



## ***Meredith College Releases Report on Status of Girls in North Carolina***

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**Meredith College, Raleigh, N.C.** — Meredith College has released the 2017 edition of its report on The Status of Girls in North Carolina. The report highlights areas in which girls in N.C. are making strides, areas in need of improvement, and areas of disparity among girls.

The Status of Girls in North Carolina report includes data on demographics and poverty, education, media engagement, physical health, mental health, sexual health, leadership and civic engagement, juvenile offending and victimization, and conditions facing LGBT youth.

**[View the full report at meredith.edu/about\\_meredith/college-research/status-of-girls](http://meredith.edu/about_meredith/college-research/status-of-girls)**

The report found the following areas in which girls are gaining ground:

- Girls have high rates of graduation across all racial and ethnic groups.
- Girls participating in organized high school athletics continues a decades-long increase.
- Girls make two-thirds of student government officers in high schools across North Carolina.

Areas in which girls are losing ground include the following:

- The poverty rate of African-American, Latina, and Native American girls is nearly double that of white girls.
- Girls are far more likely to be victims of bullying and sexual violence.
- Girls are more than twice as likely as boys to report symptoms of depression.

The report is an update of the College's initial report, which was released in 2013. Previously, little data had been compiled to document the status of girls within the state. The 2017 report updates the original data and expands the focus areas of the 2013 report.

The report pulls together information from more than a dozen different national and state datasets. Meredith also collected data directly from high schools and girl-serving community organizations on girls' leadership activities in North Carolina.

Associate Professor of Sociology Amie Hess compiled the report with assistance from a team of student researchers. Hess said the goal of the report is to provide data to political and community leaders in order to improve support of girls in the state.

“Our mission is to empower women leaders,” Hess said. “This update of the Status of Girls in North Carolina continues our commitment to providing concise, usable information to help our communities—including lawmakers, fellow educators, and community organizations— foster growth, leadership and safety for the girls of North Carolina.”

The Status of Girls in North Carolina report is part of Meredith College's commitment to being a leading source of information on women's issues in the state.

“At the core of Meredith College's educational values is a persistent commitment to the well-being and upward mobility of all girls in our state,” said President Jo Allen. “We know that as any individual girl makes progress, her impact on others may also inspire change. In short, as girls make progress, our state makes progress.”

### **About Meredith College**

Chartered in 1891, Meredith College opened with just over 200 women. Today, our student body has grown to nearly 2,000, and includes men at the graduate level. Meredith challenges students to explore their interests, expand their skills, and build on their strengths. Our graduates go on to use their intellect and abilities to make a positive impact on the world. And *U.S. News*, The Princeton Review and Forbes.com have all included Meredith in their “Best Colleges” lists. At 126 years and counting, Meredith College is still going strong.

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