

Losing Ground

Young Women's Well-Being Across Generations in the United States

Gains in American young women's well-being rose rapidly for members of the Baby Boom generation, but stalled for subsequent generations. Social and structural barriers to young women's progress have contributed to persistently high poverty rates, a declining share of women in high-wage/high-tech jobs, a dramatic rise in women's incarceration rates, and increases in maternal mortality and women's suicide.

Between Generation X and the Millennial Generation, conditions worsened for young women in six key areas. The magnitude of those changes led to a decline in overall well-being for women of the Millennial Generation.

Eight measures showed modest to moderate improvement.



Six measures showed decline; some declined sharply.



37%

Rise in the poverty rate among U.S. young women from Generation X to Millennial generation.

10x

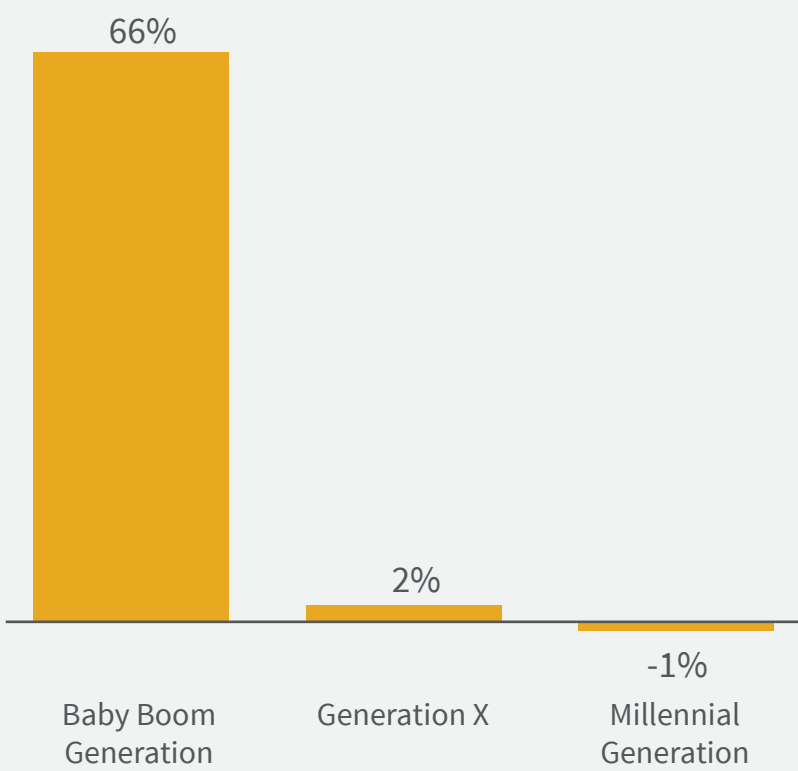
Increase in women's incarceration rates since the WWII generation.



Maternal mortality rate has risen for both Generation X and Millennial women.

Progress Has Stalled for Young Women of Generation X and Millennial Generation.

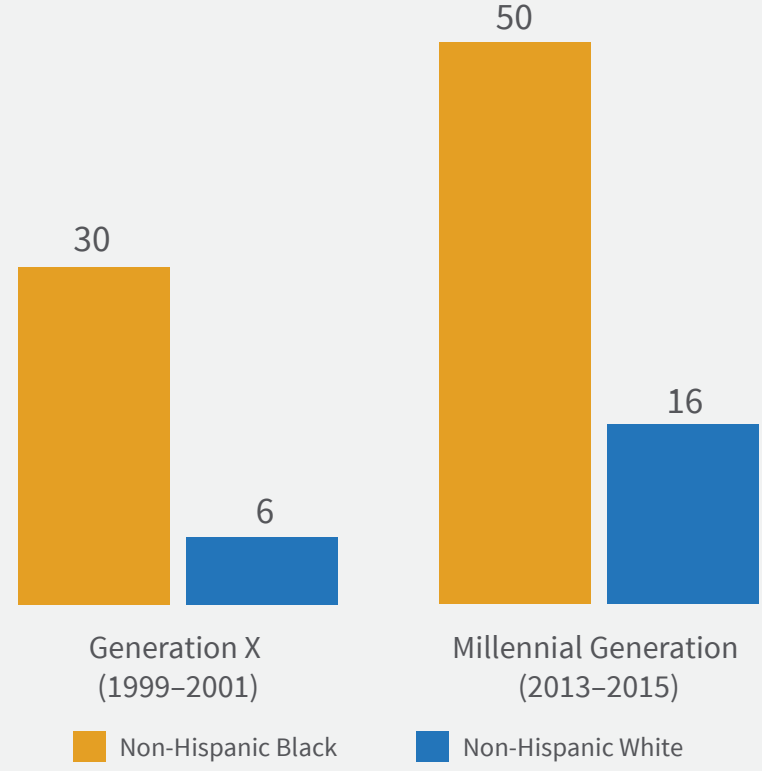
Percent Change in Each Generation's Overall Index of Well-Being Score Compared With the Preceding Generation



