Of the roughly 9.3 percent of 369,400 people that struggled with economic insecurity last year, more than half were women and girls. Approximately 210,000 females lived below poverty during 2013 compared to 160,000 males. These figures translate to poverty rates of 10.2 percent for females and 8.3 percent for males. The poverty rate for girls under 18 in the Washington region was 12.3 percent—or about 53,000 girls.

According to the Economic Security Index calculated by Wider Opportunities for Women, a family of three, composed of one worker, an infant and a school child need an approximate annual income of $85,092 in the District of Columbia and $87,504 in Prince George’s County to meet their basic needs without receiving any public or private assistance.

An analysis of the 2013 American Community Survey by The Women’s Foundation finds that women continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty in the Washington Region, and that among women, single women with children and women of color are more likely to live below the poverty threshold.

Single parent families—especially female-headed households—are more likely to be in poverty. Data reveals that an estimated 47,200 families with children under 18 had incomes below the poverty level; $19,530 per year for a family of three. About 62.5 percent of these families were headed by single women. In 2013, female-headed households with children were six times more likely to be poor compared to married-couple families with children (24.4 percent vs. 4.1 percent). The poverty rate for female-headed households with children has increased from 21 percent since 2008.

Women of color continue to face higher levels of poverty and are disproportionately affected by long-term poverty. About 14.2 percent Latinas and 15.6 percent African-American women fell below the poverty threshold compared with only 5.6 percent of non-Hispanic, white women.