



VOICES OF WOMEN

STRONG WOMEN = STRONG COMMUNITIES



DATA IS JUST NUMBERS UNLESS WE TALK ABOUT IT.

Unless we take time to have open dialogue about what the challenges and barriers are that cause the numbers we read, unless we listen, educate ourselves and others, and work together to change things, numbers are just numbers.

We hope you'll read the words and hear the voices of these leaders in our community as they speak about issues disproportionately affecting women in the Triangle relating to health, housing, employment, education, and our population. And then we hope you'll engage in conversation about it – at the dinner table, in the office, at church, and more. Educating ourselves is only the first step. **Join us in starting up a conversation that brings change so that everyone can thrive.**

54%
OF WOMEN IN THE TRIANGLE
WERE BORN **OUTSIDE OF THE STATE.**

12%
WERE BORN **OUTSIDE OF THE U.S.**



Lori O'Keefe

Triangle Community Foundation

In a time when our community has seen unprecedented growth, it's important to remember that with it comes challenge as well as opportunity. New residents bring different needs which can mean additional services required, and more sustainability measures for our region. It also means that sense of place has yet to be developed for a large portion of our population. Local philanthropy can struggle as a result, and it is up to us to foster a sense of belonging here. **But the wonderful thing about this is that it means we're flooded with diverse ideas and cultures,** and that is something to be celebrated.

The estimated annual receipts of all **male-owned firms** in the Triangle in 2012 were almost **eight times greater** than the estimated annual receipts of all female-owned firms.



Awamary Khan

Carolina Small Business Development Fund

Simply put, this means that male-owned businesses earn eight times more than female-owned businesses. That means either we have less female-owned businesses, or an equal amount and they aren't making the same revenue. It's not an equal playing field.

Women are still lagging behind when it comes to owning a small business. Access to capital is a huge factor; there are barriers in the sense that many of women don't have collateral. At the same time, women are more educated than men, and we still have this gap. Eight times greater?! That's a lot.

FROM 2012-2016,
households led by **women**
without spouses **were**
less likely to own a home
than **any other household type.**



42%
women without spouses



VERSUS 80%
of married-couple households



Donna Carrington

Community Empowerment Fund

There are many barriers for women owning homes. Most of the people we've seen [at CEF] have been single women and mothers, and it's harder for them because they earn less than their married counterparts so even saving for a downpayment is a struggle. It's harder to qualify for buying a home with only one credit score, rather than two. **Also, with rent specifically, it's not building wealth or equity that they could use later to build a business or on their child's education.** That's important.

HISPANIC WOMEN

had the highest female **poverty**
rate in the Triangle at

31%

(2012-2016)

20%

African American
Females

11%

Asian Females

8%

Non-Hispanic
White Females



Fiorella Horna

El Centro Hispano, Inc.

Often, Latinos are not fully recognized as participating citizens in our communities, so they struggle to be seen as capable and knowledgeable to do the work. There are also many immigrants who have degrees and skill sets from their home lands that aren't recognized in the U.S. and there's no easy process for validation. Many of their jobs end up being low-pay and low-skill, and you can't care for a family at that level. Most Latinos are US citizens, but for those who aren't, it creates significant barriers for work, housing, and healthcare. **There's still a lot of discrimination when it comes to race, culture, and poverty.**

BETWEEN 2012 – 2016
A total of **21,000 women died** in the Triangle.



African-American women
had the highest death rate in every county.



Dr. C. Nicole Swiner

Family Physician, Author & Publisher

We all need to do a better job being advocates for access to healthcare, particularly when it comes to women's health. There are still some unspoken biases that we all have about each other that get in the way of good patient relationships, and health and wellness. **Mental wellness affects physical wellbeing.** If we did a better job taking care of ourselves when it comes to stress, and there was more access to opportunity for help, providers would prescribe less medications, and we would see less of the top five conditions that cause death in the US.

FROM 2012 – 2016

40%

of families with children headed by
single women had incomes **below**
the federal poverty level



compared to

29%

headed by **single men.**



Linda Nunnallee

StepUp Ministry

So many smart, talented women want to work but they face barriers: gaps in employment, transportation, childcare, and housing. It becomes more challenging to hold down a job when faced with these circumstances, which can be very frustrating when you really want to work and create a stable life for your family. When women are working an entry-level job for hourly wages, they often have to miss time because of their children. **If someone could figure out childcare, transportation, and housing costs, it would be amazing.**

In 2016

24% OF WOMEN IN NC

self-identified as being diagnosed with a

DEPRESSIVE DISORDER

at some point in their lives,
compared to **13%** of the state's men.



