

TALKING POINTS

Provided Courtesy of The

Oklahoma Commission on the Status of Women

Worldwide:

- ❖ Women are half of the world's population, but women make up 70% of the world's poor, 2/3 of the world's illiterates, and over 50% of the world's refugees.
- ❖ Women have less than 10% of the world's income.
- ❖ 70% of the 130 million children who do not have access to education are girls. Twice as many boys as girls in developing countries receive a higher education.
- ❖ In 1998 only 7% of the world's cabinet ministers were women. In the same year, women held fewer than 5% of ministerial-level positions in Asia and Northern Africa. Without equal representation, it is difficult for women to directly influence decisions affecting them and their communities. **Source for all points:** WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, 2/02)

United States:

- ❖ "Even as the economy continues to stagnate, women in corporate America are experiencing upward movement...women currently represent 15.7% of corporate officers in America's largest 500 companies – up from 12.5% in 2000 and 8.7% in 1995."
- ❖ "Although women are moving up, men still dominate the earnings race. Almost 95% or 2,141 of the top earning corporate officers are men compared to only 118 or 5.2% of women top earners in the Fortune 500. This represents an increase from 1996 when 1.9% of the top corporate earners were women." **Source for both points:** Catalyst ("Catalyst Census Marks Gains in Numbers of Women Corporate Officers in America's Largest 500 Companies," 11/19/02)
- ❖ Although a record number of women are serving as governors in j2003, the numbers of women serving in other statewide offices and in state legislatures actually fell in the 2000 elections. Women will serve as **governors** in six states, with four newly elected women joining two holdovers. In the **U.S. Senate** there will be 14 women, and the **U.S. House of Representatives** will have 59 women members (as well as 3 delegates). In **statewide elected executive positions** overall, 79 women will serve, compared with 89 in 2002. A **total** of 1,642 women will hold 22.2% of state legislative seats, compared with 1,680 (22.6%) at the end of 2002. Source: Center for American Women and Politics (3/03)

Oklahoma:

- ❖ Four women hold statewide elective positions. Oklahoma ranks 47th in the number of women elected to the state legislature – six (of 48) senators and 11 (of 101) representatives. The state ranked 49th in 2002. **Source:** Center for American Women and Politics (3/03).
- ❖ Two women hold cabinet positions.

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Domestic Violence 2002

- Oklahoma currently ranks 8th nationally in the number of females murdered by men. *Source: Violence Policy Center, 1999*
- 21,211 domestic violence cases were reported to Oklahoma law enforcement agencies in 1999, resulting in:
 - 64 homicides
 - 5,398 felony assaults
 - 322 violent sex crimes
 - 15,427 felony assault and battery(Only 50% of intimate violence incidents are reported to law enforcement.)
Source: OSBI, UCR 1998
- In Oklahoma domestic abuse reports increased 41.3% between 1990 and 1999. *Source: OSBI UCR 1999*
- In Oklahoma domestic violence homicides increased from 55 in 1998 to 64 in 1999 (16.4%). *Source: OSBI UCR 1999*
- 13,368 Oklahomans received domestic violence services in FY '00. *Source: DMHSAS Data Collection*
- Every year, there are more women beaten by a spouse or intimate partner than are injured in auto accidents, rapes, and muggings combined. *
- Nationally over one-fourth of all homicides of women are domestic violence related.
- 85% of batterers watched domestic violence occurs in their own home and/or experiences child physical or sexual abuse. *
- Children raised in violent homes are *
 - 6 times as likely to commit suicide
 - 26 times as likely to commit sexual assault
 - 57 times as likely to abuse drugs
 - 74 times as likely to commit other crimes against persons
- The March of Dimes reports that more babies are now born with birth defects as a result of their mothers being battered during pregnancy than from the combination of all the diseases and illnesses against which we immunize pregnant women. *

Domestic Violence 2002

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- Children witness 87% of the domestic violence assaults in this country. *
- Boys who witness their father's abuse of their mothers are more likely to inflict severe violence as adults. Data suggests that girls who witness maternal abuse may tolerate abuse as adults more than girls who do not. *
- Children in violent homes are the targets of abuse at 1500% higher rate than the national average. *
- 62% of sons injured over the age of 14 are injured attempting to protect their mother. *
- Of all boys aged 11-20 who are arrested for murder, 63% have killed the man who was assaulting their mother. *
- *Source: "Domestic Violence Awareness Institution," The Public Training Institute, 2000.*

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Women's Health 2002

INDICATOR	OKLAHOMA WOMEN	US WOMEN
% Of women who have high blood pressure	24.1%	24.7%
% Of women who have high blood cholesterol	22.3%	21.2%
% Of women who have diabetes	5.5%	5.5%
% Of women having had a sigmoidoscopy for finding colorectal cancer	28.8%	32.6%
% Of women 18 years of age and older who have had a mammogram	83.1%	86.2%
% Of women 18 years of age and older who have had a Pap smear within the last 3 years	83.8%	85.4%
% Of women who are at risk of developing a chronic illness due to smoking	23.8%	20.8%
% Of women who are at risk of developing a chronic illness due to lack of exercise	85.2%	79.7%
% Of women who are at risk of developing a chronic illness due to being overweight	34.4%	33.2%
% Of women who lack health care coverage	17.3%	10.8%

Legislation that was passed in 2001 to assist women with their health concerns:

SB711 Provides for mammograms for women with all types of health care coverage including Medicaid

SB741 Provides for breast and cervical cancer treatment for women who are served under the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program and its partners.

SB738 Provides that insurance will cover sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy screening for adults 50 years of age and older.

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Women Incarcerated in Oklahoma 2002

- There was about a 14 percent growth rate in arrests for females between 1996 and 1998, while this was almost 11 percent for males.
- Both males and females experienced growth rates in new DOC admissions, at 14 and 26 percent, respectively.
- There is an increase between female felony arrest rates and female felony convictions were among African Americans in which there is an increase between the percentage with felony arrests and the percentage of felony convictions while the opposite pattern was found for Caucasians.
- Drug offenses are the most prevalent offense for incarcerated men and women, accounting for 32 and 45 percent, respectively.
- Among drug offenses, possession was the highest specific offense.
- For women, fraud and larceny offenses follow drug offenses, while for men larceny and DUI offenses follow drug offenses.
- There is a consistent finding of increases between the percentage of females being arrested for drug offenses and the percentage convicted for drug offenses, while the opposite is true for males.
- Since 1993 Oklahoma's rate for incarcerating women has been among the highest among the nation. Oklahoma's rate for 1998 was the third highest at 622 per 100,000, while the nation's rate was 461 per 100,000 (that is nearly 2 ½ times that of the national rate. This is an increase from 1991 when Oklahoma's female incarceration rate was 39.15 per 100,000, which was 2 times that of the national rate of 18.91.
- A study of drug offenders in Oklahoma found that black women were more likely than white women to receive sentences of five or more years, regardless of the offense or prior legal history. On the other hand, white women were more likely to receive deferred sentences.

Sources: Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center, Oklahoma City "Mothers in prison"; Susan F. Sharp, Ph. D., University of Oklahoma