

# THE WOMEN REPORT

Women Give San Diego Research Packet

September 2013

## Get to Know the Need

This report documents data and statistics relating to the population of women in San Diego County. These facts are meant to provide a foundation of knowledge for every Women Give San Diego member, and to disseminate information about the various demographics within our city. Read on to learn more about the women who WGSD support through its grants.

### QuickFacts

- ◆ Population of San Diego **3,177,063**
- ◆ Female Population of San Diego **1,579,000**
- ◆ Female/Male Income Ratio **0.85 cents/ 1 dollar**

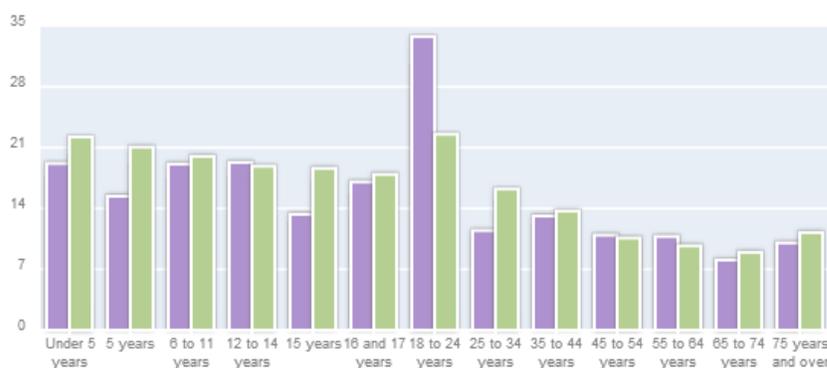
*“In order for us to stay focused on the needs of our community, we must look to actions, not words.”*

*- Carmen Chavez  
from Casa Cornelia*

### Which Women Need Our Help?

Each group of women in our community has a growing need for help to enter into the professional world. It is our duty to find those with the greatest need, and use our grants where they count. Within this research packet, we will explore the six most at-risk groups of women in San Diego: women living in poverty, abused or trafficked women, immigrant or refugee women, elderly women, military wives and women veterans, and transitional age youth.

Breakdown by age of poor female residents in San Diego (percentage below poverty level)



### Women in Poverty

- ◆ 246,844 women living below poverty line
- ◆ Nearly 35% of women in poverty are 18-24
- ◆ The percent of women in poverty in San Diego is 125% the national average
- ◆ More community organizations identify women as a target population than men.



## Transition Youth & Pregnant Teens

- ◆ Transition Aged Youth are young adults ages 16-24 who are in a state of transition from state custody or foster care to independence, or who are homeless or runaway.
- ◆ The majority of these young adults don't have access to positive family support, making them especially vulnerable when compared to the general population of young adults.
- ◆ As of 2010, the overall teen birth rate within San Diego County was 27.3 per 1,000 births.
- ◆ Lower income youth with limited access to education are at the most risk for unplanned pregnancy.

## Abused & Trafficked Women

### Domestic Violence

- ◆ In 2011, there were 7,137 domestic violence incidents reported to San Diego Police. The majority of these incidents involved female victims.
- ◆ Many studies show that finding and keeping a job is extremely difficult for women when their lives are continually interrupted by violence, as it is associated with tardiness and frequent absences.

### Human Trafficking

- ◆ San Diego is nationally recognized as a "hot spot" for human trafficking, due to its proximity to Mexico, the presence of military and transient individuals, and its active port.
- ◆ The San Diego Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force investigated 130 incidents of trafficking in 2011. These investigations revealed 140 victims, or potential victims of trafficking. Of these, 22 were minors.
- ◆ Virtually all victims of sexual exploitation suffer long term physical and emotional harm that pose complex service challenges for those organizations working to support them. This problem is exacerbated by a system that treats young girls who have been coerced or manipulated into a life of prostitution as criminals, as opposed to victims.



# Elderly Women

- ◆ 2/3 of all San Diego seniors in poverty are female.
- ◆ An estimated 88,455 women over the age of 60 in San Diego County are living with one or more disability .
- ◆ 48,750 women over the age of 60 in San Diego County face an independent living difficulty .
- ◆ Of 7512 cases of elder abuse investigated in 2011-12, 61.79% of victims were female .



## Immigrant & Refugee Women

### Immigrant Women

- ◆ It is estimated that more than 23.2% of San Diego County's population was foreign born- which is lower than the percentage for California (27.2%), but higher than the percentage for the U.S (12.8%).
- ◆ In San Diego, 54.1% of those born outside of the US are from Latin America (predominantly Mexico).
- ◆ The majority of the foreign-born population is female (54% versus 46%).
- ◆ Poverty rates and unemployment rates are significantly higher among foreign-born women than native born women.

### Refugees

- ◆ The majority of foreign born women have immigrant status, however, refugee women represent particularly vulnerable sub-population.
- ◆ San Diego is home to an estimated 90,000 to 150,000 refugees from different countries.

# Military Wives & Women Veterans

## Military Wives

- ◆ San Diego's military community is an immense physical and human presence – less than 1% of the US population lives in San Diego County, yet the region is home to more than 8.7 % of the Active Duty US military population (95,000). When spouses and dependent children are added, the military-related population is approximately 175,000.
- ◆ Military wives earn 42% less income than civilian wives as a national average.
- ◆ With deployments greater than six months and occurring often, military families experience higher rates of divorce and domestic violence than their civilian counterparts.

## Women Veterans

- ◆ According to a 2011 CalVet survey of women across California, women veterans are not receiving the help they need upon discharge. Most notably, they requested help with benefits, higher education, and medical assistance tailored to women's needs.
- ◆ Women veterans are estimated to be 2-4 times more at risk to become homeless than civilian women upon discharge.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about these facts.

**Women Give Research Group**

**Christine Oster**

(555) 555-0123

[cjoster@gmail.com](mailto:cjoster@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at [www.womengivesd.org](http://www.womengivesd.org)

Figure 2. Women Veterans Needs at Transition, 2009

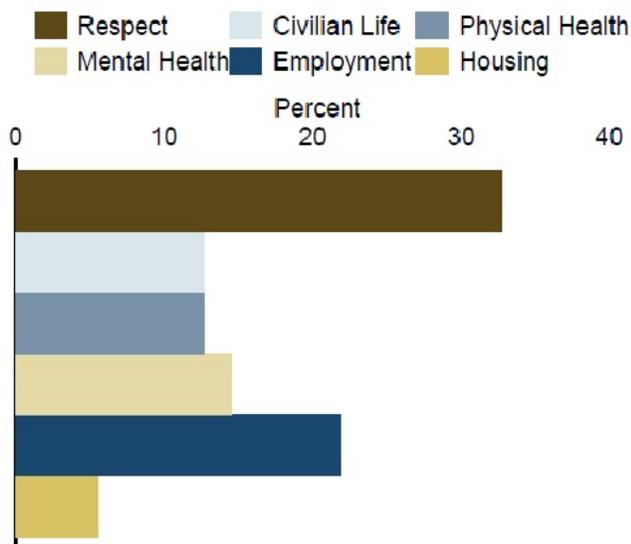


Figure 24. Current Non-healthcare Needs Identified by Participants

