


Jobs, Gender and Poverty: What Every Girl Should Know

In Rhode Island, as in the United States, women earn less money than men do. And jobs that are traditionally known as “women’s work” – childcare, waitressing, cosmetology and nursing assistance – are lower paying than traditional men’s work like the construction and labor trades. As a result, even when women work, they are more likely to live in poverty than men. Almost one-third of Rhode Island female head of households live below the poverty level. Only 5% of male heads of households live below the poverty level.

		WAGE COMPARISON TABLE	
		Traditional Jobs for Women	Earnings per Year
		Occupation	
		Restaurant Hostess	\$16,100
		Cook	\$15,700
		Office Clerk	\$24,600
		Bookkeeper, Secretary	\$26,000
		Registered Nurse *	\$45,200
		Social Worker*	\$32,800
		* = College degree required	
		Non-Traditional Jobs for Women	
		Painter	\$51,400
		Carpenter	\$52,000
		Electrician	\$62,000
		Firefighter, Police Officer	\$45,000
		Plumber	\$60,200
		Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor Bureau of Statistics (9/2003)	

In every category, males’ earnings are higher than female earnings. The Utilities, Transportation, Construction, and Agriculture employ a much higher percentage of males than females, and in these categories, men earn over \$50,000 and women earn \$30,000 or below. This represents approximately a \$20,000 difference.

So What's A Girl to Do?

- ✂ Graduate from High School/Career and Technical School
- ✂ Go to College or Technical School
- ✂ Attend a Union Apprenticeship Program
- ✂ Consider Working in a Non-Traditional Trade
- ✂ Think Outside the Box! It is ***YOUR*** future!

Sponsored by:



RHODE ISLAND COMMISSION ON WOMEN



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

