

C) Social Determinants of Health

Significant Gender Wage Gap

Nationally, women earn about 80 cents for every dollar paid to men. In comparison, Louisiana, women earn 67 cents to every dollar paid to men. This amounts to a yearly wage gap of \$15,663 between full time working men and women in Louisiana. Such a wage gap exists regardless of industry, occupation, or education level. ⁴African-American women in Louisiana face the worst pay gap in the nation, earning just 48 cents for every dollar earned by white, non-Hispanic men in the state. ⁵

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity exists whenever there is limited or uncertain access to enough food. ⁶In women, food insecurity is associated with obesity, risky coping strategies, anxiety, depression, and poor pregnancy outcomes. Coping strategies can include a decrease in the intake of certain foods, the sale of assets to purchase food, theft, or exchange of sex for food or money. ⁷Minorities, low-income families, and single parent homes are disproportionately affected by this problem. Nationally, 12.3% of households experience food insecurity, whereas 17.3% do in Louisiana. ¹

2. <https://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/maternalinfanthealth/diabetes-during-pregnancy.htm>

3. <https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/basics/gestational.html>

4. <https://www.lsu.edu/diversity/ucge/documents/lawagegap.pdf>

5. https://www.nola.com/news/politics/article_6fbc8e2c-e25e-5d1f-8ab1-294df6ff2cca.html

6. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6240001/#nuy042-B1>

7. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3226027/>