Alice Lutz

Triangle Family Services

The average life span in high poverty areas is 12 years less than in wealthier zip codes. People living in those areas are less likely to have access to appropriate mental health services, and less likely to even know what resources are available to them. So even if they self-identify, they may not be receiving services. In fact, the opposite is true. **If access to mental health doesn't keep everyone in the Triangle up at night, it should.** We've reached a tipping point and we're in the space right now to be concerned.

19 of every **1,000**
TRIANGLE GIRLS
AGES 15-19
WERE PREGNANT IN 2016

IN WAKE COUNTY ALONE
42/1,000 HISPANIC GIRLS
32/1,000 AFRICAN AMERICAN GIRLS
&
8/1,000 NON-HISPANIC WHITE GIRLS
WERE PREGNANT.



Maria Solorzano

Adolescent Parenting Program,
Orange County NC

I want to say to any adolescent that gets pregnant - your life isn't over. It's just beginning. Often we get called stupid for getting pregnant at a young age, and yes it may have been a mistake, but it doesn't make you stupid. You can be brilliant with good grades, and you can still get pregnant. It's hard to keep that up after you have a baby, because you're not just taking care of yourself. Adolescent parents need all the support we can get. Teenagers already have it tough and live competitive lives, imagine doing all of that while taking care of a baby.

Having access to resources provided by nonprofits are needed, and appreciated.

The median age for women
in Chatham County
is 49...

versus **mid-thirties** in the
other three Triangle counties.



Debra Henzey

Chatham County

A higher median age in Chatham is an issue because there is not enough diversity in our workforce, or people to fill volunteer roles, and that means we need different things than the other counties. It leaves us with gaps in terms of people to do jobs, and people in our service industries. And because we are a bedroom community, it means that parents are working a long way from home in the other counties, meaning a long commute and less time with their families. **Our current lack of amenities for younger people means we can't compete with the other counties, and that's not sustainable.**

TRIANGLE WOMEN AGES 25 AND OLDER

WERE MORE LIKELY THAN THEIR STATEWIDE
AND NATIONAL PEERS TO HOLD A BACHELOR'S DEGREE,
BUT REGARDLESS OF EDUCATION,
EARNED LESS THAN
THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS.



Gabby McCutchen

Durham Technical Community College

Women close the wage gap only by earning a higher credential than men. Women with a bachelor's degree earn on average \$61,000 per year (nationally), which is approximately the earning potential of a man with an associate's degree. I think this explains why there are so many women earning higher degrees; because we need them to compete, but even when we obtain them, **we are still not earning as much as men.**

ON THE NIGHT OF
January 27, 2017
THERE WERE

427 women
& girls

EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS
in the Triangle.



Olive Joyner

Housing for New Hope

It's interesting what we picture when we think about women and girls that are homeless, because they are almost never what we imagine. It could be your daughter's best friend, the person you went to last time you had a massage, even the cashier at Macy's. **People fall into homelessness for so many reasons: a bad marriage, a lag in child support, keeping up with rent; it's easy to get behind.** Before you know it, you're so far behind that you can't catch up. Then what do you do?

67%
of third-grade girls
in the Triangle were grade-level proficient
in **reading** compared to

61%
of the region's third-grade boys



but when racially disaggregated,
the numbers paint a different picture.



Mandy Ableidinger

North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation

We know that white girls, really all white children are much more likely to be reading at grade-level by 3rd grade than children of color or children from low-income families. That disparity doesn't start in 3rd grade. It starts at birth, or before, because our children and their families are living in a 200 year old system with rules. Some of those rules are official and some are unwritten but they are all very real. **They make it harder for children of color to succeed.** We are data and research-driven [at NCECF], and in our work, we have an equity frame because it's clear from the data that not all of our children have equal opportunity for success.



“Triangle” is defined by the four counties that
the Foundation serves, Chatham, Durham,
Orange, and Wake.

Data compiled by John Quintero,
South by North Strategies, LTD

Source data available upon request to
Triangle Community Foundation



What 
Matters



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