5,090
Over 60 years	90	214	304
All ages	5,749	7,111	12,860

Source: Crime Statistics Unit - BCI (Offender Information System, OIS), Western Australia Police Service, 1999/2000.

### VICTIM-OFFENDER RELATIONSHIPS

Offences reported to the Police where the offender was a spouse or family member related to the victim (all ages).

	Total Victims	Female Proportion of Victims
Homicide:	21	38.1 %
Assault:	2,168	73.7 %
Sexual Assault:	414	80.0 %

Source: *Recorded Crime*, 1999 (ABS Cat. no. 4510.0).

### VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

6,053 applications for violence restraining orders (68%) were made by females.

July 1999 - June 2000

Source: Ministry of Justice (Unpublished data).

Note: 2% were unstated. If comparing to figures quoted in the 4th edition Fact Sheet, these were for a six month period.

### PERCEPTIONS OF SAFETY ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

#### Bus

21% of females had felt unsafe on the bus at night as compared with 12% of males.

46% of females had felt unsafe at the bus stop at night as compared with 22% of males.

#### Rail

35% of females had felt unsafe on the train at night as compared with 20% of males.

60% of females felt unsafe at the train station at night as compared with 34% of males.

Source: Transperth Passenger Satisfaction Monitor, 2000.

## BAG SNATCHING

Age of Female Victims	1998-1999	1999-2000
0 - 9 years	0	1
10-19 years	27	16
20-29 years	58	49
30-39 years	60	32
40-49 years	70	47
50-59 years	75	42
60-69 years	49	29
70 years and over	42	27
<b>TOTAL FEMALES</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>243</b>
<b>TOTAL OVERALL</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>256</b>

Source: Police Services, Crime Information Unit.  
Note: 1998/1999 figures revised from Fact Sheet 4th Edition.

## DECISION MAKING

### FEDERAL PARLIAMENT

#### House of Representatives

35.7% of WA Members were women

23.3% of all Members were women

#### Senate

8.3% of WA Senators were women

28.9% of all Senators were women

Source: Australian Parliament House Website,  
[www.apb.gov.au](http://www.apb.gov.au) October 2000.

### STATE PARLIAMENT

#### Legislative Assembly

22.8% of Members were women

#### Legislative Council

20.6% of Members were women

Source: Parliament of Western Australia, October 2000.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Women made up 23.8% of all WA Local Government Councillors.

Source: Department of Local Government, 30 June 2000.

### JUDICIARY

	Women	Men
Supreme Court	1	16
District Court	5	16
Magistrates Court	5	32
Family Court	2	3
Children's Court	3	5

Source: Court Services, Courts Directorate, October 2000.

### QUEEN'S COUNSEL

	Women	Men
Resident and Practicing	2	31

Source: Legal Practice Board of Western Australia, November 2000.

### ATSIC REGIONAL COUNCILS

Women on ATSIC Councils nationally	30.2%
Women on ATSIC Councils in WA	24.2%

Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, 2000 (unpublished data).

Women in Western Australia, November 2000

### AUSTRALASIAN BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

	1996	1997	1998	1999
Women board members	4%	6%	8%	10%
Women executive directors	1%	1%	1%	3%

Source: *Boards of Directors in Australia and New Zealand*, Korn/Ferry International, 2000.

### STATE GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

	1998	1999	2000
Women members	25.3%	25.8%	28.2%

Source: Ministry of Premier and Cabinet, October 2000.

### WOMEN SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

Australian Public Service	26%
WA State Public Service	19%

Source: *State of the Service: Workplace Diversity Report 1999-2000*, Public Service and Merit Protection Commission, Commonwealth of Australia.

1999/2000 Annual Report of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment, Western Australia.

Note: 1999/2000 figures for Australian Public Service include groups not previously counted but who earn comparative income.

### WOMEN IN SENIOR POSITIONS IN UNIONS

50% of the ACTU Executive are women.

Source: ACTU, November 2000.

46.7% of members of UnionsWA Council are women.

Source: UnionsWA, November 2000.

### WOMEN IN ACADEMIA

34.2% of Academic staff in Western Australian universities were women.

11.9% of persons in Above Senior Lecturer positions were women.

Source: Selected Higher Education Staff Statistics, DETYA 1999.

### EDUCATION BY FIELD OF QUALIFICATION

	Women '000	Men '000
Business and Administration	48	30
Health	42	10
Education	32	12
Society and culture	31	19
Natural and physical sciences	9	17
Engineering	6	114
Architecture and building	1	33
Agriculture and related fields	2	8

Source: Census of Population and Housing, 1996.

The Women's Policy Office provides expert advice to Government on issues affecting the status of women.

A team of consultants is available to work directly with public sector agencies to improve the responsiveness of government services to women customers.

Consultants can provide strategic analysis and advice; expertise on women's issues; data about women customers; links with local, national and international women's networks; and staff development regarding gender issues. Contact Client Services on (08) 9264 1920.



This Fact Sheet was produced for the Women's Policy Office by the Australian Bureau of Statistics Western Australian Office.