California Women’s Well-Being Index

The California Women’s Well-Being Index (WWBI), a joint project of the California Budget & Policy Center and the Women’s Foundation of California, provides the first-ever comprehensive, composite measure of how women are faring in counties across California. This multifaceted assessment of women’s well-being gives policymakers, advocates, service providers, and other community members a powerful tool for helping make California a place where all women and their families can thrive.

A multidimensional measure of women’s well-being is critically important for California. When women thrive, their families and communities prosper. Yet despite decades of progress, women still face persistent disparities on a range of issues, from economic security to health to political leadership. By viewing women’s well-being as encompassing various distinct yet interrelated components, policymakers, advocates, service providers, and community members can begin to craft policy solutions that help make California a place where all women and their families can thrive.

The Women’s Well-Being Index consists of five dimensions: Health, Personal Safety, Employment & Earnings, Economic Security, and Political Empowerment. Each dimension consists of six indicators that were selected based on a thorough literature review, an in-depth scan of comparable projects in other states and at the national level, and feedback from more than 60 thought leaders across California working on issues of utmost concern to women. (See reverse for the complete index.)