Notes: Each generation is the benchmark for each subsequent generation. WWII generation is not shown because data are not available for its preceding generation.
Source: PRB analysis.

The Maternal Mortality Rate for Black Women Is Dramatically Higher Than for White Women.

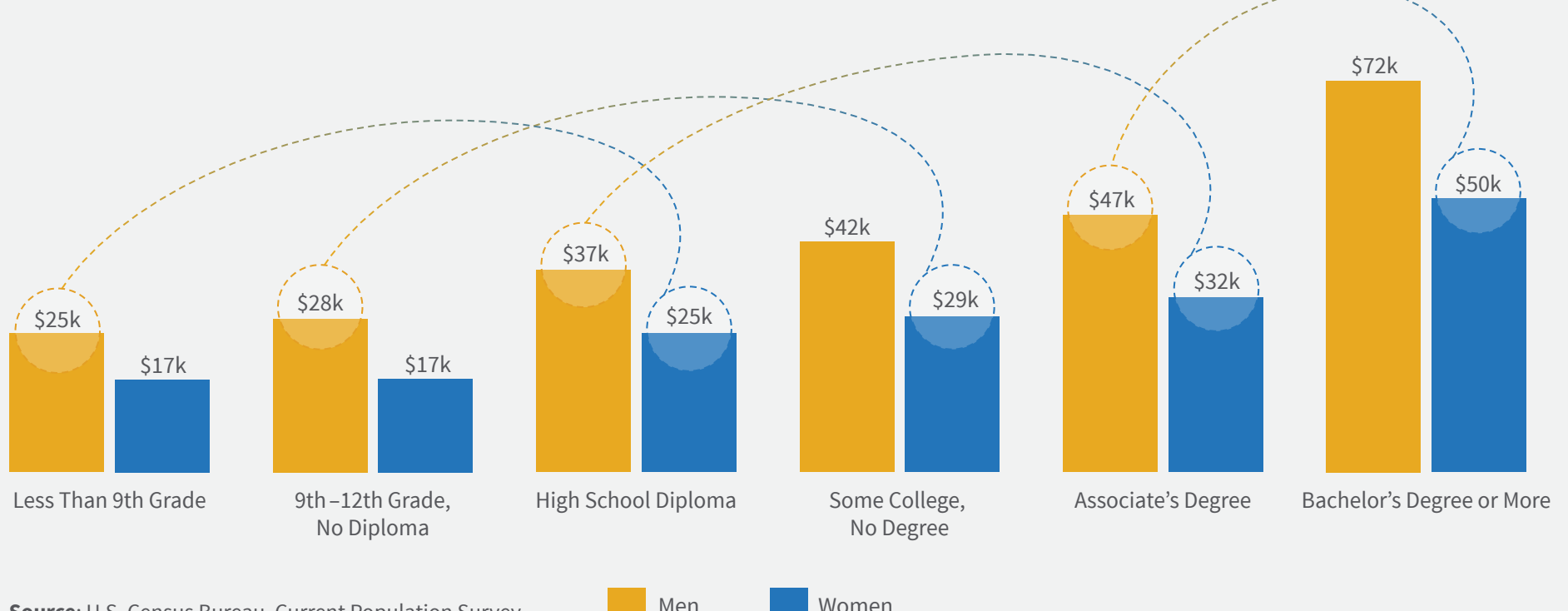
Number of Maternal Deaths Related to Pregnancy and Delivery per 100,000 Live Births to Women Ages 25-34, by Race, 1999-2001 and 2013-2015



Notes: The maternal mortality rate reflects maternal deaths related to "complications from pregnancy, delivery, and the puerperium." The puerperium is the six weeks following delivery.
Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, WONDER Online Database.

Women Need Additional Education to Match Men's Earnings.

Median Earnings Among Men and Women Ages 25 and Older, by Education Level, 2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey.

