NGCP

The State of Girls and Women in STEM

## GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN DO WELL IN MATH AND SCIENCE

However, multiple barriers inhibit girls' and young women's confidence in STEM and development of a positive STEM identity. These barriers are even greater for girls of color and of low socioeconomic status.[1]

Stereotypes about STEM people and careers

Stereotypes about girls' interest in computer science and engineering are **formed as early as age 6 and are evident from childhood through adolescence**[2]

STEM curriculum is often irrelevant and disconnected from girls' lives

86%
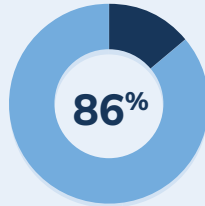
**86%** of girls/young women want a career where they can help others[3]

Girls often have limited exposure to relatable women STEM role models

Interaction with diverse women role models can shift girls' perceptions about who participates in STEM and increase girls' identification with STEM[4]

## WOMEN EARN 50% OF BACHELOR'S DEGREES IN SCIENCE & ENGINEERING[5]

Women earn a majority of bachelor's degrees in psychology, biological sciences, and social sciences, but they earn only
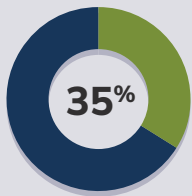
24% in Engineering

22% in Computer & Information Science

24% in Physics[6]
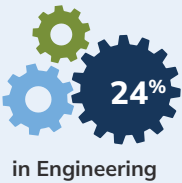
From **2017 to 2023**, the number of Black, Latina, and Native American women graduating with computing degrees **more than doubled**[7]

2017

2023

THE STEM WORKFORCE IS BECOMING MORE DIVERSE, YET WOMEN REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED
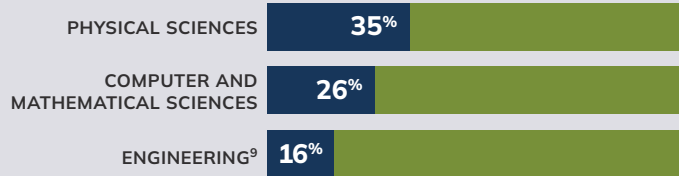
48%
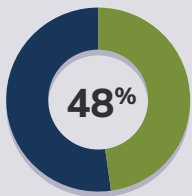
Women constitute **48% of the total workforce**

35%

Women constitute **35% of the STEM workforce**[8]

Women STEM professionals are **concentrated in different fields than men**, with relative high shares of women in social sciences (65%) and life sciences (48%) but only

PHYSICAL SCIENCES **35%**

COMPUTER AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES **26%**

ENGINEERING[9] **16%**

Women in STEM occupations **earn less** than men in STEM occupations[10]

The number of women in the STEM workforce **increased 31% over the past 10 years**[11]

WOMEN IN STEM WORKFORCE

30%
20%
10%

YEARS OVER A DECADE
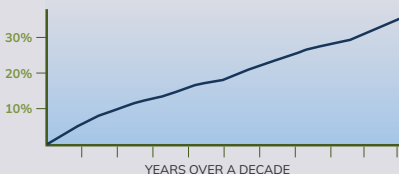
The increase in women's participation in the STEM workforce includes all racial and ethnic groups, but Latina, Black, and Native American women **represent less than 10% of the STEM workforce overall**[12]

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