

WAGE GAP PERSISTS IN 2006

New Government Data Show

No Progress in Closing the Gender Wage Gap

Washington, D.C. –

New information released today by the Institute for Women's Policy Research shows that the wage ratio between women and men failed to narrow in 2006 and that an earlier trend toward equal pay has stalled. According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2006 the ratio of the annual averages of women's and men's median weekly earnings was 80.8 for full-time wage and salary workers, down slightly from 2005, when it was 81.0, compared with a 1993 level of 77.1. Women's usual weekly earnings were \$600 in 2006, compared with \$743 for men.

"Today's economy is letting women down," said **Dr. Vicky Lovell, IWPR's Director of Employment and Work/Life Programs**. "Despite women's rising educational achievement and strong work commitment, fair pay remains out of reach."

Another series of earnings data, median annual earnings, shows the same trend of a stalled gender wage ratio. The annual earnings ratio for full-time year-round workers in 2005 (the latest year for which data are available)-77.0- was very similar to that observed in 2001-76.3. Women earned an average of \$31,858 in 2005, compared with men's \$41,386. Real annual earnings have not increased for either women or men in recent years.

"Progress at closing the wage gap has come to a standstill in the past few years," noted **Dr. Heidi Hartmann, President of the Institute for Women's Policy Research**. "Any small progress observed is due to men's real wages falling faster than women's. The weak economic recovery since 2001 has frustrated women's efforts to close the gender wage gap."

To view the fact sheet, click here: Wage Ratio Fact Sheet

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About Institute for Women's Policy Research

The Institute for Women's Policy Research conducts rigorous research and disseminates its findings to address the needs of women, promote public dialogue, and strengthen families, communities, and societies. IWPR focuses on issues of poverty and welfare, employment and earnings, work and family issues, health and safety, and women's civic and political participation.

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