

## Boys and Men's Issues Cross Racial and Ethnic Lines



Washington's male population is disproportionately experiencing problems that are observed within all racial/ethnic groups. In other words, these are issues where outcomes in our state are worse for boys and men collectively compared to girls and women collectively, and also for:

- Black males compared to their Black female peers,
- White males compared to their White female peers,
- Latino males compared to their Latina female peers,
- American Indian/Alaska Native males compared to their AI/AN female peers,
- Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander males compared to ANHOPI females, and
- multiracial males compared to their multiracial female peers.

**Because these gender-based disparities exist across all racial and ethnic groups, the analysis and solutions to these problems need to include everyone.** The Washington State Commission on Boys and Men bill ([HB 1270](#)) is written with this in mind.

### What do the statistics show us?

On the following pages, we provide examples of issues where data is available for comparing outcomes of males to outcomes of females within the same racial/ethnic categories. There is variability from issue to issue, but gender-based disparities exist for all racial/ethnic groups.

As a basis for comparison, Table 1 to the right shows a breakdown of Washington's population by race/ethnicity, and then a breakdown by sex for each race/ethnicity. (For a sample interpretation: 13% of Washington residents are of Hispanic or Latino origin, and among that population 52% of them are male.)

**Table 1. Washingtonians by race/ethnicity and sex** ([OFM](#) & [U.S. Census](#), 2020)

Race/Ethnicity	% of pop.	% male
White	78%	50%
Hispanic/Latino origin	13%	52%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	10%	46%
Two or more races	5%	49%
Black	4%	54%
American Indian / Alaska Native	2%	51%

The tables on the next two pages illustrate some of the issues for which male gender gaps are observed in Washington.

# Disproportionate Over-Representation of Males

**Table 2. People in prison** ([DOC](#), 2023)

Race/Ethnicity	% male
Black	97%
Hispanic	94%
White	94%
Asian/Pacific Islander	94%
American Indian/Alaska Native	93%
Other	75%
All Races/Ethnicities	94%

**Tables 3-5. People dying from suicide, drug overdose, and alcohol abuse, which are collectively referred to as “deaths of despair”** ([CDC](#), 2018-2022)

SUICIDES		DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS		ALCOHOL ABUSE DEATHS	
Race/Ethnicity	% male	Race/Ethnicity	% male	Race/Ethnicity	% male
Hispanic/Latino	88%	Asian	81%	Asian	76%
White	78%	Hispanic/Latino	81%	Hispanic/Latino	75%
Black	78%	Black	75%	Black	66%
Two or more races	72%	Two or more races	73%	White	66%
American Indian / Alaska Native	70%	White	69%	Two or more races	59%
Asian	66%	American Indian / Alaska Native	58%	American Indian / Alaska Native	58%
All Races / Ethnicities	78%	All Races / Ethnicities	71%	All Races / Ethnicities	66%

# Disproportionate Under-Representation of Males

**Tables 6-7. Undergraduate and graduate students in Washington’s public universities**  
([ERDC](#), 2021-2022)

UNDERGRADUATE		POSTGRADUATE	
Race/Ethnicity	% male	Race/Ethnicity	% male
American Indian/Alaska Native	36%	American Indian/Alaska Native	34%
Hispanic	40%	Other	36%
Multiracial	43%	Hispanic	38%
Other	44%	Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	39%
White	45%	White	41%
Black	46%	Multiracial	42%
Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	47%	Black	44%
All Races/Ethnicities	45%	All Races/Ethnicities	42%

## Additional Issues That Require Fact-Finding

There are numerous issues disproportionately impacting Washington’s males for which we have not yet found datasets that allow for disaggregation by both sex/gender and race/ethnicity, including:

- Males are 91% of youth in juvenile rehabilitation
- Males are 63% of people experiencing homelessness and 70% of the unsheltered
- Males are 65% of nonelderly adults who lack health insurance
- Males are 61% of high school dropouts
- 50% of boys are not meeting English/Language Arts standards in grades 3-8
- 75% of children who lack a same-sex parent in their household are male
- 25% of mental health counselors, 16% of social workers, and 18% of elementary school teachers are male

Sources: WA Departments of Children, Youth, & Families, Commerce, and Health; Kaiser Family Foundation; OSPI, U.S. Census Bureau

For more information about HB 1270 establishing a Washington State Commission on Boys and Men, visit [waboysandmen.org](http://waboysandmen.org).